The Mouthpiece

Culham's Newsletter

May 2022



Dates for your Diary

Sun 1 May	11am	1am Family Holy Communion	
Sun 8 May	11am	Holy Communion	St Pauls Church
Tues 10 May	7pm	Annual Parish Council Meeting	St Pauls Church
Sat 14 May	from 4pm	French Night Cheese, wine, petangue, children's film	St Pauls Church
Sun 15 May	11am	Messy Church	St Pauls Church
Sat 21 May	1pm- 4pm	Plant Sale	The Green
Sun 22 May	10.30am	Team Service	St Pauls Church
Fri 3 June	from 5pm	with Archdeacon Judy Platinum Jubilee Pub	The Green
Sun 5 June	11am	Songs of Praise service	St Pauls Church
Sun 5 June	from 12noon	Platinum Jubilee Street Party	The Green

From Rev. Paul Wignall and the Dorchester Abbey Team

The first of May is exactly half way between the Spring Equinox and the Summer Solstice and as the first day of summer its celebrations welcome the season for growth



and fertility with many traditions across the world. It seems the month of May was always a time for festivals and in some places, there is still maypole dancing, Morris Dancers, and the crowning of a May Queen. Locally of course in Oxford the choir of Magdalene College sing from the top of the tower to welcome May morning. In 1889 1st May was chosen as International Workers Day to commemorate the struggle by workers for an eight-hour working day. It seems ironic that this has developed into the current May Day parades that show off military might and the means of destruction rather than improved working conditions. What a contrast! In the church May is a season of transition and transformation. The Easter season draws to a close with Ascension Day when the resurrected Jesus leaves his disciples to tell his story and, with the subsequent coming of the Holy Spirit, the early church emerges. Preceding Ascension Day are rogation days which often include prayers of protection for growing crops and, when the ceremony of beating the bounds takes place, local communities.

A late Easter means Ascension Day does not fall until 26th May and therefore Whitsun (or Pentecost) not until the beginning of June. By then hopefully we can expect nature to be in full bloom. The coming of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the church echoes this fullness of life. The Spirit that is a transformative gift and shows us the right path to tread. A path that surely does not include an endless show of military might not only on parade but also used against neighbour. Let us, therefore, continue to pray, not only for protection of our crops and communities, but also for peace with justice for all.

Team Services

Wed 11th May 7pm Team Confirmation Service in Dorchester Abbey If you are considering confirmation, or would like to know more please contact Emma Firth, our Youth and Families Minister via dorchesterteamfamilies@gmail.com or call the office. You can be confirmed at any stage on your faith journey - there are no age limits.

Sun 22nd **May 10.30am** Our Team Service will be in St Paul's church, Culham. We are delighted that Archdeacon Judy will be joining us for the morning.

Thurs 26th May 7pm Ascension Day at Toot Baldon "You are witnesses of these things......."

The disciples were commissioned to witness to the death and resurrection of Jesus and we too are called to be His witnesses. Our service of Holy Communion is an opportunity to reflect on this and pray for our whole community as we look out across the surrounding fields.

Team Events

Sat 14th May 9.45am for 10.00am to 1.00pm Dorchester Team Community Meeting in Dorchester Village Hall

We would value your views as we recruit our new Rector. We invite members of the village and representatives of the communities that are in the Dorchester Team to join us to consider the qualities needed in our next Team Rector. Please RSVP to: admin@dorchester-abbey.org.uk. For questions about the meeting please contact Amy Herlihy on 01865 400 864 or a.herlihy@btinternet.com. More information can be found on https://www.dorchesterabbey.org.uk/dorchester-team-churches-contacts/

Events in the Abbey

Fri 29th April to Sun 8th May The bi-annual **Dorchester Festival** takes place this Spring, 29th April — 8th May. The Festival is an amazing collection of over 50 events packed into just 10 days at Dorchester Abbey, raising money for Dorchester Abbey and for Daybreak, an inspirational local charity. Emerging from a tough couple of years, Dorchester Festival is an opportunity to get together with friends and family to enjoy an eclectic mix of great entertainment. This year's mix ranges from The King's Singers to folk band Merry Hell, from our Bash party in the huge marquee to The Comedy Night, from the Duck Race to Lego Masterbuilders, inflatable walk through brains and so much more! Further information and tickets can be found at www.dorchesterfestival.com

