

The Mouthpiece

Culham's Newsletter
September 2025



Dates for your Diary

Fri 5 Sept	6.15pm	Ladies of Culham – Cyanotype printing with Jo	9 Tollgate Road
Sun 7 Sept	11am	Holy Communion	St Paul's Church
Tues 9 Sept	7pm	The future of our church meeting (see notice inside The Mouthpiece)	St Paul's Church
Wed 10 Sept	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	Culham Pre-school/Nursery

Talking point by Revd Claire Wren

As I sit down to write this morning, the image my laptop has thrown up is one of three empty deck chairs on a pebbly beach, facing out to sea. And how I long to be there. The day is overcast; the slightly too brisk sea breeze is blowing my hair into my face. I know I won't stay in the deck chair for long, they are never as comfortable as they look and anyway, I've forgotten my book. I'll wander along the beach, stopping to examine an interesting rock or two. Flip flops are my footwear of choice and I am drawn to the shoreline, deliberately walking into the cool water, soothed by the repetitive crash and retreat of the waves. No day at the seaside is complete without chips, crispy and hot, I yearn for the delicious sting of salt and vinegar.

If, like me, you enjoy daydreaming, I invite you to intentionally include it in your weekly schedule. The verses I am drawn to as I start this new season of ministry in the Dorchester Team are words from the gospel of Matthew as they appear in The Message:

Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly.

I pray that we will all grow together in faith, love and unity in the coming years. And if you would like to join me in learning the 'unforced rhythms of grace', please get in touch.
Rev'd Claire Wren

Events in the Abbey

NEW! Season Tickets for OSJ Autumn/Winter 2025 Dorchester Abbey concerts

Available from 01 September 2025 @ 8:00 am - 15 November 2025 @ 5:00 pm

Season tickets for all six concerts at Dorchester Abbey September to December 2025. Offering a discount of 15% off the standard price for Front area (front pews and side chapel) and 20% off Middle area (pews). FRONTS £132 (discounted from £155) MIDDLE £106 (discounted from £125)
www.osj.org.uk/osj-concerts-at-dorchester-abbey/

Saturday 20 September 7:30pm – Thames Valley Festival Orchestra: An Evening of Symphonic Prog Rock

The Thames Valley Festival Orchestra returns to Dorchester Abbey to perform 'An Evening of Symphonic Prog Rock'. The 65 piece symphony orchestra will play Dee Palmer's symphonic arrangements of the music of Jethro Tull, Genesis, Pink Floyd, Yes and Queen. Adult £25 Under18 £15 www.Thamesvalleyfestivalorchestra.org // TVFOSept2025.eventbrite.co.uk

Sunday 21 September 7 – 9:30pm OSJ: Tchaikovsky

Igar Lux Aeterna for unaccompanied choir

Tchaikovsky Symphony no 5

Simon Proctor Concerto for sackbut and orchestra WORLD PREMIERE Emily White Sackbut

OSJ Voices

Orchestra of St John's Free tickets available for NHS workers and for the disabled. Please email admin@osj.org.uk Tickets www.osj.org.uk £15 - £25

TEAM EVENTS

The Confirmation Service will be held on Sunday 28th September at 10:30am at the Abbey. All are welcome to attend the service and support the candidates.

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



The future of our Church

Come along, hear our plans, share your thoughts, and see how you can get involved in shaping a church to serve our community

9th September 2025

7pm @ the Church

Everyone is welcome, we'd love to see you there!

We are at a moment in our Church story where village support is vital for the future of our church, and we would love to have you involved.

We will be hosting a space not to discuss the past, but to create a path toward the next stages of our church's life. We will be sharing where we as the church are at the moment, and plans for the future of the Church.

Culham Parish Council - July 11th 2025

Summary of Meeting

The meeting was attended by four councillors, the Parish Clerk, and Robin Jones. The meeting opened at 7:39PM.

Public Participation:

We received an update from a member of the Parish Church Council on the church reordering. Discussed setting up a working group to involve residents and arrange a meeting with representatives from both the PCC and PC. Gordon Gibbs agreed to head up the working group.

County and District Councillors Report

A summary of both reports was read out and discussed. Key points were discussing the 3 options for local government reorganisation, availability of grants and how to organise as a CPC for applications, drain clearance, concerns regarding the proposed new Thames bridge and how this will affect Culham bridge traffic.

Written reports are available on the Parish Council website.

