The Mouthpiece

Culham's Newsletter **April 2024**



Dates for your Diary

Fri 5 Apr	8pm	Ladies of Culham-Tea tasting and history	St Paul's Church-check WhatsApp group for details	
Sun 7 Apr	11am	Holy Communion	St Paul's Church	
Wed 10 Apr	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	St Paul's Church	
Sun 14 Apr	11am	Holy Communion	St Paul's Church	
Sat 27 Apr	3pm	Lego Club	St Paul's Church	
Fri 3 May	8pm	Ladies of Culham-Abstract painting	St Paul's Church-check WhatsApp group for details	

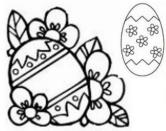


Culham Kids



Talk to your grown up and find out more..... What do you know about Easter? About Ostara and Eostre? Try and find out some facts vou didn't know before and share them with your friends!

How many Easter Eggs can you count on this page? Don't forget to colour them in!

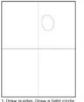


We're enjoying spotting daffodils out and about at the moment and the beautiful yellow against the green grass. Have a go and draw one!

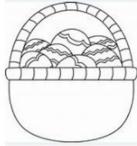








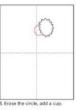


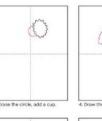


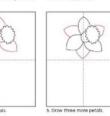






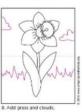












Important dates – Lego Club – Sat 27th April at 3pm. Have fun colouring this page! See you next month!

Editor: Thank you Laura and Monty

Talking point by Rev'd Jane Willis

The Gift of Time

As I write we are on the threshold of another budget, and the news is full of speculation about what it will contain. By the time you read this we will have heard, digested it – and it may even have faded from our consciousness. On a personal level, some of us are better at budgeting than others, some of us will have more choices and some of us will have more income than others - but whatever our situation it's wise to carefully work out how we manage, how we spend, the financial resources we have.

We talk about 'spending' money – we also talk about 'spending' time. Time is another finite resource – rather more equally distributed than money: twenty-four hours each, each day, for the years God gives us. How carefully do we consider how we spend this precious resource? Some of us may have many demands on our lives (I'm in that category!) some of us less – but at the end of the day, the choices about how we spend our time will say something about what is most important to us.

The book of Ecclesiastes can be hard to understand – but many of us will know and love the verses at the beginning of chapter 3: 'There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens...' If we don't know this passage from the Bible we may know it from the memorable 1965 song by The Byrds 'Turn, turn,' It's a passage which speaks of all the seasons of life.

I remember when we had three teenage daughters, the constant requests: 'Mum, Dad, can you give me a lift to [wherever]' and we would sigh and say 'Oh, alright.' Then through hearing an inspiring talk on parenting teenagers we came to realise giving our girls a lift somewhere was the wonderful gift of time spent together – at a stage in life where communication can be hard but is so important. It completely changed our outlook.

So – what is most important to you in life? And does the way you spend your time reflect that? Or are there some changes you would like to make?

Events in the Abbev

Sat 13th April- 7pm- 9pm OSJ- Gershwin and Tchaikovsky We guarantee a lot of fun at this evening's concert! Japanese pianist Maki Sekiya brings Gershwin's fabulous Rhapsody in Blue to life. She is joined by soprano Danielle Maihalet and bass Chuma Sijeqa who will perform much-loved excerpts from Porgy and Bess. The evening is rounded off with Tchaikovsky's Fourth Symphony, this most dramatic of works representing fate and the search for happiness. Free tickets available for NHS workers and for the disabled. Please email admin@osi.org.uk. Tickets £6 to £35 from www.osj.org.uk

