

The Mouthpiece

Culham's Newsletter

May 2019



For your diary:

Sun May 5th: 11:00 – Parish Communion, St Paul's

Wed May 8th: 19:00 – Culham 2019 meeting, The Swan, Sutton Courtenay

Sun May 12th: 16:00 – Messy Church, St Paul's

Mon May 13th: 19.00 (N.B. earlier start) - Parish Council Meeting followed by Annual Parish Meeting at 19:30, Culham School

Fri May 17th: 16:00 – Children's Cinema, St Paul's

Sat May 18th: 13:00 – 16:00 – Plant Sale & Church Fete, outside St Paul's

Sun May 19th: 16:00 - Parish Communion, St Paul's

Church service times

Culham

Sun May 5th 11:00 Parish Communion

Sun May 12th 16:00 Messy Church

Sun May 19th 09:30 Easter service

Clifton Hampden and Burcot

Sun May 5th 08:00 BCP Communion

Sun May 12th 10:30 Parish Communion

Sun May 26th 11:00 Messy Church (child-friendly, children's activities at 10:30)

Long Wittenham and Little Wittenham

Sun May 5th Long W 09:30 Family Service, crafts and breakfast

Sun May 12th Long W 09:30 Parish Communion

Sun May 19th Little W 08:30 BCP Holy Communion

Sun May 26th Long W 09:30 Parish Communion

Talking Point by Rev Michael Lakey and the Dorchester Team Clergy

"If you don't want to know the score, please look away . . . now!"

I wonder in how many houses those words have rung in recent weekends? I mean, almost every Saturday someone is kicking, batting or throwing something at someone or something else, be it net, basket or stumps. And it is, of course, difficult for the legion of interested followers and fans to keep up with every wicket, pass or goal. When I was growing up, around the time video recorders were becoming popular, the person who had taped the game and who therefore had to rush home without gaining knowledge of the results was something of a stock scene in sit-coms. When we want to enjoy a process, we don't want to get to the finish before time. This is true of sports games, detective novels, good films, days off and lots of the best things in life.



However, from time to time, we all are also painfully aware of the opposite phenomenon—when we are so desperate to arrive at an end (*any* end)—just that a process might stop. There is a saying attributed to Albert Einstein that captures the contrast between these two opposites beautifully. In 1929, he was asked to describe the experience of relativity and is reported to have replied: *'An hour sitting with a nice girl on a park bench passes like a minute, but a minute sitting on a hot stove seems like an hour.'* The one goes too quickly; the other not nearly quickly enough. It probably feels to many of us that events out in the wider world are more like the second scenario than the first. By the time this piece is read, a few weeks from now, Brexit might finally be over . . . or Article 50 revoked . . . or negotiations might have concluded . . . or we all may still be sitting (and arguing) on the 'hot stove' together not really knowing what the outcome is going to be. Whatever does or does not eventually happen, I suspect that some will be disappointed, others elated and all of us fatigued.

For Christians at this time of year, the season of Easter captures both sides of this contrast. In the run-up to the festival, we spend time thinking about the hardships and temptations Christ endured and his death on a cross. And from Easter Sunday, we focus on his final victory over death, particularly evident in his empty tomb and his appearances to his friends. But without the death, there could be no climax of the story in the Resurrection, and without the Resurrection the death would have not have the meaning that it does. Both the ending and how we get there are equally crucial (no pun intended).

There is something for all of us here—as individuals, as families and communities, as a nation. The story of our journey through the big decisions of life, can be as crucial as the outcomes of those decisions themselves. We pray that we might all learn to travel well together!

Godparents Sunday Christenings Special Sunday 5th May Dorchester Abbey

We would like to extend a special invitation to you, including all children, parents, and Godparents, to remember and celebrate your Christenings. There will be a mini breakfast and children's entertainment from Juggling John. Bring your 'Godparents and teddies' to a special service in the Dorchester Festival Tent. You can collect your teddy if they have been at the 'Teddy Sleepover' the night before or bring any teddies who couldn't make it....
RSVPs welcome, and for more information – admin@dorchester-abbey.org.uk

Ascension Day Thursday 30th May Toot Baldon

It is our custom to go to one of our higher parishes for Ascension Day! This year we will meet and celebrate at Toot Baldon with its glorious view across the valley to the Chilterns. We look forward to seeing you there. The service starts at 7.30pm.

Events in the Abbey:

Thursday May 2nd 10.15am Oneness-Dream is a male voice a cappella singing group whose members follow the spiritual teachings of Sri Chinmoy (1931-2007). Free

Dorchester Festival 3rd – 12th, 15th- 17th and 19th May See <https://dorchesterfestival.com>

May 24th – 27th English Music Festival The Thirteenth Festival of English Music. Tickets from www.englishmusicfestival.org.uk The programme includes many gems, including the world première performances of Robin Milford's Symphony, Vaughan Williams's *The Blue Bird*, Lord Berners' *Portsmouth Point*, Stanford's Violin Concerto in D of 1875, and a new work by David Matthews.

Team Events

Wed 8th 7.30pm **Filling Station** at Marsh Baldon Village Hall OX44 9LL

Is Religion the Cause of the World's Problems?

