

The Mouthpiece

Culham's Newsletter

May 2018



For your diary:

Sun May 6th: 16:00 - Evening Prayer, St Paul's

Sun May 13th: 16:00 - Messy Church (incl. children's activities & biscuits!), St Paul's

Mon May 14th: 19.30 - Parish Council Meeting, Culham School

Sun May 20th: 11:00 - Parish Communion

Talking Point by Revd Paul Cawthorne

As the Easter season unfolds and the weather warms up, for many of us it is easier to look outward and upward. No more wearing extra jumpers and hunkering down to avoid the chill. More time getting into the garden looking for what needs to be done and what new can be planted in fresh hope to grow into fruition in the coming months. As one looks upward from my front garden, eyes are drawn through the modern bricks and mortar towards the Wittenham clumps which have seen so much over the centuries. From their time as base of operations for an Iron Age tribe which did its own building, we can still see the fortified outlines over 2,500 years later; to the coming of the Romans building mosaiced villas on the slopes explored by a modern-day 'Time Team', there is much which seems remote but deeply present.

The clumps look down across the main river into Dorchester on the Thame where nearly 1400 years ago St Birinus was bishop of a place of worship which eventually grew to become the great abbey dominating the river plain. It all makes one acutely conscious of the dizzying sweep of history. In the middle of our modern communications revolution of far-reaching import, with a seemingly ever-increasing pace of professional life and with virtual reality and nanotechnology now taking off for better and worse, it is salutary to think back to the wisdom of ancient ways and rhythms to keep some bearings.

Just over fifty years since the first human flew into space, I wonder where life will be in another fifty years time. How much will the narrative of Jesus' life-giving way of living for others and the perennial wisdom of his counter-cultural teaching still be heard amid the clamour of electronic instant entertainment and proliferation of ever-more targeted advertising? Will we have established a balance with less emphasis on success or narrow measures of growth and more on contentment? Will communities and countries pull up the drawbridge to preserve outdated privileges or choose to remain open-hearted to those a continent or a mile away? Will we still savour the beauties of sunset and silence, of riverside walks and the warm breeze of spring?

The story of the cross leading to Easter is one of death of the known, human, limited way of things leading to radically new life, unexpected and exciting. As Thomas Berry wrote in *The Sacred Universe* "In our contemplation of how tragic moments of disintegration over the course of centuries were followed by immensely creative moments of renewal, we receive our great hope for the future". It is an eternal deep theme of the way life itself works within the mysterious divine economy. As the traditional Easter hymn gently puts it, 'Now the green blade riseth from the buried grain....love has come again'. We can pray with trust and hope that God's love will make our common future a wondrous one.

Team Events

Rector's Study Leave 13th April to 14th May

Thank you for your interest in what I shall be doing on my study leave – I am hoping to make good progress with a book that I've been thinking about for some years and which a number of people are kind enough to feel would be good to get completed and, hopefully, published!

The Dorchester Team is (nearly) 40!!

The Dorchester Team was created in 1978 and so this year we will celebrate our 40th Birthday. We plan to celebrate on 29th September with a special Team Service in the Abbey at 10.30am. We will also mark the actual date of the legal Instrument that brought the team into being nearer to its actual date. We would love to hear from you if you were involved in the original plans for the Dorchester Team (especially if we have lost touch) or if you have any photographs of past Team events. We are one of the oldest Teams in the country – something worth celebrating!

Thy Kingdom Come

Familiar words perhaps – but in the last couple of years these words from the Lord's Prayer have become the title for a worldwide ten days of prayer from Ascension Day (10th May) to Pentecost (Whitsun). We will be joining in once again with prayer leaflets and special opportunities for prayer – including a special 'Filling Station' meeting in Marsh Baldon. Thy Kingdom Come will start with a special Ascension Day Eucharist at

the top of the Wittenham Clumps with Bishop Colin at 7.30pm – meet at Little Wittenham Church at 7pm to walk to the top. For non-walkers the same service will take place in Little Wittenham Church.

