

The Mouthpiece



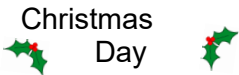
Culham's Newsletter

December 2021/January 2022



Dates for your Diary

Sun 5 Dec	11am	Family Holy Communion	St Paul's Church
Sun 12 Dec	11am	Holy Communion	St Paul's Church
Tues 14 Dec	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	St Paul's Church
Sun 19 Dec	4pm	CAROLS	The Green
Christmas Day	10am	Christmas Holy Communion	St Paul's Church
Sun 2 Jan	11am	Family Holy Communion	St Paul's Church



From Rev. Paul Wignall and the Dorchester Abbey Team



How has it been for you, this last year? Nearly two years now, in fact, since the pandemic started to hit and life changed. There have been those who've denied it all, or worse jumped into conspiracy theories like passengers on a sinking ship not noticing that their lifeboat had a big hole in the bottom. Some have thrived, emotionally, spiritually; the last 18 months has been part of a wonderful voyage of self-discovery. And there have been many – most of us, I suspect – who have done our best to live with the uncertainty, keep going as best we can, working out day by day what was for the best.

Of course, it isn't over yet, and the real test has still to come: what will life be like in 2022, and 2023 and beyond? Will we go back to the old ways of behaving, breathing a sigh of relief, as though nothing had happened? Or will we accept the challenge we've been handed? Building back, yes; but different – and better. At this time of Remembrance, it might be worthwhile reminding ourselves of the contrast between the periods after the first Great War and the second. The twenties (also living in the shadow of a pandemic) seems in retrospect to have tried to forget, largely carrying on as though the huge inequalities and injustices the "war to end all wars" had uncovered could be ignored. However, that lesson was learned long before 1945 came over the horizon. The Beveridge report and the 1944 Education Act set up in our country a vision of change, a search for growing equality and mutual care, a longing for community. And that took us a long way – not all the way, but a long way. Churches too learned new things about how to be part of community life, not from the top down but from the bottom up.

So, where will next year find us? The omens aren't good, we have to admit, and 2022 could easily become a year of forgetfulness where the wedges that drive communities apart get pushed in more deeply. Or we could recognise the warning signs and turn them into signs of hope. The warning signs of anger and refusal to hear each other's point of view, could become signs of reconciliation and a new, deeper listening. The warning signs of alienated young people could become signs of renewal and integration. It's up to us. It's always up to us. What will you do to make 2022 and beyond a time when a new community starts to flourish, We have to start here. But above all, we have to start...

Services in the Bridge Group for December 2021 and January 2022

Sunday 5 December

8 a.m. Holy Communion at Clifton Hampden

9.30 a.m. Holy Communion at Long Wittenham

11 a.m. Family Holy Communion at Culham

Sunday 12 December

9.30 a.m. Holy Communion at Long Wittenham

10.30 a.m. Morning Worship with Baptism at Clifton Hampden

11 a.m. Holy Communion at Culham

Sunday 19 December

9.30 a.m. Holy Communion at Long Wittenham

4 p.m. Carols on the Green at Culham

5.30 p.m. Carol Service at Clifton Hampden

Christmas Eve 24 December

4 p.m. Carol Service at Long Wittenham

6 p.m. Carol Service at Little Wittenham

11.30 p.m. First Holy Communion of Christmas at Clifton Hampden

Christmas Day 25 December

9.30 a.m. Holy Communion at Long Wittenham

10 a.m. Holy Communion at Culham

Sunday 26 December There will no services in the churches of the Bridge Group. There will be a said service of Holy Communion in Dorchester Abbey at 9 a.m.

Sunday 2 January 2022

8 a.m. Holy Communion at Clifton Hampden

9.30 a.m. Holy Communion at Long Wittenham

11.00 a.m. Family Holy Communion at Culham

Sunday 9 January

9.30 a.m. Holy Communion at Long Wittenham

10.30 a.m. Holy Communion at Clifton Hampden

11 a.m. Holy Communion at Culham

Sunday 16 January

January No services in the Bridge Group. For details of the special Team Service, please see below

Sunday 23 January

8.30 a.m. Holy Communion at Little Wittenham

10.30 a.m. Team Service at Stadhampton. This is being organised and run by children and young people from across the Team supported by our new Youth and Families Minister, Emma Firth. All most welcome – indeed encouraged – to attend.

