

# The Mouthpiece

Culham's Newsletter

September 2018



## For your diary:

**Sun Sept 2nd: 16:00** - Evening Prayer, St Paul's

**Sun Sept 9th: 16:00** - Messy Church (incl. children's activities & biscuits!), St Paul's

**Mon Sept 10th: 19.30** - Parish Council Meeting, Culham School

**Sun Sept 16th: 16:00** - Harvest service, St Paul's



## Talking Point by Canon Sue Booy

I don't know about you but I love the 'blank page' feeling that September always gives me. The phrase turning over a new leaf comes from the time when pages of a book were described as leaves possibly deriving from the ancient use of the Papyrus leaf to make documents. Whatever the origin that sense of making a new start is almost as strong at the beginning of September as it is on the first of January. Quite literally many of our young family and friends will be writing a new page of their life's book by beginning a new school, university, college or job at this time of year. Opportunities like this present a chance to start afresh to leave behind bits of ourselves that we might want to emphasise less. I have one friend who left school called Andrew and began University as Julian. It marked an important change for him in the way that he had decided to live his life and adopting his middle name as the name of preference helped him to make that change.

I always think September is an exciting time – very often, refreshed after a summer break we come back with plans for new things to do as well as new ways to be. In the weeks following this new start I'm excited about a number of things. Mainly the opportunity to celebrate the fortieth birthday of the Dorchester Team. We'll be doing this at a special Team service on 30<sup>th</sup> September giving us an opportunity to give thanks for all that has been and to welcome the new and the unknown future. It has been a great privilege for me to have been associated with this Team for almost 20 years now – and to have known both my predecessors as Team Rector! There are many of you who have been part of it since the beginning and two of our clergy Rev David Haylett and Rev Jennifer Morton were involved in setting up the Team as Lay people, both have served it as Chair of the Team Council and both now serve as priests. This is a real testament to the Dorchester Team. We are not quite the earliest Team in the country and in our own Oxford Diocese it is always a pleasure to hear our Team being named as one that works well together – I'm probably the person who hears that most often and I'm really proud to pass it on! Everyone who lives in the Team is part of it – and if you are reading this in your village magazine then you are part of the Team! Whatever part you play from village resident to Team Council member and whether you have been around for days or decades I really hope you will join us to celebrate with a special service and with cake (of course) at 10.30am on 30<sup>th</sup> September in the Abbey.

**LIGHT: A Spiritual Journey** will take place (in Dorchester Abbey's Cloister Gallery) from the end of October until Christmas. The Abbey has seen some wonderful exhibitions in past years but nothing so innovative as this – a collaboration between two respected and well-known Dorchester residents Adrian Brookes and Tim Cook – it promises to be a feast for all the senses. This exhibition has a number of important features linking it to the spiritual history of our building and the locality. It will create a 'mini pilgrimage' in a traditional place of pilgrimage set in the context of some of the most recent understandings of the creation and inspiring our visitors throughout the busy Advent to Epiphany season to think more widely about the spiritual and creation on the largest and deepest possible scale.

### Church service times

#### Culham

Sun Sept 2nd 16:00 Parish Communion  
Sun Sept 9th 16:00 Messy Church (family service, crafts & cake/biscuits)  
Sun Sept 16th 16:00 Harvest service

#### Clifton Hampden and Burcot

Sun Sept 2nd 08:00 BCP Communion  
Sun Sept 9th 11:00 Parish Communion  
Sun Sept 23rd 10:30 Messy Church (child-friendly, children's activities at 10:30)

#### Long Wittenham and Little Wittenham

Sun Sept 2nd Long W 09:30 Family Service, crafts and breakfast  
Sun Sept 9th Long W 09:30 Parish Communion  
Sun Sept 16th Little W 08:30 BCP Holy Communion  
Sun Sept 23rd Long W 09:30 Parish Communion  
Sun Sept 30th Long W 10:30 Team Service

# Village News

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

## Culham Parish Council (CPC) – July 2018

The meeting began with a review of the Council assets on and around the Green. This was followed by the usual meeting in the school.

John Taylor (Morrell's representative) told us that the permissive path around the fields to the south of The Cut, will be reinstated once the crop has been cut.