Pentecost Pilgrimage Plus

A pilgrimage – whether short or long is a great opportunity to walk and pray – alone or in company. On Whitsun afternoon the Abbey hopes to welcome people who have marked the end of Thy Kingdom Come by journeying locally or from further afield. You may want to walk part of the traditional Birinus Pilgrimage from Churn Knob (contact Parish Office for details) or part of the Thames Pilgrim Way (www.thamespilgrimway.org.uk) which follows the Thames footpath – or simply set off from your own village. Wherever you come from we look forward to welcoming you at the Abbey any time from 4pm for a cup of tea, family activities and a special service at 5pm.

Christian Aid

There will not be a Christian Aid Week collection in Dorchester this year instead we would like to invite you to BREAKFAST on 13th May between 8.45am and 10.15am in the Abbey. Excellent Coffee, Tea to suit every taste, Croissants, Pain au Chocolat...and the opportunity to help others whilst enjoying one another's company! All proceeds to Christian Aid!

Wed 9th May 7.30pm Filling Station Marsh Baldon Village Hall

Events in Dorchester Abbey

Mon 7th May

Two A Part will again welcome May morning by singing from the top of the Abbey tower and then give a free concert in the Abbey. Funds raised from breakfast and donations will go to Youth Challenge Oxfordshire (YoCO), a local charity established to support young people aged 14 to 21 to develop resilience and confidence so that they can overcome the problems that they face during the teenage years. Their year long programme culminates with a week volunteering at the Nasio Trust centre for AIDS orphans and destitute children in Kenya. Continental breakfast: from 8.30am in the Abbey. Two A Part sing from the tower at 9.00am then in the Abbey. Breakfast tickets £5 available from Dorchester Coop or tim.cook21@btinternet.com

Sat 19th May

Singing for Syrians 11.00am Concert 6.00pm

Come and sing Mozart's Requiem with conductor David Wordsworth. David is the musical director of the Addison singers and Associate Director of the Brandenburg Choral Festival of London for 2018 and has conducted choirs in many parts of the world. The money from ticket sales will go to Hands Up Foundation supporting GP salaries, prosthetic limb clinics and teacher salaries in and around Syria. Further information and tickets available from <https://singingforsyrians.com>

Fri 25th May to Mon 28th May

English Music Festival

Booking has now opened for the Twelfth Festival of English Music. Join us for top-quality music-making in convivial surroundings. Highlights include Owain Arwel Hughes and Hilary Davan Wetton conducting beautiful British orchestral and choral works; the UK première of Richard Blackford's Violin Concerto; the celebrated Armonico Consort in a semi-staged performance of Dido and Aeneas; and a dramatic programme about Dame Ethel Smyth. For further information and tickets please see www.englishmusicfestival.org.uk

Wed 30th May 8.00pm

Following a successful week of concerts across the Chilterns in February, Chiltern Arts returns to Dorchester Abbey in May with internationally-renowned violinist Nicola Benedetti playing Vivaldi and Telemann alongside the Academy of Ancient Music. For tickets and information visit chilternarts.com

Oxfordshire Art Week Abbey Guest House 19th – 28th May

During Oxfordshire Art Weeks there are several artists in Dorchester exhibiting a variety of crafts and art. In particular the Dorchester Art Group are showing paintings, prints and theatres in the Abbey Guest House between 19th and 28th May. Please come along.

Church service times

Culham

Sun May 6th 16:00 Parish Communion
Sun May 13th 16:00 Messy Church (family service, crafts & cake/biscuits)
Sun May 20th 11:00 Parish Communion

Clifton Hampden and Burcot

Sun May 6th 08:00 BCP Communion
Sun May 13th 11:00 Parish Communion
Sun May 27th 10:30 Messy Church (child-friendly, children's activities at 10:30)

Long Wittenham and Little Wittenham

Sun May 6th Long W 09:30 Family Service, crafts and breakfast
Sun May 13th Long W 09:30 Parish Communion
Sun May 20th Little W 08:30 BCP Holy Communion
Sun May 27th Long W 09:30 Parish Communion

Village News

Village website: www.culhamvillage.org.uk

Culham Parish Council (CPC) – April 2018

After the meeting at the church on Saturday 7th April, the proposed needs for the Church reordering were tabled during public participation. The document gave brief details of the various aspects considered by the church team to be necessary for the long-term community use of the church.

