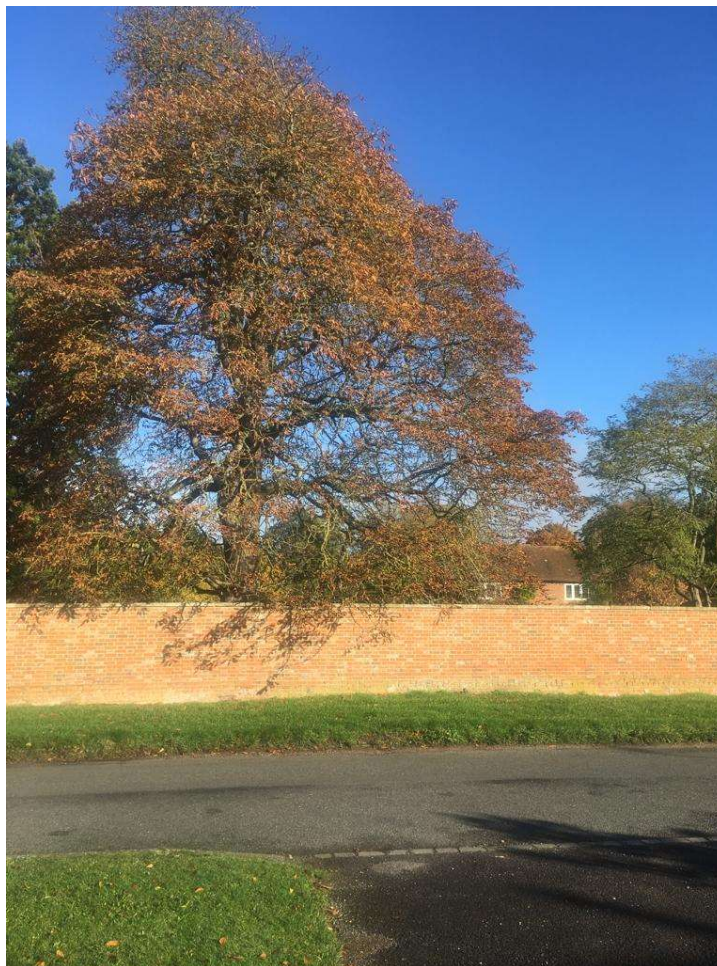


The Mouthpiece

Culham's Newsletter

November 2021



Dates for your Diary

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| Sunday 7 th November | 11.00am | Family Holy Communion | St Paul's Church |
| Tuesday 9 th November | 7.30pm | Parish Council Meeting | St Paul's Church |
| Sunday 14 th November | 4.00pm | Remembrance Service | St Paul's Church |
| Tuesday 16 th November | 7.30pm | Sutton Courtenay W.I. | River Room, Sutton Courtenay |
| Sunday 21 st November | 11.00am | Messy Church | St Paul's Church |

From Rev. Paul Wignall and the Dorchester Abbey Team

Talking point



Blessed are the peacemakers

This year Remembrance Sunday will be on 14th November and there will be special services and gatherings in our churches and at village War Memorials please see the magazine details and village noticeboards/electronic communications for details for each community. Hopefully we will be able to gather in ways not possible last year, this will bring an extra poignancy to our commemorations, as we also recall the sacrifices made by so many who worked selflessly throughout the pandemic and who continue to do so as the pandemic continues to affect our lives.

Each year on Remembrance Sunday I am struck by the number names read out of those who lost their lives in war, particularly the losses borne in the First World War and comparative to the small size of many of our communities. Their loss and the effect it had on our villages was immense. I imagine them as fit young men, who had parents, families and partners at home.

It is right that we gather together as communities to pay our respects because Remembrance Day is not just a private occasion it is a time when we can meet together as a community and bring our remembering, prayers and reflections into the present. Remembering is a very important part of our Christian faith and of our own lives. At the heart of the Eucharist, we remember Jesus last supper with the disciples and bring that event into our presence, so that Jesus is present amongst us in a very special way.

