

# The Mouthpiece

Culham's Newsletter

October 2018



## For your diary:

**Sun October 7th:** 11:00 – Parish Communion, St Paul's

**Sun October 7th:** 19:00 – **X-Over**, Michael & Nadia Storrs' concert, St Paul's  
Bar open from 17:30, food available during & after interval

**Mon October 8th:** 19.30 - Parish Council Meeting, Culham School

**Sun October 14th:** 16:00 – Centenary Service with choir, St Paul's  
with cheese & wine to follow

**Sun October 21st:** 16:00 - Parish Communion, St Paul's

# Church service times



## Culham

Sun October 7th	11:00 Parish Communion
Sun October 14th	16:00 Centenary Service with cheese & wine
Sun October 21st	16:00 Parish Communion

## Clifton Hampden and Burcot

Sun October 7th	08:00 Holy Communion
Sun October 14th	10:30 Parish Eucharist
Sun October 21st	10:30 Parish Eucharist
Sun October 28th	10:30 Messy Church (family service, children's activities, crafts & cake/biscuits)

## Long Wittenham and Little Wittenham:

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

## Talking Point – Revd Michael Lakey



Oh, how we can't bear loose ends! It has been a summer of loose ends in my house. At the beginning of July, I set myself the target of removing all of the ivy from the stone wall between our garden and the neighbours. But I didn't count on two things: first, that the wall was a good deal shorter, and the ivy a good deal more substantial, than I had thought; second, that the heatwave would be as bad (or good if you like that sort of thing). The result? I only managed to get about half of the offending ivy from the wall, and I won't get a chance to look at it again until after New Year. And every day, when I look out at the garden, there it is: a job half done. It is driving me mad!

On a more positive note, summer has also seen some loose ends tied up. As I write this talking point, I have only just managed to complete a book manuscript I have been desperate to get off my 'to do' list, and some family news I have been waiting for has just arrived. And I am utterly delighted about both of these results. But if I am honest with myself, there is part of me that is still obsessing about the unfinished job of the ivy, not to mention the sermon I haven't yet written, the person that I was going to ring about a visit and the emails I haven't sent.

If I stop to think about it, it occurs to me our obsession with loose ends is perhaps a sign of a deeper anxiety all of us experience from time to time about making sense of life. Loose ends aren't just evidence of work still to do; they are evidence of how limited our powers are to tame the little plots of earth we inhabit. If I can't tame the ivy in my garden, what does that say of my capacity to tame actual chaos—those events that threaten to unravel the fabric of life? What do I do when illness, unemployment, bereavement, death or a host of other common misfortunes come down like prowling beasts from their mountain dens and carry off what meaning I have managed to wrest from the world, leaving only disorder and chaos behind them. There is a line in the biblical book Isaiah that goes: 'You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you'. I don't think Isaiah the prophet had in mind a sort of innocent detachment from the world that was blasé about all of the horrible things that can befall any of us from time to time. I think he meant something more like 'when the bottom falls out of our world, that is when we are able to discover and depend upon what *or who* lies beneath our world, preventing us from falling indefinitely'. For Isaiah, and for Christians, that means two things: we cannot control the chaos of life, but the loss of our illusions of control is not as bad as it seems.

For me, this means the ivy stays . . . for the time being!

## Events in the Abbey, Dorchester

**13<sup>th</sup> Oct 7.30pm OSJ Concert in the Abbey - Handel and Bach** Extracts from the Messiah and other Baroque classics featuring fantastic soprano Hannah Davey with OSJ Voices. Tickets £12-£20 from [www.osj.org.uk](http://www.osj.org.uk)

### 20<sup>th</sup> October to 6<sup>th</sup> January Light Exhibition

Dorchester Abbey is very excited to host the exhibition LIGHT: A Spiritual Journey, with six artworks and the overall installation specially designed by local artist Adrian Brooks, with music provided by composer Tim Cook. The theme is related to Life's brief journey, the vastness of Space and the importance of Love.