Sat 20th April- 7.30pm- 9.30pm Thames Valley Concert Orchestra- Passing Open Windows: A Symphonic Tribute to Queen Get ready to rock out to the iconic hits of Queen at the Queen Symphonic Tribute! This amazing concert will take place at the magnificent Dorchester Abbey near Wallingford, Oxon, UK. Prepare to be blown away as a 65 piece symphony orchestra brings to life the legendary music of Freddie Mercury and his band. The superb orchestral arrangements by Dee Palmer include perennial favourites such as Bicycle Race, Somebody to Love, Killer Queen, Death on Two Legs, Innuendo, We Are The Champions and many more. Tickets £25.00 https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/queen-symphonic-tribute-tickets-798773943367?aff=oddtdtcreator

The Bereavement Journey online - 2nd April-14th May 7pm-9pm Grief is hard. Death can impact all of life. Come and join our online group to explore your experience of the Bereavement Journey. 7 online sessions of films and discussion for anyone bereaved anytime. To book or for more information contact Rev Teresa 07823809112 revteresa@outlook.com



The biennial Dorchester-on-Thames Festival is one of Oxfordshire's leading Festivals and is based in and around the stunning location of Dorchester Abbey. The Dorchester Festival takes place this Spring, $3rd-12^{th}$ May, with an amazing collection of over 50 events packed into just 10 days at Dorchester Abbey.

Since 2005 the Festival has regularly attracted over 3,000 people each year, from serious followers of the arts to schools, families and children of all ages and has raised significant profile and £250,000 for Dorchester Abbey and local charities.

In 2024 we are partnering with wonderful local charity <u>Restore</u>, who support individuals to live with increased freedom from the constraints of mental ill health, through therapeutic activity, coaching and learning.

Highlights in 2024 include the return of world class classical group The Tallis Scholars, the BBC Elstree Concert Band, the now legendary abseil down the abbey's 100ft tower, cookery workshops by top chefs, comedy, folk and jazz nights, a gift and food fair, and even a duck race. Restore will be adding its own activities focused on mental health and well-being.



https://dorchesterfestival.com

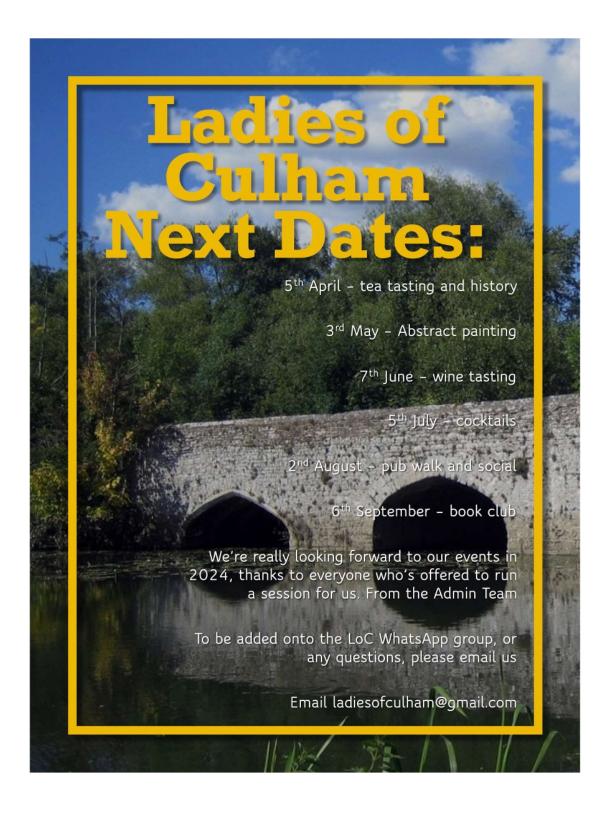
Dorchester Festival was started in 2005 following a major restoration of Dorchester Abbey. It was initially a way of encouraging new people into the building and showing the potential of the Abbey as a venue for booking a variety of events.

Over the years it has become a major community event, offering opportunities to members of the community to perform and create and also to experience big professional arts events that would not normally be available on their doorstep in rural South Oxfordshire

It is entirely run by volunteers who take roles organising events, taking tickets or simply pouring tea! We raise money across the Festival as a whole, and share our profits equally between Dorchester Abbey and a different local charity every time.

