The Mouthpiece

Culham's Newsletter October 2022



Dates for your Diary

Sun 2 Oct	11am	Holy Communion	St Pauls Church
Fri 7 Oct	8pm	Ladies of Culham – Book Discussion "Golden Hill" by Francis Spufford	St Paul's Church
Sun 9 Oct	11am	Holy Communion	St Pauls Church
Tues 11 Oct	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	St Pauls Church
Sun 16 Oct	11am	Messy Church	St Pauls Church
Sun 23 Oct	10.30am	Team Service	St Michael & All Angels, Clifton Hampden
Sat 29 Oct	3pm	Oktober Fest	The Green

From Rev. Caroline King and the Dorchester Abbey Team

I am writing this in the immediate aftermath of the sad news of the death of HM the Queen, knowing that by the time you read this her funeral will have taken place and

King Charles III will have been proclaimed king. Thank you to our curate, Revd Sorrel Shamel-Wood, for sharing the following poem:

September the 8th, 2022
You were old, already, when I was born
And I took your gentle face for granted:
On every coin and every postage stamp,
Each Christmas message, poppy wreath laid.
Most famous of faces around the world,
I saw you, once or twice, felt I knew you
And many people cherish their stories

Of garden parties and medals received.

We feel the sands of time shift beneath us As history is marked before our eyes. We feel the cold wind blow, the night draw in And pull our coats tightly around our chests; We raise our heads, as you did, say a prayer; We cling to the true rock, the true anchor As you did. We live with faith, hope and love.



The Archbishop of Canterbury writes, "As we grieve together, we know that, in losing our beloved Queen, we have lost the person whose steadfast loyalty, service and humility has helped us make sense of who we are through decades of extraordinary change in our world, nation and society.

"As deep as our grief runs, even deeper is our gratitude for Her Late Majesty's extraordinary dedication to the United Kingdom, her Realms and the Commonwealth. Through times of war and hardship, through seasons of upheaval and change, and through moments of joy and celebration, we have been sustained by Her Late Majesty's faith in what and who we are called to be.

"In the darkest days of the Coronavirus pandemic, The Late Queen spoke powerfully of the light that no darkness can overcome. As she had done before, she reminded us of a deep truth about ourselves – we are a people of hope who care for one another. Even as The Late Queen mourned the loss of her beloved husband, Prince Philip, we saw once again evidence of her courage, resilience and instinct for putting the needs of others first – all signs of a deeply rooted Christian faith.

"In The Late Queen's life, we saw what it means to receive the gift of life we have been given by God and – through patient, humble, selfless service – share it as a gift to others."

We continue to pray for members of the Royal Family as the God who sustained Her Majesty throughout her life, guides them and brings them comfort. Above all, we pray also for our new King in the responsibilities that now rest upon him. And we seek to follow in the footsteps of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II as we care for each other and the beautiful, fragile world we are grateful for this harvest season, and seek reconciliation in our families, communities and the wider world.

Team Events

Fri 7th and Sat 8th Oct Building back Greener Christian perspectives on the future of our economy, money and work

On Zoom on the evening of Friday 7th October, is environmentalist and writer, Paul Kingsnorth, founder of the Dark Mountain project. The event starts at 7pm, with Paul's talk starting at 7.30pm.

This will be followed by an in-person event at the Priory Rooms (7 minutes walk from Birmingham New Street Station), Birmingham B4 6AF, from 10.15am to 4.30pm on Saturday 8th October.

Speakers on Saturday will be:

Grace Blakeley, economics and politics commentator and Professor Christopher Southgate, scientist and theologian

For more information and tickets please see https://greenchristian.org.uk/conference2022/ And if you would like to travel by train with others from the team please contact Rev Teresa email revteresa@outlook.com 07823 809112

Events in the Abbey

Sat 8th Oct 7pm OSJ perform Dvorak New World Symphony Get ready to voyage across the Atlantic with Dvorak's New World Symphony, where Czech and American influences come together to create this much-loved piece filled with hope and optimism. Award-winning pianist Rupert Egerton-Smith returns to perform the spectacular Rachmaninov Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini, alongside music from Stanford and Beethoven.Tickets £15 to £30, from www.osj.org.uk

Wed 2nd Nov 7pm All Souls – An Autumn Concert - autumn is the time of harvest and wine making. Nature shuts down, golden leaves are falling, nights get darker, winter is coming. It is a time of closure, hibernation and preparing for winter. There is so much music about this time. Join us for a spooky autumn concert with music by Strauss, Mahler, Faure, Turina, Guridi, Garcia Abril, Britten, Barber, Händel and Purcell with Susanne Mecklenburg – voice – and William Hancox – piano. Tickets from events@dorchester-abbey.org.uk and 01865 340007 (Mon, Tues and Fri mornings)

ABBEY CONCERT MANAGERS REQUIRED ARE YOU INTERESTED?