Any adult and/or school groups wishing to book a special guided explanatory tour with thematically linked optional activities can contact Margaret Craig, Education Officer, Dorchester Abbey, Ox 343164 or [education@dorchester-abbey.org.uk](mailto:education@dorchester-abbey.org.uk)

### Team Events:

Dorchester Team Churches welcoming Children and Families

During the forthcoming months the Dorchester Team Council will be considering two very important items of business in connection with welcoming and encouraging families. The first half of the Team Council meeting at 7.45pm on 6<sup>th</sup> November (venue to be confirmed) will be an open meeting with the Diocesan Children's Advisor Yvonne Morris. Anyone with an interest in either of the initiatives below is warmly invited to attend the first half of the meeting, listen to Yvonne, ask questions and share thoughts with the Team Council. After the 'open' section of the meeting the Team Council will continue to meet and will be able to take into account the views expressed by our visitors.

Families and Children Worker

For many years there has been an aspiration to appoint someone within the Team who is specifically qualified to work with children and young people. There is a real opportunity to make this a reality for our parishes and we are actively discussing the appointment of an individual with the skills to encourage families and their pre-teen children. Members of PCC's and of the Team Council have a draft job description which is under consideration. Yvonne will also be able to answer questions and offer advice about this at the November meeting to which all are invited.

## Village News

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

### 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.







**St Paul's Culham  
X-Over Concert  
Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> October: 7pm**

Baritone Michael Storrs and Soprano Nadia Eide are X-Over.

This married couple form a new sensational, dynamic duo transforming a range of **film scores, opera classics, jazz** and **pop** songs with the elegance of a **classical sound**, pushing the boundaries of the classical crossover genre. Together they have appeared on BBC One's music show **Pitch Battle**, starred in musicals and operas including **Les Misérables, Pirates of Penzance, 39 Steps, Grease** and **Sweeney Todd** and have performed in the **Royal Albert Hall, Buxton Opera House, Royal Festival Hall, Harrogate Royal Hall** and even in the **Eurovision Song Contest**. They tour internationally with their shows and have now performed on every continent in the world that includes Antarctica.

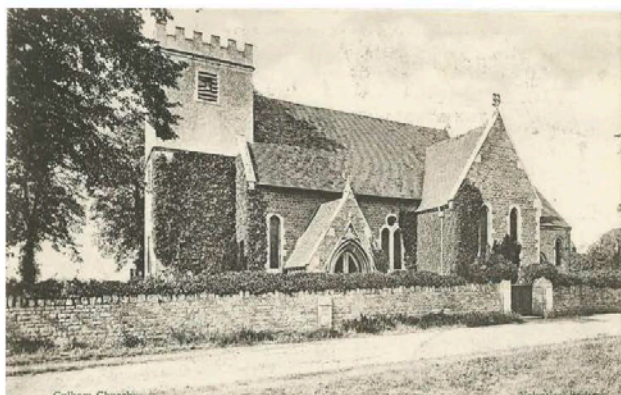
In July 2017 they got married in **St Paul's, Culham** where Michael grew up. The church means a great deal to both, so they are hopeful that this concert will raise enough funds for the building to continue to exist as a focal point for the local community.

**Bar: open from 5.30pm: interval:**

**Food: open during the interval**

**For tickets email:**

**stpaulsandculhamvillage@gmail.com**



*St Paul's, Culham  
Parochial Church Council*

**100**  
**1918 - 2018**

*Centenary Service  
Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> October*

*4pm  
with Choir  
Cheese and wine*

*RSVP: stpaulsculham@gmail.com*

**St Pauls Events**

**October**

- 7<sup>th</sup> Parish Communion 11am**
- 7<sup>th</sup> Concert Michael & Nadia Storrs 7pm**
- 14<sup>th</sup> 100 years celebration service 4pm**
- 21<sup>st</sup> Parish Communion**

