

# The Mouthpiece

Culham's Newsletter  
**March 2023**

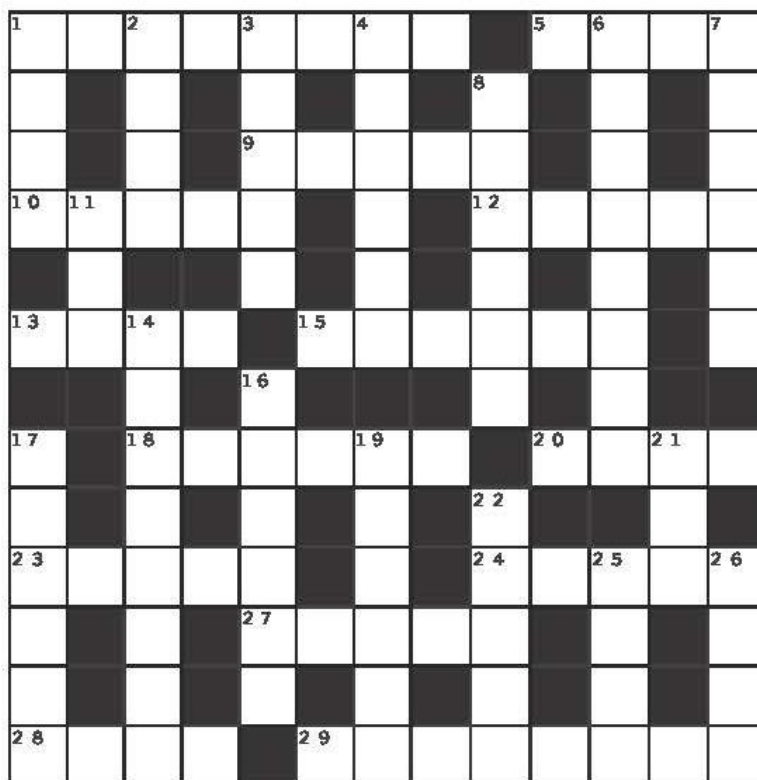


## Dates for your Diary

Fri 3 Mar	8pm	Ladies of Culham Wine Tasting 	St Pauls Church
Sun 5 Mar	11am	Family Holy Communion	St Pauls Church
Sun 12 Mar	11am	Holy Communion	St Pauls Church
Tues 14 Mar	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	St Pauls Church
Sun 26 Mar	10.30am	Team Service	St Laurence, Warborough

# Crossword

answers towards the end of The Mouthpiece!



## Across

1. Wide Mexican hat (8)
5. Female Ferret (4)
9. Fang (5)
10. Indian side dish (5)
12. Fix Firmly (5)
13. Popular aquarium fish (4)
15. Wartime International agreement, ----- Convention (6)
18. Spice used in mulled wine (6)
20. Source of water (4)
23. Let in (5)
24. Book that contains maps (5)
27. Punctuation mark (5)
28. Elizabethan stringed instrument (4)
29. (Kitchen) waste container (5,3)

## Down

1. Attack with a knife (4)
2. Bob Hoskins film, ---- Lisa (4)
3. Proportion (5)
4. Raw recruit (6)
6. Walford resident (3,5)
7. Head, chief (6)
8. Currency of Israel (6)
11. Colour (3)
14. Decorative object (8)
16. Proverb, "A ---- in time saves nine" (6)
17. Make a journey (6)
19. Slowly develop (6)
21. Grazing field (3)
22. Excessive enthusiasm (5)
25. As meek as a -----, simile (4)
26. Bridge's length (4)

## Talking point by Revd Jane Willis (new rector of Dorchester)

Hello Dorchester and parishes! It's so good to be here.

In one way the time since my appointment was announced has flown, and in another it's seemed a long time coming. But we are delighted to be moved in, and have been working very hard trying to get somewhere near ship-shape for when I'm licensed and actually functioning. We've walked up to Wittenham Clumps, but apart from that our experience so far of our new place has been DIY stores, supermarket and the tip! I am so looking forward to actually getting to know the people and places where I will be ministering.

Moving shortly after Christmas has been in some ways challenging – but in other ways wonderfully fitting. It's been a season of endings and beginnings – farewells in Sussex, and then a wonderful welcome as we've arrived.

