



The Mouthpiece

Culham's Newsletter
November 2024

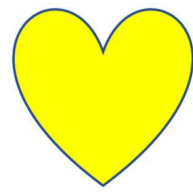


Dates for your Diary

Fri 1 Nov	8pm	Ladies of Culham – Board Games	St Paul's Church
Sun 3 Nov	11am	Holy Communion	St Paul's Church
Sat 9 Nov	5pm	Culham Curry Night	St Paul's Church
Sun 10 Nov	4pm	Remembrance Service	St Paul's Church
Wed 13 Nov	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	St Pauls Church
Mon 18Nov	7.30pm	RSPB VWH Group - Bird Migration from the Arctic to South Africa	River Room Sutton Courtenay
Sat 30 Nov	3pm	 Lego Club 	St Paul's Church

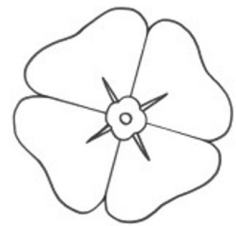
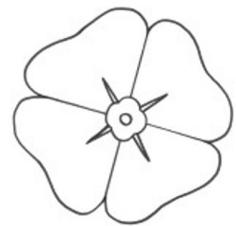
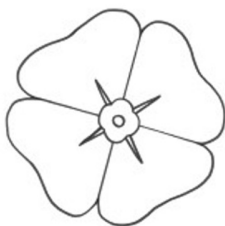
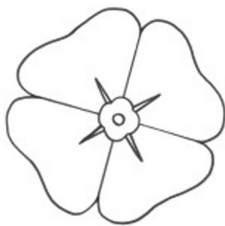


Culham Kids



Happy November! Hope you had a blast during October and Halloween and had some great fun Trick or Treating in the village! Enjoy Bonfire night and maybe try and find out why we celebrate this?

Plus don't forget Remembrance Day on Sunday 10th and a 2 minute silence on Monday 11th at 11am.



www.kidspuzzlesandgames.co.uk



Do you know what all 4 different coloured poppies represent? We often see the red ones, but the purple, white and black are important too.

Could you design a page for Culham Kids for the Mouthpiece? It would be great to have some more people creating these pages – adults and kids alike. Please email Laura laura@tollgatetherapies.co.uk if you can help. Thanks

Important dates - Trick or Treating Thurs 31st Oct. Sat 9th Nov – curry night. Sat 30th Nov – Lego club 3pm. See you next month!

Talking point by Rev'd Jane Willis

In late October and early November we enter what is coming to be known as the season of Remembrance.

It begins with All Saints' and All Souls' Days. In the book of Revelation, the last book in the Bible, we have the most amazing picture of the great company in heaven, those who have faithfully followed Christ and gone before us. They serve as wonderful examples, an encouragement to us. Then at All Souls' we pause to remember and give thanks for all of those who have shared and shaped our lives, but who are no longer with us. For me, it is a moment to stop and to give thanks for all of those we have loved and lost and who we see no more; for all they have meant to us and to hear afresh of God's love and strength as we continue the journey of life without them. A solemn moment, but infused with the hope of the resurrection – the hope we have in Jesus, who has gone before us in death and resurrection – that we might live.

And then we come to Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day. Here we pause, we stop, we keep silence silent and take a moment to remember those who have laid down their lives in order that we might enjoy the peace and the freedom we enjoy now. And as we do this of course we are deeply aware of the current conflicts in our world, and we pray for peace and all who work for it.

This is a season for reflection. In the Old Testament the people of God, the Israelites, were forever being called by God to remember – to remember who they were and where they had come from. But it was also a call to a future that could be different. When we remember, we too need to have a vision for the future.

In the Abbey, over a couple of weeks in October, there has been an art installation highlighting the plight of homelessness in Oxfordshire. I was extremely moved by the personal stories of homelessness that were presented but also by the incredible people who are doing their best to help make the future brighter for those in need. Some of us will consider it a calling from God to help others, others of us simply a response to our common humanity. Whatever our motives, I see God's work in this vision for a better world. In this life we work for the coming of God's Kingdom – secure in the promise that one day, as we read in the book of Revelation, it will be completely fulfilled. And for now we pray – and work – that God's kingdom may come, God's will be done – on earth, as it is in heaven.

