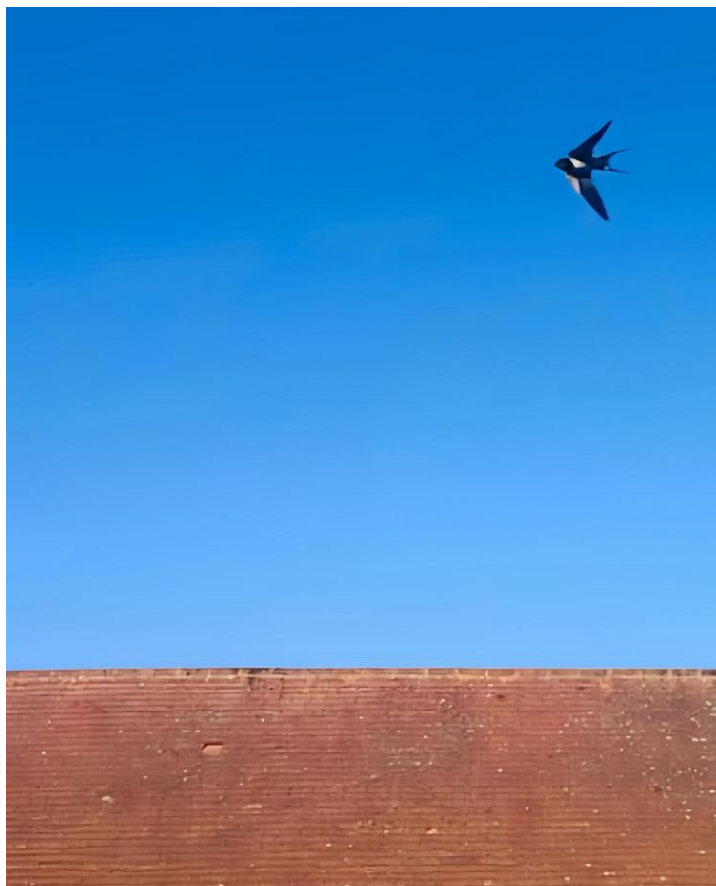


The Mouthpiece

Culham's Newsletter

June 2026



Barn Swallow over Manor Farm Barns

(Courtesy of Mark Unwin)

Dates for your Diary

Fri 5 th June	7.30pm	Ladies of Culham - printing	St Paul's Church
Wed 10 th June	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	Culham Nursery & Pre-School

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.

Talking Point by Revd Canon Rachel Carnegie



Our summer in Dorchester started in great style with the Festival. Once again there was so much to relish, whatever our age or interests – or indeed species, as dogs had opportunities for fun too and birds singing in the meadows were star performers.

An excellent offering for everybody: musical delights of every genre; art to inspire; art to create; family fun, with a marathon chicken, a Calendar Girl entrant in the duck race, and the Rector walking on custard. It was uplifting to experience all this as part of the Abbey and community vision for hospitality and outreach through the arts. Woven through this was the spiritual life of the Abbey, with special worship, poetry, biblical portraits, and community art.

The Dorchester Festival gave us in the village and many hundreds of visitors an amazing programme over ten days. Warmest appreciation and thanks to Steph and Nick Forman for their outstanding commitment in creating the Festival, and to the dozens of people from across the community who help deliver the events.

Amidst all this rich reflection and joyous entertainment, the Festival has raised much valued funds for the Abbey and its festival partner, 'Be Free Young Carers'. This inspiring organisation supports over 700 children and young people across Oxfordshire who care for a family member with illness, disability, mental health, or addiction. It is a reminder of the extra and hidden challenges that many children and young people face, but that we may not initially see.

Those brave individuals abseiling down the Abbey tower raised valuable funds towards this cause. At this time of conflict around the world and anxiety and tension in our own country, we all need to find time to restore ourselves, to connect with the good, fun and beautiful things in life, such as the Festival, to help us to be more resilient to life's shocks and stresses.

On the Festival nighttime tree walk, we stood in darkness by the Thame amongst towering, shimmering poplars and looked back at the illuminated east window of the Abbey (see the photo). It was a profound moment, standing on the river bank where perhaps King Cynegils was baptized by St Birinus, where monks had served and people have prayed, and where, centuries later, the community still comes together to love and serve God, one another, and our world.

Standing under the poplars, we read a poem by Mary Oliver: When I am among Trees.