General meeting:

Community Orchard – Diocese surveyor firm has written to the Diocese to recommend their agreement to planting trees in an unused area of The Glebe recreation ground.

Playground repairs – will be carried out this month

Waste bins – new dog waste & litter bins have been installed in the Burycroft but following feedback, councillors agree that they will need to be relocated further away from local residence.

Bollards – councillors resolved to approve the purchase of additional bollards at the end of the high street, to stop vehicles cutting the corner on the north side.

Flood planning and Drain clearance – following concerns from local residents and the potential support from county council, councillors proposed a working party to include residents – to be reviewed as part of the September CPC agenda

SESRO (Reservoir) – update briefing for Parish and Town Councillors.

CB had attended the recent consultation meeting held by Thames Water. The Thames Water map did not mark up Culham to show the impact of the proposed emergency discharge system.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15PM.

No meeting will be held in August. The next meeting of the PC is September 10th, 19:30 at Culham Pre School/Nursery

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:

4th July - perfume making with Gaynor

1st August - social walk

5th September - cyanotype printing with Jo

3rd October - sewing / sewing machines /
needle felting with Laura

7th November - board games

5th 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

SODC District Councillor's Report – August/September 2025

Cllr Sam Casey-Rerhaye – Sandford & Wittenhams ward

Community benefit from local renewables

Councillors in South Oxfordshire have called for developers of renewable energy schemes to share benefits with the local communities that host them.

“New renewable energy infrastructure has the opportunity to contribute positively to the well-being and prosperity of local residents in the communities hosting projects” said Green Party Councillor Ali Gordon-Creed. “There is a great opportunity to deliver for climate and nature, and for our residents, if we get this right.”

A Motion put to the Council by Cllr Gordon-Creed was passed at the full Council meeting on 17th July and called on the Councils to write to Government on the matter, and to pledge to work with partners and developers to promote maximising opportunities for benefits to communities. Community-owned Westmill wind and solar farms, for example, have an open access approach to land, have events and guided visits, educational resources and an annual funding program granting around £40,000 each year to local projects.

New Administration, opposition and Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

South Oxfordshire District Council continues to deliver on the priorities set by the Green and Libdem partnership, despite the Libdems pulling out of the partnership last May I am pleased to say, and with the reorganisation of local councils still taking up a substantial amount of officers' time, I and my fellow 7 Green councillors as the main opposition will be ensuring that we hold them to account on these priorities for the next two years.

It is clear however, that LGR will have a profound impact on how much the council can deliver outside of the statutory minimum for residents because so much time and effort will be required for this extensive change in how local government functions.

For information on the three current proposals for how any unitary councils could be arranged in Oxfordshire you can look at the new websites created:

[Our Proposal | Greater Oxford](#)

[Interim proposal | Oxfordshire County Council](#)

[Home - Two Councils](#)

Increase to the Revenue Grant pot

I am glad to say that supporting communities is still top of the agenda, and it is good news for community organisations in South Oxfordshire that the Revenue Grant pot has been increased by over half a million pounds.

The additional funding for the 2025–2027 Revenue Grant recipients was approved by South Oxfordshire District Council following a full council meeting on 17 July.

Didcot 'Gateway' Council Offices

You may have seen recent news articles on the [Didcot Gateway development](#).

The Cabinet of SODC decided not to further progress the council office building project at opposite the railway station on the land now currently used as a car park in light of the government's plans to reorganise local authorities.

While I expected the project to be put on hold, I was surprised to hear they had cancelled the project entirely. That part of Didcot is an eyesore, and one of the advantages of the office project was to transform the area to make it far more welcoming and attractive. Now, although the site has planning permission for the office building, the site will remain as a car park for at least two years and, despite having planning permission for offices, its future is uncertain. This is far from satisfactory, and inconsistent with Didcot Garden Town renovation aims.

I am, however, glad that a green light has been given for £10 million of funds that had originally been earmarked for the new building to be reallocated to buy new social housing, at least a

decision in line with the Green/Libdem policies we made when the partnership between our two parties was still in administration.

Also, the £2.2 million cost of Didcot Gateway which was quoted recently on the BBC included the demolition costs of the old offices in Crowmarsh. Further details [are available in the report here.](#)

Councillor Community Grants

The grant scheme launches on Monday 18 August and is open to not-for-profit community organisations whose primary purpose is to benefit the residents of South Oxfordshire this includes town and parish councils.

