




The Mouthpiece

Culham's Newsletter
July & August 2024



Dates for your Diary

Thurs 4 th Jul	7am – 10pm	General Election	St Paul's Church
Fri 5 th Jul	8pm	Ladies Of Culham – Cocktails 	St Paul's Church
Sat 6 th Jul	1pm – 7pm	<i>Alice's Day</i> with performance at 6pm	The Green
Sun 7 th Jul	11am	Holy Communion	St Paul's Church
Wed 10 th Jul	7pm	Parish Council Meeting	St Paul's Church
Sun 14 th Jul	11am	Holy Communion	St Paul's Church
Sat 27 th Jul	3pm	 Lego Club 	St Paul's Church
Fri 2 nd Aug	8pm	Ladies of Culham – pub walk and social	Somewhere local!
Sun 4 th Aug	10.30am	Leaving Service	Dorchester Abbey
Sun 18 th Aug	11am	Family Holy Communion	St Paul's Church

♥ Culham Kids ♥



Hope you all have a lovely summer. Why don't you play summer bingo and colour in the objects on the right as you spot them out and about? Can you spot all of them over July and August?

If you were going to design the best sandcastle – like the one below – what would you put on it? Add some ideas here.



Important dates – Sat 6th July – Alice's Day – tea party, Lego club and theatre performance.
27th July – Lego club (no Lego club in August)

Talking point by Revd Sorrel Shamel- Wood

This is a season of big changes in the Dorchester Team, as we say goodbye to Reverend Teresa Stewart-Sykes (team vicar of Berinsfield, Drayton St Leonard, Nuneham Courtenay and the Baldons) and Reverend Caroline King (team vicar of Warborough, Newington, Chislehampton and Stadhampton). Reverend Teresa is moving to take on a house for duty post in Dorset and Reverend Caroline is retiring.



Our two curates, Reverend Catherine Schneider and Reverend Sorrel Shamel-Wood are also moving to pastures new: Reverend Catherine will be becoming the Priest-in-Charge of Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor and Reverend Sorrel will be leaving the team to have a baby before taking on the role of Children, Schools and Family Chaplain at the University Church of St Mary the Virgin in the New Year. Curates are training posts in the Church of England: after ordination, curates usually stay at their curacy churches (or title posts) for three or four years before moving on to their own parishes. As well as departures, there will be arrivals! The Dorchester Team has welcomed many curates over the years and this year we will be welcoming Emma Firth as our new curate. Emma trained at Ripon College Cuddesdon and is already well known across the Dorchester Team as she has been serving on placement with us for the last few years. Emma is particularly well known at St John the Baptist, Stadhampton where she leads the monthly family service and at Dorchester Abbey. So, it will be lovely to have a familiar face around as she steps into her new role as an ordained minister. Reverend Canon Rachel Carnegie will be continuing as an associate priest at the abbey, but will also be taking on a new role as chaplain at All Souls College, Oxford

Across our parishes, many others will be facing both big and small changes as families and individuals. Some people will be moving house, either within the Dorchester Team or perhaps moving into the parishes from farther afield. If you are new to the area, then welcome! We hope you are settling into your new home and we look forward to meeting you soon.

Some families will be passing the summer holiday with a mixture of excitement and perhaps also trepidation as a child prepares to start primary school for the first time, or moves on from one of our village primary schools to the new challenge of secondary school. Some people will be preparing to get married, and summer is always a lovely and busy time for weddings across our team churches. Other people may be retiring or starting a new job, or preparing to move to university. We will also all be heading to the ballot box on July 4th, some people hoping for a change of government and others voting for the current government to remain. Many other countries around the world are also holding general elections this year, 2024 being notable for a particularly high number: 64 countries, representing nearly half of the world's population, with two billion people worldwide being eligible to vote in them.