Around me the trees stir in their leaves
and call out, "Stay awhile."
The light flows from their branches.
And they call again, "It's simple," they say,
"and you too have come into the world to do this,
to go easy, to be filled with light, and to shine."

So, with the glorious activity of the Festival over for this year, we remain in this beautiful place, with the Abbey at its heart, with people of kindness around us, and a precious natural environment to treasure. Jesus said that he came that we might have life and have it in all its fullness (John 10.10). This abundant life, this gift from God, fills us with light that we can also reflect out into the world. There is so much for which to give thanks.

Every blessing, Rachel

Team News

DORCHESTER ABBEY Sunday 28th June



8.00am Holy Communion
A simple and service in the traditional words of the Book of Common Prayer

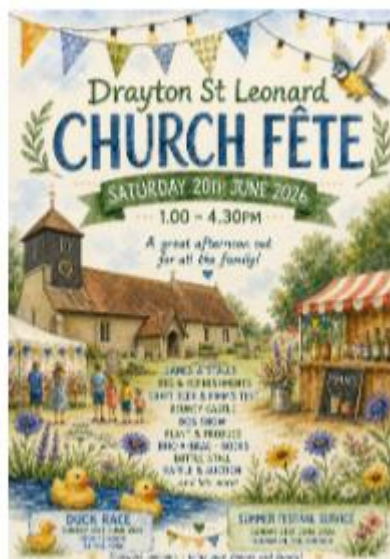
10.30am The Ordination of Priests
The service will include Holy Communion and will be conducted by
the Bishop of Dorchester, the Rt Revd Owen Collins,
President, the Revd Dr Robert Hoare, Principle of Wiles Hall, Corsham

Everybody's welcome

DORCHESTER TEAM



Service of Licensing for the
Revd Lisa Morgan
as Team Vicar in the Dorchester Team
11th June 2026 at 7.30pm
Dorchester Abbey



ABBEY EVENTS

Sunday 07 June, 7pm. Langtree Sinfonia

Gilbert & Sullivan: Overture - The Pirates of Penzance. Hubert Parry: Symphony No. 3 in C major: The English. Elgar: Cello Concerto with celebrated Soloist: Ellen Baumring-Gledhill, finalist in the string section of BBC Young Musician of the year 2020 and Postgraduate at the Royal Academy of Music. Tickets langtreesinfonia.co.uk // or on the Door // £15 / Students £7.50 / Under 16s Free

Saturday 13 June, 7pm Orchestra of St John's

ENGLAND AND EMPIRE with RAPHAEL WALLFISCH Cello. VW's Symphony No 5 is a serene and contemplative work, often called the "Celestial City", completed in 1943 during World War II, which offers a pastoral and mysterious sound world that contrasts with the previous Fourth Symphony. Walton's Crown Imperial, a grand orchestral march from the 1937 coronation of King George VI, is a staple of British state occasions. Elgar's Cello Concerto is a deeply personal and elegiac work written after World War I, in contrast with his earlier, more bombastic style.

Tickets £17.50 - £30 www.osj.org.uk

Saturday 20 June, 7:30pm Benson Choral Society

Acis & Galatea – A charming summer romp.

Handel's gem of a mini-opera or masque, Acis and Galatea, is a simple tale of Acis, a shepherd, and Galatea, a sea nymph. It was Handel's most popular stage work in his lifetime. The story is derived from Ovid's Metamorphoses, and it has a fine libretto by John Gay and Alexander Pope. There are many memorable moments, which include Polyphemus' great aria 'O ruddier than the cherry'. Soloists: Anastasia Bevan, Dominic Bevan. William Searle and Ben Davies (who has sung with the Sixteen) and authentic baroque orchestra a return of the Instruments of Time and Truth, all under the watchful baton of Tom Neal.

Tickets www.bensonchoralsociety.org.uk £20 reserved or £17 unreserved

For Full Up to Date Event Listings & All Ticket Links Please Visit Our Event Pages

www.dorchester-abbey.org.uk/whats-on and follow Dorchester Abbey on Facebook & X

Village News

Village website: www.culhamvillage.org.uk

Summary of Culham Annual Parish Council Meeting Held on Wed 13th May 2026

Chris Pritchard was re-elected as Chair until May 2027, when he would step down from the role. The annual meeting of the PC took place immediately before the village meeting. This meeting covered annual governance tasks for resolution by Councillors (policies and procedures) The Annual Governance Accountability Return - 25-26 was approved by Councillors and signed by the Chair. This will then be forwarded to the External Auditor - Moore.

