



# Culworth Newsletter

June and July 2025



☀️ **Sporty Scarecrow Showdown!** Our team of highly respected scarecrow experts will be making their rounds in the village on the morning of the event, checking out all the creative, quirky, and downright hilarious sport-related scarecrow designs! 🏆

🍰 **Cake & Bake Bonanza** 🍰 Calling all bakers – it's time to show off your skills! Bring your showstopping cakes and delicious treats to the village hall on the morning of June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

🌸 **Garden on a plate** 🌸 Any budding garden designers young and old, put your green fingers to the test. Create a garden on a plate and bring it along on the morning of June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Look out for Entry Forms in Forge Coffee and Mumford's, or at the end of this Newsletter, along with rules and guidance.

**Jenny Howse writes:**



As part of the 80th anniversary of VE Day we had a special Family Service on Sunday 12th May when we remembered the memories of some of our more elderly residents about that day 80 years ago.

There are not many people who are still alive who remember much about those days 80 years ago, but we do have a few in Culworth and I have been round to ask them what they can remember. They have really enjoyed reminiscing, and I would like to share some of their memories with you.

Joan Oxley was a young girl living on the outskirts of Coventry, one of the cities most bombed by the Germans. She said there were street parties at the drop of a hat. Roads were closed off. Jellies, blancmanges and cakes were produced. People had been storing stuff in readiness for a party. She especially remembers the tinned fruit her mum had been keeping for a party. There was lots of flag waving.

Another Joan, Joan Gottowik, was a little older and remembers a lot more. She started the war in Surrey and ended the war living in Dalmar House in Culworth. At home in Surrey she was used to spending days and nights in their Anderson air-raid shelter. Because of the proximity to Croydon airport the skies we were used to Dorniers (German aircraft) flying between the barrage balloons on bombing raids. Anti-aircraft guns based on Common Hill on Wimbledon Common blazed away and once a German airman, parachuting down from his plane was shot at by firemen based in her local school.

Eventually she moved to Sulgrave (her Granny Goffe lived there), her father having decided suburban life was too dangerous. From Sulgrave they got a cottage in Helmdon. Joan remembers a P.O.W. camp between Sulgrave and Stutchbury. Gradually given the end of the war, prisoners were permitted to attend church and were allowed bicycles. Later living in Culworth (Dalmar House) she and her mother would provide the occasional lemonade for thirsty cyclists coming up the hill from the Catholic Church in Aston le Walls.

On VE Day itself, living in Culworth, she and her sister-in-law Bridget decided to go to London to experience it for themselves. They went by train from Culworth to London. The streets were crowded so, like skittles they were kept up by those around them. Her abiding memory was walking home along the railway tracks to Culworth and trying to match her paces to the wooden sleepers underfoot. She was then 18 years old.

Dorothy was another local girl, living in Weston. She remembers the bells being rung, a huge bonfire and a party in the village hall. Someone played the piano and there was dancing. She also remembers the day after when like Joan she went up to London on the train and in Green Park she saw the King and Queen and Winston Churchill who all waved to her!

Dorothy also wanted to tell me about a young 6-year-old boy Ian Shelton, who came to stay on the farm as an evacuee. After the war his father came to pick him up, but he came back to visit many times. His father couldn't settle down after the war and eventually they emigrated to New Zealand. They have visited Dorothy since then and she still receives a Christmas card from them.

I asked Simon what he remembered about VE day but living in Trinidad as a child he doesn't remember any special events but does remember a party in the evening. Peter was away at school on VE Day and for him it was just a normal school day. He remembers more about VJ Day and the celebrations then.

I know I have missed some people out – apologies but it was a real privilege to chat to so many of those who remembered. Thank You.

## **80 years since Victory in Europe**

A well-attended service was held in St Mary's Church on 8<sup>th</sup> May, led by Gerald Cadogan and following the guidance of the Church of England. At the start of the service David Mold laid a wreath on the altar on behalf of the Royal British Legion. Martin Rowling played the organ. Andrew Wilby read the Old Testament lesson from Zechariah 8.3–8 "Living safely and at peace". Luke Annaly read the New Testament lesson from Luke 15.18–24 "The welcoming joy of God". Gerald Cadogan gave a very apt address, the transcript of which is below.

