The Mouthpiece

Culham's Newsletter

June 2021



Dates for your Diary

Saturday 5th June 2021 1pm – 4pm Plant Sale & Church Fete on The Green Sunday 6th June 2021 at 11.45am Annual Parochial Church Meeting in St. Paul's Church Tuesday 8th June 2021 at 7.30pm. Parish Council Meeting Online - please contact for details: <u>s.caseyrerhaye@culham-pc.gov.uk</u>

Sunday 27th June 2021 at 11.45am The Friends of St Paul's AGM in St Paul's Church

From the Dorchester Abbey Team

From Revd Paul Wignall and the Dorchester Abbey Team



Talking point for June

As I write this for the June magazines there is a song, 'June is bustin out all over' from the Rogers and Hammerstein musical Carousel, which I cannot get out of my head. Only the first line of course so I thought I would check out the rest of the lyrics and remind myself of the story of Carousel since it is many years since I saw the film. It is a love story set on the Maine coastline but one that is far from straight forward as you would imagine. The optimism and joy expressed in the song celebrates the month of June because it is spring, winter has passed and love is in the air. Billy, a carousel barker and Julie, a local millworker, fall in love amidst much disapproval and she becomes pregnant. But tragedy strikes when Billy falls on his knife and dies after a failed robbery attempt. Julie's cousin, Nettie then sings another very well-known song "You'll Never Walk Alone" to comfort her in her grief. This song is reprised in the final scene to encourage a graduation class of which Louise (Billy and Julie's daughter) is a member. The now invisible Billy, who has been granted the chance to return to Earth for one day in order to redeem himself, watches the ceremony and is able to silently motivate the unhappy Louise to join in the song. Prejudice is redeemed with acceptance. Mistakes forgiven. Walking on with hope in our hearts.

Towards the end of June the church remembers St Peter who is the dedication Saint for Marsh Baldon and Little Wittenham churches as well as for Dorchester Abbey (with St Paul). St Peter was the disciple of Jesus who we know often failed. When Jesus' was arrested, he denied knowing his friend. However, after his resurrection, Jesus gave Peter the chance to redeem himself. "Master" Peter says "you know everything! You know I love you" Jesus then gives Peter the job to care for and lead his followers. The Christian Church is born and today we still remember Peter's role in the early Church, even though he still didn't always get things right. A frail human like us all.

The joyous celebration of June bustin' out all over to the reassurance of the final song 'You'll never walk alone' echoes the story of all our lives. We know things will not go right all of the time but we can celebrate the joyful times and know that, because of his promises, with Jesus we will never walk alone, whatever storms come our way.

Events in the Abbey

Sat 5th June 6pm and 8pm Violin and Voices <u>. Pre-booking essential</u>. Tickets £5 to £15 <u>www.osj.org.uk</u> OSJ Oxford Voices will perform some of English choral music's greatest works, from Tallis to renowned film composer Harry Escott, alongside a choral arrangement of Vaughan Williams' sublime Lark Ascending with international violinist Johanna Roehrig.

National Garden Scheme Open Day Sunday 4th July 2021 2pm to 5pm

Three gardens in Dorchester – 26 Manor Farm Road, 6 Monks Close and 7 Rotten Row – will be open for the National Garden Scheme on the 4th July 2021.

Village News

Village website: www.culhamvillage.org.uk

St Paul's Church

For up to date St Paul's Church information and activities please see the St Pauls and Culham Village facebook page for details: <u>https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsandculhamvillage</u>



Fete Raffle / Tombola

If anybody would like to donate to the raffle / tombola please contact Jude Owen or leave item/s in the church porch.

Culham Parish Council (CPC) notes – April and May 2021

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

Culham Parish Council (CPC) notes - Apr 2021.

Held online.

The report form our SODC councillor appears elsewhere in the Mouthpiece and should be on the CPC website.

A change is being considered regarding the CPC website host/provider. The provision of the Clerk's work mobile phone is still being considered.

Neighbourhood Plan – The organisers are considering the internal organisation of the various projects – who does what etc. It is planned to hold fortnightly meetings to oversee progress. Thirty survey results have been received and will be collated.