Organisations can apply for grants from £250 up to a maximum of £7,500 from each councillor (budget permitting). For wards with multiple councillors, applications may be considered by all ward members together to determine funding, and organisations can apply to multiple councillors/ wards should their project benefit a wider area.

More details about the grant can be found on the [South Oxfordshire District Council website.](#)

SESRO: Thames Water's Mega-Reservoir Plans

Please see the [South East Strategic Reservoir Option \(SESRO\) Project update](#) from Thames Water. This is a huge infrastructure project for our area. There is a new website setting out what the campaign group, GARD, think needs to be done instead, and challenges Thames Water's claims: [Group Against Reservoir Development | GARD](#)

They campaign for a 'smarter, sustainable water strategy in the South East that ensures resilience against population growth, climate change, and drought.' Given the state Thames Water is in as a company, there is little confidence in claims they make about water security and sustainability.

It was announced last week that the Judicial Review against the Secretary of State's decision to approve Thames Water's Water Resource Management Plan which formally established the need for the South East Strategic Reservoir Option was dismissed. This does not mean that the reservoir, due to be located between Abingdon, Steventon and East Hanney, will definitely proceed - but removes one of the major obstacles to it. The outflow from the enormous proposed reservoir is due to rejoin the Thames at Culham. If built, the reservoir would take years to construct and would be owned by a separate company set up specially for the purpose, rather than directly by Thames Water. It would be the 2nd largest reservoir in the UK.

Our water stress problems cannot be solved by fixing leaks alone but far more needs to be done in that department for people to start having more confidence in the water company that has a monopoly here; and it is difficult to support a huge project like this that is more about raising revenue for a failing company than providing clean water for people. It is a salutary reminder that the purpose of Thames Water (and all the privatised water monopolies) is not to provide clean water and treat wastewater, but to make money for its shareholders.

More reservoirs are undoubtedly needed, but not on this scale and not created by this failing company.

South Oxfordshire Charitable Lottery

From rescuing animals to supporting outdoor learning for children, eight local charities and community groups across South Oxfordshire have received a total of £7,000 in unrestricted funding thanks to the SO Charitable Lottery.

Funds support groups including The Oxfordshire Animal Sanctuary, who provide vital care for animals, and Friends of Ewelme School, who help children benefit from weekly Forest School sessions.

See our website www.southoxon.gov.uk/lottery for more information or look out for the social media posts.

For any support or queries please email me: sam.casey-rerhaye@southoxon.gov.uk

County Councillor's Report July/August 2025

Cllr Robin Jones (Berinsfield & Garsington Division)

Email: robin.jones@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Mob: +44 7916 293681

Road Resurfacing: A comprehensive programme of resurfacing work to improve roads across Oxfordshire is taking place with 111,000 square metres of roads being addressed. Oxfordshire County Council and its principal highways contractor M Group will visit 36 sites to carry out essential resurfacing. Work started at the end of June 2025 and is scheduled to run until 17 October 2025. More information at <https://news.oxfordshire.gov.uk/latest-road-resurfacing-programme/>

A4074 policing: Thames Valley Police (TVP) were out on Sunday 13th July with Inspectors and Chief Inspectors on the A4074 (finally!) tackling the speeding and dangerous driving issues we are all too aware of locally. Drones were used and several fines for speeding and dangerous driving were issued. The CEO of Oxfordshire County Council is visiting on 8th Sept (see item below) and I'll be introducing him and his officers to the problem then.

Climate Emergency UK: This organisation monitors the performance of the country's councils and full results can be seen at <https://councilclimatescorecards.uk/scoring/country/>. Oxfordshire County Council is currently in first place with a 65% rating across all the criteria, the average score for councils being 40%

Local Government reorganisation: In light of the Labour government's initiative to re-order local government into unitary or combined authorities the three different proposals for Oxfordshire are summarised here <https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/local-government-reorganisation>

Drain clearing: OCC has committed to cleaning every roadside gully, drain and manhole every year for the duration of the current term. <https://news.oxfordshire.gov.uk/every-roadside-drainage-gully-to-be-cleaned-this-year/>

Encouraging active travel and reducing congestion: Living Streets, the charity for everyday walking, is encouraging parents to swap the school run for an active travel journey, with children self reporting how they get to school each day. All they have to do to join is either complete a simple online form or email: walktoschool@livingstreets.org.uk.

