

# The Mouthpiece

Culham's Newsletter

**March 2021**



**Culham Village Nursery and Preschool opens 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021!**

## Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March

Parish Council meeting

Online – please contact for details:

[s.caseyrerhaye@culham-pc.gov.uk](mailto:s.caseyrerhaye@culham-pc.gov.uk)

## From the Dorchester Abbey Team



### Talking point

Moving out to a village has made me much more aware of nature and the changing seasons. Every day at the moment, my husband and I walk our little dog and I notice the snowdrops and the crocuses emerging from the very soggy soil. Some days, these flowers have been illuminated by gentle winter sunlight from a cloudy blue sky. But more often than not, they seem to be drowned in an awful lot of rain!

As we begin to see hints of Spring, I am aware that the people in our communities are all in different places, both practically and emotionally. Some have already received the vaccine, some have not. Some are overwhelmingly busy working in hospitals, or tackling the lambing season, whereas others are feeling bored with long days stretching out and nothing to do. Some people's lives are full of juggling working from home and home schooling, others are feeling very lonely. However, one feeling that seems to keep coming back is "when is all this going to end?"

I wish I knew the answer to that. I feel cautiously hopeful that we are beginning to see the signs, not just of springtime but of the possibility of slowly emerging from this horrific pandemic. Right now, though, I am trying to find the tiny joys every day! Tiny joys such as when a friend sends me an elaborate and messy painting created by her toddler, when I hear that my grandfather or a parishioner has received their first vaccine, or when I see that the Six Nations is soon going to return to the television.

I hope that you are also able to find tiny joys each day, even if some days they are very small! And on days when that feels very difficult, perhaps even impossible, I hope that maybe someone else will be able to share a tiny joy with you. I have been very excited to observe the emergence of fairy doors springing up in some of our villages. What a delightful, creative, innocent way to make a small moment of joy for others, of all ages, in the local community. To the many unsung heroes in our community who find safe ways to reach out to others, who pick up prescriptions or shopping, or who check in on isolated neighbours, thank you so much. To those who are feeling that joy is very faraway, please know that your clergy team are here for you and are just on the other end of the phone.

Rev. Sorrel Shamel-Wood

### Team Events

#### Services

At the time of going to press it is difficult to judge the situation with regard to Church Services in person for a month ahead. In the second week of February the Team clergy met and agreed that our two guidelines for a return to services in Church would be the return of all children to school and the local rate of infection in South Oxfordshire. In the same way as last June we will continue to make provision for at least one online service each week whilst returning worship to our churches in a safe and timely way. Our hope at the time of writing is that we will be worshipping in person in some form in time to celebrate Easter. Most parishes are sending a weekly email with service information; if you want to receive this email – and for up to date information about services - please call the Team Office on 01865340007 or email [admin@dorchester-abbey.org.uk](mailto:admin@dorchester-abbey.org.uk)

Creation Matters – an online course for the Dorchester Team for Lent

Does *Creation Matter*? Yes, it really does. As Christians we celebrate God's creation yet we also know that our beautiful planet, held together by love is dangerously close to being irretrievably damaged by human sin and greed. And this isn't just a global matter, it is local too. It's about what we do and don't do, how we live and what we will pass on to our children and grandchildren.

That's why our Team Lent Course this year will be looking at some of these things. We are going to offer 5 sessions on Thursday evenings, beginning on 25<sup>th</sup> February, using the magic of Zoom. There will be a chance to see and respond to a series of short videos prepared by Bishop Olivia, and to hear and respond to special input from people in and around the team. We will be thinking about the Christian understanding of creation, some of the economic and global challenges we face, the way other faiths are responding to the realities of the climate emergency and ask how we can make a difference, here and now. Each session will begin with a short

act of worship and there will be time for conversations in smaller groups too. If you would like to know more, or to sign up, please contact The Revd Paul Wignall ([bridgegroupvicar@gmail.com](mailto:bridgegroupvicar@gmail.com)) or speak to any of the clergy. We hope lots of people from all the parishes of the Dorchester Team will be able to join in, because *Creation Matters!*

### **Abbey Events**

Friday 2nd April 6pm and 8pm OSJ Good Friday concert Easter motets, Bach cello suite and Durufle requiem with organ and cello with Garwyn Linnell cello and OSJ Ashmolean Voices and Orchestra of St John's. Tickets £5-£15 from [www.osj.org.uk](http://www.osj.org.uk) PREBOOKING ESSENTIAL

## **Village News**

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



### **St Paul's Church**

Messy Church, activities are scheduled for March 14th and 28th – please see the StPaulsAndCulhamVillage facebook group for details.