New plans have been submitted to SODC for the re-development of the Waggon and Horses land. It is expected that the large spoil heaps will be spread out on the field, again after the crop has been removed. The smaller spoil heap close to the roadway will be removed. John Taylor said he would trim the front face of the hedge along he Burycroft during the week beginning 9<sup>th</sup> July.

There is still a vacancy on the CPC for one councillor.

The SCGB group will meet with SODC during the week beginning 9<sup>th</sup> July to discuss the latest situation regarding the use of Green Belt land at Culham for major housing.

A new application has been submitted by Hills for a quarry at Fullamoor Farm. CPC will object to this application on similar grounds to the previous application.

Following the offer from Morrell's for the CPC to purchase the village Green, a request for further information will be made to Morrell's.

It was agreed in principal to clear the village pond to enhance the view from the Green. This clearance will likely be in October this year.

It was agreed that the proposal to install video surveillance cameras in the village was a non-starter.

**NB:** By the time these notes are published it is likely that the swings in the play area on the playing field will have been removed. This removal is the result of the swings' framework being given a High Risk rating in the RoSPA safety report. The frame is rotting and may cause serious injury if left.

### **Next meeting**

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> September 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.

## **Announcement Regarding Rosemary Waters**

We would like to extend our deepest sympathy to the friends and family of Rosemary Waters of 2, The Willows. Rosemary died in July. We remember with thanks the time she spent as an editor of The Mouthpiece.

## Food Waste Collection Complaints

There have been reports in the village of misuse of recycling wheelie bins by some food waste collectors. The collectors usually bring their own empty wheelie bin with them (as they are supposed to do) to gather up the contents of our food waste bins but there have been occasions when a resident's green wheelie bin has been borrowed for the task which leaves the bin contaminated with food waste debris, and in hot weather maggots.

The joint council policy on waste and recycling, recyclable waste section, states:

### “CONTAMINATION

If your green recycling bin or clear sack is contaminated with materials that should not be in it, it will not be collected. Our contractor will leave a note explaining the reason for non-collection. You will need to remove all contamination from the bin/sack before the next scheduled collection. You can find a full list of the materials we do collect on our websites.”

If this happens to your green bin please contact [waste.team@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:waste.team@southandvale.gov.uk) and write "Attention: Abi" in the subject adding photos of any green bin affected, if possible.



## Harvest Service

There will be a harvest service at St Paul's at 4pm on Sun 16th Sept followed by Harvest Supper at 5pm. Tickets available in advance from Roy Epps.



## Ride and Stride



Sat 8th Sept, in aid of Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust and St Paul's Culham. Andrew Churchill Stone will be cycling with some Churchill Stone children to raise funds. If you would like to sponsor them please contact Andrew, 01235533011, 21 High Street. Email: [churchillstone27@gmail.com](mailto:churchillstone27@gmail.com).

If you would like to take part, cycling, walking or horse riding, visiting as many churches on the day as you can please also contact Andrew for a form and more details.

## Dangers of Blue-Green Algae in River Thames

There has been a report of white froth spotted in the River Thames in Culham, particularly in the stretch of river adjacent to the Burycroft. According to local news, this froth can be a by-product of blue-green algae being present. The algae occurs naturally but when conditions are ideal for growth an 'algal bloom' can occur, producing toxins which can be fatal to animals and can cause a rash on humans.

According to the Oxford Mail the Environment Agency has confirmed Croft Lake in Northmoor, near Witney, Baulking Lake in Faringdon, Ladygrove Lakes in Didcot, Jubilee Lake in Bicester and the Bicester Abingdon Marina have all tested positive.

# **County Councillor's Report - Lorraine Lindsay-Gale**

## **Shared service arrangement between OCC and CDC**

As reported previously, OCC and Cherwell District Council (CDC) are considering a proposal for shared service arrangements under a joint chief executive, while retaining separate councillor bodies, budgets and decision-making processes. Arrangements will be implemented incrementally. OCC's Remuneration Committee subsequently agreed to recommend the appointment of Yvonne Rees, the current Chief Executive of CDC, as joint Chief Executive of the County Council and Cherwell District Council. The appointment process now moves on to both Full Councils of OCC (10 July) and CDC (16 July). The final decision therefore remains a decision for Members.

## **County council budget outturn hits the mark**

The council's Cabinet received final budget figures for the 2017/18 financial year at its meeting on Tuesday, June 19. OCC managed its net budget with 99.8 per cent accuracy for 2017/18, with an underspend of just £1m (0.2 per cent) on an overall service budget of £422m.