I believe that the gift of memories is an important part of our God given nature, when memory is taken away as it cruelly is in diseases such as Alzheimer's we rightly mourn its loss. To be able to spend even a few moments remembering a special event is a special gift. At times such as Remembrance difficult memories and emotions can surface. As communities gathered, we can offer love and support to each other, and assure others that sacrifices for the greater good made are not forgotten, and that we continue to offer our thanksgiving.

Remembrance Day is never just about the past, it should also inform our present and our future. This November let us pray with thanksgiving for the lives of those people who have died in conflict. Let us also pledge ourselves to work towards peace between nations and in our homes and communities.

Jesus said, 'Blessed are the peacemakers'. And at this time of Remembrance, I like to recall these words of Jesus and see them both as honouring the memory of all those who have given their lives for our freedoms, but also holding before us an example of a life of loved lived fully in the service of peace.

Team Events

Services in the Abbey - Sun 28th November 10.30am Team Advent Service

Events in the Abbey

Sat 20th Nov 7pm OSJ Concert **Faure, Saint-Saens and Schubert** A lively evening of music perfect for warding off the winter chill! We present Schubert's romping Fifth Symphony alongside songs by Fauré and Saint-Saëns with star soloists Frazer Scott and Hannah Fraser Mackenzie. Tickets £15 to £20 from www.osj.org.uk

Sat 6th Nov 7.30pm **Rossini's *Petite Messe Solennelle*** conducted by Richard Laing. Tickets from £18 or £15 (reserved), £12 (unreserved) from www.bensonchoralsociety.org.uk or phone Stephanie 01865 407395

Village News

Village website: www.culhamvillage.org.uk

St Paul's Church



Messy Church – Sunday 21st November at 11.00am

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

Meditation Taster Course at St Paul's

The Taster meditation course led by Satah Chatwin was held in St Paul's during October and was very informative and enlightening.

Culham Parish Council (CPC) notes – October 2021

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

Meeting held in St Paul's Church

The reports from OCC and SODC councillors appear elsewhere in the Mouthpiece.

Wagon and Horses development.

A briefing on the status and history of the wagon and horses development was given by representatives of Morrells. Originally private houses were proposed for the site to kick start the re-development of the site and the pub. The proposal had to pass the 'exceptional circumstances' rule to allow building in the greenbelt – this was not forthcoming.

Subsequently a 50-bed hotel was proposed, but this was still too much for the planners.

Morrells were asked to scale back the proposal to be 'just viable' and a 25-30 bed hotel plus public house was proposed. Apparently a 20-bed proposal is also better for sustainability.

An attempt to contain the footprint of the buildings on the site has been made in the latest proposal. Drawings shown at the meeting showed a 'volumetric exercise' to show the likely layout, rather than the final design. A room within the site would be made available for community use. This has yet to go to pre-app discussion stage.

An offer has been received from the Sutton Courtenay Clerk to assist CPC in the short term. A temporary contract will be investigated.

The final audit of CPC affairs has been completed and has been signed off.

There is a discussion concerning the multi-storey car parks at the Culham Science Centre site on Wednesday 13 October. Sam Casey-Rerhaye will speak on behalf of CPC in objection to the buildings.

On Friday 15 October there is a meeting of local councils at Appleford to discuss various aspects of the HIF proposal. CPC representatives will attend.

Neighbourhood Plan - before the next meeting the draft plan will be presented to CPC councillors. A village orchard has been discussed to be considered as part of the Waggon and Horses rebuild.

Before the proposed tree planting along the High Street and Tollgate road, the arboretum team at SODC needs to assess the area. Concerning the lock car park – there is now no funding to replace the wire fencing at the entrance. However, hedge whips can be planted along the front of the car park if required/wanted.

