



# Culworth Newsletter

December 2020/January  
2021



## Christmas and Covid – 19 Update

As this newsletter goes to press, England will be moving out of a total lockdown into a tiered system, before a five-day respite for the Christmas period. In such a strange year, there is very little to report for the Christmas season in the way of events. The editor would like to take the opportunity to wish everyone a peaceful and safe Christmas, and extend thanks from the village to everyone who has helped and supported in any way.

## Christmas Candles

Over many years, the late Rosemary Courtney provided candles which were lit on Christmas Day in memory of family and friends. Donations from this included buying new church linen, new large mats for the door, and the electric winding of the church clock. Last year money raised went towards the new South Aisle roof. This year any money raised could be used towards the redecoration of the South Aisle.

If you would like a candle lit in memory of a loved one, please send your donation to Jose Rowling The Forge Culworth OX17 2BA in an envelope marked Church

Candles and the name or names of the people you would like read out on Christmas Day at the service. In Memory of Rosemary Courtney who organised the Christmas Candles

## Sober October

Kay and Jenny would like to thank everyone who supported and donated so generously to the Macmillan Cancer Support. Giving up all alcohol for a Sober October was indeed worthwhile if a bit of a struggle initially especially in these difficult times. In previous years the October Village Cafe had been in aid of Macmillan Cancer support and so Sober October was a very worthwhile alternative.

Thank You so much all those who sponsored us. A fantastic £861 has so far been raised.

Kay Green and Jenny Howse

## Culworth Snappers

During these trying times, the Culworth Snappers Camera Club is still thriving with new members joining in the past few months. We are still getting together every month on zoom, when we review some of the members images on the chosen monthly topic. This is not done on a competition basis but by a friendly discussion among participants.

We are hoping to hold our club nights in the village hall next year. If not we will continue with zoom. If you are interested in joining or would like more information on this friendly village club contact John on 07867918960.

You can now keep up with the club news and activities on facebook "Culworth Snappers".

For further information contact John Emmett 07867918960.



## Culworth Gang

Not the original gang, but the present one, celebrate 50 years, which is quite some achievement.

Due to Covid they haven't been able to meet since March but to celebrate each member was given a wonderful bag of goodies which included a bottle of Elderflower, hand soap, paper napkins, paper handkerchieves, a book with a chapter written by Jack Gould on the original Culworth Gang, a group of highwaymen, chocolates, biscuits, cyclamen, hyacinth to grow in a glass vase, and a beautiful card from Judith and Dawn the current leaders.

The members were so surprised and thrilled. Huge thanks for bringing a big smile on all the 11 members faces at this strange time.

## Dave Lewitt



Most of you will already know that I lost my beloved husband, Dave on 1st November. It was unexpected and nothing to do with C-19. Dave had a new heart valve in 2019 and his procedure and recovery had been remarkable. Unfortunately, an infection developed in the new valve and after falling ill mid-October, he never really responded to treatment.

I've been overwhelmed by the heartfelt response from his friends and acquaintances and the message from all is clear....he was a kind, big-hearted man who always made time for people, always ready to chat and pass the time of day and generally spread cheer.

Dave had a long and colourful life. He joined the merchant navy at 15 travelling all over the world and having many adventures. In his heyday, he was a great sportsman playing rugby till he was 52 mainly for Harbury RFC, but also for Banbury and Alcester. He ran over 10 marathons (when it wasn't fashionable to

do so). He ran the Snowdon marathon twice and on a third occasion ran to support a friend and ended up running 18 miles when injured.

Dave as many of you know, was a true 'people person' so the thought of a dumbed down funeral in this time of C-19 was just not right for him. We therefore had a private cremation and will hold celebrations of his life as soon as we can mix freely.

My niece has collected a substantial sum towards friendship bench(es) in his memory and in due course I will be in touch about both. Thank you again to all of you who have contributed.

The lesson I've received loud and clear since his death is how much that cheery smile and time to chat was appreciated. Some people's purpose in life isn't a grand one, but a humble one and I think that was Dave's gift to us.

