

The Mouthpiece

Culham's Newsletter
July/August 2023



Dates for your Diary

Sun 2 July	11 am	Family Holy Communion	St Paul's Church
Fri 7 July	8 pm	Ladies of Culham – Drinks	St Paul's Church
Sun 9 July	11am	Holy Communion Service	St Paul's Church
T B C	7.30 pm	Parish Council Meeting	St Paul's Church
Sun 16 July	11am	Messy Church	St Paul's Church
Sat 29 July	3 pm	Lego Club 	St Paul's Church
Fri 4 Aug	8 pm	Ladies of Culham – walk and social	St Paul's Church
Sun 6 Aug	11 am	Family Holy Communion	St Paul's Church
Sun 13 Aug	11 am	Holy Communion Service	St Paul's Church
Sun 20 Aug	11am	Messy Church	St Paul's Church
Sun 20 Aug	-	Closing date for Photographic Competition	
Sun 27 Aug	11 am	Family Holy Communion	St Paul's Church
Sun 9 Sept	11am	Harvest Festival	The Green



Culham Kids



What is the difference between a sausage in a bun and Pacman?

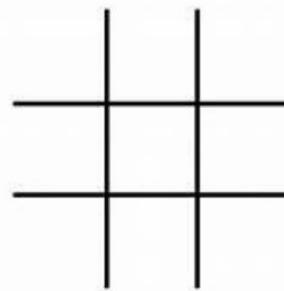
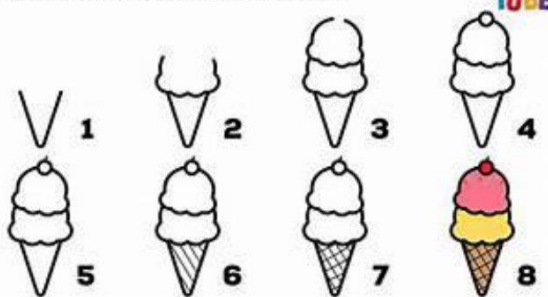
One's a hotdog and the other's a dot hog!



Summer Challenges

- Cycle your bike on a route you've not tried before
 - Identify 3 flowers
- Pick up at least 3 pieces of rubbish while you're out and about

HOW TO DRAW A ICE CREAM CONE -



Important dates – Lego club – Sat 29th July at 3pm in the church
Have fun colouring in this page! See you next month!

Talking point by Revd Sorrel Shamel- Wood



It seems that every year there are more and more themed “days” in the calendar. For example, this year July will include International Joke Day (1st July), World Chocolate Day (7th July), Shark Awareness Day (14th July), World Chess Day (20th July) and World Tiger Day (29th July). Of course, the Christian calendar has included special saints days for many centuries, and July includes St Swithun’s Day on July the 15th. Perhaps you have heard of the legend, that if it rains on St Swinthun’s Day, it will rain for forty days, but if it is dry on St Swithun’s Day then it will remain dry for forty days! Is the legend true? Well, perhaps you can test it this year and let me know!

However, the day which most captured my imagination when I was writing this article is “Alice’s Day”, on July the 1st. Alice’s Day celebrates the story of Alice in Wonderland, and of course being so close to Oxford, there are plenty of opportunities for us to celebrate: for example, the Story Museum hosts a special programme of events including puppets, trails and games. Charles Dodgson, aka Lewis Carroll (1832-98) was a fellow at Christ Church, Oxford and the idea for the story of Alice in Wonderland came to him while punting past Christ Church on the river Thames (or Isis, as it’s known in Oxford) towards Godstow Abbey.

Some of Lewis Carroll’s ideas for Alice in Wonderland were inspired by Medieval Christianity. For example, the way that she falls down a hole at the beginning of the story was inspired by the legend of St Frideswide and the holy well at Binsey. The alarming and aggressive “off with your head!” refrain from the Queen of Hearts may have been inspired by Godstow Abbey, at the end of Lewis Carroll’s boat ride, and its dissolution by Henry VIII during the Reformation.¹

Stories, such as “Alice in Wonderland” capture the imagination and stand the test of time. Why? Because not only do they offer a glimpse of a fantastical reality beyond the normality of our everyday lives, but they also offer structure and resolution: they have a beginning, a middle and an end. As humans, we can find life confusing and chaotic at times, so shaping it into a story and taking control of our own story can be very helpful: who am I? Where am I going? What has brought me to this point? How do I hope things will change, and ultimately resolve?

