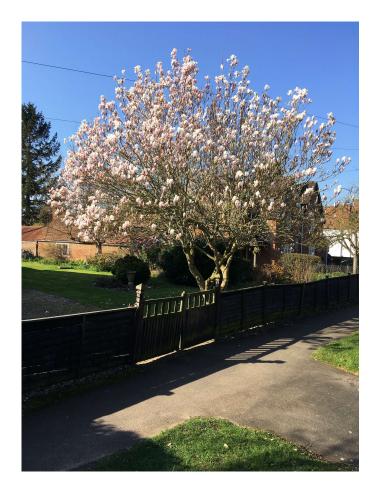
The Mouthpiece

Culham's Newsletter

April 2022



Dates for your Diary

Sunday 3rd April	11.00am	Family Holy Communion	St Paul's Church
Wednesday 6th April	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	St Paul's Church
Sunday 10th April	11.00am	Holy Communion	St Paul's Church
Sunday 17th April	11.00am	Holy Communium	St Paul's Church
Tuesday 19 th April	7.30pm	Sutton Courtenay W.I.	River Room, Sutton Courtenay
Sunday 24th April	11.00am	No Service	St Paul's Church
Saturday 21st May	1pm – 4pm	Plant Sale	on The Green
Friday 3 rd June Sunday 5 th June	from 5pm from 12noon	Platinum Jubilee Pub Platinum Jubilee Street Part	on The Green y on The Green

From Rev. Paul Wignall

Talking point from the Rev. Paul Wignall APRIL 2022



Someone once said, "It is the besetting sin of the Church of England that it wants to reach Easter Day without passing through Good Friday". Yes, he was given to rather an over-dramatic way of expressing himself, but his point is a good one: it is wrong to rush over, or airbrush out, the hard things in life and focus only on the sunshine and sangria.

Now, I'm not being just an old misery-guts when I say this. I like sunshine too, if not sangria. Indeed nothing marks you down in Spain as a tourist more than ordering a jug of that stuff. Say *Verano, por favor* and watch your waiter relax (you'll get exactly what you ask for, summer – *verano* - in a glass). No, what I'm getting at is this; churches at their worst, like the media at its worst, have been known to steer clear of the tough things about life, the pain and sadness, the grief and the doubt. Or at least, these are things that don't get too much of a mention; they're left out of polite conversation.

Yet there are times when there is no choice. The shock of images from Ukrainian cities that quickly turn into thoughts about the realities of the fear of the people – people just like you and me, our children and grandchildren – whose lives are being destroyed, deliberately and brutally. News about a friend or a neighbour suddenly dying, bringing home to us how easily any life can be turned upside down. Memories, maybe, from our own lives when sorrow or fear seemed to dominate everything. These are real, true things that are part of life, part of everyone's life sometime or other, one way or another.



Have you ever seen a mask from ancient Greek theatre? Look at the image. They have two main characteristics: wide open eyes, and wide open mouths. They can't look away from the pain they are seeing. They look at it, letting its reality sink in. And then they speak. They speak about the suffering and, in bearing witness to it, never minimising it, they begin to transform it. The pain won't go away in a Greek tragedy, just as it won't go away from the people of Ukraine just now, or from those grieving the loss of a loved one. But it begins, quietly at first, to be transformed. In its own time defeat becomes defiance, horror becomes hope, and death takes its place as part of life. Every winter has its spring. And every spring still bears the marks of winter. There is new life, and that means *new* – **not the same as before**. The ice cracks open a rock to let new seeds lodge there and, in time, they grow.

A true friend or neighbour wants to ease pain, not pretend it isn't there. Real love means open-eyed silence in the midst of unimaginable suffering and, when the time is right, gentle words of hope. When the time is right. There will be new life.



Village News

Village website: www.culhamvillage.org.uk



There will also be a Tombola and we are looking for bottles and gifts

We will be calling during the first week of May to collect any bottles or gifts or you may drop them off at 32 High Street. Thank you

Platinum Jubilee Weekend Culham Street Party On the Green

Fri 3rd Jun Pub from 17:00 Sun 5th Jun Street Party from 12:00

Featuring

Bar Picnic Lunch Platinum Pudding & Cake Competition

Kids Activities

Build a Castle Craft a Crown Paint the Queen Bouncy Castle Rounders

Look out for more details in the coming weeks

DIEU ET MON DROIT

Culham Parish Council (CPC) notes – March 2022

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

Meeting held in St Paul's Culham

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

Orchard Site and The Green

A plan of the area being considered for the village orchard was presented by Morrells and will be confirmed by CPC.