There is still a vacancy for a Culham Parish Councillor. Please contact the Clerk or any current CPC councillor if you would like more information or would like to apply for the position.

The SODC Local Plan was rejected at a recent meeting of the Council and is now being re-assessed prior to a re-issue.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is in the consultation phase until May 10 2018. The CPC will respond to the document.

There is a further meeting of the Expressway Action Group (EAG) on Thursday 3 May. Two CPC councillors will attend.

The Project Swift application has had numerous responses and the application is under review by SODC.

The responses to the request to provide grass cutting in the village are being assessed.

After the recent offer of a potential transfer of the village green to village ownership, the state of the Green and possible plans for it will be investigated.

CPC has had several comments about parking in the village. Please park either on the road or on driveways to avoid long term damage to the grass verges.

A reminder to dog owners – please pick up your dog's waste from the Green and on the path leading down to the cut from the Green. There are two dog waste bins in the vicinity so please use them.

Next meeting

Monday 14th May 2018 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.

Culham Primary School Gardening Project – Rachel Woods

The Culham primary School Gardening project is looking for donations of some much-needed compost, topsoil and barkchippings, small gardening gloves, a sieve, old garden tools eg trowels and hand forks.

We would be delighted if people want to get involved with helping to develop the garden, particularly if they are gardeners, joiners (or people who can help put up wooden trellis, fix tyres together to make planters etc.)

I lead this project one day a week at the school with the aim of getting the whole school involved with growing vegetables and flowers, and also developing a social therapeutic gardening element. We have sowed our runner beans and planted our potatoes already.

We very much hope that our project inspires you to want to help. Please get in touch with the school office at Culham if you are able to offer materials, skills or time.

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)

Litter in Culham

Some residents have asked that attention be brought to the regular dumping of litter, particularly empty lager cans, on High Street and The Burycroft. Obviously, rubbish should be disposed of in the litter bins provided around the village.



**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

Annual County Councillor's Report - Lorraine Lindsay-Gale

On 4th May 2017 I was re-elected as your County Councillor with a majority of 1,054, which represents 55% of the vote. I am really pleased to be able to represent you once again and would like to thank everyone who supported me.

Whether you voted for me or not I will continue to work hard for everyone in my Division which covers Dorchester, Warborough, Shillingford, Newington, Stadhampton, Chiselhampton, Drayton St Leonard, Berinsfield, Burcot, Clifton Hampden, Culham, Nuneham Courtenay, Marsh Baldon, Toot Baldon, Garsington and Sandford-on-Thames.

The Conservative Party has retained control of the Council by joining into an Alliance with two Independent members as we did before, and I have been re-appointed to the Cabinet by the Leader, Cllr Ian Hudspeth. I will continue to drive our Asset Management and Property Portfolio, our Cultural & Community Services, and in addition I have taken over the County Council's Transformation Programme, known as Fit for the Future.

GROWTH BOARD ANNOUNCEMENT ON HOUSING AND GROWTH AGREEMENT

The Oxfordshire Growth Board comprises the six councils: Cherwell District Council, Oxford City Council, Oxfordshire County Council, South Oxfordshire District Council, Vale of White Horse District Council and West Oxfordshire District Council, together with the county's Local Enterprise Partnership (OxLEP). After many months of negotiations, on Budget Day (22nd November) it was announced that the Board had reached an outline Housing and Growth Agreement with Government. This will see an additional £215 million of investment over the next five years to build infrastructure, support the delivery of new homes and boost economic productivity across the county. This breaks down as: £30m pa for five years for infrastructure; £60m for affordable homes across the county; and £5m to develop a Joint Statutory Spatial Plan. The Board wants the five-year deal to be the first stage in a sustained partnership with Government to secure the ongoing investment needed to deliver properly planned growth and economic development over the coming years. This will support councils to achieve the ambition of 100,000 new homes across the county over the period 2011-2031, as identified through the 2014 countywide Strategic Housing Market Assessment and Local Plans. During the period of development all planning authorities will have their five-year land supply requirement reduced to a three-year land supply with that condition in place for the first three years of the new JSSP. The Housing Minister Dominic Raab visited Oxfordshire in March and officially signed the deal.