**November**

- 4<sup>th</sup> Parish Communion 11am**
- 11<sup>th</sup> Remembrance Service 4pm**
- 18<sup>th</sup> Messy Church (children's activities) 4pm**

**December**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Parish Communion 11am**
- 9<sup>th</sup> Messy Church (children's Activities) 4pm**
- 16<sup>th</sup> Carol Service 6pm**
- 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day Communion 10am**

## **Revised Thames Travel Bus Timetable 33/X33 (previously 32A)** **(as from 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2018)** *(as per website!)*

### **Mondays – Fridays (towards Didcot/Wantage)**

<b>Bus number</b>	<b>Time at Culham Green</b>	<b>to Sutton Courtenay, Milton, Didcot Parkway, Orchard Centre, Harwell High St, Rowstock Corner, E. Hendred, W. Hendred, Wantage</b>
X33	0618	
33	0731	
33	0900	
33	hourly until 1300	
X33	1454	
33	1610	
X33	1712	
X33	1736	- only to Didcot Parkway
X33	1846	
X33	1940	- only to Didcot Parkway & Orchard Centre

### **Saturdays (towards Didcot/Wantage)**

<b>Bus number</b>	<b>Time at Culham Green</b>	<b>to Sutton Courtenay, Milton, Didcot Parkway, Orchard Centre, Harwell High St, Rowstock Corner, E. Hendred, W. Hendred, Wantage</b>
X33	0751	- only to Didcot Parkway then becomes 98 to Great Western Park
X33	0856	
X33	hourly until 1856	
X33	1940	- only to Didcot Parkway then becomes X2 to Wallingford

### **Mondays – Fridays (towards Abingdon)**

<b>Bus number</b>	<b>Time at Culham Green</b>	<b>to Abingdon, Stratton Way</b>
X33	0604	
X33	0713	
33	0822	- also goes to Abingdon & Witney College on college days
33	0938	
33	1022	
33	Hourly until 1522	
33	1626	
33	1714	
33	1828	
33	1924	
X33	2008	

### **Saturdays (towards Abingdon)**

<b>Bus number</b>	<b>Time at Culham Green</b>	<b>to Abingdon, Stratton Way</b>
X33	0736	
X33	0838	
X33	0926	
X33	hourly until 1926	

**No Sunday Service**

# Culham Parish Council (CPC) Notes September 2018

## Update from John Taylor of Morrells

The old wooden bridge on the permissive path close to the pillbox will be replaced with a steel and wood structure. The footpath from the stone bridge adjacent to the road leading to the hydro has been re-grassed and needs to be walked in order to confirm its new location.

Plans for the scheme to re-furbish the site of the Waggon and Horses has been submitted to SODC. A request from CPC to Morrells about the offer to purchase the Green is ongoing and CPC is awaiting written confirmation of the offer. Morrells do own number 7 the Green and part of the land in front of it. Part of the Green in this north-west corner will be retained by Morrells for future access.

## Council Reports - brief

Our OCC Councillor may have a grant of up to £2500 available and our SODC Councillor has a grant of £5000 although this is to cover the whole district! CPC may apply for some of this money for the refurbishment of the playing field.

**Local Plan** – All the sites previously considered for development, including Culham, are still being assessed for inclusion in the Plan. A decision on which sites will be put forward is expected in December 2018. This will include reserve sites.

**Project Swift** – Our District Councillor (Sue Lawson) has toured the site of the proposed development. She has declared she has major concerns about the project and doesn't like the concept, with access being considered a major problem.

Sue Lawson was also asked to investigate the legality of recent developments on the Abingdon Town Football Club site i.e. the café and used car sales pitch.

## CPC items

A new waste bin is awaited for the north end of the Burycroft, in the car park.

**WASTE PILE ON THE PLAYING FIELD** – The waste pile on the playing field will not be used as a bonfire. CPC now has to organise the removal of the potentially hazardous waste at an expense to the community. CPC requests therefore that **no more waste material is added to the pile** - thank you.