Every blessing

Jane

Events in the Abbey

Thurs 30 Oct – Sun 2 Nov. The second annual St Birinus Festival - 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

Friday 15th November 7.30PM. RUSSELL WATSON - MAGNIFICENT BUILDINGS CONCERT TOUR. Info & Booking: www.weloveconcerts.com or ring 01256-416384. Come join Multi-Award Winning tenor RUSSELL WATSON accompanied by world renowned Pianist/arranger / writer MIKE MORAN. Tickets From £41.25

Saturday 16th November 7- 9:30pm OSJ – MOZART MASS IN C MINOR. Mozart's Ave Verum/Bruckner Motets/Beethoven's piano concerto no 5 'Emperor'. Featuring OSJ Voices / Orchestra of St John's. Tickets £5-£25 www.osj.org.uk

Saturday 23rd November 7:30pm – 9:30pm. Benson Choral Society presents - Choral Music For Royal Occasions. Featuring Oxford Sinfonia www.bensonchoralsociety.org.uk Tickets: £17 unreserved £20 reserved

Thursday 28th November. Moving Music Concerts in association with Sound Resource. Two Performances 11:30am & 2pm Relaxed seasonal concerts with performances by Christopher Redgate (oboe, piano) and Celia Redgate (violin, flute), and sing-along songs led by Hannah Davey (soprano). All welcome, in particular people living with dementia, their family, friends and carers. Refreshments served for 30 mins before each concert. www.soundresource.org.uk. Email movingmusicconcerts@gmail.com to reserve places. Tickets – Pay what you can afford £5 suggested donation.

Team News

A message from Rev Caroline

Thank you very much for the generous gifts and many good wishes for my retirement. We received a very generous John Lewis voucher which we look forward to using by choosing something special for our new house in Benson.

I am pleased to say that our house is coming on well, we expect to move in November or early December, and will hopefully be well settled in by Christmas.

With many thanks to you all for your friendship and generosity.

Caroline

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 Village Defibrillator



The Culham Village Defibrillator is located at the Culham Village Nursery & Preschool on an external wall facing onto the High Street.

Culham Parish Council (CPC) - October 9th - Summary of Meeting

The meeting was attended by six councillors, the Parish Clerk, plus two members of the public

The meeting opened with a review of the District Councillor's (DC) Report, highlighting South and Vale councils Joint Local Plan, which opened for 6 weeks of public feedback on Oct 1st. The DC's report also includes a review of flooding, with Environment Agency's flood maps and details of the Oxfordshire Flood Toolkit. Other notable mentions included:

- Homes for Ukraine Grant Scheme - applications available via SODC website (www.southoxon.gov.uk)
- Didcot Eco-Fair - 11AM - 3PM, 2nd November Cornerstone
- Parking charge notice scam - please note that local councils do not send text messages for parking fines

County Council (CC) update:

Community resilience is the main theme of the report, discussing local flooding and asking homeowners to report any flooding incidents, ensuring councils have up-to-date information on flood impacted areas. The CC report includes details of the Home Upgrade Grant, for low Energy Performance Certificate homes or homes heated by oil. The grant is available to homeowners where total household income is less than £39K.

Clerks Report:

The Clerk reported that the CPC audit was approved and confirmed that a traffic count has been requested for Thame Lane, a prerequisite for applying to reduce the National Speed Limit section down to 40mph. The Clerk also confirmed that a request for contractors to repair the track around the Green has been made.

Grounds Maintenance:

Tollgate Road hedge - CPC is asking for quotes to cut the hedge at the north end of Tollgate Road, plus remove the soil that has encroached on the pathway.

Village grass cutting - The final cut of the year is scheduled towards the end of the month, following which the village grass-cutting contract goes out to tender for 2025. The long grass adjacent to the Green will also be included in this cut, following a discussion with a member of the public during the meeting.

CPC discussed including cutting the entrance to the Glebe, a responsibility of SOHA, and will review costs.

