

# The Mouthpiece

Culham's Newsletter  
**July/August 2025**



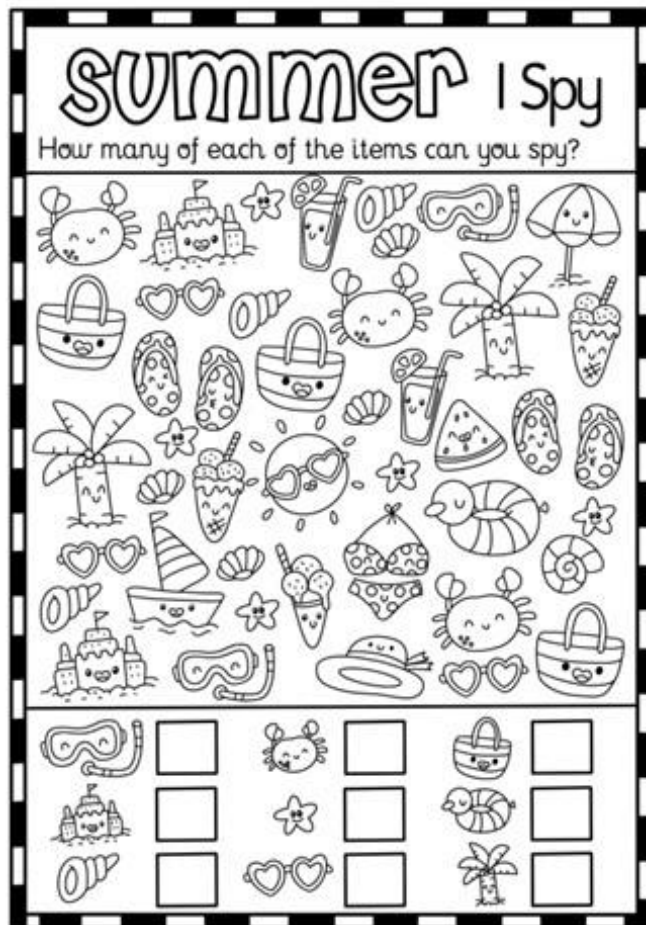
## Dates for your Diary

Fri 4 July	7.30 for 8pm	Ladies of Culham – Perfume making	St Paul's Church
Sat 5 July	10am – 3pm	Thames Water SESRO Community Information Event	Sutton Courtenay Village Hall
Sun 6 July	11am	Holy Communion	St Paul's Church
Tues 15 July	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	Culham Pre-school/Nursery
Sun 3 Aug	11am	Holy Communion	St Paul's Church
Sun 31 Aug	10.30am	Team Service (with refreshments afterwards)	St John the Baptist Church Stadhampton



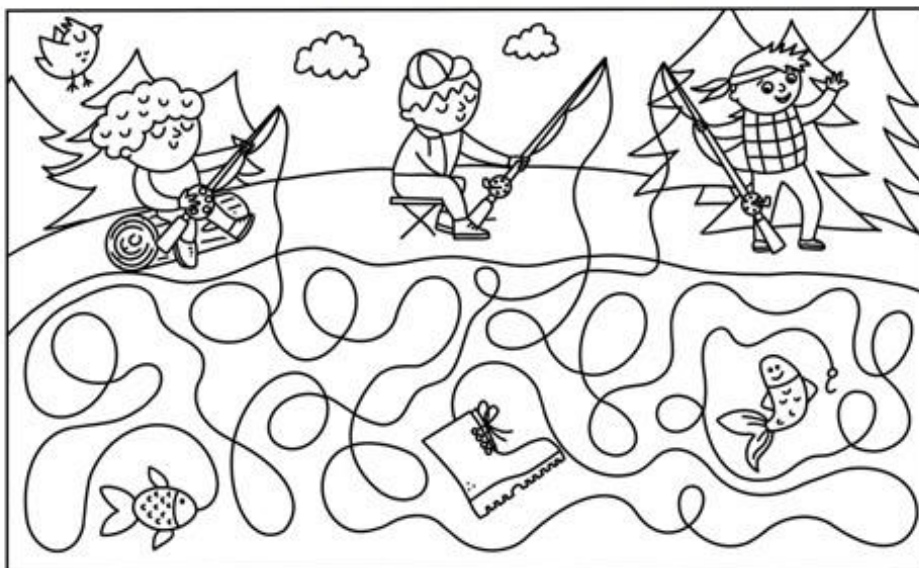


# Culham Kids



## Fishing Maze

Can you find which of the fishermen has caught a fish?



Enjoy colouring in this page! 😊

# Talking point by Revd Emma Firth



## Sacred Stones and Living Purpose

My husband, Andrew and I have just had a mini break in Cornwall. Visiting St Michael's Mount and the ruins of Tintagel Castle. made me think about the Abbey. Like the Abbey (or more accurately Wittenham Clumps), there is evidence of presence long before we can prove it. All three places had a distinct presence starting between the 5<sup>th</sup> and the 7<sup>th</sup> centuries, but Tintagel Castle began to fall into decay in the 14<sup>th</sup> century.

Why do some ancient buildings remain and others not? The Mount, with its immaculately preserved castle, holds tales of St Michael, the patron saint of fishermen; the Abbey as we know, is associated with St Birinus. Both these places have been places of spiritual pilgrimage since their history began. Intriguingly, there is a ley line (mystical line of ancient spiritual energy) which begins at St Michael's Mount and travels through Wittenham Clumps, Long and Little Wittenham.

Stories of past generations who have prayed, worshipped, celebrated, mourned, struggled and flourished are held within the sacred stones of our churches, which stand as witnesses to the hopes, prayers and lives of generations. But they are not simply monuments to the past - they are bridges to the future, connecting the richness of our history with the hopes and needs of our communities today.

In Scripture, memory is not just about the past; it is a sacred act. When the Israelites crossed the Jordan, they built a monument of stones so future generations would ask, "*What do these stones mean?*" (Joshua 4:6). In remembering, they bore witness to God's faithfulness.

Our churches are sacred because of the lives they have sheltered - the prayers whispered in corners, the bread broken at their altars, the voices lifted in song, lament, and joy. The Church is not made of stone, but of people. "*You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house*" (1 Peter 2:5). It is this truth that reminds us: the greatest heritage we carry is not architectural, but human.

