

Culworth Newsletter

October & November 2026



Who's judging who? (Photo: Penny Field)

August Bank Holiday Celebrations!

At least 125 people joined in the festivities as Culworth came together to celebrate the Summer on August Bank Holiday Monday.

Alongside the barbecue which saw about 150 burgers consumed, attendees were able to sample the delicious entries in the cake baking contest (won by Trudi). The Scarecrow competition produced a worthy winner in the form of Paddington Bear – here receiving a suitable greeting from judge Martin Rowling, who was aided in his arduous responsibilities by Andy Field. Games on the Cricket Field were organised by Catherine Ruffley, the burger flipping was led by Peter Coville with support from Joanne & Andrew Wilby, while Amy Harrison led the cake judging team. Many others

helped with setting up chairs, tables, and decorations, and the final result produced £129 for the Village Hall project, but the value in bringing the community together was far greater.



Culworth Christmas Shopping Trail – Sunday 6th December, 10am–4pm



It's only October but it's beginning to feel a lot like Christmas in Culworth for the organisers of this event! We're thrilled to be hosting the Christmas Shopping Trail for a second year – a festive day right in the village, packed with festivities, creativity, and community cheer. And all profit will go back into the village.

Doors all over Culworth will be opening to welcome you in. Expect to find 45 indoor stalls in studios, homes, the church, school, village hall and cricket pavilion. Here there will be handmade gifts, local produce, art, crafts, and seasonal treats – all created and curated by talented makers and artists.

If you didn't make it last year, the idea is simple: we supply a map and you wander through the village at your own pace, follow the trail, and discover treasures along the way. From perfect presents and festive treats to mulled cider, mince pies, food vans and hot chocolate – there's something for everyone. And for the children there will be a craft table and a free chocolate Santa hunt.

It's also a chance to meet the people behind the stalls – the makers, bakers, artists, and crafters who put their heart into what they do. By shopping locally, you'll be supporting them and helping to keep the village buzzing with creativity.

So, grab your friends, bring the family, and join us for a day of shopping, strolling, and celebrating the start of the festive season. **MARK THE DAY IN YOUR DIARY – SUNDAY 6th DECEMBER** - and get ready to enjoy Culworth at its Christmassy best.

WE NEED YOU!

This tradition needs you to be part of it. It's going to be Culworth at its best, but it is no small feat, and we'd love your help to make it all happen. Jobs big and small include:

- Creating and putting up signage around the village and beyond
- Lending and installing sound systems
- Printing maps and distributing them on the day
- Marshalling visitors
- Baking cakes and mince pies and organising refreshments and serving on the day
- Organising car parking
- Helping with set-up (Friday evening and early Saturday)
- Welcoming and assisting stallholders
- Helping with take-down on Saturday from 4pm
- Selling scratch cards on the day
- Baking cakes

If you can lend a hand in any way at all, we'd be delighted to hear from you, asap. If it's anything like last year it will even be fun! Please contact Ginny on 07766 810523 or

Ginnystaniford@gmail.com.



Culworth Film Nights The next film night will be on Friday 16th October in the Village Hall when we will be viewing The Devil Wears Prada 2. Tickets £15 to include supper or £7.50 film only. Doors open at 6.30pm. Bring your own drinks and glasses. The following film night will be on Friday 27th November, and there will be no Film Night in December. Contact Julie Tinn as below to book.

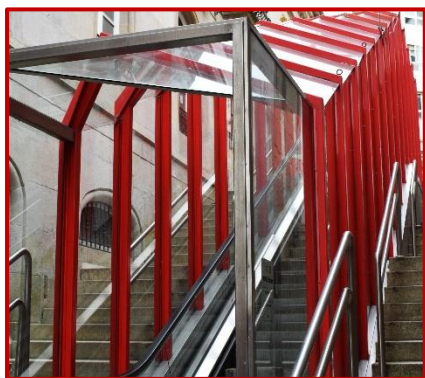
The Village Hall needs a volunteer to help organise the film nights! These popular evenings happen roughly every six weeks, we serve supper to those who wish to have it, then show a film. Please contact Julie if you would like to help - 0776 973 0668 - jules.tinn@gmail.com.

Culworth Village Café

The next village café is on **Saturday 3rd October** from 10am till 12 in the Village Hall, and takes the form of a **MacMillan Cancer Coffee Morning**, hosted by Margaret & Mary. Refreshments are free but donations are invited towards this worthy cause. There will also be a raffle so please come prepared with notes & change! The next Café will be on Saturday 7th November.