Gareth Black, a fellow of the Oxford Centre for Christian Apologetics, will be countering that religion is the reason for most of the world's problems. The talk will be followed by an and answer session, and hopefully a lively discussion. You are invited to come and issue.



the argument
a question
debate this

This is the final talk in our series addressing the issues that challenge faith in God.

Everyone is welcome. Coffee/tea and cake will be served at 7.30pm, there will be a brief time of worship at 7.50pm and the talk will start at 8.10pm. You are welcome to join in at any point in the evening. The event will end at 9.30pm.

If you are interested you can find out more at <http://thefillingstation.org.uk>.
or contact Catherine Mason (07879 626828) or Tom Hunnings (07778 104806).

The Rev Dr Michael Lakey

By now many of you will know that Michael has been appointed Vicar of Chalgrove. After several years as part of the Dorchester Team, Michael has decided that his heart lies with parish ministry and Chalgrove is an excellent fit for his family – Amelia and Ava will be able to stay at their school and already have friends in Chalgrove. Michael will have a pub to look after! We will be extremely sad to say good bye to Kirsty, Michael and the girls in the summer but are delighted that this is such a good move for them.

Village News

Village website: www.culhamvillage.org.uk

Culham Parish Council (CPC) – April 2019

Sue Lawson will stand down as our District Councillor at the May election but will continue as Parish Councillor for Sandford village.

The Morrell's agent is due to meet the SODC planning dept. about the Waggon and Horses development. The Morrell land agent is waiting to hear from OCC, the EA and OCC about a meeting to discuss the spoil heap situation.

Three current members of the CPC have applied to stand at the upcoming May elections. This means there are now three vacancies on the Parish Council. The three existing councillors constitute a quorum if all three can attend each meeting. However, if only two can attend the meetings will have to be postponed or cancelled.

Consequently, CPC is asking for **up to three** villagers to consider standing for election or to be co-opted onto the council.

It has been agreed that the replacement fence across the playing field can be installed to a lower spec than originally requested. Consequently, CPC is pursuing quotes for the cheaper installation.

SODC has submitted their Local Plan to inspection.

The company Grounds-care has been appointed to cut the various areas of grass within the village.

The Annual Parish meeting will be held on May 13 at 19:30 at the school. The following organisations have been asked to attend or to provide reports:

Poor Law Trust
Culham School
Europa School
Friends of St Paul's
PCC
Ladies of Culham
Playground group
SCGB

The Annual Parish meeting will be preceded by a brief Parish Council meeting to be held at 19:00

Next meeting

Monday 13th May 2019 at 19:00 at the school.

As ever all villagers are welcome to attend - please come along even if you have no specific items to present/discuss.

The CPC website address: <https://www.culham-pc.gov.uk/>



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.

The Mouthpiece Needs You!!

A volunteer is needed to manage The Mouthpiece advertising. Access to email essential, any skills relating to publishing an added bonus! You would be contacting advertisers to invoice them (usually annually) and dealing with any enquiries relating to the advertising. It is not a heavy workload!

If you are interested, please contact generalmouthpiece@gmail.com or call/text Anne on 07826 360402.

Charlotte Storrs Stoneware
Pottery Open Days
Annual Sale of Old Stock and Seconds
Sunday 5 May, Monday 6 May 2019 from 12 to 5pm
15% of pottery sales will go to www.thenasiotrust.org

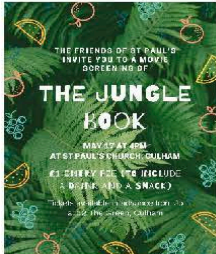


Delicious vegan and vegetarian food,
coffee and tea provided by Carrots & Curls

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

Upcoming Events at St Pauls

St Pauls Culham May



Sunday 5th 11am Parish Eucharist

Sunday 12th 4pm Messy Church

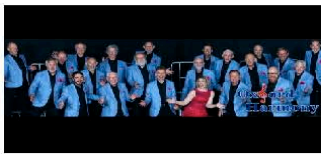
*Friday 17th 4pm Children's Cinema
"The Jungle Book"*



*Saturday 18th 1pm-4pm
Plant sale & Church Fete*

Sunday 19th 4pm Parish Eucharist

Future Events July



*OXFORD HARMONY
Tickets available soon*



stpaulsandculhamvillage

stpaulsandculhamvillage@gmail.com

Plant sale and church fete

For the 101st time the plant sale and church fete is here again on Saturday the **18th May**. If you have any books, bric-a-brac, bottles for the tombola, raffle prizes, plants and seedlings, cakes, etc., please contact Jane -07710 510685.

A member of the committee will be calling soon to collect items for the tombola/ raffle.

We look forward to seeing you there! Jane

SATURDAY JUNE 22ND
THE GREEN, CULHAM 2019
SUMMER FAIR



People of Culham...

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
WE NEED

YOU!

ADVERTISERS

RAFFLE PRIZES

FOOD STALLS

STEWARDS

SPONSORSHIP

LIVE BANDS

CRAFT STALLS

VOLUNTEERS

**Our next meeting is on Wednesday 24th April at 7.00 in
the Swan. Then every two weeks. Everyone welcome.**

**For more information please contact:
kitsonthomas@yahoo.co.uk 07880 560403**



Although a quarter of the year has already past there is still lots of time to come join us. You will be made very welcome.