In our early days here the snowdrops and crocuses have pushed their way through the frosty ground, we've turned from winter to early spring – just as Christians turn their focus from Christmas to Easter. Some may be surprised that for many Christians Christmas just begins on 25th December and continues into February, concluding with Candlemas when we remember the infant Jesus being presented in the temple and recognised and proclaimed as the Messiah by two elderly, faithful people of prayer: Simeon and Anna. From Candlemas we do an about-turn and begin to face towards Easter as we journey towards the cross and resurrection. That journey, though the weeks of Lent, is a season of preparation. Traditionally it has been seen as a time of fasting or giving up something and for many people that is the right thing, though maybe sometimes we should take something up – such doing a Lent Course or reading a devotional book, trying a new prayer practice or giving in some way? As I take up a new ministry, I will be asking God what he wants to do both in my own life and among us during this new season.

It's an exciting time – and we look forward to all God has for us.

Every blessing

Jane

*Jane was licensed on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at Dorchester Abbey*



## Village News

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

A poster for 'ART of CULHAM' featuring a red background with white text. The text reads: 'ART of CULHAM', 'SATURDAY 17 JUNE 2023 • 10AM - 4PM', and 'ST. PAULS CHURCH, CULHAM, OX14 4LZ'. Below the text are four images: a red book cover with white and gold patterns, a landscape painting of a beach, a mosaic of a dome, and a painting of a stormy sea.

**ART of CULHAM**  
**SATURDAY 17 JUNE 2023 • 10AM - 4PM**  
**ST. PAULS CHURCH, CULHAM, OX14 4LZ**



# LADIES OF CULHAM

## Next Dates:

- 3<sup>rd</sup> March – Wine Tasting
- 5<sup>th</sup> May – Mindfulness Session
- 9<sup>th</sup> June (later date due to half term holiday) – Floral Crown Making

All meetings are at St Paul's Church, Culham. Questions?  
Email  
[ladiesofculham@gmail.com](mailto:ladiesofculham@gmail.com)

# **CULHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

## **PHOTO ID NEEDED TO VOTE AT THE LOCAL ELECTIONS**

The government has introduced a requirement for voters to show photo ID when voting at a polling station at some elections.

This will apply for the first time at the local elections on Thursday 4 May 2023, so please spread the word.

Accepted forms of photo ID will include, but are not limited to, passport, driving licence (including provisional license), disabled parking blue badge, certain concessionary travel cards and proof of age cards with a PASS mark.

To help spread the word, the Electoral Commission have provided a Voter ID Resources Pack, which includes links to posters, copy for newsletters and other content that you can download.

Anyone who doesn't have accepted photo ID can apply on the government's website now for a free voter ID document, known as a Voter Authority Certificate.

For more information, visit the Electoral Commission website:

<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/voter-id>

or call their helpline on 0800 328 0280.

## **Culham Parish Council - 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) – February 2023**

Held at the church. Sam Caser-Rerhaye was elected as Chair for the meeting

## **Public Participation**

The Burycroft hedge cutting has now been done. Assessment of the plans for the Waggon and Horses is back in the hands of SODC. – The sale of the Green to Culham Parish council is still at the discussion stage with Morell's solicitors.

## **Other items**

Report from Robin Bennet – County Councillor. There was a budget setting meeting today (14 February) – County Council tax has gone up by 4.99% with options to protect the most vulnerable. There will be a major investment in electric busses for Oxford within the next year. Robin's full report will appear elsewhere in the Mouthpiece.

Report from Sam Casey-Rerhaye – District Councillor. People voting in the upcoming May elections will need photo ID. This document can be applied for from SODC. Sam's full report will appear elsewhere in the Mouthpiece.

Linda Hamilton Allsopp has been taken on as temporary Clerk. An OALC advert has gone in for a permanent Clerk. An advert for the post of Clerk will be placed in the Mouthpiece. Regarding the HIF road, a three day planning meeting is upcoming. The JPC group has presented a very detailed and comprehensive report detailing our objections to the scheme.

The Neighbourhood Plan has gone through the examiner assessment and is with SODC who are highly likely to incorporate the examiner's comments in their own report This then goes to revision before going to a village referendum.

The CPC application for the '20's plenty' traffic calming scheme in the village has been presented. Like many other locations we are now in the waiting phase of installation.