"I don't remember VE Day: my first dateable memory is about 6 weeks later. At three years old in a bombed ruined building in Lewes Sussex, my parents told me to play with a typewriter, to keep me quiet. It was the Liberal Party's headquarters for the General Election of 5 July; my father was their candidate. He lost his deposit by 6 votes – Lewes is now stoutly Lib Dem – but the winning Tory, Major Tufton Beamish (whose name was later enshrined in Private Eye as Tufton Bufton), offered him 6 votes. The returning officer forbade this!

Why may this be relevant? Principally that within just 2 months of VE Day there was a General Election, a true democratic election, not like the pseudo-elections beloved by tyrants and dictators – and probably the most important election in this country of the 20th century. The war barely over, out went Churchill and the Tories and in came Attlee and Labour, to make changes that still affect us 80 years on, in particular the NHS.

It is here that this service differs from the annual Remembrance services in November. Of course, we still commemorate those who died in the 20th century wars but our focus today is on what was achieved, by the living and the dead, civilians and military, allies and Brits: namely, freedom, generosity, morality and democracy. Beamish's offer to my father in a small way exemplifies the willingness to help others, whether in battle or on the high street, that was such an important part of people's lives in the war, as we have heard from many veterans and centenarians who have been interviewed this week.

So, we celebrate the victory of 80 years ago as much as we commemorate those in the armed forces who gave their lives to ensure our blessed liberty before the law with, in general, speedy, efficient and honest elections and changes of government, with freedom of movement, with a determination throughout Europe and in most of the rest of the world that Never Again would there be such World Wars, with founding the United Nations and other institutions to promote national and international moral behaviour, with fair trade and no bullying. Sadly, in the world today this could not be more relevant, but it is not easy. In truth, the horrors of Ukraine, Gaza, Sudan and the Congo show how very difficult it can be. At the same time they remind us of what civilians suffered in the Second World War, in Coventry, Dresden, Hiroshima and many, many more places.



So, while we thank God for those from Culworth listed on the lower plaque by the pulpit and millions of others who died, and are thankful too for the peace and prosperity which on the whole we have been fortunate to enjoy in this country since 1945, we must, as the hymn says, continue to fight the good fight. It is not over yet."



The service included the hymns Praise my soul the King of Heaven, King of Glory King of Peace, Fight the Good Fight, Now Thank we all our God, and the National Anthem. Following the service, David Mold collected the wreath from the altar, leading the congregation to the War Memorial where the wreath was laid again.

In 1945 beacons were lit across the country. On this anniversary, Culworth lit its hand-made brazier on the Green, which was followed by celebratory drinks and light refreshments for the many people who chose to come along and mark the occasion.

## Culworth Village Café

There will be a village café on **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June** from 10.30 till 12 in the Village Hall. Refreshments are free but donations are invited towards Village Hall upkeep. The following one will be on **Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July**. Please come along and meet your fellow villagers.



## Film Nights

There are no film nights for the next three months. We start again on Friday 12th September - film title to be decided.

## Culworth Cricket Club

The season so far has been very good for Culworth Cricket. Not only has the weather been perfect which has meant the ground is in great condition, even though we were praying for rain before our first match so we could actually roll the wicket as the ground was so hard. But the Tuesday evening training sessions and the Sunday matches have all been played under perfect weather.

We have had a massive influx of new members this season and are regularly getting over 50 children turn up to training sessions. It certainly bodes well for the future as they are mostly in the age band of 7-8 years old. Over the next few years we can mould them into a very competitive team. Even in the few matches we have had, we have seen a marked improvement to the point that we only narrowly lost out by three runs to a much older Spencer Bruerne side in the Under 11s three weeks ago.

The Culworth Casuals adult friendly teams first match was against Eydon which we won. This is the first win against Eydon for a number of years. If anyone in the village would like a game, please contact Jim Powell at [jpowell@jspmanagement.co.uk](mailto:jpowell@jspmanagement.co.uk).

## Culworth Snappers



The April and May meetings at Forge Coffee covered the topics of “Long Exposure” and “Rooftops”, and as always, a varied range of pictures were submitted for discussion. The photograph on the left is from the Rooftops topic, but do check out the Culworth Snappers Facebook page, where a selection of images from our latest subject is regularly updated.

Several Snappers went to Clattercote Reservoir recently and despite low water levels, managed to produce some beautiful images of swans, cygnets, grebes, and other birds both on and off the water. The topics for June and July are “Street Photography” and “Curves”, and we will have a presentation by Courtney Victoria on Macro Photography on 14<sup>th</sup> 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.

