

# Culworth Newsletter

## October and November 2023



### Smiles, laughter and community spirit!

Our new community park has now been open for two months, and as the word spreads, we have seen more and more families and local visitors bringing smiles, laughter and community spirit to the field. On certain days, we have counted between 30-50 people using the equipment and seating, which has brought new life and energy to our wonderful village.

During the summer holidays, we saw families staying for an hour or more, some bringing picnics and drinks to make it into a day out! The busiest times now seem to be after school around 3.30pm (for around an hour) and at the weekends.

As well as the health benefits, the play equipment is giving our children a much-needed alternative to using screens, games consoles or TV for entertainment. We see older children playing with younger, and new friendships being made, which can build confidence and character; much needed after they lost so much from the isolation of the pandemic.

## Signeage

Unfortunately, we are still awaiting the legal wording needed for a suitable sign for the park, so in the meantime, the draft version in this newsletter outlines the basic rules of the park and adult gym equipment.

## Respect for the Local Residents on Banbury Lane

We have been notified that some young adults have been noisy at the park in the evenings - we remind all that THE PARK IS NOT TO BE USED AFTER DARK. Please speak to your young people to make sure they know this rule, and are respectful of everyone who lives behind the park.

Would you have time to help the Parish Council?

We have a team of wonderful volunteers to mow the grass, do weekly safety checks and empty the litter bin. If you have a moment each week, we would appreciate extra litter bin helpers, and mowing in the growing months. Please contact Andrew Wilby if you would like to help out.

## Car Parking

The purpose-built car park on the opposite side of the field is always available, so again, please use this rather than Banbury lane.

## A Personal Thank You

On a personal level, I (Maddy) would like to say an extra thank you to everyone that has helped us bring this park to reality. Some of you may remember my late mother Valerie Whitaker, who raised me in this very village, and in 1986, petitioned the Parish Council to build a community park...She put a very strong case for the needs of the children, and offered her own funds to make it happen. Unfortunately, it wasn't accepted at the time, along with 2 subsequent applications by other local residents who worked hard for our children to have their own park. I think it was down to the determination of becoming a mother myself, and to seeing our children still without a play facility after 40 years, that gave Karen and myself the drive to see this project through to the end. It is a rather fitting legacy that although my son Frank and I are moving to pastures new, there will always be a place for all our children (and adults) to keep the community spirit alive.

None of this would be possible of course without the support of HS2, and our Parish Council, particularly Michelle Koster who has been our representative on the working group. Andrew Wilby, the Clerk and the Parish Councillors are fully responsible for the facility moving forwards, and we encourage you to contact them with your feedback, ideas and volunteer your time to help them maintain the park and surrounding facilities in the village.

We kindly ask that if you see any litter during your visit please pop it in the bin provided. Any concerns around equipment etc can be emailed across to [Culworthparishcouncilclerk@gmail.com](mailto:Culworthparishcouncilclerk@gmail.com)

ACCG (Activate Culworth Community Group)

Maddy Green, Karen Mullins-Blyth & Cllr Michelle Koster



### **Poppy Appeal 2023**

The Poppy Appeal launches in October, but there will be limited “Door to Door” collections in Culworth. There will still be a number of places in the village that you will be able to donate over the two-week period. These include:

- Culworth School
- David Mumford and Sons Family Butchers
- Forge Coffee
- The Red Lion Pub and Barn shop

RBL provide lifelong support to serving and ex-serving personnel and their families and could not continue without your generous donations.

### **Culworth Snappers**

Culworth Snappers are your local friendly camera club which meets every month in Forge coffee in Culworth. The remaining club nights this year are Thursday 26th October and Monday 20th November and start at 19.30hrs.

The Club had recent photoshoots at The Cotswold Sculpture Park and the Freedom Sanctuary and Falconry Centre in Cropredy. Future planned photoshoots are Deer Rut at Woburn and Starling Murmuration at RSPB Otmoor.