4 p.m. Evening Service at Long Wittenham

Sunday 30 January

A Special Service for all the churches of the Bridge Group will be held at **Clifton Hampden at 10.30 a.m.**

A Fond Farewell to Rev Canon Sue Booy

Our wonderful Dorchester and Team Rector is retiring! We are organising several opportunities for you to say thank you and goodbye to Sue so please save the following dates.

Saturday 8th January 10am-12pm there will be a drop in café in the Abbey so you can have a cuppa with Sue and say thank you and goodbye.

Sunday 16th January 10.30am Festival Eucharist at the Abbey for all ages at which we will celebrate with Sue and share memories from her ministry among us. There will be a “bring and share” lunch afterwards at the back of the Abbey and an opportunity for you to say your personal farewells to Sue.

If you'd like to contribute to a leaving present for Sue then we would prefer a bank transfer to Dorchester Abbey PCC Sort Code: 200109 A/c: 20327603 ref: Sue present or send a cheque payable to Dorchester Abbey PCC to 73 High Street, Dorchester on Thames. Alternatively contact Nick Forman on 07917 701976

Team Events

Boxing Day (Feast of St Stephen) Sun 26th Dec 9.00am in the Abbey

Events in the Abbey

Thurs 9th Dec 7.30pm Elinor Carter Christmas Songs Local mezzo-soprano Elinor Carter will bring you a bit of Christmas sparkle in the more intimate Shrine Chapel of Dorchester Abbey. She and pianist Muriel Phillips will perform seasonal favourites such as "In the Bleak Midwinter", "Oh Holy Night" and "I'm Dreaming Of A White Christmas", and there will be opportunity for audience participation! Tickets are £15 (£10 children/students) to include a glass of mulled wine or fruit juice and a mince pie and should be booked in advance by contacting Elinor on 07711 319444 or elinormezzo@gmail.com

Sat 11th Dec 7.00pm OSJ Concert Britten Ceremony of Carols Celebrate the festive season with Britten's vibrant Ceremony of Carols, alongside all your favourite festive songs. Tickets £15 to £20 from www.osj.org.uk

Wed 15th Dec 7.00pm Beautiful Star Have you ever stood in the mountains, no city lights around, looking up, seeing all these stars above you? It's very impressive and it may be that this experience has made many generations before us turn to the stars for company, support or guidance. Every year at Christmas we take the tale of the Star of Bethlehem for granted. The story tells us that it led the three wise men to the birthplace of

Jesus. Astronomically speaking it has caused quite a lot of controversy amongst historians and scientists - so we thought we'd just tell its story through music. With Susanne Mecklenburg – voice, William Hancox – piano, Sophie Hebden – oboe and Michael Eisinger – viola Donations

Sat 18th Dec 7pm OSJ Handel Messiah Hallelujah, it's time for Handel's Messiah! Don't miss this festive favourite, featuring the fabulous Hannah Fraser-Mackenzie, Charlie Tetley, Xavier Hetherington and Frazer Scott as soloists Tickets £15 to £20 from www.osj.org.uk

Fri 31st Dec 6pm OSJ New Years Eve Concert See in the New Year with us at Dorchester Abbey with a selection of joyful overtures and dances. From all-time favourites such as Strauss' Blue Danube to lesser known gems such as Anderson's The Typewriter, you'll be whistling these tunes into 2022! Tickets £15 to £20 from www.osj.org.uk



Village News

Village website: www.culhamvillage.org.uk

Culham Parish Council (CPC) notes – November 2021

Held at the church.

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

SODC Planning Enforcement has indicated that it is 'not feasible' to return the hydro scheme road to a 'farm track' style road, due to the ongoing requirement of heavy vehicle access. The spoil heaps in the middle of the field are likely to remain. SODC Enforcement will be contacting Morrells to remove the spoil heaps adjacent to the hydro road at the south end of the Donkey Bridge.

However John Taylor of Morrells indicated that the centre of the haul road could be dug out and backfilled with soil and grass. CPC will request Morrells to get this instigated in Spring 2022

The possible installation of a de-fibrulator at School House or on The Willows was suggested. The British Heart Foundation can help with this and it will be discussed at the next CPC meeting.

Recent damage to the churchyard by SODC grasscutters is being investigated

The CPC now has 30 chairs and 20 folding tables (three of which are damaged) for use in village related events.