Additional funding to tackle serious violence in Thames Valley: Matthew Barber (Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner) has awarded £1.8m of Home Office funding to help tackle serious crime in the Thames Valley.

LOCAL QUESTIONS TO FULL COUNCIL (8th July):

At last full council I managed to ask Andrew Gant what mitigations and measurements would be put in place for the river crossings at Culham and Clifton Hampden river crossings in light of the induced traffic demand created by the HIF1 Road Scheme. We were assured of full disclosure and attention to this matter. Full written response available from me at email above.

Please contact me (details at top) if you wish me to raise any questions on your behalf. Questions for the September Full Council need to be submitted by the end of August (to me). The next Full Council meeting is on Tuesday 9th September

CURRENT CONSULTATIONS:

Congestion Charge (Oxford): With the Botley Road still closed, it has been suggested that a temporary Congestion Charge is put in place to reduce traffic and pollution in Oxford and to enable the public services to run on time. This will then morph into the previously agreed filter system once Network Rail have finished the repairs on the Botley Road. 7,165 responses to the six week public consultation survey were received and proposals have now been amended to address some of those concerns, such as around impact on local businesses, the scheme's

effectiveness and fairness. There are now recommendations to provide free park and ride journeys, additional permits etc., which will be reviewed by the council's Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 27 August and discussed by Cabinet on 10 September.

PARISH NEWS

Reminder: the OCC CEO will be visiting our area (as well as Wallingford and Benson/Crowmarsh) on the 8th September (along with two other senior officers). A Monday has been chosen to demonstrate the sheer volume of speeding traffic associated with the H Café. We will be collectively creating an agenda to cover the major issues in each of the parishes.

Please refer to

<https://fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk/around?lat=51.61533&lon=-1.1089&js=1&zoom=1>

for all Fix My Street queries in your area.

Message from your MP Olly Glover

Over the summer, I have enjoyed visiting many local organisations and speaking to residents in some of the villages across our constituency.

I was very pleased with the attendance at my summer surgeries in Sutton Courtenay, Uffington, Stanford in the Vale, Moulsoford, Blewbury, Didcot, Clifton Hampden, and Letcombe Regis: thank you to everybody who took the time to come and discuss a huge range of topics and concerns.

Alongside summer surgeries, I visited places I have been meaning to for some time and see a wide range of the activities that take place in our local area. I saw the scientific progress being made on Harwell Campus: from exciting startups like Astron Systems, Oxford Dynamics, and Space Solar, to local outposts of major organisations like the UK Space Agency.

I spent an eye-opening shift with Thames Valley Police, saw the work happening to renovate the Wantage Community Hospital, and met representatives from the NHS regional Integrated Care Board to push for progress on the new GP Surgery at Great Western Park, as key to further progress lies with the regional NHS. Be it championing greater support for community policing or new primary care capabilities to keep up with local housing growth, there is still much for me and others to do to support our public sector and address the pressures they face.

Still, there has been time to appreciate the best of our area in the summer sunshine. I was very grateful to drop in on Truck Festival, to hear about the fantastic ways they combine charity and welfare commitments with putting on a good time. I narrowly avoided a game of 'sponge the MP' at TRAIN's Didcot Youthfest, where young people were connected with vital projects to support their wellbeing. There was even a moment to hone my farming skills with a combine harvester ride amongst the early August showers.

Parliament resumes in September, and I look forward to representing there with renewed energy, and to keep working on your behalf.

As always, if there is anything you feel I can help you with please do not hesitate to contact me and my team at olly.glover.mp@parliament.uk, or leaving a voice message 0207 219 7657.

Olly

Olly Glover, MP for Didcot and Wantage Constituency



Other News

**Volunteers
needed!
Next prep course
starts Tuesday
23 September**

**HOME
START**
Southern
Oxfordshire

**Looking for a new challenge this September?
Would you like to support families in your community?**

Become a Home-Start Home-Visiting Volunteer this autumn and support a family through difficult times.

- Receive free, high-quality training
- Learn new skills & enhance your wellbeing
- Change the lives of the families you support
- Make friends & connect with your community

**We have strong demand from families in
Abingdon and the surrounding villages
and need local volunteers to help them!**

If you can spare a couple of hours each week to support a parent and their children, please contact us on:

admin@homestartso.org or 01235 511152
www.homestart-southernoxfordshire.org.uk/volunteer

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

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
Or 01869 331081



September News – Rivers & Flooding

Evenlode Catchment Partnership - "Restoring the Evenlode catchment for the benefit of all"

The Evenlode Catchment Partnership (ECP) is a dynamic collaboration of over 20 organisations and countless individuals, united by a shared commitment to improving the water environments within the Evenlode catchment which covers the northwest of Oxfordshire. Since our establishment in 2014, the ECP has been dedicated to enhancing water quality, improving flood management, enriching biodiversity, and fostering greater community engagement with our rivers.

