The Mouthpiece

Culham's Newsletter

July/August 2021



Dates for your Diary

Sun 4 July	11am	Holy Communion	St Paul's Church
Sun 11 July	11am	Messy Church	St Paul's Church
Sun 18 July	11am	Holy Communion	St Paul's Church
Sun 25 July	11am	Holy Communion	St Paul's Church
Sun 1 August	11am	Family Holy Communion	St Paul's Church
Sat 7 August	11am til late	Culham Festival	The Green
Sun 8 August	11am	Messy Church	St Paul's Church
Sun 15 August	11am	Holy Communion	St Paul's Church
Sun 22 August	11am	Holy Communion	St Paul's Church

From Rev. Paul Wignall and the Dorchester Abbey Team Talking point

"We're all going on a summer holiday" sang Cliff Richard, but for many of us going on a summer holiday is a difficult decision to make. July and August are traditionally holiday



months, summer days for rest and relaxation but like last year we are subject to covid restrictions and planning a holiday means negotiating bewildering traffic light travel systems and anxieties over new variants. As a nation we are re-discovering the joys of simpler holidays or 'staycations' as they are now called; camping shops are sold out of tents, B&Bs are fully booked, and caravans cannot be bought for love nor money!

Rest and relaxation are vital for our health and well-being, especially within a culture of technology that offers 24/7 entertainment, news and social media on phones, tablets and computer screens. What we accept as vital to modern living has become a threat to our spiritual and mental health. So, the benefit of slowing down, taking some rest, and going on holiday is essential.

For millennia world faiths have recognised the benefits to spiritual wellbeing of meditation, prayer and keeping a day of rest. The theologian Walter Brueggemann defines the Sabbath as "the refusal to let one's life be defined by production and consumption and the endless pursuit of private wellbeing"; or to put it another way, the persistent accumulation of 'stuff' does not bring satisfaction whereas the service of others can bring us quiet joy. During the last months of the pandemic many of us have found this to be true, more and more people have volunteered during the pandemic and discovered the joys of creative or active pursuits for our leisure time rather than shopping!

Whatever your holiday plans are, I hope that you are able to enjoy some rest and relaxation this summer, and find renewal in simple pleasures and the service of others.

Services – further information from your vicars

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

Events in the Abbey

Sunday 4th July 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. We were not able to open in 2020 because of the pandemic, but it looks fairly certain we shall be able to open this year just as we did in 2017, '18 and '19.

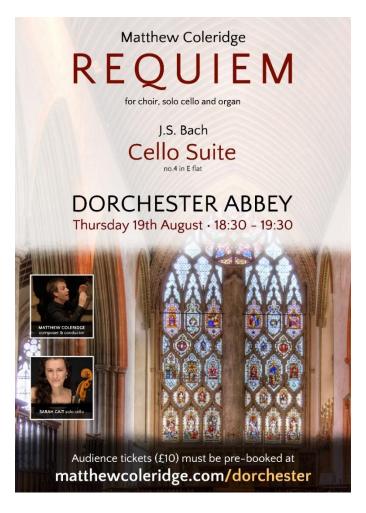
Thursday 22nd to Saturday 24th July "Toad, Mole, Ratty, Badger and their arch-rival Weasel are coming to the beautiful setting of Dorchester Abbey's Cloister Garden this July! DADS (Dorchester Amateur Dramatics Society) will be performing Philip Dart's enthralling adaptation of Kenneth Grahame's enduring classic, The Wind in the Willows from 22nd to 24th July. This play should delight audience members of all ages. Tickets, available from www.ticketsource.co.uk/dads are only £7 (£4 for those aged 4-12 years old).

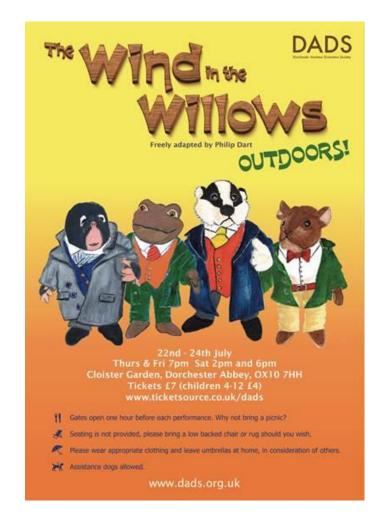
Performance times: Thursday 22nd and Friday 23rd July 7 pm, Saturday 24th July 2 pm and 6 pm **Sun 1**st **August** The Nasio Trust 20th anniversary starting with a thanksgiving service at 1030. At about 1200 we will all convene in the cloister garden, where there will be a bbq, bar, various stalls giving information about the work of Nasio in Kenya and entertainment. We are hoping the bishop of Mumias will join us via a live link during the service. This is a free event. https://www.thenasiotrust.org/