[https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsandculhamvillage/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsandculhamvillage/?ref=page_internal)

## **Petition for renewal of Recreation Ground Lease**

A committee of local parents have been trying to make headway with a new playground and adult fitness equipment for the Recreation Ground in Culham for the last 2 years. Unfortunately, the Diocese of Oxford are refusing to let the Parish Council know if they will renew the lease on the Recreation Ground, which is up in 9 years. To put pressure on them we've drawn up a petition, which we'd be very grateful if as many people as possible could sign! If you have any questions then email Amy Sutcliffe ([sutcliffeamy@gmail.com](mailto:sutcliffeamy@gmail.com))

The link to the petition is here: <http://chnq.it/qP6hWDSp>

## Message from Culham Parish Council

Dear residents,

We are obviously currently in the most serious lockdown position and it is vital that we all follow the rules whilst we await the vaccination process to unfold. For full details of the current restrictions please refer to the government website page <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home> which refers to the National Lockdown requirements which are now law. Obviously, advice is very much to stay at home wherever possible and certainly stay local and to remember **HANDS FACE SPACE** - wash hands, wear face masks and keep your distance.

Please do your bit to keep COVID-19 well and truly at a distance in our Parish. Please look out for those who live near you who maybe extra vulnerable and those who live alone to offer help or assistance, if appropriate, wherever it might be needed during these difficult times for us all. Help is at hand if needed, be it errands, shopping, small grants towards essentials, medicine collection etc by contacting Mary Rickford on 07939 221846 or Caroline Baird on 07711 675129. Thank you for your cooperation and hopefully this is the year we can return to better times before long.

Chair  
Culham Parish Council

### Note re travelling in cars:

People from a household or [support bubble](#) can travel together in a vehicle.

Car sharing is not permitted with someone from outside your household or your support bubble unless your journey is undertaken for an [exempt reason](#). For example, if car sharing is reasonably necessary as part of your work.

It is worth noting that there are specific rules for taxis and private hire vehicles during lockdown - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-taxis-and-phvs>

## Culham Village Nursery & Pre School

We are very excited to be taking over the lovely former Culham Parochial Primary School and giving it a new lease of life. We will be opening as a children's nursery on 1st March operating 52 weeks a year from 7.30 am-6pm and caring for children from 3 months to 5 years old. We very much look forward to welcoming some of the children from the village into the nursery then. For more information and to arrange a viewing please see our website [www.culhamvillagenursery.co.uk](http://www.culhamvillagenursery.co.uk).



We already run the nearby Culham Science Centre Nursery and Preschool and have been rated outstanding three times in a row there. We will be bringing some of our outstanding team over to work in Culham village and the same long standing nursery manager -Nikki Durkin -will oversee both sites.

Culham Parochial Primary is a perfect location for a children's nursery; the building is charm itself and we love that it has lots of outdoor space, gardens with mature trees and a variety of other play spaces for the children. We are very much looking forward to meeting some of our neighbours soon.

# THE CULHAM TRAIL

TAKE A WALK FROM THE CHURCH TO THE LOCK

1

How many arrows are visible at the gate?

8

How many metres is the hydrant from the sign?

2

What name did Dora Alice Williams go by?

9

What was made in Stirlingshire?

3

How many posts are on the pond side of the green?

10

What did Mrs Philips do in 1897?

4

What animal is the weather vane at Number 40?

11

In which years were the houses at the top of the High Street built?

5

In which city was the drain cover opposite Home Farm manufactured?

12

How many oak trees are opposite?

6

What do W Wilder & Sons make?

13

Enter the lock via the new gate. What can't you do here?

7

How many chimney stacks do Number 22 and 23 have?

14

What is the maximum permitted speed on the river?

ANSWERS COMING SOON



STPAULSANDCULHAMVILLAGE

Thanks to Mike, Laura, Monty and Nancy Cooper for this Village Trail – launched at St Paul's, Culham Messy Church!