For some, their original purposes may no longer be sustainable in the ways they once were and we are invited to courageously ask how they might they become spaces where life, dignity, and community are nurtured anew.

Preservation should not be about protecting relics for admiration alone but about creating spaces that give people room to breathe, to belong, to believe, and to become. Buildings endure only when they continue to serve life.

We are not merely caretakers of stone, but stewards of story, space, and spirit. Our challenge is to let these ancient places speak to the present - not just by what they preserve, but by how they welcome, uplift, and love those who walk through their doors today.

For as God declared through Isaiah: "*See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?*" (Isaiah 43:19) My prayer is that WE perceive it - in sacred stones, in living people, and in the holy ground where past and future meet.

## Events in the Abbey

**Monday 07 July. Moving Music.** Two Performances: 11.30 - 12.30 or 2 - 3pm. Refreshments served from 30 minutes before concerts start. Moving Music concerts are particularly for people living with dementia to enjoy with their family, friends and carers, but all are welcome! Songs from stage and screen, classical and popular, and sing-along songs. Suggested Donation £5 / Carers Free. Reserve your places for your preferred concert time by email: [movingmusicconcerts@gmail.com](mailto:movingmusicconcerts@gmail.com) or call 01865 251305.

**10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> July – Times Vary. DADS Presents Robin Hood and His Merry Men.** Dorchester-on-Thames Amateur Dramatics Society (DADS) are performing their summer production, Robin Hood and His Merry Men by Bob Hammond, in the Abbey Cloister Garden in July 2025. Come along, bring a picnic and join in the fun. Tickets: [www.ticketsource.co.uk/dads](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/dads) or on the door. £12 (under 13 £6). The performance starts at 7pm on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> July and Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July, and 6pm on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> July.



**Look Ahead: Upcoming at the Abbey this September:** Saturday 20 September – Thames Valley Festival Orchestra presents An Evening of Symphonic Rock! Sunday 21 September 7pm OSJ – TCHAIKOVSY. For Full details and all event listings visit [www.dorchester-abbey.org.uk/whats-on](http://www.dorchester-abbey.org.uk/whats-on)

## TEAM EVENTS

Following Rev Emma Firth's Ordination to the Priesthood on Sunday 29 June at the Abbey, her first celebration of the Holy Eucharist will be on Wednesday 2nd July at 7pm during a Sung Eucharist service at the Abbey. Everyone is welcome - please put the date in your diary and join us to celebrate this new ministry as a Priest, followed by a celebratory drink and cake!

There will be a Team Service on 31<sup>st</sup> August at 10:30am at St John the Baptist church, Stadhampton. All are welcome to attend.

## 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 Glebe.

# Village News

Village website: [www.culhamvillage.org.uk](http://www.culhamvillage.org.uk)

## **Culham Parish Council - June 11th 2025**

### **Summary of Meeting**

The meeting was attended by four councillors, the Parish Clerk, and Robin Jones (OCC councillor). The meeting opened at 7:39PM and included the District Councillor's report, a welcome message from OCC Councillor Robin Jones, and the Clerk's report.

#### Summary of County Councillor's Report

Cllr Robin Jones introduced himself and thanked the community for taking part in democracy. Robin said it was early days for him in the council, but he is looking forward to representing Culham in his role as County Councillor. The PC highlighted the Culham crossing campaign and HiF status to him.

#### Public Participation:

Three members of the public joined the meeting, commenting on the improved quality of grass cutting and providing feedback for additional improvements.

#### General meeting:

Speed monitoring and Speed Indicator Devices (SIDS) - Despite a delay finalising details, poles for the new SIDS are due to be installed soon.

Potential of surface water flooding - The PC discussed a concern from some residents, who highlighted that their house insurance costs had doubled this year, potentially due to an agency adjusted surface water flood risk survey. The PC is keen to hear from the wider community, to understand if this is an isolated issue, or impacts others. Please contact via email, WhatsApp or in person if you have experienced a similar increase due to a flood concern. The PC will review and seek advice to help residents.

Bus Stops - Following the Community Meeting, the PC will review access to the bus stop outside of the old Lion pub, before pursuing bus shelters.

Village Maintenance - A new dog waste bin has been installed adjacent to the Thames Path near Tollgate Cottage on the Burycroft.

The PC reminds the community that homeowners are responsible for trimming any hedges and trees that grow into and over paths.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00PM.

The next meeting of the Parish Council is July 15th, 19:30 in the Culham Village Nursery & Pre-School

Further details and links to documents referenced in these notes can be found on the Culham Parish Council website. <https://culham-pc.gov.uk/>

# Ladies of Culham Next Dates:

4<sup>th</sup> July - perfume making with Gaynor

1<sup>st</sup> August - social walk

5<sup>th</sup> September - cyanotype printing with Jo

3<sup>rd</sup> October - sewing / sewing machines /  
needle felting with Laura

7<sup>th</sup> November - board games

5<sup>th</sup> December - Wreath making

Thank you so much to everyone who's run  
sessions this year, it's been successful so far..  
We look forward to lots of workshops, shared  
experiences and socializing as the year goes on.

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

Email [ladiesofculham@gmail.com](mailto:ladiesofculham@gmail.com)



# **SODC District Councillor's Report – June 2025**

**Cllr Sam Casey-Rerhaye**

## **Climate Scorecard for South Oxfordshire District Council**

[Councilclimatescorecards.uk](https://councilclimatescorecards.uk) have, on their assessment for 2024-2025, scored SODC up 22 points since 2023. Other Oxfordshire Councils also do very well. SODC did particularly well on planning and land use, and biodiversity. There are 7 questions scored, and you can compare with other councils across the country on their site. Oxfordshire County Council scored highest of all counties in England.

## **Local Government Reorganisation**

The public engagement exercise on Local Government Reorganisation launched on Wednesday 4 June and will run for six weeks. You can find out more on our webpage: [Oxford & Shires and Ridgeway Councils - Join the conversation - South Oxfordshire & Vale of White Horse - Citizen Space](#). This closes on 16 July 2025.