Laurin

## Culworth Hill Field Trust: Progress Update

- As highlighted in a Country File programme, late last year, community facilities are increasingly important in providing essential services in rural communities. This is particularly so in the light of the impact of Covid-19 and Climate Change. People are likely to travel less, more likely to work from home and be more reliant on local community facilities to provide sporting, recreational, social and welfare services.
- Culworth Hill Field Trust was set up specifically to deliver and manage the new Community and Recreational Facility to replace the existing village hall and cricket pavilion. Both are in a bad state of repair, continuing to deteriorate and are not fit for purpose. Post Covid -19 it is increasingly important that we find a way to build this new facility.
- Following Mrs. Trott's generous donation, the Parish Council (PC) now own the land for this project on the understanding that it will be transferred to CHFT. The PC also has a long lease on the rest of the cricket field (Hill Field) for 50 years, of which 43 years are still remaining.
- We received planning permission for the new Community and Recreational Facility late last year. It will expire in December, 2022 unless a substantial start on site has been made; this now seems unlikely. Now the principle of development on the North East side of the cricket field (Hill Field), has been established, getting a new planning permission, when required, is expected to be reasonably straightforward.

- The cost estimate for this project, now two years old, is £974k. To date we have raised £42k from the villagers, the Parish Council and SNC, to pay for the cost of getting planning permission and £250K of match funding commitments. This is comprised of £75K from HS2 and an estimated £175K, subject to the village approving the sale of the existing village hall site and getting residential planning. This leaves an estimated funding gap of £724k. Without a substantial grant it is going to be difficult to raise sufficient funds to build this new facility.
- In conversations with villagers, some of whom have already generously made a donation, a number of constructive fund-raising proposals have been put forward. In particular, the offer to donate land for a crowd funding project to plant trees, and an offer to organise a major social event. These initiatives have the potential to raise a total of £100k. However, it is not credible to embark on these, or any other villager-led funding activities, until such time as we have substantially closed the funding gap.
- The Coronavirus pandemic, and its economic impact, has led many potential funders to temporarily close their doors to new grant applications. We will continue our fund-raising efforts; we have made initial applications to Sport England and the Bernard Sunley Foundation and are awaiting their responses. The funding outlook is expected to improve over time, but realistically we do not expect any substantial grants for capital projects to be available in the next two to three years. This means that the earliest we can expect to raise the necessary funds, build and open the new facility will be in Autumn, 2025.
- Despite the challenges, all the CHFT trustees remain committed to raising the necessary funds, albeit over a longer timescale, to build a new community and recreational facility, at the lowest possible cost, possibly with smaller changing rooms, that can be used by the cricket club. The village still needs these facilities.

#### NEXT STEPS

- Whilst both the village hall and cricket pavilion are in an increasingly bad state of repair the cricket pavilion is deteriorating at a faster rate and will soon no longer be useable. We have asked Jim Gosling to work with Jim Powell to see if it is feasible to repair and improve the cricket pavilion, at minimal cost, so that the thriving junior cricket club can continue to use it, at least for the next five years.
- We have also asked Jim Gosling to review the design of the new Community and Recreational Facility to see if a two-phase approach to its

development is feasible. We could then build a recreational facility, consistent with the Village Hall Trust's initial brief, as the first phase, to replace the existing village hall. Smaller changing rooms could then be added, as a second phase, to enable the new facility to be used by the cricket club, in line with Mrs. Trott's wishes. Alternatively, providing we can maintain the functionality and architectural integrity of the building, we could consider building the changing rooms as part of the first phase. The objective is to significantly reduce the cost of construction of the first phase, in order to close the initial funding gap. We want to do this without materially changing the appearance of the current design of the building when the second phase of the new building has been completed. We will request a pre planning application consultation with the planners to get their feedback.