# Culham Parish Council (CPC) notes – February 2021

Held online

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

Plans for the purchase of the Green have been put on hold due to the probate requirements on Pamela Morrell who died recently.

Refurbishment plans for the re-development of the Waggon and Horses site by Morrells will soon be sent to SODC. The inclusion of a pedestrian crossing at the site was discussed and, with possible partial funding from Morrells, this may be achievable.

SODC Council tax has been increased by 2%, adding £5/month to a band D property.

CPC has already voted to join the [Bioabundance](#) pressure group which is fighting the proposed house building projects in Oxfordshire. CPC also voted a donation of £500 to the Bioabundance group. Several Parish Councils including Horspath, Clifton Hampden, Woodeaton, Elsfield and Garsington are also members. The Bioabundance group has achieved their initial financial target of £10,000, and are now working towards a £25,000 target.

The Neighbourhood Plan group is finalising the report and a 'village letter' will soon be posted to all residents for comment.

CPC has received three offers of interest for the post of Clerk.

The playground action group has started a petition to request the Diocese to renew the lease on the playing field. The link to the petition is:

<http://chnq.it/gP6hWDSp>

CPC may be able to obtain CIL monies to have the speed limits on Tollgate Road and High Street reduced to 20mph.

Finally, welcome to Siobhan Sargeant as a Culham Parish Councillor. Siobhan's contact details will be made available soon.

## **Next meeting**

Tuesday 09 March 2021

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.

Village website address:

<https://www.culhamvillage.org.uk/>

The CPC website address:

<https://www.culham-pc.gov.uk/>

## FINALLY

You may be interested in the idea of having **solar panels** installed on your roof. Andy Tunstall (Green Group Director) gives regular presentations about the system and installation procedures. Please look at:



<https://www.iddea.co.uk/what-is-solar-streets/> for more information.

The basic concept is that for a group of houses in a community (they like to work in batches of 10, but will go with 3-4), they will install 12 PV solar panels on a suitable roof, and they produce 4kW. They come with an inverter to convert from DC to AC current. There are optional extras such as battery storage. The basic cost is £4000.

If you are interested, please contact any Parish Councillor.

## District Councillor's Report February 2021 - Sam Casey-Rerhaye

### Council Budget

South Oxfordshire DC has just passed its budget for 2021-22. Despite being in the midst of a global pandemic, we are starting to move forward on our priorities. Many of the projects in our corporate plan are either already being addressed or will be when officer time allows. This direct link to the corporate plan – which received record public feedback - will give transparency and confidence that spending is happening on the right things. Over the year we will also be introducing performance measures to monitor progress on these projects. Of course, the response to the pandemic must come first, and many SODC officers are still taking on new and unfamiliar roles to help support residents and roll out the vaccine programme, setting up a new asymptomatic-testing centre in Wantage, spending many hours responding to government demands as well as those of the council. Councils have proved their importance during this pandemic and it's time for a proper funding settlement and real devolved powers from Whitehall – at present, the central government grant goes down every year.

Given that backdrop, I am glad to that we have been able to avoid service reductions, and that many behind the scenes changes from the last budget and over the last year, such as better use of Community Infrastructure Levy monies, in-sourcing of services (which has given the Council much better control of our services) and investing-to-save, have set us up well for the future. We have increased SODC's share of Council Tax by the maximum allowed (which is £5 for a Band D home). The Council has had to use nearly £2m in reserves more than projected to cover costs arising from the pandemic as well to cover falls in normal income such as car parking. Obviously reserves should be used in an emergency but unfortunately due to financial pressures built up over the last 10 years and previous choices made not to raise council tax in line with inflation, it is still necessary to use a further £2m for day-to-day expenses. This is unsustainable in the long term and we are working on increasing income to cover this shortfall.

We have council tax reduction and other schemes in place to support those who may struggle to pay their council tax. Please contact the council if you need help.

### Winter Support Grants

The Winter Support Grant scheme is available for households who have been hardest hit by the coronavirus pandemic. Support is available in the form of advice, supermarket and fuel vouchers or through the direct payment of energy or water bills. If you are struggling to afford food or pay your fuel bills, you may be eligible to receive help. Get in touch with your nearest advice centre for further guidance or if you know of someone who is struggling please tell them to get in touch with Citizens Advice – 0808 278 7907.