## **Capital Grants applications open**

The Capital Grant Scheme opened on 2 June for applications of up to £75,000.

The grant gives organisations a financial boost towards capital expenditure such as making improvements to buildings or play areas.

Applicants must show how their projects will help improve the quality of life for people in South Oxfordshire through projects that; support thriving, healthy and inclusive communities, provide infrastructure that meets local need, that take action on climate change and nature recovery, and improve participation, accessibility and accountability.

Organisations eligible to apply are:

Town and parish councils

Non-profit businesses and Community Interest Companies

Community-based organisations

The Capital Grant Scheme is open for applications until 25 July. Applicants can apply online through our website, [southoxon.gov.uk/grants](https://southoxon.gov.uk/grants) where the full guidance is available to help submit the best possible application. Thank you for sharing our social media messages on the grant.

## **Local Plan Inquiry in Public Hearing**

The public hearings for the South and Vale Joint Local Plan took place last week.

This stage of the examination involves the appointed Planning Inspectors holding sessions to hear from the Councils and other participants about whether the local plan is sound and has been prepared in accordance with legal and procedural requirements. You can watch the recordings of the sessions on Youtube: [Joint Local Plan Hearings - YouTube](#)

## **Bulky Waste**

We've started a new campaign aimed at encouraging everyone to reuse unwanted bulky items, instead of throwing them away. Many items - such as furniture, TVs or white goods - can be repaired, donated, sold, or collected for free by local charities or retailers. By rethinking bulky waste, everyone could save money, help to reduce waste and save precious resources.

Have a look and share [our posters](#) and social media messages with your residents.

More information can be found at [southandvale.gov.uk/reuse](https://southandvale.gov.uk/reuse)

Email me at [sam.casey-rerhaye@southoxon.gov.uk](mailto:sam.casey-rerhaye@southoxon.gov.uk) with any queries/issues



# A Message from MP Olly Glover

July marks one year since being elected as the MP for our constituency. Learning how parliament operates, establishing a constituency office and recruiting a team took some time, but I can now reflect on our work over the last 12 months.



Since the election, my team and I have opened over 7,000 cases and responded to 12,500 emails to constituents. Some involve signposting local people to the services they need, but others are more complex and take time to work through. Cases cover many topics, from health and care, to immigration and international trade.

Alongside helping constituents on a personal level, I have been able to use cases and local issues to inform efforts to drive national policy changes. I've been asking questions of Ministers in the House of Commons, speaking in Westminster Hall debates, securing one-to-one meetings with Ministers and taking part in cross party groups: the Transport Select Committee, and the Planning and Infrastructure Bill Committee. These are just some of the ways I have been able to voice your issues to the people with power to influence them. Recent successes include getting a decision on an export licence for local business which saved several jobs.

There has been some progress, too, on the big issues impacting our constituency: I secured a meeting with the rail minister to make the case for Grove Station; the County Council has started work on a feasibility study. I have presented a bill to ensure infrastructure targets accompany housing targets, which the Housing Minister has taken an interest in. Finally, after being rescheduled and delayed by the minister's office, I have secured a meeting with the Water Minister about the SESRO reservoir to make her aware of all local concerns. Of course, on all these and many other local issues, there is more work to do.

Recently, I have had the pleasure of visiting the Cornermen project, based in South Moreton, doing fantastic work to support men's mental health; discussed ideas to get people taking action to reduce their carbon footprint with trustees of local charity myzerocarbon.org at a recent constituency surgery in Wallingford; and attended the South East RFCA Armed Forces Briefing at RAF Benson to learn about the relationships between defence and the wider community, and the critical role in our communities and our future defence played by cadet and reservist schemes.

During the summer, I will be undertaking many visits and holding regular surgeries around the constituency. If you would like to come and meet me, please contact [olly.glover.MP@parliament.uk](mailto:olly.glover.MP@parliament.uk) (or leave a voice message at 0207 219 7657). Feel free, as always, to use these contact details for anything else I can help with.

*Olly*

Olly Glover, MP for Didcot and Wantage Constituency

# RESERVOIR UPDATE re South East Strategic Reservoir Option (SESRO) – Caroline Baird

At the Annual Community Meeting in May we made the community aware of the potential impact on Culham of Thames Water's plan for a gigantic 'Abingdon' reservoir. **Thames Water have now announced dates for their next series of 'Community information events'.**

Here are the exhibition dates:

**Weds 2 July 2-8pm:** Milton Hill House, Milton Hill, Steventon OX13 6AF

**Sat 5 July 10am-3pm:** Sutton Courtenay Village Hall, Hobbyhorse Lane, OX14 4BB

**Thurs 10 July 2-8pm:** Marcham Centre, Barrow Close, Marcham, OX13 6TY

**Tues 15 July: 2-8pm:** East Hanney Royal British Legion, Mill Orchard, East Hanney OX12 0JH

Please **DO** attend any of these that you can. But please **DO NOT** be deceived by their clever computer images and sales pitch on the beauty of the monstrosity.

**NOTE:** Their latest information says:

**Intake/outfall structure:** We've confirmed the location of the proposed intake and outfall structures on the River Thames riverbank near Sutton Courtenay.

**Emergency discharge system:** We've confirmed our preferred option for the reservoir's emergency discharge, which is a tunnel from the reservoir to the River Thames.

THEY DO NOT SAY 'AT CULHAM'. How cowardly and obfuscatory is this??!

A reminder of what is being proposed:



## What's being proposed: the South East Strategic Reservoir Option (SESRO)



- **A 150 billion litre (150 Million cubic metre) embanked ('bunded' reservoir)**
- **Water area 4 square miles (size of Gatwick Airport) – construction site 7 square miles.**

### FACTS

The proposed reservoir would be the **largest non-impounding reservoir in the country**. The capacity would be **150 billion litres** (150 million cubic litres). It would cover 7 square miles. **This is the size of Gatwick Airport and 20 times the size of Farmoor Reservoir**, for those who have seen that. The embankments will be 20-25 metres high. It will mean the loss of 1000 acres of productive farmland, 40 acres of woodland, 50 miles of hedges, 240 ancient & veteran trees, with numerous bird & animal species threatened.