The demand for Events to be held in the Abbey has been steadily increasing this year and we need to increase the number of volunteer Concert Managers who play a vital part in helping to make the events run smoothly. This is an opportunity to find out more about what goes on behind the scenes, meeting interesting artists, hearing lovely music and being the welcoming face of the Abbey to the audience. Training will be given. For further details please contact the Events Administrator, Dorchester Abbey, Kate Herbert; events@dorchester-abbey.org.uk and 01865 340007 (Mon, Tues and Fri mornings)

Village News

Village website: www.culhamvillage.org.uk

Join us to celebrate



29 October 2022 from 3 pm

The Green, Culham, OX14 4LZ

Adults £10, children £5

Tickets at:

stpaulsandculhamvillage@gmail.com

Pretzels, Bratwurst, German beer

Oompah music

Movie for the kids



Next Dates:

7th Oct – Book Discussion, we shall be discussing Golden Hill by Francis Spufford. 8pm at St Paul's Culham

4th Nov – Indian Head Massage Workshop. 8pm at St Paul's Culham

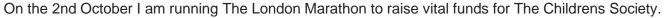
2nd Dec - Wreath Making & Christmas Crafts. Cost t.b.c. 8pm at St Paul's Culham

6th Jan – Vision Board Workshop. 8pm at St Paul's, Culham

Questions or ideas for sessions from February onwards? Email ladiesofculham@gmail.com

Special Request!

Dear residents of Culham,





The Children's Society work to support disadvantaged children across the UK. They provide a range of mental health services, mentors for child refugees, support for those at risk of homelessness and for those at risk of exploitation through drug trafficking. They also campaign for things like putting a cap on the price of school uniforms and for care leavers to be exempt from council tax until the age of 25. On top of this, they conduct important research every year called 'The good childhood report' which is highly valued by the education and social work industries.

All donations will be very gratefully received. Please find my fundraising link below.



https://tcslondonmarathon.enthuse.com/pf/emily-webb

With thanks, from Emily on Tollgate Road.

Culham Parish Council (CPC) – September 2022

The Parish council meeting was postponed due to the death of HM Queen Elizabeth II

The next meeting is at 19:30 on Tuesday 11th October 2022 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/

District Councillor's Report Sep/Oct 2022 – Cllr Sam Casey-Rerhaye

Cost of Living Emergency

As a Council we have declared a cost of living emergency - here is the Council motion passed in July:

Council declares that we have moved from a Cost of Living Crisis to a Cost of Living Emergency

Council asks the leader to call on the Government to:

- Urgently review the energy cap regime and provide much greater protection to consumers, as other European countries have done.
- Make an immediate reduction in VAT, which proportionally helps those most in need
- Increase benefits in line with inflation and reinstate the Universal Credit uplift
- Urgently provide financial support to public transport to avoid service reductions
- Recognise that councils like South Oxfordshire will need additional funding to support services affected by high inflation

Council further resolves:

- To call for a local Cost-of-Living Emergency Summit with stakeholders, including Oxfordshire County Council, Citizens Advice, Food Banks, and others, and to invite both local MPs to attend to work towards a community response to the emergency.
- To ensure Council continues to maximise opportunities to inform and support residents in need, directing them towards services that advise on heating bills, employment and skills and wellbeing support via our Community Hub
- To continue to offer up to 100% council tax reduction, subject to circumstances, and to advise our residents through all channels of communication how to apply for the scheme

We have created a page on the website where all possible help and support sign posted here:

<u>Cost of living help - South Oxfordshire District Council (southoxon.gov.uk)</u> and on the household support fund open to pensioners only now: <u>www.southoxon.gov.uk/household-support-fund</u>

I have been out with fellow councillors in Didcot and will be in other areas in coming weeks giving out information on how to get support and the contact details that are on the website page above.