Culworth Snappers



The August meeting took “Corners” as its theme, while September covered the huge topic of “My Favourite Photos” – grappling with how to choose only 3 images from each collection presented major headaches! Images that held special memories or meanings were on show. The photograph on the left is from the topic of “Corners”, but do check out the Culworth Snappers Facebook page, where a selection of images from our latest subject is regularly updated.

A group of Snappers recently visited the HS2 site (some for a second time) with the chance to record some views that the public don't get to see. The 22nd October and 26th November topics are “Four Seasons” and “Through a Window”. If you are interested in joining us or just want to come along and see what it's all about, we generally meet at Forge Coffee at 7.30pm on the last (or occasionally penultimate) Thursday of the month.

Congratulations to... Culworth residents Joan and Dorothy who both celebrated their 99th birthdays in September.

Christmas Candles - It has long been the tradition for candles to be lit on Christmas Day in memory of loved ones, whose names are read out at the start of the Christmas Day service at St Mary's. If you would like a relative or friend to be included, please come to church at 11am on Christmas Day to light one or let Jose Rowling know on Josephine.rowling@gmail.com. All donations towards the redecorating of the church.

News from St Mary's Culworth

Churchyard - Many, many thanks to all those who have helped with the churchyard maintenance this year. In order to help keep the churchyard a little tidier, the church wardens would like permission to remove all obviously dead flowers, wreaths and other such memorials that are really past their best including very faded plastic flowers etc. We do hope this will not upset anyone, but we really would like the church and churchyard to look its best at all times. If anyone does not feel it is appropriate and objects, please contact Jenny or Martin.



Church Flowers - We decorate the church at Easter, Harvest and Christmas as a combined effort. If you would like to help for this Harvest Festival (11th October) please come along on Friday or Saturday morning (9th and 10th October) when you will be welcomed with open arms!



Family Harvest Festival

St Marys Church

Sunday 11th October

11am

Everyone welcome - Harvest nibbles afterwards!

Remembrance Sunday – 8th November

10.15am Service of Remembrance at Culworth Church

11am Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial

The pattern of services in Culworth is as follows:

1st Sunday - 10.00am Benefice Holy Communion – alternating churches in the benefice
6pm Evensong Culworth

2nd Sunday - 11am Family Service

3rd Sunday - 10am Mattins

4th Sunday - 9.30 Holy Communion

5th Sunday – 10am Benefice Communion



Church Wardens

Martin Rowling – 01295 760571 (josephine.rowling@gmail.com) Jenny Howse- 01295 768110 (jenny_howse@hotmail.com)

During the interregnum 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:

October & November 2026

Sunday 4th October – 10am Benefice Holy Communion Chipping Warden (EC)
6pm Evensong Culworth

Sunday 11th October - 9.30am Holy Communion Chipping Warden (Rt Rev Jonathan Mayrick)
11am Harvest Festival Culworth
4pm Harvest Festival Moreton Pinkney

Sunday 18th October – 9.30am Holy Communion Moreton Pinkney (CP)
10am Mattins Culworth

Sunday 25th October - 9.30am Holy Communion Culworth (CP)
10am Mattins Chipping Warden
11am Holy Communion Edgcote (CP)

Sunday 1st November - 10am Benefice Holy Communion Culworth (EC)

Sunday 8th November – Remembrance Day Services

9.30am Chipping Warden
10.15am Culworth followed by
11am Act of Remembrance at War Memorial
11am Act of Remembrance Moreton Pinkney

Sunday 15th November - 9.30am Holy Communion Moreton Pinkney (tbc?)
10am Mattins Culworth

Sunday 22nd November– 9.30am Holy Communion Culworth (GS)
10am Mattins Chipping Warden
11am Mattins Edgcote

Friday 27th November – 6pm Chipping Warden Light Up Service with mulled wine & mince pies

Sunday 29th November – 10am Benefice Holy Communion Edgcote (EC)

Clergy Key - E.C. – Rt Rev Ed Condry, G.S. – Rev Greg Shaw, C.P. – Rev Celia Parkes

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**Village Events Calendar** – The Parish Council is trying to put together and maintain an event calendar on the village website (<https://www.culworthparishcouncil.gov.uk/community/culworth-parish-council-18681>). If anyone has anything to add to it, please contact the Parish Clerk, Peter Coville, on [culworthparishcouncilclerk@gmail.com](mailto:culworthparishcouncilclerk@gmail.com).

## **Culworth Parish Council Notes:**

**Village BBQ** – A big thank you to everyone who came along to the village BBQ at the end of August. It was lovely to see so many people from across the village enjoying the afternoon together. Thank you to everyone who entered the competitions and donated towards the raffle. Once accounting for costs, we made a surplus of £129 which will go towards the new village hall. We hope everyone who came had a great afternoon!