After a meeting with Jon Beale of Highways, it is proposed to have three white, village 'highway gates' installed. These will be on the Burycroft, at the 30mph sign, on the road from Sutton Courtenay on the lock side, and on Tollgate Road from the Waggon and Horses, just before the first property. There is a 25% grant available from Highways, but the full cost has yet to be discussed at Council.

A solar powered mobile speed camera has been proposed for use in the village. Three posts will be permanently installed on Tollgate Road, High Street and Burycroft, allowing the camera to be moved easily between sites. This will be subject to a pre-installation survey.

The lock car park bins are being cleared. The fencing alongside the road will be repaired and the hedging will be tidied up.

The Annual Council Meeting will be held earlier than usual due to the Covid restrictions. It will be on Wednesday 05 May 2021. From 07 May 2021, Parish Council meetings are expected to be held 'face to face' as before the lockdown of 2020.

The internal audit arrangements for the CPC have been agreed.

CPC will forward a complaint about there being no consultation regarding the use of Clifton Hampden village hall for the May 2021 elections. CPC would have preferred Abingdon Cricket Club, for example.

CPC will object to the two multi story car parks being proposed for the entrance to the Culham Science Centre site.

A request for assistance

If there is anyone in the village with website experience who is willing to assist the PC in updating its site, please contact the Clerk or any Councilor.

Next meeting

Wednesday 05 May 2021 – Annual Council Meeting (see below)

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.

Annual Council Meeting

The Annual Council Meeting was held on 05 May 2021, online. The meeting was predominantly to agree

CPC procedures. Sam Casey-Rerhaye was elected as Chair.

Next meeting

Tuesday 8th June 2021 at 7.30pm.

This will be an online meeting.

UPDATE FROM SAVE CULHAM GREEN BELT

Bioabundance is taking its case to the Court of Appeal!

The struggle to overturn SODC's Local Plan continues. Sue Roberts, Chair of Bioabundance says: "This plan is to build four times more homes than can even be filled, according to current trends. Government is selling off the land under our feet to create economic growth in our area. We would have to suck people out of areas where economic recovery is desperately needed, just to fill these homes."

At the High Court on 29th April, Bioabundance was refused permission to take their case to a 'substantive' hearing. Bioabundance's grounds for challenge are that the inspector did not take climate change properly into account; and that councillors were forced to adopt the plan against their better judgement.

Ian Ashley, (Bioabundance Director), says: "High Court judges could not see the legal strength of our arguments. We are going to the Court of Appeal to ask: 'Could you mark their work please? They could be wrong.'"

Andrew Nicolson (Bioabundance Member) says: "Our point of law has not been fairly heard and so we go to the Court of Appeal because there should be justice. The adoption of the plan and the interpretation of climate law by the inspector, are both legally wrong."

This final recourse in the courts will not be open to citizens in the future, as the government seeks to end the right to judicial review.

The Local Plan was put together by a Conservative District Council in 2018. In May 2019, the Greens and Libdems took control of the council; they were voted in to scrap the plan. But Robert Jenrick, Secretary of State for Housing forced the Council to take it through to adoption.

Melanie Mousley-Jones says: "I am gobsmacked by the machinations behind the scenes that are jeopardising the things we love. We need the right homes in the right places, not this plan that will devastate the countryside. How can we communicate the extent of havoc this development will wreak? As Joni Mitchell sang: 'You don't know what you've got till it's gone.'"

Sue says: "Development is supposed to 'contribute to radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions' (National Policy Planning Framework, 2018 para 148). If you were to build one single home that is not zero-carbon, then you are doing the opposite. South Oxfordshire is to build 32,000".

Bioabundance now has over 70 individual members and parish councils. The Oxford Colleges, Christ Church and Magdalen; as well as Thames Water and Oxford City Council have all joined the action against Bioabundance.

Sue says "This is a David and Goliath struggle between us, the people, and the forces of exceptional wealth. **If you are connected to these colleges, please remind them that their aim is for social good, not to destroy our future**. They have a responsibility as custodians of our land, to bring back a safe natural world and help us to reach zero-carbon. Please join us too, at www.biobundance.org.uk".