Capital Grant Scheme

The Capital Grant Scheme is now open for applications until midday on Friday 21 October. Funding decisions will be made by the end of March 2023

Through this grant we're able to provide funding to voluntary and community organisations to help build thriving communities and improve the quality of life for the residents in the district through capital projects that: improve economic and community well-being, provides infrastructure that meets local need, that protect and restore our natural world; and take action on the climate emergency.

There's more information on the council's website southoxon.gov.uk/grants

Bin Collection Day Changes

We are introducing new routes to make our household waste and recycling rounds more efficient. This will mean changes to bin days for some people.

But not everyone. The vast majority will stay the same.

If you have received a message tag on your bin recently then you are likely to be one of those having a change later this year. Everyone who will have a change will be given information when this is finalised.

Details will be put on this page as well:

https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/south-oxfordshire-district-council/recycling-rubbish-and-waste/collection-changes/

Oxfordshire 2050

The five Local Planning authorities in Oxfordshire have been working together on a joint development plan for Oxfordshire to 2050. We were unable to reach agreement on the approach to planning for future housing needs within the framework of the Oxfordshire Plan.

The Oxfordshire Plan 2050 work programme will end and we will now transition to a process focused on Local Plans. The issues of housing needs will now be addressed through individual, mandatory Local Plans for each of the City and Districts. The Councils will cooperate with each other and with other key bodies as they prepare their Local Plans.

Much of the work that has gone into Oxon2050 will be used in these Local Plans, and South Oxfordshire and the Vale have already agreed to work on a Joint one for our two Districts, because we have similar policies and priorities, share officers and recognise this will save public money and resources.

Councils withdraw from Oxfordshire-Cambridge Arc project

Both South and Vale council leaders have confirmed that they to do not support proposals for a pan-regional partnership across the Oxford-Cambridge Arc.

You can read South Oxfordshire's Leader, Cllr David Rouane's letter here, where he says:

'Partnerships, whilst vital, need to have a purpose, as they can be time-consuming and can incur significant cost to the public purse in both their creation and maintenance and so my test of them is always to ask 'what value do they add'. I must admit that any added value of the Arc is not obvious to me.'

https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2022/08/David-Rouane-letter-to-Cllr-Barry-Wood-re-Arc-1-1.pdf

Move to Abbey House

Approximately at the end of September, to significantly reduce unnecessary costs, the Council will be moving to some temporary office space in the Vale's Abbey House building in the centre of Abingdon where we plan to stay for a couple of years while we complete the development of a new office building at Didcot opposite the railway station.

The Council has been based at Milton Park since the summer of 2015, a few months after an arson attack at the headquarters at Crowmarsh Gifford, near Wallingford.

The vast majority of our staff now have hybrid working arrangements meaning they can work from home or other remote locations, or in the office. This means we need significantly less office space than before, and so the building at Milton Park is much too big.

We have taken an opportunity to bring the lease to an end now, meaning there will be significant savings in rent while operating out of the much smaller office space at Abbey House.

Environment Agency responds to sewage concerns

The Environment agency has responded to a letter from Council Leader David Rouane regarding sewage treatment capacity and discharge concerns. You can read it here:

https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2022/08/220809-EA-Response.pdf

MyVision (OAB) Oxfordshire (Revenue Grant)

The Oxfordshire Association for the Blind (AOB) is changing its name to MyVision Oxfordshire. **SODC have approved a revenue grant application for £80k** over 2 years to fund a dedicated Community Engagement Worker working in the South Oxfordshire district.

This person will provide advice, information and guidance specific to sight loss, within the community and in individuals homes. The service will include:

- Creating dedicated information days at local libraries and community centres once a month.
- Setting up and supporting social gatherings in local coffee shops and community centres, providing peer-to-peer support.
- Visiting clients within their home, for those who cannot attend a local information day.
- Setting up befriending partnerships locally with the support of the volunteer coordinator.
- Providing Visual Impairment Awareness Training to local community groups and organisations.
- Working with other organisations to ensure joined up support is provided

Citizens Advice (Revenue Grant) - £238k over 2 years

In their grant application, Citizens Advice wrote as follows:

We will provide a full advice service for 5 days a week from the 3 main advice centres: Didcot, Henley and Thame and from our outreach projects in RAF Benson and Wallingford:

- deliver advice on benefits / tax credits, debt, employment, housing and family / relationship problems plus any other issues clients bring to us.
- access specialist Citizens Advice services on topics such as immigration.
- recruit more volunteer advisers. Post Pandemic, demand for our advice is increasing and client problems are more complex.
- deliver this advice by phone, webchat and face to face.
- give SODC access to a rich source of information about problems faced by communities in the district.