The Annual Community Meeting took place from 6.30pm.

Chris Pritchard gave an overview of the work carried out by Culham PC during the year.

This included - the installation of Speed Indicator Devices, data showed that traffic speeds had generally reduced.

Discussions and initial plans for the village pavilion had been provided by LAPD architects and feedback from residents was welcomed later in the meeting.

Siobhan Sergeant gave an update on environmental improvements. Additional trees would be purchased and planted during October and volunteers to help with the planting would be very helpful. Siobhan encouraged all to work together to preserve and support nature and the environment. Siobhan explained that the young trees needed support and bracing until they further matured and it is important not to remove the supports when the trees are young.

Regular tree surveys by a fully qualified arboriculturalist had been arranged with the first survey due to take place in June.

Nacho Gimenez gave an update regarding grounds maintenance and footpaths - Grass cutting tenders are submitted each year during December. Drewe Landscaping had been selected for the second year. Nacho encouraged all to let him or the Clerk know if there are any concerns or areas which may still require maintenance.

Planning and Development - Caroline Baird.

Caroline gave a brief update with regard to the White Horse Reservoir and explained the concerns of the Parish Council.

The Chair thanked Caroline for her diligence in reviewing planning applications and consultations.

Mike Cooper - Community Space and Assets - The community building/pavilion - a feasibility study is underway and a local architect has been engaged to provide preliminary proposals. All residents are encouraged to give feedback.

Waste bins - residents voiced some concerns regarding overflowing waste and dog bins and locations. The clerk would add to the next agenda for councillors to review.

Marianne gave an update on the Ladies' of Culham activities during the year.
Sam Casey-Rerhaye gave a general update on the District Council.

Andrew Churchill Stone spoke about St Paul's Parochial church council, being without a vicar and the ongoing desire for re-ordering.

Ladies of Culham Next Dates:

- 6th February - Pot luck dinner
- 6th March - singing (Anne)
- 10th April - paper flowers (Jo)
- 1st May - perfume making (Gaynor)
- 5th June - printing (Marianne)
- 3rd July - dyeing (Jo/Laura)
- 7th August - walk & social
- 4th September - decoupage (Marianne)
- 2nd October - McMillan Event / tiramisu
(Melody)
- 6th November - pub quiz (Laura)
- 4th December - wreath making

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

End of an Era

Thames lock keeper in Culham retires after 60 years of service

Following on from May's article, here is a tribute to Tony from Maria Herlihy, Waterways Manager for the Thames, on behalf of the Environment Agency:

"Tony Wright's retirement marks the end of an extraordinary 60 years of service on the River Thames. Joining the river under the Thames Conservancy in 1966, Tony's career has spanned every stage of modern river management, from Thames Water and the National Rivers Authority through to the Environment Agency.

Tony's depth of knowledge, commitment to safety, and willingness to support colleagues have shaped generations of river operations. He has trained countless staff, provided calm leadership in all conditions, and remained a trusted and respected figure across the Thames throughout his career.

Tony leaves behind a remarkable legacy and will be greatly missed. We thank him for his exceptional service and wish him every happiness in a long and well-deserved retirement."



District Councillor, Sam Casey-Rerhaye Annual Report 2025-26

There have been some major changes in the governance of the District Council. Last May, the Libdem group decided to govern as a single group and end the 5 year partnership with the Green Party group. This was, however, after the 4-year Council Plan ('The Way Ahead') that I led when Cabinet member, was agreed and which the Libdem group are still using – so you could say the Green influence will be felt for the last few years of this council even if we are no longer in the Cabinet.

The political leader, Cllr David Rouane (LD) stepped down and the new leader is Cllr Maggie Filipova-Rivers (LD). The Chief Executive, Mark Stone, left, and the deputy, Adrianna Partridge has been appointed as the new Chief Executive. The head of planning, Adrian Duffield, retired after more than 25 years at this District council, and the new head, Jeni Jackson (now called Director of Planning) has just been appointed and will start in July.

I have been chairing **the Scrutiny committee** which is the statutory committee that challenges the governing Cabinet and holds them to their stated policies and strategy, as part of the 'opposition'. This year the committee has examined the annual delivery plan for the council's overall activities, the housing strategy and temporary accommodation policies, the new waste strategy and site, the new strategy for Cornerstone and the budget and financial out turn for the council. We continue to challenge the Cabinet on keeping to their commitments to adhere to the ethical financial policy, ensure services are available equally across the District and that key issues for the District, like flooding, are high on their agenda.