Wild Oxfordshire hosts the ECP and leads the natural flood management (NFM), river restoration and wetland creation projects. Changes in land management and river engineering have had a big impact on our wildlife and biodiversity. Natural flood meadow habitat is rare in the Evenlode catchment due to changes to arable farming and past dredging activities, whilst weirs and other barriers block the passage of fish and reduce their access to spawning grounds.

As temperatures rise with climate change in the UK, extreme rainfall days are likely to increase. Recent large-scale flood events in the Cotswolds hit the national headlines, but behind the scenes the ECP delivered one of the first effective lowland NFM projects, demonstrating that NFM on a landscape scale works! Following Storm Bert (Nov 2024) our NFM interventions prevented flooding for all 12 homes at risk in Milton-under-Wychwood.

Field corner bunds in action

In 2018, natural flood management measures were installed on a farm above Milton-under-Wychwood to reduce flood risk in the village below. The first photo shows a group of people standing in the bottom of a field bund on 24th October 2024.



The second photo shows the same field bund in action on 25th November 2024, following Storm Bert. The water is around 2m deep at its maximum and the bund is holding back around 1700m³ flood water. On this occasion, the houses along the Littlestock Brook in Milton-under-Wychwood did not flood.



Through regular monitoring of our NFM scheme on the Littlestock Brook, it has been thrilling to learn that not only does this project reduce flooding, but it brings multiple benefits including increased biodiversity.

Landowners can also help by increasing the organic matter in their soil which will increase the capacity of the soil to retain water. Many of the landowners along the floodplain are now reverting their arable fields to grass. This will have multiple benefits including sequestering carbon, reducing erosion of soils and keeping nutrients on farms.

The ECP's work has gained recognition for its impact, with coverage in outlets such as *New Scientist* on our water quality citizen science work. We have used our river restoration and natural flood management projects as models for learning and best practice. Together, we are making a lasting difference to the health of the Evenlode's rivers and the communities that depend on them.



Cornwell Estate river restoration.

Our mission is to create a thriving, sustainable water environment that benefits both wildlife and local communities. Find out more by watching our videos and exploring our website at www.evenlodecatchment.org.uk

Ann Berkeley, Evenlode Catchment Partnership Project Manager

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

The most common crime

I often ask what is the most common crime locally, and people are generally surprised when I say that it is domestic abuse. Around a fifth of the jobs a police officer will have during a shift could be some form of domestic abuse, and it is a crime that exists in every community, urban and rural.

No one should live in fear at home. That's why our officers are working tirelessly every day to protect victims, bring offenders to justice, and raise awareness about the support available.

Domestic abuse isn't just physical—it can be emotional, financial, sexual, or controlling behaviour. It can be incredibly hard to reach out, which is why we've made it easier than ever to get help safely and discreetly.

Our specially trained domestic abuse teams offer a compassionate and confidential service. We work closely with local partners, such as victim support charities, housing services, and healthcare providers, to ensure people can access the right help at the right time.

If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic abuse, you are not alone. You can contact us at any time by calling 101—or 999 in an emergency. If speaking isn't safe, you can press 55 when prompted after calling 999 (this is known as the "Silent Solution"). The call handler will do everything they can to determine your location so they can deploy officers to you; if you can say one thing, please say your address. You can also report online at thamesvalley.police.uk.

Support for victims is vital, not just to help them through the criminal justice process, but often in managing that first big step or asking for help. Victims First is the victims service run by my office that provides free support for anyone who has been a victim of crime in Thames Valley.

Our friendly Victims First Officers will talk to you about any emotional or practical needs you may have, and then will help you access help and support. They may offer to refer you to specialist local organisations who have experience in supporting those who have experienced abuse, but no referrals will be made without your consent.