Our community hub is still open and offering all kinds of support: [www.southoxon.gov.uk/communityhub](http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/communityhub) or on 01235 422600. Don't hesitate to get in touch if you need help.

### **Business Support**

The Economic Development team along with finance have taken on a giant task of managing government grants – to date, 11 schemes paying out just short of £6million in total in funds to business. Our businesses, to a large extent small and medium sized, with over half based outside towns, will be key to the recovery, and we will continue to do all we can to support them through this. If you run a business large or small, make sure you are signed up to the mailing list for the latest government grant availability via [www.svbs.co.uk](http://www.svbs.co.uk). There are a number of grant schemes currently open, and we are pressing for more support for those business types which have been overlooked so far.

### **Garden Waste**

By the time you read this, garden waste collections should have resumed. We had to delay the restart of the service as many of our bin crews were off sick or are having to self-isolate due to COVID-19. We will continue to provide a weekly update on our [website](#), or I can personally recommend the council's 'Binzone' app for updates.

### **Flood warnings**

With sustained heavy rainfall, it won't have escaped your notice we have had very high river levels and flooding across the area. [www.oxfordshirefloodtoolkit.com](http://www.oxfordshirefloodtoolkit.com) is the best place to look for more information on flood response

### **Motion at Council**

I proposed a motion to council last week which passed unanimously, for the Council to declare an ecological emergency. The motion had a whole raft of actions that the council will now take in relation to this, including creating a Local Nature Partnership for Oxfordshire with other groups and councils, and to work on developing nature recovery networks and a Nature Recovery Strategy for Oxfordshire.

As ever, please contact me for help with any District matters:

[Sam.Casey-Rerhaye@southoxon.gov.uk](mailto:Sam.Casey-Rerhaye@southoxon.gov.uk)

01235 799489

## **COVID-19 vaccination programme update – Kassam Stadium**

COVID-19 vaccinations began at the Kassam Stadium in Oxford on Monday 25 January.

The Kassam Stadium is one of 32 new NHS Vaccine Centres that will start delivering COVID vaccinations as the NHS continues to accelerate the biggest immunisation programme in its history.

The new vaccination centre will be operated by Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust. It is the first large-scale centre that Oxford Health is setting up as lead provider for public vaccination centres in Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Berkshire West.

The centre started by vaccinating priority frontline patient-facing staff. It then opened its doors to the public from Monday 1 February - by invitation only. People aged 75 and over should have been invited via the national booking system to make an appointment for their first vaccination. From 1 February the centre is operating seven days a week from 8am to 8pm.



# County Councillor's Report February 2021

## - Lorraine Lindsay-Gayle

### **COUNTY COUNCIL SETS ITS BUDGET IN DIFFICULT TIMES**

The council's annual net budget in 2020/21 is £474.6m. In 2021/22, taking into account all savings and investments, it is currently forecast to be £485m. This includes a proposed 1.99% rise in basic council tax, plus an extra 1% specifically for adult social care, making a total of 2.99%.

The impact of COVID-19 on council services has been profound. Many unforeseen pressures have had to be managed, while the majority of council employees and all 63 Councillors have been working from home since March 2020. Fortunately, the government has been able to reimburse councils for most of the extra costs they have incurred. But in addition, Oxfordshire took the precautionary step of agreeing an emergency budget last September, taking savings to ensure we could produce a balanced budget for 2021-2022.

### **Frontline services have been protected, and new investments planned.**

The council's Cabinet met on 19 January and formally proposed the budget ahead of the annual meeting of all 63 county councillors on 9 February when the budget will be agreed and set.

Next year and beyond, the council is committing to strengthening its approach towards climate action, an enhanced focus on addressing inequality, developing its youth offer and delivering its COVID-19 recovery strategy.

A total of £19.6m of savings are being proposed in total across all services. £14.6m of these savings were already planned and are centred on the transformation of services to make them more efficient while protecting the frontline.

The council is also dedicated to investing in services that will have positive long-term impact for local communities. The budget proposals reflect this with more than £25m of additional funding included. Some of this funding has been previously agreed but £9.5m of this is newly proposed for 2021/22 to help meet additional demands, including within adult social care.