**Community Speedwatch** – Our Community Speedwatch group is now up and running, helping to monitor vehicle speeds and encourage safer driving. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered so far. We would be very pleased to have some more people involved – the more volunteers we have, the easier it is to run regular sessions. If you would be interested in joining the Culworth Speedwatch Team, please get in touch with Amy Harrison.

**Police Surgery & Crime Prevention** – Thank you to everyone who attended the Police Surgery on 15<sup>th</sup> September. It provided an opportunity for residents to speak directly with the police and to discuss ways we can help prevent crime in the village.

The police advised that they believe some of the recent burglaries may be linked to organised crime. Tools and jewellery are among the items most commonly targeted. In response, the police have increased patrols in Culworth and the surrounding area.

The key message from the surgery was prevention. Residents are encouraged to look at their homes, outbuildings and vehicles from the perspective of someone trying to gain access and consider where improvements could be made. Measures such as secure fencing and gates, security lighting, gravel or pebble driveways and good locks can all help.

Please continue to report suspicious activity or incidents to the police. Reporting helps them build a clearer picture of what is happening locally.

Amy Harrison

**Next Parish Council Meeting** – Thursday 12 November in the Village Hall at 7pm.

**Litter** - Twice in the last month the “non-layby” on Sulgrave Road has been cleared of litter by a volunteer. On the second occasion, the volunteer was very pleased that a schoolchild stopped to offer help. The back of that area still needs to be cleared.

PLEASE do pick up litter, as well as dog excreta (and the bags) and dispose in one of the seven Dog Waste Bins around the village:

1. Banbury Lane end of the Cricket Field where the footpath crosses
2. On the concrete road junction with the Red Lion footpath
3. Further down the concrete road where the footpath goes across to High Street
4. By Westhill Farmhouse on High Street
5. By allotment gate at the back of the school
6. At the corner of Sulgrave Road and Barley Hill
7. On Sulgrave Road near Park House where the footpath crosses the field to Banbury Lane.

The Annual Litter Pick will be on March 6<sup>th</sup> next year, starting at 10am from The Forge. Please put the date in your diaries and come along to help.

## Hallowe'en Events on Saturday 31 October

Lily is holding a Hallowe'en Cake Sale in the Village Hall from 2.30 to 8pm.

The Red Lion has a Hallowe'en Party from 8pm onwards – costumes required please!



## Glebe Land and the Spinney

Glebe land historically referred to parcels of land owned by the Church of England, originally set aside to provide a source of income or farming space for the local parish priest. In 1978, management of these pockets of land was legally transferred to regional Diocesan Boards of Finance. In Culworth the glebe land until recently included Berry Close Hill which is the land behind the church where the mound of Culworth Castle is. Berry Close Hill was bought by the Parish Council a few years ago and is now managed by them. Incidentally the name derives, not from any blackberries that may be there, but from the Old English word burh, meaning a fortified place, stronghold or fortified manor house. Close is a Middle English term for an enclosed field or parcel of land, typically enclosed by hedges, walls or fences.

Another piece of glebe land is the little spinney on the left side of the road at the bottom of the hill near the Eydon turning. Although 'church land' Culworth church does not own it and has no say in what will happen to it. The PCC have just been informed that the Peterborough Board of Finance intend to sell the 1.36 acres of woodland. I believe there are other parcels of land locally which are also owned by the Diocese of Peterborough. Like all diocese the Peterborough Diocese has a huge debt and therefore looking to sell unprofitable land is a way of recouping some of their losses. Culworth church has no say in this and will in no way benefit from the sale.

This piece of woodland must be the only part of Culworth that has been untouched for decades. It is a haven for wildlife – a wilderness which is home to owls, deer, red kites and numerous species of birds, amphibians and insects. Nearly 50 years ago, Bob Moyes- a true countryman, cut down many of the trees by hand. No chain saw for him. He cleared the tree trunks and what you see today has remained untouched since then.

This spinney was known as the 'Ash Yard.' I am not sure if that was because the trees (mostly ash) that grew there, were cut down for use on the railway, or because it was the village rubbish dump in the days before refuse collection. The rubbish pits have been excavated over the years and interesting old bottles, clay pots and other interesting artefacts removed by collectors. Definitely pre-plastic days. With the sale of the spinney, the future of this little bit of Culworth's unique heritage could be lost. Hopefully whoever buys it will manage it in a sympathetic way so that the wildlife is not disturbed.