Civil parking enforcement has started within Oxfordshire. The change of village speed limits to 20mph will be investigated by CPC

Next meeting

14th December 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.

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

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

Culham Science Centre

Planning Applications continue to come forward for the expansion of the Centre. I called one into the Planning Committee in October that was for two multi-storey car parks at the entrance. These were to enable other parking spaces on the site, current and planned, to be centralised on one place. I had been frustrated by the number of applications that had large numbers of car parking spaces attached to them when we all know the congestion around the Centre is really problematic for everyone living and moving through here, plus the fact the Centre is next to a railway station and now has two buses stopping by it. Unfortunately, the committee were not able to turn this down under planning law, but Committee members commented on their own frustration at the high numbers of spaces. I then emailed the Centre afterwards, and I am pleased to say they have now changed a forthcoming application for another building, so it only has disabled and some electric car spaces. They have also made a firmer commitment to planning for more sustainable transport for the (increasing numbers of) people who work there.

'HIF1' Road and bridge

The planned road and Thames bridge from Culham to Didcot, by-pass of Clifton Hampden and fly-over in Didcot over the old power station, has now had its formal planning application submitted. As Parish Councillor I have been working with neighbouring parishes to collate the main issues we have with the routing and the elevation of the road and Thames bridge. We all immediately wrote to our County Councillors, the Chief Executive and the Leader of Oxfordshire County Council when we heard the application had been made public with a 30-day consultation period to urgently request an extension as it is such a large and complex project. I am pleased to say we are all now permitted to submit comments right up until the end of March next year. I have been concerned right from when this project was proposed that the tight time constraints and associated financial penalties which the previous administration at the County Council signed up to are far too risky and the budget far too tight. It is hard to think of any major infrastructure project that has ever been completed on budget and on time. And apart from anything else, this is a 20th century solution to a 21st century problem. The Planning application can be viewed on the website here: [Planning Register | Oxfordshire County Council](#) – R3.0138/21

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
- 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

We are amplifying our health partners' messages on encouraging people to take up the offer of both the flu vaccine jab and the covid booster. NHS advice on the flu vaccine is on their [website](#).

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. These tests are still available free from pharmacies or you can order them at the following address: <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

Test and Trace

During the past year the Oxfordshire service has successfully contacted, advised to isolate and offered support to nearly 7,000 *Oxfordshire residents* who have tested positive for COVID-19. The work of this contact tracing service has broken countless chains of transmission and has helped slow the spread of the outbreak across the county. Also, to date, officers from South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse district councils' Environmental Protection Team have completed a total of 745 visits across our two areas.

Garden Waste Collections

The garden waste collection service will resume its normal fortnightly collections from 1st November. Please note that we have extended the period that this year's payment will cover by 3 months, so a total of 15 months to make up for the disruption to the service in the past months.

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

Civil Parking Enforcement starts

This new service that we as an administration brought off a dusty shelf and pursued to this point, will start on 1st November. While this will not mean traffic wardens patrolling every day in each problem area, it will mean they will attend areas on an ad hoc basis so drivers will not know when they may get a ticket. This usually works well in dissuading most people from parking on double yellow lines or other illegal places.

Grant schemes open this Autumn

Please spread the word about the following grants available this Autumn for the district's voluntary and community sector:

- Revenue grant scheme is now open for applications to apply for core funding and support to help diversify income streams. Funding is available for two years and is open to local constituted voluntary sector organisations. Closes noon 26 November 2021.
- Capital grant scheme opens 1 November and closes at noon 17 December 2021 for grants of up to £75,000 (max 50% of their total project cost). Voluntary and community sector organisations and town & parish councils are eligible to apply.

- Second round of Councillor Community grants opens 22 November for wards with budget remaining. Round two closes noon on 4 February (2022)

Further information on all these grants can be found on [the South website](#) or contact the Community Enablement Team who are happy to answer any questions and guide applicants through the submission process: communityenablement@southandvale.gov.uk

Strategic Property Review

The Council's strategic property review is now complete and for the first time since the fire of 2015, we have a full record of all council land holdings. The next step is to manage each asset in the most appropriate way in line with our corporate priorities. An Asset Management group has been established to go through each of the land holdings using officer reports and analysis. Some pieces of land will be sold, some will be used for nature recovery and tree planting, other sites may be suitable for social housing or other uses. Decisions relating to assets worth over £75,000 are subject to either cabinet or Council approval (depending on value) and ward members – and where appropriate, parish/town councils - will be consulted on sites in their ward to ensure our property is managed in the best interests of communities as a whole.

