



The Mouthpiece

Culham's Newsletter
September 2024

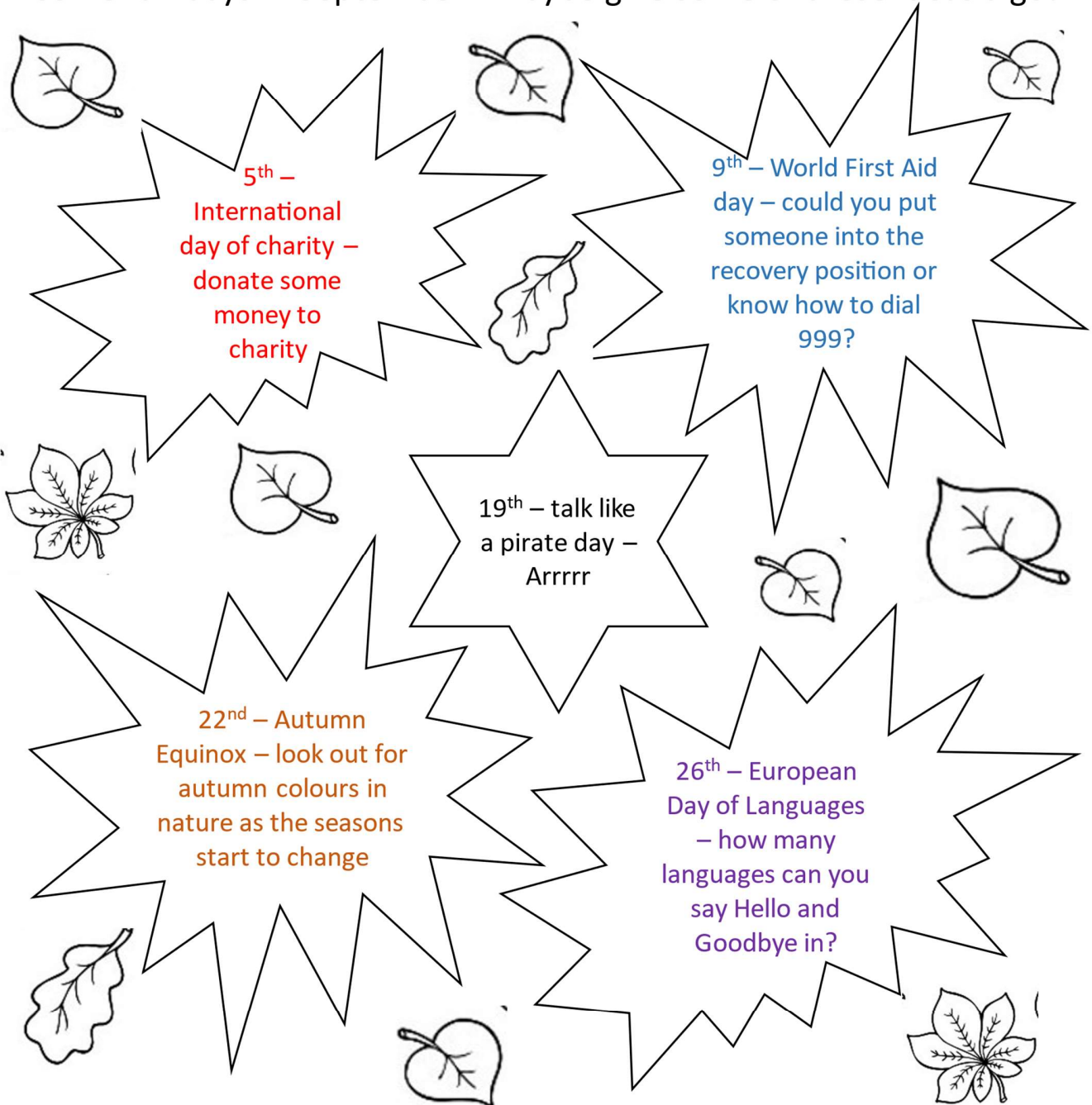


Dates for your Diary

Sun 1 Sept	11am	Holy Communion	St Paul's Church
Fri 6 Sept	8pm	Ladies Of Culham – Book Club	St Paul's Church
Wed 11 Sept	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	St Pauls Church
Sun 15 Sept	11am	Holy Communion	St Paul's Church
Sat 28 Sept	3pm	 Lego Club 	St Paul's Church



We hope you've had a fun summer? Maybe you experienced something new or exciting this summer? We hope so! Here are some fun days in September – maybe give some of these ideas a go!



