

# The Mouthpiece

Culham's Newsletter

**June 2022**



## Dates for your Diary

|              |          |  |                  |
|--------------|----------|--|------------------|
| Fri 3 June   | from 5pm | <b>Platinum Jubilee Pub</b>  | The Green        |
| Sun 5 June   | 11am     | Songs of Praise service  | St Paul's Church |
| Sun 5 June   | 12noon   | <b>Platinum Jubilee Street Party</b>                                     | The Green        |
| Sun 12 June  | 11am     | Holy Communion   | St Paul's Church |
| Tues 14 June | 7.30pm   | Parish Council Meeting   | St Paul's Church |
| Sun 19 June  | 11am     | <b>Messy Church</b>  | St Paul's Church |
| Sun 26 June  | 10.30am  | Team Service<br>Ordination   | Dorchester Abbey |
| Sat 2 July   | From 4pm | <b>Syrian Night</b><br>Middle Eastern food from Damascus<br>Rose Kitchen | The Green        |

## Talking point by Rev Teresa Stewart Sykes and the Dorchester Team Clergy

June this year is a month for celebrations, it is the month in which we celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II, a time for street parties, music events, fireworks and flotillas on the Thames!



Underlying all of these joyous celebrations is an acknowledgement of the Queen's lifelong dedication to our nation and to the Commonwealth of Nations. In a speech for the occasion of her 21st birthday, the Queen set a benchmark for the next 75 years of her committed service, she said: "I declare before you all that my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great imperial family to which we all belong.

But I shall not have strength to carry out this resolution alone unless you join in it with me, as I now invite you to do: I know that your support will be unfailingly given. God help me to make good my vow, and God bless all of you who are willing to share in it."

As I read these words, and as I look forward to the Jubilee celebrations, I am reminded of the huge benefit we all enjoy from our village community. The sense of collective endeavour and the success we achieve when we work together; the awareness that we are not alone but live alongside those who wish us well; the simple enjoyment we have in each other's company, whether that is on the cricket pitch, down the pub, or as we pass one another and stop for a chat on the many and beautiful pathways around the village.

I am also reminded of the biblical meaning of a 'Jubilee' year, as laid out in Leviticus 25; a year when everyone was released from their debts, slaves were given their freedom, and land was returned its owner. A Jubilee year is concerned with social relationship, economic security, stability and the wellbeing of the community; it aims to seek to ensure that people live in ways that reflect good relationships with God, with each other, and with creation.

Whatever you are doing in this month of Jubilee, I hope you will find yourselves feeling blessed by your village community and encouraged, like the Queen, to give a little back. In the difficult months ahead as we face a deepening of the cost of living crisis, there may be many who will need a helping hand and all the love and support of our community.

God bless the Queen and God bless you!

### **Team Services**

**Sun 26<sup>th</sup> June 10.30 Dorchester Abbey** Our Team Service this month will be the Dorchester Area Ordinations. The day a person is Ordained as a Priest is a major landmark in their lives – almost like a marriage – and we are always delighted to offer hospitality to our Bishop and the Candidates, their families and friends. This is a public service and everyone is welcome to join us – because it is a major celebration all the things we like in a service – fantastic singing, good preaching and a great sense of occasion are present. Everyone is most welcome to come and greet our Bishop and to share this special occasion.

### **Team Events**

#### Events in the Abbey

**Sat 4<sup>th</sup> 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/>

**16<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> June** Festival of Voices returns to the Abbey. Each day a choir of children from different Oxfordshire Primary Schools perform, accompanied by a youth band and with young guest players. Tickets will be available on the door.

**Sat 25<sup>th</sup> June 7.30pm** Benson Choral Society Summer Concert features a festival of wonderful British music ranging from Vaughan Williams' joyous Five Mystical Songs to the beautiful and stirring modern Peace anthem, Ave Maris Stella by Cecilia McDowall. Anita will enchant us with Finzi's ravishing Eclogue and the concert finale will be provided by a choral setting of Elgar's popular Sea Pictures. Tickets from <https://www.bensonchoralsociety.org.uk>

**Mon 27<sup>th</sup> June 7pm** Keziah Thomas performs The Harp Four Seasons - a fresh take on Vivaldi's enduring classic. Harpist Keziah Thomas, acclaimed by the New York Concert Review as 'Stupendous...totally original and engaging', at her Carnegie Hall debut recital, performs her own arrangement of Vivaldi's Four Seasons. Vivaldi's music portrays the essence of nature based on the composer's sonnets in which he describes each season. Expect to hear the peace of Spring, bird song, dogs barking, villagers dancing and some gentle (and not so gentle) stormy weather! Tickets from <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/keziah-thomas-harp-the-four-seasons-tickets-292563233507>

**Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> July 7.30pm** Berkshire Maestros Choirs Summer Concert  
Join us for a fantastic concert which will include a variety of performances by Berkshire Young Voices, Berkshire Youth Choir, as well as our Music Centre Area Choirs, culminating in a massed piece by all the choirs. Tickets will be available from 27th May from the Berkshire Maestros website <https://berkshiremaestros.org.uk>

## **Songs of Praise – Platinum Jubilee Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June – 11am**



There will be a special Songs of Praise service on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:churchillstone27@gmail.com) or pop a note through the door of 21 High Street!







# Celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee



Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June, Pub on The Green (5PM)

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June, Culham Street Party (Midday)

*The street party will feature:*

Bar

12-5 (Sun)



Rounders



Crafting activities



Bouncy Castle



Facepaints



Steam Tractor Rides



*Bring your own picnic and join the fun!*



## Pudding & Cake Competition



To enter please make & decorate a pudding or cake and bring along to the street party on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June!

Theme: Queen's Platinum Jubilee

### Judging criteria

- Taste
  - Interpretation of the theme
  - Creativity
- ✦ Children/Adults/Family entries all welcome
- ✦ Prizes will be given to the top 3 cakes/puddings



## Kid's Portrait Competition



Calling all children in Culham to create a portrait of the Queen and bring along to the street party on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June!

- ✦ Make your portrait at home using any materials you like - crayons, felt tips, paint, pencils, collage etc.
- ✦ If you don't get time to make your portrait in advance, materials will be available on the day
- ✦ Entries will get pinned up for everyone to enjoy
- ✦ All entries receive a small prize
- ✦ Best portrait in each age category will win a prize (primary age/secondary age)





AN EVENING OF DELICIOUS  
MIDDLE EASTERN FOOD FROM  
DAMASCUS ROSE KITCHEN

# Syrian Night

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SATURDAY 2ND JULY  
4PM

CULHAM VILLAGE GREEN

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ALL PROFITS GO TOWARDS  
SUPPORTING REFUGEE FAMILIES  
AND THE REORDERING OF ST  
PAUL'S CHURCH IN CULHAM

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£10 PER TICKET  
£5 FOR CHILDREN  
(UNDER 3S GO FREE)

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TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM JO AT 12 THE  
GREEN, CULHAM, OR BY EMAILING  
STPAULSANDCULHAMVILLAGE@GMAIL.COM



## **Culham Parish Council (CPC) notes – April 2022**

Held in St Paul's Church.

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

A Platinum Jubilee celebration will be run by the Kids Club of the church. There will be a bar on Friday 3rd June and a street party on 5th June. CPC agreed a donation of £108 for the toilet block.

Permission for the replacement of the war memorial has been granted by the church. Quotes for the work are being sought and it will be completed by November 2022.

A 'thank you' card from the family of Paul Morgan the postman was read out by Caroline Baird. A memorial bench will be installed at Oxford City Golf Club in his memory.

### **Orchard site and the Green**

A plan for the orchard agreement was presented. CPC will go back to Morrell's with a counter offer on the proposal.

### **Recreation Ground and Play Equipment Report**

Nothing has been heard from SODC.

### **Defibrillator**

Update on possible sites – Cllr Morris will contact SOHA and Highways (for a possible installation on a lamppost).

### **Noticeboards**

No update.

### **HIF road update from the Parish group**

The group has asked for more information on the traffic modelling, relative to environmental and ecological concerns. CPC is happy with the recent Joint Council agreement.

### **Grass cutting schedule and Plan**

A couple of potential contacts for grass cutting have been found and will be approached for quotes.

### **Next meeting**

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2022 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.

## **Culham Parish Council (CPC) notes – May 2022.**

Held in St Paul's Church.

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

The spoil heap at the side of the road leading to the hydro scheme is being 'griddled' to remove useful material for road repair.

Morrell's will attempt to grow grass along the middle of the roadway by removing some material there, and placing soil and grass seed. However, they said CPC should apply to SODC for an enforcement notice to ensure compliance with the original planning regulation.

The rubbish pile on the playing field will be sorted by a group of volunteers with a view to removing it completely.

### **Orchard site and the Green**

The grant for the Jubilee Tree needs to be applied for.

