

# The Mouthpiece

Culham's Newsletter  
**December 2022/January 2023**



## Dates for your Diary

Fri 2 Dec	8pm	Ladies of Culham - Wreath Making	St Pauls Church
Sun 4 Dec	11am	Family Holy Communion	St Pauls Church
Fri 9 Dec	7.30pm	<b>"A Christmas Carol"</b>	St Paul's Church
Sun 11 Dec	11am	Holy Communion	St Pauls Church
Tues 13 Dec	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	St Pauls Church
Fri 16 Dec	4 – 6pm	<b>Movie night</b>	St Pauls Church
Sat 17 Dec	2 – 4pm	<i>Christmas Fayre</i>	St Pauls Church
Sun 18 Dec	6.30pm	<b>"Come to the Cradle" Carol Service</b>	St Pauls Church
Christmas Day	10am	<b>Christmas Service</b>	St Pauls Church
Sun 8 Jan	11am	Holy Communion	St Pauls Church
Tues 10 Jan	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	St Pauls Church
Sun 15 Jan	11am	<b>Messy Church</b>	St Pauls Church
Sat 21 Jan	7.30pm	Scottish Ceilidh Dance	Sutton Courtenay Village Hall
Sun 29 Jan	11am	Cluster Service	St Pauls Church

## From Rev. Paul Wignall and the Dorchester Abbey Team



### New Rector

“We are delighted to announce the appointment of the Rev. Jane Willis as our new Team Rector (subject to formalities, Jane will be licensed on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February, 2023, at 7.30 p.m. at Dorchester Abbey). Jane has written this to introduce herself to us all:

Greetings to everyone in the Dorchester Team! It was great to meet some of you on the interview day and I'm really looking forward to serving as your new Team Rector. Nothing quite beats meeting face to face, but for now a few words of introduction...

I'm presently Rector of Holy Trinity Church, Hurstpierpoint – a large Sussex village just beneath the South Downs and north of Brighton. I've served here for 8 years during which time the church has experienced new life and growth – as well as navigating covid times. Having felt the time had now come to move on, I'm delighted to have a deep sense of call to serve the Dorchester Team.

I'm married to Gerry and we have three adult daughters, four grandchildren – and we're presently 'between dogs'. I was born in Canada, spent my childhood in Hampshire, teenage years in Cheshire and moved to Sussex when I was 17. That was where I came to faith, met and married Gerry, had babies – and where my call to ordination began. Since then, we've been on God's great tour of England – moving first to Northampton to a full-time lay ministry post in a town centre church, then to Oxford for two years ordination training (we love Oxford!), curacy at Shrewsbury Abbey, first incumbency with a group of rural churches in North Devon along with being chaplain to the children's hospice, before being called back to Sussex. Gerry runs his own property maintenance business, which he's restarted every time we've moved! He is also a Reader (LLM/Licensed Lay Minister in Oxford terms).

In our free time we enjoy walking, exploring new places and landscapes – and I'm a keen photographer. Family time is also precious to us – a real bonus for us is that in Dorchester we will be nearer to them all.

I have a feeling the next few months will fly by and we will soon be with you – in the mean time we will be praying for you, and would really value your prayers for good endings here and good beginnings with you all. Every blessing



### Team Services

1<sup>st</sup> Jan 10.30am at St John the Baptist, Stadhampton – Join us for an special team service on New Year's Day at 10.30am followed by a prosecco breakfast.

22<sup>nd</sup> Jan 10.30am at St John the Baptist, Stadhampton – Come and worship as a team for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

## Events in the Abbey

Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec 7.30pm The York Waits The Mirth & Melody of Angels Music for Christmas and the festive season from medieval and renaissance Europe played and sung by The York Waits with singer Deborah Catterall. The York Waits return to Dorchester Abbey with a concert that explores the rich tapestry of seasonal music from the fourteenth to the seventeenth century. Angels abound, from the 1350's Angelus ad Virginem – or Gabriel from Heven-King, to Orlando Gibbons' Thus Angels Sung from the late Elizabethan era. Familiar German chorales are followed by French Noels and Mediterranean songs from the folk tradition, all accompanied by the full array of period instruments – shawms, sackbuts, curtals, crumhorns, bagpipes, recorders, flutes, fiddles, rebec, guitar, hurdy gurdy and portative organ. The Waits perform regularly throughout the country, appearing frequently at festivals and celebratory events at home and abroad, on radio, and producing many recordings. They still play for civic occasions in York in the manner of their well-documented historic predecessors, leading processions and greeting important visitors to the city.

