







We're thrilled to be hosting our very first Christmas Shopping Trail – a festive day right here in the village, packed with festivities, creativity, and community cheer.

Doors all over Culworth will be opening to welcome you in. Expect to find 40+ indoor stalls in studios, homes, the church, school, village hall and Red Lion Barn. Here there will be handmade gifts, local produce, art, crafts, and seasonal treats – all created and curated by talented makers and artists.

And another treat is in store for us.

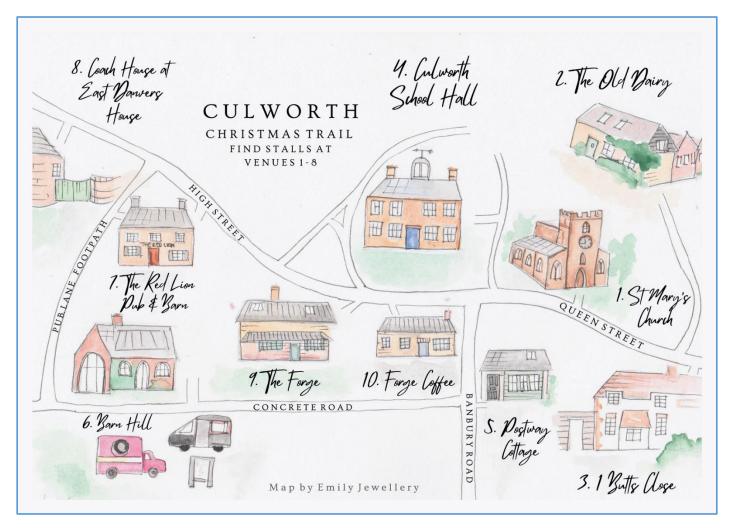
Award-winning poet Jen Feroze writes personal poems on the spot on her vintage typewriter, which make unique and meaningful presents. Chat with her and watch as your poem comes to life in front of your eyes.

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 chats – there's something for everyone. And for the children there will be a craft table and free chocolate Santa hunt and letterbox.

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.

There'll be plenty of Christmas atmosphere, too – music, lights and maybe even a few festive surprises to keep the day merry and bright. So, grab your friends, bring the family, and join us for a day of shopping, strolling, and celebrating the start of the festive season.



Culworth Village Café

There will be a village café on **Saturday 6th December** from 10am till 12 in the Village Hall. Refreshments are free but donations are invited towards Village Hall upkeep. The following one will be on **Saturday 3rd January**. Please come along and meet your fellow villagers.



Carols on The Green - Christmas Eve



The village tradition of gathering on The Green at 6pm on Christmas Eve to sing carols and partake in mulled wine and refreshments is taking place once again, with thanks to Simon and Petrina Martin and others for providing and preparing the goodies. We are hoping that some new decorations will be in place at add to the festivities. Everyone is welcome to attend, to help launch Christmas with a bang. Please come along and bring your singing voices with you!

Remembrance Sunday

The sun glinted through the clouds. A large congregation numbering 55 adults and 11 children gathered in St Marys Church for the Annual Act of Remembrance at 10.15am. Gerald Cadogan led the service. Wreaths from the Royal British Legion, Culworth Church and Culworth Parish Council were laid on the altar by David Mold, June Oxley and Andrew Wilby. Gerald's excellent address follows:

"When we meet every year in November to remember, and give thanks for, the men and women in uniform from this country and its allies, and in particular those from this village, who died in the two World Wars, as well as those who have died in other conflicts such as Korea or Afghanistan, we have much to thank God and them for. The 80 years since the end of the Second World War have been for Europe probably the longest time ever in two millennia or more to have been in general without wars: a remarkable feat, even if it is at present somewhat fragile. This long peace of the second half of the twentieth century has blessed us, and we are right to recall every year those who lost their lives to help achieve this.

But we need also to recall and honour the millions of civilians who suffered too, as a result, especially, of the relentless technological developments – I hesitate to say progress – that have made war a total experience by inflicting death and injury on millions of people not in uniform in many countries of the world. Ukraine, Gaza, Congo and Sudan come to mind at once. Near us, the blitz on Coventry 85 years ago this coming week is the same horrific story.

To remember before God the full experience in the Second World War of the people of this village, people who would have used this church and its churchyard, please have a look at the leather-bound book on the altar in the south aisle, the Lady Chapel which is itself a place of remembrance. This book fills out the story for Culworth and adds to the names in the tablets on the wall by the pulpit and the memories that belong with them, and deepens our understanding.