COP26

And as this crucial conference continues, I thought I would share with you this link from Imperial College to help everyone know what they can do to tackle climate heating:

[9 things you can do about climate change \(imperial.ac.uk\)](https://www.imperial.ac.uk/9-things-you-can-do-about-climate-change/)

1. Make your voice heard to those in power
2. Eat less meat and dairy
3. Cut back on flying
4. Leave the car at home whenever you can
5. Reduce energy use (and bills)
6. Respect and protect green spaces
7. Invest your money responsibly
8. Cut consumption and waste
9. Talk about the changes you make

My contact details are:

Sam.casey-rerhaye@southoxon.gov.uk

01235 635566 (note change of contact phone number)

CAROLS ON THE GREEN – COME AND SING ALONG!
SUNDAY 19TH DECEMBER 4PM



County Councillor's Report November 2021 – Robin Bennett

New 20mph policy passed by Cabinet

The county council is changing its approach and acceptance of 20mph restrictions which will enable a much greater coverage across Oxfordshire.

The proposal is aimed to:

- make streets safer
- encourage residents to walk or cycle
- reduce noise and pollution.

The initiative will not be compulsory and will need to be supported by the parish/town council and by the local county councillor. We anticipate a lot of demand, so requests from parishes will be prioritised by need; the aim is to get all requests done within 3 years.

Measures supported will be from a simple change of speed signs to more complex solutions (these may require additional funding) in areas that can range from a whole village or a single street. The introduction of 20mph restrictions in other areas has already cut speeds and accidents.

The area of the proposed restriction should not have a speed limit that is greater than 40mph. It can be a whole village or town or just one street within the area.

Full information can be found at:

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/roads-and-transport/traffic/requesting-20mph>

The link for parishes to apply is at <https://service.oxfordshire.gov.uk/20mphrequest>

Leader's letters to the Prime Minister on financial challenges facing county councils

The leader of the County Council, Cllr Liz Leffman, wrote to the prime minister in advance of the government's autumn budget to highlight the predicted funding shortfalls in social care for adults and children, and provision for children with special educational needs. The letters can be read in full here:

<https://news.oxfordshire.gov.uk/urgently-address-funding-issues>

Out-of-hours highways service up and running

Oxfordshire residents can now report a highways matter to Oxfordshire County Council outside normal office hours – including evenings, weekends and bank holidays – if there are concerns about it causing an accident or damaging property, by calling **01223 849731**.

The call adviser will discuss the urgency of the issue and take appropriate action as required.

During normal working hours, people should continue to call the council's customer service centre on 0345 310 1111. If the situation is potentially life threatening, people should call emergency services on 999.

COP26: our commitment in Oxfordshire

COP26 is a chance for the world to come together to tackle the biggest single threat facing the planet. The fight against climate change is at the heart of everything we are doing as a council. Every decision we take weighs up the impact on carbon emissions and our work is underpinned by our commitment to become a zero-carbon county council by 2030 and enable the whole of Oxfordshire to be carbon neutral by 2050 – if not sooner. Find out more about what's going on across the county:

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/environment-and-planning/energy-and-climate-change/cop26-our-commitment>

Reminder: 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. 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

Reminder: Civil parking enforcement starts 1st November

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.

COVID-19 update:

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

Vaccinations for young people

The [NHS National Booking Service](#) for COVID-19 vaccinations is now open to parents wanting to book a jab for their child aged 12 - 15. This will provide an additional option for parents, alongside the schools programme. Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust has published a [webpage](#) with information for parents and young people about the COVID-19 vaccination.

Anyone aged 16 or over can also 'grab a jab' at the Kassam Stadium in Oxford, without an appointment or at any other #Grabajab clinic. Details of those currently open and more information can be found on the [NHS Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group's](#) website.

Anyone aged 18 or over, can [book a vaccination](#) on the national booking service. The latest vaccination figures are updated daily at the [NHS England website](#).

Get your booster jab

Everyone aged 50 and over, and health and social care workers, can [book their COVID-19 booster vaccine](#) online as long as it has been six months and one week (190 days) since their second dose. Data shows the natural immunity provided by vaccines will wane over time, particularly for older adults and those more at risk from COVID-19.