A plan of what Morrells is offering to the village in terms of the sale of The Green was presented for consideration

Recreation Ground and Play Equipment Report

An application for FCC landfill grant has been made, amounting to £45,000. CPC's request is going to SODC committee on Monday (07 March).

Defibrillator

Update on possible sites - CPC will contact SOHA and Highways to see about installation on the wall of the Willows, or possibly on a lamp post.

Noticeboards

These need repair after wind damage but requires an assessment PLEASE SEE NOTE AT THE END OF THIS REPORT

HIF Road Update from the Parish Group

The Five Parishes Group has asked for information on traffic modelling relating to environmental and ecological aspect.

CPC is happy with the recent Joint Council agreement.

Grass Cutting Schedule and Plan

The Clerk at Sutton Courtenay has a couple of contacts that Sutton Courtenay are going to use. CPC will contact them for quotes. Jim Boyland will do the first cut on The Green

Next meeting

Wednesday 6th April 2022 at 7.30pm – to be held in St Paul's Church Culham PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF DAY.

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



County Councillor's Report – March 2022

Councillor Robin Bennett – Berinsfield & Garsington Division

robin.bennett@oxfordshire.gov.uk 07979 646815

Large majority offered first choice secondary school place for 2022/23

Parents and children across Oxfordshire have been offered their first choice of secondary school for 2022/23 in the vast majority of cases. A total of **88.27 per cent** (6,606) of applications have been awarded their first choice (up from 80.9 per cent last year). A total of 96.42 per cent (7,216) have been offered one of the four choices they listed on their application. The county school admissions team has done an excellent job in ensuring that so many parents and children have been offered their first choice. Our aim as a council is to give every child a good start in life and our school admissions team certainly play its part in that year in, year out.

Oxfordshire County Council receives award for commitment to LGBTQ+ inclusion

The Council has received a bronze award for its commitment and efforts to become an LGBTQ+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning and others) employer. The award comes as part of equality charity Stonewall's 'Bring Yourself to Work' campaign, which highlights the importance of inclusive work environments. Oxfordshire County Council is proud to stand with everyone in our LGBTQ+ communities. According to Stonewall's research, more than a third of LGBTQ+ staff (35 per cent) hide who they are at work, while one in five (18 per cent) have been the target of negative comments because they're LGBTQ+.

Second car park to have EV chargers installed – Wallingford

Work is due to start next week at a second car park in Wallingford as part of the Park and Charge Electric Vehicle charging scheme. The project proposes a total of up to 62 new charging points in car parks across the South Oxfordshire district. Engineers are installing electric chargers at Goldsmith's Lane car park in Wallingford. All work is due to be completed by the end of March. This project is part of a county-wide scheme to install hundreds of EV charging points in council-owned car parks.

HIF1 roads update (including new Thames bridge and Clifton Hampden 'bypass')

I spoke, alongside other councillors and members of the public, at the March cabinet meeting asking for improvements to the HIF1 scheme to make it fit for the 21st century and to avoid an 'Expressway by stealth', and for all options to be considered, including light rail.

As a result, OCC will now go back to government to seek confirmation that the Council has flexibility to design and deliver infrastructure that will reduce carbon impact and the need to travel by car, and will commence the development of designs "consistent with this Council's strategic priorities".

A 'cabinet advisory group' will be set up to monitor the project – whose budget has already increased from £235m to \pounds 296m – and I would expect to be part of this, as a local councillor for the affected area. It was also proposed to develop a new Didcot area transport strategy and masterplan, which of course should have been done before this scheme was proposed in the first place.

Public Health advice: use caution and consideration as pandemic enters new phase

People in Oxfordshire are being urged to act with caution and consideration following the prime minister's significant announcement about COVID-19 rule changes.

Despite recent welcome declines in the number of people contracting COVID-19 in the county, thousands of people are still doing so each week.