## **Next meeting**

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2023 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.

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



# CULHAM NIGERIAN NIGHT



Join us for an evening of  
Nigerian food on  
Culham Village Green

4pm

Saturday 3rd June



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tickets available by emailing  
[stpaulsandculhamvillage@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulsandculhamvillage@gmail.com)



## Vacancy for Clerk to the Parish council

**Culham Parish Council** is looking for a permanent clerk to be the Proper Officer of the Council. This could be a perfect role for a local person interested in the community and with some experience in administration and basic finance.

The clerk is the financial and legal officer for the Council, is the main contact and carries out the actions the Council agree at the meetings. The Clerk administers meetings and ensures the correct payments are made and works closely with the Chair of the Council. The clerk keeps the website up to date. Answering queries about the cemetery and burials is also part of the job.

The role is part time for **6 hours per week paid at a rate of £13.21-14.67** per hour depending on experience. You would work the hours flexibly to suit and mainly from home. A laptop and phone is provided. Training is also provided and support from Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils and the Society of Council Clerks is available.

Please email [clerk@culham-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@culham-pc.gov.uk) or call 01235 635566 for more information or to ask for an application form by 3<sup>rd</sup> March.

## District Councillor's Report Feb 2023 – Cllr Sam Casey-Rerhaye

### Home Improvements to save energy

Retrofitting is the term for making changes to existing buildings to reduce energy use and carbon dioxide emissions. It can also save you money in the long term.

The benefits:

- A more efficient home which will be warmer, cheaper to run and less draughty
- Investing in energy efficient home improvements may cost more upfront but will save you money over its lifetime
- A better Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating which is likely to increase the value of your property

Examples of retrofitting include:

- Insulating roofs, walls and floors
- Replacing windows
- Improving ventilation or draught proofing
- Installing efficient heating and hot water systems
- Installing renewable energy eg solar panels

There are grants available for doing this to your home if you fulfil certain criteria. You may have had a leaflet through your door recently about this.

We have dedicated some pages on our website on this topic with links to grants and organisations that can help. If you are considering some home improvements, take a look at these and see how you can add energy efficiency to your project:

<https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/south-oxfordshire-district-council/tackling-the-climate-emergency/what-can-you-do/retrofitting-your-home/>

### Compulsory ID to vote in elections

**More information on this is here:** <https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/south-oxfordshire-district-council/local-democracy-and-elections/elections-and-voting/new-for-2023-you-will-need-to-show-photo-id-when-voting-at-a-polling-station/>



If you don't already have an accepted form of photo ID, or you're not sure whether your photo ID still looks like you, you can apply for a free voter ID document, known as a **Voter Authority Certificate**. You can apply for this at [voter-authority-certificate.service.gov.uk](https://voter-authority-certificate.service.gov.uk).

Alternatively, you can complete a paper application form and send this to the electoral services team at your local council.

**The deadline to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate for the local elections in England on 4 May 2023 is 5pm on Tuesday 25 April**

### **Joint Local Plan 2041 – update on 'Issues' consultation**

The next step in the development of our next local plan, which will be joint with the Vale, is the results of the consultation on the issues that should be addressed by the plan. There was a great deal of support for the main issues we had proposed, and some interesting feedback as well as some disagreement on a few issues. We have a interactive website with some graphics showing the responses here:

[Joint Local Plan Issues Consultation Results - Summary \(arcgis.com\)](https://arcgis.com)

There is also a more traditional document available on the South Oxfordshire website, search for Joint Local Plan 2041

### **Great British Spring Clean**

This year we'll again be supporting the Keep Britain Tidy Great British Spring Clean by loaning litter pickers, high-viz jackets and bags to community litter picking groups and individuals. The event runs from Monday 17 March to Sunday 2 April. Equipment can be booked by completing and returning the booking form and declaration document to [waste.team@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:waste.team@southandvale.gov.uk). The forms are available on our South litter picking pages.