Thurs 19th August Mathew Coleridge Choral Workshop and Requiem_Choral singers are invited to join a socially-distanced 'Come and Sing' day at Dorchester Abbey on Thursday 19th August. Led by acclaimed composer and conductor Matthew Coleridge, the scratch choir will spend the day learning to sing Matthew's "exquisitely beautiful" *Requiem*, before giving a performance in the Abbey at 6:30pm. Award-winning cellist

Sarah Gait will also perform one of Bach's solo Cello Suites. Singers can register online at www.matthewcoleridge.com/dorchester.

Tickets £20 or £27 with score. Audience tickets (£10) will be strictly limited and must be booked advance via the same link.





Village News

Village website: www.culhamvillage.org.uk St Paul's Church



Messy Church - Sundays 11th July and 8th August at 11am



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SUBJECT TO GOVERNMENT GUIDELINES

7th AUGUST 2021 CULHAM VILLAGE GREEN 11AM-LATE

CAN YOU SPARE SOME TIME ON THE DAY TO HELP WITH THE RUNNING OF THE SHOW?

EG: HELP NEEDED SETTING UP / CLOSING DOWN / ON BAR/BBQ
MANNING BOUNCY CASTLE / TEA & CAKES / PARKING STEWARD

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR IF YOU WANT A STALL PLEASE CONTACT: TASHA OXLEY: tdi@talktalk.net • 07956 899405 KIT THOMAS: kitsonthomas@yahoo.co.uk • 07880 560403

SUBJECT TO GOVERNMENT GUIDELINES

Charlotte Storrs Stoneware



Pottery Garden Open Days 22 to 25 July by appointment Children welcome

www.charlottestorrs-stoneware.co.uk pots@charlottestorrs-stoneware.co.uk The Pottery, 8 The Green, Culham, OX14 4LZ



Culham Parish Council (CPC) notes – June 2021

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

This meeting was for the informal discussion of parish matters only and any decisions and confirmation of actions arising from this meeting will be on the agenda of the Extraordinary Meeting held at the end of June.

Our new SODC councilor is Robin Bennet, Green Party member. He is Cabinet member for economic development and regeneration, and deputy leader during various months. He also sits on the Planning and Regulation committee of Oxfordshire County Council.

There will be a draft Neighbourhood Plan report available in the next couple of months and will be available for the village fete in August. Fifty replies have been received from the 180 sent out.

An application to OCC Highways will be made to cover part of the cost of the proposed gates into the village.

SODC are due to replace or repair the broken fencing in the lock car park and supply 1-2 more waste bins. CPC will request that white lined parking bays are not included in the upgrade.

The Clerk has written to the footpath officer concerning the public footpath signage on the donkey bridge to make clear the line of the public path.

A ten year extension to the playing field lease has been offered. CPC will ask for this to be 20 years.

A single 'large' tree is being considered for planting on the south side of Church Road, adjacent to the pond. This will be finalised for next seasons planting around November time.

CPC will set up a meeting with other local parish councils to discuss the HIF road (from Didcot to A415).

Next meeting

Tuesday 29 June 2021 at 18:30 – Extraordinary Meeting and Annual Parish Meeting Held in the Church.

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

Village website address:

The CPC website address:

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

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

District Councillor's Report June 2021 - Sam Casey-Rerhaye

Local Elections

The marathon set of Local elections was run safely in this area by SODC's Legal & Democratic team, with the vote count taking place over four days at Abingdon's White Horse Leisure Centre. The outcomes of the various polls are a new Police & Crime Commissioner, Matthew Barber (Conservative), and new group running Oxfordshire County Council, called the Oxfordshire Fair Deal Alliance, a partnership between the Liberal Democrat, Green and Labour groups. This is the first time in over 130 years that the Conservative group has found itself in opposition.

Several SODC Councillors from all parties are also OCC Councillors including Robin Bennett, elected as County Councillor for all the parishes in my SODC ward (except Long Wittenham, who have Cllr Pete Sudbury, reelected). I very much look forward to working collaboratively with the new County Council administration, with whom we clearly share many values and strategic priorities, and specifically with Robin in my ward. Robin is the leader of the green group on SODC so I have a close working relationship with him already.