HOUSING INFRASTRUCTURE FUND (HIF)

On 21 March the Government announced 44 bids which have made it through to stage 2 of its Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) to fund major infrastructure projects. Two of the three HIF bids submitted by OCC last autumn on behalf of Oxfordshire made it through and will now progress to a co-development stage:

Didcot Garden Town – £171m is sought for transport improvements including a Didcot Science Bridge and A4130 dual carriageway, a new river crossing at Culham and Clifton Hampden Bypass. This would support the delivery of over 22,000 homes in Didcot, Culham, Harwell and Berinsfield. Additionally, up to £70m of cycle and other sustainable transport improvements are proposed for inclusion in the bid plan.

West Oxfordshire Garden Village – £135m is sought for further upgrades to the A40, building on existing schemes and based on the approved A40 Long Term Strategy including development of the Rapid Transit network and additional highway capacity on A40 transport corridor. This would support the delivery of over 10,000 homes in Witney & Carterton, and around Eynsham.

Detailed business plans will now be developed for the £300 million of transport infrastructure investment behind these two bids. The Growth Board partners expect to hear in the autumn whether or not the two bids going through have ultimately succeeded.

OXFORD-CAMBRIDGE EXPRESSWAY

In December the National Infrastructure Commission (NIC) published its report to Government on the Oxford-Cambridge development arc. It advised on the need for long-term investment funding for new transport infrastructure to harness the region's economic potential, to benefit local people and boost UK plc in a post-Brexit landscape. For the residents of South Oxfordshire and particularly this Division facing the potential of an expressway cutting a ten mile swathe through our countryside, there were encouraging signs in that the Commission recommended that a more logical route would be to follow existing rail and road routes (to the West and North of Oxford). But the Commission declined to be specific which is

frustrating, and their recommendations are only advisory. It will be up to Highways England to make the final decision by Summer 2018. They were proposing to do this without a period for public consultation which I and many others found totally unacceptable.

On 12th December an overwhelming majority of County Councillors voted to support a motion tabled by Cllr Atkins calling on the Leader Ian Hudspeth to write to Highways England, NIC, the Transport Minister Chris Grayling etc asking on behalf of the County Council for an Independent Inquiry before any decision is taken on the preferred corridor for the Expressway. The timetable for the project only includes an Inquiry afterwards, when the choice between North/West, Central or South of Oxford has been taken. It was encouraging to get such widespread support from right across the county. Sadly since then we have heard back from Highways England who declined to establish a Public Inquiry. They are however, engaging with County Councillors and gave a briefing on 27th March at which they showed their latest thinking on the three possible corridors. A cross party Cabinet Advisory Group has been set up at OCC to monitor and comment on the progress of the project. The County Council's official position is neutral, that of a stakeholder/consultee.

MINERALS & WASTE CORE STRATEGY

In July 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, received support from the Government's Planning Inspectorate. Following approval by Cabinet on 18th July it went to Full Council in September and was ratified. This was disappointing news for this area, since the new strategy contains key changes that may impact our ability to defend our countryside against large-scale gravel extraction in the future.

Crucially, there is now a presumption that 75% of extraction will take place in the south of the county, 25% in the West. And the Local Aggregate Assessment, which is the total amount of gravel that must be extracted per year has been set at 1.015 million tonnes. This is believed to be far in excess of what is actually required, thus opening the door to the unnecessary development of new extraction sites.

Part 2 of the Plan is now underway, and the call has gone out to the industry for site nominations. This area, particularly Berinsfield, Shillingford, Dorchester, Warborough, Stadhampton, Drayton St Leonard, Culham and Nuneham Courtenay are all listed as potential quarry sites. There has been a big response with many previous nominations being re-confirmed and a few additional sites being put forward. According to officers the potential yield far exceeds what is needed. Consultation on the different options will be undertaken in June/July 2018. The stellar work done by Parishes Against Gravel Extraction has kept this area protected for the last 10 years. But sadly, they are needed again now, as much as they ever were.