Why not come and meet us at a club night. Beginners are very welcome. For further information contact John 07867918960.



### **Carols on the Green**

Is there anyone willing to take up the mantle of “coordinating” this popular Christmas event as it is looking like I will be away this Christmas?.....no requirements needed other than deciding on a playlist and liaising with our resident band. If you feel you would like to give it a go please have a word with Simon Theobald at Fulford Cottage.

### **Culworth Film Nights**

Our next film night will be on Friday 13th October, doors open at 6.30pm, when we will be showing 'The unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry' starring Jim Broadbent and Penelope Wilton. There will be a curry supper before the film Please contact Margaret Watts to book  
- [margaretwatts59@gmail.com](mailto:margaretwatts59@gmail.com) - 01295 768118

Next film dates for your diary -  
Friday 17th November  
Friday 8th December

# News from St Mary's Culworth

## A Note from the Rectory

Thank you for your generous welcome to me, and your continued support and help, reminding me of your names, and times of your services. Thank you also for suggesting people in your village who might welcome a visit. Your words of help, insight and wisdom have helped enormously.



In just a few weeks, on the 29<sup>th</sup> October, it is the last Sunday after Trinity and the Church of England recognise it as Bible Sunday. I would like to encourage you to bring your Bible along to Church. It doesn't matter what edition you have, just bring it with you. Over the years I have accumulated a variety of Bibles, including a copy of a 'Bible in a Year'.

I have to confess that although I attended Sunday School and Church, regularly, I realised in the mid-eighties, that I had never read the whole of the Bible. I knew lots of verses, and stories, but never read it cover to cover. Then for my birthday a friend bought me a copy of a 'Bible In a Year'. The year's reading began on 1<sup>st</sup> of September. After a week I was finding it difficult to keep going, but struggled on. I knew lots of the stories; some were interesting, some painful. My problem was setting aside time each day, uninterrupted. It felt like being back at college. Six weeks passed and I was still finding it difficult. Should I, could I, really give up? And then my husband suggested we read it together. We began again, together. Amazingly, the parts I had already read, now became more interesting and miraculously it became part of our life. We finished, and then what?? We had a holiday - 'No Bible' Ugh! We decided to begin again! What Joy! It became part of our life! Discipline is good for us, and a few years later I understood why I needed that particular discipline, to read and become familiar with the Bible.

In 2009 Nicky Gumbel introduced a one year commentary with prayers. David Suchet, a great actor, read the Bible. And now it is an app, a book, a podcast and it has a website. You can listen on line, through the app 'Bible in one year' on a phone, or tablet. Suchet's pronunciations are really good. Now it can be delivered by email, each day. A Psalm, or Proverb, Old and New Testament, Commentary, and prayer. Nicky's wife adds her comment. Surely much better than listening to another dismal news story.

I find great joy in reading through the Bible this way, but, of course we all have our favoured Bible the one we know and love. I would like to encourage you to find it, and read it again. Or now you can listen to an Audio version. - Your choice!

Things have changed, some for the better. The wonderful thing that never changes is the Bible – it's still the best-selling book worldwide! Now isn't that worth celebrating! So if you are able please bring your Bible on Bible Sunday to the Service at Culworth 9.30am – Bible Sunday.

May God Bless You and those you love

Rev'd Karen

## **Pattern of Services**

**The pattern of services in Culworth from August will be as follows;**

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday** of the month 9.30 am Benefice Holy Communion Holy Communion – alternating churches in the benefice, 6pm Evensong Culworth

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday** of the month 11 am Family Service

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday** 10am Mattins

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday** 9.30 Holy Communion

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday** 9.30 Benefice Communion

For baptisms, weddings and funerals please contact Revd Canon Karen Jongman The Rectory.  
Queen's Street Culworth, Banbury OX17 2AT  
07980 881252 (karenajongman@gmail.com)

## **Tales from the Auction Room**

Steven Bruce, an auctioneer will give a talk entitled 'Tales from the Auction Room,' on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October in aid of Culworth Church. Doors open at 6.30. Supper and a welcoming glass of wine will be included and there will also be a chance to have items valued. To book your ticket please contact Tricia Donati (tricia.donati@gmail.com) or Jenny Howse (01295 768110) by October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Tickets are £20 and all proceeds will go to Culworth Church Fabric fund.