Sat 14th May 7pm_OSJ Opera Gala Young Stars of the future -_Operatic overtures, arias and duets. This concert celebrates the OSJ's Young Artists scheme; current members and graduates of the highest quality perform timeless operatic favourites including the Seguidilla from Bizet's *Carmen*. With full orchestral backing. We open with Johann Strauss II's *Die Fledermaus* Overture. OSJ is committed to supporting young musicians and nurturing their talent. Our Young Artists scheme provides the opportunity for young musicians to flourish as soloists or conductors in the early stages of their careers, irrespective of background. Read more at osj.org.uk/young-artists-scheme/ Tickets £5 to £25 from https://www.osj.org.uk/osjevent/opera-gala-young-stars-of-the-future-7pm-at-dorchester-abbey/

Fri 27th to Sun 29th May English Music Festival We are delighted to announce the programme for the 2022 May EMF. This year, the Festival is scheduled to return to Oxfordshire, with events held in the glorious surroundings of Dorchester Abbey as well as at the Silk Hall at Radley College and the historic All Saints' Church at Sutton Courtenay. The full programme, with details of venues, works and artists, is given below. Public booking is now open, with tickets available from https://www.englishmusicfestival.org.uk/2022-may-festival/box-office/box-office-front-page.php and by post. In the meantime, if you are not already a member of the EMF Friends' Scheme and would like to know more about how you can support the work of the Festival in this way, please visit https://www.englishmusicfestival.org.uk/friends.php for a description of the tiers and their benefits, together with information about how to join.

Sat 4th June 7pm Queen's 70th Jubilee Concert Music from the Wedding, the Coronation and the 50th Jubilee to include Handel Zadok the priest, Parry I was glad and Music by Vaughan Williams, Wesley, Purcell and others. Tickets £5 to £30 from https://www.osj.org.uk/osjevent/queens-70th-jubilee-concert-7pm-at-dorchester-abbey/



Village News

Village website: www.culhamvillage.org.uk

Plant Sale & Church Fete Saturday 21st May 1 pm - 4 pm

Tea & Cake Stall

Children's Activities

Books

BBQ

Bouncy Castle

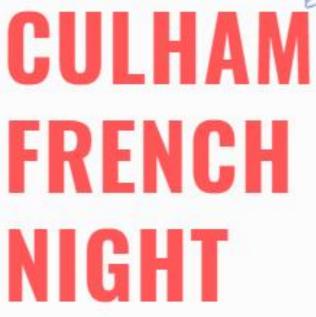
Band

Bar

Raffle



Culham Green



Cheese, wine, and homemade bread A film for children Learn to play pétanque

£10 per person £5 for children Please purchase tickets in advance from from Thibault at **19 High Street, Culham**

SATURDAY 14TH MAY FROM 4PM



Culham Parish Council (CPC) notes – April 2022

Not available at time of going to press

Next meeting 7 pm Tuesday 10th May 2022 at St Paul's Church with presentation from CEG developers for Culham No 1 site.

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 Annual Report – Cllr Sam Casey-Rerhaye

This has been another year dominated by COVID in the work of the Council. The Community Hub continued its support to residents, business grants were distributed, vouchers were given out to people struggling as a result of the pandemic's impact on their lives and the Test & Trace support grants also given out. Most staff in the Council have worked from home or a combination of home and office over the past year. The Council also appointed a new leader in October, Cllr David Rouane.

Climate Action Plan

As part of our Corporate Plan theme 3, Tackling the Climate Emergency, we created a climate action plan: South-Climate-Action-plan-2022-2024.pdf (southoxon.gov.uk) for the District Council. We held a Parish & Town Forum on this theme and had valuable contributions and discussions at the event. Almost half of our emissions come from our seven leisure centres and waste collection is also a large emitter for the Councils so we have included focusing on reducing emissions from our contractors such as Biffa (our waste collection contractor) and from our buildings such as leisure centres as priorities. Biffa itself trialled an electric vehicle for recycling collections in March.

We published our **Tree Planting Policy** for community groups wanting to plant trees and hedging on council owned land, and two pieces of Council land in Wallingford have already had trees planted this March and I know in the Vale, trees were planted in Abingdon too.

The **Business support team** have focused their work on helping businesses be successful in reducing their emissions, hosting many free webinars on this and a organising a Green Business Fair in Henley.