Here are the dates for our next meetings:

21st May – Barbara Hateley will coming to talk about ‘Changi Quilts’

18th June – Our summer Trip - TBA

16th July – The Broadway Butcher (not a horror film!) ‘Meat for a Treat’

Ken Jacks from the Butchers in Didcot will be here.

We meet in Sutton Courtenay Village Hall every 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm. If you would like more information please call Val on 01235 847612.

Friends of St Paul’s Quiz

Our sixth annual quiz, held on 2nd March, was a great success. The attendance was the best to date, and £725 was raised to support the maintenance of St Paul’s Church. The winning team this year was “Kaos Theory” (from Kidlington Amateur Operatic Society!).

We are very grateful to the PTA at the Europa School for enabling the use of the Schuman Hall for this event, and to everyone who helped with preparations beforehand and on the night.

We hope to hold another quiz on the first Saturday of March 2020.



REPORT TO PARISH COUNCILS APRIL 2018 - 2019 FROM CLLR LORRAINE LINDSAY-GALE

APRIL 2018 GOVERNMENT SIGNED £215M GROWTH DEAL FOR OXFORDSHIRE

The Government signed a deal to deliver a £215m investment in transport infrastructure and affordable housing in Oxfordshire. The deal was signed by all six members of the Oxfordshire Growth Board: Oxfordshire County Council, Oxford City Council, Cherwell District Council, West Oxfordshire District Council, Vale of White Horse District Council and South Oxfordshire District Council. March 2018 also saw the Oxfordshire Growth Board announce the first year of projects to be funded by an initial release of £30m for infrastructure projects as part of the Deal agreement. Government road money is for major improvements and cannot be used for day-to-day maintenance, but the investment will help to improve the overall standard of the road network.

MAY 2018 COUNTY COUNCIL'S FIRST THOUGHTS ON OXBRIDGE EXPRESSWAY

In May 2018, as the highways authority, OCC was asked for its views on the proposed Oxford to Cambridge Expressway. Key points from OCC's initial response to Highways England are:

OCC welcomes the further development work and engagement taking place on the Expressway project and the opportunity to give views to Highways England. However, at this stage, OCC is not able to indicate a corridor preference, given that the technical and other supporting work required to inform the decision on a preferred corridor is not yet complete.

OCC supports the strategic objectives and purpose of the Expressway project, recognising the opportunity it brings to support and enable growth and development, enhance connectivity and take forward innovation and smart technology.

MAY 2018 OCC RETAINS 'GOOD' OFSTED RATING FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Despite the increase in cases of children at risk of neglect and abuse, the OCC children's service received an overall 'Good' rating from Ofsted, the children's services watchdog. This is the third time running OCC has received the 'Good' rating from Ofsted. The report was published on Tuesday, May 22. It praised the way staff had dealt with a huge rise in the number of children needing protection from abuse and neglect since 2015, and the rise in admissions to care, driven by better reporting and awareness by people working with children and families. Ofsted praised OCC and found that when children are at risk of harm, prompt action is taken to understand their circumstances and protect them. Children in care and care leavers receive a good service.

JULY 2018 INSPECTOR BACKS OXFORDSHIRE MINERALS AND WASTE STRATEGY

OCC'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, is set to be adopted following support from the Government's Planning Inspectorate. Following an independent examination of the strategy, the Inspector concluded that the strategy, with modifications, meets legal requirements and provides a sound and appropriate basis for the planning of future quarrying and waste management in Oxfordshire for the next 15 years. Minerals include sand, gravel, limestone, ironstone and clay, which are all naturally occurring materials dug from the ground, and recycled concrete and ash.

SEPTEMBER 2018 – A NEW PARTNERSHIP APPROVED BY OCC AND CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Councillors at OCC and Cherwell District Council approved a proposal for a partnership between the two local authorities, including the appointment of a joint chief executive. The partnership arrangement will offer long-term opportunities to join up services for residents, reduce the costs of providing services, and secure investment in Cherwell to enable the continued growth in homes and jobs. The partnership proposal came after the financial

problems in Northamptonshire County Council, which has implications for Cherwell's existing partnership with South Northamptonshire Council, created an opportunity to explore closer joint working. Yvonne Rees, the current chief executive of Cherwell and South Northamptonshire councils has been appointed to the new post of joint chief executive of Oxfordshire and Cherwell councils, with a start date of 1 October. The post of county council chief executive, currently occupied by Peter Clark, will be made redundant.

OCTOBER 2018 - CABINET APPROVES £120M ROAD AND BUILDING REPAIR FUNDING PROPOSAL

OCC's cabinet agreed to borrow up to £120m to invest in infrastructure improvements – easing the spending squeeze on road and property repairs. A report presented to Cabinet in September acknowledged that under-investment has resulted in significant reduction in quality of major and minor roads, as well as pavements, with an increase in car damage and personal injury claims. Residents regularly say that they want to see improvements to the roads, and the investment proposal means the whole county would benefit from a 'growth dividend'. The decision means around £80m could be spent on highway improvements, with the rest of the £120m used to invest in other county council-owned assets especially schools.