At the front the book is a Prayer Book; but bound in at the back are two lists. The longer one is of the people of Culworth in uniform, both deceased and survivors, recording what they did, and their unit and rank etc. The shorter list is of the civilians who were in the village Home Guard, including I think some too young to have joined up in the regular services. Have a look. You will find many familiar names.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them. Amen."

The Act of Remembrance continued at the War Memorial which has the roll of honour inscribed from the Two World Wars. Major Bradley Beresford of the Royal Engineers, in full military dress read out those names to over 70 people including 11 children. The two-minute silence followed. It was quite a poignant moment to see Major Beresford standing to attention alone by the Memorial. The wreaths were laid on the Memorial as a reminder to us all, of the horrors of War.

Our thanks go to Gerald Cadogan for leading both services, Jenny Howse for playing the organ, Simon Theobald for organising the wreaths, Basil and Trudy for their care of the War Memorial and especially to Major Bradley Beresford. It is a long time since Culworth had a serving member of His Majesty's armed forces.

Wedding

On a happy day in October 2025 Dawn Eaton married Chris Walker. Most of us know Dawn as the daughter of the late Jack and Margaret Claridge, widow of the special Fred Eaton of Cricket Club fame, mother of David and grandmother of Mia. We wish Dawn and Chris much happiness.

Obituaries

John Russell Taylor - some of us remember John and his partner Yeung when they lived at Danvers House. Noted as the biographer for Alfred Hitchcock, he was also a film and art critic for The Times. He loved conversation and his dogs. It was a privilege to be entertained by John and Yeung. John died on August 18th aged 90. Yeung and he had many happy times together.

Jennifer Ormond - wife of John Ormond, died on November 3rd after a period of ill health. She had the most marvellous care both from her family and Spencer House. Jenny used to live in Wheatsheaf Cottages, teaching at Chipping Warden. Her talents abounded. She loved art and games. How many children were taught to swim by her? Not long ago one of her ex-pupils Tony Hinchcliffe had an exhibition of his art at Priors Hardwick. This talented artist credits his teaching at Chipping Warden school by Jenny, and also Jenny Howse as the encouragement for his art. Jenny loved cooking, flower arranging, gardening and more. She and John were very thoughtful and kind to their then neighbour Mrs Rigby. Jenny and John moved with Dan her grandson to Northampton, to enable Dan to have the best care and education for his multiple needs. Besides giving Dan most excellent loving care, Jenny taught him to paint too. We send much sympathy and love to John, her daughters Gail, Caroline, Callum and Sharon and her grandchildren especially Dan.

Richard Jones late of Paddocks Farm died on October 29th. He and his late wife Jane participated in village life with their three children Victoria, Harry and Fergus. They were fun loving. We remember them with affection and send our sympathy to Richard's children and grandchildren.

Simon Langdale – husband of Diana and father of Andrew, Phillipa and Mark and grandfather to Phoebe, Paddy, Kit, Felix, Olly and Rafe, died on Thursday 13th November. In his earlier days, he had been a master at Radley, Eastbourne, Tonbridge, and Headmaster of Shrewsbury School. He loved horseracing and playing golf. This quiet, very smart smiling gentleman gave wise counsel to many people locally about school, university and further education. He ran the sports day for the Golden Jubilee, encouraging children to take part. As an integral of the Culworth Church congregation he led services, mowed the churchyard, cleaned the church and much more. The Annual Summer garden party in the Langdales' immaculate garden was always a great pleasure to attend. Sadly, Parkinsons disease limited his much later life. Simon was good at cricket having coached many boys especially at Tonbridge, a school which has produced many Test and County Cricketers. Maybe one of his last achievements in the village was in the egg throwing competition at the Fete on the Cricket Field now Hill Field. He won the competition with Rupert Rowling. We all were so thrilled. Wonderfully cared for by Diana and his family, Simon spent only a very few weeks in a Nursing Home. He adored his family and they him. A thanksgiving service will be held in the New Year. We send much love and sympathy to Diana and her loving family.

Culworth Snappers



The October and November meetings at Forge Coffee covered the topics of "Nature" and "Looking Down". The photograph on the left is from the Nature topic, but do check out the Culworth Snappers Facebook page, where a selection of images from our latest subject is regularly updated.

