## The Mouthpiece

Culham's Newsletter **October 2024** 



#### **Dates for your Diary**

Fri 4 Oct	8pm	Ladies Of Culham – knitting & crochet	St Paul's Church	
Sun 6 Oct	11am	Harvest Festival	St Paul's Church	
Wed 9 Oct	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	St Paul's Church	
Tues 15 Oct	7.30pm	W.I. meeting and beetle drive	River Room, Sutton Courtenay	
Sat 19 Oct	11am to 4pm	Pottery Taster for children 4-7 yrs – please book this event - see inside for details	8 The Green	
Sun 20 Oct	11am	Holy Communion	St Paul's Church	
Mon 21 Oct	7.30pm	RSPB VWH Group "The butterflies of Bird Reserves"	River Room, Sutton Courtenay	



Culham Kids







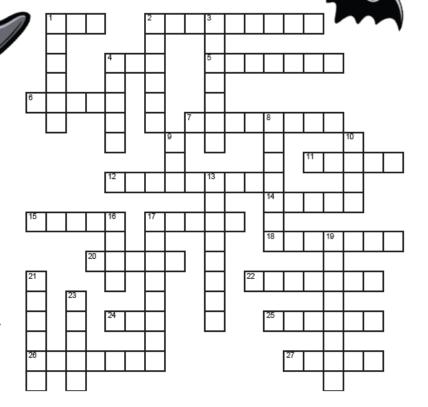
Halloween



- He swallowed the canary.
- 2. Playground for ghosts.
- 4. What a spider spins.
- 5. Frankenstein has one.
- 6. When ghosts come out to play.
- 7. Scare.
- 11. What the pot might call the kettle.
- 12. October 31st.
- 14. \_\_\_\_ or treat.
- 15. Witch transportation.
- 17. Frightening.
- 18. The Count.
- 20. A skeleton is just a bunch of these.
- 22. Disguise.
- 24. Lives in the belfry.
- 25. Incey wincey is one of these.
- 26. Main ingredient in a popular pie.
- 27. \_\_\_\_ stories.

#### Down

- 1. Where a vampire sleeps.
- 2. Evil or mischievous creature.
- 3. He hates garlic.
- 4. Samantha for example.
- 8. \_\_\_\_ house.



- 9. Whoo? Whoo?
- 10. Mr. O'Lantern.
- 13. Comes out on full moon nights.
- 16. Might be full, half, or new.
- 17. A boney sort of fellow.
- Fire burn, and \_\_\_\_\_ bubble.
- 21. When something makes our skin crawl, it's this.
- 23. Found in Egypt.



Answers towards the back!

# POTTERY TASTER SESSION for the children of Cylham

Join potter Charlotte Storrs to make beautiful clay Christmas decorations, which will then be fired and glazed in time for Christmas.

 15 minute sessions are available between 11am and 4pm

 come for a one-to-one session or come with siblings

please text Jo to book on 07770670153

Sat 19 October 8 The Green, Culham FREE



#### Talking point by Revd Jo Allen

So much of life is filled with things to do, people to see, news to engage with, work to get on with, social lives to enjoy... life can get very busy. In our world, busy-ness is equated with success. Please don't get me wrong, busy-ness for a time may be needed, but busy-ness every day of every week is making us tired and burnt out, and what does it say to those who are unwell and unable to be busy?



Andrew Root and Blair D. Bertrand in their book 'When Church Stops Working: A Future

for Your Congregation Beyond More Money, Programs, and Innovation' write about "resonance" being the antidote to "busy-ness"; taking the time to actually stop and be present and in the moment. I haven't finished the book yet, but its first few chapters have already resonated with the way I want to respond to life. It's when I stop and paint, or walk slowly with the dog, or join my children in what they are doing, or look after my garden that I begin to breathe again and find a sense of peace and reconnection. But we can't just add these things to our already busy lives, something needs to slow down or even go to make space for the peace we need. Much of our busy-ness is linked to our self-worth: if I'm busy then I'm being productive and achieving in life; if I'm busy I'm doing my part to make the world a better place; if I'm busy everyone will see how important I am... but this won't get us far in the end. The pace of humans has been busy and fast for so long that our world is now struggling to breathe. I believe we are called to slow down and pay attention to each other and the world around us. Perhaps our worth coming from our busy-ness is what needs to go.

