

The Mouthpiece

Culham's Newsletter

February 2022



The last tap standing
(see inside for further information)

Dates for your Diary

Sunday 6 th February	11.00am	Family Holy Communion	St Paul's Church
Tuesday 8 th February	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	St Paul's Church
Sunday 13 th February	11.00am	Holy Communion	St Paul's Church
Tuesday 15 th February	7.30pm	Sutton Courtenay W.I.	River Room, Sutton Courtenay
Sunday 20 th February	11.00am	Messy Church	St Paul's Church
Sunday 27 th February	11.00am	No Service	St Paul's Church

HAVE YOUR SAY ON CULHAM'S FUTURE – COMMENT ON THE PROPOSED NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – See Next page for details

Culham Neighbourhood Plan

Regulation 14 Public Consultation

January 2022

Dear residents of Culham, the Parish Council has prepared over the course of the last 12 months a draft Neighbourhood Plan and we need your input. The draft plan is available from the website at www.culhamvillage.org.uk and is available for download.

The Public Consultation lasts from January 17th until March 14th 2022.

You can respond to the consultation by writing to

Culham Neighbourhood Plan 6 The Green Culham OX14 4LZ

Or by sending an email to

culhamnp@gmail.com

The comments will be collated, reviewed by the parish council and changes made to the plan. The plan will also be reviewed by South Oxfordshire District Council and then an independent examiner prior to their being a referendum in the parish to decide whether to adopt it or not.

Responses received after March 14th 2022 will not be able to be considered.

A public event is not considered appropriate in the current environment but questions can be sent to the email address or postal address and responses provided, or please attend a parish council meeting if you would like to speak to one of the parish councillors.

LAST PIPE STANDING

Before electricity came to the village villagers had to get their water from a well. With the arrival of electricity, a pump was installed, and a small-bore water pipe run through the village with about half a dozen stand pipes. The front page photograph is of one, and the last, which stood outside number 3 High Street.

More about the history of Culham can be found on the village web site at <http://www.culhamvillage.org.uk/villagehistory.html>

From Rev. Paul Wignall and the Dorchester Abbey Team



Talking point

St Valentine's Day, nestled in the middle of the month of February, is a celebration of love and romance. St Valentine was a third century Roman saint, who incidentally is also the patron saint of epilepsy and beekeepers. He was a bishop and a martyr, and he would probably be somewhat bemused to see his name associated with heart-shaped chocolates and soppy greetings cards. However, it is said that he performed secret weddings for persecuted Christians during the reign of emperor Claudius in the third century AD, which is where the association of St Valentine with love and romance may have originated.

Christians believe that love and relationships are a gift from God, who is the source of all love and who is intrinsically relational, being three persons in one (Father, Son and Holy Spirit). Jesus also told his followers to "love one another, as I have loved you". Sadly, throughout history and today the church has sometimes fallen short of this ideal, and can be accused of being judgemental or hypocritical instead of exemplifying the ideal of love. None of us is perfect, but as Christians this is the goal by which we strive to live.

Love takes many different forms, and our society today is very different from the one that St Valentine would recognise! People experience loving relationships in many different ways, including through deep and lasting friendships and through their close and extended families, as well as through the romantic love that comes from being with a partner. This year, the Dorchester Team is delighted to have lots of weddings lined up, some of which were postponed during the pandemic. In March, we will be holding a special marriage preparation day for couples who are getting married in our churches. We also offer wedding blessings and renewal of vows for couples who would find this helpful.

Later this Spring, the Dorchester Ministry Team will be participating in a programme called "Living in Love and Faith". This is a course running across the whole of the Church of England, involving discussions, study and prayer as part of the process of discerning a way forward in matters of relationships, identity, sexuality and marriage. These discussions will take place within a framework of kind, respectful and considerate debate as part of our Lent programme. If you are interested in taking part, please contact your local team vicar.