The bible is, in my opinion, the greatest story ever told. It follows the adventures of humanity from their beginning, through many trials and challenges, to the ultimate happy ending through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and his promise to return in the future. Much of Western literature has found deep inspiration in the pages of the bible, from its deep poetry to its sacrificial, redemptive hero narrative and, like Lewis Carroll, many writers have also found inspiration in the history of medieval Christianity. Here in the Dorchester Ministry Team, we have many beautiful historic churches right on our doorstep. Why not pay us a visit this summer, and find some inspiration for the start of your own story! Who knows? One day it may even get it’s own “day”!

¹Some of the historical information from this article derives from “Alice in Medieval Oxford” by Andrew Dunning: <https://blogs.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/theconveyor/alice-in-medieval-oxford/>

Village News

Village website: www.culhamvillage.org.uk

Harvest Festival

11am Sunday 9th September

Culham Green

Ploughman's Lunch £10 Adult
£ 5 Child

Refreshments & Beer Tent

Music

Tickets: www.st-pauls-church-3.sumupstore.com



[stpaulsandculhamvillage](https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsandculhamvillage)



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**Young Persons
Photographic Competition**

Age: 17 and under

Closing date 20th August

**Prizes: £30 Book/Amazon Voucher
£15 Book/Amazon Voucher**

For further Details

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Ladies of Culham Next Dates:

7th July - drinks

4th August - walk and social

1st September - mindfulness

6th October - book club

3rd November - board games

1st December - wreath making

To be added onto the LoC WhatsApp group, or
any questions, please email us

Email ladiesofculham@gmail.com

Culham Parish Council (CPC)

There was no meeting in June owing to not having a fully elected parish council. It is expected that by the time you read this we will have at least 5 parish councillors and hopefully 6!

For those not on the Community WhatsApp group the summary was that Sam Casey-Rerhaye and Chris Pritchard both put in their nomination forms in time for the 4th May election date. However, the parish council needs a minimum of 3 officers to be quorate.

We were given a second window of opportunity to submit nominations 24th – 30th June, if there are more than 6 applications altogether then there will be an election. If only 6 people apply then they will be “elected unopposed”.

There are certainly 3 people (other than Sam and Chris) in the village who are putting their nomination papers in this time and there may be more who are interested. The notice of election is now on the Parish Council website. If an election is required it will be Thursday 27th July 2023

Our parish clerk, Denise, sent out this notice, included here for information

What is the role of a Parish Councillor?

The main role of a Parish Councillor is to represent the views of all residents within the parish and to listen to, and understand, the views and needs of different groups in the community. There is a responsibility to be well informed, especially about diverse local views.

Parish Councillors are elected representatives (they are neither volunteers nor employees) and serve for a 4-year term unless co-opted or elected in a by-election when they serve until the next election. The Parish Council needs a wide range of skills and experience to work as a team. Councillors from different backgrounds better represent the whole community and possess different enthusiasms, skills, attitudes and interests

Village website address:

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

The CPC website address:

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

Can you help?

There is a vacancy at **The Mouthpiece** for someone to look after our advertising!

The role is not arduous – it primarily involves keeping an eye on emails to advermouthpiece@gmail.com and sending invoices to our Advertisers once a year. Please contact Anne or Gordon if you can help (see Who's Who on back page for details).

District Councillor Report July 2023 - Sam Casey-Rerhaye

Let's talk rubbish – we want to know what residents think of our waste services

We've launched a new survey to find out what residents think about our waste and street cleaning services. We will use the feedback to find out what aspects of our waste service people are happy with as well as the areas where we could do better.

Residents can complete the waste survey online now <http://www.southandvale.gov.uk/WasteSurvey>

Comments are open until Monday 10 July 2023. Please do help spread the word with your local networks and share our social media message on your pages and local Facebook groups throughout the next month.

If anyone has questions or requires the survey in an alternative format (for example large print, Braille, audio, email, Easy Read and alternative languages) they should email waste.team@southandvale.gov.uk or call 01235 422146

Rural England Prosperity Fund

More than £1.2m is being made available to help improve the rural economy across our district. We've secured funding from the government's Rural England Prosperity Fund, which can be used to provide a boost to projects such as creating rural business hubs, setting up community energy schemes and diversifying farm businesses beyond agriculture.

Any organisation with legal status will be able to apply for the funding when it opens in the Autumn this year. This will include public sector organisations, higher and further education institutions, private sector companies, voluntary organisations and registered charities

Before the application process begins our Economic Development team wants to understand which organisations might apply and for what type of project, and so is asking anyone interested to send an Expression of Interest in the run up to the funding scheme opening later this year.