- In due course we will carry out the necessary work to finalise the technical specification and design stage prior to making a new planning application. At the same time, we will value engineer the design to minimise and firm up the build and operating costs. We will not start this work until substantial progress has been made in raising the necessary funds.
- We will continue to explore opportunities to raise the funds for the project explaining our two-stage approach. We will speak to HS2 to agree with them how their grant can be used. We will progress our ongoing our applications for funding support from Sport England and the Bernard Sunley Foundation
- We are likely to be living with the impact of Covid-19 for the foreseeable future. The VHT was poised to call a Public Meeting to gain village consent to sell the existing village hall site before the first lockdown. It intends to call the public meeting as soon as possible in the circumstances. It will also propose requesting a pre planning consultation with the planners at its next meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> November. This will hopefully provide evidence to potential funders that the site is likely to get residential planning permission. These actions are necessary, to demonstrate to other potential sources of funds, that the village are doing everything within their power to help raise the funds necessary to get this new Community and Recreational Facility built.
- We will carry out market research to find out what services are being offered by other venues and at what price point to ensure that they meet the needs of residents and are competitively priced and affordable. Sports England have given us a grant of £10k to develop our marketing plan, as part of our business plan and we will work with their nominated consultant to do this. We will

ensure that a robust business plan is in place for the operation of the new facility, before construction work is commenced.

- To date the burden of the work to get this far, has fallen on a small number of people, all of which are getting older! We need support from a younger generation of villagers, with the drive, vision, and necessary skills. We need your active support, participation and commitment to get this done!

Regards

John Duggan

Chair Culworth Hill Field Trust (CHFT)

### News from St Mary's Church Culworth

Rev Brian and Catherine Fairbank  
 Brian Fairbank has been rector of Culworth for the last 8 years. His final service in the benefice was at Chipping Warden on 1st November, the last possible Sunday to have a service before the second lockdown. Considering the circumstances, the service went well and was well attended. Chipping Warden church is large and allowed us to self distance and still have over 60 people there. Brian was presented with a case of wine, a framed picture of the four churches in the benefice, a lovely themed cake, made by Bianca Pearson from Moreton Pinkney, flowers and a cheque. We are very grateful to all the generosity of all parishioners and know Brian and Catherine were too. Thanks to Simon Shepheard- Walwyn, church warden from Moreton Pinkney who coordinated the collection and gifts. 8 years is quite a time to be in one place these days although for some of us that seems like yesterday. It is sometimes hard to remember that a parish priest is nowadays responsible for many parishes and not just 'our' rector but I think Catherine and Brian have a particular affection for Culworth. Besides his priestly duties in the church, Brian has been a foundation governor for our village school, taking a weekly assembly. He also organised a short monthly service for many years at the now redundant Care Home, appreciated by many of the residents. We now have new hymn books and prayer books organised by him. As a family the Fairbanks have taken part in all the social activities in the village, from the film nights and coffee mornings, fetes and fundraising. We have had the privilege of sharing in his family and enjoyed the involvement of his grandchildren in the Christmas Day services. I am sure Brian's retirement will be the beginning of a new chapter in his and Catherine's lives



which will be even more fulfilling. From the experience of many retired people in this village, there are so many opportunities to join an enormous number of volunteer roles in and around Banbury which can give so much personal reward and satisfaction that you begin to wonder why on earth you haven't taken this path before. I have a feeling that it won't be long before we will be meeting Brian and Catherine in their new roles. Thank you, Brian and Catherine, for your commitment to our church and we wish you a long, happy and fulfilled retirement.

Jenny Howse

### Culworth Benefice Services Dec/Jan

#### 6th December Advent 2

10am Benefice HC (Ven David Painter)	Culworth
6pm Evensong	Culworth

#### 13th December Advent 3

10 a.m. Family Service	Moreton Pinkney
10 a.m. Holy Communion (Rev John Duncan)	Chipping Warden
11a.m. Family Service	Culworth

#### 20th December Advent 4

3p.m. Carol Service	Chipping Warden
5 p.m. Carol Service	Moreton Pinkney
6 p.m. Carol Service	Culworth

#### 25th December Christmas Day

9.30 Holy Communion (Ven David Painter)	Moreton Pinkney
10 a.m. Holy Communion (Rt Rev Ed Condry)	Chipping Warden
10 a.m. Holy Communion (Rev Philip Ball)	Edgcote
11 a.m. Holy Communion (Ven David Painter)	Culworth

#### 27th December

10 a.m. Edgcote Carol Service	Edgcote
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#### 3rd January Christmas 2