Wallingford 'Bathing Water Status' application

We have applied for the bathing area in Wallingford to be given this status, which means information on the status of the water for bathing purposes will be made regularly available to the public. I will let you know if this is approved.

As I am sure you have heard about the sewage outflows into the Thames, I think you'll agree it is vital that people know the state of the water in popular bathing areas.

Civil Parking Enforcement

If there are areas in your parishes that have cars parked regularly where it is not allowed, please let me know and I will alert our officers. Sometimes it only takes the odd traffic warden appearance to prevent further problems.

Full Year of Performance Reporting against our Corporate Plan

The annual performance report for 2021-22 (year to May) is available on the SODC website. We have introduced a Performance Management Framework, which is fundamental to the achievement of the priorities set out in the Corporate Plan 2020-24. It also allows residents to see how well the Council are doing and how the Council intends to improve.

The Corporate Plan 2020-2024 contains six strategic themes and the council reports against these, with projects listed under each heading in the report:

- Theme 1: Protect and restore the natural world
- Theme 2: Openness and accountability
- Theme 3: Action on the climate emergency
- Theme 4: Improved economic and community wellbeing
- Theme 5: Homes and infrastructure that meet local needs
- Theme 6: Investments that rebuild our financial viability

The report is here, listed as Q4: <u>Corporate Plan 2020 - 2024 - South Oxfordshire District Council</u> (southoxon.gov.uk)

To contact me:

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

County Councillor's Report September 2022 – Robin Bennett

Consultation(s) on central Oxfordshire Transport Plan and trial traffic filters 2022

I think most of us would agree that traffic in Oxford has been a problem for years, with the knock-on effects of delaying buses for the whole surrounding area and poor air quality in the city. The county council are proposing a set of 22 actions to help achieve a sustainable and reliable transport system, including three major transport proposals for Oxford City: traffic filters, a workplace parking levy and zero emission zone.

This is being called the **Central Oxfordshire Travel Plan** and sets out the council's vision to develop a world-leading, innovative, inclusive and carbon neutral transport system with a focus on how people move quickly and safely around the area.

The three key major projects in the plan will be subject to detailed and separate consultations, starting with one on the **6 proposed traffic filters**. The consultation can be found at https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk

The county council are proposing six trial traffic filters, via an experimental traffic regulation order (ETRO), from summer 2023 on key routes across Oxford to improve bus services and journey times, reduce walking and cycling accidents and improve air quality across the city.

When they are operating, private cars will not be allowed through without a permit. Other vehicles requiring access, including buses, coaches, taxis, vans, mopeds, motorbikes and HGVs, will be allowed through. Residents within Oxford will be able to apply for a permit allowing them to drive through the traffic filters on up to 100 days per year. The traffic filters will be monitored by automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) cameras.

You can have your say on the proposed trial by filling in the consultation survey, which will be open until 3 October 2022 (midnight). Please do take part if you can, because it's important for the council to know how these filters may affect residents across the county.

Trialling these filters also enables OCC to receive the £12.7 million of government funding for buses in Oxfordshire as part of the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP), which includes cheaper fares for under-19s, new rural services, and bus priority improvements across the county. New zero emission electric buses are to be funded by a separate government fund.

Oxford's Park and ride services are now trialling a new combined parking and bus ticket: People will be able to purchase a combined ticket which covers both parking and return bus travel at a rate of £4 for a car with only one driver and £5 for a car with two or more people.

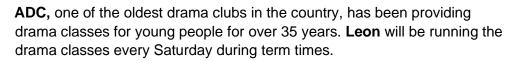
Homes for Ukraine update: Three-month free bus passes

OCC have been working closely with Oxford Bus Company, Stagecoach, Thames Travel and Arriva to offer three-month free bus passes to any Ukrainian on the Homes for Ukraine scheme. The passes will enable guests to travel extensively in their local area, as well as access Oxford city. There will be a number of passes available and suitability will depend on where the guests are living, working or what journeys they are more likely to need to take.

Guests can apply for one bus pass and the county council will pay for and administer the process. The government's support funding will be used to purchase the passes from the bus companies at a 20 per cent discount. https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/council/ukraine Robin.bennett@Oxfordshire.gov.uk

Other News







Classes for ages 9 -16, will include:

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.