Team Events

Events in the Abbey

Sat 5th Feb 7pm OSJ Concert Bucolic Britain Elgar's Enigma Variations present a bucolic image of pre-war Britain, his cello concerto is a much-loved staple of late Victorian English concert repertoire. Latvian cellist Margarita Balanas plays the Charles Adolphe Gand 'Auguste Tolbecque' 1849 cello, on which the Saint-Saens Concerto No 1 was premiered by Tolbecque in 1873. Tickets £5 to £25 from <https://www.osj.org.uk/>

Fri 25th Feb Chiltern Arts Festival 7.30pm Tenebrae: Sounds of the Solstice The award-winning choir, described as 'devastatingly beautiful' by The Guardian, perform a dramatic programme charting a journey through the seasons, centering around the summer and winter solstices. Featuring music by Holst, Elgar, MacMillan, Maxwell Davies, Poulenc and many more. Tickets £22 to £35 from <https://chilternarts.com/whats-on-2022/>

Village News

Village website: www.culhamvillage.org.uk

St Paul's Church



Messy Church – Sunday 20th February 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>

Culham Parish Council (CPC) notes – January 2022

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

Meeting held in St Paul's Church Culham on Monday 17th January 2022 at 7.30pm.

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

Recreation Ground and Play Equipment report

Football nets have been bought. The large grant application for the equipment has gone in to SODC.

Defibrillator in the village

There are grants available for the installation of defibrillators, including the British Heart Foundation. Current likely places for the device are on the school wall or at the Willows.

HIF Road plans – update on Parish Council Group actions on consultation

Several reports have been produced by the consultants covering an overall assessment of the scheme and how it is not fit for purpose, Hydrogeological and Geotechnical Issues, and the terms of engagement of the council's professional advisors.

Costs for the road are believed to have escalated.

Covid Memorial Tree

CPC will look into the tree positioned between the pond and Church Road.

Budget

The budget for 2022/2023 was set, subject to the setting of the precept.

Next meeting

8th February 2022 at 7.30pm –in St Paul's Church Culham.

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

WE'RE READY
FOR A GREAT NEW YEAR OF EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES
COME AND JOIN US

in January for some hilarious poetry
(with a difference!)

At our February meeting we'll be discovering
a new craft and have fun
making decorations for Easter

and you need to come and join us to see what other
exciting things we will be seeing and doing
in the New Year !

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



District Council Report – January 2022

Sam Casey-Rerhaye

Local Government Finance Settlement

The government announced its provisional local government finance settlement on 16 December, the fourth consecutive one-year settlement. It amounts to a real-term cut in council funding for SODC and for many other councils around the country. While government has claimed the settlement amounts to a 4% increase in funding, just 1% of this is government funding, the rest requires local authorities to increase council tax by the maximum allowable without a referendum and with the impact of inflation, this is actually worth less than last year.

Cllr David Rouane, leader of South Oxfordshire District Council, expressed disappointment at the settlement. "Despite the government's claims of an overall increase in spending, this amounts to a real-terms cut in our finances. Councils like ours around the country are working hard to balance the books – a job that is made significantly more difficult by government cuts and by the lack of any long-term clarity."

"It's really not clear how the government expects councils to make medium or long term financial plans when it repeatedly provides one-year settlements – something it began doing long before the pandemic."

The New Homes Bonus will continue though it is unclear what will replace it, adding to the uncertainty around budget setting in future years. The New Homes Bonus is worth around £2m a year in South Oxfordshire.

The council will be responding to the government's consultation on the settlement proposals and intends to publish its response shortly.

Vouchers for residents struggling

With the cost-of-living escalating, a reminder that the Council is supporting residents struggling to afford household essentials. Using money from the Government's Household Support Fund, we are helping pay for vulnerable households' food, energy, and water bills and other essential household costs.

The funds are not restricted to people who receive benefits, and a lots of different factors are taken into consideration when assessing applications. The scheme ends in March 2022. Please see details on our website: [Household Support Fund - South Oxfordshire District Council \(southoxon.gov.uk\)](https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/household-support-fund)

Please guide your parishioners towards these funds!