Tree maintenance - CPC will seek a local tree surgeon, to address issues with fallen branches around the village.

Members of the Public:

Several topics were raised by members of the public including questions of grass cutting, flooding in the field downstream of the lock and access to the Thames path from the village centre.

Flooding downstream of the lock - The Thames path is currently blocked downstream of the lock, due to a broken culvert. The issue has been reported and awaiting repair.

Access to the river - During flooding, access to the river from the centre of the village (path next to the Lion), is regularly blocked. A member of the public asked if CPC could look at options, including a raised causeway. CPC will contact the relevant authorities to review.

CPC Meeting:

The meeting continued with a discussion regarding parked lorries on Station Road, which have restricted access to local residents. CPC has contacted the landlord of Culham Number 1 Site to address the issue.

Following an online planning seminar, CPC has made contact with a councillor at Abingdon Town Council (ATC), proposing closer contact between CPC and ATC over planning applications concerning Culham Campus and Culham new town.

The next meeting of CPC is expected to be November 13th 2024 at 7:30PM.

Further details and links to documents referenced in these notes can be found on the Culham Parish Council website.

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

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





SATURDAY 9TH NOVEMBER
5PM
ST PAUL'S CHURCH, CULHAM

CULHAM CURRY NIGHT

£10 PER TICKET
(£5 FOR A CHILD)

Book tickets by emailing
stpaulsandculhamvillage@gmail.com



Ladies of Culham Next Dates:

1st November – board games

6th 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

Charlotte Storrs Stoneware



Greenhouse Gallery Open 15 November to 20 December 2024

Fridays open from 11am to 4pm
Coffee and biscuits on the house
Other days by appointment

The Pottery, 8 The Green, Culham, Oxfordshire OX14 4LZ
www.charlottestorrs-stoneware.co.uk

SODC District Councillor's Report October 2024

Cllr Sam Casey-Rerhaye

Joint Local Plan update

Following on from last month's special Cabinet and Council meetings, where approval was given for the districts' draft Joint Local Plan to be published for comment, it is now at the next stage.

Starting from Tuesday 1 October, we have made the plan available for comment – this will be a six-week opportunity for stakeholders to let us know if they think our JLP meets all the relevant requirements. We're aiming to submit it along with the comments we've received on to the Planning Inspectorate for formal examination in December.

This is a more technical part of the process as we carried out two highly successful public consultations during the development of the plan, which were recognised and commended at national awards ceremonies.

National Planning Policy changes consultation

The councils have submitted a formal response to the consultation. You can view the councils' response here: [Council Responses to Consultations about Planning - South Oxfordshire District Council \(southoxon.gov.uk\)](https://southoxon.gov.uk/council-responses-to-consultations-about-planning)

Our consultation submissions are particularly important and timely given the work we are currently undertaking to progress our Joint Local Plan. Proposed changes to the national planning policy framework (NPPF), when published by government, could have a long-lasting impact on the future of our district.

Flooding

Please keep an eye on the [Environment Agency's flood warning map](#) to track any issues in your area. Please also be aware that this monitors the main rivers, and smaller watercourses which have also been affected and caused localised flooding last month.

While Oxfordshire County Council has primary responsibility for co-ordinating the local flood response, officers from across our councils are providing an important supporting role too.

Please look at the [Oxfordshire Flood Toolkit](#), (on the county council's website) which contains useful advice on what to do if you're at risk of flooding, or indeed if you're currently experiencing a flood.

The District Council does not supply sandbags as they are relatively ineffective when compared to purpose designed flood protection products. If residents feel they would still benefit from sandbags, they can buy unfilled sacks and a supply of sand from most DIY stores and Builders Merchants.

Of course, if anybody is in an emergency situation where people are at risk, they should dial 999 immediately.

We also advise all residents to investigate if their property is at risk of flooding ahead of bad weather and to take proactive action to protect their property. Information on flood risk in the area can be found here: www.gov.uk/check-long-term-flood-risk If their property is at risk they can sign up to the warnings in their area via the Environment Agency Website: www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings or by calling Floodline on 0345 988 1188.