Tickets from £10 to £15 <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-mirth-and-melody-of-angels-tickets-394321796107?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

Thurs 8<sup>th</sup> Dec 7.30pm A Candlelit Christmas Evening **Join Jeremy Irons and Sinead Cusack for this very special candlelit Christmas event in the beautiful setting of Dorchester Abbey.** This is going to be a magical evening! Jeremy Irons and Sinead Cusack will provide readings and entertainment at this charity event. They will be accompanied by the Choir of Magdalen College, Oxford conducted by Mark Williams. After the event, guests will enjoy minced pies and mulled wine. The event is raising funds for Autism at Kingwood, a social care charity providing support for over 150 autistic people across the Thames Valley. Tickets £25 from <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/a-candlelit-christmas-evening-with-jeremy-irons-and-sinead-cusack-tickets-324759302817>

Sat 10<sup>th</sup> Dec 7.00pm OSJ A night of carols Join OSJ Voices and baritone George Robarts for a night of Christmas favourites that are sure to spark seasonal joy through music from a range of great composers, including Vaughan Williams Fantasia on Christmas Carols Tickets £5 to £20 from [www.osj.org.uk](http://www.osj.org.uk)

Thurs 15<sup>th</sup> Dec 7.00pm HFT We are delighted to announce that The Donaghue Concert will be joining us this year. The Concert features an octet of up-and-coming young professionals, all of whom work as freelance choral singers and soloists. Hailing from different parts of the country, their singers are employed by choirs including Canterbury Cathedral, Birmingham Cathedral, St John's College Cambridge, Queens' College Cambridge, as well as Magdalen and Christchurch College Oxford. The Abbey will be bathed in the glow of candles and Christmas lights at a special evening of festive music and readings. The evening is also an opportunity to celebrate our 60th birthday. We're incredibly proud to have delivered 60 years of life changing care and support to adults with a learning disability across the UK. Tickets £20 to £30 from <https://www.hft.org.uk/get-involved/events/the-coming-of-christmas-2022/>

Fri 16<sup>th</sup> Dec 7.30pm OSJ Handel Messiah Christmas wouldn't be complete without Handel's great oratorio. This seasonal classic will be performed by renowned soloists and backed by the full forces of the Orchestra of St. John's and OSJ Voices. Tickets £5 to £30 from [www.osj.org.uk](http://www.osj.org.uk)

Sat 17<sup>th</sup> Dec 7.00pm A Christmas Symphony Tickets £10 to £15 Number 1 chart topping Soprano and Star of The Voice UK 2021 **Nadia Eide** presents - a spectacular Christmas concert show featuring well-loved Christmas songs for the whole family. Special guests will feature the wonderful talents of the children's choirs and soloists from Stagecoaches in Abingdon, Didcot, Botley, Headington, Woodstock, Summertown and Witney. Including classic songs like O Holy Night, When You Wish Upon A Star, Silent Night, My Grown Up Christmas List, O Come All Ye Faithful, My Favourite Things, Winter Hymnal and other seasonal favourites sure to bring that warm, Christmas feeling to hearts of all ages. Tickets from £10 to £15 <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/nadia-eide-soprano> This concert is proudly supporting the work of Earth Trust in Oxfordshire and the National Trust helping to inspire people to address climate, biodiversity and sustainability. Ticket sales will also directly support these Trusts by helping to plant new trees to create beautiful green spaces for people and wildlife to thrive.

Mon 19<sup>th</sup> Dec 7pm Radio Oxford Carols – look and listen out for more details!