## **Delayed transfers of care – Oxfordshire figures are improving**

Delayed transfer of care (DToc) cases are now at the lowest level for many years in Oxfordshire. The latest national figures published by the Department of Health showed that the average number of people delayed has fallen from 168 in April 2017 to 117 this April. Since April 2018, the number of delays has fallen further and is currently only 78 – more than halving in just over a year. Effective and sustained joint working by OCC and the NHS across Oxfordshire has seen consistent and on-going reductions in the number of people delayed in hospital. Department of Health figures showed a 44% decrease in the number of social care delays, and a drop in the overall number of days delayed in a hospital. Only 13% of delays were attributable to social care, which is down from 15% in March 2017.

## **Site allocations consultation on minerals and waste local plan**

The council reached a new milestone in the ongoing planning process to decide where minerals can be extracted and waste management facilities can be located in June with Cabinet asked to approve a site consultation exercise. This will take place in July-September and it will be open to all interested organisations and individuals to respond. All parish councils, environmental and community groups, organisations and individuals who have previously asked to be informed about the plan will be notified when the consultation starts, where the consultation documents can be seen and how to respond. A core strategy was adopted by the council in September 2017 and it was always planned that work on specific site allocations would follow this.

## **Highways update**

The bad winter has taken its toll on road conditions across the county, so OCC welcomed the additional £2.7m the Government has provided for this year; additional gangs have been employed to ensure we utilise the funds during the summer months. Last month 6,236 defects were repaired showing progress is being made on the defects reported during the bad weather.

A fact sheet has been produced giving details about the condition of the county's highways and the actions being taken to maintain them. This will be issued to all councillors and parish clerks during the month of July.

## Oxfordshire's new domestic abuse service launched

A new domestic abuse service for Oxfordshire was launched in June. The new service was set up by OCC in partnership with District Councils and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for the Thames Valley. The service is designed to be highly inclusive to address emotional and practical support needs for any victim suffering or fleeing domestic abuse in Oxfordshire. It incorporates a single access point for victims and professionals, community-based Outreach Workers and Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVA) and includes specialist workers to support young people and Black Asian Minority Ethnic and Refugee (BAMER) communities. There is also a program to support victims with complex needs. Victims fleeing abuse will be able to access refuge in Banbury and in one other location, located in either Didcot or Oxford. In addition, the service launches a new model of refuge, delivered from dispersed locations across Oxfordshire, benefiting those unable to access conventional refuge services including male victims, victims who live in carers and families with older male sons. To report concerns, please use the A2Dominion ODAS helpline (0800 731 0055) or [oxfordshiredomestic@a2dominion.org.uk](mailto:oxfordshiredomestic@a2dominion.org.uk)

## NHS health checks

OCC-funded NHS Health Checks are designed to spot early warnings of stroke, kidney and heart disease, Type 2 diabetes and dementia. They are available to anyone aged between the ages of 40 and 74 who has not already been diagnosed with an existing cardiovascular condition. They are free and applicants will be invited to have one once every five years. GP surgeries will automatically send out invitations, but if one is not received, residents should contact their surgery and make an appointment. The check will take around 20 to 30 minutes. For further information about free NHS Health Checks visit:

[www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/nhshealthcheck](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/nhshealthcheck)

## Fighting back against the scammers

OCC is an enthusiastic backer of Friends Against Scams, a national scheme run by the country's trading standards services, which aims to:

- Highlight the scale of the problem by getting communities and the nation talking about scams.
- Change the perceptions of why people become scam victims.
- Prevent people from becoming or continuing to be a scam victim by providing more adequate support.
- Recruit people to join the fight against scams to make this a scam-free nation

Friends Against Scams works on several levels. It has a website which gives detailed information on the huge variety of scams as well as encouraging visitors to take a more active role. Residents can become a 'friend' by completing an online course or build up to become a SCAMBassador – giving talks to local groups and organisations – after receiving further face-to-face training by OCC's own Trading Standards Service. For further information visit the Friends Against Scams website:

<https://www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk>. Advice is available on 03454 04 05 06.

## Green Recycling Bins - The Railway Inn

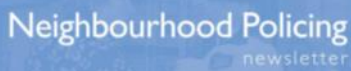


Green Recycling bins are situated at the end of The Railway Inn Car Park. This is to raise funds for Children's Air Ambulance. There is also a green bin for media. All items should be bagged.