### **New investments**

- A total of £1m long-term funding will be invested in expanding youth services in Oxfordshire. A study is due to report in the Spring on the needs of young people and how the wider partnership of the voluntary, community and public services can best provide support. An additional £500,000 of one-off accelerator funding will also be provided to develop sustainable long term approaches and help tackle the impacts of the pandemic on young people.
- An extra £4m will be added to the adult social care budget for 2021/22. This includes a total of £1.35m for managing risks such as provider sustainability.
- OCC has been part of a joint partnership to procure and manage services for single homeless people in Oxfordshire since it was formed in 2017. A further one-off contribution to the partnership of £500,000 was included in the budget, with £250,000 of this allocated for 2020/21 and the same in 2021/22. The council is proposing to continue the council's support for the partnership from 2022/23.
- An extra £400,000 is proposed for highway maintenance focused on additional resource for vegetation and drainage clearance plus supporting the roll out of a trial currently being undertaken enabling parish councils to implement 20mph schemes in their villages.
- An extra £330,000 will be invested into children's services on increasing early intervention services, increasing the skill base of children's social care workers and special educational needs related services.
- A total of £100,000 will be invested in issues linked to digital exclusion.
- A total of £81,000 will be invested in domestic violence services and £150,000 into apprenticeships.

### **Proposed savings**

- The council proposes to carry out more checks to make sure companies who have been granted permits to carry out roadworks finish on time. This will ensure that late finishers are fined (up to £10,000 per day). This should generate £225,000 in 2021/22.

- The council is carrying out a review of its winter service. This would save £100,000. This would not change the current network of roads treated and there would be no change for the winter of 2020/21.
- For adults with care support needs, the council intends to focus on maximising the use of existing contracted capacity and looking at creative ways to meet needs at a lower cost. This would be done while also helping residents to live as independently as possible. It is anticipated that it will be possible to save £1m (around 1 per cent of the total budget) in each of the adults with care and support needs and Better Care Fund pooled budgets in 2021/22.
- A £430,000 increase was planned in the waste management budget in 2021/22 due to the forecast rise in the number of homes in the county. It was expected this would lead to more waste. However, new homes have not been built at the predicted pace and this investment can be deferred beyond 2021/22.
- A set of projects are underway to focus on outcomes for children the county council cares for to improve the ability to meet their needs through local placements, particularly children with complex needs. This includes two projects – one looking at providing the right type of foster placements for children and the other looking at the provision of small residential homes (two to three beds). The aim is to be able to provide the placements within Oxfordshire wherever possible. This would save £1.02m.
- Funding was originally allocated for growth in demand for school transport, based on new build housing. However, housing hasn't been developed as quickly as anticipated. As such the council can save £700,000 in 2021/22.
- The county council will benefit from £1.66m of savings it has been able to make through the retendering of its insurance contract. This is based on an analysis of amounts that have been required in recent years.
- Based on activity in 2020/21 and looking forward to longer-lasting changed ways of working in 2021/22, the council estimates it will be able to save £750,000 on staff travel budgets and £100,000 on printing. This would be closely monitored throughout the year.
- The county council's property team will save £1.95m in 2021/22 rising to £3.3m in 2022/23. The focus in 2021/22 will be on joint working with Cherwell District Council to blend the two property teams and jointly find more efficient ways of working.

## **IMPROVING PICTURE BUT COVID IS STILL AT DANGEROUSLY HIGH LEVELS**

Residents are being reminded not to let their guard down as the levels of COVID-19 remain dangerously high in the county, despite a slightly improving picture.

While there has been a decline in rates throughout Oxfordshire, they are still much higher than they were in December and hospitals remain under tremendous pressure.

For the week ending 22 January, there were 294.7 cases per 100,000 people in Oxfordshire compared to 399.5 the week before. However, this is still more than three times higher than the figure of 83.7 per 100,000 on 4 December. Case rates in the over 60s remain of particular concern.

The vaccination programme continues to make excellent progress in Oxfordshire, and we are on track on schedule to achieve the government target of the top four priority groups being vaccinated by mid-February.

Testing is another valuable tool in our fight against the virus and work is now ongoing to introduce community testing in early February for select key workers in the county.