10 a.m. Benefice HC (Rev Philip Ball)	Moreton Pinkney
6 p.m. Evensong	Culworth

#### 10th January Baptism of Christ

10 a.m. Holy Communion (Rev John Duncan)	Chipping Warden
10 a.m. Family Service	Moreton Pinkney
11 a.m. Family Service	Culworth

#### 17th January 2nd of Epiphany

10 a.m. Holy Communion (Rev John Duncan)	Moreton Pinkney
10 a.m. Mattins	Chipping Warden
10 a.m. Mattins	Culworth

#### 24th January 3rd of Epiphany

9.30 Holy Communion (Rev Philip Ball)	Culworth
10 a.m. Mattins	Moreton Pinkney
10 a.m. Family Service	Chipping Warden
11 a.m. Mattins	Edgcote

#### 31st January 4th of Epiphany

Benefice Service (Lay led)	Chipping Warden
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## Poppy Appeal

Unfortunately, this year, the 2020 Poppy Appeal did not include "Door to Door" collections, but static collection boxes were placed at four sites in the village and managed to collect almost £350 between them.



Special thanks to Culworth School, Forge Coffee, Mumfords Butchers and The Red Lion for their magnificent effort. Every penny is greatly received.

More information can be found at [www.britishlegion.org.uk](http://www.britishlegion.org.uk) and on Facebook at Byfield And District RBL

## Culworth Parish Council

Minutes of virtual meeting Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at 7pm

1. Councillors present: S. Rolt, A. Wilby, N. Guinness, M. Koster, D. Mumford, M. Rowling, B. Leadbeater and the Clerk Mrs J. M. Rowling
2. No apologies for absence
3. Members of public: one who joined later
4. OPEN MEETING.
  - a. Parking on pavements-comments noted.
  - b. Damage to parked vehicles by ? HS2 vehicles. Clerk to provide email contact for inclusion in newsletter
5. Minutes of 14<sup>th</sup> July 2020 and 17<sup>th</sup> August were agreed as correct.
6. No matters arising not on agenda.
7. Clerk's notes
  - a. Lockdown team ceased. Residents notified by newsletter delivered by email and hard copy to those without internet.
  - b. Highway issues persist. Thames water dealing with drains Sulgrave Road junction. Potholes reported in Banbury Lane repaired with exception of one by Culworth Garage
  - c. Defibrillator check continue
8. Website. Cllr Rolt and volunteer Mrs J Wilby looking at new website. Parish Council agreed to fund 2commune. Current website provider to be discontinued when new site functioning.
9. HS2 update Cllr Rolt stated that HM Government had given the go-ahead.
10. CHFT update Cllr Rolt stated that Application for grant funding to SNC had not been approved. Funding support is difficult. It is imperative that as soon as practically possible that the Village Hall Trustees seek the approval of village to sell the existing hall once the new hall is completed. Outline planning permission for a new build on the site would be helpful for gaining funding.
11. Telephone Box. Agreement signed for Parish Council to adopt the box. Needs painting and repair. Volunteer willing if Parish Council meet expenditure. It was agreed that Parish Council would pay for repairs and appropriate paint.
12. Shadow West Northamptonshire Council. Cllr Wilby noted that after holiday recess, meetings would be taking place to establish a working partnership for May 2021.
13. Parking in village and overhanging foliage-further letter from resident. Police confirm that due to narrow roads some vehicles may need to park on pavement or where there is wide footpath. Rural villages have large farm machinery and other haulage vehicles requiring a wide road. Overhanging foliage remained an issue. Chairman to advise.
14. BUDGET 2021-2 Meeting date for subcommittee Chair, Clerk, Cllr Mumford and ? one other councillor. November
15. FINANCES
  - a. Audit for 2019-20 with PKF Littlejohn now completed
  - b. Closure of Santander account awaited.
  - c. Unity Bank open including internet banking
  - d. Receipts
    - i. SANTANDER CLOSING INTEREST ON Business account £49.19
  - e. Payments
    - i. To pay from Santander
      1. Clerks salary and expenses July – September 2020 £1219.27
      2. HMRC 2<sup>nd</sup> payment £260
      3. DD Ionos Website 12.99+£2.60 VAT=£15.59
      4. Roger Smith Mowing and strimming burial ground August £74, Recreation Field £55=£129
      5. PKF Littlejohn Annual Audit £200+£40VAT=£240
      6. HMRC 2<sup>nd</sup> Instalment £260
      7. Cartwrights Landscapes 3<sup>rd</sup> August

