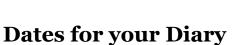
The Mouthpiece

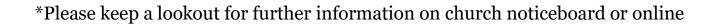
Culham's Newsletter

December 2020/January 2021

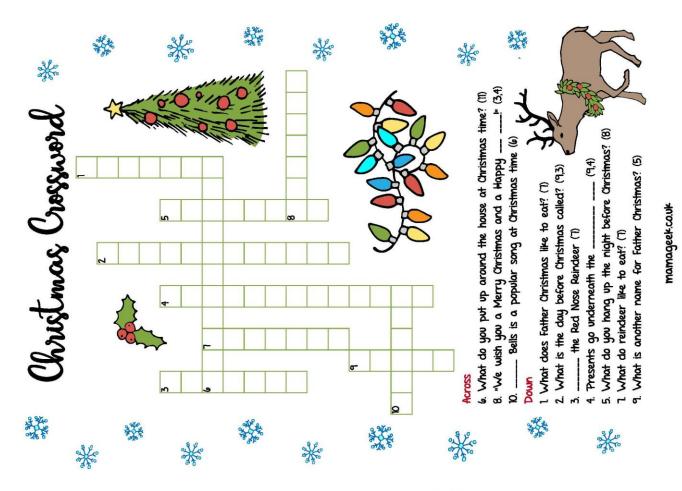




Tuesday 8 th Dec	Parish Council meeting	Online – please contact for details s.caseyrerhaye@culham-pc.gov.uk		
Sunday 20 th Dec	Village Carol Service	Zoom broadcast from St Pauls Church (see below for link)	4 pm	
Friday 25 th Dec	POSSIBLE Christmas Day service*	St Paul's Church	TBA	







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From the Dorchester Abbey Team

<u>Berinsfield Toy Bank for Christmas</u> Do you think you could make a donation? The **Toy Bank** is a simple idea! The Berin Family Centre and the Dorchester Team are working together to support families on Berinsfield who have been affected by job losses or cuts to working hours because of the pandemic. We want to support these



families particularly in the run up to Christmas when there is more financial strain on parents trying to afford presents for their children. We are asking for donations of brand new, kite marked toys/gifts to the Toy Bank to provide parents with presents to give to their young children and teenagers this Christmas.

So when you are doing your Christmas shopping do you think you could buy an extra gift and make a donation? I and other team clergy are very happy to collect a donation left on your doorstep if you would contact us with an address and a time, or you can drop donations off at one of the clergy houses; here are our contact details:

Rev Teresa: 07765930285 <u>revteresa@outlook.com</u> The Vicarage, Cherwell Road, Berinsfield OX10 7PB Canon Sue: 01865 340007 <u>rector@dorchester-abbey.org.uk</u> The Rectory, Manor Farm Road, Dorchester OX10 7HZ Rev Caroline: 01865 858525 <u>reverend.caroline@gmail.com</u> The Vicarage, 79 The Green North, Warborough OX10 7DW I will be taking the toys to the Berin Centre for distribution on 6th December so please get your donation in before then! Thank you for your generosity and support for this project,

Rev Teresa Stewart-Sykes

Services in the Team

Parishes are arranging their own Christmas services and events according to Government restrictions and the restrictions of their own building but at any time there is a lockdown there will be a livestreamed team service at 10.30am on Sundays.

Events in the Abbey

Sat 12th December 6pm and 8pm OSJ Unlocked - Karlowicz 'String Serenade', Hurd 'Love bade me welcome' motet for choir, Nathaniel Dett 'Ave Maria' motet for choir and Tchaikovsky 'String Serenade' with Strings of Orchestra of St John's and OSJ Ashmolean Voices Tickets £15 from <u>www.osj.org.uk</u> Prebooking essential.

Wed 16th December 6pm and 8pm OSJ Christmas Carols with OSJ Ashmolean Voices and John Lubbock conductor Tickets £15 from <u>www.osj.org.uk</u> Prebooking essential.

Sat 19th December 6pm and 8pm OSJ Messiah Highlights from Part I of Handel's Messiah plus the Hallelujah chorus with Soloists Hannah Davey, Ellie Edmonds, Xavier Hetherington, Frazer Scott and OSJ Ashmolean Voices and Orchestra of St John's Tickets £15 from <u>www.osj.org.uk</u> Prebooking essential.

Thurs 31st December 6pm and 8pm OSJ New Year's Eve Overtures and Dances including pieces by Johann Strauss II, Chabrier, Smetana amd Leroy Anderson with Orchestra of St John's with John Lubbock conductor Tickets £15 from <u>www.osj.org.uk</u> Prebooking essential.