### **HIF road update from the Parish group**

OCC have gone back to Govt concerning the increased costs and request for a longer time scale.

### **Grass cutting schedule and Plan**

The first grass cut was on 31<sup>st</sup> March in the village, and 25<sup>th</sup> April on the Green.

### **Neighbourhood Development Plan**

The plan has been sent to SODC for their review prior to the Reg 19 review. SODC have queried the Waggon and Horses development section, because it is in Greenbelt.

### **Pedestrian Crossing at the Waggon and Horses**

S106 money has been approved – no further update.

### **Purchase of the Green**

Morrell's solicitor has been instructed and has written to the Clerk.

### **Next meeting**

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2022 at 19:30 – to be held in the Church

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

Village website address:

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

The CPC website address:

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

## **South Oxfordshire District Councillor's Report May – June 2022**

### **Cllr Sam Casey-Rerhaye**

#### **First Consultation for the Joint Local Plan**

Councils have to renew their local development plans every 5 years at least. At South Oxfordshire we have decided to work on a joint one with Vale of the White Horse.

The first consultation is to ask you about what issues are important to you regarding development and other themes that the local plan should tackle. Please note that the law does not allow us to take out sites for development that have been put in previous plans.

The way we have designed this consultation is, I think, much more engaging and easy to understand than before, so please do take a look and give us your views.

- People [can explore the new interactive Joint Local Plan Issues consultation website via this link. https://storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/54bfeeae245242d9b3b7cd1e6b049388](https://storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/54bfeeae245242d9b3b7cd1e6b049388)
- And they can find out more about the Joint Local Plan on the [South](#) websites by searching 'Joint Local Plan 2041 South Oxfordshire'
- A video explaining the new Joint Local Plan and this consultation can be found [via YouTube](#)

If anyone would like to respond by writing in, please get in touch with me.

## Homes for Ukraine

The system is working and in full swing across Oxfordshire to support the government's Homes for Ukraine scheme. We are working with all the Council's on a co-ordinated approach. While we still have limited government guidance in some areas, in particular around grant payments, all partners across the county are working together to find solutions and put guests at the heart of any action required. The accommodation and safeguarding checks are progressing well, with the backlog of home checks almost completed, and with no significant concerns raised this week. The £200 payments to our guests to help them with immediate costs while they settle in are being made by whoever makes the first physical contact with them as part of these checks.

We have been doing with Asylum Welcome to develop a proposal to expand the community liaison officer resource available in each district and the city. The purpose would be for this resource to coordinate, advise and refer guests to the support that is available to them, including across housing, education and health. This has now been agreed and recruitment to these posts has begun. When recruited the roles will be based within our community support hub.

For any queries:

- **Website:** [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/ukraine](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/ukraine)
- **Oxfordshire Ukraine helpline:** +44 1865 966444 / 01865 966 444 (opening hours: 8.45am - 5pm, Monday to Friday. Closed weekends and bank holidays).

**Email:** [ukraineresponse@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:ukraineresponse@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

## Jubilee Grants

We have decided that instead of giving grants for Jubilee celebrations, we will give them for tree planting in the District. This is to support the Queen's Green Canopy, [The Queen's Green Canopy](http://TheQueen'sGreenCanopy.org) ([queensgreencanopy.org](http://queensgreencanopy.org)) and our own Corporate Plan objectives of enhancing nature and tackling the climate emergency. I will let you know how to apply as soon as this is arranged but it will be in time for the tree planting season this winter.

## No Mow May

In addition to existing wildflower meadows, next month both councils will trial leaving additional areas of land uncut for No Mow May, a national campaign aiming to let grass grow long to help boost biodiversity. At the end of the month, people are asked to take part in Every Flower Counts:

<https://www.plantlife.org.uk/everyflowercounts/> a survey which will help to reveal how many bees the UK's lawns can feed and the councils will also review how the trial has impacted each area.

## Cornerstone's summer of fun

Cornerstone's summer programme is now in full swing with a line-up of shows and activities from science extravaganzas to live blues music. With classes, workshops, and gallery exhibitions including 'Oxfordshire Artweeks: Inspired By Nature' from 3 May – there's something for everyone. Please look at their website: <https://www.cornerstone-arts.org/>

## Council Tax Rebate

The rebate announced by the government will be paid by the Council directly into the bank account from which the direct debit for council tax comes from. This rebate is for those in Bands A-D. For those who do not pay by direct debit, the Council will be in touch to organise the rebate with the Council Tax payer. Please be careful of scams around this rebate.