Refugees

Council work with refugees has focused on finding the right housing for the Afghan families who fled here. GLL, who run the District's leisure centres, have provided free swimming lessons for some of the children who are at school in the district at Didcot Wave. We are working closely with the County Council and government to settle Ukrainian refugees. We are mobilising a joint system wide team based on our previous COVID model, which includes the county, other district and city councils and our health partners. The only route for people to enter the UK is through a visa process administered by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and the Home Office. It is this system, and only this system, that will trigger requests to local authorities for support. Our involvement, and that of all councils, is therefore limited to the timing of that activation and to those individuals successfully registering through that route.

Council Finances

We have worked consistently on getting the council finances in a better state, after the impact of Covid and previous years of underfunding. We have brought more financial services in house this year allowing us to manage budgets much more effectively. This year's budget was therefore focused on investing in our priorities, we allocated an extra £500,000 for immediate direct investment in nature recovery, climate change and community well-being: so, projects like supporting car-sharing clubs, running more green business fairs, renovating public toilets and supporting community litter picks and supporting eco construction skills development.

We are saving money by working on a **new joint** development plan with the Vale of the White Horse, making the most of our shared expertise, similar priorities and the fact that Didcot straddles both Districts.

We moved on with plans to invest in new offices in Didcot, opposite the railway station, which will save money in rent and provide a much more suitable civic building. We are also buying homes to house those who need

temporary accommodation instead of using expensive and unsuitable hotels. Happily, we had no people sleeping rough in the district last year, a good result from our Housing First policy!

We have been working on a new policy for **developer contributions** to the district's infrastructure, having already improved the Council's ability to spend them more quickly. We released more the £2m to support community wellbeing and leisure facilities, for example improving access to the Thames for wheelchair users and a partnership project with the Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment giving local organisations the opportunity to bid for a share of £50,000 for local nature projects and £25,000 for a pilot 'Tiny Forest' site. A further £5m of these funds has been directed to buying and investing in council houses – essential in an area with such high housing costs; this is on top of contributions to Henley & District Housing Trust and our own Didcot Broadway development of new low-carbon homes.

There was break in our **Garden Waste** collections last autumn as a result of Covid and HGV driver shortages. We worked closely with Biffa to ensure the shortest period possible and have continued improvement in our systems by purchasing a new Customer database software to make communicating with residents on waste collections much more efficient.

Retrofitting Homes for Energy Efficiency

I chaired a task & finish group investigating the slow and patchy progress on making homes more energy, and therefore carbon, efficient. This seems even more relevant this year. Our report is here: Retrofitting-Homes-Task-and-Finish-Group.pdf (southoxon.gov.uk) and has a raft of recommendations both for this council and for the wider Oxfordshire community. The report has been taken to the Oxfordshire-wide Future Oxfordshire Partnership (formally the Oxfordshire Growth Board) and nationally to the District Council's Network.

HIF Road & Bridge Projects

More of my time has been addressing the detail of the Housing & Infrastructure Fund (HIF) proposed roads and bridges for South Oxfordshire. I am very concerned about the likelihood of induced vehicle journeys resulting from infrastructure for housing being offered as these road projects, creating more carbon emissions and more pollution.

Our 'Design Guide' for development

The solar farm application for Nuneham Courtenay/Baldons area was granted planning permission at Planning Committee, relying on the Chair's casting vote. Further solar farm applications are coming forward, and we have fed some information on these into our new Design Guide which sits side by side with the development Local Plan. The Design Guide has been in development all year, has been out for consultation and is very progressive on all aspects of building design, including those to save carbon.

New Enforcement Policy Statement

This has now been in force for a few months. It sets out prioritisation criteria for cases and will be reviewed after 12 months.

Thames Champion

Our Thames Champion, Cllr Jo Robb, has continued her work for a cleaner River Thames. Significant publicity has been achieved on the number and volumes of raw sewage outflows into the Thames and considerable pressure has been put on Thames Water both locally and nationally by Jo and others to address the causes of these.

My contact details are:

Sam.casey-rerhaye@southoxon.gov.uk 01235 635566

County Councillor's Report April 2022 – Robin Bennett

County Council calls for government review of adult social care funding

OCC called on the government to review its funding allocations for adult social care, following publication of a review into the cost of care by the County Councils Network. The report estimates that, nationally, an extra £854 million is needed in the allocation fund each year to make care sustainable and avoid large-scale closures and ensure ongoing investment into the social care sector.

County Council to pursue detailed discussions on stadium proposal

Oxford United FC's bid to lease 18 hectares at Stratfield Brake in Kidlington for 250 years to develop a new 18,000 capacity football stadium is set to be discussed, based on objectives that have been guided by extensive public feedback. In January the council conducted a public engagement exercise on the stadium proposal, and a total of 3,740 responses were received. Cabinet has agreed that the council should enter discussions while seeking maximum environmental, transport and education benefits.