## **Churchyard**

Many, many thanks to all those who have helped with the churchyard maintenance this year. I should like to especially thank Andrew Field who strimmed our wildflower area in August and to Edwin Tarry who raked up all the dried grass and also to Sam Powell who stepped in on several occasions to cut the grass when needed. Thank you.

## ***Family Harvest Festival***

Culworth Church

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October

11.00 am

Everyone welcome

Harvest nibbles afterwards!



## Remembrance Sunday

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November

10.15 Service of Remembrance at Culworth Church

11.00 Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial



## Culworth Circular walks



Want to walk round Culworth but can't find the right footpaths? On the first Tuesday of the month there will be a group walking round the Culworth footpaths. Each walk will last about 2 hours and will give those who are not sure of the footpaths a chance to see the lovely countryside where we live and have a chat with fellow villagers at the same time. Walks start at 10 from The Green.

Dogs are welcome as long as they can get over the stiles. The next walks are on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October and Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November.

## Village Cafes

Village Cafes usually take place on the first Saturday of the month. Coffee, tea and cakes are provided free but any donations will go to the church and the village hall. Come along for a chat.

The Village Café on Saturday October 7<sup>th</sup> will be The Macmillan Coffee Morning with all proceeds going to Macmillan Nurses.

## Macmillan Coffee Morning



Culworth Village Hall

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October

10 till 12

Coffee, Cakes, Bring and Buy, Raffle

All in aid of Macmillan Nurses

Any info and offers of help; Kay 01295 760726

or Jenny 01295 768110



## **For your Diary**

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October 9.30 am Benefice Holy Communion Edgcote  
6pm Evensong Culworth  
Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October Culworth Circular walk from The Green 10am  
Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October Coffee and Chat Village Hall 10 till 12  
Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October 11.00 Family Harvest Festival followed by Harvest nibbles  
Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> Coffee and Chat Village Hall 10 till 12  
Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October Tales from the Auction Room Village Hall From 6.30  
Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October 10am Mattins  
Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 9.30 Holy Communion  
Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October 7.30pm Culworth Snappers  
Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October 9.30 Benefice Holy Communion Culworth  
Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November Village Café Village Hall 10 till 12  
Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November 9.30 am Benefice Holy Communion Moreton Pinkney  
6pm Evensong Culworth  
Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November Culworth Circular walk from The Green 10am  
Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November 10.15 Service of Remembrance St Mary's Church  
11.00 Act of Remembrance War Memorial  
Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November Coffee and Chat Village Hall 10 till 12  
Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November 10 am Mattins  
Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November Culworth Snappers 7.30pm  
Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November 9.30 Holy Communion

## **Cricket Club News**

The cricket season has now finished. During August although the junior season had finished, the children continued to meet up to practise in the nets. Culworth Casuals mens' team were also supposed to have a game, but it was called off due to the opposition being unable to get enough players which was a shame. Fortunately, we made up for that by having a good September. First was an away match against Everdon. Culworth batted first and scored 125, then it got very exciting as we had to restrict Everdon from getting the runs, and it all came down to the last over where Everdon needed 6. Culworth ended up winning by 2 runs.

A week later we were supposed to be playing a team from Northampton, but they also could not muster up a team, so we rounded up some players from Wardington Cricket Club and Marston St Lawrence Cricket Club and along with the Culworth players we mixed the teams up and we had a very enjoyable friendly game of cricket to end the adult season. The last game of the season on the ground was the Northants County Girls Under 11 team who had a match to celebrate Lily Thurgood's birthday. We are very proud as a club that Lily is a member of the county side and is their wicket keeper.