You are welcome to contact Victims First to access support if you have reported the Domestic Abuse to the police, or if you have not made contact with the police at all. Simply call 0300 1234 148 or visit victims-first.org.uk



Remembrances of War exhibition features art by Paul Joyce, possibly the last remaining artist with first-hand memories of the Second World War



- **New art exhibition at Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum is on display from the 13th September to 18th November 2025**
- **Painter, photographer and filmmaker Paul Joyce's artwork is held in a number of prominent private and public collections, including The V&A, The National Portrait Gallery, The Tate Gallery, and the National Museum of Wales.**
- **His striking work includes paintings from his own childhood memories of the war, imagination, and reality.**

Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum, the county's military museum based in Woodstock, will soon open a new exhibition of artwork by Paul Joyce. Remembrances of War will open from 13 September to 18 November 2025.

Joyce was born in 1940, under the shadow of the Second World War even before his birth: while heavily pregnant, his mother was pursued across a field in Whitchurch by machine gun fire from a German plane.

His work bears this legacy, mixing childhood memories of playing amid the rubble of a bombed-out Crystal Palace with the received cultural memories of a city, nation, and world nearly destroyed. The paintings in the collection reflect this interplay between first-hand and received experience: paintings of the smouldering detritus of South London sit alongside imagined scenes of the destruction at Hiroshima and elsewhere across Europe.

Paul explains, 'My first thoughts on beginning the series were to paint exactly what I remembered, but then I began to throw the net wider, and included London images which I had not personally experienced, as for the length of the war I was based in Hampshire.'

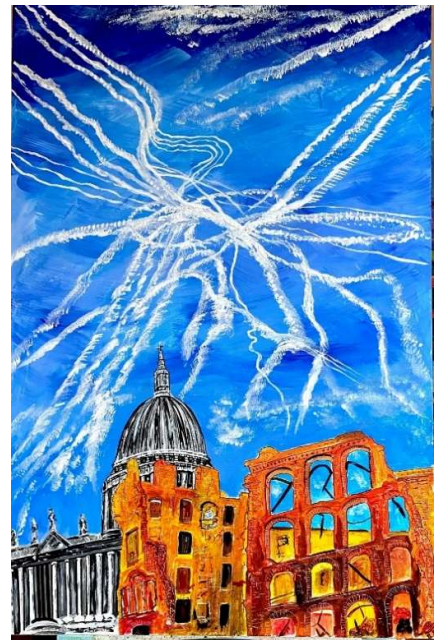
A frequent theme is the absurd power of war to fuse the apocalyptic and banal: in his work, Bovril and beans clash with bombs, a German fighter plane lies amid the haystacks of the English countryside in an 'Unusual Harvest', and the Tower of London crouches beneath barrage balloons.

Joyce says, 'I think I must be one of the last artists born during WW2 still painting the conflict as a subject. As a painter I find myself returning to a project I started some years ago, representing some of my recollections of the war.'

He cites Paul Nash and Eric Ravilious as influences, with the juxtaposition of pastoral scenes and military elements characterising this exhibition, but with striking, dramatic colours. His paintings are devoid of people, populated instead by planes, objects and the built environment, but they still speak of the people of the apocalyptic landscapes he paints.

Remembrances of War sets Joyce's paintings alongside artefacts from Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museums collection which explore how everyday people rationalise and live through extraordinary events and conflicts.

The exhibition welcomes visitors of all ages, with special activities and interactive experiences for children, including a reconstructed 1940s bedroom, and arts and crafts areas. Entry to the exhibition includes entry to the other galleries, including an immersive Anderson Shelter and First World War Trench, the permanent exhibits, and the temporary exhibition *Life Lines*, exploring the liberation of Bergen-Belsen through community art projects focusing on the power of acts of kindness.



The Museum is holding a raffle where visitors can enter for the chance to win ones of the paintings in the exhibition; tickets cost £5, and winners will be announced on 2 December 2025.

Paul Joyce: Remembrances of War is on display at the Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock from 13th September 2025 to 18th November 2025. The Museum is open Tuesday to Saturday 11am to 5pm, and Sunday 2pm to 5pm.

Community flood projects share £500,000 of funding

Read the story on the [Oxfordshire County Council website](#) or below:

Grants totalling over half a million pounds are being awarded to help fund nearly 40 schemes to reduce flooding in Oxfordshire.

Oxfordshire County Council received more than 80 applications for its priority action grants earlier this year from groups and organisations working to make their communities more resilient to flooding.



Following an assessment process, 39 schemes are being supported with grants of up to £25,000, subject to confirmation.