Recycling and waste collections have also been disrupted with the recent flooding – we are posting regular updates on social media and on the councils' websites. Our crews are continuing to catch up on the waste and recycling collections which have been delayed due to the flooding. Our advice to residents is to leave your bins out and our crews will aim to return to as soon as possible, where it is safe to do so. If bins haven't been emptied after three days, residents can contact 03000 610 610.

Homes for Ukraine Grant Scheme

Community organisations are now able to apply for The Homes for Ukraine Grant Scheme with grants ranging from £250 to £2,000. This grant scheme is designed to help fund projects or services that support the successful integration and settlement of Homes for Ukraine guests into their new communities across the Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire.

The scheme opened for applications on 16 September. The grant scheme is being administered in partnership with Cherwell District Council. You can download the application form [from the SODC website](#) alongside this [guidance document](#).

Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Every responsible authority (in our case the County Council) is required by law now to produce a Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS). SODC is a member of the Local Nature Partnership, to which this responsibility has been delegated, and there have been a number of workshops involving large numbers of stakeholders over the past 18 months or so. The final draft LNRS will be available for public consultation for 6 weeks from 15th October, so I will send out links when it is launched.

Didcot Eco-Fair

Everyone is invited to the Didcot Eco Fair at [Cornerstone](#) on Saturday 2 November from 11am to 3pm when we will be celebrating all things green and showcasing our districts' fantastic sustainable businesses, with a clothing swap, great ideas on how to avoid food waste and advice on how to save energy.

Didcot Garden Town, in partnership with South Oxfordshire District Council, Vale of White Horse District Council and Sustainable Didcot, is hosting the free family-friendly event. Centre stage will be the Eco Marketplace with a variety of eco-friendly stalls specialising in handmade products, clothing, food and drink.

Parking charge notice scam

We are aware of a scam circulating locally and that some people in our districts are continuing to receive text messages about having to pay a parking fine. These are scams – we would not send these messages. If you receive one of these texts ignore the message and please spread the word to warn others

Half term fun and more

October half term is just around the corner, so consider entertaining children with a treat at the Cornerstone with the latest family ballet from Let's All Dance. Whacky costumes, impressive dance moves, and larger-than-life characters balance out an important message about difference and acceptance in [The Ugly Duckling](#). Full of hilarity and heart, this show is great for the whole family, especially children aged 2-12, and will be opening at Cornerstone on Sunday 27 October.

If you're looking for something a little spookier this half term, join Cornerstone's in-house art tutor for a [Make Your Own Halloween Mask workshop](#). Your little monsters can create their very own spooky (or silly) Halloween mask using a range of fun and colourful art supplies. Perfect for children in school years 1-6.

For full details of these activities and more, visit the [Cornerstone website](#)

Lobbying for better infrastructure for clean water and sewage

Our Thames Champion, Cllr Jo Robb, is in Parliament meeting ministers again this week, continuing her sustained work to push for change so that our sewage and clean water supply fit for the future. Jo met with national campaigner for clean water Feargal Sharkey and other campaigners in the summer at Westminster to lobby the new government for a sustainable plan for this infrastructure and continues to work hard on this for the benefit of all residents and nature in South Oxfordshire.

As ever, if you have any questions or issues you would like to contact me about:

Sam.casey-rerhaye@southoxon.gov.uk

Or leave a message for me on 01235 635566



An essential new reservoir for the South East

Progress Update

Thanks to everyone who participated in our summer 2024 public consultation on the new reservoir proposals. We received over 1,500 responses and more than 1,200 people joined our community events.

In August 2024, we secured government approval for our Water Resource Management Plan which sets out the action and investment needed to make sure your water supply is resilient and sustainable for the next 50 years and beyond.

To inform our design plans, work has now begun on geological surveys, including a clay compaction trial on the proposed reservoir site.

You can discover more on our progress by visiting:

www.thames-sro.co.uk/sesro



Other News

RSPB Vale of White Horse Local



The RSPB Local Group (Vale of White Horse) new season is underway, with monthly talks (details below) held in the River Room, by the church, Sutton Courtenay, and/ or via Zoom in deepest winter. We also do monthly wildlife walks.