**NONE of the water is for Oxfordshire.** 55% is for London, 15% for Affinity and 30% for Southern – piped underground to Hampshire.

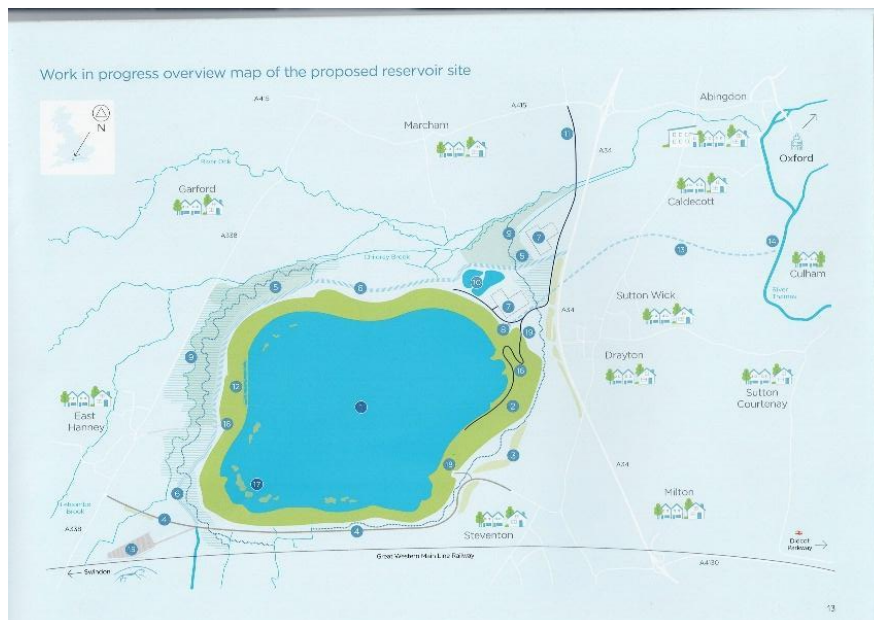
It will take 10 years to build and 2 years to fill and require 1.5 million tons of rock and gravel brought in. It will involve completely re-routing the Hanney Road and the construction of a new access road to it from the A415 between Marcham and the A34, with the consequent traffic, noise, dust and pollution. The predicted cost (as at 2022 prices) is £2.7 billion.

### LOCAL IMPACT IN CULHAM

**There will also be construction work that affects Culham because there is to be an intake/outfall from the River Thames AT CULHAM.**

This would involve:

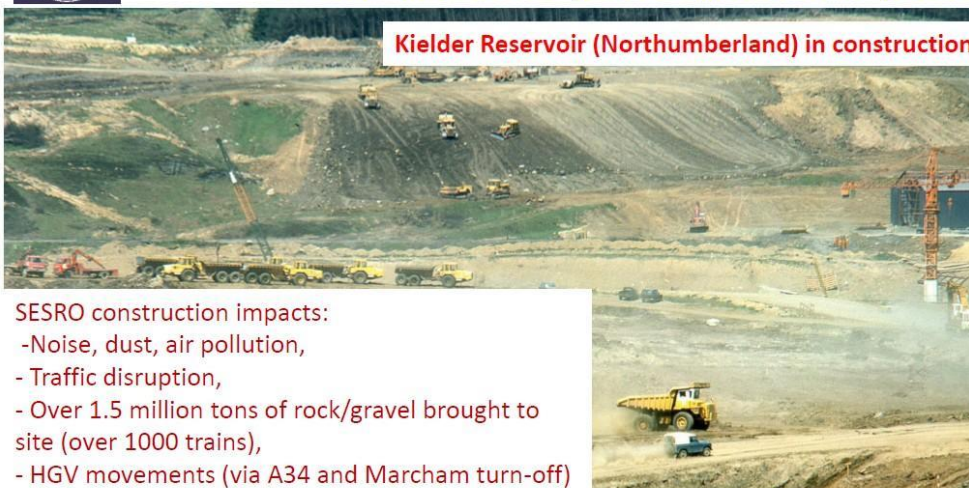
1. A building on the river bank
2. An access road to the building
3. A weir structure on the river bank (not across the river) and a shaft.
4. 'Screens' to stop fish / debris.
5. An intake tunnel entrance below water level
6. A 5km long 4 m diameter tunnel will be bored from the reservoir end to the tunnel entrance on the Thames at Culham at a depth of c. 20m. It will be bored in the same way underground tunnels get bored and the spoil and residue will be taken out at the reservoir end.
7. On the attached photo the dotted line (13) is the route of the conveyance tunnel to the intake/outfall (14) at Culham (including emergency discharge).



**It will take 10 years to build. Imagine the chaos.**



**What is being proposed**  
**SESRO has a ten-year construction period**



SESRO construction impacts:

- Noise, dust, air pollution,
- Traffic disruption,
- Over 1.5 million tons of rock/gravel brought to site (over 1000 trains),
- HGV movements (via A34 and Marcham turn-off)

**2029-2038 – construction site (when it's not too wet!)**

**2039-2040 - fill the Reservoir from the Thames – takes 2 years!**



It will NOT be the fantastic nature park Thames Water will be telling us it will be:



## What will not be built

It's not an unrestricted access leisure amenity

- There are sailing facilities at some Thames Water London embanked reservoirs, but access is strictly controlled, users/visitors must be authorized.
- Thames Water try to pretend that SESRO will have free access to roam
- What they tell **you** (consultation document June 2024):  
“ The interim masterplan for SESRO is separated into seven different zones, which the public are asked to comment on.... the opportunities for leisure, which could include **nature trails, a visitor centre, cafés, a water sports centre, recreational lakes and an education centre.**”
- ... but what they tell **the Planning Inspectorate (August 2024)**, when trying to avoid making a published assessment of Terrorist threat to SESRO:  
“whilst the likelihood of this risk occurring is low, ..... The Operators will ...**have security procedures in place to reduce the risk of such an event occurring, such as a manned gatehouse, security fencing in accordance with Thames Water Security Standards, CCTV and infra-red security lighting, to prevent unauthorised access... [including]..controlled access to the top of the reservoir ...**” <https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/WA010005/documents>

Thames Water: <https://thames-sro.co.uk/projects/sesro/>      <https://thames-sro.co.uk/events>

GARD (Group Against Reservoir Development: <https://abingdonreservoir.org.uk/>

## Other News



### Vale of White Horse Local Group

Your RSPB Local Group (Vale of White Horse) is getting ready for the new season starting in September 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.