Sat 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 6pm OSJ A Concert for New Year's Eve Join the Orchestra of St John's as they celebrate the New Year, with favourites including Strauss and Lehar Waltzes, Polkas and Songs but also a jazz medley Tickets £5 to £25 from [www.osj.org.uk](http://www.osj.org.uk)

## Village News

Village website: [www.culhamvillage.org.uk](http://www.culhamvillage.org.uk)

# LADIES OF CULHAM

## Next Dates:

2<sup>nd</sup> Dec – Wreath Making & Christmas Crafts  
Cost t.b.c. 8pm at St Paul's Culham

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

Questions or ideas for sessions. Email  
[ladiesofculham@gmail.com](mailto:ladiesofculham@gmail.com)

JOIN US AT ST PAULS  
CHURCH, CULHAM

# The Culham Christmas Fayre



INTERNATIONAL FESTIVE  
FOOD AND DRINK

WILLOW LANTERN MAKING

A VISIT FROM  
FATHER CHRISTMAS

Sat 17th Dec  
12-4pm  
Free entry

YOU'RE INVITED

# HOME ALONE 2

LOST IN NEW YORK

## Christmas

**FREE  
CHILDREN'S  
MOVIE NIGHT**

**4PM - 6PM**

**FRIDAY 16TH DECEMBER 2022**

**ST PAUL'S CHURCH,  
CULHAM, OX14 4LZ**

**HOT CHOCOLATE &  
MULLED WINE  
AVAILABLE TO BUY**



# CULHAM PARISH COUNCIL

## 6 Vacancies for Parish Councillors

Could you give some of your time to help run the parish and make improvements?

In May 2023 there will be elections for all the councillors of the Parish Council.

You can apply to be a councillor if you are over 18 years-old, preferably a resident of the Parish of Culham and are on the electoral roll (although exceptions do apply).

As part of the Parish Council, you will have responsibility on deciding how much money to raise through the council tax, influencing and shaping the long-term development policy for the Parish and as part of the Planning process comment on planning applications in the Parish. The main meetings are held once a month, in the evening.

If you are interested in local issues and matters that affect Culham and wish to improve the quality of life and the environment in the local area then please consider standing as a candidate for the Parish Council. Not all the existing councillors will be standing for election again as they have served for many years!

In recent memory, no parish councillor election has been contested and all have been elected unopposed!

To find out more, please speak to one of the current councillors - details on the back of The Mouthpiece.

## Culham Parish Council (CPC) – November 2022

Notes not available at time of going to press

Village website address: <https://www.culhamvillage.org.uk/>

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

## Christmas Word Scramble

Can you unscramble these words to find the hidden word?

sehlig

lagne

nosw

teer

corasl



# District Councillor's Report Nov 2022 – Cllr Sam Casey-Rerhaye

## Didcot Eco Fair

Some of you may have been to the free family friendly event showcasing the district's fantastic sustainable businesses, with arts and crafts activities, food stalls and advice on how to reduce both our environmental impact and our heating bills.

The Didcot Eco Fair was on Saturday 5 November (11am- 3pm) at Cornerstone and everyone was invited.

The day included a Christmas jumper swap - unwanted, clean jumpers and you could take away something new to you for Christmas for free. (Further information can be found at our Didcot Eco Fair web page.)

## Climate Action Plan Performance Report

SODC's first CAP quarterly performance report covering April-June 2022 has been published and is publicly available at <https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/south-oxfordshire-district-council/tackling-the-climate-emergency/>. This report provides a detailed review of activities and outcomes in the first quarter of this financial year and is "RAG rated" (Red/Amber/Green) to indicate where projects are on track, need attention or are at risk. This CAP performance report accompanies the usual quarterly report on the Corporate Plan priorities, which is also available [online](#).

## "Call for Land and Buildings" for the new Joint Local Plan

We have published the results of the "Call for Land and Buildings Available for Change", this is part of the process in creating any Local Plan. This process is usually called a Call for Sites, but we changed the name as we wanted sites that could have community and environmental uses, such as public open spaces or renewable energy.

We have created a short video to explain what the Call for Land and Buildings Available for Change is and what happens next. [You can find the video on our Youtube channel](#) and you can view the full results on [our interactive Call for Land and Buildings Available for Change website](#)

Please note these are **not** proposals the Council is making for development.

The Call for Land and Buildings Available for Change does not grant planning permission to any site submitted or confirm that the site will be suitable for development.