Important dates – Lego Club – Sat 28th Sep at 3pm. How many leaves can you count and can you colour them? See you next month!

Talking point by Rev'd Jane Willis

The summer months are so often a time of transition – end of term services for schools, children moving up to 'big school', maybe house moves, job moves. In the Dorchester Team we have been saying a lot of goodbyes – to Revs Catherine, Caroline and Teresa as each of them have moved on to new ministries or retirement – and very soon we will be saying farewell to Rev Sorrel. We give heartfelt thanks for each of their ministries. I'm delighted to have welcomed Revd Jo to the team at the beginning of this year, and now we also have our new curate Rev Emma – new as curate but already well known to us. The saying 'constant change is here to stay' resonates!

So just as we did with appointing Rev Jo – we will be beginning the process of appointing two new Team Vicars. Such a process always raises the question of what we are seeking in our new priest – and underlying that who we understand ourselves to be as a church. Reading job adverts for clergy can be very revealing - I recently stumbled upon a blog post* with a 'job advert' which would warm the heart of many clergy...

"The Watership Downs benefice is a group of 8 small parishes on the coast of Bassetshire. We have been without a vicar for 8 months, and we would love you to consider coming to join us. Our congregations are small and mainly elderly, and we have trouble raising all the money we need. We have thought very hard about our future, and we have come to some conclusions.

As a group of parishes we have realised that:

- If we want to survive, we must work together, ignoring old boundaries*
- Things cannot continue as they always have done*
- We are the church in the community, it is up to us to be visible*
- If we want children and young people in church, we must change to make them welcome*
- A vicar is just one person who can only be in one place at one time*
- We, together, are the church, and its thriving is the responsibility of each one of us*

We commit to:

- Pray for our vicar and make sure s/he has proper time and space to live as well as work*
- Offer our gifts and ideas without waiting to be asked*
- Work hard as the whole people of God in the service of the Gospel*
- Try new things and decide afterwards, rather than beforehand, whether they will work*
- Let go of old things to make way for the new things which God will do in and through us*

Are you someone who will

- Gently remind us of all these things, regularly?*
- Preach the Gospel with us and to us?*
- Pray with us and for us?*
- Lead our worship?*
- Show us ways we might grow, as disciples and as a church?*
- Guide us through the changes which will come?*

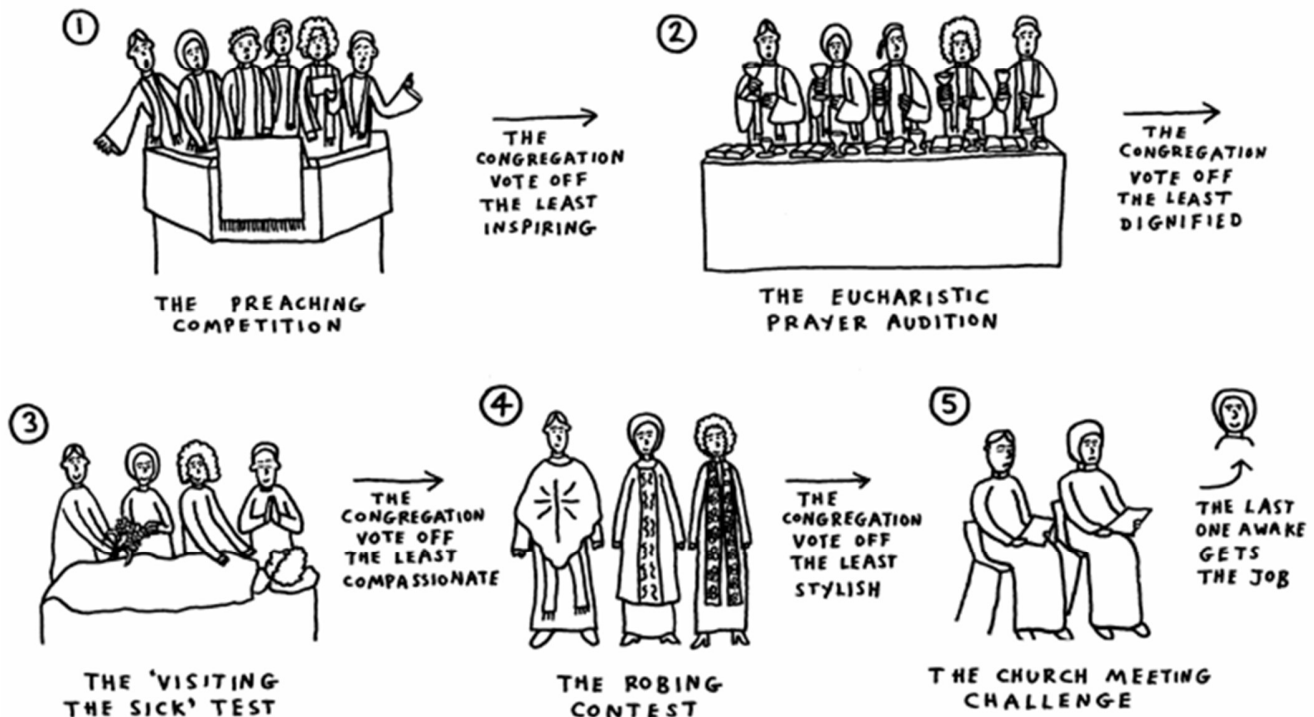
If so please contact..."