Quick details of the first talks we have planned, these run from September to May:

\* 15th September: "What's new at RSPB Otmoor" (Fergus Mosey) - the warden at this special local reserve will present his annual review of highlights - many members' favourite talk! (7.30pm in the River Room)

\* 20th Oct: The Owl Conservation Project (Lu Barton) - through work with environmental groups, landowners, tenants and education the Project enhances and increases existing habitats for our British Owls, and creates new linked habitat networks and highways. Lu's talk will describe this as well as the history, behaviour and population status of British owls, with an opportunity to meet some live, captive-bred owls. (7.30pm in the River Room)

\* November, exact date tbc: a talk from Prof Andrew Gosler (University of Oxford) who studies human engagement with birds, especially in the context of nature conservation and policy. Andrew is a council member of the British Trust for Ornithology and a Vice-President of the Oxford Ornithological Society

Membership for the 25-26 season remains at £15 for adults (whether or not you are an RSPB member), and is free for under-16s. This covers our programme of monthly talks and wildlife walks (details to follow), 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 a time. You can join using the form on our website (under "Contacts"): [www.rspb-vwh.org.uk](http://www.rspb-vwh.org.uk), or at a meeting (bank transfer, cash, cheque). *See you there!*

## July News - Swifts

### Happy Swift Awareness Week!

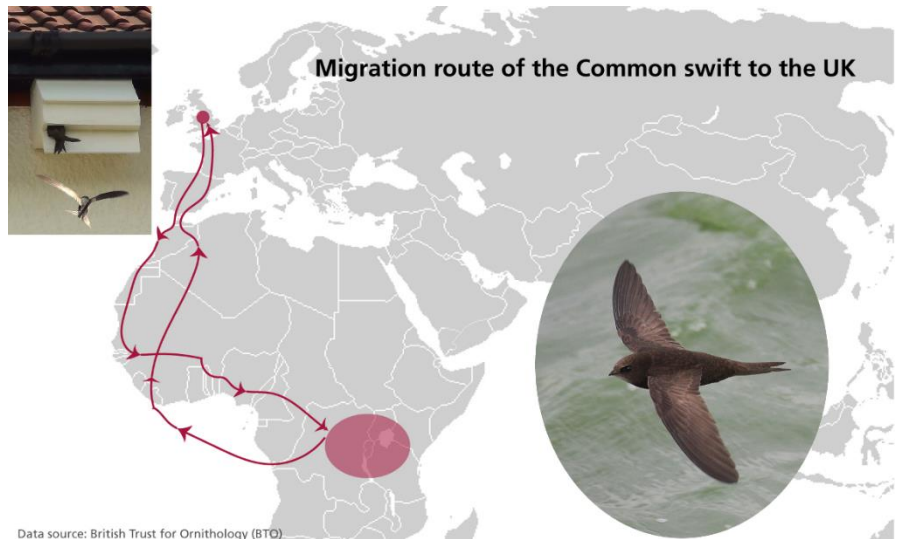
#### About Swifts

To celebrate swift awareness week, here's some interesting facts about swifts.

These birds are the TopGun "*Mavericks*" of the bird world as they can do almost everything in the air! Swift's feet and legs aren't designed for sitting on the floor or a perch. They can perch vertically but they can't sit like a Robin or pigeon for example, as their wings are far too long. They are perfectly designed for flight and this means they do everything whilst flying - drinking, eating and even mating! True acrobatic flyers.

Swifts have one of the longest migration journeys in the world! Our swifts migrate approximately **14,000 miles** to return to our swift boxes in Oxfordshire every year!

What a journey - really makes us think of 'Home sweet home'.

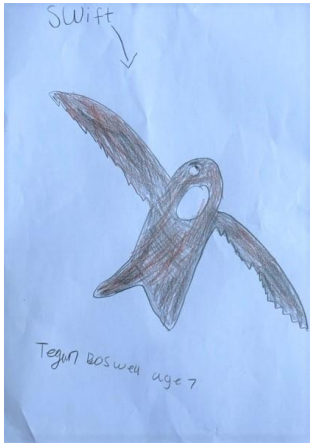


Data source: British Trust for Ornithology (BTO)

Wild   
Oxfordshire

The swifts we see in our towns and villages have overwintered in Africa and come back each summer to nest and raise their chicks. Once the chick(s) leave the nest, they're off - they will never return to the family nest again.

Sadly swifts are endangered and need swift boxes on buildings to nest. Find out more about how you can help them on either the Cherwell swift project website <http://www.cherwell-swifts.org/>



### **Tegan's Notes**

"Hi I am Tegan Boswell, here are my facts about swifts:

- They are very fast!
- They come from Africa
- They can fly up to 69mph

I watched my Dad put up our swift box - it looked quite hard. He even let me climb a little bit up the ladder"

### **Gardening in July**

Heading into the hottest months of the year, we need to be looking out for our local wildlife that could be harmed by the heat. Fortunately, there are lots of easy ways to lend a helping hand.

Even the most heat-loving species can suffer without enough to drink so consider providing a shallow bath of water in your garden. Add some stones around the dish so that bees and butterflies can climb out if they fall in. It's also important to provide some shade in your garden. A small pile of logs can be a great hiding place for insects from the sun.

Make sure you're also helping your grass and flowers survive the heat as grass can reduce surface temperatures by 10°C compared to concrete and flowers are a vital wildlife food source in the hot weather.

### **World Conservation Day – 28th July**

Annual World Conservation Day is a great reason to join your local nature group and see how you could help create space for nature in your area. Check out our map to find the group closest to you

<https://www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk/guidance/community-groups>

Thank you so much for all you have done for nature's recovery in the last year. Together we have brought people together, created more space for nature, and inspired more people to act for nature. Many people contribute to Wild Oxfordshire, and this support enables us to create a more natural, resilient, and biodiverse Oxfordshire for the benefit of all. If you would like to join in and are able to, we would greatly appreciate a contribution towards our work, either through a one-off contribution, or a monthly contribution. Check out our website to find out more about the many ways you can support us and our recent achievements.