There are more details on the scheme on the South REPF page.

Anyone with questions about the scheme please email business.support@southandvale.gov.uk.

Air Quality Survey

We've launched a survey on the council's new joint Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP). The AQAP sets out proposals for the next four years to improve air quality in the districts. This includes the good news that most places have seen a consistent reduction in one of the main measured pollutants: nitrogen dioxide

Wallingford, Watlington and Abingdon have seen the levels of the pollutant nitrogen dioxide fall below the national objective level over the past three to five years so it is proposed they will no longer be designated Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) in the future. Air quality monitoring will continue at those places.

Look on our website for the AQAP survey.

How to save energy costs in community buildings

The Climate and Biodiversity team is inviting local community organisations to an online forum on making cost savings through improving energy efficiency in community buildings such as local sports clubs, village halls and parish buildings.

The event will include speakers detailing their experience of making changes to their community buildings. There will also be information on the practical and financial support the councils can offer.

The event will take place ONLINE from 6pm - 7pm on Tuesday 11 July – groups should email climateaction@southandvale.gov.uk to register and they will be sent the meeting link

Please pass on to any groups who run a community building.

Planning ‘surgeries’ for town and Parish councils

The planning team holds monthly surgeries for members of town and parish councils to discuss can general planning queries. To book their 15-minute online meeting they should use this planning surgery link.

If there are any questions, please contact Emily Hamerton emily.hamerton@southandvale.gov.uk

Comedy Takes Over Cornerstone Arts Centre

Cornerstone's Summer season is in full swing and jam-packed with comedy shows. There is something for everyone in this season's diverse line-up.

If you have a taste for impressions catch famous comedian Debra Stephenson on 8 June or if you want to introduce younger ones to the genre try Comedy Club 4 Kids on 2 June, laughs are guaranteed!

Head to the Cornerstone website <https://www.cornerstone-arts.org/> to find out more.

To contact me:

Sam.casey-rerehaye@southoxon.gov.uk

01235 635566



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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 September 2023 issue of the Mouthpiece by **Aug 15th** to:

generalmouthpiece@gmail.com

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ADDRESS

Stuart Morris, K1-0-65
Culham Science Centre,
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CONTACT

t: +44 (0)1235 464904
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WHO IS WHO IN CULHAM?

CULHAM PARISH COUNCIL			
To be announced!	Interim contact:		
Sam Casey-Rerhaye	s.caseyrerhaye@culham-pc.gov.uk	3 The Burycroft, Culham	01235 635566
Chris Pritchard		Culham	
CLERK TO PARISH COUNCIL			
Denise Corney	clerk@culham-pc.gov.uk		
DISTRICT COUNCILLOR			
Sam Casey-Rerhaye	Sam.Casey-Rerhaye@southoxon.gov.uk	3 The Burycroft, Culham	01235 635566
COUNTY COUNCILLOR			
Robin Bennett	robin.bennett@oxfordshire.gov.uk	4 Meadside, Dorchester-on-Thames	07979 646815
ST PAUL'S CHURCH			
Associate Team Vicar:	Rev Paul Wignall	bridgegroupvicar@gmail.com Dorchester Office: 01865 340007	Vicarage: 01865 407848
Ordained Local Minister	Revd. David Haylett	familyhaylett@yahoo.com	01865 407382
Hon. Treasurer:	Andrew Churchill Stone	churchillstone27@gmail.com 21 High Street, Culham	01235 533011
Churchwarden:	vacancy	stpaulsculham@gmail.com	
Hon. Secretary:	Ruth Ward	stpaulsculham@gmail.com 5 Thame Lane, Culham	
FRIENDS OF ST PAUL'S CHURCH			
Chairman:	Philip Owen	6 The Green, Culham	01235 555223
ST PAUL'S & CULHAM VILLAGE RE-ORDERING COMMTEE			
Philip Owen	stpaulsandculhamvillage@gmail.com	6 The Green, Culham	01235 555223
LADIES OF CULHAM (LOC)			
Laura Cooper	ladiesofculham@gmail.com	Also Jenny Williams, Jo Oughtred	
POLICE			
Neighbourhood Policing Team		Non-emergency Phone Number	101
THE MOUTHPIECE			
	generalmouthpiece@gmail.com		
Editors:	Anne Churchill Stone	21 High Street, Culham	01235 533011
	Gordon & Joan Gibbs	32 High Street, Culham	01235 523679
Advertising Manager:	vacancy		
	advertmouthpiece@gmail.com		
Distribution:	Laura & Mike Cooper	9 Tollgate Road, Culham	