Village News

Village website: www.culhamvillage.org.uk

St Paul's Church

There will be a village Carol Service on Sunday 20th December 2020 at 4pm. It will take place in St Paul's. Since the extent of restrictions cannot be known exactly at that time it is intended to broadcast the service via Zoom on the link below. In keeping with the strangeness of the past year it will be a little different from our usual carol service.

Zoom information Meeting ID: 738 9415 7036 Passcode: carols

It has not been possible to confirm whether there will be a Christmas Day service this year, the clergy are willing – it just depends on restrictions but things are looking hopeful! Further information will be disseminated when plans are in place so keep your eyes peeled!

Culham Parish Council (CPC) notes – November 2020

The reports from OCC and SODC councillors should appear elsewhere in the Mouthpiece and on the CPC website.

A second application for the Waggon and Horses site development will be put forward by Morrells. This had been on hold recently while negotiations with a potential purchaser of the site were held. This application will involve demolishing the pub, building a smaller replacement, and building up to 20 houses on the site.

A footpath around the Waggon and horses from Tollgate Road to the A415 is under consideration.

A new footbridge for the permissive path on the Moors has been constructed, but it is currently too wet for the placement machinery to access the site. Installation is likely to be in the Spring.

The CPC budget for 2021/22 is under consideration for adoption in December 2020

Discussions about the village buying the Green are on hold while the pros and cons are considered.

Grants have come through from Oxfordshire County Council and SODC for the creation of the Culham Neighbourhood Plan. This covers £9,000 from OCC and £5,000 from SODC. The terms of reference for the NP have been agreed.

It is considered doubtful that the Diocese would allow the village to buy the recreation ground. There has been no confirmation from the Diocese about the renewal of the lease to the village.

The option of planting a native hedge along the line of the fence across the playing field is probably acceptable to the Diocese.

Other tree planting in the village is being pursued with the area south of the Green between Church Road and the pond being considered a likely spot, as well as further planting on the playing field.

A report will be made to 'Fix My Street' about the undergrowth extending over the carriageway along the Burycroft.

This will almost certainly be an online meeting.

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/

Culham Neighbourhood Plan

Progress

The Parish Council has obtained grants from South Oxfordshire District Council and Central Government to fund the preparation and production of a Neighbourhood Plan.

A steering committee has been set up by the Parish Council to develop the Plan and specialist consults have been appointed to assist.

The Steering Group and the consultants had their first meeting (online) on Wednesday 4th November 2020 with the next meeting scheduled for Tuesday 24th November 2020 to scope out the way forward.

It is intended to have regular meetings of the Group with the intention that a draft document will be ready during the middle of 2021 to allow consultation with villagers and obtain their approval of the Plan.

Are you interested in influencing the future of Culham?

A Neighbourhood Plan allows local people to plan for the types of development to meet their community's needs.

This is your chance to help in the development of your community.

If you are interested and want to join the group or find out more about what is involved please speak to either Philip Owen, <u>p.owen@culham-pc.gov.uk</u>, 6 The Green, Culham, Tel 01235 555223 or Gordon Gibbs, <u>grgibbs@btinternet.com</u>, 32 High Street, Culham, Tel 01235 523679 or any member of the Parish Council, whose contact details are in the Who is Who In Culham directory at the rear of The Mouthpiece.

YOUR COMMUNITY NEEDS YOU

For the latest on the Neighbourhood Plan check out the Culham Parish Council website at

www.culham-pc.gov.uk

District Councillor's Report November/December 2020 - Sam Casey-Rerhaye

Covid Grants and support

Community Grants from councillors were linked to Covid-19 help this year. I still have a small amount left if any group would like to apply, contact me.

The **Community Hub** at the District Council remains a valuable point of contact for residents who need support and so if you're contacted by any members of the public who are worried or need help, point them in the hub's direction on **01235 422600** or email <u>communitysupport@southandvale.gov.uk</u>.

The Community Hub team is currently available from: 8.30am-5pm Monday to Thursday; 8.30am-4.30pm Friday.

The message to anybody who is unsure if they need help, or if they're unsure if the council can help, is *if in doubt, get in touch*!

The dedicated **South and Vale Business Support Team** is on hand with advice and guidance for businesses in our communities to help understand what the lockdown might mean to them, and what support is available. There's lots of information already at <u>www.svbs.co.uk</u> and this page will be updated throughout the week and beyond.