Our next session on Monday 18th November (7.30pm in the River Room) is **"Bird migration from the Arctic to South Africa"** - Nick Williams will give an illustrated talk about the East Atlantic Flyway, which is a bird migration superhighway stretching from the Arctic tundra as far as western and southern Africa.

Talks & walks continue until May, more info on our website www.rspb-vwh.org.uk) and the next few are:

- * Walk 24th Nov: Otmoor Starling Murmuration
- * Talk 16th Dec: British Birds of Prey (Mary Braddock, Zoom only)
- * Talk 20th Jan: Camouflage without Spots (Ian Alexander, Zoom only)
- * Walk 26th Jan: Radley Lakes

Membership for the 24/25 season 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 (cash, cheque or bank transfer) . For meetings with an option to join via Zoom, members receive the link via email a few days beforehand.





**Free
Entry**

Christmas Fayre 24

**Saturday 7th Dec 2024
10am - 4pm
Benson Village Hall**

**Santas Grotto | Christmas Gifts
Tombola | Raffle | Cafe | Craft Stalls
Childrens Games & Activities**



**Santas Grotto pre-bookings
online via our website !**



Soldiers of
Oxfordshire
Museum

Ingram Murray explains how an unknown Great War Oxfordshire officer was identified as a descendant of poet Wordsworth in upcoming event

- **Museum volunteers helped identify remains of an unknown soldier of the First World War as Lieutenant Osmond Bartle Wordsworth**
- **Wordsworth was a descendant of William Wordsworth, and a survivor of the Lusitania disaster, before he fell in battle near Arras**
- **Talk at Faringdon's Buscot Park, shortly after Armistice Day 2024 and dedicated to the memory of Tom Shannon, a museum Trustee, who was involved in the search**
- **Proceeds from ticket sales support Soldiers of Oxfordshire Trust, preserving the county's military heritage**

In a talk and fundraiser for the Oxfordshire military museum, Ingram Murray (father of historian and comedian Al Murray) will tell the story of the search for the identity of an unknown soldier killed in action during the First World War.

The talk, to take place at Faringdon's Buscot Park on 14 November 2024, details the search in which Ingram himself played a key role, alongside other museum volunteers, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC), Ministry of Defence and Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre (JCCC).

The story began in 2013 when a local farmer was digging in his private garden in the village of Hénin-sur-Cojeul discovered the remains of a body which local police determined dated from the Great War. Based on objects found with these remain, including a regimental button and fragments of uniform, it became clear the soldier had been an officer of the county regiment, The Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Light Infantry.

Tickets for the event, to be held at Buscot Park from 6pm (opening with a tour of Buscot House) are available now from the museum in Woodstock, and from their website. Proceeds from ticket sales support Soldiers of Oxfordshire Trust (Registered Charity No.) preserving the county's military heritage, and sharing Oxfordshire's wartime stories.

Ticket link:

<https://www.sofa.org.uk/product/known-unto-god-finding-lieutenant-wordsworth/>

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

Registered Charity No. 1145408

<http://www.sofa.org.uk> | frontofhouse@sofa.org.uk | 01993 810 210



Abingdon Drama Club
are proud to present

A Christmas Carol

by Charles Dickens

Adapted by David Edgar

Directed by Susi Dalton

Unicorn Theatre Abingdon

Wednesday 27th to Saturday 30th November 7.30pm plus 2.30pm matinee on the 30th November.

This adaptation by **David Edgar** of **Charles Dickens'** classic **A Christmas Carol** rediscovers the social conscience of this timeless tale and through time jumps, a realisation of how Scrooge's life was in the past, how it is going on around him in the present and the shock of what it will be in the future.

All the well-known characters are here and the extra element added to the original gives us an insight into the various parliamentary reports of the 1840s on abolishing rotten boroughs, establishing workhouses etc and how Dickens brings that to our attention.

Edgar's clever (and amazing) adaptation is brought to the Unicorn stage by **Abingdon Drama Club** directed by one of the club's finest directors, **Susi Dalton**.