Oxfordshire's £32.8m Zero Emission Bus Regional Areas (ZEBRA) bid to the Department for Transport (DfT) was successful.

Along with £6m from the council and £43.7m from bus companies Go Ahead and Stagecoach, the funding will deliver 159 electric buses and the infrastructure to charge them in a package worth £82.5m.

The electric buses will be rolled out starting from summer 2023 and will be used on bus routes operating wholly within the Oxford Smart Zone. They will save an estimated 9,200 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions each year – the equivalent of taking more than 6,000 cars off the road – and will mean that approximately 70% of bus miles driven in the Smart Zone area will be operated by electric buses.

This is **in addition** to the £12.7m secured (out of the £56 million originally requested) as part of the National Bus Strategy fund - 31 areas across England were awarded money under the latest round of the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) scheme. Many areas received nothing at all.

Separately, Oxfordshire County Council has received £500,000 to support Oxford to become a zero emission transport city, as part of a government pilot programme. The Department for Transport invited cities who are keen to decarbonise their transportation systems and make zero emission travel more accessible to apply for funding. Oxfordshire County Council is one of just three local authorities to receive this funding, selected because of our commitment to deliver extensive bike lanes, an all-electric bus fleet, restrictions that discourage petrol and diesel vehicles, and initiatives that increase the use of electric cargo bikes (e-cargo) and vans for deliveries.

Of immediate local interest, I have received confirmation from cabinet member Tim Bearder that the routing of the X39/X40 service remains under review, and there is optimism that the 3rd hourly service may return in September.

HIF1 Didcot/Culham/Clifton Hampden bypass project

After representations from local councillors, OCC cabinet have delayed their final decision on the HIF1 project, requesting assurances from government before final approval. The project budget has increased to £296million from the original planned £235m, meaning the council now has to borrow to fund some of the costs. The council has asked for-

- An extension to 31st March 2026 and assurance that risks to the delivery timeframe caused by exceptional circumstances will be mitigated.
- Confirmation that the Council has flexibility to design and deliver infrastructure that will reduce the carbon impact and reduce the need to travel by car.
- The draft of any amended GDA (Grant Determination Agreement) to be presented to OCC Cabinet for approval.
- A Cabinet Advisory Group (CAG) to be set up to oversee the detailed design and development of HIF1, consistent with OCC's new strategic priorities.
- Development of a new Didcot area transport strategy and masterplan



Paul Jordan 1967-2022

- Caroline Baird

The villagers of Culham were very sorry to hear of the sudden and untimely death of popular postman, Paul Jordan. A collection was arranged and a bouquet of flowers was taken to his funeral service at Oxford Crematorium on 25th March. The handsome sum of £277.91 was sent to his sister to put towards a bench in his memory at his golf course.

The family have sent a thank you card to all of us. See below. RIP Postman Paul.

We just wanted to thank you all for the generous collection and your kindness following Paul's untimely death. Thank you also for the lovely flowers and to those of you who were able to Join us of Paul's Funeral. It meant a lot to our family that so many of cared. Paul really enjoyed his round at Culham and also enjoyed being part of your community. He spoke often about you all. Nith the kind collection from yourselves and also a callection from his friends of Royal Mail We plan to put a memorial bench on the golf course. Paul was a member at Carrio City Golf Club for almost 40 years so it seems a fithing place. Once the bench is in place I will let Caroline know and sond some pictures. Thank you again

Doar Caroline & all the Residents of Culham

> Your kindness couldn't be appreciated more thank you so much! WITH Best Wishes

Usa, Store o Sophia Morgan

Ukranian Refugees

For anyone who has been able to offer space in their home to a Ukranian refugee or family, Charlotte Storrs is offering the opportunity to work with clay to any such refugees in the vicinity who think it may be of help to them. Clay creativity can be therapeutic. Contact Charlotte at 8, The Green or on pots@charlottestorrs-stoneware.co.uk



Songs of Praise – Platinum Jubilee Sunday 5th June – 11am



There will be a special Songs of Praise service on Sunday 5th June in honour of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. 11am at St Pauls Church.

If you have a favourite hymn or special request, let Andrew know on churchillstone27@gmail.com or pop a note through the door of 21 High Street!