CABINET APPROVES PROPOSAL TO MAKE THE COUNCIL 'FIT FOR THE FUTURE'

OCC will get a complete overhaul to ensure it is 'fit for the future' and continues to meet rising demand for services. The changes are crucial to enabling the county council to deliver its vision of 'thriving communities for everyone'. The Cabinet has accepted the business case for a new 'operating model' and will consider how it will be implemented at the October Cabinet meeting.

The transformation plan would protect and improve frontline services for residents, while cutting red tape and reducing the costs of 'back office' administration. The proposed redesign of the county council could save between £34m-58m a year and ensure a continued balanced budget, with the possibility of reinvesting in services in the future.

OCTOBER RESPONSE TO ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE EXPRESSWAY

OCC welcomed the announcement of a preferred Corridor for part of the Oxford-Cambridge Expressway as it offers a degree of clarity on where the final scheme would go, but is very disappointed that access to the M40 through Oxfordshire is still unclear. Highways England, who are leading on this national project, have identified Corridor B as their proposal, the central corridor from the three broad corridors being considered. However, there is still no indication on which of the sub-options around Oxford would be taken forward. OCC has set three tests to assess the decision-making process for that corridor and, eventually, the final route choice:

- Impact on the A34: it should provide relief to congestion on the A34 and function as a separate strategic route, allowing the A34 around Oxford to work better for local traffic
- Pressure on existing roads: It should not increase pressure on overstretched roads
- Conflation with other schemes: It should be developed separately but alongside other local schemes, to ensure the highway network works for Oxfordshire overall

Invariably, a project of this magnitude and ambition will have an impact, which OCC will need to ensure is mitigated. OCC will seek clarity on how the corridor choice is developed so that a decision can be made on the best route for the scheme

NOVEMBER - £10 MILLION PROGRAMME OF ROAD REPAIRS GETS £7M BOOST

Journeys on Oxfordshire's roads have already been significantly improved in recent months thanks to an extra £10million being spent by OCC this year on repairing and improving road surfaces. Government announced in November that OCC would get £7.4 in additional funding to top-up this activity. A range of different methods of road repair and sealing are used to extend the life of county roads and reduce the likelihood of potholes forming which include resurfacing, patching, Dragon-patching and surface dressing.

DECEMBER – GOOD NEWS FOR SOME - EXPRESSWAY UPDATE

The best news for this Division is that Corridor B1 has been narrowed so that Shillingford, Warborough, Dorchester, Clifton Hampden, Burcot, Berinsfield, Newington, Drayton St Leonard and Stadhampton are no longer in the danger zone! While this is a huge relief for these villages, the impact the expressway may have on Chiselhampton, Culham, Nuneham Courtenay, Sandford, the Baldons and Garsington still has to be discovered.

DECEMBER S.E.N.D. SUFFICIENCY STRATEGY GAINS APPROVAL

Plans to create significant new provision for Oxfordshire children with special educational needs (SEND) have been agreed by councillors, with a £15m investment set to create 300 new places which will involve a major rebuild for Northfield School in Oxford. The county council has conducted a wide-ranging review of its special educational needs provision in light of the large increases in the numbers of children with such needs entering the educational system in recent years and the forecast for continued increases in the future. The rebuild of Northfield School would be accompanied by a new school at Bloxham Grove in North Oxfordshire (due to open in 2020) and at Valley Park, Didcot (target date 2023) as part of a free school application process.

DECEMBER - OCC BEST PERFORMING COUNTY COUNCIL IN ENGLAND FOR ITS RECYCLING RATES

Oxfordshire has been named the best performing county council waste disposal authority in England for its recycling rates during 2017/18. The success reflects OCC's commitment to work with districts to protect the environment. Figures published on Tuesday 11 December by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) show that Oxfordshire is the highest performing disposal authority, ahead of Buckinghamshire and Cambridgeshire. All Oxfordshire Councils recycled over 50% in 2017/18, (the national recycling rate is 45%). The county has seven Household Waste and Recycling Centres (HWRCs) that provide recycling facilities for a wide range of items, from batteries to clothes, fridges to plastic garden furniture, together with an incinerator complex at Ardley near Bicester. The HWRCs accept over 350 different waste streams, recycling around 60% of the waste accepted.