The siding-out of the Burycroft path will be requested – again!

A committee has been formed to look at replacing the play equipment on the playing field. The group is currently working out the requirements.

CPC would like to see the speed limit on the A415 between the Waggon and Abingdon reduced to 30 or 40mph. Our approach to the OCC highways is being pursued.

A reminder – for those wishing to fish on the village pond, a permit is required from the CPC Clerk, Lucy Dalby – contact details are on the back of the Mouthpiece.

**Next meeting** Monday 8<sup>th</sup> October 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.

## Bonfires/Outdoor fires

The season of outdoor fires is approaching and we have been asked to remind residents to be considerate of their neighbours if an outdoor fire is lit. SODC's statement about outdoor fires from the website follows:

“There are no bylaws about **garden** bonfires, so anyone can light one at any time and as often as they like. However, if it causes a statutory nuisance, the council can do something about it and so can you. For a bonfire to be classed as such a nuisance, the smoke will have to be affecting you in your home and/or garden. It will also need to be happening on a regular basis (two or three times a week).”

“Think about if you really need to have a bonfire to dispose of the waste. We recommend either composting the waste or taking it to a county council waste recycling centre. You may also wish to consider using the council's garden waste collection service.

If you still feel that having a bonfire is the only option, it is important that you follow the advice:

- out of courtesy, inform your neighbours you are proposing to have a bonfire
- only burn dry 'clean' wood/garden waste
- do not burn household rubbish, such as plastic, foam, paint or rubber.
- do not light bonfires when the material is damp because this shall generate more smoke
- do not use old engine oil, meths or petrol to light the fire
- do not light bonfires when the wind is likely to blow smoke into neighbours' home or garden
- do not leave bonfires unattended, even if it is just smouldering."

## **UPDATE FROM SAVE CULHAM GREEN BELT**

We hope everyone had an enjoyable summer.

As previously advised, in May the Full Council of South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) agreed to follow their Cabinet's recommendation to put the current Local Plan on hold and reassess all available housing sites.

Officers are now reassessing each of the main housing sites currently proposed in the Plan, along with previously-considered locations that were dismissed but were 'reasonable alternatives' and some additional sites that were promoted to the council prior to the close of the publication stage of the Local Plan.

**The sites under consideration are as follows:**

- a) Current proposed sites: **Culham, Wheatley, Berinsfield and Chalgrove Airfield;**
- b) Previously considered (but not progressed, 'reasonable alternatives') sites: **Thornhill, Wick Farm, Lower Elsfield (Bayswater), Grenoble Road, Northfields, Harrington;**
- c) Additional sites submitted by developers: **Palmers Riding Stables – Emmer Green Reading, Reading Golf Club, Playhatch - Reading, Land off Thame Road - North Weston and Land South of Great Western Park.** View the location of all 15 sites to be assessed on a map of the District overleaf.

### **TIMETABLE**

On 2<sup>nd</sup> August SODC published a new version of their 'Local Development Scheme':

<http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2018-08-08%20Local%20Development%20Scheme%20v2.pdf>

This provides a timetable for the next phase of the Local Plan:

We now know that there will now be a **NEW ROUND of Public Consultation** on a revised Local Plan in **January 2019**.

SCGB understands that the result of the re-assessment currently being undertaken by Officers **will not be released until December 2018** at which point there will be meetings of the SODC Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet before a vote is taken by Full Council. We do not know any other details.

The Council aims to submit the finished Plan to the Secretary of State in March 2019. The Examination by an independent Inspector should be between March and September 2019 with the Plan adopted in November 2019.