Jenny Howse

*Editor's note: The 1839 Tithe Map for Culworth, held at the Northampton Record Office, shows three large fields at the bottom of the hill, which were Glebe Lands. This is well before Great Central Railway days as the GC were just about the last company to run a mainline into London, in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. There was no woodland apart from a wide hedge (listed as a plantation) which ran alongside the High Street next to one of the 3 fields. The two fields which ran alongside the road were both called Ashyard, and the third, which was behind them and seems to run alongside what used to be the football field, was called Pond Close. Joanne Wilby*

## Dates for your Diary

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October – 10am - 12noon Village Café & MacMillan Coffee Morning, Village Hall

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October – 10am Benefice Holy Communion at Chipping Warden  
6pm Evensong at Culworth

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October – 1-3pm, Police Surgery in the Village Hall

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October – 11am Harvest Festival at Culworth

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> October – 10am – 12noon Coffee & Chat, Village Hall

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October – 6.30pm Film Night, Village Hall “The Devil Wears Prada 2”

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October – 10am Mattins at Culworth

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October – 6.30pm Red Lion Quiz Night

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October – 7.30pm Culworth Snappers at Forge Coffee – “Four Seasons”

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October – 9.30am Holy Communion Culworth

Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> October – 2.30 – 8pm Lily’s Hallowe’en Cake Sale at Village Hall

Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> October – 8pm Hallowe’en Party at The Red Lion

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November – 10am Benefice Holy Communion at Culworth

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November – 10am – 12noon Village Café at the Village Hall

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November – 10.15am Remembrance Sunday service at Culworth  
11am Remembrance wreath laying at War Memorial

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November – 10am - 12noon, Coffee & Chat, Village Hall

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November – 7pm Parish Council Meeting, Village Hall

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> November – 10am Mattins at Culworth

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> November – 9.30am Holy Communion at Culworth

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November – 7.30pm Culworth Snappers at Forge Coffee – “Through a Window”

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November – 6.30pm Film Night at Village Hall – film to be confirmed

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November – 10am Benefice Holy Communion at Edgcote

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December – 6.30pm Red Lion Quiz Night

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December – 10am – 4pm Culworth Christmas Shopping Trail

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Culworth Parish Council

The Parish Clerk, **Peter Coville** can be contacted via culworthparishcouncilclerk@gmail.com

See below for the list of responsibilities your Councillors have:

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

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.



West Northamptonshire Council has introduced a booking system for its Recycling Centres.

You can book a slot online, or over the phone if you prefer. Bookings can be made up to two weeks in advance or on the day at least 30 minutes before arrival.

Find out more at <https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/household-waste-recycling-centres-hwrc>



Neighbourhood Watch

Culworth is now part of the national Neighbourhood Watch network, giving residents the opportunity to work together to keep Culworth safe. By joining, you'll receive regular updates on local crime, be part of a supportive community, and help deter crime through increased awareness.

Neighbourhood Watch is also about looking out for one another and building stronger connections amongst neighbours. You can sign up or contact Amy Harrison (the scheme coordinator) for more information by following this link:

<https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/scheme/182785/culworth-neighbourhood-watch>

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.

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.

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.

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

Culworth Chat WhatsApp Group

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



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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your door



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.

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.

SPECIAL OFFER

**SULGRAVE**
MANOR & GARDEN
GEORGE WASHINGTON'S ANCESTRAL HOME

Free Annual Pass for local residents



Free local pass available if you live in Sulgrave, Culworth,
Thorpe Mandeville or Stuchbury
Pop in, call 01295760205 or email
enquiries@sulgravemanor.org.uk

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

The Red Lion, Culworth

Your Countryside Pub, Barn & Community Hub

Autumn is here, and we're excited to welcome you to The Red Lion for great food, drinks, and events in a relaxed countryside setting.



Opening Hours

Tuesday – Thursday: 12:00- 21:00

Friday – Saturday: 12:00- 22:30

Sunday: 12:00- 17:00

Monday: Closed

The Barn – Sports & Private Events

Our Barn is now open for major sports events, showing all the big games in a lively atmosphere 🍺 🏏 ⚽

✓ Big screen viewing

✓ Drinks & Food available

✓ Perfect for groups



Also available for private hire:

Birthdays | Baby showers | Private dining

Corporate events | Special celebrations

✉ Message us to book your event or ask about packages.



Halloween Party

Join us on Saturday 31 October for a Halloween party at The Red Lion.

🎵 Music from 8pm

👤 Bring your best costume!

Quiz Nights

Wednesday 21st October 2026

Wednesday 2nd December 2026

🕒 Starts at 6:30 pm, ✉ Booking required

👥 Maximum team size: 7 people

Follow us for updates, menus, and events: 📷 Instagram and Facebook: @theredlionculworth

☎ Bookings & enquiries: 01295 760050

✉ Or message us directly on social media