

Culworth Newsletter

August and September 2025



Culworth Village Fun Day – A Big Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who came along to the Village Fun Day on June 22nd – what a fantastic afternoon it was! After a string of scorching days, we were treated to a refreshing breeze that kept everyone smiling. The games were enjoyed by participants and onlookers alike, both young and older, and the drinks were much appreciated. A special thank you to Mumfords for generously supplying their ever-popular sausages and burgers. We'd also like to thank The Red Lion, Forge Coffee, Culworth Garage, From Garden to Vase, Keter, Ash's Autos, and Angie Clayton for their generous raffle prizes – your support helped make the event such a success.



A heartfelt thank you goes to the stalwart villagers who gave up their time and energy to reintroduce the tradition of a summer village get-together. Their efforts brought so much joy and community spirit to the day. We're grateful to the Parish Council for funding the event and to all the brilliant competition entrants. The scarecrows looked fantastic dotted around the village, and the garden-on-a-plate entries were full of imagination – families said how much fun they'd had making them! The cake competition was

another highlight, with delicious entries that looked as good as they tasted.

Proceeds from the day are being put towards our next community celebration: the Culworth Christmas Shopping Trail on December 6th. It promises to be another wonderful day, so pop the date in your diary! If you'd like to get involved in any way – through help or participation – please contact Ginny Staniford; all support will be warmly welcomed.



Culworth Village Café

There will be a village café on **Saturday 8th August** from 10am till 12 in the Village Hall. Refreshments are free but donations are invited towards Village Hall upkeep. The following one will be on **Saturday 6th September**. Please come along and meet your fellow villagers.



Film Nights

We start again on Friday 12th September – the film will be “Mr Burton”, starring Toby Jones and Lesley Manville, in a story about the taming of a rebellious Welsh schoolboy who became the actor Richard Burton. **Doors open at 6.30pm. Contact Julie to book on 0776 973 0668 – jules.tinn@gmail.com** and for details of cost.

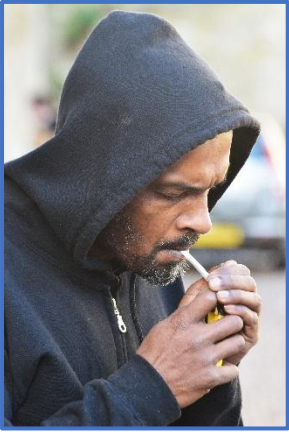
Culworth Cricket Club

2025 has been a very successful year for the club. The Juniors have had a 30% increase in membership with 18 new members joining. The long hot dry days have been very welcome, and ironically the first event that had to be called off due to rain was the season ending awards night. This was held a week later and a parents’ and childrens’ diamond cricket match was followed by a BBQ and awards ceremony.

The Under 11s finished on a high by beating Heyford Cricket Club. They have managed to finish mid table in the South Northants Junior Cricket League which is a fine result considering the majority of the team are actually under 9. This is hopefully a good omen for future seasons. As I write this, we are preparing for the big local derby of Culworth Casuals v Eydon Occasionals this afternoon. At the start of the season when they played at our ground, we beat them, this afternoon we are away at their ground. The last match the Casuals had was a tense affair against Aynho where we needed one run from the last two overs to win and they managed to bowl two maidens to leave the scores level. We are always looking for more adult players to bulk up our squad, so if you fancy a game of cricket on a Sunday afternoon, please get in touch. Contact Jim Powell at jpowell@jspmanagement.co.uk.

Macmillan Coffee Morning 4th October

The Village Café on Saturday 4th October will be a Macmillan Coffee Morning raising money for Macmillan Cancer Support. Since the first Coffee Morning in 1990 these annual events have helped to support millions of people in the UK living with cancer. Any help with Cakes, Raffles and Bring and Buy please contact Mary Grice (01295 760363) or Margaret Watts (01295 768118) Thank you.



Culworth Snappers

The June and July meetings at Forge Coffee covered the topics of “Street Photography” and “Curves”, and as always, a varied range of pictures were submitted for constructive critique and discussion. The photograph on the left is from the Street Photography topic, but do check out the Culworth Snappers Facebook page, where a selection of images from our latest subject is regularly updated. There were some particularly striking images in the Curves category.