Advertising for the Culham gardening group was not very successful but several people did turn up at the weekend of 09/10 October. The corner of High Street and Tollgate Road will be looked after by the group.

Thames Travel have agreed to move their 'rest stop' from the corner of High Street and Burycroft back, to the stop opposite the Glebe. This is to improve the safety at the Burycroft stops.

CPC will source two new trees for the area outside the cemetery, i.e. Christmas trees.

Next meeting

9th November 2021 at 19:30 – to be 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:

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

The CPC website address:

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



Hello Autumn!

We've celebrated October with a tasty Harvest Supper,
in November Paul Dalby will show us how
he carves some wonderful wooden ducks
- and we're planning our December meeting with
some special festive fun!

Come and join us -

We meet every third Tuesday monthly in the
River Room, Sutton Courtenay at 7.30 pm
For details contact our Secretary on 847612



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pots@charlottestorrs-stoneware.co.uk
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Cards designed by April Jones will be available.

Visits by appointment are on the hour giving enough time to browse and have a cup of home pressed mulled apple juice. Please send an email if you'd like to visit. There is a 10% discount on ceramics for Culham residents.

District Council Report – Oct/Nov 2021

Sam Casey-Rerhaye

A new leader for SODC

Cllr Sue Cooper has stepped down as Leader of the Council, after deciding it was to the right time to hand over to someone else. The new leader of the Libdem group is Cllr David Rouane and he was elected to be leader of the whole council at our meeting of 7th October.

Other motions and decisions made at the Council meeting were:

- Questioning the basis and democratic accountability in the Oxcam Arc growth policy and asking the Minister to pause it and review whether it is appropriate in the climate emergency
- Objecting to the withdrawal of the £20 pw Universal Credit uplift
- Support for a 'retrofit army' for energy efficiency measures for homes and writing to relevant Ministers to urge a national strategy on this for decarbonisation of homes, following our report on retrofitting homes in South Oxfordshire
- Urgently requesting the CCG for hospice beds for South Oxfordshire where there are none, and offering to work together on this
- Welcoming the new Minister for planning and urging him to scrap the new proposals and the 5-year housing land supply requirement of Councils
- Supporting leisure centre refurbishment for decarbonisation and requesting long term, reliable funding from government for this
- New budget envelope for the new Council headquarters building in Didcot
- A grant for social housing to the Henley & District Housing Trust
- A budget envelope for rebuilding Council property on the Broadway in Didcot for council flats and community spaces

Covid-19

There are still new Covid cases every week in the District. Please keep on being careful, washing hands regularly and thoroughly, and as the weather gets colder and we are meeting others inside more, wear masks as a precaution and continue using the lateral flow tests.

Vaccinations

Covid-19 booster vaccinations have begun across the county with an emphasis on priority groups including health and social care workers, people aged 50 and over, and 16-49 year olds with underlying health conditions. 12-15 year olds are also being offered their first jab at school alongside the flu vaccine. Residents will be invited by their GP or through the national booking service to book their booster appointment when it is their turn

Community Hub

In September our community hub team made 152 calls to residents to offer support during self-isolation and sent 11 emergency food parcels as a result of these conversations. The team handled 128 enquiries from residents - and the theme again was largely financial help. We made 107 calls to successful applicants for the Test and Trace support payment and gave out 27 supermarket vouchers. The team also helped 61 people complete the CEV survey over the phone and posted 33 paper copies.

Garden Waste Collections

The garden waste collection service resumed in October, with a new four-weekly schedule to be implemented as an interim measure while the situation with HGV drivers is kept under review. Twice as much waste can be put out at each collection. An Extraordinary Council Meeting, called by the

Conservative Group on 24th September, debated a report on the situation and concluded that the Business Continuity Plan within the Biffa contract had been activated and implemented appropriately. We accepted that the collection of direct debit payments should have been suspended while the service was also temporarily halted, and the recommendation to extend the subscription period by 3 months was also approved.