By the time you read this article we will have reseeded the outfield of the cricket field. I have always known that we are effectively playing cricket on a sheep field, rather than the sheep occasionally graze a cricket field. This became blindingly obvious this August when I came back from holiday. Normally the ground is mown before I go away, and it is fine for the 2-3 week holiday, but this year when I returned back the grass was nearly up to my knees. But what was amazing was that on the cricket square that was renowned last autumn, the grass was lush and green, but only an inch high. To get the ground prepared for the adult match at the end of August it

took 2 cuts to get the square ready, but the outfield took 18 cuts, and even then it was not very good, because there were too many grass cuttings lying on the surface. The cricket club have therefore taken the decision to reseed the outfield with the same grass mixture as the square. This will improve the playability of the surface, and also to reduce the maintenance requirements. We are also trying to use the soil heaps to level parts of the ground as although from a distance the outfield looks level, when you are playing on it there are a surprisingly lot of hidden humps and hollows. I hope the village can respect this and avoid walking over the reseeded area during establishment.

I would like to say a big thank you to Marcus Boniface and Charles Buckley of Culworth Grounds Farm for the use of their machinery and a very big thank you to Vernon and Lizzie Phipps of Westhill Farm for their use of machinery and help with spraying off the grass, levelling the ground, sowing the seed and rolling the field. Without these people it would have been an impossible task to do.

Jim Powell

### **Fundraising thank you**



Local business, From Garden to Vase, opened up their cutting garden in Culworth for Katharine House Hospice on Sunday 10th September. People visited from surrounding villages and further afield to see where the flowers, Suzy sells, are grown and enjoy some tea & cake!

Thank you to everyone who supported this amazing hospice. We raised approximately £700 which is brilliant.



If you like gardening and growing your own flowers, Suzy's next Cutting Garden course is on Saturday 15th October. She will show you how to grow autumn sown sweet peas. For full details and booking visits [www.fromgarden tovase.co.uk/cutting-garden-courses](http://www.fromgarden tovase.co.uk/cutting-garden-courses)



## **News from Katharine House Hospice**

It costs more than £4.7m per year to run Katharine House Hospice. Although we receive funding from the NHS, we still need to raise more than £3m every year. We rely on our local community to help us raise this money so we can go on providing vital care – completely free of charge. We have some brilliant events and opportunities to support our hospice coming up this autumn and winter.

### **Santa Fun Run – 3 December**

What better way to kick off the Christmas season than joining hundreds of Santas in Spiceball Park for our annual festive fun run? Our much-loved Santa Fun Run is taking place on Sunday 3 December in Banbury. Join us for the 1.5km course or the full 5km – kitted out in a stylish Santa suit or more sustainable alternative. Tickets are available to buy online now!

[www.khh.org.uk/santa](http://www.khh.org.uk/santa)

### **Lights of Love – 7 December**

We will be holding our annual Lights of Love event on Thursday 7 December at St Mary's Church, Banbury. We'd love you to join us for a special gathering where we come together to remember and celebrate the lives of those we have loved and lost. Find out more [www.khh.org.uk/lights](http://www.khh.org.uk/lights).

### **RC Baker Christmas Tractor Run – 16 December**

The RC Baker Tractor Run will be bringing the bling once again this Christmas when it returns on Saturday 16 December. Christmas isn't complete without a fleet of fairy-lit tractors touring around local villages to spread some festive cheer. Get the date in your diary now and help us raise much-needed funds for the hospice this Christmas! [www.khh.org.uk/tractor](http://www.khh.org.uk/tractor)