Ian Ashley says: "We are confident that the majority of people in Oxfordshire do not want this level of growth. Several Concreting Councillors were thrown out at the elections on 6 May – Greens and Libdems have made great gains on the County Council. People are voting for a safe future. Let us not see the heavy-hand of government overturn local democracy again". For those reading this online, following the press release sent out by solicitors Leigh Day the following reports have been published:

14/5/21 : <u>https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/19304088.bioabundance-wants-take-south-oxfordshire-local-plan-court-appeal/</u> 16/5/21: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-oxfordshire-57127576

Village Grass Verges Cutting

There are 3 cuts per year and the first is as late as possible to allow flowers to set seed - as long as the pathways are clear. If pathways become blocked, the verges will be cut earlier.

Normally the first cut would be around the end of May so very soon.

You will have started to see the benefit of leaving it until the end of May with the increase in the number and variety of flowers on the verges this year.

The subsequent 2 cuts will be as needed depending on the date of first cut and the weather, and are anticipated to be mid-July and end of August.

Vermin

A seasonal reminder to limit bird food put out on tables etc. so as not to encourage rats or indeed squirrels!

There seems to be bigger problem than usual in some areas of the village. The high level of the river may be a contributing factor.

If it is possible to put food waste out on the morning of collection that would be a help too, although this may not be practical for everybody.



District Councillor's Report June 2021

- Sam Casey-Rerhaye

Planning Enforcement Team

This team has been expanded in recent months, in recognition of the backlog of cases that it has had for a few years. Of course the pandemic also had an impact as staff were not allowed to go out as much as they would normally, but we have decided that a review of this function is needed so that it can tackle all the cases and ensure this vitally important service works more efficiently and effectively.

Master-planning for the strategic sites in the Local Plan

We are creating a team to work on these. We managed to obtain a condition from the Inspector in the Local Plan that communities will be involved in the master-planning and specified officers are needed to coordinate this.

Town and Parish Forums

We have held 2 recently on specific themes, in line with feedback from previous ones. We held a briefing on ACVs- Assets of Community Value and the law around these. Case law has ensured that making local assets (pubs for example) ACVs is more difficult, but it is still something that local parishes and towns can do – it is a mechanism for protecting assets for a period while the community can organise a plan and finance to purchase them, if the owner agrees to sell to them.

On 27th May we held a longer Forum on climate and nature work. I am writing this before it has taken place but I am very excited about it – we have the Earth Trust and Wild Oxfordshire coming, we have a packed agenda with break out 'rooms' for discussion and we are hoping it will lead to mutual learning and shared projects.

Garden Waste

This has been closed for new households to join, but plans are in place to re-open this, probably at the beginning of June. This is one of the services that has been affected by staffing shortages as a result of Covid.

Environmental Health

This team is extremely busy working with businesses on the 'roadmap' to opening up restaurants and other food and drink outlets, providing support and making compliance visits.

Covid support

The Hub is still working, distributing grants, offering support and giving guidance. Business grants are still being distributed and help with local track and trace and support to those who are reluctant to have the vaccine – so all still busy.

Cllr Sam Casey-Rerhaye - as ever please contact me for any queries on District matters:

Sam.casey-rerhaye@southoxon.gov.uk

01235 799489

Other News

Tennis





general running of the club.

If you'd like to join the team or find out more, email us at info@chbtc.co.uk



June 2nd – afternoon (1 hr sessions for kids 6-9), (1 hr for kids 10-13) Cost £7 per session

Coaching Sessions – Fridays after school in June

Fridays – 4.30-6.30pm (1 hr sessions - kids 6-9 & separately 10-13) Cost £7 per session

To sign up, ask any questions or find out more, email Simon direct on thirty15@live.co.uk



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Humbling, rewarding, and satisfying. Oxfordshire County Council are looking for Shared Lives Carers could it be you? Could you give someone the opportunity to live the fullest life they can live in a paid, home based role?

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/sharedlivescarers #SharedLives

Would you like to help people's lives become richer because of the skills you've helped them develop? Become a Shared Lives Carer for Oxfordshire County Council and made a big difference to someone's life, in a paid, home based role

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/sharedlivescarers #SharedLives



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 July / August issue of the Mouthpiece by June 15th to: <u>generalmouthpiece@gmail.com</u>

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Local Services Directory

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