New Appointments at SODC

SODC Council met in person for the first time since early 2020 on 20th May for its Annual Meeting. This was quite an odd set up, in person but on Teams too, with 2 Councillors unable to join in person so participating via Teams but unable to vote because of the legislative restrictions. The Council appointed a new Chair, Cllr Jo Robb, the first time that a Green Party councillor has chaired SODC, and we adopted 7 new Neighbourhood Plans. I was appointed as the SODC rep on the Police and Crime Commissioner Panel which holds that post holder to account for the agenda he has set out. I am also the Chair of the Climate & Ecological Emergencies Advisory Committee of the council, appointed last February, and now on the Council's Biodiversity Steering Group too.

New Climate Emergency Pages on SODC Website

I am delighted to tell you about the launch a new set of pages on the SODC website, designed to inform everyone about what the Council is doing and giving guidance and practical information on what individuals, communities and businesses can do to reduce carbon emissions and support/collaborate with the actions being taken by the Council and other authorities. These pages will also be used to report on the progress being made within the Council and within the District to achieve our carbon zero targets set out in our Corporate Plan (2025 within the Council's own operations, 2030 across the District).

https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/south-oxfordshire-district-council/about-the-council/tackling-the-climate-emergency/

All feedback on the new web pages will be highly appreciated.

Town & Parish Forums

The Climate and Ecological Emergencies was the main topic of the Town & Parish Council Forum, which took place on 27th May. The meeting was recorded, so anyone who was not able to attend can watch the presentations. We had 20+ councillors attend from all over the District, and I found it really useful to hear feedback on our climate action plan and inspiring to hear ideas on how we can work collaboratively to make progress.

We are planning to hold Town & Parish Council Forums regularly, potentially as frequently as once a month, with each one focusing on a different topic. Hopefully this will also help Parish Councils to work collaboratively on issues of common concern – such as motorbike noise and speed nuisance along the A4074.

Waste Collections

Due to ongoing issues with recruiting HGV drivers, some waste collections might be later than normal. This is a national problem because Covid prevented new HGV tests taking place and there is also more demand for HGV drivers with home deliveries increasing. As a result, Biffa have a shortage of qualified drivers at the moment.

Riverside Pool Reopening on May Bank Holiday

SODC's leisure operator, Better, will be opening the outdoor pool on Monday 31st May in line with their normal opening schedule. In future you will have to book a session via the Better App or their website, and there will be a one-way system in operation in the changing area. The Splash Park is due to open in June when all restrictions will hopefully be lifted, although this decision will be guided by government directions. For the Abingdon pool, which is in the Vale District area, please check out the website here: Abbey Meadows Outdoor Pool (abingdonoutdoorpool.org.uk)

Performance Management at SODC

As part of this Council's commitment one of the themes in our Corporate Plan, Openness and Transparency, we will be launching a new Performance Management Framework shortly, which will ensure that progress towards achieving the objectives set out in our Corporate Plan is monitored, measured and reported to all interested audiences. Quarterly performance reports will be published on the SODC website and this will be a good way for local residents and businesses to hold the Council to account for how it spends public money and how it responds to the needs of the local community. An interim performance report to be published shortly reveals how much has already been achieved since the new Corporate Plan was adopted in October 2020, despite the challenges and restrictions caused by the coronavirus situation.

The Cornerstone

The arts centre café opened on 21st June! The Council-owned arts centre in Didcot has been closed to the public since March 2020 and has been used as a centre for the Covid hub activities for some of that time. The café will open first and then the rest of it is planned to open in September. We have launched a survey to get people's views on what kind of events they would like to see at the centre: https://survey.southandvale.gov.uk/s/CornerstoneArtsCentreSurvey

Any queries on District matters, please contact me on 01235 799489 or email sam.casey-rerhaye@southoxon.gov.uk



Do You Enjoy Playing Cribbage?

The team based at The Railway at Culham is looking for new members before we start playing again after the long break due to Covid. We usually play



on a Monday evening in the summer and a Wednesday evening in the winter. We are in the Abingdon Cribbage League which means we play at different pubs every other week. If you would like to join us or would like to known more, please contact me, Melanie Jefferies on either itsmelaniej@gmail.com or 01235 847361.