## Oxfordshire Climate Change survey

The county council is running a survey to discover people's understanding of and opinions about climate change across Oxfordshire. This is part of a countywide project we're involved in to increase understanding of the impact of climate change and inspire behaviour change.

The survey results will be used to help develop a new online tool to help people across Oxfordshire find climate actions they can take which are relevant to them.



Residents can take part in the survey using this link: [https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/climate-change/survey\\_tools/survey14870](https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/climate-change/survey_tools/survey14870)

**[Sam.Casey-Rerhaye@southoxon.gov.uk](mailto:Sam.Casey-Rerhaye@southoxon.gov.uk)**

**01235 635566**

## **County Councillor's Report May 2022 – Cllr Robin Bennett**

**[Robin.bennett@Oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Robin.bennett@Oxfordshire.gov.uk)**

### **Homes for Ukraine**

The system is in full swing across Oxfordshire to support the government's Homes for Ukraine scheme. While we still have limited government guidance in some areas, in particular around grant payments, all partners across the county are working together to find solutions and put guests at the heart of any action required. The accommodation and safeguarding checks are progressing well, with the backlog of home checks almost completed, and with no significant concerns raised this week.

As previously mentioned, the £200 payments to our guests to help them with immediate costs while they settle in are being made by whoever makes the first physical contact with them as part of these checks. This week, we have worked to agree that moving forward we will usually issue this payment as a pre-loaded card rather than cash, which can be used online, in shops or at a cashpoint, just like a normal debit card. We are offering our guests a choice, so if they would prefer to receive this payment as cash, they are invited to let us know.

OCC have been working with Asylum Welcome to develop a proposal to expand the community liaison officer resource available in each district and the city. The purpose would be for this resource to coordinate, advise and refer guests to the support that is available to them, including across housing, education and health. This has now been agreed and recruitment to these posts has begun. OCC have continued to process school place applications and are also recruiting an additional admissions officer to manage demand and avoid administrative delays.

You may have seen that the Department for Work and Pensions has laid emergency regulations so those arriving in the UK from Ukraine, as a result of the Russian invasion, can access Universal Credit and jobs support immediately. Families can therefore claim for free school meals in the usual way under the usual eligibility criteria, which requires providing a national insurance number. To reassure councillors, in Oxfordshire, we are asking all schools to provide free school meals where appropriate and not wait to receive a national insurance number. We will continue to put the needs of children first.

A reminder, you can direct general Ukraine queries to:

- **Website:** [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/ukraine](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/ukraine)
- **Oxfordshire Ukraine helpline:** +44 1865 966444 / 01865 966 444 (opening hours: 8.45am - 5pm, Monday to Friday. Closed weekends and bank holidays).
- **Email:** [ukraineresponse@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:ukraineresponse@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

### **Gifts for Ukrainian children and donated 4x4 from the County Fire Service**

Thanks to the kindness and generosity of our fire and rescue colleagues, hundreds of teddies are on their way to Fire Aid to be given to Ukrainian children escaping the horrors of war in their country. The donations were collected by our teams at Didcot, Wheatley, Thame, Slade, Rewley Road, Faringdon, Burford, Bicester, Banbury, Kidlington, Deddington and Chipping Norton. We've also donated a decommissioned 4 x 4 vehicle that is currently on its way to support people in Ukraine. While it's still road-worthy, we've replaced the vehicle with a newer model and it's no longer needed by our fire and rescue service. Normally we auction used vehicles when they're replaced but this time we've donated it to support such an important cause.

## **New County council policy on Tree Planting**

A change in approach will help increase the number of trees in Oxfordshire after a new policy was approved. It will put the emphasis on a 'presumption in favour of trees' because of the host of benefits they provide to the climate, the environment and the places where people live.

We want to move away from simply maintaining and managing the trees on our land to actively encouraging and enabling more trees to be planted in both rural and urban settings. This can help tackle climate change and increase resilience to it, as well as improving people's quality of life – both now and in the future.

One requirement of the policy is to plant two new trees for every tree that has to be removed from county council land. It also promises to explore new tree planting opportunities and extra investment to carry it out, stricter guidelines for those wanting to remove existing trees and implement proactive care to prolong the lives of established trees.

The main climate benefits of trees, due to their ability to mitigate extremes of heat, cold, wind, rain, and drought, include:

- removing and storing carbon from the air
- reducing urban temperatures through canopy cover
- preventing flooding by reducing the pressure on drainage systems
- wind speed reduction
- cutting air pollution
- enhancing biodiversity
- supporting sustainable agriculture.