Please do pray as we seek to make some great new appointments – and please pray too for our churches in vacancy and our ministry team at a time when we continue to be quite stretched.

*The Quotidian Cleric, <https://quotidiancleric.wordpress.com/2014/01/11/the-perfect-job-advert/>

APPOINTING A NEW VICAR

THE PROCESS IS LONG AND COMPLEX



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Events in the Abbey

Sat 14 Sept – 7pm. OSJ Mozart and Beethoven The fourth concerto is Beethoven in his most jovial mood but also contains the drama we associate with this composer. On first listening it sounds like a concerto that a virtuoso could just dash off with the usual élan but on closer inspection it is far more difficult to bring off than one could imagine. The four notes that open Beethoven's Fifth Symphony have a claim to being the most famous musical motto ever written. 'Fate knocking at the door', is how Beethoven is reported to have described the theme. £5.00 – £25.00 Free tickets available for NHS workers and for the disabled. www.osj.org.uk Please email admin@osj.org.uk

Fri 27 September 8pm & Sat 28 September 7pm. The Delicate Sound of Pink Floyd- Two Nights of Pink Floyd music live in the stunning setting of Dorchester Abbey. 11 Musicians replicating the 1988 touring band Over 2 hours of music from the 1988 world tour plus other favourites, the tribute show will highlight the best of Pink Floyd with lights, lasers and animations. Info: www.thedelicatesoundofpinkfloyd.co.uk Tickets £29.50 www.ticketsource.co.uk/delicate-sound-of-pink-floyd

TEAM EVENTS

Sun 29th Sep 10.30am at Clifton Hampden- Team Service

Village News

Village website: www.culhamvillage.org.uk

Alice's Day

July 6th, 2024 - Wind, rain, and the White Rabbit pay a summer's afternoon visit to Culham in Wonderland!

Rather than hosting a traditional village fete, this year Culham celebrated Alice's Day, following an Oxford tradition where Lewis Carroll's classic is celebrated on the first Saturday in July.

The village marquee was erected and secured, as squally conditions set in, with wind, sunshine and showers the menu of the day until late afternoon. Also on the menu was an Alice in Wonderland themed cake competition, with entries from village children and adults alike, setting the scene for an afternoon tea party. Teas and coffees flowed, alongside Loose Cannon beer, Majestic wine and "drink me" cocktails, served from the bar.



A fancy dress competition was well attended, with several Alice's in attendance, a White rabbit, a Mad Hatter, plus other home made creations including a prize winning Lego man.



As time passed, marked by the tick of the mad hatter's pocket watch, the weather improved, with summer returning to Culham, just in time for the featured event of the day, "Alice", a summer panto, hosted by the St Peter's players. The play was brilliantly funny and captivated children and adults alike, with a decent crowd watching the white rabbit, the mad hatter and Alice on The Culham Green stage!



After the show, the bar, bbq and bouncy castle were all in full swing, until the evening gave way to darkness, marking the end of an amazing day in Culham!



The crowd gave generously to the pantomime players, raising over £100 for the group. Overall, Alice's Day raised over £700 for St Paul's church and provided another opportunity to get the village together and use our amazing village green. Many thanks to all of you who helped run the event and huge thanks to everyone who came along and enjoyed the day.

Mike Cooper

Ladies of Culham Next Dates:

7th June - wine tasting

5th July - cocktails

2nd August - pub walk and social

6th September - book club

4th October - Knitting and crochet

1st November - board games

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

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.