**Under this timetable SODC will have to meet the tests of the revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), announced in July, and its strengthening of Green Belt protection.**

Save Culham Green Belt attended and addressed all Cabinet and Full Council meetings and in July met with Head of Planning, Adrian Duffield and Planning Policy Manager, Holly Jones, urging them to ensure that the re-assessment is robust and that previous errors, omissions, exaggerations as regards the Culham site are rectified. We have also written to all 35 councillors detailing the Government's strengthening of Green Belt in the newly revised NPPF.

### **PROMOTIONAL FILM**

The Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) provided us with equipment and training to produce a short film, promoting Culham and Green Belt. This will be ready very soon.



# Map of Potential Housing Sites





ST PAULS

## REORDERING COMMITTEE

Chair: Roy Epps  
royepps@gmail.com  
01235537525

Secretary: Philip Owen  
p.owen462@btinternet.com

### Committee:

Treasurer: Andrew Churchill Stone  
Document Reader: Ruth Ward  
Document Reader: Michael Cooper  
Interior Design: Mary Rickford  
Interior Design: Mike Turner  
Project Collator: Stephen Gray

### Architects:

Claire Truman: Heritage Revival  
David Birkett

### Contact:

stpaulsandculhamvillage@gmail.com



### Consulting Committee:

Gordon Gibbs: Culham Parish Council  
Lisa Horton: Culham Parochial School  
Rev Dr Michael Lakey: PCC

## St Pauls Reordering

### Our Aim

#### Community Space

To create a space for community, Church and school.

#### Worshipping Space

Create a comfortable, more intimate, worshipping atmosphere in the Chancel for smaller groups and be accessible for larger congregations such as Weddings, Funerals and Baptisms.

#### Toilets

Install toilets with access from the main Church

#### Kitchen Space

Create a kitchen space for Community, School, Church use

#### Meeting Room

Develop a meeting room/vestry within the main church

#### Access to the Tower

Utilise the Tower as part of the community space by raising the Organ from its current position to a supported mezzanine.

We need to raise **£35000** for professional fees that are not supported by grants.

### How can you Help ?

Previous attempts to have a community space have failed because of **lack of support at critical stages**, this is a great opportunity to give Culham Village a building for future generations, events such as the **Concert**, as well as other events held during the year, help us to raise the funds needed for this project.

**98% of villagers voted in favour of this project.  
your support is needed now.**

### The Process

- ✓ Consult villagers
- ✓ Diocesan Approval
- ✓ Feasibility study
- ✓ Appoint Architects
- Raise funds for professional fees
- Survey
- Architects' drawings
- Diocesan Faculty
- Project Quotations
- Grant Funding

[stpaulsandculhamvillage@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulsandculhamvillage@gmail.com)  
[www.facebook.com/stpaulsandculhamvillage](http://www.facebook.com/stpaulsandculhamvillage)

## Sutton Courtenay W.I.

The WI is a great place to meet people and learn new things too, but it is so much more. The very first WI was formed in 1897, in Ontario, Canada. Anglesey in Wales was Great Britain's first in 1915. Did you know the WI was involved in the Keep Britain Tidy campaign? Plastic Soup and Alleviating Loneliness are just two of our current campaigns. Come join us and help to make a difference.

August was our annual garden party. The weather was glorious and the food was delicious. We had a lovely afternoon and a good giggle! Below are some of our gorgeous ladies modelling their decorated masks.



Our speakers for the next two meetings will be:

**16th October:** Jenny Creese from the Earth Trust

**20th November:** Peter Wentworth; Art of the Magician

We meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month, 7.30pm at the Sutton Courtenay Village Hall  
Please call Val 01235 847612 if you would like any more information.



## Other News

Neighbourhood Policing  
newsletter

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.

### Rural crime

On 23rd August PCSO Marie Davenport, PCSO Sue Harris and PCSO Sarah Jones visited farms and conducted rural patrols in the Wallingford area. We will be doing another rural crime day soon. Please continue to report all suspicious vehicles and people to us by calling 101 or reporting it online (details below).