As we approach 12 months of restrictions, it's really important that we do not give up now. Everyone is doing so well, but we need to continue to do our bit so that together we can stop the spread. The rapid transmission of the highly infectious new variant of COVID-19, plus the risks of other variants, makes it even more vital that we don't relax now – we could end up back at square one, very quickly, if we do.

Please, keep going.

## Cases in Oxfordshire

With the total number of cases in Oxfordshire standing at 294.7 per 100,000 of the population, the number of cases per district is listed below.

Cherwell 367.4 per 100,000

Oxford 392.2 per 100,000

South Oxfordshire 261.2 per 100,000

Vale of White Horse 247.8 per 100,000

West Oxfordshire 161.8 per 100,000

## **Winter Support Grants available to help people hit financially by pandemic**

Financial help is still available for people struggling to feed their families or heat their homes this winter as a result of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Oxfordshire County Council, in partnership with the county's district councils and Citizens Advice services, is offering support to vulnerable residents through a **Winter Support Grant**. Oxfordshire was awarded **£400,000** by the government in December to fund the cost of food, electricity, heating and other essential items, and the financial help is available for households to claim by 31 March, 2021.

### **What help is available**

Households with children can claim up to £350, while those without children can receive up to £175. The support teams provide the funding through supermarket vouchers, cover costs for pre-payment meters, or make sure that a heating or water bill is paid. If a resident has received a food voucher from a previous scheme, they may also be eligible to have one from the Winter Support Grant.

## **My Councillor's Priority Fund**

I have been able to support a whole range of community activities and projects during the last year. My fund is now fully committed until April 2021. As the Cabinet Member for Education, I was very pleased to fund eight laptops for local children who need to be able to keep up with their online tuition.

You can contact me on [lorraine.lindsay-gale@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:lorraine.lindsay-gale@oxfordshire.gov.uk) or telephone 01865 858976, mobile 07872 592666.

## **Other News**

### **Bee Friendly Gardening Tips**

There are lots of ways that you can make your garden friendly for wildlife.

Roselle Chapman from Wild Oxfordshire shares some of her top tips

### **Gardening for bees and other pollinators**

#### **Bee facts**

250 species of bees in the UK

224 wild solitary bees

25 wild bumble bees

One domesticated honey bee



## Trees you can plant this winter to help pollinators

Male grey willow (sallow) *Salix cinerea*

Goat willow *Salix caprea*

Small-leaved lime *Tilia cordata*

Service trees: *Sorbus torminalis*, *Sorbus domestica*

Apple *Malus* sp - any, fruit bearing, or ornamental

Cherry Plum - *Prunus cerasifera*

Wild Hawthorn - *Crataegus monogyna/laevigata*



## Gardening tips

Leave the dead plant stems over winter. Hollow stems may be used by bees for overwintering.

Provide flowers throughout the year – some bees emerge as early as February.

Buy organic to ensure bulbs and plants haven't been treated with neonicotinoids.

Have a flowering lawn.

Provide a source of water for bees.

Leave a patch of bare earth – mason bees gather mud to build egg cells.

Include a variety flower shapes – different species have different tongue lengths.

More information can be found: <https://www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk/communities/resources/>

## Bee-Friendly Garden Plants



These bee friendly herbaceous perennial plants have been carefully selected to supply nectar and pollen to bumblebees and other pollinating insects throughout their flying season. The plants are perennial so should come back year after year with very little maintenance. They are fairly resilient but will need watering and weeding to keep them productive and looking their best.

If you would like more information on planting and habitat management for wildlife please visit our website [www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk/communityresources](http://www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk/communityresources) or contact [roselle@wildoxfordshire.org.uk](mailto:roselle@wildoxfordshire.org.uk).



### Helleborus orientalis

Cut down to ground in Jan or Feb as this will show off the new emerging flowers and reduce foliar diseases. Dies back to below ground level each year in autumn, then fresh new growth appears again in spring.



### Pulmonaria 'Diana Clare'

Remove old leaves after flowering.



### Aquilegia vulgaris

Will self seed. Cut back flower stalk after flowering cut back leaves when they start to decompose.



### Allium hollandicum 'Purple Sensation'

Dies back to below ground level each year in autumn, fresh new growth appears in spring. Clear the leaves from the bed once they start to decompose. Split and divide large clumps in autumn or spring.