Other News



INTERNATIONAL SOPRANO AND STAR OF THE VOICE UK
NADIA EIDE
presents

The Sound of
Christmas

Featuring
special guest
performances by

Tenor Tristan
Stocks

Organist/pianist
Gary Howarth

SATURDAY DECEMBER 18 AT 7PM
ALL SAINTS CHURCH, SUTTON COURTENAY

Tickets £15
Mince pies, mulled wine & refreshments available

International soprano and star of The Voice UK **Nadia Eide** presents *The Sound of Christmas*.

A spectacular Christmas concert featuring well-loved Christmas songs full of warm, festive cheer for the whole family.

Featuring guest performances by organist/pianist, Gary Howarth and Tenor, Tristan

Mince pies, mulled wine and other Christmas goodies will be available.

Venue: All Saints Church, Sutton Courtenay @ 7pm

Instagram @nadiaeidesoprano

FB @nadiaeidesoprano

Twitter @nadiaeide

W. www.nadiaeide.com

W. www.xovermusic.com

! ARE YOU READY !

DON'T MISS THE CHANCE TO COME AND JOIN US

- fun and friendship are always on the menu -

our December meeting is a festive

Roaring Twenties Xmas Party

A special evening of fun and laughter in January -

and lots more to look forward to in the New Year

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



CPRE Oxfordshire Flooding and Pollution Report – a survey of Oxfordshire’s Town & Parish Councils, 2021



Findings show that at least 17% of towns & parishes in Oxfordshire experience flooding problems and at least 20% of towns & parishes experience issues with sewage/sewerage infrastructure. CPRE Oxfordshire wants to see:

- Thames Water setting out clear measures to address the issues raised in this report, including targets and investment commitments.
- Local MPs supporting the Sewage (Inland Waters) Bill and the Environment Bill to ensure water companies are legally bound to stop discharging raw sewage into the ocean and rivers.
- Oxfordshire Plan 2050 to ensure all new developments demonstrate that their associated infrastructure will either maintain or improve water quality, not add to the risk of flooding, and be in place before the site is occupied.
- The river Thames to achieve Bathing Water designation.

CPRE Oxfordshire has produced an interactive map highlighting where the issues are, view the map and download the report from our website: www.cpreoxon.org.uk
Did your Town or Parish Council respond? If not, you can let us know what flooding and/or sewage issues your neighbourhood is facing. Contact campaign@cpreoxon.org.uk

Vacancy: CPRE Oxfordshire Planning Coordinator

Could you help strengthen countryside voices in planning?

Countryside charity CPRE Oxfordshire is looking for a part-time Planning Co-ordinator. Could that be you? £25k pro rata, 15 hrs a week, two year contract. Based from home or our Branch Office in Watlington.

Apply by CV & Covering letter to: administrator@cpreoxon.org.uk T: 01491 612079

For more info see our website: www.cpreoxon.org.uk

The Abbey Cinema

boxoffice@theabbey.ac

www.theabbey.ac

07957 384158



Dick Whittington – LIVE PANTO on screen!

From Gerry Graham's Touring Pantos

Sat 4th Dec 1pm and 5pm

Sun 5th Dec 1pm and 5pm

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

Unknown Oxfordshire Officer, killed during the Great War, now identified as collateral descendent of William Wordsworth



Soldiers of
Oxfordshire
Museum

- **Remains of an unidentified officer first discovered in Northern France in 2013 were reburied in 2015 as an Unknown Officer of the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry.**
- **Museum Volunteers were able to narrow down probable identities to three different officers through research**
- **DNA testing now identifies him as Osmond Bartle Wordsworth, a collateral descendant of poet William Wordsworth**

The story began in 2013 when a local farmer was digging in his private garden in the village of Hénin-sur-Cojeul discovered the remains of a body. Once the local gendarmerie had officially declared the find could not be of any criminal interest it became a case of trying to identify a missing soldier.

In due course it was established that the remains were from an officer of the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry based on the discovery of artefacts including a regimental button and fragments of uniform. The unknown officer was reburied 'Known Unto God' in 2015 with dignity alongside comrades in arms at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's H. A. C. Cemetery at Écoust-St.-Mein, a village near Arras. In 2016, the artefacts original found with him were transferred to the Museum so that volunteers could continue their research to try and identify the soldier.