JANUARY 2019 BUDGET PROPOSALS

Tough decisions taken since 2010 have created a route to financial stability at OCC as the council plans to set its 2019/20 budget at a time when all councils face financial challenges. The main budget proposals are:

- Investment of almost £6m by 2023 to increase care packages to meet assessed needs for adults with learning and physical disabilities. (Adult Social Care)
- An increase of £5.8m is proposed to be added to the budget in 2022/23 in adult social care to meet projected increased need as a result of the aging population. The council's existing planning up to 2021/22 already includes provision for budget increases of £5.0m in 2019/20 and 2020/21 and £5.6m in 2021/22. (Adult Social Care)
- Invest £3.2m up to 2023 (£800,000 per year) to support the increasing number of children qualifying for school transport – in particular children with special educational needs. (Children, Education and Families)
- Invest £17m to support the predicted increasing numbers of children in care, including more permanent care staff (Children, Education and Families)

With regard to Council Tax, the council's plan – agreed at the last budget in February 2018 – to raise Council Tax by 2.99 per cent in 2019/20 and 1.99 per cent in the years thereafter remains the same in the new budget proposals. However, funding for local government beyond 2020 is currently uncertain, with councils waiting for funding decisions from central government which will not be known until late 2019

FEBRUARY 2019 - COMMUNITIES TO BE OFFERED HELP WITH YOUTH SERVICES

Young people and their families in Oxfordshire are now set to benefit from improved community-run youth services if county councillors agree grant funding when they set the council's budget next week. Youth groups will be invited to bid in to a £1m fund over two years, with encouragement to find match-funding from their local communities.

Feedback from residents points to strong support for improving community-run youth services, and this money would help existing projects expand and new ones get off the ground. This proposal has been made possible by better than expected Council Tax collection following growth in Oxfordshire.

CASH BOOST FOR FUTURE OF TRANSPORT IN OXFORDSHIRE

Oxfordshire's road users could see a technological revolution take place in the coming years that could involve important traffic information being used to help them to get around more easily thanks to a successful bid for £1.25m of Government funding. The cash, which has been through the national GovTech Catalyst initiative towards work to transform the existing Oxfordshire traffic management system – ready for the Government's hoped-for introduction of connected vehicles by 2021 as well as other new mobility options, such as electric vehicles. Many people think of the new wave of transport in terms of cars. However, connected vehicles – anything that can be linked up via the internet to a wider system – could mean vans, buses, lorries, motor or pedal cycles.

MORE THAN 40,000 ROAD DEFECTS REPAIRED IN OXFORDSHIRE SINCE LAST WINTER

Since January 2018 the council has repaired 40,117 defects. That's an average of 3,652 repairs a month which is quite colossal compared to what was needed during the same time period the year before – a total of 34,677 defects were repaired between Jan-Dec 2017. Due to severe weather last winter, pothole fixing peaked between February and May with nearly 18,000 being repaired. The county council this year invested an extra £10m in road repairs which has resulted in extra major resurfacing projects being completed as well as smaller, but no less important, repairs being completed across Oxfordshire.

IN APRIL 2019 £218M SECURED FOR MAJOR TRANSPORT LINKS IN DIDCOT GARDEN TOWN

OCC, working in close partnership with South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse district councils, was awarded the funding to support the creation of thousands of new jobs and houses, including affordable homes. The successful outcome of the bid was announced by Chancellor of the Exchequer, Philip Hammond, in the Spring Statement and is part of the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's Housing Infrastructure Funding (HIF) programme. The package of measures has previously been identified in Local Plans to provide the infrastructure that helps delivers homes. The main schemes for developing Didcot are:

- A4130 widening from A34 Milton Interchange towards Didcot;
- A new "Science Bridge" over the A4130, Great Western Railway Line and Milton Road into the former Didcot A Power Station site;
- A new Culham to Didcot river crossing between the A415 and A4130;
- A Clifton Hampden bypass

All schemes include improved segregated walking and cycling routes which will give people real travel choice. The lack of suitable crossings over the railway line and river coupled with the success of the Science Vale area has resulted in heavy congestion. Construction is currently programmed for mid-2021 and completion is expected by March 2024.

APRIL 2019 COUNTY COUNCIL BACKS JOINT STRATEGIC SPATIAL PLAN

OCC supports the aspirations of the [Oxfordshire Plan 2050](#), which was out to consultation until 26 March 2019. As part of the Housing and Growth Deal that the six Oxfordshire councils signed with the government, the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 will consider issues such as housing and infrastructure while also keeping and enhancing Oxfordshire's heritage and natural environment. The plan will also promote public transport, cycling and walking and will make healthy living and wellbeing a priority. The aspirations for Oxfordshire 2050 described in the consultation document also include supporting economic growth, improving housing availability and increasing transport connectivity across the county. In its submission to the consultation OCC's response included:

- Greater emphasis on the need for an increase in sustainable modes of travel, and to enhance messages around public health and the environment
- Highlight the need for charging points for electric vehicles into all premises together with full fibre broadband
- Focus on the need to ensure that cycling and walking levels and traffic reduction are radically improved

There will be another round of consultation in the summer, which will cover: place-shaping principles, policy options including levels of housing and employment growth, and broad locations for new development.

DELIVERING AN OLDER PEOPLE'S STRATEGY FOR OXFORDSHIRE

A strategy setting out how agencies will work together to deliver a positive future for the county's older population has been approved. ['Living Longer, Living Better: Oxfordshire's Older People's Strategy'](#) was produced in 2018 following the redesign of the Health and Wellbeing Board. It was developed by OCC and Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group. The draft strategy went out for wider public consultation between December 2018 and February 2019 and received 236 individual responses. Overall, there was strong agreement with the vision, priorities and outcomes. Following approval by the council's Cabinet and the Health and Wellbeing Board, planning is now under way on delivering the strategy.