Change is, ironically, one of the only constants in life. There are the regular rhythmic changes we come to expect, such as the turning of the seasons and watching children grow older, but there can also be unexpected changes. Some change is exciting and welcome, other changes can be unwelcome or even traumatic. The book of Ecclesiastes in the bible is a popular choice at funerals, and it takes a philosophical approach to the many changes we experience in life. The speaker, traditionally thought to be King Solomon, states:

For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born and a time to die; a time to plant and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill and a time to heal; a time to break down and a time to build up; a time to weep and a time to laugh; a time to mourn and a time to dance; a time to throw away stones and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek and a time to lose; a time to keep and a time to throw away; a time to tear and a time to sew; a time to keep silent and a time to speak; a time to love and a time to hate; a time for war and a time for peace (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 NRSV).

Elsewhere, the bible has many different things to say about change. In the book of Hebrews, from the New Testament, it states "Jesus Christ is the same: yesterday, today and forever" (13:8). Throughout the centuries, this verse has provided comfort to Christians who find strength in the knowledge that even as the world changes around them, God does not. The bible uses many metaphors to describe the steadfastness of God, including an anchor, solid rock and foundation.

If you are a praying person, please do pray for the Dorchester Team as we undergo these big changes this summer, especially for our Team Rector, Reverend Jane Willis as she continues to steer the ship! Or if not, then please do hold us all in your thoughts. And please be assured of our continued prayers, wherever life is taking you this summer.

Team News

A message from Revd Teresa and Jon: From Dorchester to Durnovaria*

After five eventful years in the Dorchester Team (who could have predicted the chaos of Covid?), my husband Jon and I are planning the beginnings of our retirement in Dorset, the county where we raised our children and where so many of our family members live. We have very much enjoyed our sojourn in Oxfordshire, getting to know the River Thames and the River Thame and all the beautiful villages and towns; the view from Christmas Common above Watlington is remarkable! We have made many friends during our five years, especially in the BBD cluster and at Hadden Hill Golf Club (Jon will be much missed !) and we have experienced with you many wonderful memories of time spent together. So, we would like to thank you all for your wonderful welcome to us when we arrived, your care of us whilst we ministered amongst you and your good wishes as we slide into retirement. Teresa will be looking after 4 small rural village congregations and communities, working 2 days a week and Jon will be spending even more time on the golf course! My God richly bless you in the months of discernment ahead and may you find joy in each other and in walking with the Lord.

(*Durnovaria is the Roman name for Dorchester, Dorset, built 600 years before St Birinus arrived on English soil)

A message from Revd Catherine moving on

Hi! I have been in post as one of the Dorchester Team curates since 2020 and have got to know many of you in that time as I led services across the team, but mainly in Dorchester Abbey during Sue's sabbatical and after she retired. It's been such a pleasure and a privilege to spend time with many of you as you marked different stages of life, whether times of grief or times of joy, or just through daily life. Highlights include Easter and Christmas services and coffee in the Abbey Cloister Garden during covid restrictions, the team pilgrimage, BBQs and community events, weddings and baptisms and beautiful funeral and memorial services for dearly loved people. I have learned a lot from you in the last four and a half years. You have made me feel very welcome (and loved), and I have flourished and grown in my time with you. I have also appreciated your support and prayers while I was unwell for so long with long covid. Curacy is, for most people, a training period before they move onto a post elsewhere and that is true for me too. I have accepted an offer to be Priest in Charge for the parish of Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor – about half an hour west of the Dorchester Team (just beyond Millets Farm, if you're wondering where it is). If you are ever in the area, please call in at the vicarage (1 Oxford Road, Kingston Bagpuize OX13 5FZ). I will also pop back when I get the chance, so you're unlikely to have seen the last of me! The dates for our house move and my licensing service have not been finalised yet, but are expected to be over the summer. When the date for my licensing service is confirmed it will be on the church website. It's not easy to say goodbye to people who have been so significant, but I will continue to think of you warmly and with love, and to pray for you and be grateful for you. My final service will be in Dorchester Abbey at 10.30am on 7th July.

Thank you again! Hope to see you again before long.

Praying that God will bless you all richly,

Revd Catherine Schneider

Farewell gifts...

We have rather a lot of farewells in our clergy team, as Caroline, Teresa and Catherine prepare to leave. We would love to give each of them a gift as they move on to retirement or their new roles. If you would like to contribute to their farewell gift please would you make a payment to our Dorchester Team account (account no 30347515 Sort code 20-65-21), marking it clearly who it is for in the reference field.