You do not need to contact anyone to say whether you support or object to these sites. We will assess the submissions on a range of environmental, heritage and physical constraints to determine their potential 'suitability', 'availability' and 'achievability'. We will identify sites that may be suitable for further consideration through the Joint Local Plan, and we will consult you on those ones. More information is available on the [South/Vale](#) websites.

## New Zero Carbon Homes in Wheatley

A dozen zero-carbon, affordable homes will be built with help from the Council. The homes will be built on the brownfield site at Culllum House in Wheatley. We are using some of the money we get from developers, known as Section 106 commuted sums, to help fund these affordable homes. It is part of a £5 million fund agreed by the council in its budget, from Section 106 money, to be spent on increasing the number of good quality affordable homes in the district.

The homes will be for "affordable rent" – defined as charging up to 80 per cent of market rates for rent. We are already providing more than £1.2 million towards the cost of creating new affordable housing in Henley and Thame.



## The Queen's Canopy

Following the death of Queen Elizabeth, and in accordance with the wishes of the King, the [Queen's Green Canopy](#) initiative will be extended to the end of March 2023 to give people the opportunity to plant trees to honour Her Majesty. SODC is creating a record of all the trees planted across the district for The Queen's Green Canopy and we are asking residents to send pictures of their planted trees to us at [communications@southoxon.gov.uk](mailto:communications@southoxon.gov.uk).



More information can be found at: [southoxon.gov.uk/greencanopy](https://southoxon.gov.uk/greencanopy)

## Oxfordshire says “no, thanks” to the Government’s proposed Investment Zones

The Leader of OCC, Cllr Liz Leffman, wrote to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, to explain why the County would not be applying for any Investment Zones. SODC’s Leader, Cllr David Rouane, had already expressed our views on the matter and a motion put to Council on 13<sup>th</sup> October by the Green Group Leader, Cllr Robin Bennett, was passed with cross-party support. See:

<https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/uncategorised/south-oxfordshire-calls-governments-investment-zone-initiative-disaster-in-making/>

With the change in Government, it is not altogether certain that the Investment Zones will survive in any case.

## Maximum Taxi Tariffs agreed for Hackney cabs in the District

Hackney carriages operating in South Oxfordshire will, for the first time, have a maximum fare they can charge passengers. We have introduced the measure to help ensure passengers, especially those who rely on taxis to travel around such as those on low incomes or with disabilities, are not priced out of using taxis as the cost of living continues to rise. At the same time, the fares agreed will allow taxi drivers to continue to run viable businesses, recognising their overheads are also rising.

We were previously one of only six councils in the country who didn’t set a tariff so introducing them now brings us in line with other authorities - the tariff will still be the 16<sup>th</sup> highest in the country.

The fares only apply to hackney carriages so passengers are able to shop around with private hire vehicles to get the best deal - harder to do when at a taxi rank or hailing a cab. The fares only apply for journeys within the South Oxfordshire area.

The new maximum fare for a two-mile journey on Tariff 1 will be £8.10, rising to £11.25 for Tariff 3 (applicable from 2am to 5.59am on weekdays and all day Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year’s Day). Among the changes was also introducing a new £1.50 charge for additional passengers in vehicles which can carry more than four persons.

## “Park and Charge” scheme wins an award!

We are pleased to report that the Park and Charge scheme that put 124 electric vehicle chargers in 10 of the council-run car parks across both districts has won an excellence award, called an “Evie”. Evidence is showing that the charging bays are being used more and more; our foresight in installing infrastructure *before* demand outstrips supply has been widely praised

To contact me:

[Sam.casey-rerhaye@southoxon.gov.uk](mailto:Sam.casey-rerhaye@southoxon.gov.uk)

01235 635566

# Scottish Dancing Ceilidh Night

Saturday 21 January 2023 at 20:00 - 23:00  
Sutton Courtenay Village Hall • 17 Frilsham Street

Come and shake away the January blues with our Scottish dancing night. It doesn't matter if you have never done it before. Last year the best feedback we had was from first timers! We have an amazing band to talk you through the dances, raffle prizes and yummy snacks to fuel those dancing feet!  
Places are limited, so grab your ticket soon! For adults and teenage children.  
All profits on entry and raffle tickets will go towards **Europa School, Culham** and S.C Village Hall.