Now we have brought more services in-house from Capita, we can contact residents more quickly and efficiently and the delay in telling residents about this should be a thing of the past.

Planting Trees on Council-owned Land

I am very pleased to tell you we have developed and published a policy and guide for community groups who would like to use District council land for tree and hedge planting. It is here on our website, and a short application form and a commitment to take care of the new plants will be set out in a document. This may take some time to process so if you are planning or know of any group who are planning to ask to plant trees this winter please start looking at this guide asap! [Trees - South Oxfordshire District Council \(southoxon.gov.uk\)](#) (scroll down to near bottom of page)

Afghan Refugees

As part of the co-ordinated response to help Afghan refugees settle into a new life in Oxfordshire, the county council and charity Asylum Welcome have published an Amazon wish list for very specific items that they need. That list is being hosted by Asylum Welcome and has now been published and can be found at [Amazon.co.uk](#). Items that are being requested by refugees include various items of clothing and shoes, sanitary products and headphones.

Residents across South and Vale have already been incredibly generous with donations and offers of help for the individuals and families. As the support they need will be ongoing for some time this is a good way to ensure that donations go to those who really need them and quickly.

Move Together – part of our Active Communities strategy

We have a new 'Move Together' team who have been busy since the project launched in July. They have been on walks with residents who haven't left their homes during the pandemic, talking about the support available to help them get active again. Resident feedback has been positive about the beneficial impact of this support. Information here:

<https://www.activeoxfordshire.org/move-together>

Retrofit Report from SODC Joint Scrutiny

I chaired a Task and Finish Group for the committee, exploring barriers and opportunities for improving the energy efficiency of homes. It was an extensive, in-depth process where we spoke to industry experts over four separate sessions. You may have seen quite a lot about insulating homes in the news with the protests by the group Insulate Britain. Whatever you think about their methods, the subject is really important for us in the UK, we really need energy efficiency measures which lead to reduced carbon emissions, and which also lead to improved health and wellbeing, including financial savings to householders. The report has made recommendations and proposed projects for the councils and its wider partners including the Local Enterprise Partnership. The report was part of the agenda for the recent Climate & Ecological Emergencies Committee and you can read it here, Item 8 on the agenda which starts on page 22: [\(Public Pack\)Agenda Document for Climate and Ecological Emergencies Advisory Committee, 27/09/2021 18:00 \(southoxon.gov.uk\)](#)

My contact details are:

Sam.casey-rerhaye@southoxon.gov.uk

01235 635566 (note change of contact phone number)

County Councillor's Report – October

Councillor Robin Bennett – Berinsfield & Garsington Division

robin.bennett@oxfordshire.gov.uk 07979 646815

Engagement for the new OCC strategic plan and 2022-3 budget

As a result of the change of administration to the cross-party Oxfordshire Fair Deal Alliance, over the next month the County Council are carrying out an intensive period of various public and stakeholder engagement activities to support the development of the council's new strategic plan to support the new administration's policies, and consequently the 2022/23 budget priorities. There are five strands of activity: a residents' satisfaction survey (sent to around 4800 randomly chosen households); discussion groups for adults; discussion groups for children and young people; stakeholder workshops; and councillor engagement.

Most of this engagement work is taking place in October, with some continuing into November. Consultation on the council's budget proposals will start in early December to coincide with the publication of budget and business planning papers.

The Future Oxfordshire Partnership

The Oxfordshire Growth Board has formally changed its name to The Future Oxfordshire Partnership, something many of us have long been campaigning for – names matter – and the new name also indicates a welcome change in priorities. Following a public review in 2020, the Partnership - a joint committee of the six councils of Oxfordshire together with key strategic partners - adopted a new purpose, which is to:

- Coordinate local efforts to manage economic, housing, and infrastructure development in a way that is inclusive and maximises local social and environmental benefits
- Support the development of local planning policy that meets the UK Government's stated aim of net-zero carbon by 2050, and contributes towards biodiversity gain whilst embracing the changes needed for a low carbon world
- Seek to secure funding in the pursuit of these aims and oversee the delivery of related work programmes delegated to it by the Joint Committee's constituent local authority members.