Ordination gift...

We are delighted to be welcoming Emma Firth as our new curate. Emma will be ordained deacon in Christ Church Cathedral on during the 10am service on Saturday 10th June – please do pray for Emma. It's usual for a parish to make a gift to their new curate as they are ordained (something fitting like a stole or a home communion set). If you would like to contribute to this, please also make a donation to our Team account, marking it for Emma.

These things come like buses! Of course, we will also be saying farewell to Sorrel in September but we will leave this for a little while...

Events in the Abbey

Friday 5th July 2024 – Two Concerts 11.30am - 12.30pm and 14.00pm - 15.00pm. Moving Music Concerts- Tea/coffee served from 30 minutes before the concerts start. Relaxed performance of songs you know and love, including sing-along songs, with Hannah Davey and Christine Cairns. All are welcome, particularly people living with Dementia, their family, friends and carers. Email to reserve a place movingmusicconcerts@gmail.com / <https://soundresource.org.uk/> Pay what you can, guide price £5

TEAM EVENTS

Sun 4th Aug 10.30am at the Abbey- Team Service Leavers Service for Revds. Caroline and Teresa

A riddle for you!

Four sisters, Sara, Ophelia, Nora, and Dawn, were each born in a different one of the months September, October, November, and December.

"This is terrible," said Ophelia one day. "None of us have an initial that matches the initial of her birth month."

"I don't mind at all," replied the girl who was born in September.

"That's easy for you to say," said Nora. "It would at least be cool if the initial of my birth month was a vowel, but no."

In which month was each girl born?

Answer towards the back of The Mouthpiece

Village News

Village website: www.culhamvillage.org.uk

Culham Village Community WhatsApp Group

Please scan the QR code below to join now!



To engage with your local community, please join the '**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

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

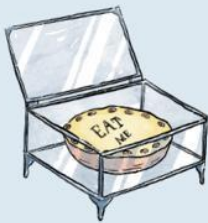
Culham families & friends - This local group is popular with families in the village

Cats & Dogs - 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.

ALICE'S DAY ♥

featuring St Peter's Players presenting 'Alice', a
summer panto



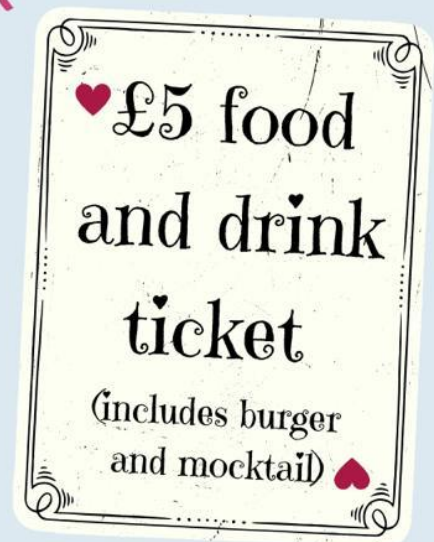
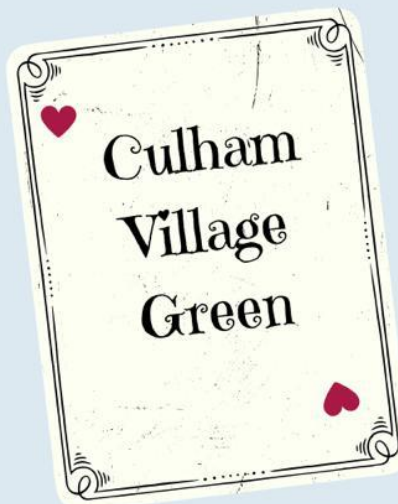
BYO afternoon tea
BBQ (from 5pm)
Cake competition



Bar available



Croquet, games, and activities
Fancy dress competition
Summer panto from 6pm
(donations gratefully received)



PLEASE BOOK IN ADVANCE: [TINYURL.COM/ALICE-CULHAM](https://tinyurl.com/alice-culham)



Charlotte Storrs Stoneware ANNUAL SALE 2024

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Ladies of Culham Next Dates:

5th July - cocktails

2nd August - pub walk and social

6th September - book club

4th October - Knitting and crochet

1st November - board games

6th December - wreath making

We're really looking forward to our events in 2024, thanks to everyone who's offered to run a session for us. From the Admin Team

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

Email ladiesofculham@gmail.com

Brief Notes from Culham Parish Council meeting 10 April 2024

Please note that full Minutes will be uploaded to Culham Parish Council's website as soon as possible. Minutes of previous meetings, together with the monthly reports from the Clerk, District Councillor and County Councillor are all available to view: https://culham-pc.gov.uk/meetings/full_council

- General Election information - poster is on public noticeboards and also on PC website.
- Sam Casey-Rerhaye is now on SODC cabinet and will be involved with corporate services and the strategic plan.
- 75K capital funding available, applications close on 1st July midday - Rural England Prosperity Fund. This provides grants for local businesses or community purposes.
- Clerk's report - internal audit completed and notice to be posted on website and noticeboard for public review.
- Grass cutting schedule - now on website and can be made available for anyone not online. Please contact the PC
- Community Orchard - the Parish are being offered the freehold on the land next to Waggon & Horses for use as an orchard.
- Defibrillator - arranging for installation at the Culham Village Nursery
- 20mph speed limit change - decision expected 18th July
- Crossing at Tollgate Road - highways engagement team have agreed to meet with us in July to discuss concerns and hold a site visit
- Feedback from Community meeting - additional meeting of councillors to be arranged to discuss feedback/suggestions and agree projects to take forward.
- Follow up requests for Culham Rec football pitch use/hire. Parking would be at the lock car park.
- Bus Route and shelters - PC agreed for new shelters to be sourced. Bus company to be contacted to discuss route changes.
- PC discussed the planning application related to a large battery storage application on the Culham site - P24/S14998/FUL Final comments to be agreed and clerk would submit.
- Next meeting - 10th July 2024.

SO District Councillor's June 2024 Report

Councillor Sam Casey-Rerhaye

Greenspace Survey

Land use experts at [LUC](#) are supporting the council to gather information about greenspaces in the district. As part of this LUC are asking residents and organisations to complete a short online survey to understand how they use greenspaces in their local area. This ranges from parks and recreation grounds to natural spaces like woodlands and meadows.

General Election information

The council have now published new General Election 2024 pages, including information for candidates and agents, on the website – everyone can access these by going to southoxon.gov.uk/GeneralElection2024

New SODC Cabinet

Councillor David Rouane, Leader of South Oxfordshire District Council, confirmed details of the council's new Cabinet on Thursday 16 May. There are 3 changes to the previous cabinet; I am now in Cabinet, the member for Corporate Services, so most of the internal workings of the council. Details can be found on the [council website](#).

Latest round of Rural England Prosperity Fund now open

The next round for Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) applications has now opened and organisations can apply for the scheme on the council's website:

<https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/south-oxfordshire-district-council/business-and-economy/advice-for-businesses/rural-england-prosperity-fund/>

The fund offers up to £75,000 of capital funding for small businesses and community infrastructure projects that help to improve productivity and strengthen the rural economy and rural communities. Applications close at midday on Monday 1 July.

Funding categories are:

- Capital grants for small scale investment in micro and small enterprises in rural areas
- Capital grants for growing the local social economy and supporting innovation
- Capital grants for investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society and community groups

£1.2 million boost for local infrastructure in South Oxfordshire

Over the last six months, the council has transferred over £1.2 million to invest in vital infrastructure delivered by the council, town and parish councils and other community organisations.

Investments have ranged from improved play areas and adding accessible features in a community swimming pool to improving public transport and extending a local rugby clubhouse.

As the local planning authority, South Oxfordshire collects financial contributions in the form of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and Section 106 (S106) – this is the funding from housing developers to support the growth of the district when new developments are created.

S106 funding transferred between 1 October 2023 to 31 March 2024 has totalled £244,690. During this six-month period the council has also transferred £996,479 of CIL to town and parish councils that have experienced CIL liable development in their area. Follow this link for a breakdown of [S106 funds have been approved and paid out and CIL monies transferred](#) for South (the document should download automatically).