Their presence has also been shown to contribute directly to improved wellbeing and mental health, enhance street design and even reduce crime. Research has shown that public open space with trees tends to be used more than space without trees and this increases casual surveillance – deterring criminal activity.

The new policy will not compromise the council's ability to deal with trees which pose a danger to the public or to property.

The scope, scale, and business case for direct investment into a tree planting programme will be considered as the next step for key consideration as part of the 2023/24 annual budget setting process. Money to fund tree planting would also be sought from numerous national grants, sponsorship, carbon offsetting by businesses and developer contributions.

### **Climate Action Study and online tool**

We're working with our council partners across Oxfordshire to develop an online tool to help people take action against climate change in their own lives. The suggestions provided will be tailored to the lifestyle of individuals to make sure they're relevant (for example, only suggesting ideas to reduce car journeys for those people who have a car) with the aim to reduce residents' carbon emissions. As one of our strategic priorities, we'd be very grateful if you could please share the survey and help us gather as broad a range of responses as possible. The survey can be found here:

[https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/climate-change/survey\\_tools/survey14869](https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/climate-change/survey_tools/survey14869)

# Other News



## BECOME A SCHOOL GOVERNOR



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

**Clifton Hampden CE Primary School**



**TOGETHER WE ARE  
CURIOUS, COURAGEOUS &  
COMPASSIONATE**

**theWI** SUTTON COURTENAY WI  
INSPIRING WOMEN



GIVE US A CALL ...

- or pay us a visit - find out what we're up to this summer ! Our trip in June is to the

Weald & Downland Living Museum

In July we're learning about

'Alpacas and a world of fabulous fluff'

- 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





NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

# Clifton Hampden & Burcot Tennis Club

Email: [info@chbtc.co.uk](mailto:info@chbtc.co.uk)

Bookings: [www.chbtc.co.uk](http://www.chbtc.co.uk)



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](http://www.chbtc.co.uk)

## TENNIS SOCIAL

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May 14<sup>th</sup>**

**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.



**YOUR  
CLUB  
NEEDS  
YOU**

## 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](mailto:info@chbtc.co.uk)



# Oxfordshire Home Library Service

## Library books to your door

If you or someone you know are finding it difficult to get to the library, the Home Library Service can help!

Run by Oxfordshire County Council, the Home Library Service is completely free and delivers books and other library materials to hundreds of people across the county.

Friendly volunteers choose items you like and visit every three weeks to deliver and collect them.

The service is open to people who struggle to physically visit a library. It's also available on a short-term basis after illness or hospitalisation, and to people with caring responsibilities.

Registering is easy, simply call your local library or the Home Library Service on 01865 810259 or email [homelibraryservice@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:homelibraryservice@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

[www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/homelibraryservice](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/homelibraryservice)





Soldiers of  
Oxfordshire  
Museum

## Children and Military Lives Exhibition - Stories of Adventure, Family, and Exile

- **Exhibition running from 2 June to 24 November 2022 at Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock**
- **Explores the experience of children of serving military personnel and also children who have been affected by conflict, historically and contemporarily.**
- **Collaboration between charities - Soldiers of Oxfordshire Trust, War Toys, and Little Troopers.**
- **Combines objects, personal stories, oral histories, art and photography.**



Opening from 2 June and running until 24 November 2022, this new exhibition will tell the stories of today's service children (children of serving British Armed Forces personnel) and their experiences of living life in the military community, as well as stories of children who become victims of war, experiencing the effects of military conflict - from Second World War evacuees to today's refugees and asylum seekers.

With a focus on Oxfordshire people, our visitors can see and hear what living through conflict is like first hand, from recordings of evacuation memories to present day accounts from children who arrive in the county and experience a new culture here, processing their life experiences through art and personal stories.

To bring this exhibition to visitors, Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum have partnered with two charities, Little Troopers and Brian McCarty's War Toys.

Little Troopers, a charity which supports all children who have parents serving in the British Armed Forces, will give visitors the opportunity to discover the stories and experiences of military children who have grown-up in the Armed Forces community. Explore how they cope with having their parents deployed overseas to different parts of the world; how they move house and school regularly, building friendships for what can be short periods of time and read and listen to their own reflections on what it's like to have military parents as these young people start to consider their own adult lives.

Louise Fetigan, founder of Little Troopers, comments: "There are more than 100,000 children today who have parents serving in the British Armed Forces so it's really important that we represent these children and give them the opportunity to tell their story and to share their unique experiences. Military life is full of challenge, change and adventure and this exhibit offers visitors a special insight into our Armed Forces community as seen through the eyes of military children."