mowing  
£58+£11.60=£69.60

- f. Santander Current account and Deposit account(£9196.88) 28 August 2020 £21010.58
  - g. SNC Precept due in middle of September £11.865.00
16. Planning Matters from SNC
- a. SNC Local Plan Part 2 approved 2011-2029
  - b. S/2020/1280/SCR Environmental Impact assessment not required due to the scale of the development.
17. Correspondence
- a. NALC Weekly updates forwarded to Councillors by email.
18. Any other business for November meeting
- a. Local Plans. Relaxation of planning rules has been agreed by Government which could lead to development in local villages. Great need for Neighbourhood Plan.
19. Meeting closed.7.40pm

### Vandalism in Culworth

The Parish Council has been made aware of a number of incidents of vandalism in the village over the last couple of months, including two at the school, an incident which caused damage to the down pipe on the animal shelter in the Glebe Field, and of gatherings with fires on the outskirts of the village, and damage to old cars, also on the outskirts of the village. The following message is from Northants Police

During recent weeks there have been several occasions where minor vandalism has been reported on the grounds of the primary school in Culworth. This has progressed to criminal damage being caused to items in the outside play area overnight between Saturday 31 October and Sunday 1 November.

If you have CCTV or Dashcam footage in this area that may have captured any suspicious activity during these times or if you are able to provide any further information please contact Northamptonshire Police on 101 or using the online contact forms at [www.northants.police.uk](http://www.northants.police.uk) quoting reference 20000579049.

Any information given will be treated in confidence.

### Useful websites

The link below identifies road works all over the country including HS2 works.

<http://www.roadworks.org/>

For problems with HS2, please use the address below, and the relevant organisation will be contacted  
[HS2Enquiries@hs2.org.uk](mailto:HS2Enquiries@hs2.org.uk)

### BAG 2 SCHOOL

FREE FUNDRAISING FOR SCHOOLS

In partnership with your school or organisation



Culworth C E Primary School



Bag 2 School is a company that specialises in the reuse and recycling of good quality second-hand clothing and we have arranged to make a collection from your school. All the bags will be weighed and you will be paid for the total weight collected. Remember, the more you collect the greater the benefit to your school.



By using this paper leaflet we are helping to reduce unnecessary extra plastic. Please use your own bag or bags (there is no limit). The leaflet is FSC accredited, please recycle it.

When the clothes have been removed from the bag the plastic will be packed and sent for recycling.

*We are collecting good quality items for RE-USE:*

**Men's, ladies' & children's clothing, paired shoes, handbags, belts & accessories.**

*(No uniforms, workwear, pillows, duvets or pieces of fabric please)*

***The more we weigh the more we pay!***

*Extra bags are welcome - there's no limit*

***Please return your Bag2School on:***

Monday 14th December 2020 - 9.00am



01609 780 222

[www.bag2school.com](http://www.bag2school.com)

[helpdesk@bag2school.com](mailto:helpdesk@bag2school.com)

### CULWORTH VILLAGE HALL

#### Zoom Committee Meeting Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2020 at 7.30pm

Present: Julie Tinn (Chair) John Emmett, Mark Izzett (Treasurer), Kirsty Hawkins, Sarah Powell, Charlie Timmins, Margaret Watts, Martin Rowling and June Oxley (Secretary).

Minutes of the last Zoom meeting were amended to read that this meeting should not be the AGM which will be scheduled next year.

1: Chairman's Report:

We opened the Village Hall on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November with all the Covid-19 safety measures only to close it again on 5<sup>th</sup> November. We will wait for the Government announcement on 26 November to see if we can open it again this year.