The October meeting also provided the opportunity to view images produced by the group who attended the Macro experience led by Courtney Victoria in the Forest of Dean. Fungi were much in evidence, with some fabulous photos on show.

The January topic will be Rust, which should be interesting! 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.

Christmas Wordsearch

Just a bit of fun to occupy the odd moment when you're indulging in a mince pie or Christmas tipple... It includes a mention for our village local, **The Red Lion Pub, now in the hands of new owners, Alex and Alex!** Please support them as they have a hard act to follow, and they are keen to please us, so would welcome ideas and constructive criticism.

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BAUBLE BELLS BOW CAROLS CHEER **CHRISTMAS CRACKER** DECK **FAIRY HOLLY** ICE IVY **JESUS** JOY **JUMPER** MAGI **MERRY MISTLETOE PARCEL** RING **TINSEL TREE** TURKEY THE/RED/LION/PUB

Christmas Candle Tradition

The tradition of lighting candles at Christmas in memory of loved ones (including pets) was established many years ago by the late Rosemary Courtney. Over the years, the funds raised from this meaningful practice have contributed to several improvements within the church, including new altar linen, coir mats for the entrance doors, and the automatic winding mechanism for the John Moore of Clerkenwell clock in the tower. If you wish to have a candle lit in memory of a loved one but are unable to attend the Christmas Day service, please contact Jose Rowling either by phone on 07776 400836 or by email at josephine.rowling@gmail.com. Should you wish to make a donation, kindly place it in an envelope labelled accordingly and deliver it through the Forge letterbox at the back door.

The names of those being remembered will be read aloud by Gerald Cadogan at the start of the Christmas Day service.

News from St Mary's Culworth

Parish Priest and Service Arrangements

We are currently still in an interregnum, but we are hopeful that 2026 will see the appointment of a new priest for our benefice, who will be resident in the Rectory. The current proposal is for Culworth to have its own part-time priest, whose role would be Rector of the Culworth Benefice and assistant priest of the Chenderit Benefice.



Church Services

Our church holds services nearly every Sunday, and we are committed to maintaining this regular pattern of worship. We are extremely fortunate to have a number of dedicated retired clergy living in the vicinity of Culworth, who have kindly agreed to support us throughout the interregnum. All services requiring a priest are covered until after Easter 2026.

Contact Information during the Interregnum

If you have any queries regarding church matters during the interregnum, please contact Martin at 01295 760571 or via email at Josephine.rowling@gmail.com. Alternatively, you may reach Jenny at 01295 768110 or at jenny_howse@hotmail.com. You can also contact the Rural Dean, Father Matthew Robinson, on 01295 811364 or by email at fathermatthew.rowling.gen.

Regular Church Services in Culworth (2025/2026)

The regular pattern of services at St Mary's Church for 2025 and 2026 is as follows:

- 1st Sunday of the month: 10:00 am Benefice Holy Communion
- 6:00 pm Evensong at Culworth
- 2nd Sunday of the month: 11:00 am Family Service
- 3rd Sunday of the month: 10:00 am Mattins
- 4th Sunday of the month: 9:30 am Holy Communion
- 5th Sunday (about three times a year): 10:00 am Benefice Holy Communion

Christmas Services 2025



The Christmas season at St Mary's Church, Culworth, will be marked by a series of special services and celebrations, offering opportunities for worship, fellowship, and community spirit.

• Sunday, 7th December: There will be no services

held in Culworth on this date.

Sunday, 14th December – 11:00 am: Christingle Service
 Everyone is warmly invited to an informal Christingle Service. This is a
 wonderful occasion for children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren to join
 in and enjoy the simple yet meaningful message of Christingle. As in previous
 years, the collection taken during the service will go towards supporting the
 excellent and vital work of The Children's Society.



- Sunday, 21st December 6:00 pm: Candlelit Carol Service
 Come and join us for a traditional Candlelit Carol Service, featuring much-loved carols and readings, often with a touch of humour to lift the spirits. At the conclusion of the service, all are welcome to stay for drinks and nibbles in a convivial atmosphere.
- Thursday, 25th December 11:00 am: Christmas Day Holy Communion
 Celebrate Christmas Day with a Holy Communion service, with Bishop Ed Condry officiating.

Opportunities to Help at St Mary's Church

We warmly invite members of the village to support St Mary's Church by joining one or more of our essential volunteer rotas. Could you assist with the regular cleaning rota, help with flower arrangements, or take part in occasional tasks such as the general churchyard tidy up, the annual Spring Clean, or mowing? Any contribution is greatly appreciated, and we especially encourage younger and new residents to get involved. Thank you for considering lending a hand.

