



Culworth Newsletter

June & July 2026



Culworth Village Café

The next village café is on **Saturday 6th June** from 10.30am till 12 in the Village Hall. Refreshments are free but donations are invited towards Village Hall upkeep. The following one will be on **Saturday 4th July**. Please come along and meet your fellow villagers, and enjoy delicious refreshment.



Culworth Snappers



The April meeting covered the topic of “From Below”, while May saw images of “Empty” Both produced a wide and imaginative selection of offerings. The photograph on the left is from the topic of “From Below”, but do check out the Culworth Snappers Facebook page, where a selection of images from our latest subject is regularly updated. The 25th June and 23rd July topics are “Ripples” and “Shadows”. 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.

Culworth Cricket Club

The season has started well. We have had a huge influx of new players joining our club with upwards of 50 children being trained on a Tuesday evening. The under-11 team have continued to improve and are currently mid-table in their league having had a win, a draw and a loss. The signs are very good for the future as they are still a young team with an average age of nine in an under-11 league.

The Culworth Casuals adult friendly team have had two close matches against Napton and Aynho. We unfortunately came second in both matches but thoroughly enjoyed them and Napton would be one of the stronger teams we play. You may have noticed that there has been regular cricket taking place at the ground on a Saturday afternoon this season. That is because we are acting as the host ground for Middleton Cheney men's third team.

Everyone is welcome to come and support our teams, home and away. The June & July fixture list is below. Jim Powell

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Home team</u>	-	<u>Away team</u>	<u>start time</u>
7th June	Sunday	Culworth U11	v	Byfield U11	10:00
13th June	Saturday	Middleton Cheney 3rds	v	Crown CC	13:30
14th June	Sunday	Towcester U11	v	Culworth U11	10:00
14th June	Sunday	Culworth Casuals	v	Whittlebury	13:30
4th July	Saturday	Middleton Cheney 3rds	v	Wardington CC	13:30
5th July	Sunday	Badby CC	v	Culworth Casuals	13:30
11th July	Saturday	Middleton Cheney 3rds	v	Preston Blissett	13:30

News from The Red Lion Culworth

Your Countryside Pub, Barn & Community Hub. 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: 09:30- 22:30

Sunday: 12:00- 18:00

Monday: Closed (apart from Bank Holidays)

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 - Corporate events - Special celebrations Message us to book your event or ask about packages.

Follow us for updates, menus, and events such as Quiz Nights: Instagram and Facebook:

@theredlionculworth Bookings & enquiries: 01295 760050 or message us directly on social media



Village Hall Film Nights – will resume after a summer break on 11th September, film to be decided. Look out for more details nearer the time.



Visualise at Sulgrave Manor

Visualise, a group of very exciting, talented and diverse contemporary textile artists are very excited to be exhibiting their stitched art textiles at Sulgrave Manor, the ancestral home of George Washington. This will coincide with the 250th anniversary of American Independence on 4th July.

News from St Mary's Culworth

The pattern of services in Culworth is as follows:

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

6pm Evensong Culworth

2nd Sunday 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) and Jenny Howse- 01295 768110 (jenny_howse@hotmail.com)

Despite having no Rector, we still have a fully functioning church. 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

Churchyard - There will be a working party in the churchyard at the end of July or beginning of August when the conservation area will be strimmed, ivy will be removed from the gravestones and generally tidied up. If you enjoyed the snowdrops and primroses this Spring in the churchyard you will realise what a difference this regime has made. There are still some slots to be filled for volunteers to cut the grass in the churchyard. (Please see the form on the table just inside the church.)

Ride and Stride 2026 - This year's Ride and Stride fund raising event takes place on 12th September. More details in the next newsletter

Culworth Benefice Services:

June & July 2026

Sunday 7th June – 10am Benefice Holy Communion Moreton Pinkney (EC)
6pm Evensong Culworth

Sunday 14th June - 9.30am Holy Communion Chipping Warden
11am Family Service Culworth

Sunday 21st June – 9am Morning Prayer Moreton Pinkney
10am Mattins Culworth

Sunday 28th June - 9.30am Holy Communion Culworth (CP)
10am Holy Communion Chipping Warden (EC)
11am Mattins Edgcote

Sunday 5th July – 11am **Chipping Warden** Service of Dedication and Thanksgiving celebrating the 800th Anniversary of St Peter and St Paul (EC), followed by a reception and summer lunch
6pm Evensong Culworth

Sunday 12th July - 9.30am Holy Communion Chipping Warden
9.30am Morning Prayer Moreton Pinkney
11am Family Service Culworth

Sunday 19th July - 9.30am Holy Communion Moreton Pinkney (GS)
10am Mattins Culworth

Sunday 26th July - 9.30am Holy Communion Culworth (EC)
10am Mattins Chipping Warden

Sunday 2nd August– 10am Benefice Holy Communion Culworth (EC)

Clergy Key

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

Dates for your Diary

Saturday 6th June – Village Café 10.30am – 12noon, Village Hall

Sunday 7th June – 10am Benefice Holy Communion at Moreton Pinkney
6pm Evensong at Culworth

Tuesday 9th June – Coffee & Chat, 10-12 Village Hall

Thursday 11th June - 7pm Parish Council Meeting, Village Hall

Sunday 14th June – 11am Family Service at Culworth

Sunday 21st June – 10am Mattins at Culworth

Thursday 25th June – 7.30pm Culworth Snappers at Forge Coffee – “Ripples”