This is a difficult thing to achieve, going from people who "do" to people who have time to "be". It does not mean that we stop and do nothing, but simply give a little more energy to the spaces that allow us to reconnect with ourselves and others, to this beautiful world and the God who loves us. Christianity has prayer rhythms that help with this; I love using the prayer app 'pray-as-you-go' for a few minutes each day and listening to the podcast 'Nomad' that purposefully takes time with their interviews. I'm learning to be resonant with this world and its creator through painting and enjoying a good cup of coffee in my favourite spots, taking a moment to breathe, think and pray. I encourage you also to make a few more minutes each day to slow down, breathe and, in your own way, resonate with each other, this world and its creator. Maybe we can turn the tide on our busy culture.

Every blessing Jo

#### **Team News**

#### A message from Rev Teresa and Jon

Greetings to you all from sunny Dorset! What a whirlwind the last few weeks have been! A successful hip operation, a house move and a son's wedding in Whitby! It has all been very exciting and we both feel like we have begun a new 'retirement' adventure especially as we went for a walk on Chesil Beach yesterday evening and saw a pod of dolphins jumping the waves. However, as I write, we are working in our new office side by side at our computers looking at spreadsheets. So not all so rosy! We have been sent a very generous John Lewis Gift card from all our friends in the churches and villages of the Dorchester Team and we would like to send our thanks to you all for your kindness and generosity. We have a very large and very overgrown garden and will use the voucher to purchase all we need to make the garden a haven for us and for our parishioners. Thanks again, Teresa and Jon xx

#### **Events in the Abbey**

**Sat 19 Oct – 7pm**. OSJ Presents Strings and Songs Featuring Michael Howell of Channel 4's The Piano Vaughan Williams Lark ascending - Elgar Serenade - John Williams Schindler's list - Delius On hearing the first cuckoo in spring - Albinoni Adagio - Lubbock Emmanuel - Barber Adagio - Elgar Agnus Dei (Nimrod from Enigma variations) for choir - Handel Ombra mai fu - Michael Howell Great is the Grief and Rise again. £5.00 – £25.00 Free tickets available for NHS workers and for the disabled. www.osj.org.uk Please email admin@osj.org.uk

Sun 20 Oct – 7pm. Sonatas for Violin and Piano – Enjoy beautiful sonatas played in the gorgeous acoustics of

Dorchester Abbey. What better way to spend a Sunday evening?

Sharon Warnes: Violin / Jeremy Boughton: Piano

Programme to include: Handel: Sonata in G minor / Mozart: Sonata in E minor K. 304

Beethoven: Sonata in F major Op. 24 'The Spring'

Tickets £15/ £20 www.ticketsource.co.uk/dorchesterabbey/t-pqvppzg & tickets on the door. Raising Money for

Dorchester Abbey www.dorchester-abbey.org.uk

Thurs 30 Oct – Sun 2 Nov. The second annual <u>St Birinus Festival</u> - Dorchester-on-Thames. Featuring The Davey Consort / Beethoven & Brahms from The Royal Academy of Music / Ryan Wigglesworth / Sophie Bevan. Times & Tickets Vary (some free events) - For full event programme visit www.thedaveyconsort.co.uk/collections/st-birinus-festival

#### 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.



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£10 PER TICKET
(£5 FOR A CHILD)

Book tickets by emailing stpaulsandculhamvillage@gmail.com

#### **Brief Notes from Culham Parish Council September meeting**

District Council update - Discussed next steps for the Joint Local plan which the district council hope to submit shortly to the planning inspectorate.

County Council update - Tollgate crossing – traffic survey completed by county council. There will be a site visit with the Highways Engagement Team, 25th September, to be attended by members of the Culham Crossing Group.

School Bus Spare seats – consultant engaged to support the scheme.

Briefing for the HIF road/bridge will be held Oct 8th

Clerk update – Access to the proposed Community Orchard area to be provided by the landowner so that we can start to plant trees. Defibrillator installed at Culham Village Nursery. 20mph zone approved. Contractors identified to repair potholes on the green, maintain playground equipment, cut back hedge on Tollgate Road and overhanging branches in the Rec.