QUARRY APPLICATION AT CLIFTON HAMPDEN AND CULHAM REJECTED

After years of diligent and effective campaigning by local residents against the application for a huge quarry at Fullamoor Farm between Clifton Hampden and Culham it was rejected by the County Council's Planning and Regulation Committee on November 27th. The main reason was the unacceptable impact upon traffic and congestion in the area, particularly at peak times. The quarry would have generated 100+ lorry movements per day. A last minute attempt was made by Hills to save their application by agreeing to prohibit lorry movements at peak times. This failed to satisfy the Councillors as did the arguments that the quarry would not impair the construction of the North-South road from Didcot, the new river crossing and the Clifton Hampden bypass all of which now look as if they could be in place by 2025, which is really good news.

COUNCIL ENDS CONTRACT WITH CARILLION

In August 2017 Oxfordshire County Council agreed to exit a significant proportion of its contract with Carillion. Negotiations had been ongoing for many months and both parties reached a mutually beneficial

settlement covering the construction side of the deal which was originally signed in 2012 and was set to last for 10 years.

On the collapse of the parent company in January 2018 OCC formally terminated its contract with Carillion LGS Limited effective from 1 February 2018. This brought forward the already agreed end of the contract negotiated last June set for the end of June 2018. OCC made a net payment of £10.65m to Carillion to cover construction work already completed.

Carillion also provided the Council with school meals and cleaning; maintenance of council buildings and property services. OCC acted quickly to ensure that these services continued through a mix of bringing the Carillion staff in-house; continuing with suppliers and working with sub-contractors. We are proud to say that there were no job losses or any breakdowns in provision.

Like every other Carillion customer, OCC is now working out the most cost-effective way to complete construction work left unfinished by Carillion. The Council has taken over direct responsibility for commissioning future construction work and service delivery.

NEW DAYTIME SUPPORT SERVICE

Last year OCC implemented a new, sustainable model of daytime support for vulnerable adults in Oxfordshire. There are over 200 voluntary and community daytime support services provided across Oxfordshire. The vast majority of the 47 services that are currently funded by OCC are set to continue and have applied for and been awarded grant funding to support their move to more self-sustaining models. OCC is continuing to fund the Wellbeing and Employment Support Service and the Dementia Support Service, and is investing an additional £25,000 per year in increasing the capacity of these services to support people with autism and to train other services in dementia support. County Council provided Health and Wellbeing Centres and Learning Disability Daytime Support services were replaced by a new council-provided Community Support Service from 1st October 2017. This service provides flexible, person-centred support to meet a wide range of people's needs, delivered from 8 building bases across the county in Abingdon, Banbury, Bicester, Didcot, Oxford, Wallingford, Wantage. Everyone using former services was offered an individual assessment and/or review and support to explore their options. For people who are assessed as not having eligible needs, there will still be a range of options, for example joining a local group, attending community and voluntary sector provided services or purchasing support from the new Community Support Service.

HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING CENTRE UPDATE

After a period of consultation and assessment OCC has signed a new Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) contract that secures all seven sites in the medium term, with no change to the sites opening hours or days. Banners and leaflets are now on site at all seven HWRCs, informing local residents that there will be a change in non-household waste charges from the 1st October. The existing DIY 1,2,3 for free scheme is being replaced by a small fixed fee per item of £1.50 for non-household waste.

DRIVERLESS CARS TESTED AT CULHAM

News that ground-breaking transport technology being pioneered in Oxfordshire has won a share of a £51million government prize has been welcomed. Oxfordshire is home to Science Vale UK and some world leading science and technology companies who are blazing a trail towards more energy efficient and road safety. Organisations based in the Science Vale are working on pioneering projects such as autonomous cars and smart traffic management systems needed to support people travelling around the county. Remote Applications in Challenging Environments (RACE), which is based at Culham Science Centre in Oxfordshire, is to receive £6.9m from the Department of Transport towards their £10million project to set up a range of different test areas mimicking increasingly realistic city driving environments, where automated vehicles can be tested before being taken onto public roads. They

are one of a number of companies that Oxfordshire County Council and South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils work with to drive progress on future transport technology.