Several Snappers went to Cotswold Lavender near Moreton in Marsh recently and enjoyed the chance for both large- and small-scale views. The topics for August and September are “Boundaries” and “Symmetry”.

We will have a presentation by Courtney Victoria on Macro Photography on 14th August (separately from the monthly meeting). If you are interested in joining us or just want to come along and see what it’s all about, we generally meet at 7.30pm on the last Thursday of the month.

Snappers Exhibition - September

Following the success of last year’s Tenth Anniversary Photographic Exhibition, Culworth Snappers will be holding another event throughout September at The Forge Coffee Shop. Look out for our display when the excellent artwork of Culworth Primary Academy pupils on show in July and August is replaced by photos that have been submitted by members in the last twelve months.

News from St Mary’s Culworth

The usual pattern of services in Culworth is as follows:

1st Sunday of the month 10am Benefice Holy Communion –
alternating churches in the benefice

6pm Evensong Culworth

2nd Sunday of the month 11am Family Service

3rd Sunday 10am Mattins

4th Sunday 9.30am Holy Communion

5th Sunday 10am Benefice Holy Communion



Church Wardens

Martin Rowling – 01295 760571 (josephine.rowling@gmail.com)

Jenny Howse- 01295 768110 (jenny_howse@hotmail.com)

We are in an interregnum, without our own rector, but we still have a fully functioning church. Please contact the church wardens or the Rural Dean for any information on christenings, weddings and funerals etc. Rural Dean; Father Matthew Robinson- 01295 811364 (fathermatthew.r@icloud.com). The Vicarage, Church Avenue, Kings Sutton OX17 3RJ

Culworth Benefice Services August & September 2025

3rd August

10am Benefice Holy Communion Moreton Pinkney (E.C.)
6pm Evensong Culworth

10th August

9.30am Holy Communion Chipping Warden (G.S.)
9.30am Morning Prayer Moreton Pinkney
11am Family Service Culworth

17th August

9.30am Holy Communion Moreton Pinkney ?
10am Mattins Culworth
11am Mattins (Remembrance 80th Anniversary V.J. Day) Chipping Warden

24th August

9.30am Holy Communion Culworth (G.S.)
10am Mattins Chipping Warden
11am Mattins Edgcote (C.P.)
4pm Evensong Moreton Pinkney

31st August

10am Benefice Holy Communion Edgcote (C.P.)

7th September

10am Benefice Holy Communion Culworth

(C.P.)

6pm Evensong Culworth

14th September

9.30am Morning Prayer Moreton Pinkney
10.30am Harvest Festival Holy Communion Chipping Warden (R.O.)

11am. Family Service Culworth

21st September

9.30am Holy Communion Moreton Pinkney (C.P.)
10am Mattins Culworth

28th September

9.30am Holy Communion Culworth (E.C.)
10am Mattins Chipping Warden
11am Harvest Festival Mattins Edgcote (James Hewison)
4pm Harvest Festival Moreton Pinkney (C.P.)

5th October

10am Benefice Holy Communion Chipping Warden (E.C.)
6pm Evensong Culworth

E.C. Rt Rev Ed Condry

G.S. Rev Greg Shaw

P.B. Rev Phillip Ball

R.O. Ven. Richard Ormston

C.P. Rev Celia Parkes

Help Needed - Churchyard Saturday August 9th

There will be a working party in the churchyard at the beginning of August - Saturday 9th August from 10am when the conservation area will be strimmed, ivy will be removed from the gravestones and there will be a general tidy up. If you enjoyed the snowdrops and primroses this Spring in the churchyard you will realise what a difference this regime has made. Please, if you can come and help you will be most welcome.

Ride and Stride 2025 – Saturday 13th September 10 - 6pm

The Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust was founded in 1955 with the object of raising funds to make grants to churches of all denominations in Northamptonshire for their “preservation, repair and maintenance, improvement, upkeep, beautification and reconstruction”. Grants are

made to churches and chapels during the course of the year. The Trust's funds are raised by donations, subscriptions from friends, and the proceeds of the annual sponsored Ride & Stride, which takes place on the second Saturday in September each year.

Ride and Stride was 'born' in Suffolk in 1982 as a sponsored cycle ride or walk and is held annually in virtually every county in England. It is the main fund-raising event for the county churches trusts. It is now a sponsored event for cyclists, joggers, walkers and horse riders. Any mode of transport can be used as long as sponsors are happy; a couple of people have used vintage cars!