Gyms and leisure centres are closed during the lockdown period; Cornerstone remains closed as it is being used as a food/hub centre; community halls are closed except for a few exemptions and Milton Park offices are closed. Details can be found on the government website: <u>https://www.gov.uk/guidance/new-national-restrictions-from-5-november</u> Opening gyms and leisure centres will take time. Please check by looking on the website: <u>https://www.better.org.uk/centre-locator</u> or phoning.

Council Meeting on 9th September

Motions were passed on campaigning for better water quality in the River Thames (and the problem of raw sewage discharges by Thames Water), support for the Black Lives Matter movement with a commitment to produce a diversity and inclusion strategy for the Council, continued support for Neighbourhood Plans (particularly in the light of proposed changes to the Planning system) and the Council's commitment to Cornerstone in Didcot. The new Corporate Plan was approved and will come into official effect on 1st November.

Thames Champion, Cllr Robb has called on our MPs to support Philip Dunne MP's Sewage (Inland Waters) Bill which will have its second reading in Parliament on 15 January 2021. <u>The Bill</u> is the result of joint working by Mr Dunne and groups including Surfers Against Sewage, The Rivers Trust, The Angling Trust, Windrush Against Sewage Pollution and others. It will improve transparency and monitoring of the impact of sewage spillage on water quality, require separate surface and foul water drainage systems from new infrastructure and housing development, encourage nature-based solutions for water treatment, prohibit use of plastics in flushable products, require water meters in homes and promote improvements in bathing water standards for inland waters and rivers.

New Corporate Plan

Now this has been approved by full Council is on our website for you to read here:

<u>https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/south-oxfordshire-district-council/about-the-council/corporate-plan/</u>. The plan highlights our priorities: the protection and restoration of nature, economic recovery, community well-being, addressing the Climate Emergency, openness and transparency in our work.

Government Planning White Paper Consultation

Officers and Members worked together to send in a strong, critical response to this. You can read it on our website: <u>https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2020/11/2020-10-29-SODC-Response-to-Planning-for-the-Future-consultation.pdf</u> You may have heard in the news that a large number of MPs of all shades are pretty dismayed by the paper and the large number of new houses this will mean for the south east

of England. In case there are worries that opposing this (and the current Local Plan) means that even fewer people will be able to afford a home to buy or rent in this area, there is little connection between more new houses and prices going down. House prices are complex and linked to interest rates, wage levels, other type of investments' success or not, and an open market. We have had thousands of houses built in our area in the last 5 years and the prices have continued to go up. For house prices to be affordable, we need more social housing, higher wages, higher interest rates and government policies that control house buying as investment. And SODC councillors are working on the bit we can change – more social housing.

Local Plan

Consultation on the Inspector's Main Modifications proposals has now finished. I submitted responses to the proposed modifications for greenbelt, housing density, Grenoble Road and Culham sites. We then expect a final report from the Inspector around the end of November. There will then be a series of Council meetings to consider it, under the Direction of Secretary of State, Robert Jenrick. These are likely to be in early/mid-December. I am closely watching the proposed judicial review of the Cherwell Local Plan partial review, where a community group has requested approval as to whether there are sufficient grounds for a Judicial Review to go ahead or not.

Planning Applications

Please remember - for minor applications, an objection from the Parish Council will **NOT** automatically trigger a call-in to Planning Committee, so it is vital that the Parish Council requests a call-in by their Ward Member. All call-ins must be made in writing and with valid planning objections, and within 28 days of the application being listed on the SODC website. This measure will be reviewed in July 2021.

Proposed changes to car parking in South Oxfordshire

There was a consultation on these. For information see <u>southoxon.gov.uk/parking</u>. The consultation was open until Thursday 19 November.

Civil Parking Enforcement

The Council is working with other Councils in Oxfordshire to bring this into reality – it's taken a long time to get to this stage, but as a new administration, we have focused on working on a number of issues that seem to have stalled in last few years, like the new building for the Council too! Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) will mean Councils take responsibility to enforce parking infringements on roads. We need permission from government, via the Council who are keen for this to go ahead too, and we and Vale have supported this process and hope Cherwell will too (West Oxfordshire and the City Councils already have CPE powers).