**Culworth Hill Field Trust update –**

Following Trustees decision to wait to hold the Public meeting in accordance to our Trust Deed and not to pursue Outline Planning until we had favourable vote on selling the VH site the Chairman contacted South Northants Planning department to enquire about a Pre-App meeting. She told Trustees of CHFT that she would put this to VH Trustees. The cost would be around £200 and will take approx. 8 weeks. She proposed that we apply for a Pre-App meeting to add support to process of securing funding for the new Community Building. After discussion the Trustees concluded since the Pre-App could take until February, by then we might have a clearer picture on when we could hold a Public Meeting. The decision was deferred until the New Year.

The Chairman has had an email from Jim Gosling attaching his fee proposal for submitting an Outline Planning application on our behalf together with plans. The Chairman will reply that at this time we are not ready to pursue this.

#### **Resignation of June as Secretary –**

June, our Secretary, is hanging up her coat and the Chairman expressed everyone's wish to say a huge thank you to her for her loyalty to the Village Hall and for all she has done over the years. Thankfully we shall still have the pleasure of her company, so the coat can come down again, as she will continue on the Committee as bookings clerk. Sarah has stepped up to take over the reins as Secretary from now on. As she is already on the Committee there is no need to co-opt her.

2. Treasurers Report: The full report is attached. The funds in hand are £33,529 held as Deposit A/C £31,117, Current A/C £2,355 and £57 in Petty cash. Although the business Support grant of £10K was obtained to help with the loss of income and with the extra costs arising from the Covid 19 situation and the closure of the hall, the increase in funds for the year was £8,854 so it is clear that there would have been a loss of about £1,150 without the grant. However, in a normal year there would probably have been a surplus of about £3K to £4k so the effect of Covid 19 in terms of net loss is probably about £4K to £5K. Outgoings such as utility bills and cleaning costs have been lower while the hall has been closed but there have been some additional costs incurred with the precautions required for opening the hall.

3. Repairs and Renewals: A review of the Health and Safety and the Risk Assessment will be carried out in January, however, a recent Risk Assessment was undertaken before the proposed reopening in November.

4. AOB: None

The date of the next meeting was fixed for Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 7.30pm,

There being no other business the meeting concluded at 8.45pm.

#### **Brackley Community Hospital 2020 Trust**

The Brackley Medical Centre GP practice is now fully operational from the new healthcare facility on Wellington Road.

The Northamptonshire Healthcare Foundation Trust's "outpatient" services – for example physiotherapy and podiatry – are expected to come onstream within the next four weeks or so, as they continue to fit out some of their parts of the building. It is anticipated that the intermediate care beds on the second floor will be populated gradually with effect from January 2021.

BMC patients have all been notified of the move, and BMC has created a video, a virtual tour, of the building because visits in person are not permitted at the moment. Although this video concentrates principally on the parts of the building which BMC patients will access and need, it does give a good overview of the entire building. The link to the video is below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fMPRNmqo12Y>  
[https://m.youtube.com/watch?fbclid=IwAR1Br3vNWlxU4U\\_GhvHSEIOWSuJ\\_n7N0vK12n58xGsBXlgQ2gKaNqj6l8UQ&feature=share&v=fMPRNmqo12Y&noapp=1&noapp=1](https://m.youtube.com/watch?fbclid=IwAR1Br3vNWlxU4U_GhvHSEIOWSuJ_n7N0vK12n58xGsBXlgQ2gKaNqj6l8UQ&feature=share&v=fMPRNmqo12Y&noapp=1&noapp=1)

#### **Covid Thanks**

I would like to reiterate my thanks to some very kind people who have helped me in many ways during lockdown.

Kerry – has proved an A1 shopper

Ian – has always gone the extra mile

Cath – who was a stranger is now a friend

Margaret – delivered newspapers unfailingly and secured us a Waitrose delivery slot.

My sincere gratitude to them all.

Joan

*Jose has a village network list of emails. She sends any news or information out to all people on that list, including missing dogs, break-ins, 'What's On' etc. etc. in fact anything to do with village life.*

*If you would like to be included, please email her...*

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

**Whilst the Parish Council fund the publication of the newsletter, the views expressed in it may not be those of the Parish Council.**

Please send items for the next newsletter to the editor, Michelle Koster, [michelle.koster@btinternet.com](mailto:michelle.koster@btinternet.com)