Culham Village New Community Defibrillator



Resuscitation Council (UK)



A Community Defibrillator has recently been installed by Culham Parish Council at the Culham Village Nursery & Preschool.

Please ensure you know where the defibrillator is located by asking a councillor, or neighbours.

As explained on this leaflet by British Heart Foundation, no training is necessary to use the defibrillator. However, there are free online courses for anyone wishing to know more and brush up your understanding of CPR and defibrillator usage.

www.bhf.org.uk/how-you-can-help/how-to-save-a-life

If you have any questions, please contact anyone on Culham Parish Council.



SODC District Councillor Report August/September 2024

Sam Casey-Rerhaye

New NPPF consultation

The new government has launched a consultation on their new National Planning Policy Framework proposal. Our planning officers are analysing the impacts this could have on South Oxfordshire and we will be responding as a council to the consultation. The draft version the government has published would mean that our area would need to commit to build a higher number of houses than the current standard method of calculation. The consultation details are here below, and I encourage Parish Councils as well as individuals to respond.

[Proposed reforms to the National Planning Policy Framework and other changes to the planning system - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/proposed-reforms-to-the-national-planning-policy-framework-and-other-changes-to-the-planning-system)

It closes on 24th September 2024.

The next steps for Councils' Joint Local Plan

South and Vale councils have now set out the next steps for their Joint Local Plan (JLP) in the light of this new government approach. The Joint Local Plan is fundamental to achieving many of the councils' strategic ambitions and as such we are now striving to submit it as soon as possible as we recognise the importance of ensuring that any development is properly planned.

We are nearly ready to submit the joint plan to be examined – anticipating it being ready to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in December 2024, four months earlier than previously thought. We have updated a document known as the Local Development Scheme that sets out the timetable for this work, which is now available on the councils' websites: [South LDS](#) / [Vale LDS](#).

We will be publishing the proposed Joint Local Plan that will go to this Inspectorate and the public will have a 6-week opportunity to comment on whether they think the plan meets all the current relevant requirements.

More details on this final publication stage will follow soon. I have written my opinion on the new housing targets in the draft NPPF at the bottom of this report.

Local 'green skills' courses

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils have partnered with Abingdon & Witney College, OxLEP (Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership) and education charity SOFEA to upskill local residents and businesses.

The councils have funded 82 places for 'green' building and construction courses from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. These courses at Abingdon and Witney College, include Installation and Maintenance of Heat Pumps, Understanding Domestic Retrofit and general awareness courses.

SODC has also contributed funding to OxLEP and SOFEA's 'No Limits' programme, designed to offer support for residents into green skills training and employment. The programme includes assistance for those who need help to get a job, including free laptops and mobile phones to develop digital skills as well as travel grants for those needing financial help to get to work, school or college. A full-time member of staff will be on hand to help with any queries and offer advice.

Councillor Community Grant Scheme

The 2024/25 Councillor Community Grant Scheme opened on 14th Aug and runs until 29 November. Funds can be used to support local 'not for profit' organisations whose work benefits residents, including town and parish councils. The funding is ideal for projects which are relatively low in costs and are expected to be completed within a year. They start at £250 with a £5,000 total available for each councillor ward. For more information, please look at the [Councillor Community Grant Scheme policy](#). For more details please ask me or email grants@southandvale.gov.uk

New social housing

After a significant amount of hard work and dedication, a major project led by our Housing team means the councils have become social landlords for the first time since 1997, and can provide genuinely affordable, high-quality homes to people in need. We're launching 45 refurbished homes ready for people living in the Vale and South Oxfordshire who need them most. A mixture of houses and flats, including new combi-boilers and double glazing to make these homes as energy efficient as possible. The homes are part of our wider work to support the councils' joint Housing Delivery Strategy. Take a look at these infographics on our web page southandvale.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/affordable-housing-South-Oxfordshire-1.mp4 that highlight some of the key achievements and plans our teams have put in place to provide affordable, sustainable homes and prevent homelessness in the districts.

Fusion Fest at Cornerstone

Last Saturday, Cornerstone Arts Centre partnered up with our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Champions at South and Vale to hold an event called Fusion Fest, which celebrated different international cultures in our communities. There was truly something for everyone at this wonderful and well attended event. The event included performances and workshops including Bhangra dancing, African drumming, and Chinese brush painting, and gave us the opportunity to hear from our local community on their thoughts on Equality Diversity and Inclusion

Capital Grant Scheme - closes 2 September

Voluntary and community organisations in South Oxfordshire have two more weeks to apply for funding for projects that help improve people's quality of life. The Capital Grant Scheme is open until 2 September, and organisations can apply for up to £75,000 of funding, but **no more than 50 per cent** of their total project cost.