Homelessness in South Oxfordshire

The Council's housing team worked intensively in the weeks up to Christmas to ensure households at risk of homelessness had sustainable accommodation. Two placements were made over the Christmas period for people with a connection to the Vale of White Horse.

It is pleasing to report that the number of rough sleepers recorded as of 31 December 2021 was **zero** for both South and Vale. This is the first time since 2013 there has been no rough sleeping recorded across both Districts and is testament to the success of the Councils' new strategy of preventing homelessness. South Oxfordshire was the first council in Oxfordshire to adopt the ground-breaking Housing First approach to preventing homelessness, a system that has since been adopted across the county.

Garden Waste Collections

A reminder that we are now able to start taking on new customers for the garden waste service. Anyone interested should go to <https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/south-oxfordshire-district-council/recycling-rubbish-and-waste/garden-waste/>

Parental Leave Policy

Following similar moves by councils across the country, South Oxfordshire District Council has adopted a new policy on parental leave for councillors. The policy aims to provide a positive and supportive environment for members with family responsibilities. It will help to ensure members are representative of our community, contribute towards increasing the diversity of experience, age and background of councillors, and also help us to retain experienced councillors. The new policy was agreed by council at the Full Council meeting on 9 December and can be viewed here:

democratic.southoxon.gov.uk/ecCatDisplay.aspx?sch=doc&cat=13195&path=0

CCTV

The Council's CCTV reports have been published, detailing how CCTV is used in our town centres. In South Oxfordshire, CCTV was used to review 554 incidents, producing 59 evidence packs for possible court proceedings and supporting 54 arrests. You can view the report here: [Microsoft Word - South First Half 21-22 \(southoxon.gov.uk\)](https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/microsoft-word-south-first-half-21-22)

Planning Enforcement

The updated **Planning Enforcement Statement** has been approved by Council. The statement sets out the new approach to the triage and handling of complaints to improve efficiency and transparency and to help address the large backlog of complaints that has built up since the start of the pandemic. The team currently has some 700 live investigations with 241 matters still unallocated across the two Councils.

The Planning Enforcement Statement was previously been updated in 2016. The new Enforcement Statement and approach will be subject to quarterly appraisal as part of the Council's ongoing performance review process and the Statement itself will be reviewed after 12 months.

[Microsoft Word - 2021-12-17- Enforcement Statement Final \(southandvale.gov.uk\)](https://www.southandvale.gov.uk/microsoft-word-2021-12-17-enforcement-statement-final)

New Gambling Policy

At Full Council on 6 December, Council also agreed a new gambling policy. A key change is the passing of a "No Casino" resolution meaning that applications for casinos will not be considered in the District. This was agreed on the basis that the district is not a suitable location for a casino, that casinos bring the potential for criminal exploitation and money laundering and that casinos expose the vulnerable to the risk of gambling harm and problem gambling.

Petition for Councils to make their own decisions on meeting remotely or in person

<https://www.change.org/p/uk-government-and-parliament-for-councils-in-england-to-have-the-choice-to-meet-remotely>

We are supporting this campaign as we believe this should be a local decision made by locally elected representatives and should not be centralised.

Sewage Spills into The River Thames

These spills continue to increase in number and volume. SODC Thames Champion, Councillor Jo Robb, has made an Environmental Information Request to Thames Water asking for the data from their Electronic Duration Monitors – this is a legal request that must be responded to. These spillages have been happening even in periods when there hasn't been storms or extremely heavy rain. We are maintaining the pressure on Thames Water and the government, alongside many other organisations and pressure groups, such as Windrush WASP, Surfers Against Sewage and Sewage Free Thames. Raw sewage was spilled into the Thames for 50,000 hours in 2020. I have recently seen a resident's photos of a swan coming out of the water with a brown, sewage tide mark around it – horrendous!