### Scam

Please be aware of a scam where someone pretending to be a Lloyds Bank employee attends your address and offers to withdraw money by taking your card to the bank for you. No bank would ever do this.

### Burglaries

There have been a few burglaries in the Didcot and Wallingford area. A house alarm can be a real deterrent as many burglars will avoid breaking into a property that has an alarm. You should get at least three quotes and use companies that are registered with either the National Security Inspectorate (NSI) and Security Systems and Alarm Inspection Board (SSAIB). Ensure the system meets the requirements of your insurance company. We are happy to attend your property and conduct a free Crime Prevention Survey. Please email me on [sue.harris@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:sue.harris@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk).

### Doorstep scams and rogue traders

Please protect yourself from Doorstop Crime and Rogue Traders:

- If you are not sure then please don't open the door.
- Use a door chain to check who is calling and ask for ID.
- Ask a trusted friend or family member for advice on reputable traders.
- Always report any suspicious activity. You can report it by calling Citizens advice on 03454 04 05 06
- If you feel threatened in anyway please call the police on 101 or 999 in an emergency.

### Knife surrender bin at Abingdon Police Station

Operation Sceptre is a campaign to raise awareness of knife crime that ran from the 18th – 25th September. Thames Valley Police visited some of the schools in the area to talk to the children about the dangers of knives. A surrender bin was placed at the front counter at Abingdon police station during this week where any unwanted knives could be safely disposed of.

### Contacting us and reporting crimes online

Did you know that you can now get in touch with us online as well as by calling 101? Please visit [www.thamesvalley.police.uk](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk) where you can:

- Provide more information or request an update on a crime report
- Tell us if you recognise a face or description from one of our witness appeals
- Contact an officer or department directly, for example our Fixed Penalty Support Unit. This also helps you reach an officer or PCSO who may be working unsociable hours.

You can also use our new online reporting form on our Website to report any type of crime, traffic collisions involving an injury, a missing person and anti-social behaviour. If you click on the REPORT link it opens up a form which takes you through all the questions that you would be asked if you called 101 and is picked up by our dedicated team in the Contact Centre.

### What the neighbourhood team have been doing

We attended Bunkfest and had a lovely time. The event went very smoothly and it appeared that everyone who attended had a super time. We have had some questions regarding lost property at the event. All lost property will be taken Wallingford Information Centre under the Town Hall.

### AOB

A huge thank you to the local community who assisted in the search for Jim Spence. Sadly the outcome was not as we would have hoped. Lynda Atkins and Kevin Beer were really helpful in coordinating the community search effort. It is lovely to work in an area which is so community spirited and kind. Our thoughts are with his family and friends as this sad time.

### 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. To view information on your neighbourhood team visit the Thames Valley Police website at: [www.thamesvalley.police.uk](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk). Receive free local crime alerts and crime prevention advice by registering at [www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk](http://www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk) today.

## **Amazing News!**

Music At The Unicorn in Abingdon are very pleased and very, very proud to announce their two new Patrons – the great Dave Pegg and guitar virtuoso PJ Wright!!!



amazing venue  
amazing music  
amazing experience

join the  
mailing list  
for updates!

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

**Dave Pegg** is an English multi-instrumentalist and record producer, arguably most visible as a bass guitarist. He is the longest-serving member of the pre-eminent British folk rock band Fairport Convention and has been bassist with a number of important folk and rock groups including The Ian Campbell Folk Group and Jethro Tull. He has appeared on some of the most significant albums of his era from artists that include Nick Drake, John Martyn, Sandy Denny, Richard Thompson, Ralph McTell, Dave Swarbrick, Mike Heron and Steve Ashley as well as undertaking solo projects. His style of bass playing has been particularly influential in folk-rock.



Dave Pegg & A J Clarke

Dave says, "I am very honoured to be a patron for Music At The Unicorn. I have played in that wonderful space on several occasions and am delighted to have been invited to be with you again on 7<sup>th</sup> November with my good friend Anthony John Clarke and again with you on 6<sup>th</sup> December with the Dylan Project.