Civil parking enforcement

Following extensive preparation and commitment at County and District level, civil parking enforcement will officially commence on 1st November 2021 in South Oxfordshire, Vale of the White Horse and Cherwell districts. This means parking offences in those areas previously enforced by the police become the responsibility of Oxfordshire County Council - these parking violations will become civil offences. In Oxfordshire, enforcement will apply for on-street parking (roads and highways). The changes will result in increased, more consistent enforcement of waiting and loading restrictions, double parking offences and dropped kerb obstructions. There is already civil parking enforcement in Oxford City and West Oxfordshire.

Plans to make 20mph the new 30mph in Oxfordshire

Communities should soon find it easier to reduce local speed limits from 30mph to 20mph. We are making it simpler to lower speeds in most urban areas and village streets, where this is suitable and supported by residents. My colleagues and I believe this is an important step to improving health and wellbeing, and that combined with other measures it can create healthy, accessible community spaces. There is huge local interest and desire to deliver 20mph within the county and the proposed policy should make it easier and more cost effective than the current elaborate and costly process.

Closure of recycling centres for essential maintenance and deep cleaning

During November, our household waste recycling centres will be closing for two days each for a deep clean and essential maintenance. This includes jet washing the sites and structures, repainting lines and safety areas as well as other general works. Each of our recycling centres will close for two days – although not all at the same time. Residents are asked to plan ahead, ideally holding on to waste until your local site reopens or if that is not possible visiting one of the neighbouring sites. The closures are midweek to minimise disruption and sites will reopen at 8am the following day.

| Site | Dates of closure |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Alkerton (Banbury) | 2 and 3 November |
| Ardley (Bicester) | 4 and 5 November |
| Dix Pit (Stanton Harcourt) | 23 and 24 November |
| Drayton (Abingdon) | 9 and 10 November |
| Oakley Wood (Wallingford) | 16 and 17 November |
| Redbridge (Oxford) | 18 and 19 November |
| Stanford (Faringdon) | 11 and 12 November |

Recycling waste for road repairs saves cash and carbon

As part of our plan to be carbon neutral by 2030, hundreds of tonnes of material that was previously treated as waste, and which needed to be safely and expensively disposed of, is being used to help repair Oxfordshire's roads. We are working with our contractor Milestone and its partner OCL Regeneration to make use of the toxic tar-bound material that is removed during road and path resurfacing work. The recycled material will be used in road maintenance projects at 11 different sites in Oxfordshire. The process is an example of the 'circular economy' – where waste products are utilised, rather than disposed of – and will save money, reduce carbon emissions, and minimises the need for new materials.

Covid-19 Vaccinations for younger people

Twelve to 15 year olds are now being offered one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. Healthy school-aged children aged 12 - 15 will primarily receive their COVID-19 vaccination in their school, with alternative provision for those who are home schooled, in secure services or specialist mental health settings. Parental, guardian or carer consent will be sought by vaccination healthcare staff prior to vaccination in line with existing school vaccination programmes.

Sixteen to 17 year olds in England are being offered a first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine to give them protection now they are back at school and college. Some young people in this age group who are registered with a GP practice in Oxfordshire are being contacted via text, phone, or letter to invite them to get their first jab at a local GP-led vaccination site (LVS). Not all LVSs are offering the vaccine to 16 - 17 year olds. However, anyone aged 16 or over can 'grab a jab' at the Kassam Stadium in Oxford, without an appointment.

More than 100,000 primary and secondary school children in Oxfordshire will also be offered the opportunity to be immunised against influenza this autumn, with an expanded health protection campaign.

All the latest public health advice on Covid-19 can be found at <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/council/coronavirus-covid-19>



Other News

Anton Du Beke is coming to Abingdon!