### Geranium maculatum 'Ing. Var.'

Prune after flowering; remove flowered stems and old leaves to encourage the production of fresh leaves and flowers.



### Rosmarinus 'Arp'

Can become straggly if left unpruned. Prune after the first main flush of flowers. Regular picking of the tips of the branches for cooking helps keep the plant bushy and compact. Avoid hard pruning into old wood.



### Rosmarinus 'Miss Jessop's Variety'

To ensure a plentiful supply of young, succulent, leaves, nip the leaves regularly.



### Geranium phaeum

In midsummer rejuvenate plants that are beginning to look jaded, by removing old flowered stems and leaves. Lift and divide large colonies in spring.



### Digitalis purpurea

This perennial dies back to below ground level each year in autumn, then fresh new growth appears again in spring. Will self seed so if you don't, wait it more foliage cut down flower stalk after flowering.



### Hebe rakaiensis

Needs minimal pruning. Remove misplaced or frost damaged branches in late spring.



### Nepeta x faassenii 'Walker's Low'

When clipped back after the first flush in June, it flowers through to early autumn. Dies back to below ground level each year in autumn, then fresh new growth appears again in spring.



### Hyssopus officinalis

This herb is semi evergreen, so it can lose some of its leaves in winter. In more exposed gardens, it may lose them all, but then fresh new foliage appears again in spring. Lift and divide congested colonies in spring.



### Origanum vulgare

This herb dies back to below ground level each year in autumn, then fresh new growth appears again in spring. Cut back old faded flower heads and stems in spring.



### Stachys byzantina

This perennial dies back to below ground level each year in autumn, then fresh new growth appears again in spring. Avoid excessive winter wet and lift and divide large clumps in early spring.



### Nepeta x faassenii 'Persian Blue'

Cut back after flowering to keep the plant compact. Dies back to below ground level each year in autumn, then fresh new growth appears again in spring. Lift and divide large clumps in spring, replanting or dividing specimens with lots of well rotted organic matter. If powdery mildew becomes a problem prune out the affected areas.



### Salvia nemorosa 'Pink Friesland'

To prolong flowering, remove the flower spikes as soon they start to fade. This perennial dies back to below ground level each year in autumn, then fresh new growth appears again in spring. Apply a generous 5-7cm (2-3in) mulch of well rotted garden compost or manure around the base of the plant in spring.



### Salvia nemorosa 'Caradonna'

See *Salvia nemorosa* 'Pink Friesland'.



### Calamintha nepeta

Cut back in autumn.



### Echinops sphaerocephalus 'Arctic Glow'

Cut down to the ground after flowering to encourage a second flush of flowers. Lift and divide congested colonies in autumn or spring.



### Sedum spectabile 'Autumn Joy'

The dried flowerheads look great left during the winter. In February and March cut back the old flowerheads and apply a generous 5-7cm (2-3in) mulch of well-rotted garden compost or manure around the base of the plant.

### **Pet flea treatment endangers water insects**

It is also now being recognised that the nerve agent in pet flea treatment called fipronil exists at very harmful levels in our rivers, threatening water insects and the birds and fish higher up the food chain that depend on them.

The washing of pets was already known to flush fipronil into sewers and then rivers, while dogs swimming in rivers causes direct contamination. "It has to be the flea treatments causing the pollution," Goulson said. "Really, there's no other conceivable source."

There are many veterinary products containing fipronil and imidacloprid in the UK, many of which are sold without prescriptions. Many pets are treated monthly, whether they have fleas or not.

One of the worst cases is from Dec 2018 – Jan 2019 when half a million bees in Brazil were killed by fipronil that was used to control ants and termites on soy crops.

So please talk to your vet about limiting flea treatment of your pets.



25% across Britain since 1980, particularly among specialist species (Powney et al., 2019).

Farmers do need to protect their crops from insects. But researchers like Professor David Goulson from the University of Sussex believe that less harmful chemicals will not be developed as long as growers are allowed to use pesticides like neonicotinoids in an emergency and the big pharma companies that make them, like Bayer and Syngenta, continue to take powerful legal action against the bans on neonicotinoids.

In 2018 Goulson and Friends of the Earth launched the Great British Bee Count and there was much media coverage of the issue of neonicotinoids. David also analysed the pesticide levels in plants on sale in garden centres and shops that revealed many plants being marketed as 'bee-friendly' were in fact laced with pesticides harmful to bees.