The Rural Crime Partnership is bringing together Thames Valley Police, local district councils and the Community Safety Partnerships to tackle crimes such as fly-tipping, burglaries and theft in rural areas. There will also be more support for local communities on crime prevention as well an increase in the gathering and sharing of information about rural crime.

Initiatives include:

- New covert cameras to be used by the Police's Rural Crime Taskforce alongside off-road bikes to target criminals in hard-to-reach areas.
- Working with farmers to improve security. Farms will be eligible to sign up for security checks and will be given DNA marking kits for agricultural machinery. These kits include property marking labels to deter theft, and where theft happens enable machinery to be tracked back to the farm.
- A new Rural Crime Advisor will work to promote rural crime prevention and engage with rural communities, industries, farms and organisations such as Young Farmers and the National Farmers' Union, to help them become harder to target for criminals.
- New surveillance equipment will help district councils catch fly-tippers and tackle hot spot areas.

Planning for an emergency

There is a new government website for [emergency preparedness](https://emergency-preparedness.gov.uk). We have added the site to the emergency pages on the councils' websites. The new prepare campaign is not based on any imminent intelligence, just designed to help people prepare for emergencies, be more informed about hazards, and get involved in activities to support themselves and their community before, during and after an emergency. <https://prepare.campaign.gov.uk>

Contact me at: sam.casey-rerhaye@southoxon.gov.uk

Or call 01235 635566

RSPB Vale of White Horse Local Group



Your RSPB Local Group (Vale of White Horse) is looking forward to welcoming you to our new season of monthly indoor talks (at the River Room, by the church, Sutton Courtenay, and / or via Zoom in deepest winter) and outdoor wildlife walks, starting in September.

At our first session on Monday 16 September (7.30pm in the River Room) we will hear from Fergus Mosey, who works for the RSPB at Otmoor. Fergus gives us a fascinating annual update on all the goings on at our favourite local reserve, as they work to increase the numbers of key species.

You can also expect to hear more about the programme for the rest of the year at this first meeting.

If you would like to join us for the 24/25 season, the cost is £15 for adults (whether or not you are an RSPB member), and free for under-16s. This covers our programme of monthly talks and wildlife walks, and a quarterly e-Newsletter. If you prefer to attend just one or two talks, you can do this as a non-member for £5 per talk. You can join using the form on our website (under "Contacts"): www.rspb-vwh.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.



Have a good summer, enjoy seeing all the summer visiting birds like Swifts and Swallows, and see you in September!

The Mouthpiece Team

We always welcome new volunteers to join the team whether you enjoy editing, marketing or distribution – please contact Anne or Gordon directly if you are interested in joining us



Other News



SUTTON COURTENAY WI



We always welcome new members

**We meet every third Tuesday monthly in the
River Room, All Saints Church, at 7.30 pm**

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16th JULY 2024

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Or 01869 331081



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by Tim Firth

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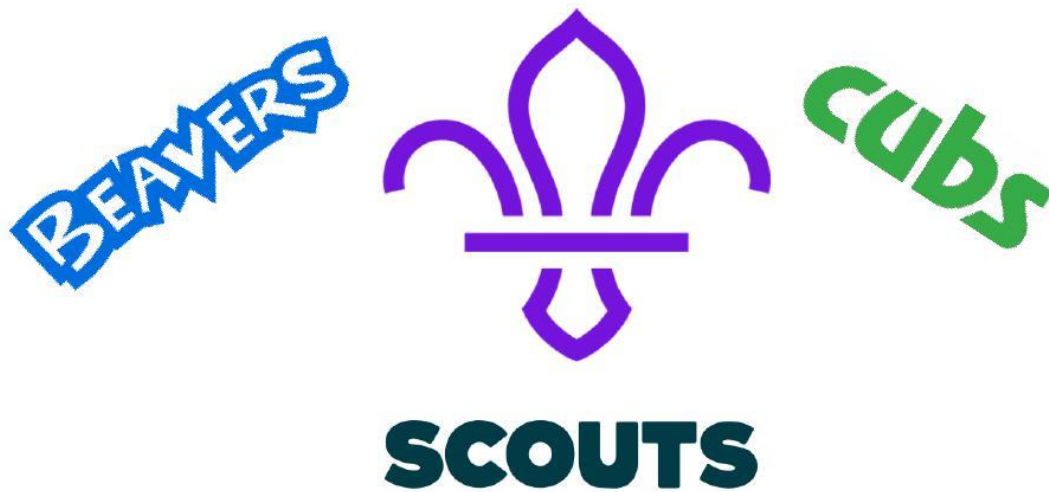
Wednesday 10th – Saturday 13th July 2024 7.30pm with Saturday matinee 2.30pm