OXFORDSHIRE TO GET BOOST FROM WOMEN'S CYCLE RACE

Oxfordshire can expect economic and health benefits from hosting a stage of the prestigious OVO Energy [Women's Tour professional cycling race](#) on Wednesday, June 12. A stage of the high-profile British cycling event has been secured by the county council and five districts in a three-year deal with race organisers SweetSpot. In a comparable stage in last year's race in Warwickshire, additional local expenditure linked directly to the event totalled £2m by around 100,000 spectators. Nearly two-thirds (63%) came from outside the county and 67% of spectators said they were inspired to cycle more often. This year's stage will start in South Oxfordshire and end at Blenheim Palace. Details of the exact route, which will also pass through the Vale of White Horse and West Oxfordshire, will be revealed in the coming weeks.

COUNCILLOR'S PRIORITY FUND

This year I have awarded the following grants to Parish Councils and community groups in my Division:

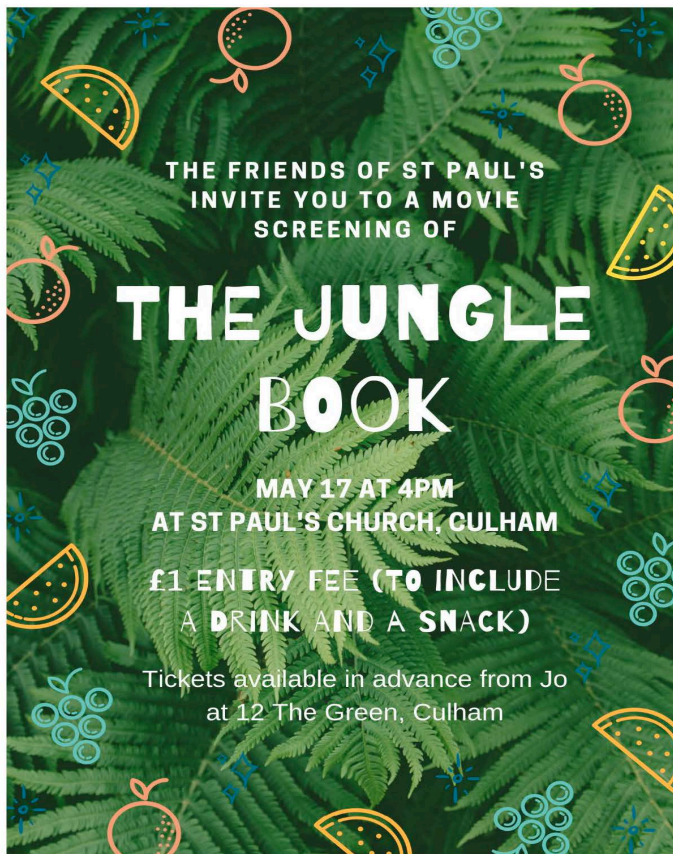
Warborough Parish Council	£750.00	New railings for War Memorial
Employment Action Group – The Berin Centre	£3,500.00	Repairs to building & new classes
Baldons Parish Council	£2,000.00	Improved parking on the green
Berinsfield Bus Club	£5,629.50	Subsidy for bus fares to Abingdon
Culham Parish Council	£2,500.00	Application for speed limit reduction

Total: **£14,379.50**

The balance from the £15,000 is being carried over, and I am already awarding grants to community groups for the coming year 2019-2020.

CABINET RE-SHUFFLE – CHANGE OF ROLE FOR ME

The Leader announced a re-shuffle to his Cabinet effective from September 1st 2018. I was appointed the Cabinet member for Education, which is a completely new challenge for me. I have spent the last seven months getting up to speed with all the issues. This is in addition to my role with responsibility for the County's Cultural Services which I am delighted to retain.



Plant Sale & Church Fete

Culham Green

Saturday May 18th

1pm to 4pm

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



stpauls&culhamvillage@gmail.com

Other News

people's
trust for
endangered
species

From the 1st April, wildlife charity People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES) is calling for volunteers to take part in the its annual *Living with Mammals* survey. Last year the top five mammals recorded were (in order): grey squirrels, foxes, mice, hedgehogs and bats.

This year, PTES is asking members of the public to record sightings of Britain's 'big five', plus any other mammals they see in their gardens or green spaces, to aid future conservation efforts.

Volunteers can take part up until Sunday 30th June, reporting the mammals they see, or their signs, in any local green space – from gardens and allotments to parks or green spaces near to work. The chosen survey site can be in an urban, suburban or rural location, so long as the area is within 200 metres of a building.

You can record your findings online at www.ptes.org/LWM, which has more information on how to spot mammals, and how to tell a pine marten from a polecat, if you're lucky enough to see one! PTES is keen to see your sightings, so if you're on social media upload your photos using #livingwithmammals.

The survey can also be completed via a printed pack, which can be sent to your door. Just contact LwM@ptes.org to find out how.



Britain's 'Big Five': The top five recorded mammals in PTES' *Living with Mammals* survey – grey squirrels, foxes, mice, hedgehogs & bats

Survey water voles this spring to help save Britain's riverside residents



PTES is calling for volunteers to take part in its annual survey of water voles, in order to find out where the voles are living and where they are most in need of conservation action.