Thanks for supporting this wonderful venue and congratulations to the MATU team for booking some of my favourite acts. Tell your friends and keep music alive and well in Abingdon."

**PJ Wright** is best known as guitarist and lead vocalist with Little Johnny England, slide and pedal steel guitarist with The Dylan Project, and long time sideman with R'n'B legend Steve Gibbons. Feted as a guitar virtuoso, PJ is also a talented songwriter - compositions such as Johnny England and Forty Years On meld a poetic sensibility and an understanding of traditional song.

PJ says, "Having trod the Unicorn's boards wearing four different musical hats (LJE, TRADarr, P&PJ, The Dylan Project), I conclude that the theatre's intimate and ancient setting lends a bit of extra magic to every performance.

I hope that in accepting the honour of Patronhood I shall be entitled to a reduced entry fee (I can bring my bus pass if this helps) and consequently turn up annoyingly often, as Music At The Unicorn programmes the kind of music that is right up my street."



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

All profits go into improving the facilities and into bringing an even greater variety of talented bands, singers and instrumentalists to Abingdon.

Your support is greatly appreciated.

Our **next concert** at the beautiful Unicorn Theatre in Abingdon-on-Thames is on **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> October** and stars the award winning American folk singer-songwriter, the great David Nachmanoff!

Over the course of a dozen albums and countless tours, David has shared the stage with the likes of Alison Krauss, Cheryl Wheeler, Steve Forbert, Firefall, and John Wesley Harding (among many others), at venues ranging from The Bottom Line to the Glastonbury Festival. He's also paid his dues in myriad classrooms across the United States, sharing his talents and nurturing the next generation of budding troubadours. The Great American Song Contest selected him as a finalist in 2017, Just Plain Folks honored him with the 2001 Songwriter of the Year award, he was a finalist in the 2011 USA Songwriting Competition, and for five consecutive years he was always in the mix for the top songwriting award in the South Florida Folk Festival before finally winning Best Overall in 2002.

Nachmanoff currently resides in Northern California, not far from the heritage vines that helped inspire his 2009 collaboration with Al Stewart, Uncorked. Perhaps the most important trait he shares with his local agricultural cousins is that his songs, much like a fine wine, gain complexity and substance over time - just made for the beautiful old Unicorn Theatre!

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

Doors: 7pm | Music: 7:30pm

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

Unicorn Theatre, Checker Walk, Abingdon

Our 2018 programme continues with: AJ CLARKE & DAVE PEGG - 7<sup>th</sup> November  
THE DYLAN PROJECT - 6<sup>th</sup> December

# Mostly Books wins Pan Macmillan Innovation Award

Abingdon bookshop, Mostly Books, has won an award from publisher Pan Macmillan as part of its Macmillan 175 celebrations.

Mostly Books joins five other independent bookshops from across the country who will all receive £1,750 to launch a new and innovative project, focusing on community outreach or supporting new readers.

The winners were announced on 10<sup>th</sup> September at the Booksellers Association conference in Birmingham by Pan Macmillan M.D. Anthony Forbes-Watson.

The Mostly Books team will be using the grant to help fund a mobile bookshop which will be used to take books to villages and towns around Abingdon. The aim is to provide bookshop facilities for those who are less mobile and to also provide greater access to books for children and families in the local area.

The mobile bookshop will be used to support pop-up bookshops and school events run by Mostly Books. Details of all events run by Mostly Books can be found on their website [here](#).

More details about the award and the winners can be found [here](#).