Regimental records documented that on the 3rd May 1917, the 5th Battalion of the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry sustained heavy casualties from accurate machine gun fire and snipers, encountering an unexpected, well manned and heavily wired trench that they successfully occupied.

The survivors were forced to withdraw back to their original positions after a series of strong enemy counter-attacks. 8 of the 12 officers and 291 of the 523 non-commissioned officers and men who went into action were listed as killed, wounded or missing that day, including five junior officers. Subsequent research discovered that one officer had died of wounds as a prisoner of war; a subsequent DNA comparison by JCCC was negative, and a third officer had been reported killed so would have likely been left where he fell.

The volunteers concentrated on the two unresolved missing officers. Could the remains have been those of John Legge Bulmer from North Yorkshire, educated at Marlborough College before going up to Merton College, Oxford in 1913 where he knew T.S. Eliot? Could they have been of Charles Croke Harper of Broughton in Buckinghamshire who before the war was a chartered accountant and a farmer in the outback of Western Australia?

Our conundrum was that although the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry were only in the area once during the Great War, the body was found approximately nine kilometres from the battlefield. In the confusion and fog of battle, was the young officer wounded and taken to a medical aid station by men of the neighbouring brigade, then buried where he died? These were questions the volunteers could not answer, so had insufficient evidence to present to the JCCC to re-open the case.

In mid-2017, one of the volunteers discovered that an officer serving in the 21st Company, Machine Gun Corps had transferred in 1916 from the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry before he was killed and buried alone by his men on the 2nd April 1917 in Hénin-sur-Cojeul, one week before his division had established a formal burial location outside the village. The volunteer's thesis was that it was possible that the young officer may have continued to wear his original Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Light Infantry uniform.

That officer was identified as Osmond Bartle Wordsworth, a collateral descendent of the poet. In late 2018, the Museum had the artefacts on display to assist in the search for relatives and as luck would have it a visitor advised staff that he knew a Wordsworth and contact was made with the family.

The volunteer presented a detailed submission to the JCCC to re-open the case with the Museum trustees, staff and volunteers rewarded for their efforts after they received the report that a DNA comparison with a relative had resulted in a match with the remains.

Having had no known grave before now, Osmond Bartle Wordsworth is currently remembered on Bay 10 of The Arras Memorial in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Faubourg-d'Amiens Cemetery, France.

Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum, Park Street, Woodstock, OX20 1SN
www.sof.org.uk frontofhouse@sofo.org.uk 01993 810 210

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 February 2022 issue of the Mouthpiece by January 15th to:
generalmouthpiece@gmail.com

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Local Services Directory

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*Caring for Pets, Horses & Farm Animal
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Cholsey & Benson 01491 651379
Horses & Farm Animals 01491 651379

www.larkmead.co.uk



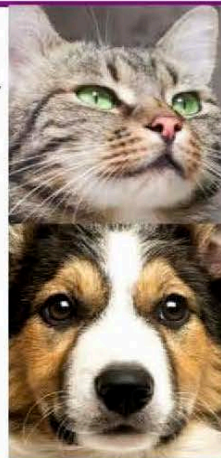
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Sam Casey-Rerhaye (Chair)	scaseyrerhaye@culham-pc.gov.uk	3 The Burycroft, Culham	01235 635566
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CLERK TO PARISH COUNCIL			
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DISTRICT COUNCILLOR			
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COUNTY COUNCILLOR			
Robin Bennett	robin.bennett@oxfordshire.gov.uk	4 Meadside, Dorchester-on-Thames	07979 646815
ST PAUL'S CHURCH			
Associate Team Vicar:	Rev Paul Wignall	bridgegroupvicar@gmail.com Dorchester Office: 01865 340007	Vicarage: 01865 407848
Ordained Local Minister	Revd. David Haylett	familyhaylett@yahoo.com	01865 407382
Hon. Treasurer:	Andrew Churchill Stone	churchillstone27@gmail.com 21 High Street, Culham	01235 533011
Churchwarden:	Roy Epps	stpaulsculham@gmail.com 14 The Glebe, Culham	01235 537525
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FRIENDS OF ST PAUL'S CHURCH			
Chairman:	Philip Owen	6 The Green, Culham	01235 555223
ST PAUL'S & CULHAM VILLAGE RE-ORDERING COMMTEE			
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