# Other News

## Neighbourhood Policing Update - PCSO Marie Davenport



We would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to a very popular local retired police officer who died unexpectedly on 24th June. PC Terry Kipling served at Didcot until his retirement last year and was very well liked and respected by both by his colleagues and the local community. It is a great loss, as Terry was always there to help anyone and had a wonderful sense of humour. Before he retired he worked on our Rural Crime Team and knew many land owners. It is credit to what a wonderful police officer he was that since his death even those he arrested over the years have spoken of their sadness at the news. Our thoughts are with his family.

### Crime prevention advice

We have had an increase in reports of 'Nottingham Knockers' (door to door selling) in the area. Our advice is to not buy from these traders at the door step. You do not have to open your door to engage in these people and you do not have to make a purchase. Purchasing from people on the doorstep may encourage future traders to return to the area.

We have had reports of people attempting to use fake £20 notes in the area, please be mindful of this when out and about.

### PCSO recruitment

PCSOs are the face of the Police providing a highly visible presence on the streets of our communities. TVP are currently recruiting PCSOs. Please visit [www.thamesvalley.police.uk/joinus](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/joinus) for more information about the role and how to apply!

### 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](mailto: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.

## Writing the First World War – Richard van Emden

**'The Quick and the Dead: Fallen Soldiers and their Families' with Richard van Emden**

**Saturday 22 September, 10:00 – 17:00 Oxford Brookes University**

John Henry Brookes Building, Oxford, OX3 0BP

This interactive day will draw on the extensive experience of bestselling author and well-known historian of the Great War, **Richard van Emden**.

It will cover many aspects of non-fiction writing from clarifying what sort of book you want to write, how to build a narrative and getting published. It's suitable for anyone, published or aspiring, who's writing or wanting to write about the First World War. Also taking part will be Stephen Barker, author of 'Lancashire's Forgotten Heroes'.

Cost: £65 - with a special rate of £60 (including tea/coffee and lunch) for W.F.A. members.

Book here: <https://www.brookes.ac.uk/hss/events/the-quick-and-the-dead/>



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## Give a hedgehog a home! – PTES/ BHPS

School's out for the summer, and for those now at home what better way to spend a sunny afternoon than by creating your own hedgehog house, to help the nation's favourite mammal from further decline, especially during the current heatwave.

The *Hedgehog Street* team - ran by wildlife charities the British Hedgehog Preservation Society (BHPS) and People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES) - is urging people to help hedgehogs by building them the perfect home, providing a safe haven that's cool, cosy and comfortable during this unusual summer weather.



Last year, *Hedgehog Street* launched the first ever Hedgehog Housing Census, which looked at how, when and why hedgehogs use either homemade or artificial hedgehog houses in gardens across Britain. Between August and October 2017, over 5,000 people responded to the Hedgehog Housing Census, and now, a year on, the secrets behind what makes a perfect hedgehog home have been revealed. The results, analysed by the University of Reading, show that:

- Hedgehogs prefer homemade houses, but artificial houses are still a good alternative if they have the right features
- Hedgehogs need time to get used to a new house before they use it
- Feeding hedgehogs, putting water in your garden & providing bedding (such as dry leaves, pet straw or both) increases the chances of a resident hedgehog moving in
- Hedgehogs prefer houses found in back gardens, in shaded areas.
- Pets or badgers don't appear to put off a 'hog from moving in

Building your own hedgehog home is a fun and easy to do. To download a PDF with simple instructions on how to build two different types of hedgehog house, visit: [www.hedgehogstreet.org/housingcensus](http://www.hedgehogstreet.org/housingcensus).

Interestingly, the results also showed that houses positioned close (<5 meters) to the homeowners' house are most frequently used, indicating that hedgehogs have become accustomed to human activity. Also, of those who responded to the questions about usage for daytime resting and hibernation, 81% found evidence that their hedgehog house was used for resting during summer daytime, 59% noted that it was used for hibernation during winter months and 28% said it was used for breeding.