### **Homes for Refugees**

SODC's Housing Team has one of the best track records in the country for reducing homelessness (as reported in our Quarterly Performance Management Reports) and is putting its expertise to good use in finding accommodation for refugees as well. Now that many Ukrainian visitors are reaching the end of their initial six-month stays with local families, some are having to find new homes and the Housing Team is working hard on this challenge. We are also expecting to receive further funding from central government shortly to purchase accommodation on the open market for this purpose, to reduce the cost of temporary hotel accommodation. There are several benefits to this approach (which we had started to deploy in any case with our own limited funds) because we are able to ensure these homes are energy-efficient and of an appropriate quality as well as benefiting from rental payments and adding to our own eventual housing stock.

In the meantime, monthly payments to hosts of Ukrainian guests have increased to £550 over the winter and we are still keen to hear from anyone willing to provide accommodation to families in need; any enquiries can be directed to the SODC Community Hub – [www.southoxon.gov.uk/ukraine](http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/ukraine)

### **The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Consultation**

The Government is asking people for their views on their proposed approach to updating the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The NPPF sets out the government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. The policies set out in the NPPF apply to the preparation of **Local Plans and Neighbourhood Plans** and to decisions on planning applications. The NPPF covers a wide range of topics including: housing, business, economic development, transport and the natural environment.

To find out more, visit the [Government's consultation webpage](#).

The consultation **closes on 2 March 2023**

### **Leisure needs survey**

We have appointed Stuart Todd Associates to undertake two studies to support the work on our **Joint Local**

**Plan**, the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) and the Leisure Facilities Assessment and Strategy (LFAS). The two studies will help provide updated guidance and evidence of leisure needs in both South and Vale.

As part of the work Stuart Todd Associates and the National Governing Bodies are writing to sports clubs, **parish councils** and local organisations to find out more about the leisure provision in the districts.

Please can I encourage anyone who is contacted to respond to the survey.

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

01235 635566

## **County Councillor's Report Feb 2023 – Cllr. Robin Bennet**

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

**The updated budget for 2023/24 at Oxfordshire County Council** include more funding than when proposals were first announced in late 2022, but also significant further pressures on services that stem from high inflation and growing service demands. The newly updated position and revised proposals were agreed by the county council on 14<sup>th</sup> February.

Since the autumn when OCC set out the proposed budget for consultation, we have seen rapid changes in a very volatile political and economic environment – both nationally and internationally. We learned in December that some government grants would continue into 2023/24, enabling spending to be increased in some key areas.

Responding to the feedback received during public engagement, a total of £4.9m is to be assigned to **improving roads, promoting access to public transport and encouraging cycling and walking for young people, including:**

- community transport initiatives in both rural and urban areas (£1.2m)
- extension of the current discounted ticket offer at park and rides (£500,000)
- expanding the supported transport team to work with young people and their families to develop active travel options for getting to their place of education (£300,000)
- expanding the School Streets pilot to make it safer and easier for children and parents to walk and cycle to school (£500,000)
- £500,000 investment into transport hubs including e-bike hire, car club promotion etc. There would also be improvements to travel information (£100,000)
- building flood resilience across Oxfordshire (£600,000), including practical projects with parish councils and proactive ditch clearance in areas prone to flooding
- £1m for local priority improvements to highways, cycle paths and pavements.

### **Support to children and families:**

- £500,000 is proposed to be invested in additional capacity for SEND educational and health care plan (ECHP) reviews and assessments
- £500,000 to speed up the development of community hubs to support children and families.
- £2.3m will be allocated to Council Tax Support Scheme and cost of living measures to help those most in need in Oxfordshire – ensuring that they do not have pay the full increase in council tax this year

## Deal signed to bring 159 electric buses to Oxfordshire

The first vehicles in a fleet of 159 new battery electric buses are set to arrive in Oxfordshire in September, after an £82.5 million deal was finalised. Last March, Oxfordshire County Council was awarded £32.8 million from the government's Zero Emission Bus Regional Areas (ZEBRA) scheme.

Along with £6m from the council itself and £43.7m from bus companies Stagecoach and the Go-Ahead Group, which includes the Oxford Bus Company, Thames Travel, and City Sightseeing Oxford, the scheme will deliver the electric buses and charging systems.

The scheme is expected to support a reduction in nitrogen dioxide (NOx) levels, reduce noise pollution, and will help make Oxfordshire a net zero carbon county ahead of 2050. Oxfordshire was one of only 12 local authorities to successfully apply for ZEBRA funding, and this is one of the biggest schemes in the country, and will mean that most services across the [Oxford Smartzone](#) will be operated by battery electric buses. All the new buses are being manufactured in the UK and are expected to arrive by March 2024.