Locations include Abingdon, Bicester, Witney, Oxford, Chinnor, Wheatley, Culham, Bucknell, Clifton Hampden, Sunningwell, Hook Norton, Waterstock, Yarnton, Wendlebury, Adderbury, Bloxham, East Hanney, West Hanney, Kidlington, Little Milton, Kelmscott and Bampton.

Councillor Judy Roberts Oxfordshire County Council's Cabinet Member for Place, Environment and Climate Action, said: "The quality of submissions was extremely high, and we would have supported almost all the projects if we had enough money to do so.

“It is fantastic that these groups are so committed to improving the situation where they live. When it comes to knowing what is needed to tackle flooding in a particular area, local communities are often the experts.

“This grant scheme is now in its second year and is a part of our drive to help residents take effective action to tackle flooding and extreme weather, which is being exacerbated by climate change.”

Last year’s inaugural grant scheme handed out £250,000 for communities to deliver small scale work themselves to reduce flooding from surface water run-off, ordinary watercourses and groundwater.

Among this year’s recipients are the city and district councils, parish and town councils, schools, wildlife organisations, the National Trust and residents’ flood groups.

Projects include surface drainage improvements; natural flood management schemes; ditch clearances and ditch construction; culvert inspections; water pumps; track repairs to reduce surface water flooding; the installation of timber dams; and flood sensors.

The funding will also pay for surveys, scoping workshops, information booklets, flood response kits and flood resilience mapping.

The Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust (BBOWT) is to receive two grants to carry out natural flood management and other work – one at Carswell Marsh and another at Little Milton, in association with Little Milton Parish Council.

Discussing the Little Milton project, **Daniel Akam, BBOWT’s Senior Reserves Officer, said:** “Like many watercourses, the Hasley Brook has been altered historically to drain agricultural land more efficiently. The speed that the water now flows off the land has contributed to flooding downstream in Little Milton, particularly during extreme weather events, which are now becoming much more common.

“Here at Wells Farm, much of the brook flows through woodland in a natural way and is allowed to spill over, making the woodland wet. This already helps slow and store the water on the nature reserve and is of great benefit to the local wildlife.

“The funding will allow us to naturalise another section that was historically canalised and deepened. We plan to achieve this by regrading sections of the steep canalised banks, allowing the water to spill over at times of high water; creating natural permeable log dam features; and raising the bed level of the brook by creating gravel riffles, reconnecting the channel with the flood plain.

“We also hope to create a new backwater which will connect to the brook in times of flood, providing even more places for the water to be stored. All of this will help slow down and store water naturally, at the same time improving the habitats found at Wells Farm and the health of the Hasley Brook.”

Issues related to flooding have been brought to parish councillors recently and we will be discussing further details in the September meeting. Culham Parish Council is keen to hear from residents, to understand what issues they are facing. Please contact via email, WhatsApp or in person if you have experienced flooding issues. In conjunction with residents, the PC will review what actions can be taken to use the support on offer from the county council.

The Mouthpiece

Please note that any opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the editors. We accept contributions and advertisements in good faith and cannot be responsible for errors therein.

Please send contributions for the October 2025 issue of The Mouthpiece by **September 15th** to:
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



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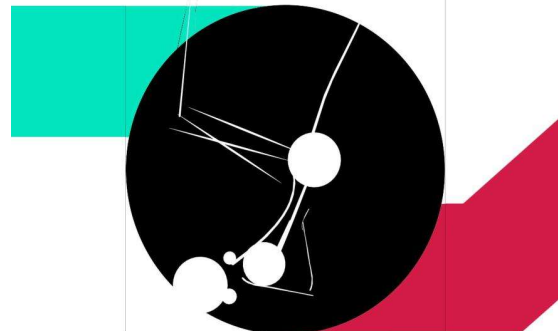
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Mike Richmond-Cooper	m.richmondcooper@culham-pc.gov.uk		
Siobhan Sargeant	s.sergeant@culham-pc.gov.uk	(Yes – the email is misspelled!)	
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Ordained Local Minister	Revd. David Haylett	familyhaylett@yahoo.com	01865 407382
Hon. Treasurer:	Andrew Churchill Stone	21 High Street, Culham	01235533011
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Chairman:	Philip Owen	6 The Green, Culham	01235 555223
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LADIES OF CULHAM (LOC)			
Laura Cooper	ladiesofculham@gmail.com	Also Jenny Williams, Jo Oughtred	
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