Ansaf Azhar, Oxfordshire County Council's Director for Public Health, said:

"We're now at a point where we can start to look forward, to live with COVID-19 and be confident about making plans. But my advice is to do this with caution and consideration for others. COVID-19 has not gone away. For some – the medically vulnerable and the elderly – it remains a threat. For those who have not had the vaccine, the virus still has the potential to cause serious illness."

- Be considerate. If you feel ill, then you should still stay away from others and remain at home while you have symptoms. As with any other illness, no-one will thank you for sharing it.
- Be aware. There will be many in our communities who will be extremely nervous about the recent news. Be conscious of other people's situations and what they are comfortable with.
- Be cautious. Our rates are still high and will remain so for some time to come. Making sensible decisions, such as wearing a face covering in crowded places and letting fresh air into indoor spaces, does not mean restricting what you do.
- Be mindful of the fact that our health and social care system remains under huge pressure. So please only visit hospital emergency departments in genuine emergencies.

Other News





COME AND JOIN US ...

FOR A LIVELY FRIENDLY EVENING

At our meeting in April we'll be fascinated by

'A Collection of Dolls'

and their stories

Spring is here, and Summer is not too far away

- join us and see what exciting things

we'll be up to in May, June, and the

rest of the year !

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





Abingdon Drama Club (ADC) are now enrolling for their Juniors Drama Classes with their new teacher, Leon Witcomb. Interested? Contact us now:

Email: abingdondramaclubjuniors@gmail.com or abingdondramaclub@gmail.com

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.

The planned classes and 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.

Leon is an ex pupil of ADC's classes. 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.

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

Many of our ex pupils have gone on to appear on TV, in West End theatres and on film. Classes cost £90 per term.







Abingdon Drama Club Proudly presents Dick Whittington By John Morley Directed by Mike Ward

NEW DATES!

We're back!

Owing to Covid-19 we had to postpone our great new pantomime. Our new dates are as follows:

Thursday 28th and Friday 29th April at 7.30pm. Saturday 30th April matinee at 1.30pm and evening at 6pm.

Abingdon Drama Club (ADC) brings pantomime back to the beautiful Unicorn Theatre, with this classic tale of a young lad going to London to seek his fortune.

Dick Whittington (Rosie Clarke), alongside his best friend Tommy the cat (**Bex Wright**), battle hordes of sinister rats with the help of an assortment of colourful and hilarious characters. **Tickets:** £10, £8 concessions (60+, Under 12s, students, ADC members)

Group Bookings: Groups of 10 and over – All tickets £8 (£8.55 when booked online – just select the concession rate ticket and choose the number you require). Please let us know if you have any problems with your booking.

Tickets available from: The Bookstore, The Abingdon Precinct (15 Bury Street), Abingdon or online at Website: <u>www.abingdon-drama-club.com</u> Email: <u>enquiries@abingdon-drama-club.com</u>



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MoonHawk presents Frankenstein at the Unicorn Theatre



 Wednesday 30th March – Saturday 2nd April at 7:30pm

 Tickets: £10 (age 14+ only) from vww.wegottickets.com/moonhawk or on the door.



Agent Sonya - A Soviet Spy in Oxfordshire

- Online Talk available on the museum website from 7pm, Tuesday, 29th March 2022
- Ursula Beurton, Soviet 'Agent Sonya', lived in North Oxford, Kidlington, Glympton and Great Rollright during the 1940s
- Speakers Professor Anthony Glees and Patrick Marnham
- Free to view on the museum's website, with donations welcome.

Video Link: https://www.sofo.org.uk/whats-on/agentsonya/





Letters from Liberation: Commemorating the Liberation of Bergen-Belsen Concentration Camp

- \bullet Online Talk and live Q&A available on the museum website from 7pm, Thursday, 14^{th} April 2022
- Commemorates the liberation of Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, 15th April 1945.
- Oxfordshire Yeomanry soldier Arthur Tyler met Polish Holocaust survivor Naomi Kaplan at the liberation of the camp, changing both their lives.

• Free to view on the museum's website, with donations welcome. Video Link: <u>https://www.sofo.org.uk/whats-on/lettersfromliberation/</u>



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 May issue of The Mouthpiece by April 15th to: <u>generalmouthpiece@gmail.com</u>

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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