SOFO Museum has also collected accounts from children of the 1950s to 2000s, whose parents were part of the British forces. Frequently these children experienced traveling across the globe following in their father's footsteps; often giving them unique life experiences they never forgot.

Also included in the exhibition, the unique photo series *War Toys* vividly brings to life the effects of war on children living in conflict zones around the world. Acting as their own art directors, children often living in refugee camps are given the opportunity to depict real scenes from their experiences using toys and the local terrain. The resulting images are impactful and thought provoking; giving us an insight into a world which is far removed from our experiences of watching news programmes covering the camps in war zones.

The exhibition will not only run throughout both Armed Forces Day and Refugee Week, but also the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. To mark the Jubilee, SOFO Museum will highlight the Queen's own 'military childhood' and her Second World War service in the ATS (Auxiliary Territorial Service) with a timeline of the nation's toys and books. We have gathered toys from the 1940s to the present day as we take a look at our enduring relationship with toys that depict war, from tin soldiers of yesterday to remote control drones of today.

## 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 July 2022 issue of the Mouthpiece by June 15<sup>th</sup> to:

[generalmouthpiece@gmail.com](mailto:generalmouthpiece@gmail.com)

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

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[www.culhamstudio.co.uk](http://www.culhamstudio.co.uk)

[stuart.morris@ukaea.uk](mailto:stuart.morris@ukaea.uk) 01235 464904

# Local Services Directory

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|---|--|---|
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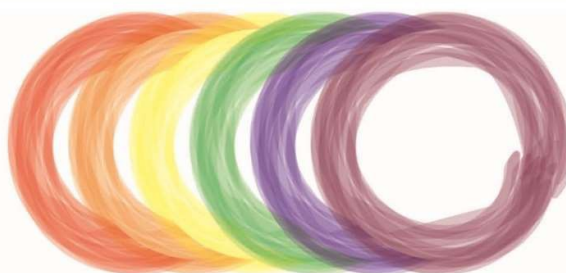
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| Andrew Steele   | <a href="mailto:a.steele@culham-pc.gov.uk">a.steele@culham-pc.gov.uk</a>                   | 27 High Street, Culham  | 01235 534910              |
| Adrian Morris   | <a href="mailto:a.morris@culham-pc.gov.uk">a.morris@culham-pc.gov.uk</a>                   | 5, Manor Farm Barns, Culham   |                           |
| Philip Owen   | <a href="mailto:p.owen@culham-pc.gov.uk">p.owen@culham-pc.gov.uk</a>                       | 6, The Green, Culham  | 01235 555223              |
| Siobhan Sargeant  |  | 3, High Street, Culham  | 07414 219803              |
| <b>CLERK TO PARISH COUNCIL</b>                            |  |   |                           |
| Culham Parish Council<br>Clerk                            | <a href="mailto:clerk@culham-pc.gov.uk">clerk@culham-pc.gov.uk</a>                         |   |                           |
| <b>DISTRICT COUNCILLOR</b>                                |  |   |                           |
| Sam Casey-Rerhaye   | <a href="mailto:Sam.Casey-Rerhaye@southoxon.gov.uk">Sam.Casey-Rerhaye@southoxon.gov.uk</a> | 3 The Burycroft, Culham   | 01235 635566              |
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| <b>ST PAUL'S CHURCH</b>                                   |  |   |                           |
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| Ordained Local Minister                                   | Revd. David Haylett  | <a href="mailto:familyhaylett@yahoo.com">familyhaylett@yahoo.com</a>  | 01865 407382              |
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| Churchwarden:   | Roy Epps   | <a href="mailto:stpaulsculham@gmail.com">stpaulsculham@gmail.com</a> 14 The Glebe,<br>Culham                  | 01235 537525              |
| Hon. Secretary:   | Ruth Ward  | <a href="mailto:stpaulsculham@gmail.com">stpaulsculham@gmail.com</a> 5 Thame Lane,<br>Culham                  |                           |
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| <b>LADIES OF CULHAM (LOC)</b>                             |  |   |                           |
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| Editors:  | Anne Churchill Stone   | 21 High Street, Culham  | 01235 533011              |
|   | Gordon & Joan Gibbs  | 32 High Street, Culham  | 01235 523679              |
| Advertising Manager:                                      | Georgie Bartley  | 14 High Street, Culham  |                           |
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