With their glossy brown or black fur, small round eyes, blunt muzzle and furry tail, water voles are extremely endearing. Yet sadly, they are also extremely endangered, having experienced the most rapid and serious decline of any British wild mammal in the last century.

There are various factors behind their decline, from loss and fragmentation of their natural habitat (streams, rivers and other fresh waterways) and agricultural intensification, to pollution of watercourses and predation by non-native American mink. The impact of mink has been particularly devastating - between 1989 and 1998 the water vole population crashed by almost 90%.

Volunteers are asked to survey one of PTES' 850 pre-selected sites across England, Wales and Scotland between the 15th April – 15th June. New sites can also be registered if there isn't a pre-selected site nearby. Once a site has been chosen or a new site registered, it just needs to be surveyed once and all sightings and signs of water voles along a 500m length of riverbank recorded online at: www.ptes.org/watervoles. Volunteers need to register online and after that simply enter their postcode to find the closest survey site or register a suitable site near where they live. No previous experience is required, but those taking part will need to learn how to identify water voles and their signs, information about which is also on PTES' website.

Neighbourhood Policing
newsletter

Wallingford Neighbourhood
Policing Team Newsletter

We would like to start this month's edition by Welcoming PC Scott Roddy to the team. He has already made quite an impression after arresting a suspect on his very first shift!

Burglary:

Being burgled is a traumatic experience. It's not just the financial cost of replacing stolen items, but also the emotional impact of feeling violated after a burglar has been in your home. You can reduce the risk of becoming a victim by looking at your home security through the eyes of a burglar. Think about how you would break in if you locked yourself out. You may be surprised at how easy it would be. To get started, simply download your **FREE Home Security Guide** from the Thames Valley Police website here: <https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/police-forces/thames-valley-police/areas/advice/home-security-guide/>

Below are some quick practical steps that you can take right now to make your home more secure:

- Ensure doors and windows are locked, even if you are just out in the garden.
- Store house, window and car keys out of reach of windows and your letterbox.
- Hide valuables so they can't be seen from outside.
- Mark your valuables with a UV pen or forensic marking kit as this will make it harder for thieves to sell the items.
- Register valuables for free on the national property register at www.immobilise.com and bicycles at www.bikeregister.com.
- Trim back hedges and shrubs at the front of your property so that burglars have nowhere to hide.
- Always lock sheds and garages to prevent access to tools that could be used to break into your home.
- Plant thorny bushes around the perimeter of your garden to deter thieves from climbing in.
- Gravel can be laid on driveways, paths and beneath ground floor windows which will make a noise when stood on.

By working together we can build community resilience to deter burglars from targeting homes within the area.

Offenders brought to justice

Whilst carrying out one of our 'Have Your Say' meeting in Waitrose, Wallingford, PCSOs Sarah Jones and Sue Harris were alerted to two females who had been shoplifting. The pair made off and refused to stop for the Police however the PCSOs continued to follow and one female was subsequently arrested by officers from Didcot. She was also wanted for previous offences committed in another area.

A vehicle was seen driving dangerously by PCSOs Louise Browning and Tyler Lewis in Wallingford. Officers stopped the vehicle and the driver was subsequently arrested for failing a roadside drug test.

Scam awareness

Fraudsters are using a tactic called 'Number Spoofing'. This is a tactic they use which enables them to alter the phone number from which they are calling from to make them appear genuine. In order to convince you that they are calling from a legitimate organisation such as your bank they will ask you to check the number on the back of your bank card and then your caller ID to see that it matches. Hang up the phone, wait five minutes to ensure the call has disconnected and call your bank from a number you trust.

What the neighbourhood team have been doing

- The team have continued to carry out school talks in Wallingford Secondary and Aureus School in relation to sexting this month and Aureus also had an input on Knife Crime following the Nationwide Knife Crime awareness week. PC Bev Kaur and PCSO Chris Wyatt also attended Wallingford Army Cadets following a request that was made after seeing the good work we have been achieving with our schools.
- PC Bev Kaur and PCSO Jason Martin attended St Birinus School in Didcot for a Careers Event
- The team carried out a Rural Day of action on 16th March, visiting farms and beauty spots to offer crime prevention advice and engagement.
- Junior Citizens has been another success this year where PCSOs from the Didcot and Wallingford Neighbourhood teams have attended and helped deliver valuable lessons on personal and internet safety to our local schools.
- PC Bev Kaur & PC Chloe Taylor visited Ladygrove Park primary school Didcot to talk about Women in Policing.
- The team conducted a rural crime operation on the weekend of the 30 March following information on daytime poaching.

Comments box

Please look in the comments below for some answers to your questions:

Cold Callers: Please do not trade on the doorstep, these traders rarely have the appropriate pedlars licence and if you purchase from them they may keep returning to the area.

Burglary: Concerns around the fact we do not share exact details of how the offenders broke in. Unfortunately for operational reasons this is not something we can disclose so we do not jeopardise the investigation, however if you are concerned about home security we can come out and give you free advice. Please email us at didcotandwallingfordnhpt@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

Tool thefts: In response to the recent theft from vehicles we are in the process of organising a tool marking and crime prevention event and will advertise the date and location in the near future.