There is a **plan for a protest on Port Meadow in Oxford on 23rd January at 10.30am** to get Thames Water to properly invest to prevent these increasing spillages. This is being organised by Sewage Free Thames – website: endsewagepollutionthames.wordpress.com

South Oxfordshire Lottery

The SO Charitable Lottery will be giving an additional £15,000 to good causes in South Oxfordshire this year through money raised in its community fund. There are currently 75 organisations and charities across the district that have joined the lottery, which provides them with vital income to support our communities, this has proved especially important for them during the pandemic. This month the £15,000 will be shared between all organisations selling 20 tickets or more a week. These organisations will receive funding based on the number of tickets they have sold.

Oxfordshire Animal Sanctuary is one of the causes benefitting from the lottery with a donation of £2,689 from the community fund. Ian Atkin, the manager, said that they often look after 70 to 100 animals a day. "Many of our animals come to us from difficult backgrounds. Some arrive with acute behavioural needs, and some have immediate medical needs. We deal with each case individually and start by earning their trust and understanding their needs. The money raised from the additional award will help us continue this work."

When participants take part in the lottery, they can either support a charity or group of their choice or donate to the central community fund which is administered by South Oxfordshire District Council and distributed annually to multiple good causes. The lottery is free to join, and organisations are invited to get in touch with the Community Enablement team at the council to find out how they can also benefit. Tickets can be bought online for just £1, with a chance to win a top prize of £25,000.

[SO Charitable Lottery - South Oxfordshire District Council \(southoxon.gov.uk\)](http://southoxon.gov.uk)

As ever, contact me on 01235 635566 or sam.casey-rerhaye@southoxon.gov.uk on anything to do with District council matters.

County Councillor's Report – January 2022

Councillor Robin Bennett – Berinsfield & Garsington Division

robin.bennett@oxfordshire.gov.uk 07979 646815

Local Transport and Connectivity Plan consultation

The consultation on Oxfordshire's Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTCP) document and supporting strategies for freight, active travel and innovation started on 5 January 2022 and run until 16 March 2022. The LTCP is Oxfordshire's statutory Local Transport Plan. It outlines the long-term vision for transport in the county and the policies required to deliver this. This includes how we look at things like park & rides, which could be replaced with more innovative transport hubs. View the plan and give us your thoughts here: <https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/ltcp>

Golden Balls roundabout scoping and Didcot Garden Town HIF1

Oxfordshire County Council has set up a project team to specifically investigate the Golden Balls roundabout. A consultant has recently been appointed to undertake updates to OCC's strategic transport model to enable testing of potential interventions at/near Golden Balls, and to undertake high-level initial assessments of a variety of potential Park and Ride locations and bus priority measures. Public engagement will be key to this process, and the project team will contact Parish Councils (and others) to engage specifically on this at the relevant time.

This work is needed because the Didcot Garden Town HIF1 road project – which includes the new bridge at Culham and the Clifton Hampden bypass – will feed in to the B4015 road leading to the roundabout. The HIF1 project is subject of a live planning application, and I'm told there's still time to send in your response even though the official deadline has passed.

County Youth Service returns to Oxfordshire

I'm delighted that the return of a County Youth Service has been announced, with dedicated youth workers for the first time since the service was scrapped in 2011.

The new Youth Offer will provide initially targeted support and outreach to young people, focusing on early intervention to reduce risk of exploitation, offending behaviour, substance misuse, exclusion, housing issues as well as improving mental wellbeing. The new service is a first step towards a sector-wide shift to universal youth work openly available to all children and young adults.

Oxfordshire's new Youth Offer will be delivered through the recruitment of 22 dedicated youth workers across the County supported by a Service Manager. Four workers will operate in each district, with 2 county wide youth workers who will respond to short term issues and concerns in specific areas. The service is aimed at being operational by the end of February 2022.