Culham Street Party On the Green

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

Featuring

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

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Please send an email to make an appointment

25% of sales will go to the Red Cross DEC UKRAINE HUMANITARIAN APPEAL



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Other News

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

Clifton Hampden & Burcot Tennis Club





Your tennis club welcomes residents from Clifton Hampden & Burcot, as well as being open to parents, staff & children from Clifton Hampden Primary School and residents of Long & Little Wittenham and Culham. We welcome all levels, whether you play competitively, occasionally or with visiting friends.

Family membership £40 with unlimited guests £55

Single membership £30 with unlimited guests £45

The season runs from 1 May to 30 April. To join now & access the Club's court, complete the form on www.chbtc.co.uk

TENNIS SOCIAL

Saturday 14th May 14th

4-6pm at Recreation Ground

Members and non-members welcome. There will be information about the club, drinks and tournament information as well as an opportunity to register your interest in coaching.





TENNIS TOURNAMENT – JULY

Please also email us to submit interest in playing in a tournament. You are not bound by submitting your interest, it simply helps us prepare for the event. Emails will be sent with details prior to the event.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED

The club is run by volunteers. We need your help! if you'd like to join our friendly committee or can offer help once a year at the social or on tournament day. If you'd like to join the team or find out more, email us at info@chbtc.co.uk



SUTTON COURTENAY WI



COME ON IN ...

find out what we're doing this year!
 In May we look forward to hearing about
 'Pets for Therapy'

Our Summer Trip in June is to the Weald & Downland Living Museum

 lots more, so why not come and join us and see what you could be enjoying with 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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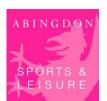
We are currently seeking enthusiastic volunteers in the local area to join our Board of Governors. We are particularly interested in hearing from people with experience or skills in project management, IT, premises and facilities management, or Early Years Education. Governor training and support will be provided.

The role of governors is to...

- Help set and review the school's vision and strategic direction and agreeing targets for improvement
- Hold the Head Teacher and school leaders to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils
- Oversee the financial performance of the school ensuring that public money is well spent

For further details contact Mark Oughtred... mark.oughtred@clifton-hampden.oxon.sch.uk 07789038876

Amey Theatre, Abingdon School



https://www.abingdon.org.uk/sports-and-leisure/amey-theatre/box-office-booking/

Screenings:

5th May Northern Ballet's Merlin

7th May Banf Mountain Film Festival World Tour

14th May Phoenix Taekwondo school presents "Taekwondo – ELEMENTS"

19th May Royal Opera House Live "Swan Lake"

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 June 2022 issue of the Mouthpiece by May 15th to: generalmouthpiece@gmail.com

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

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stuart.morris@ukaea.uk 01235 464904

Local Services Directory



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WHO IS WHO IN CULHAM?

CULHAM PARISH COU	NCIL				
Sam Casey-Rerhaye (Chair)	s.caseyrerhaye@culham-pc.gov.uk	3 The Burycroft, Culham	01235 635566		
Andrew Steele	a.steele@culham-pc.gov.uk	27 High Street, Culham	01235 534910		
Adrian Morris	a.morris@culham-pc.gov.uk	5, Manor Farm Barns, Culham			
Philip Owen	p.owen@culham-pc.gov.uk	6, The Green, Culham	01235 555223		
Siobhan Sargeant		3, High Street, Culham	07414 219803		
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Culham Parish Council Clerk	clerk@culham-pc.gov.uk				
DISTRICT COUNCILLOF	₹				
Sam Casey-Rerhaye	Sam.Casey-Rerhaye@southoxon.gov.	uk 3 The Burycroft, Culham	01235 635566		
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Robin Bennett	robin.bennett@oxfordshire.gov.uk	4 Meadside, Dorchester-on-Thames	07979 646815		
ST PAUL'S CHURCH					
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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		
Hon. Secretary:	Ruth Ward	stpaulsculham@gmail.com 5 Thame Lane, Culham			
FRIENDS OF ST PAUL'S	S CHURCH				
Chairman:	Philip Owen	6 The Green, Culham	01235 555223		
ST PAUL'S & CULHAM	VILLAGE RE-ORDERING COMMTTEE				
Philip Owen	stpaulsandculhamvillage@gmail.com	6 The Green, Culham	01235 555223		
LADIES OF CULHAM (L	OC)				
Mary Rickford	mary@therickfords.com	The Clock House, Culham	01235 528052		
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Neighbourhood Policing Team		Non-emergency Phone Number	101		
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