Rhiannon Young – Wild Oxfordshire Nature Recovery Engagement Officer

<https://www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk/>





# **SECRETS OF THE SOIL DIGGING DEEP FOR NATURE'S RECOVERY**

Wild   
Oxfordshire

**Local Environment Groups Conference**

**SAVE THE DATE  
Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2025  
Location TBC**



## 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

Contact us via email at [suttoncourtenaywi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk](mailto:suttoncourtenaywi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk)  
Or 01869 331081



Pen and ink illustration depicting a British officer reading a letter to a soldier with a bandaged head. Published in 'London Opinion' and 'Today' magazine on 22 May 1915. © The Shepard Trust, 2015, from The Shepard Trust Archive, University of Surrey (Ref No. SS/6/2).



## *E.H. Shepard:* BEFORE & BEYOND *WINNIE-THE-POOH*

SEE THE EXHIBITION  
18 January - 31 August 2025  
[www.sofo.org.uk](http://www.sofo.org.uk)



Soldiers of  
Oxfordshire  
Museum

In collaboration with



ARCHIVES  
AND SPECIAL  
COLLECTIONS

UNIVERSITY OF SURREY

Pencil self-portrait of E.H. Shepard seated in his WWI officer's uniform. © The Shepard Trust, c. 1915-1919, from the E.H. Shepard Archive, University of Surrey (Ref No. EHS/2/17/28).

# More than just fly-tipping

Fly-tipping is more than an unsightly mess, it can be big business for criminals.

From rogue traders claiming to be properly licensed, to large scale organised criminal gangs who will use threats and intimidation to illegally dump hundreds of tonnes of waste and the impact on victims and the environment can be huge.

In the last year alone there have been more than 100,000 incidents of fly-tipping across the South East and it is estimated that the cost to the economy in England is nearly a billion pounds.

Responsibility for waste dumping falls across several agencies. Local authorities are responsible for investigating, clearing and taking appropriate enforcement action in relation to small scale fly-tipping on public land. The Environment Agency is responsible for dealing with large-scale fly-tipping (more than a lorry load), hazardous waste and fly-tipping by organised gangs. Too often responsibility can be passed from one organisation to another.

So I have joined forces with Police & Crime Commissioners in Hampshire, Surrey, Sussex and Kent in an attempt to get police forces, specialist police units, the Environment Agency and councils to work together to tackle the problem. We held our first meeting in Kent in early June.

Many people don't realise that often criminals who are involved in waste crime will also be responsible for vehicle thefts, money laundering, drug trafficking and a wide range of other offences.

Victims are often hit twice. Not only will rural and industrial businesses be impacted by having waste dumped illegally on their land or in their buildings, but they often have to pay for the cost of the clean up - or face stiff fines themselves! This needs to change, and I will be working to put pressure on the government to protect victims.

Thames Valley Police's Rural Crime Task Force have had some successes in tackling organised waste gangs by working with councils and the Environment Agency, but there is more to be done.

We can all play our part. If you discover fly tipping (large or small) please report it to South Oxfordshire District Council. They can investigate offenders. If you see someone in the act of illegally dumping waste, call 999 - it's a crime in progress!

If you pay someone who is unlicensed to take away your waste. You could be fined £600 if they dump your waste! So it's always worth checking the Environment Agency's website to see if someone is registered.

**Matthew Barber**  
Your voice in  
Thames Valley

**Matthew Barber is Police & Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley, working with the police to help drive down crime locally.**

**STAY IN TOUCH**  
[matthewbarber.co.uk](http://matthewbarber.co.uk)  
[@matthewbarberpcc](https://www.facebook.com/matthewbarberpcc) [@matthewbarberpcc](https://www.instagram.com/matthewbarberpcc) [@matthewbarberpcc](https://www.linkedin.com/company/matthewbarberpcc)  
[@matthew\\_barber](https://www.x.com/matthew_barber)

**JOIN THE WHATSAPP COMMUNITY**

QR code linking to the WhatsApp community.

Promoted by Matthew Barber on his own behalf, of Waterloo House, 58-60 High Street, Witney, Oxfordshire, OX28 6HJ.





## **Inspire, Explore, Create Memories!**

Are you ready to make a real difference to young people's lives whilst having loads of fun?

We are a team of enthusiastic volunteers delivering exciting activities for young people aged 6-14 in Sutton Courtenay. We are looking for adults to join us to help shape and run our programs, particularly for the 6-10 age range.

You'll be guiding young adventurers through a world of discovery and confidence-building pursuits. From nature walks to creative crafts, from team games to camping under the stars, you'll help shape young lives whilst developing your own skills in leadership, teamwork, and communication.

Why volunteer?

- Make a lasting impact on young people
- Pass on your own skills and life experiences
- Enjoy unforgettable moments and great friendships
- Be part of a movement that inspires the next generation

What You'll be Doing

- Helping young people earn badges and develop essential life skills through fun challenges
- Creating a safe and supportive environment where young people can grow and thrive
- Delivering an exciting, engaging, and inclusive programme of activities
- Communicating with parents and carers to keep them informed and engaged
- Mentoring and encouraging new volunteers – when you're ready to do so

No prior Scouting experience is necessary - just enthusiasm, a sense of fun, and a willingness to give it a go. Full training and support are provided!