For tickets visit website <https://fienta.com/scottish-dancing-ceilidh-night>

or contact [carolynkategreen@hotmail.com](mailto:carolynkategreen@hotmail.com)



If you are looking for a dance younger children can attend too, Carolyn suggests <https://folkinoxford.co.uk/family-ceilidh-oxford.html>

Family Christmas  
**CEILIDH!**  
Sunday  
8th December  
2.30 - 4.30  
CUTTESLOWE PARK PAVILLION  
Mulled Cider Adults: £6  
Children: £4.50  
Under 2s: Free  
Mince Pies  
fco.yapsody.com  
facebook/familyceilidhoxford



[www.ora.org.uk](http://www.ora.org.uk)

## **ENOUGH IS ENOUGH – STOP WASTING OUR MONEY**

Oxfordshire Roads Action Alliance (ORAA) is a community alliance and campaign group to prevent unsuitable road development in Oxfordshire. The Alliance was established in August 2022 and formally launched on 5th November 2022 in Didcot. It grew out of local concerns about Oxfordshire County Council's (OCC's) plans to continue building new roads, in particular the HIF1 relief road.

The HIF1 Road – undermining some good transport policy.

The HIF1 road will be the biggest road project ever undertaken by OCC. ORAA members are also concerned about other proposed road schemes in the county.

These plans undermine the new County Council 'Local Transport and Connectivity Plan' (LTCP). The first target – which ORAA and many others welcome – is to 'Replace or remove 1 out of every 4 current car trips in Oxfordshire'. The 'Transport hierarchy' section stresses that the County Council will 'develop, assess and prioritise transport schemes that prioritise 'Walking and wheeling', 'Cycling and riding' and 'Public transport'. The LTCP aims for a net-zero Oxfordshire transport system by 2040, another target we support.

In this context it is unfortunate that the County's largest planned transport investment is the HIF1 road. This will induce and increase car journeys and generate c.154,000 tonnes of CO2 during its construction. We are aware of the pressures for development and the need for local infrastructure to support this - but there has been no serious discussion about any means of delivering that infrastructure other than these new roads.

The Case against HIF1:

1. £300m HIF1 is too costly	4. Contradicts Local Transport and Connectivity Plan
2. Too Financially Risky	5. Traffic congestion will not ease and construction will cause traffic mayhem locally
3. Incompatible with Carbon reduction targets and climate policies	6. HIF1 is a road for cars and is not sustainable transport infrastructure

You may be aware that Oxfordshire County Council have posted the Regulation 25 responses on the ePlanning Portal and have opened a consultation running from 24th November to 24th December.

Documents can be found at <https://myeplanning.oxfordshire.gov.uk/Planning/Display/R3.0138/21#undefined>

### Dates to note

Consultation dates: 24.11.2022 to 24.12.2022

Target Committee date: 16.01.2023 \*\*

Determination date. 31.12.2023.

Planning & Reg Committee dates: 16.01.2023 \*\*. 27.02.2023. (None in March)

If you have not already joined you can do so at <https://ora.org.uk/join-the-campaign>

## Other News



SUTTON COURTENAY WI



**We're looking forward to a brilliant year  
of fun, friendship, entertainment, and lots more!**

**In January an evening of 'Music of London'**

**and in February a visit from the**

**Thames Valley Air Ambulance Unit**

**Come and enjoy, learn, make friends**

We meet every third Tuesday monthly in the  
River Room, Sutton Courtenay at 7.30 pm

**For details contact our Secretary on 01235 847612**



# Oxfordshire Community Land Trust Launches Crofts Court Community Share Offer

## Affordable Homes for Oxfordshire YES!

### Social investors sought to help deliver pioneering new development

Oxfordshire Community Land Trust (OCLT) is currently building eight affordable rented apartments in Dean Court in Cumnor Parish, West Oxford, where a lack of affordable rental housing is causing difficulties for key workers and local people to find suitable homes. The mainly volunteer-run organisation started building the scheme in May 2022, and it's scheduled for completion by June 2023.