Thank you for helping to share our social media messages, please do continue to share this information with your voluntary sector and community contacts. Application details on timings and application information are on our [grants web page](#).

Please contact me at sam.casey-rerhaye@southoxon.gov.uk
Or call: 01235 635566

Does increasing housing targets reduce house prices and rents?

I want to emphasise that as a council administration we are very concerned with this new government's approach. This is because increasing housing targets has a poor record of delivering large numbers of housing that are sustainable and affordable. In the main it is not Councils that build houses (although we are beginning to work on that with our new Housing Strategy- see above), it is developers.

It is far too simplistic to say that the barriers to developers building houses are either house targets or the planning system. There are many sites in the county which have been allocated within a local plan, some of them with planning permission already, but which show no signs of being built anytime soon.

The main barriers to house building are firstly the lack of infrastructure: power supply, sewage treatment/water capacity, availability of doctors and dentists for example, all of which are outside of the control of local councils, and secondly market conditions which allow developers to control build rates and sell at prices they want in order to make the desired profit. If the government could address these fundamental problems, then I am sure they will find local authorities more than willing to address the housing problems they face.

But neither does solely building large numbers of houses bring prices to within affordability levels in a time period that will impact, for example, key workers working at median or lower wages. Guidance published by the government in 2018 estimated that when holding other factors like interest rates, population and incomes constant, a 1% increase in housing stock would lead to a 2% fall in house prices. These figures suggest that hitting a 1.5 million target would have a limited effect on values: an additional 1.5 million homes is equivalent to 6% of the housing stock so all things being equal prices would fall by 12%, BUT all things are not equal. Interest rates, rising incomes, population increases adding to demand all have their impacts on the housing supply/availability and affordability.

The country is already adding about 1.2 million new homes every five years so an additional 300,000 homes might skim about a further 2.5 percentage points off house prices. However, interest rates are key - a two percentage point fall in interest rates pushes house prices in the other direction by 6 percentage points.

Of course, it does not mean supply is irrelevant. A new analysis by Generation Rent - a pressure group - reckons that a 1% increase in the number of homes per person within a local authority between 2015 and 2023 is associated with a 1.2% decrease in rents as a share of average incomes. But in the decade to 2010, the housing stock in England rose by 8% but real house prices soared by 70%, as the cost of debt fell.

Over the past year house prices have fallen moderately in response to higher mortgage costs and a study by the Bank of England in 2019 using an asset price model found that about half of the 170% rise in real house prices between 1985 and 2018 can be explained by falling interest rates and the rest by rising incomes.

So it is clear that we need a much nuanced national policy for housing that takes into account these complexities. This simplistic supply-only approach will not have the desired effect but could have many undesired effects, not least on the environment, climate and nature.

Sam Casey-Rerhaye

HETTY OWEN'S HALF MARATHON

This October I am running the Oxford Half Marathon in aid of Against Breast Cancer. Over the next few months, I hope to raise £350 for the charity. Breast Cancer is a terrible disease that affects 1 in 8 women worldwide. It is the most diagnosed cancer in women, but not the deadliest. This is in part thanks to the efforts of researchers and oncologists to find the disease earlier and to treat it more effectively and efficiently. Over the past 50 years the mortality rate of the disease has dropped by 41% and continues to decrease. Donations from people like you make the most difference in helping to get this number even lower. Money donated to Against Breast Cancer is used to fund pioneering research into new treatments as well as the tools for earlier diagnosis and to reduce the risk of recurrence and metastases.

I studied Cancer Sciences at university, which had a significant impact on me and has really motivated me to become more involved in cancer charities, and to do what I can to minimise the pain that this disease causes.

Thank you so much for reading, if you would like to donate you can scan the QR code or go to www.justgiving.com/page/hetty-owen



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

Come along for visit

17th September

Guest Speaker talk will be on

History of Sutton Courtenay

Contact us via email at suttoncourtenaywi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk
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You are warmly invited to our free music taster sessions on
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RSPB Vale of White Horse Local Group



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

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.