[books@mostly-books.co.uk](mailto:books@mostly-books.co.uk) – [www.mostly-books.co.uk](http://www.mostly-books.co.uk) – [@mostlyreading](https://twitter.com/mostlyreading)  
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## New research throws light on factors associated with the decline of Britain's hedgehogs

- This was the first systematic survey of rural hedgehog populations in England and Wales using footprint tracking tunnels to measure the presence / absence of hedgehogs
- Hedgehogs were present at only 21% of all the sites surveyed
- Hedgehog presence was negatively affected by badger sett density. However, both badger setts and hedgehogs were absent from 27% of all sites, suggesting that there is a wider landscape issue affecting both species
- Hedgehog presence was positively affected by the amount of built land (i.e. housing); areas of human habitation may, therefore, be acting as a "refuge" habitat from the problems associated with rural landscapes

On 6 September 2018 results from the first systematic survey of rural hedgehog populations in England and Wales using footprint tracking tunnels were published in *Scientific Reports*.

The research, titled '*Reduced occupancy of hedgehogs in rural England and Wales: the influence of habitat and an asymmetric intra-guild predator*', investigates the effects of the availability of key habitat types and badger (*Meles meles*) sett density on native hedgehogs (*Erinaceus europaeus*). The results show that while badger sett density is negatively correlated with hedgehog presence, there was evidence of both species co-existing and hedgehogs being positively associated with built habitat (e.g. houses). More worryingly, both hedgehogs and badger setts were not recorded at many of the sites surveyed, suggesting there is a much wider land management issue in our countryside affecting both species.

The research, led by Nottingham Trent University and the University of Reading, and funded by the People's Trust for Endangered Species and the British Hedgehog Preservation Society, surveyed 261 rural sites covering all habitat types (7 land classes from arable farmland to upland sites) across England and Wales between 2014 and 2015 (18 sites in Wales, 243 in England) using footprint tracking tunnels. Many sites were surveyed by volunteers.

While the results don't dispute that high numbers of badgers in some places do have a negative impact on the presence of hedgehogs, crucially, neither hedgehogs nor badger setts were present at 70 sites (27%), meaning that at over a quarter of the study sites the landscape was apparently unsuitable for either species. This would imply a wider landscape management issue affecting both species, rather than a single factor being the cause of the well-documented hedgehog decline.

Nida Al-Fulaij, Grants Manager at PTES expands: "Badgers are what's known as 'intra-guild predators', meaning they predate hedgehogs but also compete with them for food resources. This naturally makes their relationship complex, which we already knew, but until now we didn't realise the extent to which changes in the landscape were affecting both species".

Ben Williams, PhD student from the University of Reading, the primary author of this paper, further elaborates: "The results also indicate that hedgehogs may be using areas of human habitation as a sort of "refuge habitat". This was evident across all scales (from small villages to cities), becoming more pronounced with greater urbanisation. Residential gardens potentially offer a number of advantages for hedgehogs and enable them to escape some of the problems associated with the rural landscape. Therefore, houses, villages and towns bordering more rural landscapes are important areas for hedgehogs and may become increasingly so if we continue to see the rate of declines we are currently witnessing in rural Britain."



## Christmas Party at the Railway Inn – Pauline Davidson

I would like to invite senior citizens of Culham, aged 65+, to The Railway Inn on **Saturday 1st December 2018** for a Christmas Party, from **2 to 5.30pm**. This offer is limited to 30 people who must be Culham residents. It will include:

- Free 4 Course Turkey Meal and refreshments.
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If you want to come, please fill in and return the tear-off reply slip below. Please note that we need to know if you have any special requirements, such as :-

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



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

I would like to come to the Senior Citizens' Christmas Party at The Railway Inn on **Saturday 1st December 2018**.

Name .....

Address.....

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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 November issue of the Mouthpiece by **October 15<sup>th</sup>**, please, to:

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

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Rob Gibbs	c/o 32 High Street, Culham	

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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		5, Manor Farm Barns, 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
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<b>LADIES OF CULHAM (LOC)</b>			
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<b>ST PAUL'S AND CULHAM VILLAGE REORDERING COMMITTEE</b>			
Philip Owen	stpaulsandculhamvillage@gmail.com	6 The Green, Culham	01235 555223
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