CPC will budget for shelters and hard standing for the bus stops, will also review the location from safety perspective

Piledriver noise identified by village investigators and complaint sent to Environmental Health team

Village footpaths maintenance:

- The Burycroft footpath highlighted as too narrow in places
- Brambles overgrown on Tollgate Road
- Donkey Bridge vegetation overgrown

CPC discussed responses to several planning applications, including erection of 6m CCTV poles and electrical substation at the Culham Campus. Also discussed how to respond to the new National Planning Policy Framework (housing requirements) consultation and the scoping for the SESRO reservoir Environmental Impact Assessment.

The next meeting of the PC is expected to be on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at 7.30pm. www.culham-pc.gov.uk

#### **Culham Village Community Defibrillator**



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-tosave-a-life

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



#### 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 <a href="www.justgiving.com/page/hetty-owen">www.justgiving.com/page/hetty-owen</a>







4<sup>th</sup> October - knitting and crochet

1st November - board games

6<sup>th</sup> December - wreath making

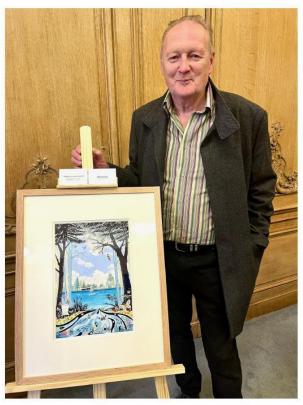
We're starting to think about events in 2025 - so if you have any ideas, please do share them with us. It's been a great year so far with lots of social events and shared experiences.

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

Email ladiesofculham@gmail.com

#### **Prizewinning Culham Artist!!**





I won first prize and received a generous £500 at the opening of the exhibition.

Photo: Cathy Gray

#### Howbery Park, Wallingford and Stephen Gray, Culham

The 'Art in the Park' is an art competition and exhibition around the theme of 'Water in our world', as helping everyone live and work sustainably with water is the aim of the parks owners, HR Wallingford. By choosing water in our world as the theme, the company wished to encourage people to think about the role and importance of water in our lives.

#### Stephen:

I entered the competition having connected with the theme and the beautiful grounds at Howbery and the work that they are doing with wildlife including butterflies - 50% of British butterflies can be found there, growing of wild flowers for the bees that are kept - the honey produced is for sale in their lovely cafe and restaurant (open Mon-Fri). Howbery Park is located by the River Thames and the public are encouraged to explore the park with a map supplied.

HR Wallingford and Howbery put on a brilliant show in the Manor House for a week in September and I was delighted to offer support in the work they do.



Left: Howbery Manor House and Park.

#### **RSPB Vale of White Horse Local Group**

Your RSPB Local Group (Vale of White Horse) has been enjoying the Autumn migration with a wide range of species seen across the County and at Farmoor and



Otmoor in particular. Two Facebook Groups, RSPB Vale of White Horse Local Group and Friends of RSPB Vale of White Horse Group will give a flavour of the local birdlife and our website <a href="https://www.rspb-vwh.org.uk">www.rspb-vwh.org.uk</a> has more details about what's on.

At our first indoor session on Monday 16 September Fergus Mosey, who works for the RSPB at Otmoor, gave us a fascinating annual update on our favourite local reserve.

Outdoor wildlife walks and indoor talks both take place monthly (7.30 at the River Room, by the church, Sutton Courtenay, and/ or via Zoom in deepest winter).

The next illustrated talk will be on Monday 21 October. Nick Bowles will talk about The Butterflies of Bird Reserves.

At 10.00 on Sunday October 27 the group will meet at RSPB Arne, Dorset, one of Springwatch's broadcasting centres, hoping to see a range of seasonal migrating birds, including Avocets, Spoonbills and Dartford Warblers and especially the Osprey and White Tailed Eagle which eluded us in March.

Future events this year are:

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 2024-25 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.