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.



Other News

Neighbourhood Policing Update - PCSO Marie Davenport



Here is the latest Wallingford Sector neighbourhood update from PCSO Marie Davenport.

Your Neighbourhood Policing Team consists of Inspector Adrian Hall, Sergeant Fraser Weller, PC Simone O'Dell, PCSO Sue Harris, PCSO Marie Davenport, PCSO Sarah Jones & PCSO Clare Beale

Site Watch

We have developed a new initiative called 'Site Watch' which is aimed at reducing burglaries and other theft offences linked to building/construction sites. We will provide regular alerts to all members of this scheme keeping them up to date or requesting sightings of vehicles or persons of interest to us. If you or someone you know works on a current building site then it may be their own tools that get stolen so please ask them to get in touch with PCSO Jason Martin at Didcot by emailing sitewatch@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk.

Distraction Burglary

Thames Valley Police is appealing for witnesses after a distraction burglary in Station Road, Wallingford. At around 1:30pm on Thursday 29th March two men approached an 88 year old woman at

her home. They told her that her roof needed repair work and entered the property. One of the men convinced the woman that she needed to pay him money and she handed over £800 in cash. The men took the money and tried to steal her bank card. The victim challenged the men, who ran to a white van and drove away. One of the offenders was a white man around 45-50 years old and wearing an orange high visibility top. The other offender was a white man 20-30 years old who was also wearing an orange high visibility top.

If you have any information relating to this case please call 101 quoting reference 43180095796 or contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Speedwatch

We are pleased to say that we are in the process of training local residents in Wallingford and Dorchester on how to use our Speed Indication Device. They will soon be fully fledged members of Community Speed Watch. This will mean they can use the Speed Indication Device using local volunteers without the need for police to be with them. If you are interested in Community Speed Watch please email sue.harris@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk.

Theft from Vehicle

Opportunists often walk around trying door car door handles. On 4th April in Benson they found two cars insecure and took items. Please ensure that your vehicle is kept locked at all times and that no high value items are left inside. If you happen to see anyone acting suspiciously near cars then please call on 999.

Cover It Live

Our next online have your say is on 16th May at 7pm. We will be available to take any questions or concerns you have about how to protect your child online. Top Tips on how to keep an eye on them and keep them safe from Child Sexual Exploitation and Grooming. It's easy and anonymous to talk to us simply logon to <http://thamesvp.coverpage.coveritlive.com>

Engagement

PCSO Sue Harris and PCSO Marie Davenport have been very busy this month in regards to community engagement in and around Wallingford.

- Year 6 Pupils from across the county attended Junior Citizens at Oxford Fire Station where we educated them on internet safety and how to protect themselves online.
- We have continued our talks in regards to the dangers of Sexting at Wallingford School to year 8 Pupils and looking to arrange some more dates at Culham Europa School as well. We have also helped Wantage cover a Community Alcohol Partnership day to their year 9 Pupils.
- On Monday 19th March we gave an internet safety talk to Year 5 pupils at Culham Europa School.
- Sue and PCSO Lewis Symm gave a talk on Crime Prevention to the Young at Heart Club. This was great fun and we hope they invite us again!
- Marie, Sue and Simone went along to the Wallingford Community Support Service to discuss Safe Places. Safe Places was set up to help vulnerable people feel safer when they are out and about and might feel at risk. We had a lovely cup of tea and chat to the service users and Simone was given a lovely drawing. For more information about Safe Places please get in touch.

Contact us

If you want any advice or would like to contact the neighbourhood team you can call us on the police non-emergency number 101 or if it is an emergency then dial 999. You can also contact us via email wallingfordNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk. Please note this email address cannot be used to contact Thames Valley Police to report crimes or for any urgent matters.