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Other News

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The Abbey Cinema

Book film tickets for screenings

Look out for the latest new films, some classics, comedies, films for the kids, the natural world and its marvels on the big screen is amazing. www.theabbey.ac

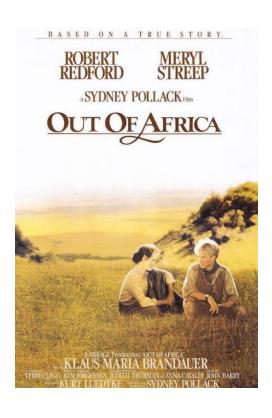
Classic films on offer in July:

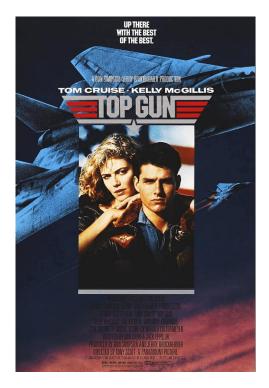
Saturday 10th July 7pm **Top Gun**

Saturday 17th July 7pm Out of Africa

(No listings in August)

The cinema team also take bookings for rooms at Guildhall for your own event or meetings.







Nuclear fusion plant backed by Jeff Bezos to be built in Oxfordshire

Extract from The Oxford Mail – by David Lynch

AN ENERGY company backed by Amazon boss Jeff Bezos will set up a plant in Oxfordshire to demonstrate a new kind of nuclear technology.

General Fusion, a Canadian Company, has announced it will move to the Culham Science Centre, which is the centre of nuclear fusion research in the UK.

The Canadian firm hopes to host its patented technology at the new Fusion Demonstration Plant, abbreviated as the FDP.

The company has been backed by Amazon founder and CEO Jeff Bezos for more than a decade and raised more than £100m in a recent round of investment.

At the plant, General Fusion will test its Magnetised Target Fusion technology, which involves injecting a form of hydrogen into a cylinder surrounded by a wall of liquid metal.

The hydrogen, in the form of a super-hot gas called plasma, is then compressed so separate atoms fuse together, creating a huge amount of heat.

This heat is then used to boil water, make steam and spin a turbine to generate electricity.

Fusion technology has long been a goal of researchers, and General Fusion says its technology largely exists already, whereas this is not the case for other firms based at Culham.

"Coming to Culham gives us the opportunity to benefit from UKAEA's expertise," said Christofer Mowry, CEO, General Fusion.

He added: "By locating at this campus, General Fusion expands our market presence beyond North America into Europe, broadening our global network of government, institutional, and industrial partners. This is incredibly exciting news for not only General Fusion, but also the global effort to develop practical fusion energy."

It is understood funding from the UK Government has helped to convince General Fusion to local the demonstration plant at Culham.

It is hoped the FDP will show the company's technology can create fusion conditions in a 'practical and costeffective manner at power plant relevant scales', which could then be used to make commercial fusion power plants.

Amanda Solloway, science minister for the UK Government said: "This new plant by General Fusion is a huge boost for our plans to develop a fusion industry in the UK, and I'm thrilled that Culham will be home to such a cutting-edge and potentially transformative project. Fusion energy has great potential as a source of limitless, low-carbon energy, and today's announcement is a clear vote of confidence in the region and the UK's status as a global science superpower."

Zero Waste – Are you trying to reduce packaging on purchases?



If you are here are some local alternatives for some of your shopping!

Bee Zero – 26 High Street, Wallingford has a wide range of food stuffs including teas, coffee, dry goods, spices and baking goods. Bee Zero has a range of household cleaning products as well as beauty and personal care. Find them on FaceBook for more details.

Sea Change Zero Waste (sister shop to Bee Zero) – 20 Faringdon Road, Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor has more eco-friendly zero waste goods.

Just Trading – 17, St Mary's Street, Wallingford has a wide range of household cleaning refills and personal care products for refills alongside their fair trade, organic and eco-friendly range

Waitrose – Abingdon and Wallingford stores have the unpacked section for some dry goods and Ecover refills Abingdon Market (Monday 8am to 3pm) – look for the zero waste stall!

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 September issue of the Mouthpiece by August 15th to: generalmouthpiece@gmail.com

Anne Churchill Stone Editing Jul/Aug, Oct, Dec/Jan, Mar issues	21 High Street Culham
Gordon & Joan Gibbs Editing Jun, Sep, Nov, Feb, Apr issues	32 High Street, Culham

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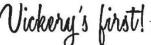


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Need a babysitter?

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I am trustworthy, reliable and responsible.

I am available for work in Culham.

Email:tburchall@icloud.com Phone:07551 733087

WHO IS WHO IN CULHAM?

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