As part of the Green group I challenged **the budget put forward for next year**, adding amendments for more grant monies for nature projects and for small housing groups such as Community Land Trusts to develop projects. These were accepted. Other amendments for an expanded enforcement team and an expanded conservation area team in planning were rejected by the LD cabinet, unfortunately. We also

pressed the Libdems to acquire more electric waste vehicles rather than all diesel, but again this was rejected for reasons that weren't entirely clear.

I put **a motion to the Council** with Cllr Barlow, that was passed unanimously, asking the Leader of the Council to write to the Minister about the SESRO Thames Water reservoir proposal and the lack of emergency plans. The current proposal does not include an emergency plan in the event that the reservoir needs to be emptied urgently – this would cause catastrophic flooding across South Oxfordshire. We are horrified that this is not a requirement before the reservoir is agreed when so many homes and land are at risk.

I had £7,500 allocated for **councillor community projects** this year (a 50% increase instigated by the LD/Green partnership) and it was very oversubscribed! These grants are always important for communities and this year I was delighted to support more play equipment in Nuneham Courtenay, furniture for Long Wittenham pre-school, bench repair in Clifton Hampden Rec, and a contribution to a reading programme to improve the reading skills for children in the ward. Other applications, for example for solar panels for a community area, and a generator for a village hall, I hope will be eligible for other grants available at the Council.

A lot of time and effort has been spent by councillors and Council officers on **the Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) proposals**. A proposal was put forward by South Oxfordshire for two unitary councils in Oxfordshire and W Berkshire. I support this, being the most sensible size for economies of scale but also small enough to be near local communities. The focus on LGR has meant that some of the ambitions we as the Green councillors had to use some of the council reserves on land purchase for a nature park can no longer go ahead because of government regulations. This is very disappointing. It is also disappointing that so much of the energy and time of the council has to be put into these proposals. This feels to me like a low priority when so many other things are needed in the country.

The long-running saga of the **Joint Local Plan 2041** has continued over the past year, with interventions from the Planning Inspectorate and the housing minister, first pausing progress on the examination and then restarting it in February 2026. This has been taking place against the backdrop of new national planning legislation, a new planning policy framework (December 2024) and a consultation on a completely new framework which closed on 10th March. We expect part 2 of the inquiry on the plan to take place over the summer, which would enable us to adopt the new plan in early 2027.

A few recent updates for May/June 2026

Help towards the high price of heating oil

The South and Vale Community Hub are currently supporting residents who are struggling to afford household oil heating costs - which includes financial support available through the Oxfordshire Crisis Support Scheme.

Please help to spread the word about the scheme. You can find more information on the [Oxfordshire Crisis Support Scheme | Oxfordshire County Council](#)

Waste Survey Live

The Waste team at the Council have launched their latest survey to find out what residents think about their waste collection, street cleaning services and waste reduction initiatives.

Last year, more than 2,100 people took part in the 2025 survey with more than 81 percent of respondents indicating they were satisfied or very satisfied with the waste collection service.

Residents are encouraged to complete the 2026 survey by visiting – southandvale.gov.uk/WasteSurvey Comments are open until 4 June.

If anyone has questions or requires the survey in an alternative format (for example large print, Braille, audio, email, Easy Read and alternative languages) they should email waste.team@southandvale.gov.uk or call 01235 422146.

As a result of the feedback from last year's survey, staff received extra training to help ensure bins are returned correctly after emptying, further checks were put in place around litter bin emptying and measures

put in place ensure street cleaning standards across the area are maintained. There has also been increased communication on which items go in which bin, especially around food waste.

New Waste Vehicle Depot

The Council is currently working on a long-term vehicle depot at the former Haseley Trading Estate in South Oxfordshire, for the waste collection and street cleaning vehicle fleet. The new site, owned by the Council since last year, will be used as a depot for parking all vehicles associated with the waste and cleaning service and vehicles where members of staff will operate from. This includes 97 parking bays for operational use and 186 parking bays for staff and visitors. The contractor commenced construction work on site earlier this year. The site is a replacement for the current one which is rented by the council at Culham No1 site, which is designated as an industrial growth area and has a current planning permission application in at the council for redevelopment with new industrial units across most of the site.