Village News

Village website: www.culhamvillage.org.uk



CULHAM VILLAGE COMMUNITY WhatsApp group

For all things local, pet related including Ladies of Culham. Please scan the QR code below to join now!



If you would like to engage with our local community then please join our;-

'Culham Village Community' WhatsApp group. To scan the QR code above simply open up your 'photo' app and hover it over the QR code and join the relevant group that interests you.

Culham Chat - The main general group for All Culham Residents

<u>Ladies of Culham</u> - The Ladies of Culham group runs fun monthly meet up's the first Friday of each month (usually held in St. Pauls Church)

Culham families & friends - This local group is popular with families in the village

<u>Cats & Dogs</u> - This group is for all cat and dog owners, particularly useful if you need someone to help cat or dog sit/feed whilst you're away.

Over time there may be more groups added and/or the names of the groups may change slightly but we hope that this group will be a great resource for all local information big or small.

Expect to see Events & Announcements coming soon

Brief Notes from Culham Parish Council meeting March 2024

No notes were available at the time of going to print.

Please see Parish Council website for full minutes https://www.culham-pc.gov.uk/minutes

Overgrown Hedges and Trees Bordering Roads and Paths

Villagers are reminded that where they have hedges and trees bordering roads and paths it is their responsibility to ensure that they are cut back to the boundary line so as not to overhang or encroach onto the highway (meaning carriageway, footway or verge). There should be clearance of at least 2.2m (7' 2") above a footway, pavement, or verge to allow pedestrians free passage.

Other News

RSPB Vale of White Horse Local Group

Spring is in the air, blossom and flowers are out, and the birds are in good voice of a morning. Just a few more events in this season's RSPB Vale of White Horse Local Group programme. We put on monthly talks from September to May at the River Room (by the Church), Sutton Courtenay, on Mondays starting at 7.30pm and finishing by 10pm. We also meet monthly at local birdwatching sites.



We welcome new members - membership is now £10 for the remainder of the season until May (whether or not you are an RSPB member), and free for under-16s, and includes a quarterly e-Newsletter and the programme of talks and trips. Non-members are also welcome to attend each talk for a fee of £5. You can join using the form on our website (under "Contacts"), which also includes details of our full programme: www.rspb-wwh.org.uk, or at a meeting. For meetings with an option to join via Zoom, members receive the link via email a few days beforehand.

Our next talks are:

15 April 2024 (River Room only): Jerry Pride - The World of Swifts

Swifts can fly up to 800km a day, and spend almost their entire life on the wing, sometimes flying nonstop for 3 years. It wouldn't be summer without them, but these remarkable birds are in serious decline.

20 Mat 2024 (River Room only): Members Evening and AGM

At our last meeting of the year we conduct the AGM swiftly (!), then hand over to members' short talks. We may also have a talk about the local Letcombe Brook Project, to be confirmed.

Our next trips are:

24 March 2024: Arne Nature Reserve: meet 10am on site

21 April 2024:Otmoor: meet 10am on site

26 May 2024: Whelford Pools: meet 10am on site

9 June 2024: Greenham Common: meet 8pm on site (seeking Nightjars!)



Do you love music and would you like to spend a weekend in the best of company, with a friendly and welcoming group of volunteers helping at an internationally-acclaimed music festival, with celebrated musicians and a wonderful array of music?

If so, please come and join us at the English Music Festival! We are looking for volunteers to help with stewarding, refreshments and looking after artists. Not only will you be warmly welcomed by our affable and inclusive group of helpers, but you will have the chance to meet and work with our star artists such as the BBC Concert Orchestra, clarinettist Michael Collins, conductor Hilary Davan Wetton and pianist and Radio 3 presenter Paul Guinery, and the opportunity to attend all the concerts.