#### 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**







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
15<sup>th</sup> October

Talk Beetle drive with Wine and Nibbles

#### Contact us via email at <u>suttoncourtenaywi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk</u> Or 01869 331081







#### Thank you

Thank you for participating in our Summer 2024 consultation and events on our proposal for an essential new reservoir for the South East. This project aims to secure future water supply for 15 million people, including you and your neighbours here in Oxfordshire.

The 12-week consultation period has now closed, and we're reviewing your feedback. We'll share any design updates and publish a formal response to the consultation early next year.

You'll have another chance to have your say in our 2025 public consultation. In the meantime, please stay updated via our website:

www.thames-sro.co.uk/sesro

#### **Latest report from GARD**

(18 Sept 2024)

The recent news that the Secretary of State has approved Thames Water's Resource Management Plan with SESRO at the centre is greeted with astonishment and deep resentment [by GARD].



The Secretary of State has overruled his Environment Agency advice that Thames Water's plans should be rejected because of concerns about the reservoir's resilience to drought and lack of proof that it provides the best value for money.

Oxford County Council, the Vale District Council and Abingdon Town Council all responded with GARD and residents, expressing strong opposition to Thames Water's latest consultation. It is shameful that a week later, before analysis of the results, the scheme which includes the reservoir has been progressed to the next stage. The Environment Agency had advised on the need for public scrutiny. A Public Inquiry, called for by GARD, reiterated recently by MPs Olly Glover and Layla Moran, is the only way of getting at the truth when confronted by an organisation with such a poor track record of openness as Thames Water.

The Secretary of State has missed the opportunity to establish the facts and remove unresolved issues which remain on cost, construction environmental damage, post-construction safety, flooding hazards and crucially, if it is actually needed at all. Leaking more than twice the maximum supply of this Reservoir, Thames Water must also be held to account to reduce their leak rate to at least industry average.

This is certainly not the end of the road. GARD will continue its campaign against this monstrosity. The Reservoir needs final approval at Development Consent Order proceedings in 2026, and we will be contesting this project all the way. We are working to establish our next steps.

This reservoir remains the least drought resilient, longest delivery-time, most environmentally damaging and disruptive 'solution' to the coming water shortages in the south-east.

A high-risk construction like this is not the sort of project to be entrusted to a company which might not survive beyond next Spring.

See www.abingdonreservoir.org.uk for the facts behind our posters.

The fight is not over.





Packed full of show-stopping musical numbers, **Guys and Dolls** tells a story of low-life gamblers and hustlers in New York City, where finding a safe site for a poker game is the highest priority and a man will bet on anything that moves — including a woman. Even when that woman is a member of the Salvation Army determined to save his soul.

Tues 29 October to Sat 2 November 2024
7.30pm - with 2.30pm matinee Saturday 2 November
Amey Theatre, Abingdon School, OX14 1DE

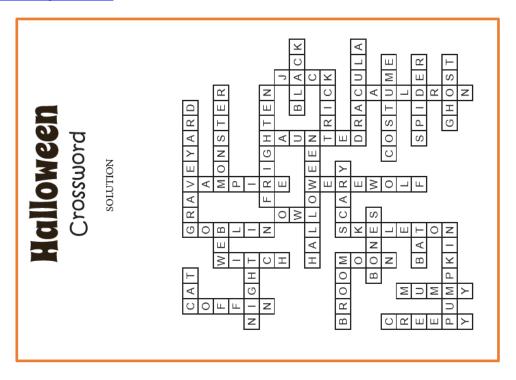
www.abingdonoperatic.co.uk

Box Office: 0333 666 3366

#### 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 November 2024 issue of the Mouthpiece by October **15**<sup>th</sup> to: <a href="mailto:generalmouthpiece@gmail.com">generalmouthpiece@gmail.com</a>



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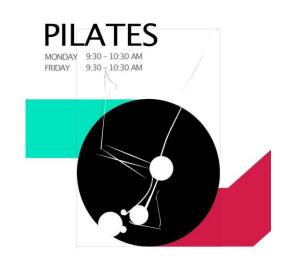
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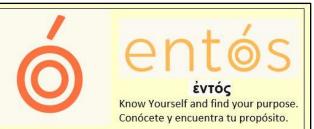


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