Find out more at: www.southandvale.gov.uk/haseley-trading-estate

Capital Grants Scheme opens

The latest round of our Capital Grant Scheme will go live later this month.

The grant gives organisations a financial boost towards capital expenditure such as making improvements to buildings or play areas with applications of up to £75,000.

The grant will launch on **Tuesday 26 May to Monday 20 July**. Head to our website southoxon.gov.uk/grants for more details.

Park Sports Centre Energy Efficiency retrofit

Work on installing energy-saving measures at Park Sports Centre in Wheatley to replace end-of-life gas boilers is progressing well as contractors have just finished installing 268 solar panels on the centre roof. This follows extensive insulation work. The solar panels are expected to create 113,045kWh per year (equivalent to the electricity used in 40 average UK homes). The council successfully bid for government funding towards installing sustainable energy measures. The next stage is installing air source heat pumps.

Contact me at: Sam.casey-rerhaye@southoxon.gov.uk

Oxfordshire County Council News April/May 2026

Cllr Robin Jones

(Green Party) (Berinsfield & Garsington Division)

Email: Robin.Jones@Oxfordshire.gov.uk Mob: +44 7916 293681

Oxfordshire's SEND Improvement Notice, issued following a local area partnership inspection by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission in 2023 was removed in April 2026 by The Rt Hon Bridget Phillipson MP, Secretary of State for Education, recognising ongoing improvements in services for Oxfordshire's SEND children.



FULL COUNTY COUNCIL

May's Full Council meeting represents one year of the present elected body so takes the form of the annual ceremonial Full Council where the new Chair and Vice Chair get voted in. Frustratingly this means no motions and no questions to Cabinet (which also occurred in February being entirely about the Budget).

Given this democratic deficit (i.e.: two of the annual seven Full Councils having no motions or questions) we are still trying to change the constitution to enable more motions to be heard at each Full Council as well as an improved rotational approach to the parties bringing their motions. Via a cross-party working group, we are hoping to improve the amount of work the Council tackles. So far, we have agreed we will be starting earlier, the Chair can extend the overall meeting if they feel we haven't got far enough and, as above, the rotational nature of motions will be slightly restructured to be fairer to all parties. This will all have of course to be ratified by the Full Council at some point but being cross-party we are hopeful.

ROAD RE-SURFACING

OCC has announced that £8million will be invested in surface treatment for the county's roads. This is a preventative measure, which in the absence of the billions required to re-make the nation's roads, will hopefully reduce the chance of having as many potholes next winter. The full report is [here](#).

CRIME STATISTICS

For crime statistics for your area please enter your postcode into the search bar in [here](#).

LOCAL ELECTIONS

District and City council elections are taking place across Oxfordshire on Thursday 7 May for Cherwell District Council, Oxford City Council and West Oxfordshire District Council.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Oxfordshire Highways Annual Report: The annual report can be found [here](#).

Local Government reorganisation (LGR): Work is happening in the background to be LGR ready, but full planning can only happen once we hear back from government. We should hear back prior to the summer parliamentary recess on July 16th.

Drain clearing: OCC has committed to cleaning every roadside gully, drain and manhole every year for the duration of the current term. (more [here](#)). I know some drains have been missed – so please do report these directly to OCC via [FixMyStreet](#).

SEND Improvement notice: The government has removed the improvement notice for services and young people with special educational needs and disabilities in Oxfordshire. Read more here.

LOCAL QUESTIONS TO FULL COUNCIL

No questions can be asked at the May Full Council.

Please contact me (details at top) if you wish me to raise any questions on your behalf in future Full Council meetings.

CURRENT CONSULTATIONS

East West Rail (EWR) Consultation: EWR is running a public consultation to 9th June on updated proposals with particular reference to Oxfordshire at London Road, Bicester and Oxford Parkway. More details here.

Other News



Insect Week: Tiny Creatures, Big Impact

They may be small, but insects make a BIG difference to nature recovery.

From 22 June to 28 June, the Royal Entomological Society's spotlight week is a celebration of all things insect.

And these small critters really do make all the difference... there are more than 24,000 species in the UK alone, and they can be found in almost every habitat. Their jack-of-all-trades role spans pollinators, predators, pests, parasites, and prey, and the study of insects has long been central to conservation, food production, medicine, and ecology.

At Wild Oxfordshire, insects are essential to our Yellow Wagtail Partnership project. Established in 2020 by patron Dr Robin Buxton, the Partnership works with the Earth Trust Church Farm Partnership and Lower Farm, to "learn and communicate as much as possible about the impact of different land management techniques both on this species and the wider environment".