## 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](mailto:josephine.rowling@gmail.com))

Jenny Howse- 01295 768110 ([jenny\\_howse@hotmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:fathermatthew.r@icloud.com)). The Vicarage, Church Avenue, Kings Sutton OX17 3RJ

## Church Electoral Roll

Thank you to all those who have filled in the forms to be on the Church Electoral Roll. A list is on the noticeboard in the church porch. At the Annual Church meeting we were able to elect a full complement of members to the PCC. Thank You.

## Help Needed

Many thanks to all those who came and helped with the Spring clean this year. I think it was probably a record number. Also, thanks to all those who have volunteered to cut the grass. Our churchyard relies on volunteers to keep it beautiful. Could you spare some time to help? We still

have a few slots to fill for September. A list is on the noticeboard in the porch in the church. If you could help with the churchyard mowing, we would be most grateful. Please fill in any times you could help or contact me. (jenny\_howse@hotmail.com or 01295 768110)

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 we will generally tidy up. If you enjoyed the snowdrops and primroses this Spring in the churchyard you will realise what a difference this regime has made.

## **Ride and Stride 2025**

This year's Ride and Stride takes place on 13th September. More details in the next newsletter.

## **Culworth Benefice Services June & July 2025**

**1<sup>st</sup> June** 10am Benefice Holy Communion  
Edgcote (EC)  
6pm Evensong Culworth

**8<sup>th</sup> June**  
9.30am Holy Communion Chipping Warden  
(J.D.)  
9.30am Morning Prayer Moreton Pinkney  
11am Family Service Culworth

**15<sup>th</sup> June**  
9am Holy Communion Moreton Pinkney (G.S.)  
10am Mattins Culworth

**22<sup>nd</sup> June**  
9.30am Holy Communion Culworth (G.S.)  
10am Mattins Chipping Warden  
11am Mattins Edgcote (James Hewison)  
4pm Evensong Moreton Pinkney

**29<sup>th</sup> June**  
10am Benefice Holy Communion Culworth  
(E.C.)

**6<sup>th</sup> July**  
10am Benefice Holy Communion Chipping  
Warden  
6pm Evensong Culworth

**13<sup>th</sup> July**  
9.30am Holy Communion Chipping Warden  
(G.S.)  
9.30am Morning Prayer Moreton Pinkney  
11am Family Service Culworth

**20<sup>th</sup> July**  
9.30am Holy Communion Moreton Pinkney  
(G.S.)  
10am Mattins Culworth

**27<sup>th</sup> July**  
9.30am Holy Communion Culworth (G.S.)  
9.30am Café Church Moreton Pinkney  
10am Mattins Chipping Warden  
11am Holy Communion Edgcote

**3<sup>rd</sup> August**  
10am Benefice Holy Communion Moreton  
Pinkney  
6pm Evensong Culworth

E.C. - Rt Rev Ed Condry  
G.S. - Rev Greg Shaw  
P.B. - Rev Phillip Ball  
R.O. - Ven. Richard Ormston

## Dates for your Diary

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> June – 6pm Evensong Culworth  
Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June – 10.30am to 12noon, Village Cafe  
Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June – 11am Family Service Culworth  
Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> June – 10am to 12noon, Coffee & Chat in Village Hall  
Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> June – 10am Mattins Culworth  
Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> June – 9.30am Holy Communion Culworth  
Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> June – 2pm – 6pm, Village Fun Day & BBQ on Cricket Field  
Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> June – 7.30pm Culworth Snappers at The Forge – “Street Photography”  
Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June – 10am Benefice Holy Communion Culworth  
Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July - 10.30am to 12noon, Village Cafe  
Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> July – 6pm Evensong Culworth  
Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July - Coffee & Chat in Village Hall  
Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> July – 11am Family Service Culworth  
Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> July – 10am Mattins Culworth  
Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> July - 7.30pm Culworth Snappers at The Forge – “Curves”  
Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> July – 9.30am Holy Communion Culworth  
Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> August – 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](mailto:ginnystaniford@gmail.com). We can't wait to make this event even better with more Culworth villagers involved.

Many thanks  
Ginny Staniford

**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



**West  
Northamptonshire  
Council**

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.