Alongside generous grant funding from both Vale of White Horse and the Oxfordshire Futures Partnership, the development will be part-funded by a mortgage from Ecology Building Society. However, increasing variable interest rates are putting the project's delivery at risk so OCLT is looking to replace part of the Ecology mortgage with more affordable finance from social investors.

The OCLT Community Share Offer will offer socially-motivated investors the opportunity to be a part of this pioneering affordable community-housing development. Shares are offered at a value of £1 each and are offered in multiples of £250; the minimum shareholding being £250 and the maximum £50,000. The Community Shares carry a target maximum interest rate of 3%. Investors can find out more and invest via the Ethex positive investing platform at [www.ethex.org.uk/invest/OCLT](http://www.ethex.org.uk/invest/OCLT)

The site known as Crofts Court will be sustainably built, with high levels of insulation, clean energy generated from roof-top solar panels to reduce energy bills, and permeable landscaping to minimise water run-off. The development is also unique in that it will require prospective tenants from the Vale's Housing Register (who will have a strong local connection to Cumnor Parish) to join a tenant management co-operative to help manage and run the building. This should create a strong residential community and enable the tenants to develop useful employment skills provided through OCLT's tenant training scheme.



Timber frame being installed at Croft's Court

Trust Director and social investor Vyvyan Salmon said "Community Share Offers are unique in that they allow sympathetic individuals and organisations to support valuable projects, and in return not only do they receive a social return on investment but target a financial one too".

Oxford is ranked as the second least affordable city in Britain and as a result, local people, key workers and those who sustain our city are priced out. At the same time Oxford, with its universities, industry and diverse communities, remains one of the world's most renowned cities for original thought and innovation, with a track record of problem-solving and trying out new ideas.

Trust Director Alison Mathias said "whilst our scheme is small, this is just the start - showcasing an innovative way to help address the local housing crisis. By investing in our development, people and organisations can help us grow so that we can bring more affordable homes to other neighbourhoods in Oxfordshire. And the critical element of our development is that OCLT will never choose to sell the homes, so they will remain at affordable rents forever for the people who need them".

The development would not have been possible without funding and support from Vale of White Horse District Council, Oxfordshire Growth Board, Homes England, Low Carbon Hub, the Ecology Building Society, The

Community Housing Fund Revenue Programme 2021/22 (funded by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities), and the public who have become members of OCLT. OCLT also supported by professional services from Soha Housing RP.

To INVEST please go to <https://www.ethex.org.uk/invest/oct>

More information on the Trust's work can be found here <https://www.octl.org.uk> and with regard to the Share Offer here [www.octl.org.uk/crofts-court](http://www.octl.org.uk/crofts-court).

OCLT is run by volunteers. It will continue to depend on the generosity of grant funders and donors until we have a big enough portfolio of permanently affordable homes to generate a small income to support an office. If you would like to help this innovative, equitable and sustainable approach to housing please [join us](#), and/or become a [supporter member](#).

We are also always interested in land and housing opportunities for the provision of permanently affordable homes.

Capital is at risk and returns are not guaranteed

*OCLT is a member of the National CLT Network. Information about Collaborative Housing in Oxfordshire can be found at [www.collaborativehousing.org.uk](http://www.collaborativehousing.org.uk)*

Website: <http://www.octl.org.uk>

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/oxfordshireoct>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/OxfordshireCLT>

## 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 **January 15<sup>th</sup>** to:

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

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The Mouthpiece is printed by  
Culham Publication Services, Culham Science Centre, OX14 3DB

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### SOCIAL

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# Local Services Directory

**Larkmead**  
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*Caring for Pets, Horses & Farm Animal  
throughout South Oxfordshire*

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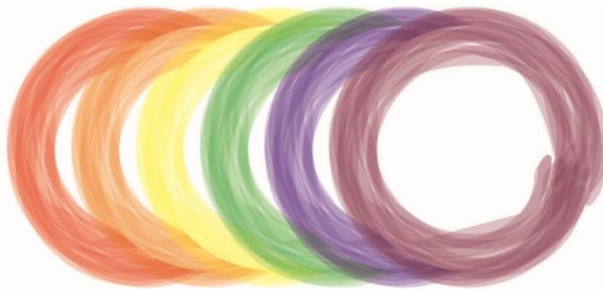
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