Emily Wilson, Hedgehog Officer for *Hedgehog Street* explains: "Until now we didn't know what type of hedgehog house was best for hedgehogs and if they were even really used at all, as this area of hedgehog ecology simply hadn't been studied. These results tell us that hedgehog houses are helping 'hogs find a place to rest, hibernate and even breed. We can use these results to help conserve these animals and give the most accurate advice to anyone wanting to provide shelter for wild hedgehogs through our Hedgehog Street campaign."

Emily continues: "It's interesting to see that hedgehogs seem to prefer houses that have been in a garden for some time, but we hope that people won't be disheartened if they have a newer hedgehog house, it just means hedgehogs need a little time to get used to it. If hedgehogs are provided with food and water in the garden (especially during this unusually hot weather), and the correct bedding in the house, this really encourages hedgehogs into your area, and they could become regular night-time visitors."

Abigail Gazzard, Postgraduate Researcher for the University of Reading adds: "Further analysis is required to investigate why hedgehogs seem to prefer homemade houses to artificial ones. This could be to do with the type of materials they are made from, its physical size, or whether it has other features such as tunnels and internal partitions, so the next step for us is to look into this aspect specifically."

Emily concludes: "Thanks to these results analysed by the University of Reading, we now better understand what a hedgehog is looking for in a perfect home, so we hope existing Hedgehog Champions and those who aren't yet champions, consider encouraging hedgehogs in gardens across Britain by building and introducing your own hedgehog houses."

## At the Unicorn Theatre

**Our next concert at the beautiful Unicorn theatre in Abingdon-on-Thames is on Thursday 6th September and stars the atmospheric and emotional Sally Barker.**

Sally began writing songs and performing at the age of 10, influenced by the likes of John Martyn, Janis Ian, Steeleye Span, Bonnie Raitt and Pentangle.

By her late teens Sally was performing folk and blues in pubs and folk clubs in the Midlands with bass player Chris Watson. Later the duo went on to support Steeleye Span, Gordon Giltrap and Roy Harper.

In the early 90s Sally opened for both Bob Dylan and Robert Plant in Germany and toured consistently in Europe during this time, both solo and with the Poozies, releasing albums along the way.



Sally's sons Dillon and Ben persuaded her to enter 'The Voice UK'. She was Tom Jones' finalist on the BBC TV programme in 2014, reducing Sir Tom, and viewers alike, to tears with her flawless performances.

**For more information:** [www.sallybarker.co.uk](http://www.sallybarker.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](http://www.musicattheunicorn.org.uk)

## 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.

Please send contributions for the October issue of the Mouthpiece by September 15<sup>th</sup> to: [generalmouthpiece@gmail.com](mailto:generalmouthpiece@gmail.com)

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# WHO IS WHO IN CULHAM?

<b>CULHAM PARISH COUNCIL</b>			
Sam Casey-Rerhaye	(Chair)	3 The Burycroft, Culham	01235 799489
Andrew Steele		27 High Street, Culham	01235 534910
John Thomas		40 High Street, Culham	01235 521678
Gordon Gibbs		32 High Street, Culham	01235 523679
Adrian Morris		The Willows, Culham	
<b>CLERK TO PARISH COUNCIL</b>			
Lucy Dalby	culhampc@googlemail.com	76 Evenlode Drive, Didcot OX11 7XQ	01235 817464
<b>DISTRICT COUNCILLOR</b>			
Sue Lawson	sue.lawson@southoxon.gov.uk		07899 963236
<b>COUNTY COUNCILLOR</b>			
Lorraine Lindsay-Gale	lorraine.lindsay-gale@oxfordshire.gov.uk	Nut Tree Cottage, The Green South, Warborough OX10 7DR	01865 858976
<b>ST PAUL'S CHURCH</b>			
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
<b>FRIENDS OF ST PAUL'S CHURCH</b>			
Chairman:	Philip Owen	6 The Green, Culham	01235 555223
<b>CULHAM PAROCHIAL SCHOOL (Thames Bridge C of E Federation)</b>			
Head Teacher:	Mrs Lisa Horton	The School, High Street, Culham	01235 521766
Chair of Governors:	Debbie Croft	c/o Clifton Hampden School	01865 407700
<b>LADIES OF CULHAM (LOC)</b>			
Mary Rickford	mary@therickfords.com	The Clock House, Culham	01235 528052
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Sam Casey-Rerhaye		3 The Burycroft, Culham	01235 799489
<b>CULHAM POOR ALLOTMENTS TRUST</b>			
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