## Culworth Community Circuit Training

As last summer's Circuit Training sessions were so successful, they are coming back. It was lovely for old and new villagers to come together for some exercise, laughter and chats. The first session will be on Monday 16th June 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

## Village Fun Day Entry Forms



### Cake competition entry form

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Age (if under 18) \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone number \_\_\_\_\_  
Anything you would like to tell us about your cake/s  
\_\_\_\_\_

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### CAKE COMPETITION GUIDELINES

- Create any kind of cake or cakes, just impress us!
- Judging from 1pm on the day

### HOW TO ENTER

- Open to everyone – all ages.
- Register by submitting your entry form. These are available at Forge Coffee and Mumford's or from Ginny Staniford: [ginnystaniford@gmail.com](mailto:ginnystaniford@gmail.com)

### RULES & GUIDELINES

1. Cakes must be delivered to the **Cricket Pavilion** between between **12 and 1pm Sunday 22nd June**, with a completed entry form
2. All cakes must be homemade
3. Any number of cakes may be submitted, each entry must be accompanied with an entry form
3. Cakes will be submitted on the understanding that they will be shared between everyone at the BBQ on the cricket field after the judging.

### JUDGING

- Judging will take place at 1pm and the winners will be announced on the cricket field at 5pm





**Garden on Plate Entry Form**

Name -----

Age (if under 18) -----

Address -----

Phone number -----

Anything you would like to tell us about your garden -----

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**GARDEN ON A PLATE COMPETITION  
GUIDELINES**

- Create a miniature garden on a plate. The more original the better!
- Judging from 1pm on the day

**HOW TO ENTER**

- Open to everyone – all ages.
- Register by submitting your entry form. These are available at Forge Coffee and Mumford's or from Ginny Stanford: [ginnystanford@gmail.com](mailto:ginnystanford@gmail.com)

**RULES & GUIDELINES**

1. Gardens must be delivered to the **Cricket Pavilion** between between **12 and 1pm Sunday 22nd June**, with a completed entry form
2. Any number of gardens may be submitted, each entry must be accompanied with an entry form
3. Gardens will be available to collect between 5 and 6pm after everyone has had a chance to admire them!

**JUDGING**

- Judging will take place at 1pm and the winners will be announced on the cricket field at 5pm

A garden on a plate is a playful patch of the outdoors, shrunken down to the size of your dinner plate. Twigs turn into trees, moss makes a perfect wild lawn, and pebbles become stepping stones for ants on an adventure. It's a jumble of leaves, feathers, seeds, and whatever else you can find—like nature's version of a messy bedroom, full of stories waiting to be made up. But it doesn't all have to be made from natural things.

# Scarecrow Entry Form

(Submit by 21<sup>st</sup> June - Noon)

Entrants Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Where will your Scarecrow be located? \_\_\_\_\_

Scarecrows Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Sporty Scarecrow Competition

- Create a scarecrow based on this year's theme: SPORT. Think tennis-playing turnips, footballer farmers, or yoga-loving grandmas.
- Let your imagination run wild (even if your scarecrow can't!)
- Judging from 11am on the day

## HOW TO ENTER

- Open to everyone - all ages, all abilities, all scarecrow species.
- Register by submitting your entry form. These are available at Forge Coffee and Mumford's or from Ginny Staniford: [ginnystaniford@gmail.com](mailto:ginnystaniford@gmail.com)

## RULES & GUIDELINES

1. Scarecrows must be on display by **11am Sunday 22nd June** (late arrivals may not be judged!)
2. Minimum height: 1 metre (approx. 3ft 3in).
3. All scarecrows must be handmade - no commercial masks.
4. Keep it fun and family-friendly - anything offensive may be repurposed for egg target practice.
5. Display at the front of your property, or clearly signpost its location.
6. Make sure your scarecrow is secure - flying limbs are a no-no.
7. Scaring dogs = acceptable. Scaring horses = not.

## JUDGING

- Only scarecrows that are registered and follow the rules will be judged.
- The judges' decisions are final. They will be announced at 5pm on the Cricket Field. No debates, no appeals, no tantrums.
  - Rules can be changed at any time, without warning.
  - By entering, you accept the rules—even the silly ones.

### ENTRY FORMS DUE BY NOON SATURDAY 21st JUNE

Return your form to:

Ginny Staniford's letterbox (Barn Hill, Concrete Road) or [ginnystaniford@gmail.com](mailto:ginnystaniford@gmail.com) . . Forge Coffee or . Mumford's  
Let's line the village with our most athletic (and least coordinated) creations.

## 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 the text and formatting 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



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

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## Paul Wharton

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Forge Culworth – in the garden!

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

**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.

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