The Festival takes place over the second May bank holiday, from **Friday 24**th **to Monday 27**th **May 2024**, in Dorchester-on-Thames in Oxfordshire and we would welcome help over the whole weekend if possible, but if not, then whenever suits your own timetable. Duties can be tailored to your own interests, abilities and preferences.

The full programme can be seen at https://www.englishmusicfestival.org.uk/2024-may-festival/programme.php.

Please contact Festival Director **Em Marshall-Luck** at em.marshall-luck@englishmusicfestival.org.uk for more information or if you are able to help.



Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum, Park Street, Woodstock, OX20 1SN

Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum appeals for county D-Day stories ahead of 80th Anniversary events and exhibitions

- Museum now appealing for a wider range of Oxfordshire D-Day stories, calls for families to share their stories and childhood memories from 1944.
- A new D-Day 80th Anniversary exhibition, exploring the stories of Oxfordshire people involved in the Normandy invasion, will open from 18 May to 24 September 2024.
- Commemorative talk Pegasus Bridge: In Their Own Words will be held online on 22 May 2024 and Sappers in the D-Day Gliders in-person on 30 May 2024.
- Commemorative talk Sappers in the D-Day Gliders will be held at the museum on 30 May 2024 with Ingram Murray.

Commemorating the 80th Anniversary of D-Day, 6 June 1944, the county's military museum in Woodstock, Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum, will expand on its permanent displays with a special exhibition aiming to tell even more local people's stories of the build-up, D-Day invasion, and Normandy campaign that followed.

In the run up to the Anniversary, the museum is keen to hear from local people with their own memories or family stories of D-Day, soldier or civilian. With Oxfordshire airbases utilised for all kinds of war work, and soldiers billeted across the county while training or preparing for Operation Overlord, many will have childhood memories of 1944, seeing planes flying overhead or speaking to some of the allied forces. Others will have stories of local people serving in other regiments or branches of the armed forces - the museum urges anyone to get in touch with more information.

A temporary D-Day 80th Anniversary exhibition - opening on 18 May and running to 24 September 2024 - which will provide a wide range of county stories and perspectives, such as the contribution of many RAF stations and other sites across Oxfordshire.

To celebrate the 80th Anniversary, the museum also has plans for a range of other supporting events. A new online talk will be streamed at 7pm, Wednesday 22 May 2024 titled *The Pegasus Story: In Their Own Words*.

On Thursday 30 May 2024 the museum will also host Ingram Murray for a talk on the Sappers in the Gliders - the contingent of Royal Engineers who accompanied the soldiers of the Oxfordshire regiment on board the gliders bound for Pegasus Bridge.

Those with an Oxfordshire D-Day story they would like to share with the museum can get in touch using the details below:

Website (Contact Form): www.sofo.org.uk/oxfordshire-d-day-stories/

Phone: 01993 810 210

Email: frontofhouse@sofo.org.uk

www.sofo.org.uk frontofhouse@sofo.org.uk



CPRE Oxfordshire is a charity that is passionate about making the countryside, its villages and market towns, better places for everyone to live, work and enjoy. We are recruiting for Green Defender volunteers.

Green Defenders will help us protect our countryside: their tasks may include investigating planning applications in their area, submitting responses, visiting development sites, and liaising with councils and conservation bodies. No specific qualifications are required, and this volunteer role is open to anyone over the age of 18. With a time commitment of just a couple of hours a week, with occasional meetings, applicants can make a difference from sitting at their computer.



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 May 2024 issue of the Mouthpiece by **April 15**th to: generalmouthpiece@gmail.com



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WHO IS WHO IN CULHAM?

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Nacho Gimenez	n.gimenez@culham-pc.gov.uk		
Mike Richmond-Cooper	m.richmondcooper@culham-pc.gov.uk		
Siobhan Sargeant	s.sergeant@culham-pc.gov.uk	(Yes – the email is misspelled!)	
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