Oxford-Cambridge growth corridor & expressway - How to get our voices heard? - CPRE Oxfordshire

The Chancellor has backed the National Infrastructure Commission's concept of an Oxford to Cambridge 'Growth Corridor' of a million new houses, of which 300,000 would be in Oxfordshire. That would be equivalent to six new cities the size of Oxford; or to put it another way would more than double our present housing stock and population by 2050.



Part of the growth scheme is a new Expressway – a Motorway in all but name – from Oxford to Cambridge to “facilitate” the development.

At the moment this transformative change is being proposed without any public consultation.

CPRE Oxfordshire is demanding a full statutory public consultation followed by a Public Inquiry, at which the clear environmental and social costs of the Growth Corridor can be weighed against the potential economic benefits envisaged. This would also mean the need for and routing of any Oxfordshire Expressway would at least be decided in an open and transparent manner.

CPRE Oxfordshire is asking local residents to join its call for a Public Inquiry by contacting local councillors, MPs and the Secretary of State for Transport.

Find out more at:

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

[Facebook.com/CPREOxfordshire](https://www.facebook.com/CPREOxfordshire)

National Water Vole Monitoring Programme – PTES

People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES) is calling on all wildlife enthusiasts to help monitor signs of the UK's disappearing water voles as part of its annual National Water Vole Monitoring Programme.

people's
trust for
endangered
species

Affectionately portrayed as Ratty in childhood favourite *Wind in the Willows*, water voles were once a common sight along UK riverbanks and waterways. However, over the last century water voles have experienced the most severe decline of any wild mammal in the UK as they face threats from invasive American mink, habitat loss, agricultural intensification and river pollution.



In response to this dramatic decline, PTES launched the National Water Vole Monitoring Programme (NWVMP) in 2015, appealing to members of the public to help look for signs and sightings of water voles. The annual survey starts again on 15 April 2018 and runs until 15 June.

Emily Thomas, Key Species Monitoring and Data Officer at PTES explains: “Volunteers are crucial to helping us collect robust data about the state of our water voles across the UK. We use the data gathered to monitor population trends year on year, which in turn help guide our conservation efforts and inform us where action is needed most.”

Over two hundred volunteers have taken part in the NWVMP since 2015, and last year volunteers collected data from 222 sites across England, Scotland and Wales, of which 82 had water vole signs present (48% of sites surveyed). The distribution of positive sites is encouraging, from Cornwall and Suffolk, up to the

Highlands and across to the Isle of Anglesey. However, there are gaps in survey areas where PTES needs more help, including the South West, parts of Wales, southern Scotland and across the West Midlands.

Volunteers are asked to survey one of the nearly 900 pre-selected sites across the UK, recording all sightings and signs of water voles along a 500m length of riverbank once during the course of the two-month period. Sites that are already being surveyed can also be registered with the NWVMP. Though no prior experience is required, volunteers will need to learn how to identify water vole field signs. A survey pack, including clear instructions on how to do your survey and a field signs ID guide, will be provided.

To find out more, or to take part in PTES's 2018 National Water Vole Monitoring Programme, visit: www.ptes.org/watervoles

If you want to support PTES' ongoing conservation work, you can donate £3 by texting 'PTES18 £3' to 70070.

Sutton Courtney WI – Tina Wade

The nights are lighter and the days are getting slightly warmer.

It's a great time of the year to come along and meet us all.

Lots going on, so come for a chat and a cuppa. Learn a new hobby or listen to someone speak about something fun, exciting or interesting they have done in their life.

Our next three meetings are:

May 15th - Barbara Hudson 'Can you turn your life around at 60'.

June 19th - Our summer outing.

July 17th - Micheal Palmer 'Working as a Met man in the Falklands'.

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



At the Unicorn Theatre

Our next concert at the beautiful Unicorn theatre in Abingdon-on-Thames is on Thursday 3rd May and stars the intoxicating folk acoustic duo Gilmore & Roberts!

Contemporary folk/acoustic duo **Gilmore & Roberts** combine award-winning song writing with astounding musicianship and their trademark harmonies to create a powerful wall of sound.

Nominated three times at the **BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards**, **Katriona Gilmore** (fiddle, mandolin) and **Jamie Roberts** (guitar) met while studying at Leeds College of Music and released their debut album in 2008.