## Cabinet approves continued stadium discussions with Oxford United and commits to seek views before final decision

Oxfordshire County Council's cabinet has agreed to start negotiations with Oxford United FC on outline legal and commercial terms relating to the club's proposal to lease land for a new football stadium, while ensuring that residents are properly consulted as proposals are developed. The land in question is east of Frieze Way/south of Kidlington roundabout, known as "the triangle", close to the previously discussed land at Stratfield Brake and Oxford Parkway Station.

**Culham safety improvements** – I've been meeting with OCC Highways officers and Parish Council members to look at how we can accelerate progress towards safer crossings at the Tollgate Rd/A415 junction and approaching the Europa School at Thame Lane.



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

**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 grew out of local concerns about Oxfordshire County Council's (OCC's) plans to build the HIF1 relief road. This road will be the biggest road project ever undertaken by OCC.

ORAA is an alliance that also supports local residents and campaigners to get their voices heard for new developments such as HIF2 (A420) and near Chalgrove.

We are not 'NIMBYS'. We are in favour of sustainable development with low-carbon infrastructure to support housing. However, in facing the climate crisis we cannot continue simply to rely on roads and cars as the primary mode of transport. We need alternatives.

South Oxfordshire in particular needs an integrated transport scheme with public transport (rail, buses, taxis, trams etc.) along with properly surfaced off-road cycle tracks (not adjacent to traffic).

Our vision is for climate-friendly developments with liveable urban spaces where noise and pollution and commercial traffic are minimised.

# Other News



SUTTON COURTENAY WI



## We're going places

- come and join us for some great trips -

We'll be out & about in May & June

A social evening & quiz in April and a visit  
from Thames Valley Air Ambulance Unit in May  
Many more events planned for the coming year

**Come and see, enjoy, join in!**

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

For details contact our Secretary on 01235 847612





# The Cassandra Files

By Tony Green

Directed by Tracy Green

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CLUB** **80**  
1944 - 2024

Unicorn Theatre Abingdon

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> – Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2023 7.30pm**

Detective Superintendent Crozier (Adam Blake) has a very interesting job. He is the custodian of police files, which deal with, what one might call, 'unusual' cases. These are the cases that few know about and are generally kept hidden from the public. They are referred to as '**The Cassandra Files**'.

In this world premier DS Crozier shares three of these strange stories which contain messages, or lessons, or warnings...

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**Group Bookings:** Groups of 10 and over – All tickets £10 (£10.60 when booked online – just select the concession rate ticket and choose the number you require). Please let us know if you have any problems with your booking.

Tickets available from: The Bookstore, The Abingdon Precinct (15 Bury Street), Abingdon

or online at [www.abingdon-drama-club.com](http://www.abingdon-drama-club.com)

Email: [enquiries@abingdon-drama-club.com](mailto:enquiries@abingdon-drama-club.com)



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# TRUSTEES WANTED - Campaign to Protect Rural England - Oxfordshire

Do you care about your local countryside?  
Want to make a difference?



Due to retirement of current trustees, we are looking for an Honorary Secretary and a Board Member to join our team.

This is an excellent opportunity to play an influential role in a respected and long-standing environmental charity, applying your experience to make a real difference and to be part of a friendly group that is passionate about the Oxfordshire countryside.

Application deadline is **30 March 2023** in the first instance, but we are happy to receive expressions of interest on an ongoing basis.

For further info, please contact our Branch Director, Helen Marshall.

E: [director@cpreoxon.org.uk](mailto:director@cpreoxon.org.uk)

T: 01491 612079

See our website for more information: [www.cpreoxon.org.uk](http://www.cpreoxon.org.uk)