Church Flowers

We are currently seeking volunteers to join our flower arrangement rota. Beginners are very welcome – no prior experience is needed! Many of our dedicated flower arrangers have served faithfully for years and are now stepping back, so it's the perfect opportunity for "newbies" and perhaps some of the younger retired members of our community to get involved.

You don't need to be a regular churchgoer or have any flower-arranging knowledge. All that's required is a willingness to help keep our church looking cared for and inviting. The commitment is not onerous, and you'll never be left to manage alone.

Whether you attend church or not, most of us appreciate this special building, and helping with flowers is a simple, enjoyable way to take shared responsibility for its upkeep. If you're interested

in joining in – even just occasionally – we'd love to hear from you. To find out more or to offer your help, please contact Diana at 01295 760222 or email dmlangdale@gmail.com.

Culworth Benefice Services: December 2025 – February 2026

Friday 28th November, 18:00 – Chipping Warden Christmas Tree Light Up - accompanied by mulled wine and mince pies.

Sunday 30th November, 10:00 – Benefice Holy Communion, Edgcote (E.C.)

Sunday 7th December, 10:00 – Benefice Holy Communion, Chipping Warden (C.P.)

Sunday 14th December, 09:30 – Morning Prayer, Moreton Pinkney

11:00 - Christingle Service, Culworth

Sunday 21st December, 15:00 – Candlelit Carols with Nativity Donkey, Chipping Warden

17:00 – Carol Service, Moreton Pinkney

18:00 - Carol Service, Culworth

Wednesday 24th December – Christmas Eve

23:30 – Midnight Mass, Chipping Warden (G.S.)

Thursday 25th December - Christmas Day

09:30 – Morning Prayer, Moreton Pinkney

11:00 – Holy Communion, Culworth (E.C.)

Sunday 28th December, 11:00 – Carol Service, Edgcote

January 2026 Services

Sunday 4th January, 10:00 – Benefice Holy Communion, Culworth (E.C.)

Sunday 11th January, 09:30 – Holy Communion, Chipping Warden (C.P.)

09:30 – Morning Prayer, Moreton Pinkney

11:00 - Family Service, Culworth

Sunday 18th January, 09:30 – Holy Communion, Moreton Pinkney (G.S.)

10:00 - Mattins, Culworth

Sunday 25th January, 09:30 – Holy Communion, Culworth (E.C.)

10:00 - Mattins, Chipping Warden

11:00 - Mattins, Edgcote

February 2026 Service

Sunday 1st February, 10:00 – Benefice Holy Communion, Chipping Warden (C.P.)

Special Event

Sunday 14th December, 12:30 – Chipping Warden Village Hall Christmas Lunch and Grand Draw Tickets are available from Liz (01295 660254)

Clergy Key

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

Where in Culworth is this?



Ash Dieback

In the last few months, I have had 4 quite mature ash trees fall down in my garden. I have been worried for some time about the number of ash trees that appear to be suffering from ash dieback that are along our country lanes. I hope that they will be removed before, as in my case, they fall down with no warning, hopefully not on a passing car.

Please excuse the sound of chainsaws in the next month or so from the bottom of the hill in Culworth, but unfortunately the fallen trees and neighbouring ash trees must come down.

Jenny Howse

Dates for your Diary

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

Saturday 6th December – Village Café 10am – 12noon, Village Hall

Sunday 7th December - 10am Benefice Holy Communion at Chipping Warden

Tuesday 9th December – Coffee & Chat, 10am – 12noon, Village Hall

Sunday 14th December – 11am Christingle Service, Culworth

Sunday 21st December – 6pm Carol Service, Culworth

Thursday 25th December – Christmas Day 11am Holy Communion, Culworth

Saturday 3rd January – Village Café 10am – 12noon, Village Hall

Sunday 4th January – 10am Benefice Holy Communion, Culworth

Thursday 8th January – 7pm Parish Council Meeting, Village Hall

Sunday 11th January – 11am Family Service, Culworth

Tuesday 13th January - Coffee & Chat, 10am - 12noon, Village Hall

Sunday 18th January – 10am Mattins, Culworth

Thursday 22nd January – 7.30pm Culworth Snappers at Forge Coffee – "Rust"

Sunday 25th January – 9.30am Holy Communion, Culworth

Culworth over the last 100 years

How different was Culworth in 1925 compared with today?