Join us and be part of something amazing!

email [26thabingdon@btinternet.com](mailto:26thabingdon@btinternet.com)

# 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 2025 issue of The Mouthpiece by **August 15<sup>th</sup>** to:  
[generalmouthpiece@gmail.com](mailto:generalmouthpiece@gmail.com)

## 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

is printed by

Culham Publication Services

Your local **Creative** Studio

### Address

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



### Contact

t: 01235 464904  
t: 01235 464423  
e: [printservices@ukaea.uk](mailto:printservices@ukaea.uk)

# Local Services Directory

## Private English Tuition

[www.andrewjamison.co.uk](http://www.andrewjamison.co.uk)

### What I Offer:

- Online or in-person
- 1-2-1 or group sessions
- 11+ & 13+ entrance exams
- GCSE, IB and A Level
- Oxbridge Preparation
- UCAS Personal Statements
- Creative Writing
- Homeschooling
- Adult English learning

### About Me:

- Qualified teacher with 13 years of experience in a range of schools
- A Level Examiner
- Published author
- PhD Candidate
- Located in Drayton

Contact me for a free consultation today:



[info@andrewjamison.co.uk](mailto:info@andrewjamison.co.uk)



07821417729



**Richard Mathews Florist**

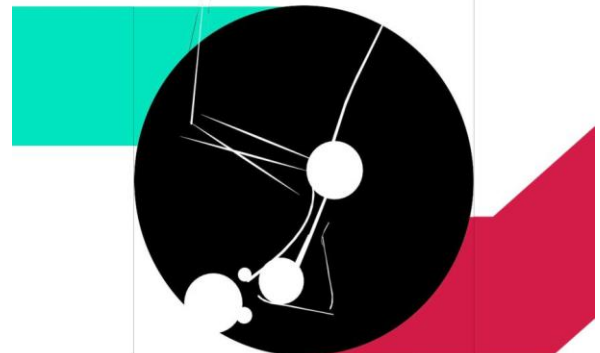
01235 847 194

Order online via our new website

[www.richardmathewsflorist.co.uk](http://www.richardmathewsflorist.co.uk)

## 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



**LUNAS**  
DANCE PROJECT



## Shaun Guard TV & WIFI SERVICES

- Aerials - supplied, repaired & poor reception solved
- Satellite - Sky Q dish upgrades, discreet dish installations, foreign TV
- Internet - blackspots cured, data cables to your TVs / computer
- TVs - hung on your wall or set up and tuned
- CCTV & Door Entry - domestic installations



**OXFORD AERIALS**

[www.oxfordaerials.co.uk](http://www.oxfordaerials.co.uk)

Call Abingdon 01235 239622



**PEST  
WIZARDS**  
YOUR LOCAL PEST CONTROL SERVICE



RATS, MICE, MOLES &  
SQUIRRELS  
WASPS, MOTHS & ALL INSECTS  
PROOFING WORK UNDERTAKEN

**PROMPT SERVICE**

**MARK DEARLOVE** • 07446377816  
01235 642689 • [info@pestwizards.co.uk](mailto:info@pestwizards.co.uk)

## DIRTY CARPETS, UPHOLSTERY, RUGS



**Most carpets dry within the hour**

**Unbeatable results, removes almost  
all spots & stains**

**GRIMEBUSTERS**

**OXFORD  
ABINGDON  
WITNEY**

**01865 726983  
01235 555533  
01993 868924**

**[www.grimebusters.co.uk](http://www.grimebusters.co.uk)**



## **Tonks Brothers Funeral Directors** **ABINGDON & KENNINGTON**

*158 Ock Street, Abingdon OX14 5DT Tel  
01235 539444*

*166 Kennington Rd, Kennington OX1 5PG Tel  
01865 736144*

[www.tonksbrothers.com](http://www.tonksbrothers.com)

*"Proud to be a family business"*

# SB

## Domestic Maintenance

Window Cleaning  
Conservatory Roof Cleaning  
Gutter Clean/Repair

Patio/Driveway Clean  
Waste Removal  
Gardening  
And much more.....

Hedge Cutting  
Painting and Decorating  
Fencing

For a free quotation please call Sam on tel. 07926 415176

## Milton Garden Machinery Ltd

**Don't Mown at the Mower!**

**Garden machinery winter servicing**

**Please call or Email for a quotation.**

**Established for over 30 years.**

We repair all types of petrol driven machinery.  
Main dealers for: Alko, Briggs Stratton, Countax, Cub  
Cadet, Echo, Efco, Hayter, Lawnflite, Mitox, MTD,  
Murray, Toro, Westwood, Wheelhorse. We repair  
Stihl and Honda machines too

15% discount in Oct – Nov, 10% discount in Dec,  
5% discount in Jan on all parts and labour.

**Collection & Delivery Service available**

Windyridge Farm, Milton Road,  
Abingdon OX14 4EZ

Tel: 01235 555115

Email:

paul@miltongardenmachinery.co.uk

www.miltongardenmachinery.co.uk





PROUDLY INDEPENDENT

# Larkmead

VETS



**CARING FOR PETS & FARM ANIMALS ACROSS SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE & BEYOND**



**We run our own 24h emergency service**

01235 814991 / 01491 651379

www.larkmead.co.uk

07360 277998



With branches at:

- Didcot\*
- Great Western Park
- Cholsey\*
- Benson
- Sutton Courtenay
- Wantage (opening 2024)

\* with hospital facilities







**CHANGES**  
 unisex hair salon  
 open Tuesday - Saturday  
 late nights Wednesday & Friday  
 open all day Saturday  
 discount for senior citizens Tuesday & Wednesday  
 free off road parking

*For a professional but friendly service phone  
 01235848453 or call in and see us at  
 8 Milton Road, Sutton Courtenay*

**Cupcake Baker**  
 Reasons to be cheerful!  
 Cupcakes, French macaroons and celebration cakes.  
 Weddings, birthdays, parties and corporate orders.  
[www.cupcakebaker.co.uk](http://www.cupcakebaker.co.uk) mail@cupcakebaker.co.uk  
 6 High Street, Culham. 01235 533370

Supplier to Raymond Blanc's Two Michelin Star  
 restaurant and hotel *Belmond Le Manoir aux Quat' Saisons*.



**MOSSINATOR®**  
 ROOF CLEANING SYSTEMS

Moss Removal & Roof Cleaning  
 Patio & Driveway Cleaning  
 Render & Brickwork Cleaning  
 Solar Panel & Skylight Cleaning  
 Installation of Bird Protection  
 Chimney Cowl Installation

Enhance the appearance of your property  
 with our quality assured friendly service  
[info@mossinator.co.uk](mailto:info@mossinator.co.uk) - 01865 362797



**entós**  
 ΕΝΤÓS  
 Know Yourself and find your purpose.  
 Conócete y encuentra tu propósito.

[www.entoscoaching.com/en](http://www.entoscoaching.com/en)  
[juan@entoscoaching.com](mailto:juan@entoscoaching.com)  
 07525 051971

My name is Juan. Have you tried **coaching** to  
**improve your life**? Try it with a first free session!