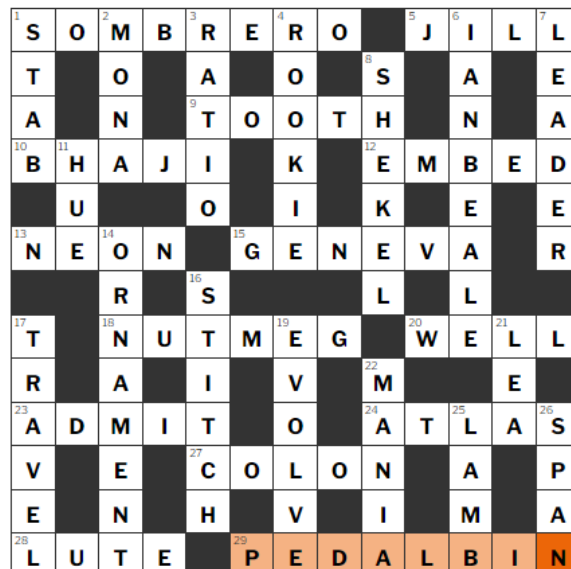
## The Mouthpiece

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 April 2023 issue of the Mouthpiece by **March 15<sup>th</sup>** to:

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

Answers to crossword



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**ADDRESS**

Stuart Morris, K1-0-65  
Culham Science Centre,  
Abingdon, Oxfordshire,  
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**CONTACT**

t: +44 (0)1235 464904  
t: +44 (0)1235 464423  
e: [printservices@ukaea.uk](mailto:printservices@ukaea.uk)  
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# WHO IS WHO IN CULHAM?

<b>CULHAM PARISH COUNCIL</b>			
Philip Owen	<a href="mailto:p.owen@culham-pc.gov.uk">p.owen@culham-pc.gov.uk</a>	6, The Green, Culham	01235 555223
Sam Casey-Rerhaye	<a href="mailto:s.caseyrerhaye@culham-pc.gov.uk">s.caseyrerhaye@culham-pc.gov.uk</a>	3 The Burycroft, Culham	01235 635566
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	
Siobhan Sargeant		3, High Street, Culham	07414 219803
<b>CLERK TO PARISH COUNCIL</b>			
vacancy	<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
<b>COUNTY COUNCILLOR</b>			
Robin Bennett	<a href="mailto:robin.bennett@oxfordshire.gov.uk">robin.bennett@oxfordshire.gov.uk</a>	4 Meadside, Dorchester-on-Thames	07979 646815
<b>ST PAUL'S CHURCH</b>			
Associate Team Vicar:	Rev Paul Wignall	<a href="mailto:bridgegroupvicar@gmail.com">bridgegroupvicar@gmail.com</a> Dorchester Office: 01865 340007	Vicarage: 01865 407848
Ordained Local Minister	Revd. David Haylett	<a href="mailto:familyhaylett@yahoo.com">familyhaylett@yahoo.com</a>	01865 407382
Hon. Treasurer:	Andrew Churchill Stone	<a href="mailto:churchillstone27@gmail.com">churchillstone27@gmail.com</a> 21 High Street, Culham	01235 533011
Churchwarden:	vacancy	<a href="mailto:stpaulsculham@gmail.com">stpaulsculham@gmail.com</a>	
Hon. Secretary:	Ruth Ward	<a href="mailto:stpaulsculham@gmail.com">stpaulsculham@gmail.com</a> 5 Thame Lane, Culham	
<b>FRIENDS OF ST PAUL'S CHURCH</b>			
Chairman:	Philip Owen	6 The Green, Culham	01235 555223
<b>ST PAUL'S &amp; CULHAM VILLAGE RE-ORDERING COMMITTEE</b>			
Philip Owen	<a href="mailto:stpaulsandculhamvillage@gmail.com">stpaulsandculhamvillage@gmail.com</a>	6 The Green, Culham	01235 555223
<b>LADIES OF CULHAM (LOC)</b>			
Laura Cooper	<a href="mailto:ladiesofculham@gmail.com">ladiesofculham@gmail.com</a>	Also Jenny Williams, Jo Oughtred, Amy Sutcliffe	
<b>POLICE</b>			
Neighbourhood Policing Team		Non-emergency Phone Number	101
<b>THE MOUTHPIECE</b>			
	<a href="mailto:generalmouthpiece@gmail.com">generalmouthpiece@gmail.com</a>		
Editors:	Anne Churchill Stone	21 High Street, Culham	01235 533011
	Gordon & Joan Gibbs	32 High Street, Culham	01235 523679
Advertising Manager:	vacancy		
	<a href="mailto:advertmouthpiece@gmail.com">advertmouthpiece@gmail.com</a>		
Distribution:	vacancy		