Sunday 28th June – 9.30am Holy Communion at Culworth

Saturday 4th July – 10.30am – 12noon Village Café at the Village Hall

Sunday 5th July – 6pm Evensong at Culworth

Sunday 12th July – 11am Family Service at Culworth

Tuesday 14th July – 10am – 12noon, Coffee & Chat, Village Hall
Thursday 16th July – 7pm Parish Council Meeting, Village Hall
Sunday 19th July – 10am Mattins at Culworth
Thursday 23rd July – 7.30pm Culworth Snappers at Forge Coffee – “Shadows”
Sunday 26th July – 9.30am Holy Communion at Culworth

Saturday 1st August – Village Café 10.30am – 12noon, Village Hall
Sunday 2nd August – 9.30am Holy Communion at Culworth

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## **Delivering Better Facilities for Culworth**

*What the Culworth Hill Field Trust is doing – and what it means for you*

Community Update 2025–2026

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The plan is to deliver better facilities for Culworth. The ageing village hall and cricket pavilion have reached the end of their useful working life. There is now a clear plan to replace them and to give St Mary's Church a new lease of life at the same time.

This update explains what has already been delivered, what is being built next, and how it will benefit every resident.

### What Has Already Been Delivered

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Phase 1 is complete and the village has already seen real, tangible improvements:

- A new off-street car park, with a better entrance and a new exit — reducing congestion and improving safety for everyone.
- An improved cricket pavilion, properly upgraded and ready for seasons ahead.
- A brand-new children's playground, thanks to a community initiative and HS2 funding.
- The land for the new community facility has been secured, and planning permission is in place — the groundwork is done.

**All of this was achieved for less than budget: £246,000 of new investment in the village, with £75,000 of that coming from HS2**

### What Is Being Built Next

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Phase 2 will deliver the main prize: a modern, purpose-built Community and Recreation Facility on the cricket field, alongside a transformed St Mary's Church that can serve the whole village.

#### ***A New Community and Recreation Building***

The new building will replace both the tired village hall and the existing cricket pavilion in a single, well-designed space. It will provide:

- A main hall for village events, performances, and community gatherings.
- A meeting room for clubs, classes, and smaller groups.
- Proper changing facilities and a cricket pavilion — usable all year round, not just in the cricket season.
- A steel-frame structure with a projected lifespan well in excess of 25 years, at 30% of the cost of earlier stone-built proposals.

**The new facility will be 277 sq. metres — 18% larger than the existing buildings it replaces, at an estimated cost of £375,000. This is 70% cheaper than the earlier estimate of £1.3 million for a new stone-built facility for which we have planning permission.**

## ***A Transformed St Mary's Church***

St Mary's — our beautiful 14th-century Grade II\* listed building — faces a difficult future without a broader role in village life. The Trust is working with the church and the Diocese to refurbish the nave so it can host community events, concerts, exhibitions, and other activities, while remaining first and foremost a place of worship.

Together, the new building and a revitalised church would give Culworth more flexible, high quality community space than it has ever had before.

### How It Will Be Paid For

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The Trust has a realistic and largely self-financing funding plan:

|                                                    |                          |
|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Sale of the existing village hall site (estimated) | <b>£150,000–£170,000</b> |
| Parish Council Public Works Loan (applied for)     | <b>£375,000</b>          |
| Funding Gap                                        | <b>£225,000</b>          |

The existing village hall site will be marketed for housing once planning permission is confirmed, generating a significant capital contribution. A Public Works Loan from the UK Debt Management Office will cover construction. The intention is to raise as much as possible from local fund-raising efforts and potential third-party funders. Any remaining balance will be repaid over time by the Parish Council, a well-established route used by communities across the country.

No external fundraising will begin until the design is finalised and the loan is approved — so the plan is grounded in what is achievable, not what is hoped for.

### Where Things Stand Right Now

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Good progress has been made on all fronts:

- A local contractor — March Projects Construction Ltd., based in Culworth — has been selected as the preferred builder, with an all-in cost estimate within the initial budget.
- A revised floor plan is being finalised, and the architect will then update drawings and produce elevations for the new building.

- An amendment to the existing planning permission is being sought, avoiding the cost and delay of a full new application.
- The residential planning application for the old village hall site is ready; submission is being timed to take advantage of new legislation that will remove an expensive biodiversity assessment requirement.
- The church architect is preparing designs for the nave refurbishment with artist's impressions of the proposed alterations. A feasibility report will then be prepared for the Diocese to consider.

## Have Your Say

Plans for both the new building and the church refurbishment will be put on public display as soon as they are ready, and residents will be invited to give their views before anything is finalised.

The Trust is also looking for volunteers with experience in fundraising, marketing, or communications to help take the project forward. If you can help, or simply want to know more, please get in touch with any of the trustees below.

### The Trustee Team

|                           |                                    |                                       |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| John Duggan — Chair       | Peter Colville — Treasurer         | Andrew Field—Parochial Church Council |
| Jim Powell — Cricket Club | Charlie Timms — Village Hall Trust | Andrew Wilby — Parish Council         |
| Jose Rowling — Secretary  |                                    |                                       |



## Culworth Parish Council

The Parish Clerk, **Peter Coville** can be contacted via [culworthparishcouncilclerk@gmail.com](mailto:culworthparishcouncilclerk@gmail.com)  
See below for the list of responsibilities your Councillors have:

| <b>Councillor</b> | <b>Responsibilities</b>                                 |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| 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 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](mailto: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](mailto: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



# FORGE COFFEE

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>)

## 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



### 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](http://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](mailto:julierussell007@gmail.com).

## Paul Wharton

Studio & Gallery  
Professional Artist's Studio

Wide range of artwork for sale  
Oil, watercolour, mixed media



Forge Culworth – in the garden!

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

07768 897390

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

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](mailto:enquiries@sulgravemanor.org.uk)

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