As a migrant species, insects are a vital part of Yellow Wagtail diets. However, recent changes in farming practice and other human impacts on the landscape have led to habitat and insect declines, harming Yellow Wagtail populations. They now find themselves on the conservation red list.



How You Can Help

Volunteer.

We occasionally ask for volunteers to carry out small projects to help with the Yellow Wagtail Partnership; this can range from helping out with fieldwork and managing data to creating visual aids for our work.

Our partner, Earth Trust, regularly recruits volunteers. Whether you are out counting insects or sitting at a desk, volunteering your time (with the Earth Trust) will help them carry out the vital work they do for the Yellow Wagtail Partnership, as well as their other projects.

Have an idea for a research project?

We are keen to hear from students and researchers about their research ideas and would be happy to discuss the possibility of using our site to support your research.
Please get in touch to discuss what might be possible.

Record your Yellow Wagtail sightings.

Help us learn more about Yellow Wagtails in Oxfordshire by reporting your sightings to TVERC (Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre).

Help to look after our grasslands.

- Stick to the path and avoid wandering into the fields as this may disturb nesting birds or lead to nest abandonment.
- Be respectful of the livestock, keep dogs on leads when there are calves in the fields.
- Remember to take your and your dog's rubbish home with you.
- Don't have BBQs on the grasslands, as you may cause a fire.

Gardening tips for June

1. Want to help garden birds? Don't feed them in warmer months.

The RSPB have released guidance on feeding birds, stating that putting up bird feeders in your garden could be putting some species at risk disease. Stop filling bird feeders with seeds and peanuts from 1 May to 31 October as will prevent too many birds gathering in one place. Instead, still put out small amounts of mealworms, fat balls or suet all year round.

2. Let the grass grow

June is peak time for insects like butterflies, bees, and beetles. Leaving even a small patch of lawn uncut creates shelter and food for the likes of Meadow Browns, Large Blue butterflies, and Thick-legged flower beetles.

3. Go chemical-free

Gardening organically is a good way to ensure that the food and plants you grow are free of pesticides or chemicals, and the wildlife will thank you for it too.

By stopping the use of chemicals, slugs, snails, and insects such as aphids will return, but don't worry! In time, so will their natural predators, such as hedgehogs and slowworms to help keep pest numbers down.

4. Keep Bird Baths Topped Up

Fresh water is essential for birds in warm weather. Keep a shallow dish with a few pebbles and help insects drink safely. However, only put out a bird bath if you can replace the water **daily** and clean the bird bath **weekly** to prevent the spread of diseases, especially in the warmer months.

Visit our social media pages for updates on our work

[facebook.com/wildoxfordshire](https://www.facebook.com/wildoxfordshire)

[@WildOxfordshire](https://www.instagram.com/wild_oxfordshire)

[instagram.com/wild_oxfordshire](https://www.instagram.com/wild_oxfordshire)

[linkedin.com/company/wild-oxfordshire/](https://www.linkedin.com/company/wild-oxfordshire/)

Message from Matthew Barber, Police and Crime Commissioner

Shutting down criminal businesses

Barber shops with no customers. Car washes turning over hundreds of thousands of pounds. Nail bars that only take cash. These can be signs of criminal businesses acting in plain sight.

I have long been working on a change in the law to increase police powers to issue closure notices. Closure notices are an important tool in disrupting criminal activity on our high streets, but current powers do not go far enough.



A closure notice is a legal instrument issued by the police or local authorities prohibiting access to premises for up to 48 hours to cease nuisance or illegal activity. It mandates immediate closure, the breaching of which is a criminal offence.

With the support of the Shadow Policing Minister and Members of the House of Lords, I drafted an amendment to the Crime and Policing Bill which would have strengthened the powers of the Police, local councils and the courts to shut down criminal businesses.

This would have seen the time limit attached to closure notices extended to 7 days and give the courts the power to shut businesses participating in criminal activity indefinitely.

Disappointingly, this amendment was blocked by the Government despite cross-party support. The Crime and Policing Bill has now received Royal Assent and become law, but without this change it is a real missed opportunity.

There is a ray of hope, however. Although not enough MPs backed my amendment, the Government has agreed to consult on implementing similar changes in the future.