Mostly Books, Abingdon's award-winning independent bookshop, is delighted to present *An Evening with Anton Du Beke* on Thursday 18th November, 7.30pm, at the Amey Theatre in Abingdon.

With *BBC Strictly Come Dancing* in full swing, Mostly Books has been fortunate to secure the show's judge and former professional dance partner Anton Du Beke for an evening of entertainment, as he launches the latest book in his Buckingham Hotel series, *We'll Meet Again*.

Set in the fictional grand Buckingham Hotel in London during the interwar years, *We'll Meet Again* is the fourth instalment in Du Beke's series which have been Sunday Times Bestsellers and shortlisted for the Historical Romantic Novel Awards. These feel-good romance novels contain all the glitz and glamour (and of course, dancing), you would expect from the King of Ballroom himself. Mostly Books' '*An Evening with...*' is just one of five events in the country to host Anton during his busy *Strictly* schedule.

The evening will be hosted by BBC Radio Oxford presenter Kat Orman, and will include book signings and all the latest news and excitement from the *Strictly* dancefloor.

Sarah Dennis, owner of Mostly Books says, '*We are so thrilled to have Anton Du Beke coming to delight audiences in Abingdon. With theatres reopened and Anton in his new judging role, it will be brilliant to welcome him to our town.*'

Tickets are available from the Amey Theatre Box Office website:

<https://www.abingdon.org.uk/sports-and-leisure/performance/an-evening-with-anton-du-beke/>

Ticket prices: £20 each or £25 for a ticket and copy of Anton's brand-new hardback, *We'll Meet Again*.



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 December issue of the Mouthpiece by November 15th to:
generalmouthpiece@gmail.com

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

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Local Services Directory

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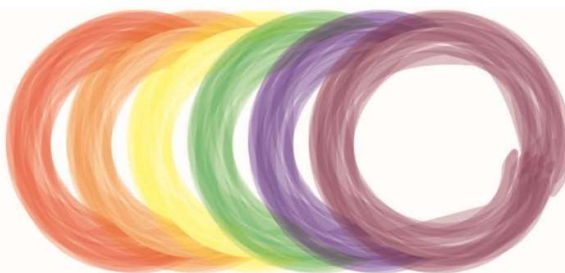
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WHO IS WHO IN CULHAM?

| | | | |
|--|--|---|---------------------------|
| CULHAM PARISH COUNCIL | | | |
| Sam Casey-Rerhaye (Chair) | s.caseyrerhaye@culham-pc.gov.uk | 3 The Burycroft, Culham | 01235 799489 |
| Andrew Steele | a.steele@culham-pc.gov.uk | 27 High Street, Culham | 01235 534910 |
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| Siobhan Sargeant | | 3, High Street, Culham | |
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| COUNTY COUNCILLOR | | | |
| Robin Bennett | robin.bennett@oxfordshire.gov.uk | 4 Meadside, Dorchester-on-Thames | 07979 646815 |
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| Churchwarden: | Roy Epps | stpaulsculham@gmail.com 14 The Glebe, Culham | 01235 537525 |
| Hon. Secretary: | Ruth Ward | stpaulsculham@gmail.com 5 Thame Lane, Culham | |
| FRIENDS OF ST PAUL'S CHURCH | | | |
| Chairman: | Philip Owen | 6 The Green, Culham | 01235 555223 |
| ST PAUL'S & CULHAM VILLAGE RE-ORDERING COMMITTEE | | | |
| Philip Owen | stpaulsandculhamvillage@gmail.com | 6 The Green, Culham | 01235 555223 |
| LADIES OF CULHAM (LOC) | | | |
| Mary Rickford | mary@therickfords.com | The Clock House, Culham | 01235 528052 |
| POLICE | | | |
| Neighbourhood Policing Team | | Non-emergency Phone Number | 101 |
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