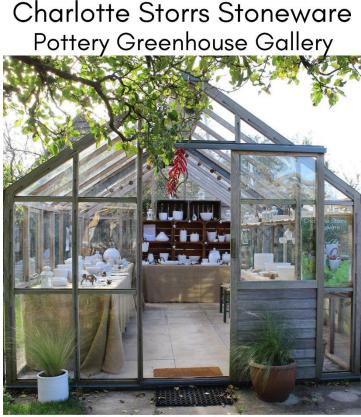
Bins and recycling news

We have been carrying out a sustained communications campaign using social media, leaflets, adverts, <u>Recycling Week Videos</u> and even <u>The Great Green Recycling Bin quiz</u> which has been completed by 2,020 people so far.

Since June this year there hasn't been a single truckload of recycling from South and Vale residents that has been rejected for contamination. Well done everyone.

<u>Brown bin</u> customers in South or Vale can put twice as much garden waste out for collection during extra garden waste weeks in November.

Sam.casey-rerhaye@southoxon.gov.uk 01235 799489



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Other News

Oxfordshire-based independent bookshop Mostly Books has secured a second series of their successful podcast **Mostly Books Meets...**, talking to special guests and famous faces about their favourite books.

The podcast series started as a passion project during lockdown, as an alternative to physical and virtual events. Publishers spotted the podcast and were soon vying for episodes with their authors. The first series quickly gained momentum with regular weekly episodes from journalists, authors and illustrators.

As the first 15 episode series completes in December it will have hosted guests including Elizabeth Day and Emma Gannon – who each have their own multi-million downloaded podcasts, plus chefs Tom Kerridge and Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall and authors Heather Morris (The Tattooist of Auschwitz) and Robert Harris (Fatherland).

Sarah Dennis, owner of Mostly Books and producer of the podcasts says, "...... we decided to create a podcast as a way to talk to authors about their books and the reading recommendations they had for others. The concept has evolved into some really touching conversations and we have noticed listeners go on to buy the books that have been talked about in the episodes."

Presented, edited and produced entirely in-house by the team at the bookshop, the podcast asks every guest about the books that have been special to them, from their childhood favourite, to



the book that changed their life. The conversations that have evolved through this shared love of books have been fascinating and intimate, including books that triggered life-changing moments of faith, to books read in children's homes and prison, that provided hope and solace.

Mostly Books Meets is available on Spotify, iTunes & Soundcloud.

Mostly Books is an independent bookshop in Abingdon, Oxfordshire. The shop was named Bertrams Bookshop of the Year 2019 and was shortlisted for Independent Bookshop of the Year at the British Books Awards in 2018, 2019 & 2020.

Local Bookseller named national Bookshop Hero for her efforts during lockdown

On Thursday 5th November, Lyndsey Smith, a bookseller at Mostly Books in Abingdon, was named one of 29 national Bookshop Heroes by the Bookseller's Association, sponsored by HarperCollins. This award comes after she cycled 720km during the height of the first wave of lockdown, delivering books daily to vulnerable and shielding customers.

When the UK went into the first national lockdown in March 2020, with all non-essential shops closing, independent bookshop Mostly Books had no choice but to close its doors to the public. The shop was able to continue trading online, and to support the business, Lyndsey volunteered to deliver books on her bike to customers living in a 5-mile radius of the shop.

Lyndsey cycled 720km delivering books around Abingdon and neighbouring villages including Sunningwell, Steventon, Drayton, Sutton Courtenay, Culham, Wootton, Kennington, Radley, Shippon and Milton.

During this time, Lyndsey also launched a virtual community book group, the Mostly Books Cosy Club which now has more than 50 members. "I curate a selection of 10 books each month for members to pick from – they read, rate and review the books and send me feedback which I collate and circulate to everyone, and then we hop onto a Zoom call and chat about the books."

Sarah Dennis, owner of Mostly Books, nominated Lyndsey for the award, "During the first lockdown, Lyndsey voluntarily took it upon herself to become our local delivery person. She came into the shop, six days a week, to pick up and deliver parcels and refused to take any payment for her work. She is a true asset to the Mostly Books team, has a huge focus on supporting the local community and is a complete bookshop hero."

The Railway Inn





A message from Pauline at the Railway Inn regarding Christmas

'I would like to say with sorrow that I cannot put on the Senior Citizens Party this year. The Choir is not able to attend. I believe the risk to all would be too much. Let's all hope for a better 2021. Keep safe and well everyone'

The Mouthpiece would like to thank Pauline and all at The Railway for the many years of the Christmas Party and look forward to resuming next year!

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 November issue of the Mouthpiece by October 15th to:

generalmouthpiece@gmail.com

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Gordon & Joan Gibbs Editing Jun, Sep, Nov, Feb, Apr issues	32 High Street, Culham



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