Money raised helps Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust to continue supporting our marvellous churches across the county with essential repairs and improvements. Ride and Stride is an opportunity to raise money not only for the Trust but for your own church, as we return 50% of the money to the church of your choice. The Trust gives out grants to churches who take part in Ride and Stride. Last year the Trust gave out over £58000 for church projects. Visit the website www.nhct.org.uk to find out about the grants and for sponsor forms and information about the event, or contact your Local Organiser. There will be more details soon in Culworth Church or go to www.nhct.org.uk

Culworth Bells

Last month Martin gave a report on the installation of rope guides to help make the Culworth bells easier to ring. A group of ringers came last month, some quite new to ringing, and were able to handle the bells well. It was gratifying to be able to welcome ringers who didn't complain about the way the bells handled. Hopefully we will attract more ringers in the future. Apologies to those who do not appreciate the centuries old tradition of ringing. Practices usually last only an hour and a half.

If you would like to learn the art of bell ringing, our local Culworth Branch (which includes 24 towers of which 22 have bells which are ringable) has several qualified teachers who are very keen to train more ringers. Please let Martin (01295 760571) or Jenny (01295 768110) know, and we can arrange lessons. All ages welcome.

A short history of Culworth bells

The five bells in the tower were all cast between 1612 and 1805. Two of them, the treble (the lightest) and the tenor (the heaviest) were both cast locally by the Bagley family in Chacombe who had a foundry there between 1605 and 1785. The treble dates from 1713 and the tenor, 1636. The Bagleys were known for the rich decoration of their bells and this includes inscriptions like this amusing one from a bell at Grandborough in Warwickshire; 'I ring to sermon with a lusty tone that all may come and none may stay at home.' Our tenor has the inscription 'By my voice the People may know to come to hear the word of God. Henry Bagley made mee 1636.'

Our oldest bell, the 4th, was cast by the foundry of Robert Newcombe in Leicester in 1612 and has the inscription 'Be knowne to all that doth me see that Newcombe of Leicester made Mee 1612.' The number 2 bell was cast by Edward Hemins from Bicester in 1747. He had gained experience at the Bagley foundry in Chacombe. He was a watchmaker, a manufacturer of lantern and turret clocks, a bell founder and gunsmith! He died in 1744 (our bell is dated 1747!) and the furnaces of the Bicester bellfoundry were used for the last time in 1743. Before the nineteenth century

bellfounders tended to be itinerant, travelling from church to church to cast bells on site so it is possible that this bell and maybe others were actually cast in Culworth. Bell number 3 was cast by John Briant of Hertford. He was also a clockmaker and one of England's finest bellfounders, producing over 420 bells the finest being a 31cwt tenor bell at Coventry Cathedral. The priest bell or sanctus bell, not part of the ring, is dated 1700 and unnamed.

Unfortunately, there is in the parish record an account of a certain Edward Elsden being killed by a bell 'upon Tuesday in Easter week being 10th April 1694'. In 1863 another accident occurred 'when one of the bells fell and nearly killed the clerk.' Other facts discovered from 'The church Bells of Northamptonshire' written in 1878, include that in 1712, before the treble was cast, the upper part of the tower was rebuilt. "The Pancake-bell (4th) is rung occasionally on Shrove-Tuesday, but the custom is dying out. The Gleaning-bell is rung during harvest at 8a.m. At the Death-knell three tolls are given for a male, two for a female. On Sunday the 1st and 2nd bells are rung at 7a.m. in the summer, at 8a.m. in the winter. A bell called The Sermon-bell; is rung at 10a.m. and at 2p.m. For Divine Service the bells are chimed, after which the Priest's bell is sounded for ten minutes. The 3rd bell is sounded after a celebration of the Holy Communion as the Communicants are leaving the church. The bells are always rung for an hour on the four Monday mornings in Advent commencing at 5a.m."

I think there may be some objections in the village if some of these customs were reintroduced!