Oxfordshire at top of recycling table for eighth year

In 2020-21, residents recycled, reused, or composted 59.5 per cent of their household waste, an increase on the previous year's figure of 58.8 per cent, according to government figures. The continuing COVID-19 pandemic has made it another very difficult year for everyone, so we appreciate the effort that has gone into keeping our recycling rates so high. However, over half of the waste that is thrown away could have been recycled, repaired or reused.

The total amount of household waste produced in Oxfordshire was 310,479 tonnes for 2020/2021. And 186,052 tonnes were reused, recycled and composted, which created a carbon benefit of 126,603 tonnes of CO2e compared to disposing of it through landfill.

Oxfordshire's five district and city councils, which operate the kerbside collections, also achieved excellent results in their national categories - South Oxfordshire DC came second.

For those looking to reduce their waste further, the [Community Action Group](#) network and [Replenish](#) project have lots of opportunities to get involved with local schemes, and tips on how to reduce waste and improve their local environment.

Using libraries and heritage services to help people in Oxfordshire connect, create, learn and grow

We are publishing a new draft heritage and libraries strategy. The strategy sets out how such services will be delivered in the years up to 2027 considering the changing needs of Oxfordshire's growing population.

Residents will be able to take part in the consultation on our digital consultation and engagement platform Let's Talk Oxfordshire,

<https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk>, from 24 January 2022.

Reporting issues using Fix My Street

It is now newly possible to report problems with footpaths and cycle routes, as well as the usual potholes and highways issues, using the app- <https://fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk>

Shillingford Bridge

We are looking closely at ways to improve safety and reduce non-local traffic on Shillingford Bridge. OCC Cabinet members Tim Bearder and Pete Sudbury visited the bridge with me and local residents to have a closer look just before Christmas, and we are in discussions with OCC officers on what next steps can be taken.

Oxford United request land near Kidlington for a new stadium

Oxford United Football Club has requested land to develop a new 18,000-capacity football stadium, with linked leisure and commercial facilities, on land owned by us near Kidlington. The club has asked to lease 18 hectares of land at Stratfield Brake for 250 years. Alongside the stadium, the club's proposal also includes facilities such as a hotel, retail, conference facilities, and training and community grounds. OCC Cabinet will discuss the proposal at its meeting on 18 January.

Information on vaccinations for Covid-19

Getting vaccinated and boosted remains the best thing you can do to protect yourself and your families against getting seriously ill from Covid-19. For the latest information and advice, go to

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/council/coronavirus-covid-19>

Other News

**ABINGDON
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Ex pupil Announced As Abingdon Drama Club's New Junior Drama Classes Teacher!

Abingdon Drama Club (ADC) are proud to announce the appointment of their new juniors drama classes teacher, Leon Witcomb.



Leon an ex pupil of ADC's classes first enrolled in 2010, and now he has been successful in landing his dream job, his dream role – Drama Teacher!

Since enrolling, acting has become a large part of Leon's life and he has excelled, first as a child actor and then as an adult actor in the various productions he's acted in and stage crewed for. His productions include:

Peter Pan	Servant of Two Masters
The Laramie Project	Aladdin
The Crucible	Henry VI Part III
Silence	Twelfth Night
The Pillowman	An Improvised Nightmare
The Wedding Singer	12 Angry People
The Life	

Leon knows first hand what is required to teach these classes and he understands how important they can be to pupils. He is passionate about making drama accessible to young people and sees his role first and foremost as a nurturing one.

He said, "I never thought, 11 years ago, that I would be in such a privileged position to actually be teaching at the establishment that taught me so much. This is unbelievably exciting for me."

Leon will follow in the footsteps of previous ADC teachers in offering young aspiring actors from **Abingdon and the surrounding area** a chance to hone their acting skills in a fun, nurturing environment while meeting other young people from a variety of local schools.

During the week Leon is a Science Instructor and afterschool Science Club Leader with Bright Sparks Science (BSS) where he delivers high quality outreach programmes and inspires face to face and online activities to support children from all backgrounds to reach their potential.

Leon wants children to unlock their potential to become the innovators, pioneers and contributing citizens of the future.