Since then, the duo have toured Canada and mainland Europe, played some of the UK's biggest acoustic festivals, toured with folk rock legends **Fairport Convention** and won countless accolades for their genre-spanning work.

2015 saw the release of their fourth album, **Conflict Tourism**, which appeared on several end-of-year Best Album lists and received national airplay on both **BBC Radio 2** & **BBC 6music**. Produced by Mark Tucker and featuring Matt Downer (Jamie Smith's Mabon), Phil Henry (Phillip Henry & Hannah Martin) and James 'Hutch' Hutchinson (Bonnie Raitt), **Conflict Tourism** packs a considered punch from start to finish.

In 2016, the duo marked a decade of performing together with their first live album, released ten years to the day since their first EP launch. Limited to one thousand hand-numbered copies and recorded on the duo's 2016 spring tour, **In Our History – LIVE** is available exclusively at shows and from gilmoreroberts.co.uk/shop.

Katriona Gilmore grew up in Knebworth, Hertfordshire, learned violin at school and started playing local folk clubs with her guitarist father at the age of 14. Starting her professional career with folk pop sensations **Tiny Tin Lady** and singer songwriter **Rosie Doonan**, she was invited to be part of a new lineup of **The Albion Band** in 2011 and subsequently joined Albion frontman **Blair Dunlop** on his solo tours. In 2017 Katriona joined established folk-roots band **The Willows**. Katriona has featured on many acclaimed albums as a session musician and has appeared onstage with such diverse acts as The Troggs, Kim Richey and Matt Berry.

Jamie Roberts was brought up in Barnsley, South Yorkshire in a musical family – his sister Kathryn Roberts is a well-respected singer on the UK folk scene. Jamie joined young English traditionalists **Kerfuffle** in 2007, formed **The Dovetail Trio** with Rosie Hood and Matt Quinn in 2014, and joined the critically acclaimed **Emily Askew Band** in 2016. Alongside his regular projects, he has performed with Nancy Kerr's Sweet Visitor Band and Blackbeard's Tea Party amongst others.

For more information: www.gilmoreroberts.co.uk

Doors: 7pm | **Music:** 7:15pm | **Main act:** 8pm / Unicorn Theatre, Checker Walk, Abingdon

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

Music at The Unicorn (MATU) is a not-for-profit community organisation who stage concerts to bring the best music to Abingdon. An important part of the work is supporting up-and-coming musicians from the local area, giving them the opportunity to perform in front of wonderfully supportive and knowledgeable audiences. A dedicated team of volunteers run all the events.

Our brief for the future is, "If it is good music, we want it at the Unicorn"

Wednesday 2nd May 2018 - Earth Trust Tour

A guided walk and talk around part of our wonderful nature reserve in Little Wittenham.

Sunday 13th May 2018 - Dawn Chorus Walk

Set your alarm clocks and join us to listen to the birds celebrating the season on the Clumps!

Tuesday 15th May 2018 - Food and Farming Walk

Discover how we manage the Earth Trust Farm so that it's both environmentally and economically sustainable.

Saturday 19th May 2018- Bat walk

Join us for a guided walk to the Clumps and Little Wittenham Wood

Wednesday 23rd May 2018- Orchid Walk

A guided walk to enjoy the spring spectacle of magnificent orchids in some of the conservation areas around Thrupp Lake.

Saturday 19th - Monday 28th May 2018 - Oxfordshire Artweeks

Earth Trust is delighted to welcome nine local artists to exhibit their work in Fison Barn during this year's Artweeks.

Thursday 31st May 2018 - Spring Activity Trail

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

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stuart.morris@ukaea.uk



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Andrew Steele		27 High Street, Culham	01235 534910
John Thomas		40 High Street, Culham	01235 521678
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Adrian Morris			
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Sue Lawson	sue.lawson@southoxon.gov.uk		07899 963236
COUNTY COUNCILLOR			
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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
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Chair of Governors:	Debbie Croft	c/o Clifton Hampden School	01865 407700
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