Speeding: Do you know you can join community Speedwatch? This is where we train volunteers to monitor and record speed in their local area, deterring drivers from exceeding the speed limit and providing us with valuable data which allows us to implement any speeding operations in the future. This is proving very successful in some of our villages. If this is something you would be interested in starting up please get in touch.

Please get in touch/follow us using the following:

E-mail: didcotandwallingfordNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk Twitter:

@tvpsouthandvale

Facebook: www.facebook.com/tvpsouthandvale

Always phone 999 in an emergency

Music at The Unicorn

Music at The Unicorn's next concert at the beautiful Unicorn theatre in



Abingdon-on-Thames is on **Thursday 16th May** and stars the wonderful and innovative **Mark Harrison Band**.

Mark Harrison is widely considered one of the most original and interesting artists currently operating in the UK. His highly individual, all-original music goes down very well with audiences of all kinds, and it has taken him and his band (consisting of some of the UK's top roots musicians) to some of the top venues and festivals in the UK, attracting acclaim wherever he goes.

The **Mark Harrison Band** is **Mark Harrison** (National & 12 string guitar/vocals, **Charles Benfield** (double bass) and **Ben Welburn** (drums/percussion).

Doors: 7pm | Music: 7:15pm | Main act: 8pm **Tickets: £15 – MOSTLY BOOKS, 36 Stert Street, Abingdon OX14 3JP (Cash only)**
or www.musicattheunicorn.org.uk

Unicorn Theatre, Checker Walk, Abingdon



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ANNOUNCING THE 2019 ABINGDON JAZZ FESTIVAL!

Once again beautiful Abingdon-on-Thames plays host to this wonderful festival of jazz and once again it will be organised by the Friends of Abingdon and Music At The Unicorn.

The Festival will take place throughout the town centre including the ancient Long Gallery of the old Abingdon Abbey Buildings, from the **10th to 12th May 2019**.

Yes, jazz is alive, well and kicking up a storm in "jazztown" Abingdon-on-Thames. The festival will include at least 8 main concerts in the centre of the town.

Our thanks go to our main sponsors, our great friends Slade Legal!

This year's artists will include:

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“Once again Music At The Unicorn is proud to present The Abingdon Jazz Festival. A celebration of brilliant live music with something for everyone. A third of the events are free so if you’ve never experienced live jazz before this is the event for you. From intricate solos to funky dance music, the extraordinary musicians will inspire and entertain.”

Michael Ward, Chairman of Music at the Unicorn

“The Friends of Abingdon and Music At The Unicorn are delighted to present The Abingdon Jazz Festival once again. The festival will be centred in the Friends’ medieval and atmospheric Abbey Buildings plus other venues throughout the town. It is an event not to be missed; great musicians, wonderful acoustics and lots of fun. Do join us.”

Bryan Brown, Chairman of Friends of Abingdon

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.

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.

MAIN SPONSOR: SLADE LEGAL

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND A RUNNING LIST:

www.abingdonjazzfestival.org.uk

info@abingdonjazzfestival.org.uk

@abjazzfest

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 June issue of the Mouthpiece by May 15th to:

generalmouthpiece@gmail.com

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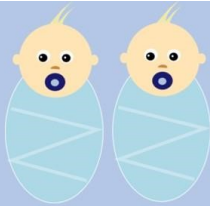
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Phone: 7551 733087

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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	
CLERK TO PARISH COUNCIL			
Lucy Dalby	culhampc@googlemail.com	76 Evenlode Drive, Didcot OX11 7XQ	01235 817464
DISTRICT COUNCILLOR			
Sue Lawson	sue.lawson@southoxon.gov.uk		07899 963236
COUNTY COUNCILLOR			
Lorraine Lindsay-Gale	lorraine.lindsay-gale@oxfordshire.gov.uk	Nut Tree Cottage, The Green South, Warborough OX10 7DR	01865 858976
ST PAUL'S CHURCH			
Associate Team Vicar:	Revd. Michael Lakey		07586 323325
Ordained Local Minister	Revd. David Haylett	familyhaylett@yahoo.com	01865 407382
Hon. Treasurer:	Andrew Churchill Stone	churchillstone27@gmail.com 21 High Street, Culham	01235 533011
Churchwarden:	Roy Epps	14 The Glebe, Culham	01235 537525
Hon. Secretary:	Charles Reichardt	Fair Green, Henley Rd, Culham	01235 520534
FRIENDS OF ST PAUL'S CHURCH			
Chairman:	Philip Owen	6 The Green, Culham	01235 555223
CULHAM PAROCHIAL SCHOOL (Thames Bridge C of E Federation)			
Head Teacher:	Mrs Lisa Horton	The School, High Street, Culham	01235 521766
Chair of Governors:	Debbie Croft	c/o Clifton Hampden School	01865 407700
ST PAUL'S & CULHAM VILLAGE RE-ORDERING COMMITTEE			
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Sam Casey-Rerhaye		3 The Burycroft, Culham	01235 799489
CULHAM POOR ALLOTMENTS TRUST			
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