ADC, one of the oldest drama clubs in the country, has been providing drama classes for young people for over 35 years. **Leon** will be running the drama classes every Saturday during term times, starting in January 2022.

The classes and planned start times are as follows:

Juniors 1 Ages 9-12 Saturdays during term time from 10.30am – 11.30am

A combination of drama games, improvisation and scene work. A fun way to make new friends and start to learn the fundamentals of theatre and performance. SPACES AVAILABLE.

Juniors 2 Ages 13-16 Saturdays during term time from 11.30am – 1pm

This class focuses on building drama skills including voice, movement, action, objective, subtext and characterisation. In-depth study of plays and playwrights supports learning, particularly for those enrolled in GCSE Drama. SPACES AVAILABLE.

Cost per term is £90.

“Acting is essentially telling the truth using someone else’s words. As actors we are storytellers. Our job is to engage the audience and the best way to do this is through truthful performance.”

Drama Classes

Enrolling now for 2022.

Email: juniors@abingdon-drama-club.com or
abingdondramaclub@gmail.com



**Soldiers of
Oxfordshire
Museum**

Churchill in Oxfordshire



- **An Online Talk streaming at 7pm on Tuesday, 1st February 2022, followed by a live Q&A session**
- **Features historians David Lough and Ashley Jackson in conversation about the life of Winston Churchill**
- **Covering Churchill’s life and work, from his Oxfordshire beginnings at Blenheim, to his burial in nearby Bladon.**
- **The live event will be free to view on the SOFO Museum website, no registration required, but donations welcomed, which support the museum.**

Streaming from the Soldiers of Oxfordshire (SOFO) Museum website live from 7pm, Tuesday 1st February 2022 is *Churchill in Oxfordshire*, the latest in the museum’s series of popular online talks.

Winston Churchill, while fixed in many people's minds as both a National, and indeed a World, figure, he also had many ties to the county of Oxfordshire. Churchill's story started and ended in Oxfordshire and he naturally occupies a prominent place at SOFO Museum in Woodstock.

Watch the online talk to find out how big a part his Oxfordshire background and military career played in his political career and decision making.

Viewers joining this online event can see David Lough and Prof Ashley Jackson, two acclaimed Churchill authors, in conversation about all aspects of his life, from his soldiering in the Oxfordshire Yeomanry (Queens Own Oxfordshire Hussars), to his family relationships and the difficult inter-War years. In this online talk, the humanity of this remarkable and enduring figure shines through.

David Lough is the author of the critically acclaimed *No More Champagne: Churchill and his Money* as well as *Darling Winston: Forty years of letters between Churchill and his mother*, and winner of the International Churchill Society's Somervell Award 2016. Drawing on his in-depth knowledge of this personal correspondence, and renowned insight into the famous figures' finances, Lough answers questions fielded by Professor Ashley Jackson.

Ashley Jackson is Professor of Imperial and Military History at King's College London, with many published works on various aspects of British imperial history, focusing on the Empire during times of war, as well as his own book covering Winston's life from his Woodstock origins, *Churchill*.

A live Q&A session will also allow viewers to pose their own questions for the two Churchill historians. The event will be available to view both live and in a 'Catch Up' version free from the SOFO Museum website, but donations will be encouraged to support the work of the museum.

Stream Link: <https://www.sofo.org.uk/whats-on/wsconlinetalk/>

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 March issue of The Mouthpiece by February 15th to:

generalmouthpiece@gmail.com

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Local Services Directory

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Just park outside!

OPEN Monday to Saturday 9am to 5.30pm



WHO IS WHO IN CULHAM?

CULHAM PARISH COUNCIL			
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CLERK TO PARISH COUNCIL			
Culham Parish Council Clerk	clerk@culham-pc.gov.uk		
DISTRICT COUNCILLOR			
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Ordained Local Minister	Revd. David Haylett	familyhaylett@yahoo.com	01865 407382
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