I have written to the Policing Minister to urge her to act swiftly to put more power in the hands of the police to tackle illegal activity and stand up for law-abiding businesses.

This is about delivering more than temporary disruption. By increasing police powers, we can more effectively tackle criminality; clearing up our high streets and ensuring local communities are protected.



The Abbey Cinema acquires the freehold from Abingdon Town Council

The future of the Abbey Cinema is finally assured. The council is spared the financial burden of maintaining the buildings which it has been clear that it cannot afford estimated at £2.5m, current estimate £3m.

Ian Wiper, Managing Director of the Abbey Cinema, said that this was a difficult deal to negotiate not least because the town council originally acquired the premises from the Vale under certain conditions. Disposal involved complex legal documents concerning future use of the building and various covenants which had to be transferred in title, along with overage arrangements to ensure that the council benefitted were the building ever to be sold.

In addition to showing films, the cinema has an extensive ongoing programme of community events. These include private screenings attended by film producers and directors; events to promote awareness of support in Abingdon for those living with domestic abuse; Q&As in support of climate change awareness and action in partnership with the One Planet Abingdon Climate Emergency Centre; many charity events; and ongoing work with local schools and colleges.

The Arts Society Abingdon (TASA) takes up residence once a month to host its hugely popular programme of guest speakers. There are frequent special screenings for Parent & Baby, Kids Club and the cinema is often used as a venue for children and adult birthday parties, as well as a space for art exhibitions.

The Abbey Cinema opened in 2018 and has operated a series of short rental leases.

Ian added "this was not ideal as we had no security and were unable to commit the capital required for various important projects, which can now proceed with confidence". Key priorities are to separate the internal space of the modern Abbey Hall from the Guildhall, which remains under the council's management and ownership; improve disabled access; improve the external appearance of the building, which some regard as a carbuncle; and importantly from a commercial perspective, create a second smaller screening room to enable a greater variety of films and events.

Ian added "We have plans drawn up for the building which will shortly be displayed at the cinema and on the website".

Notes

The Abbey Cinema is run by husband and wife team Sue & Ian Wiper, and family. They previously restored and re-opened derelict Grade II listed art deco cinema The Regal in the nearby town of Evesham, bringing it back to life in 2012 – it is now the biggest single screen cinema in the UK by box office sales and a hub of the community. It hosts live events by top UK and international musicians and comedians. It has won numerous awards including for architectural restoration and has been awarded substantial grants from the Arts 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 July 2026 issue of The Mouthpiece by **June 15th** to:

generalmouthpiece@gmail.com

The Mouthpiece is produced by villagers for villagers.

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generalmouthpiece@gmail.com before the copy deadline.

We are pleased to receive contributions and to have any published you must provide your name & contact details to the editors.

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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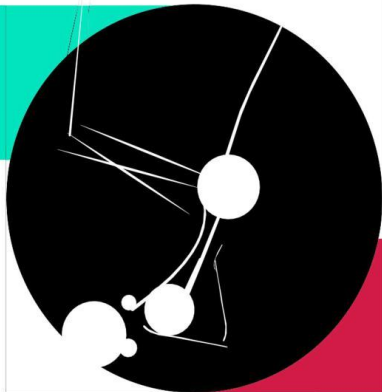
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PILATES

MONDAY 9:30 - 10:30 AM
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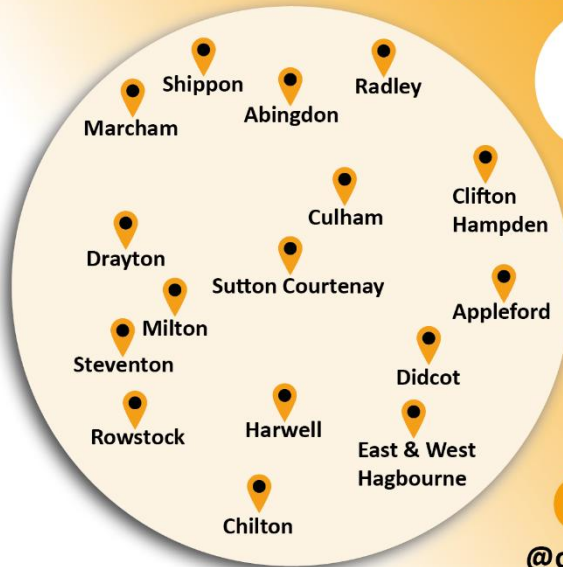


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Churchwarden:	vacancy		
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