In response to media coverage, B&Q and other retailers announced that they were prohibiting their suppliers from using neonicotinoids. But other pesticides that are very harmful to pollinators are still legal. So the problem still exists.

### **How to avoid bringing pesticides into your garden**

Be careful who you buy from. There are plenty of organic bulb and plant suppliers to choose from. The initial investment might be a little bit more expensive, but you could save money by swapping plants with friends, propagating cuttings from plants like cranesbill geraniums and lungwort, lavender and rosemary or growing from seed. In 2018, UK bulb retailer Peter Nyssen decided to source all their spring-flowering bulbs from growers who don't use from neonics so that their customer's spring flowers will be genuinely bee friendly.

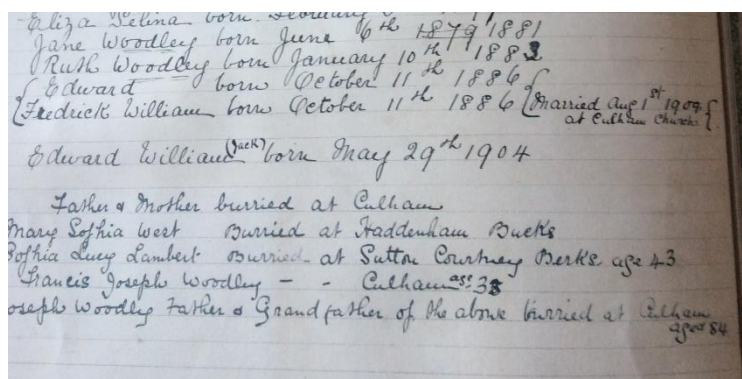
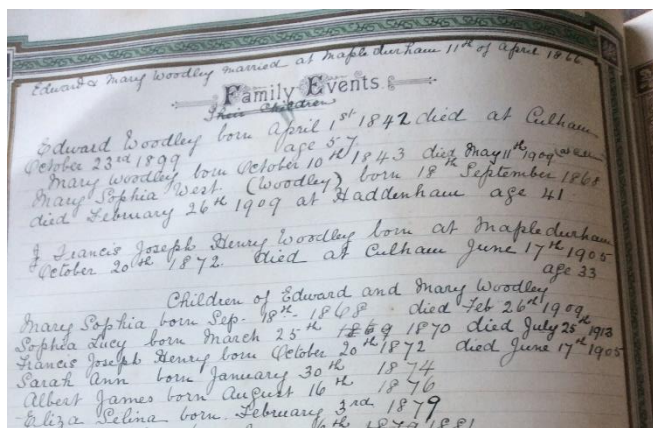
Also make sure that everything has been grown in peat-free compost because peat acts as a carbon store, it's a great habitat for wildlife, it has a role in water management, and preserves things well for archaeology.

## Quest to find relatives – Woodley/West/Lambert

I have had in my possession for many years a rather old and tatty (missing its front cover) bible which has a few pages containing family history relating to the above named families who have links to Mapledurham, **Culham** and Sutton Courtenay. I would love to pass on the bible to a relative of any of those listed and hence I was wondering if you might have any knowledge to assist me in this quest. The bible is rather large, heavy and fragile and so I am hoping to find a relative who lives locally so that I can pass it on to. I have put out an appeal to Sutton Courtenay to no avail and I am unable to find any Mapledurham contacts.

*Editor note: The extract pictured mentions Edward and Mary Woodley (born 1842 and 1843 respectively) and 10 children born between 1868 and 1886. Also Edward William (Jack) born 1904. Also Francis Joseph Woodley (age3) Culham*

Clare Wadley [CWadley@agamatrix.com](mailto:CWadley@agamatrix.com)



## 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.

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

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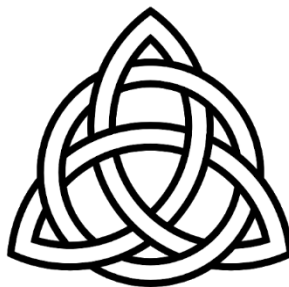
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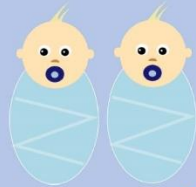
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