

# **The Mouthpiece**

## **Culham's Newsletter No 271**

### ***Village Diary December 2005***

- 2nd**     ***Christmas Bazaar, The School, 3.15 - 4.30 pm***
- 4th**     ***Family Service, St Paul's Church, 10 am***
- 5th**     ***Parish Council Meeting, The School, 7.30 pm***
- 8th**     ***Mobile Library, The Glebe, 12.05 - 12.20 pm***
- 12th**    ***Rehearsal of School Christmas Celebration, St Paul's, 9.30 am***
- 12th**    ***Over-60s' Lunch, The Lion, 12 - 4 pm***
- 13th**    ***School Christmas Celebration, St Paul's Church, 6.30 pm***
- 18th**    ***Carol Service, St Paul's Church, 6 pm***
- 19th**    ***Children's Party, The Lion, 6 - 9 pm***
- 22nd**    ***Mobile Library, The Glebe, 12.05 - 12.20 pm***
- 25th**    ***Christmas Day Communion, St Paul's Church, 10 am***
- 31st**    ***Village Lottery Draw, The Lion***

### ***January 2006***

- 3rd**     ***Mobile Library, The Glebe, 12.30 - 12.50 pm***
- 15th**    ***Evening Prayer, St Paul's Church, 4 pm***
- 15th**    ***Deadline for February's Mouthpiece***
- 17th**    ***Mobile Library, The Glebe, 12.30 - 12.50 pm***
- 28th**    ***Village Lottery Draw, The Lion***
- 31st**    ***Mobile Library, The Glebe, 12.30 - 12.50 pm***

**VILLAGE NEWS****Greetings!**

***Those of us who produce the Mouthpiece wish all our readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We'd like to thank all our regular contributors and advertisers for their support, also Lynn Hancock and those who help to deliver this newsletter in Culham.***

**The Lion**

We would like to invite all the **Over-60's** to a **Christmas Lunch** on **Monday 12th December** between **12 noon and 4 pm**. Please call in for your free ticket.

We also have a **Children's Party** on **Monday 19th December** between **6 pm and 9 pm**. Please call in for free tickets.

Over Christmas our opening times are as follows:

23rd & 24th	12 noon - 11 pm
25th	12 noon - 2 pm & 6 pm - 11 pm
26th	12 noon - 2 pm
27th - 30th	As normal
New Year's Eve	12 noon - 2 pm & 6 pm - late
New Year's Day	12 noon - 3 pm

**Culham Village Lottery****Lynn Hancock**

Congratulations to Anne Weir, winner of the October draw. The draw takes place in the Lion on the last Saturday of each month.

**Culham Parochial School Christmas Bazaar****Sarah Wilkinson**

This year's Christmas Bazaar will take place on **Friday 2nd December from 3.15 pm to 4.30 pm**. There will be many attractions including Santa's grotto, games and activities, and a raffle. Refreshments and cakes will be served. We hope that you will come along and support this festive event which helps to raise funds for the school as well as the chance to get into the Christmas spirit!

**Children in Need**

From Zoe, Hannah, Josh, Clare and Nicole (past and present pupils at Culham School): thank you to everyone who bought cookies from us on the evening of Sunday 13 November in aid of Children in Need. We raised £45.

**Mobile Library - Change of Day and Time in 2006**

In December the Mobile Library will visit Culham as usual on Thursdays - ie. 8th & 22nd from 12.05 to 12.20 pm.

Starting in January it will come on alternate **Tuesdays** from **12.30 pm to 12.50 pm**, so the new dates will be **3rd, 17th and 31st January**.

**Charity Christmas Event****Lynn Hancock**

A huge 'Thank You' to everyone who came along to support the above event that I held in support of Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire. Between us we raised almost £100 towards our funds. Home-Start is a local registered charity based in Didcot and covering the whole of Southern Oxfordshire. Volunteers offer support to families who may be experiencing difficulties or just need another pair of hands. Funding is a constant battle so every little helps - many thanks again.

**Bag2school****Sarah Wilkinson**

A big thank you to all of those in Culham village who participated in this scheme. We had a large number of

bags to hand over and we will let you know just how much we raised in February. It is our plan to organise one of these collections termly so look out for the next dates to coincide with a good clearout.

**Books and cards**

**Cathy Gray and Sarah Wilkinson**

To those who came along, thank you for supporting our monthly sales at 5 High Street. We have raised £20 for Cancer Research UK from the sale of refreshments and hope to continue these events in the New Year.

**Tom Robertson Retires**

**Jan Postlethwaite**

Some twelve years ago, when April Jones and Jan Postlethwaite became editors of the Mouthpiece, we were very fortunate to hear of one Tom Robertson, who, it was said, might be able and willing to take on yet another village magazine production. What we did not know at the time was that Tom was already working almost full time on other magazines as well as many important local committees since his recent retirement from Harwell.