A few lucky customers get 20% off (**limited offer**)  
 +  
 I offer discounts for booking 4 sessions.

Coaching delivered online or in the comfort of your  
 home (private place needed, contact for availability).

We can speak / Podemos hablar en

 or / o 





**Culham**  
Garden Services

Local, Reliable and Professional

Available for all aspects of garden maintenance and  
clearance

Seasoned logs and kindling for sale

**07857383069**

James@culhamgardenservices.co.uk

Regular and one-off services available

Public Liability Insured Lawn treatment service

James Rockall  
13 High Street  
Culham  
OX14 4NB

## The Railway Inn



11 room Bed & Breakfast 3 Star AA award

**Bar open** Mon -Thurs 2pm - 10pm

Fri & Sat 2pm - 11 pm

Sun 12 -10pm

**All meals by phone booking only**

Lunch: Mon- Fri 12 - 2pm

Evening: Mon – Sat 6pm to 9pm

Sun lunch 12 - 2.30pm Roast Beef, Lamb or Chicken

Phone 01235 528046

Email: [info@railwayinnculham.co.uk](mailto:info@railwayinnculham.co.uk)

[www.railwayinnculham.co.uk](http://www.railwayinnculham.co.uk)



THE  
**Oxford**  
WINDOW REPAIR  
COMPANY

CALL FOR YOUR FREE ESTIMATE

**07880 560 403**

[www.oxfordwindowrepair.com](http://www.oxfordwindowrepair.com)



### WOODEN WINDOW REPAIR SPECIALISTS

- Flaking paint and cracked putty restored
- Rotting and failing wood replaced
- Specialists in wood stains, oils and varnishes
- High performance treatments combined with modern and traditional paint solutions
- All types of glazing supplied and fitted



## A.L.VICKERY AND SON

Hardware and much more!

**Keys Cut while you wait,  
cookshop, housewares,  
tools, gardening...**

...you'll save money, time  
and mileage when you try

*Vickery's first!*



5 The Green, Drayton,  
Abingdon OX14 4JA  
Telephone 01235 531497

**Just park outside!**

**OPEN Monday to Saturday 9am to 5.30pm**

# WHO IS WHO IN CULHAM

<b>CULHAM PARISH COUNCIL</b>			
Chris Pritchard (Chair)	<a href="mailto:c.pritchard@culham-pc.gov.uk">c.pritchard@culham-pc.gov.uk</a>		
Caroline Baird	<a href="mailto:c.baird@culham-pc.gov.uk">c.baird@culham-pc.gov.uk</a>		
Sam Casey-Rerhaye	<a href="mailto:s.caseyrerhaye@culham-pc.gov.uk">s.caseyrerhaye@culham-pc.gov.uk</a>	3 The Burycroft, Culham	01235 635566
Nacho Gimenez	<a href="mailto:n.gimenez@culham-pc.gov.uk">n.gimenez@culham-pc.gov.uk</a>		
Mike Richmond-Cooper	<a href="mailto:m.richmondcooper@culham-pc.gov.uk">m.richmondcooper@culham-pc.gov.uk</a>		
Siobhan Sargeant	<a href="mailto:s.sergeant@culham-pc.gov.uk">s.sergeant@culham-pc.gov.uk</a>	(Yes – the email is misspelled!)	
<b>CLERK TO PARISH COUNCIL</b>			
Denise Corney	<a href="mailto:clerk@culham-pc.gov.uk">clerk@culham-pc.gov.uk</a>		
<b>DISTRICT COUNCILLOR</b>			
Sam Casey-Rerhaye	<a href="mailto:Sam.Casey-Rerhaye@southoxon.gov.uk">Sam.Casey-Rerhaye@southoxon.gov.uk</a>	3 The Burycroft, Culham	01235 635566
<b>COUNTY COUNCILLOR</b>			
Robin Bennett	<a href="mailto:robin.bennett@oxfordshire.gov.uk">robin.bennett@oxfordshire.gov.uk</a>	4 Meadside, Dorchester-on-Thames	07979 646815
<b>ST PAUL'S CHURCH</b>			
Associate Team Vicar:	Revd. Joanne Allen	<a href="mailto:revjoallen@gmail.com">revjoallen@gmail.com</a> Dorchester Office: 01865 340007	
Ordained Local Minister	Revd. David Haylett	<a href="mailto:familyhaylett@yahoo.com">familyhaylett@yahoo.com</a>	01865 407382
Hon. Treasurer:	Andrew Churchill Stone	21 High Street, Culham	01235533011
Churchwarden:	vacancy		
Hon. Secretary:	vacancy		
<b>FRIENDS OF ST PAUL'S CHURCH</b>			
Chairman:	Philip Owen	6 The Green, Culham	01235 555223
<b>ST PAUL'S &amp; CULHAM VILLAGE RE-ORDERING COMMTEE</b>			
Philip Owen	<a href="mailto:stpaulsandculhamvillage@gmail.com">stpaulsandculhamvillage@gmail.com</a>	6 The Green, Culham	01235 555223
<b>LADIES OF CULHAM (LOC)</b>			
Laura Cooper	<a href="mailto:ladiesofculham@gmail.com">ladiesofculham@gmail.com</a>	Also Jenny Williams, Jo Oughtred	
<b>CULHAM POORS ALLOTMENT CHARITY</b>			
Hon Secretary	Gordon Gibbs	32 High Street, Culham	01235 523679
<b>POLICE</b>			
Neighbourhood Policing Team		Non-emergency Phone Number	101
<b>THE MOUTHPIECE</b>	<a href="mailto:generalmouthpiece@gmail.com">generalmouthpiece@gmail.com</a>		
Editors:	Anne Churchill Stone	21 High Street, Culham	01235 533011
	Gordon & Joan Gibbs	32 High Street, Culham	01235 523679
Advertising Manager:	vacancy		
	<a href="mailto:advertmouthpiece@gmail.com">advertmouthpiece@gmail.com</a>		
Distribution:	Laura & Mike Cooper	9 Tollgate Road, Culham	