Edgar has reinvented this most Victorian of stories and his masterstroke is having the author, **Dickens (Terry Atkinson)**, tell the story with his editor and friend **John Forster (Kieran Madden)**. The show begins with Dickens trying to write another book on poverty and child labour. Forster suggests this may be too bleak and sad for a Christmas time readership. The two of them construct the story in front of us, with themselves watching as the tale unfolds. This play's wonderful device shows us how Dickens decided on the various scenes.

A fabulous evening's entertainment awaits us.

Tickets: £12, £10 concessions (60+, Under 12s, students, ADC members)

Group Bookings: Groups of 10 and over – All tickets £10 (£10.60 when booked online – just select the concession rate ticket and choose the number you require). Please let us know if you have any problems with your booking.

Tickets available from: The Bookstore, The Abingdon Precinct (15 Bury Street), Abingdon or online at Website: www.abingdon-drama-club.com Email: enquiries@abingdon-drama-club.com

MOONHAWK T H E A T R E

Moonhawk proudly present

POE

Created and performed from the works of **Edgar Allen Poe.**

The Unicorn Theatre Abingdon.

Wednesday 20th - Saturday 23rd November
7.30pm

Venture, if you dare, inside the mind, the life and the stories of the master of the macabre, the father of gothic horror, **Edgar Allen Poe.**

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Featuring: The Raven, The Tell-Tale Heart, The Fall of the House of Usher and The Pit and the Pendulum.

POE – created and performed by the company of Moonhawk – Leon Witcomb, Michael Ward, and Chris Bedford.

History

Edgar Allen Poe, born in 1809 and died in 1849, was an American short story writer, poet, critic and editor who is famous for his love of mystery and the gruesome. Regarded in literary history as the architect of the modern short story, Poe was also the principal forerunner of the “art for art’s sake” movement in 19th-century European literature. His tale The Murders in The Rue Morgue initiated the modern detective story and the atmosphere in his tales of horror is unrivalled in fiction. The Raven numbers among the best-known poems in the world.

POE – Wednesday 20th – Saturday 23rd November 2024
Unicorn Theatre Checker Walk Abingdon-on-Thames OX14 3JB

Tickets: £15 (£10 Concessions) www.ticketsource.co.uk/moonhawk - and on the d

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 December 2024/January 2025 issue of the Mouthpiece by **December 15th** to:
generalmouthpiece@gmail.com

The Mouthpiece

is printed by

Culham Publication Services

Your local **Creative** Studio

Address

Stuart Morris, K1-0-65
Culham Campus
Abingdon, Oxfordshire,
OX14 3DB



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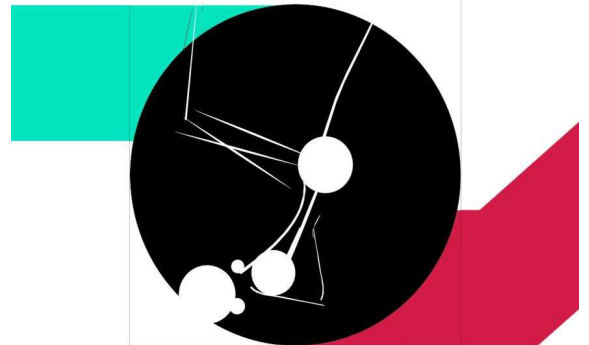
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PILATES

MONDAY 9:30 – 10:30 AM
FRIDAY 9:30 – 10:30 AM



Matrix Arts Centre, Sutton Courtenay, OX14 4UA
Drop in or book in advance online



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WHO IS WHO IN CULHAM

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Hon. Treasurer:	vacancy		
Churchwarden:	vacancy		
Hon. Secretary:	Ruth Ward	stpaulsculham@gmail.com 5 Thame Lane, Culham	
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Chairman:	Philip Owen	6 The Green, Culham	01235 555223
ST PAUL'S & CULHAM VILLAGE RE-ORDERING COMMITTEE			
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LADIES OF CULHAM (LOC)			
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CULHAM POORS ALLOTMENT CHARITY			
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