Cry, laugh, feel elated, despair, feel uplifted (a pun?), plus shout, “put ‘em back on!”

All this and much more are on display (another pun?) when you see Abingdon Drama Club’s new production of Calendar Girls.

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Thames Water Notice

Have your say on our reservoir proposals

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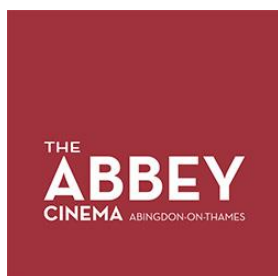
We're holding a public consultation on our proposals to build a new reservoir in Oxfordshire. Your views matter to us, so please take a look online and have your say via: www.thames-sro.co.uk/sesro

You can also come along to one of our community information events to find out more about the proposed reservoir. To help us manage numbers, please register your attendance in advance by visiting our website at: www.thames-sro.co.uk/events

Events

- 01/07/24 Abingdon Guildhall - 11am-5pm
- 05/07/24 Loyd Lindsay Rooms, Wantage - 11am-5pm
- 09/07/24 Didcot Civic Hall – 2pm-8pm
- 15/07/24 Milton Hill House, Steventon - 2pm-8pm
- 18/07/24 Marcham Centre – 2pm-8pm

If you have any queries, please email us on: info.SESRO@thameswater.co.uk.



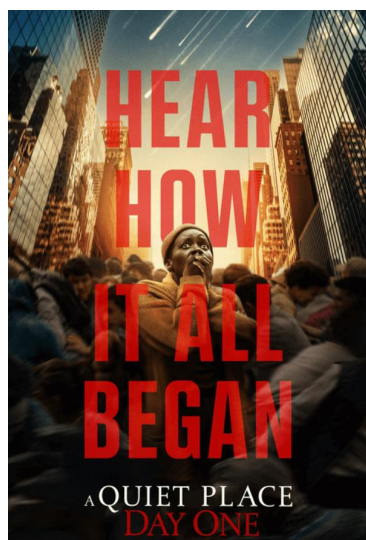
The Abbey Cinema

Abbey Close, OX14 3JD

01235 616000

www.theabbey.ac

Some of the films on during July and August



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 2024 issue of the Mouthpiece by **August 15th** to:

generalmouthpiece@gmail.com

Answer to riddle

Sara was born in October, Ophelia was born in November, Nora was born in December, and Dawn was born in September.

Nora's birth month obviously cannot be November. Since it doesn't start with a vowel, it cannot be October. Since she was talking to the girl who was born in September, it cannot be September. Therefore, it must be December.

The girl born in September obviously cannot be Sara. Since she was talking to both Ophelia and Nora, it cannot be either of them. Therefore, it must be Dawn.

This leaves the girls Sara and Ophelia and the months October and November. Ophelia cannot be born in October, so she must be born in November, and Sara was born in October.

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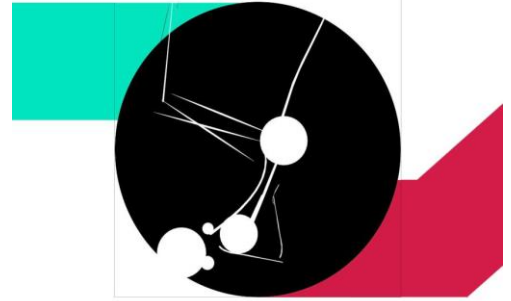
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PILATES

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WHO IS WHO IN CULHAM?

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ST PAUL'S & CULHAM VILLAGE RE-ORDERING COMMTEE			
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