The classes will focus 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.

The classes offer 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. Some of ADC's former pupils have gone on to perform on stage in the West End, on TV and in feature films.

Enrolling now for 2022. abingdondramaclubjuniors@gmail.com



SUTTON COURTENAY WI



AN INVITATION ...

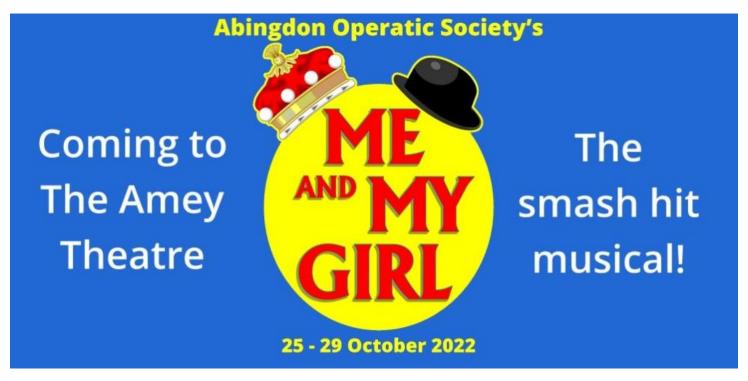
and a warm welcome to our autumn meetings
In October it's what you need to know about
'Trading Standards & Consumer Rights'

and in November we'll have fun with 'Alpacas and a world of fabulous fluff' - we'd love you to join us -

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



Abingdon Operatic Society Presents



Me And My Girl was originally a roaring success in the 1930s, when it seemed the whole of the UK was mad about The Lambeth Walk and pearly kings and queens.

Then, in the early 1980s, the show was revised by Stephen Fry and Mike Ockrent, and was even more successful than the original 1930s version. It ran for eight years in the West End and for three years on Broadway, scooping up Olivier and Tony awards in its wake.

Tickets: https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/abingdonoperatic or **☎ 0333 666 3366**

For further information see https://www.abingdonoperatic.co.uk/



Doing the Lambeth Walk





This non-profit organisation is working to tackle the shortage of affordable housing in a high value area, close to the City of Oxford.

The development will consist of five one bedroom and three two-bedroom flats and is the trust's first scheme. The design seeks to achieve high levels of energy efficiency including PV solar for each apartment in order to promote sustainability and minimise energy bills for residents. The intention is also to set rents at levels within the Local Housing Allowance (the maximum rent that Universal Credit will pay for housing) and therefore, technically, affordable to everyone. The homes are set to be completed by summer 2023 and will be known as Crofts Court. In October of 2022, there will be an opportunity for social investors to invest in the project to make the scheme more cost effective, known as a Community Share Offer - a tried and tested vehicle for raising funds for community projects which the trust will be using to reduce the funding costs relating to Crofts Court. For more information see www.oclt.org.uk

SOFO Museum online talk explores the experience of Oxfordshire men fighting in the Great War's 'forgotten army' in Salonika

Online talk streaming on the SOFO Museum website from 7pm, Thursday 27 October 2022

Soldiers of Oxfordshire

- Covers the lesser-known conflict in Salonika during the Great War, where two battalions of the county regiment fought.
- Speaker Alan Wakefield is a curator at the Imperial War Museum and author of *Under the Devil's Eye:*Britain's Forgotten Army at Salonika 1915-1918
- Free to view, donations are encouraged during the stream in support of Soldiers of Oxfordshire Trust



Like all previous online talks the museum has hosted, an archived feed of the talk and recorded Q&A will also remain available from the museum website after the live event ends.

Stream Link: https://www.sofo.org.uk/whats-on/salonika/

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 November 2022 issue of the Mouthpiece by **October 15**th to: generalmouthpiece@gmail.com

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Gordon & Joan Gibbs Editing Jun, Sep, Nov, Feb, Apr issues	32 High Street, Culham

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WHO IS WHO IN CULHAM?

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Philip Owen	Owen stpaulsandculhamvillage@gmail.com 6 The Green, Culham		01235 555223		
LADIES OF CULHAM (L	.OC)				
		Also Jenny Williams, Jo Oughtred, Amy Sutcliffe			
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Neighbourhood Policing Team		Non-emergency Phone Number	101		
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