So we investigated with care and have never regretted it. Tom agreed to produce the Culham Village Newsletter and only for one month in the twelve years since then was he unable to do so. From the beginning his enthusiasm, encouragement and advice meant that our newsletter got off to a flying start. We prepared the script, delivered it to Tom at his home in Milton and he copied, collated, stapled and sorted the copies ready for distribution - all within 24 hours.

Tom made the whole enterprise of The Mouthpiece so worthwhile, and enjoyed his share in it. Indeed Culham was fortunate in being able to be part of Tom's retirement activities and now that he is finally "retiring" we wish him well. This is the last issue that Tom will produce and so we say:

**Thank you Tom for all you have done for Culham.**

***FROM THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL      Jean Diggins***

On behalf of the Parochial Church Council may I say thank you very much to all those villagers who so generously contributed towards a farewell leaving gift for Edward and Pippa, our vicar and his wife. I was able to send a cheque for £240 to the Treasurer at Long Wittenham church. A cheque for the total amount of £900, collected from all four churches in the Bridge Group, was then presented to Edward and Pippa at a reception in the Village Hall after Edward's last service, at Long Wittenham on 6th November. Edward and Pippa will be very much missed in the Parishes here, and we send them good wishes for their future in Aldershot.

***FROM REV. EDWARD TILDESLEY***

Dear People of the Bridge Parishes,

My family and I were deeply touched by your generosity surrounding our departure last month. To have worshipped with so many of you at our last church service is a memory that we will enjoy for ever. The surprise party afterwards was the result of such care, thought, creativity and cost, and Pippa, Dora and I were moved that you should do this to send us on our way.

Thank you for it all; for the cards and messages of goodwill, for the kind words and for the astoundingly generous gift, presented in a single cheque, you presented us with. We will never forget you and, as we move on, continue to wish you all God's blessing for every happiness in the years ahead.

Yours sincerely,  
Edward Tildesley.

***LETTER FROM THE TEAM RECTOR, REV. SUE BOOYS***

**Greetings to you all for Advent Christmas and the New Year.**

I know that this is a particularly difficult time for you to be without a Team Vicar in the Bridge parishes, however I hope that you will be as encouraged as I am, that with the help of the Dorchester Team Ministry group we have easily made provision for all the services in the group until Christmas and into the New Year.

Members of the Team Ministry group are looking forward to sharing your services and many of these will be taken by very familiar faces. We are fortunate to have the help of Marcus Braybrooke and David Winter.

## Bridge Parishes Vacancy

Generally speaking, in the first instance, you should always contact the Churchwardens in your parish about anything concerning the Church. This includes enquiries about Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals. This information will then be passed to me and I will make arrangements to conduct services myself or to involve another of the Team Ministers. For the sake of continuity we shall be doing our best to make sure that most pastoral issues are the concern of myself or Marcus Braybrooke – who is on hand in Clifton Hampden and willing to share in this work.

If you need to make contact directly over a pastoral matter or if for some reason you cannot contact a Warden then do please contact me at the Rectory. Telephone 01865 340007 or email [dorchesterabbey@enterprise.net](mailto:dorchesterabbey@enterprise.net) There is almost always someone to answer this phone number in the mornings as Hilarie Rogers the Administrator is here most days from 9.00 am.

We are working towards a new House for Duty appointment for the Bridge parishes – and PCC's have been consulting about and writing a profile of the parishes and the job. A 'House for Duty' priest would live in the Bridge parishes, conduct Sunday services and undertake parish work on two days a week. The person appointed would work in partnership with David Haylett and myself to share the ministry of the Bridge parishes and Dorchester. For various reasons it is likely that the Diocese will purchase a new house for this appointment and that the house in Clifton Hampden will be sold.

## SERVICES OF WORSHIP IN THE BRIDGE GROUP

DEC 2005 - JAN 2006

The following services have been arranged at the time of publication. Please see Notice Boards to confirm January's services.

DATE	TIME	PLACE	SERVICE
<b>DECEMBER</b>			
<b>Sunday 4th</b>	8 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
	10 am	Long Wittenham	Family Service
	<b>10 am</b>	<b>Culham</b>	<b>Family Service</b>
Sunday 11th	8 am	Little Wittenham	Holy Communion
	10 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
<b>Sunday 18th</b>	10 am	Long Wittenham	Holy Communion
	6 pm	Clifton Hampden	Carol Service
	<b>6 pm</b>	<b>Culham</b>	<b>Carol Service</b>
Saturday 24th	4 pm	Clifton Hampden	Crib Service
	6 pm	Long Wittenham	Carol Service
	6 pm	Little Wittenham	Carol Service
	11.30 pm	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
<b>Sunday 25th</b>	10 am	Long Wittenham	Holy Communion
	<b>10 am</b>	<b>Culham</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
<b>JANUARY</b>			
<i>To be confirmed</i>			
Sunday 1st	10.30 am	Warborough	Team Communion
Sunday 8th	8 am	Little Wittenham	Holy Communion
	10 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
<b>Sunday 15th</b>	10 am	Long Wittenham	Holy Communion
	<b>4 pm</b>	<b>Culham</b>	<b>Evening Prayer</b>
Sunday 22nd	8 am	Little Wittenham	Holy Communion
	10 am	<i>t.b.a.</i>	Family Communion
Thursday 26th	2 pm	Long Wittenham	Pram Service
Sunday 29th	10.30 am	Clifton Hampden	Team Communion

## PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

November 2005

The Parish accounts have been fully audited by an external examiner and no problem has been reported.

It was agreed that two more bus stop benches would be ordered for the area at the west end of the High Street. The work to the rear of the Church where trees were felled recently was fully covered by the relevant planning permissions for conservation areas and with SODC approval.

Parish Council voted not to take responsibility for the local grass cutting / weed maintenance programme but did vote to take on powers to remove temporary or ill placed road signs (from April 2006). Parish Council decided not to respond to the local gravel extraction plan document.

There was no objection to the proposed weight limit for the old bridge over the A415 at the station.

### From John Howell

John's spreadsheet logging system for highways problems is now running.

The regional fire control centre has been/will be moved to Fareham. The cost has risen from £750m to £2bn.

The local transport plan can be found at [www.transaction.org.uk](http://www.transaction.org.uk). Chapters 6 and 9 may be of particular interest to Culham residents

## LOCAL HEALTH SERVICES

A recent document circulated through the Parish Councillors gave information about the local health services. Some of the more useful telephone contacts are listed here.

### A&E

JR Oxford	01865 741166
Royal Berkshire, Reading	0118 987 5111
Great Western, Swindon	01793 604020

### Community Hospitals

Abingdon	01235 205700	Didcot	01235 205860
Wallingford	01491 208500	Wantage	01235 205801
Witney	01993 209400	Townlands, Henley	01491 637400

### Emergency Dental Service

Registered NHS patients (Saturday, Sunday and Bank Hols): 9:00 - 12:00, Tel 01865 201976.  
For those without a dentist – NHS Direct 0845 4647

**GP out of hours** service 0845 345 8995

### Minor Injuries Units

Abingdon	01235 208730	Henley	01491 637435
Wallingford	01491 208513	Witney	01993 209456

## CULHAM PAROCHIAL SCHOOL NEWS

Cathy Gray

The school is holding a Christmas Bazaar at **3.15 pm on Friday 2nd December**. There will be games, competitions and a chance to see Father Christmas as well as to do some Christmas shopping. All are welcome so please come along if you can.

The school's Christmas Celebration in the church this year will take place at **6.30 pm on Tuesday 13th December**. If you are unable to come to this you will be welcome at the final practice at **9.30 am on Monday 12th December**.

Activities that have taken place over the past few weeks have included a talk by representatives of the fire service about fire safety to children in both key stages; Greek Theatre Masks made from Modroc by children in KS2; and work associated with November 5th and fireworks by children in KS1. Here is one of their poems, written by Roxanne Owen (Year 2).

### ***Zooming Stars***

*When you see a catherine wheel  
Spinning round and round  
Watch the crackling stars*

### ***As they fizz on to the ground***

*Listen to the rockets burst  
With a crashing banging sound.*

We have also been contributing to 'Operation Christmas Child' and children have been bringing 'shoebox' gifts in for children less fortunate than themselves in other parts of the world.

Thank you to all those who have delivered Tesco Sports Vouchers through our door. These are no longer being issued and we need to have our order placed by the first week in January so if you still have any please let us have them ASAP.

### ***CULHAM PRE-SCHOOL NEWS***

***Lea Allmond***

The Pre-School children have had a very exciting time watching the builders on site and we have also seen some wonderful role play from the children, re-enacting what they have seen. We have also been looking at the changing colours around us as autumn turns to winter.

The children will be making lots of Christmassy things this month, including biscuits and sweets. They will also be enjoying a Christmas party with a very special guest. On behalf of everyone at Pre-School, may I thank you all for your continued support and wish you a very Merry Christmas and a happy and peaceful New Year.

### ***News from Newington Nurseries***

### ***Winter Wonderland***

The garden in winter offers visual delights that can lift one's spirits and add a new dimension to the festive time of year. The garden can be enjoyed from indoors but even better to wrap up, get outside and enjoy some fresh air!

There's a range of fascinating trees and shrubs available which will help you create a wonderful garden for winters to come. Trees with unusually-shaped stems such as *Corylus avellana* 'Contorta', *Robinia pseudoacacia* 'Tortuosa' or *Salix babylonica* 'Tortuosa' are ideal. Each of these offers intriguingly-shaped stems that stand out particularly well when they are bare of leaves in winter. Sure to appeal to children (and the child is in all of us!) there's definitely something of 'Middle Earth' about these trees and shrubs.