Quick details of the next few talks & walks (these continue until May, more info on our website www.rspb-vwh.org.uk):

- * Talk 21st Oct: Butterflies of Bird Reserves (Nick Bowles)
- * Walk 27th Oct: RSPB Arne, Dorset
- * Talk 18th Nov: The East Atlantic Flyway (Nick Williams)
- * Walk 24th Nov: Otmoor Starling Murmuration
- * Talk 16th Dec: British Birds of Prey (Mary Braddock)

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-members for £5 per talk. You can join using the form on our website (under "Contacts"): www.rspb-vwh.org.uk, or at a meeting (card reader available from October). For meetings with an option to join via Zoom, members receive the link via email a few days beforehand.

See you there.

The Old Ticket Office Culham Station-Open Days



To mark its 180th anniversary the Old Ticket Office at Culham will be opening to the public.

Saturday 14 September and Sunday 15 September between 09:00 and 17:00

This year Heritage Open Days celebrates Routes, Networks & Connections, and this will provide a rare opportunity to see inside an original Brunel designed broad gauge station building. There is no admission charge and pre-booking is not required.

For more information about the Old Ticket Office see culhamticketoffice.co.uk



Current Scams and Advice

Please find below some scam updates

Beauty Spot Reminder. As more people will be leaving their vehicles at local beauty spots to go and enjoy the scenery, this is a reminder to make sure you remove valuables from your vehicle and lock it. Make sure to physically check that doors and window are locked, especially if you have used the remote to lock the vehicle, then look inside again to make sure you've not left anything behind. If you see anyone acting suspiciously, please report immediately to the Police.

Check if your email has been compromised in a data breach

Good website to check that your email addresses have not been compromised.

<https://haveibeenpwned.com/>

Millions of suspicious calls from scammers abroad will be blocked as UK telecoms rules become stricter, the communications regulator has said.

If you think you've been a victim of Caller ID spoofing, it advises calling Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or visit **www.actionfraud.police.uk**.



Make Art Not War - Oxfordshire military museum celebrates anniversary with art exhibitions and competition

- **Summer art competition open to entries from children and young people ages 7 - 18 until 29 September 2024**
- **Entries will go into the 'Journeys Through War' exhibition to open on 19 October 2024**
- **Current *Art of the Great War* exhibition features original paintings from the First World War, ends 22 September 2024**

Marking the Woodstock-based museum's 10th anniversary and commemorating 110 years since the start of the First World War in 2024, Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum is currently hosting a Great War art exhibition and is running an art competition for young people over the summer, which will culminate in its own exhibition this autumn.

Now taking entries, the competition is open to children and young people from ages 7 through to 18 and will be divided into three age brackets: 7-10 years; 11-14 years; 15-18 years. Prizes will be awarded for the top entries from each category.

The museum is looking for entries that tie into the theme of 'Journeys Through War', inspired by the museum's own collections. These could take the form of art portraying a glider pilot's flight to Normandy on D-Day, the journey made by the many evacuees that came to Oxfordshire during the Second World War, or even the journeys made by carrier pigeons used to send secret messages during wartime.

The Journeys Through War exhibition will go on display from Saturday 19 October - Sunday 17 November 2024, with any media accepted, and also both physical and digital entries welcome. Submitted work can take inspiration from museum collections from the First and Second World Wars, but could take in more recent events or even earlier conflicts. The deadline for entries is 29 September 2024, with more information and an entry form available at **bit.ly/summerartcomp**

Currently, the museum is hosting John Noott's collection of First World War art in *The Art of the Great War* exhibition, which runs until 22 September 2024.

Based in Broadway, John has been an art collector and dealer for over 50 years, and during this time has drawn together an incredible collection of WW1 art.

Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum, Park Street, Woodstock, OX20 1SN
Registered Charity No. 1145408
www.sofo.org.uk | frontofhouse@sofo.org.uk | 01993 810 210

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



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

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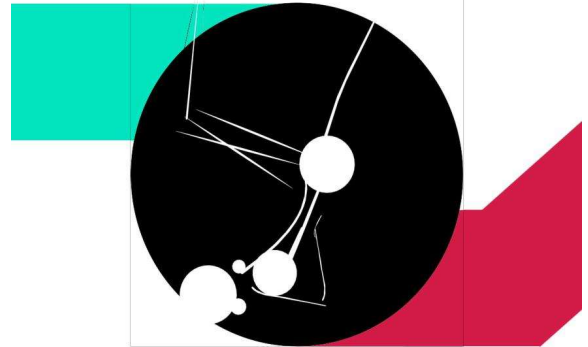


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PILATES

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WHO IS WHO IN CULHAM

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