Jenny Howse

Dates for your Diary

Saturday 2nd August – 10.30am to 12noon, Village Cafe

Sunday 3rd August – 6pm Evensong Culworth

Tuesday 5th August – 10am to 12noon, Coffee & Chat in Village Hall

Sunday 10th August – 11am Family Service Culworth

Thursday 14th August – 7.30pm Snappers Guest Speaker Courtney Victoria "Macro Photography"

Sunday 17th August – 10am Mattins Culworth

11am Mattins Chipping Warden – Remembrance 80th Anniversary VJ Day

Sunday 24th August – 9.30am Holy Communion Culworth

Thursday 28th August – 7.30pm Culworth Snappers at Forge Coffee – "Boundaries"

Sunday 31st August – 10am Benefice Holy Communion Edgcote

Thursday 4th September – 7pm Culworth Parish Council Meeting at the Village Hall

Saturday 6th September – 10.30am to 12noon, Village Cafe

Sunday 7th September – 10am Benefice Holy Communion Culworth

6pm Evensong Culworth

Tuesday 9th September - Coffee & Chat in Village Hall

Friday 12th September – 6.30pm Film Night in the Village Hall – "Mr Burton"

Sunday 14th September – 11am Family Service Culworth

Sunday 21st September – 10am Mattins Culworth

Thursday 25th September - 7.30pm Culworth Snappers at Forge Coffee – "Symmetry"

Sunday 28th September – 9.30am Holy Communion Culworth

Sunday 5th October – 6pm Evensong Culworth



Culworth Christmas Shopping Trail – December 6th, 2025



Would you like a stall at this exciting festive event?

We'd love to hear from you—whether you're ready to book or just want to chat and find out more. It's a fantastic opportunity to showcase your work, connect with the community, and be part of a special day. Interested? Simply drop me an email at ginnystaniford@gmail.com.

We can't wait to make this event even better with more Culworth villagers involved.

Many thanks

Ginny Staniford

Culworth Community Circuit Training

As last summer's Circuit Training sessions were so successful, they have come back. It is lovely for old and new villagers to come together for some exercise, laughter and chats. Sessions take place on Monday evenings at 6.30pm (weather permitting). We meet on the cricket field by the gym apparatus. If you would like to be added to the Whatsapp group, please message me on 07778673677. Julie Waller

Culworth Parish Council

Following the election in May, members of the Parish Council have agreed to share the responsibilities as follows:

Councillor	Responsibilities
Andrew Wilby	Chair, Finance Committee, CHFT Representative
Andy Field	Vice-Chair, Finance Committee, Village Maintenance
Amy Harrison	Finance Committee, Communications, School Liaison
Jose Rowling	Finance Committee, HS2 Representative, Internal Audit
Clive Waller	Planning Committee, Hill Field & Facilities Maintenance
Rob Stuart	Planning Committee, Footpaths & Trees Maintenance
Catherine Ruffley	Community Events & Social

West Northamptonshire Council is the single unitary council responsible for providing a range of public services to residents and businesses in the areas of Daventry, Northampton and South Northamptonshire. These services include:

- collection of your household waste
- maintenance of parks and open spaces
- street cleaning
- environmental health
- planning services



WNC also delivers the ex-NCC services of Education, Highways, Adult Social Care and Libraries. Culworth is in Rural South Northamptonshire Ward, represented by Councillor Alison Eastwood. Please contact her for WNC issues on alison.eastwood@westnorthants.gov.uk or 07967867726.

Minutes of Parish Council Meetings

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

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

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 text and formatting of submissions for readability.

Please send items for the next newsletter to wilbyjoanne@gmail.com

If anyone would like to take on the role of Newsletter Editor, please do get in touch with the Parish Clerk or Joanne Wilby.

Want to know what is happening in the village?

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

Or search online for:

Culworth Village News & Information
Facebook

Culworth Facebook

Culworth Community Facebook

Nextdoor Culworth

Red Lion website and Facebook

Forge Coffee website



Mondays to Fridays 8:45am-4pm

Saturdays 9am-4pm

Sundays 9am-3pm

Thanks for all your support.

Available to rent for events and parties

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>)

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www.fromgardentovase.co.uk



Pilates Solutions: Julie Russell

Hi everyone - I am a Culworth resident, and I am excited to be returning to Sulgrave Village Hall to teach regular Pilates Classes from the week commencing 3rd June 2024.

For more information you can visit my website
www.pilates-solutions.co.uk

If you are interested in joining or would like to ask me any questions my mobile number is 07778 673677. Email address
julierussell007@gmail.com.

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Proof of address needed, £5 admin fee applies. Does not include free entry to events.

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