Try the *Corylus*, also known as the Corkscrew Hazel. In addition to the fabulous stems, this shrub also produces attractive yellow catkins 4-6 cm long in late winter and early spring. It can achieve a height and spread of 5m, prefers sun or partial shade and a well drained, fertile soil.

*Salix babylonica* 'Tortuosa' is a variety of the well known Weeping Willow. It's fast growing and has an upright habit. Like the *Corylus*, it produces catkins as well as bright green, twisted leaves in late spring. All willows are moisture loving so do well in damper locations. At full maturity, this tree can reach a height of 15m and a spread of 8m so it does require plenty of space.

*Robinia pseudoacacia* 'Tortuosa' is a slow growing tree with twisted stems which can reach a height and spread of 15m and 10m respectively. It offers great winter interest and the added bonus of being deep-rooting. This means that if you want to underplant with bulbs or perennials, there will be less competition for moisture or nutrients.

Interesting and long-lived, this selection of shrubs and trees will bring a new dimension to your garden in winter.

For further inspiration and advice, visit us at Newington Nurseries on the A329 near Stadhampton. Tel: 01865 400533 ~ [www.newington-nurseries.co.uk](http://www.newington-nurseries.co.uk)

## **OUT & ABOUT IN DECEMBER & JANUARY**

### **CHRISTMAS MARKET**

BBOWT, the Local Wildlife Trust will hold a Christmas Market on **Saturday 3rd December 2005** from **10 am to 2 pm**, in The Abbey Hall, Guildhall, Abingdon and also on the Market Square.

Refreshments, home made cakes, gifts, jewellery, clothes, china, books, toys & games and family friendly activities, including face painting. All welcome, admission free.

BBOWT has many nature reserves in this area so we welcome the support of local people. Contact S Jarvis 01865 371297

### **CONCERT**

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2005 at 7.30 pm, All Saints Parish Church, Sutton Courtenay.** All Saints Singers Choral Society and Orchestra of Sutton Courtenay present Advent Music from the Baroque Era - Vivaldi *Gloria*, Cantatas & motets by J S Bach and Buxtehude, Corelli's *Christmas Concerto*

Tickets cost £10, Concessions £8 & Family Tickets £20. They are usually available at the door, or phone (01235) 848205 or 848719 in advance. For further information see our web site: [www.allsaintssingers.org](http://www.allsaintssingers.org)

### **LECTURE - RUTHERFORD APPLETON LABORATORY.**

**Friday 9 December**, 10.30 am, 1.30 pm & 7 pm: **Our Planet, Our Future** by *Laura Grant and Karen Bultitude*  
Admission is free and suitable for Age 11+, but booking is essential. To book your ticket phone 01235 5959 (24-hr answerphone) or email [talkingscience@rl.ac.uk](mailto:talkingscience@rl.ac.uk). Please include the following information: the title of the lecture, your name, full postal address, contact telephone number, and the number of places you require.

### **CHRISTMAS TREES!**

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December, 10 am to 4 pm** at Little Wittenham Nature Reserve. Join a walking 'train' to our Christmas Tree plantation. Select your own tree and help a good cause in the process. Sizes 4 ft - 10 ft available on the day, other sizes by prior arrangement. Meet outside Little Wittenham Church: for further information please ring 01865 407792.

### **DRAMA**

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30 pm** in Sutton Courtenay Village Hall: "Beauty & the Beast"  
Performed by the Oxfordshire Touring Theatre Company, this is a professional theatre company staging high quality entertainment very close to your doorstep.  
Suitable for all the family from 6 years upwards: Tickets £6 & £4. Tel 01235 848605

### **CAROL CONCERT**

17<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30 pm, Trinity Church, Conduit Road, Abingdon: Christmas Concert for Charity with carols for all. Organised by Abingdon District Musical Society. Tickets available from 01865 735182 and Dawson's Music, High Street, Abingdon - £8 (£10 at the door), children £1.

### **ENDPIECE**

Contributions for the **February 2006** Mouthpiece by **January 15<sup>th</sup>** please, to:

Brian Bracher, 25 High Street. 01235 525885 or e-mail: [brianh@bbracher.freeseve.co.uk](mailto:brianh@bbracher.freeseve.co.uk)  
Sarah Wilkinson, 5 High Street, 01235 550584 or e-mail: [markandsarahwilkinson@telinco.co.uk](mailto:markandsarahwilkinson@telinco.co.uk)  
Jo McNish, 2 The Willows, 07957 229806 or email: [therisenpheonix@tesco.net](mailto:therisenpheonix@tesco.net)

**Advertisements:**

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