### **What's on the cards?**

Get ahead of the game this autumn and order your Christmas cards now. We have a fantastic selection of charity Christmas cards again this year. Sending a Katharine House card is a great way to support our hospice and to spread some joy. Cards are available to buy in our shops as well as online in our hospice eBay Shop. Take a look at all the designs on offer and order yours today. [www.khh.org.uk/christmas-shop](http://www.khh.org.uk/christmas-shop)

### **eBay for Charity**

Do you sell on eBay? Did you know that you can choose to donate a percentage of your eBay sales to Katharine House? The eBay Community Selling scheme allows sellers to choose a charity and donate between 10% and 100% of sales straight to a good cause. Simply select 'Katharine House Hospice Trust' and the percentage you'd like to donate from the final sale price. Find out more about eBay for Charity here: [www.charity.ebay.co.uk](http://www.charity.ebay.co.uk) or find our eBay shop here [www.khh.org.uk/ebay](http://www.khh.org.uk/ebay).

### **Digital monthly newsletter – keep up to date with your local hospice**

Sign up to receive our Katharine House digital monthly newsletter and keep in touch with all our latest news and fundraising events at the hospice. [www.khh.org.uk/newsletter](http://www.khh.org.uk/newsletter)

### **Culworth Parish Council News**

#### **Minutes of Parish Council Meetings**

These are available on the Culworth Parish Council website (Hover over the link, Press CTRL & click): [Culworth Parish Council](http://Culworth Parish Council)

Hard copies can be obtained from the Parish Clerk on request.

Jose has a village network list of emails. Everyone on the list is sent information such as What's On, missing dogs, break-ins, etc. - in fact anything to do with village life.

If you would like to be included, please email [josephine.rowling@gmail.com](mailto:josephine.rowling@gmail.com)

Whilst the Parish Council funds the publication of the newsletter, the views expressed in it may not be those of the Parish Council. The editor reserves the right to make adjustments to the text and formatting for readability.

**Please send items for the next newsletter to [clerk@culworthparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@culworthparishcouncil.gov.uk) or [michelle.koster@btinternet.com](mailto:michelle.koster@btinternet.com)**

Copy dates are:

24<sup>th</sup> November for December/January

26<sup>th</sup> January for February/March 2024

### **Want to know what is happening in the village?**

The Parish Council's website (the Culworth Village website) as above

Or search for:

Culworth Facebook

Culworth Community Facebook

Nextdoor Culworth

Red Lion website and Facebook

Forge Coffee website

# CULWORTH VLLAGE HALL

FRIDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER



Starring Jim Broadbent & Penelope Wilton

**DOORS OPEN 6.30PM**

**TICKETS - £15.00 TO INCLUDE CURRY SUPPER  
(CHICKEN OR VEG - PLEASE SPECIFY)**

**£7.50 FILM ONLY**

**NB CONTACT MARGARET WATTS TO BOOK NB**

[margaretwatts59@gmail.com](mailto:margaretwatts59@gmail.com)

01295 768118

**REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR OWN LIQUID  
REFRESHMENT AND GLASS**



Mondays to Fridays 8:45am-4pm  
Saturdays 9am-4pm  
Sundays 9am-3pm

Thanks for all your support.

Do let us know if you'd like to use the venue  
for any events or for parties etc.

For all our events, check our website:  
<https://www.forgecoffee.co.uk/whats-on> or  
follow us on Instagram (@forge\_coffee) or on  
Facebook  
(<https://www.facebook.com/forgecoffeeshop>)

## Mumfords Butchers

serving the local community for over 90 years

fresh meats and fruit and veg delivered to  
your door



*from*  
**Garden to Vase**  
*Seasonal Flowers for all occasions*  
*Grown in Culworth*



**Gifts**  
**Weddings**  
**Events**  
**Farewell Flowers**  
**Courses in**  
**Growing & Floristry**

[www.fromgardentovase.co.uk](http://www.fromgardentovase.co.uk)  
Instagram Facebook

Do you have a local business? Please tell us  
about it via the village newsletter.