100 years ago, there was no running water, mains sewage or electricity with villagers instead having to draw water from a well. There are a number still dotted around the village. Does your property have one? Here at The Forge, there are three. In the 1920s, earth closets would have been used rather than flush toilets with a night cart collecting the sewage to deposit it in a specified field. With no electricity or gas, central heating took the form of black lead ranges with an open fire where pots of water would be constantly on the boil. The heat of the ovens could be regulated by adjusting the intensity of the coal fire while paraffin stoves could both heat saucepans and heat the room, albeit creating much condensation in the process.

Washing involved the heating of the copper in the washhouse; this was a brick-built structure with space for a fire underneath to heat the water placed in the lead lined copper. The copper was filled the night before so that the first person up could lay and light the fire to heat the water. Twill sheets were washed first, then rinsed in the dolly tub in cold water and put through the mangle to ring the water out. Dirty work clothes were washed last. Washing was hung on the line with dolly pegs.

Many trades were in the village, with the current names of houses bearing testimony to that. Around the Green there is The Old Bakehouse, The Old Village Shop, The Old Post Office whilst The Forge was also a wheelwright's and carpenter's shop. Farms were aplenty with Fulford Farm, Westhill, Yeomans (which is now The Paddocks), Home Farm, Happylands, Culworth Grounds and Blackbird Hill. And as well as The Red Lion, which thankfully remains to this day, there were two further pubs, The Wheatsheaf and Rectory Villas.

There was even a train station, Culworth Halt, which was situated at the bottom of the hill near the turn to Eydon with the remains of the bridge still visible today, on the line from Banbury to Woodford Halse. (Confusingly Culworth Station was much nearer Moreton Pinkney). As well as a train service, the Carrier took people to Banbury on Thursday for Market day. There were very few cars.

There was no telephone, television or radio in general. One of the few buildings to still be as familiar to today's Culworth residents as it was to those of a century ago is Mumford's, the butchers. This fourth-generation family business is still in its original premises with four vans delivering to the surrounding villages, selling not only fresh meat (including the noted sausages) but greengrocery, fruit and basic grocery ingredients. They are the lifeline for many older people. During the pandemic, their diligence and hard work enabled many to get essential shopping to the door. Whatever village social event takes place in Culworth, it is likely that Mumford's will have generously supplied the sausages and burgers.

How lucky is Culworth to have the benefit of a shop open six days a week with the smiling faces of David and Sally, Carl, Chris and Max to serve us. Long may it continue.



West Northamptonshire Council is introducing a booking system for its Recycling Centres.

Are you ready for the new booking system being introduced at Recycling Centres across West Northants? It launches on 3 November this year, with the aim of reducing queues and easing pressure on local roads. You'll be able to 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

If you're planning to visit any of West Northamptonshire's

Recycling Centres on or after 3 November, you must book a slot first. The booking system opens on 20 October, allowing you to reserve a slot online. You can also book by phone if you prefer.



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

Culworth Parish Council

The Council has a new Parish Clerk, **Peter Coville**, known to many of you in the village. Please support him in his new role. He can be contacted via clerk@culworthparishcouncil.gov.uk 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				

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.



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Minutes of Parish Council Meetings

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

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

Whilst the Parish Council funds the publication of the newsletter, the views expressed in it may not be those of the Parish Council. The editor reserves the right to make adjustments to text and formatting of submissions for readability.

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

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

Want to know what is happening in the village?

The Parish Council's website (the Culworth Village website) as above. Or search online for:

Culworth Village News & Information Facebook Culworth Facebook Culworth Community Facebook Nextdoor Culworth Red Lion website and Facebook Forge Coffee website



Mondays to Fridays 8:45am-4pm Saturdays 9am-4pm Sundays 9am-3pm

Thanks for all your support.

Available to rent for events and parties

For all our events, check our website:
https://www.forgecoffee.co.uk/whats-on or
follow us on Instagram (@forge_coffee) or on
Facebook

(https://www.facebook.com/forgecoffeeshop)

Mumfords Butchers



Serving the local community for over 90 years Fresh meats and fruit and veg delivered to your door

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

07768 897390





Gifts
Weddings
Events
Farewell Flowers
Courses in
Growing & Floristry

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.

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.



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, $\pounds 5$ admins fee applies. Does not include free entry to events.

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