

# **The Mouthpiece**

## ***Culham's Newsletter No 272***

### ***Village Diary for February 2006***

- 2nd Mobile Library, The Glebe, 12.05 – 12.20 pm*
- 5th Family Service, St Paul's Church, 10am*
- 6th Parish Council meeting, The School, 7.30pm*
- 15th Deadline for March Mouthpiece*
- 16th Mobile Library, The Glebe, 12.05 – 12.20 pm*
- 19th Evening Prayer, St Paul's Church, 4 pm*
- 25th Village Lottery Draw, The Lion*

## VILLAGE NEWS

### **The Mouthpiece Jan Postlethwaite**

With the retirement of Tom Robertson at the end of 2005 the continued production of The Mouthpiece was in some doubt. So we are very grateful indeed to WREN (Waste Recycling Environmental Limited) of Sutton Courtenay who have kindly offered to take over the printing of the newsletter thereby ensuring its' future.

### **Culham Village Lottery**

**Lynn Hancock**

Congratulations to Bob Long and Ken Day, winners of the November and December draws.

Lottery money for 2006 will be due shortly and will remain at £10 for the year, with a monthly prize of £50. The draw takes place in The Lion on the last Saturday of each month. A collector will be calling to collect payment in the next few weeks.

Thank you to Jane Lay, Lea Allmond and Bernadette Houet who continue to be collectors in their areas. If anyone would like to collect in Tollgate Road or on The Green or you are new to the village and would like to be included please contact Lynn on 01235 523778.

### **Christmas Party at The Lion**

A big thank you to Nigel and Jackie and their team of helpers for a great children's party at Christmas. A fantastic time was had by all.

### **Culham Parochial School – Community Governor**

**Melanie Jefferies**

We have a vacancy on the Board of Governors for a Community Governor. To fill this role we are looking for a local person who has no formal contact or involvement with the school at present but would like to! The Board meets six times a year. If you would like more information about this position then please contact Melanie Jefferies, chair, on 01235 847361.

### **Bag2school**

**Sarah Wilkinson**

Thank you to those who participated in the collection of unwanted clothes, shoes etc. With your help we raised £84 for school funds. If you would like bags and to contribute to the next collection in March, please call Sarah on 01235 550584.

### **Gwen Greenwood**

**Ann Greenwood**

Gwen's Daughter, Ann, would like to thank all her mum's old friends and neighbours who came to her funeral in St Paul's Church, after her sudden death on the 19th December. Your support was greatly appreciated.

### **House for New Vicar**

**Sue Booy**

As many of you will know, following decisions made under the Deanery Pastoral plan consultations in 200/2001 the Team Vicar post in the Bridge parishes will be a House for Duty post. The Diocesan Glebe and Building Committee recommended the sale of the present vicarage and there has been real

concern about the realistic possibility of finding and providing a good quality house for a House for Duty priest within these parishes.

However, the Diocesan Buildings officer has found such a house and the Churchwardens have had the opportunity to see the plans. The house is located in Long Wittenham and will be of a standard exceeding that usually provided for Team Vicars. This means that not only will it be an extremely attractive proposition for those looking at the post of House for Duty priest to serve the Bridge parishes but it will also be available at about the time we would hope an expect to welcome a new colleague amongst us in the Dorchester Team.

### **Room to let – Culham village**

Lovely room with own side door access, overlooking fields and The Thames. Non-smoking, driveway parking, Mon-Fri preferred. £80 per week.  
Call 01235 533370 for more details

-3-

### **Office wanted**

#### **Kirsten Dennis**

Professional person is looking for a room to use as an office in Culham, 3 days a week. Willing to pay up to £100 a month. Call 01672 521083 for more details.

**FROM THE TEAM RECTOR**

**Rev. Sue Booy**

### **The Visit of the Princess Royal to Dorchester Abbey**

Mostly when Royalty visit a place it is because they are attending an event. The visit of the princess Royal in December was rather different. She had visited the Abbey for a 'Home Farm Trust' concert when it was 'under wraps' in the midst of building work and had expressed a wish to visit again. So an event was needed. Since the focus of the Princess Royals question had been the restoration work we decided to invite the artists and craftsmen associated with the work in the Abbey to meet her along with those who had been responsible for the ongoing management of the work and members of the Abbey and Village community. So, the day dawned... beautiful black Labradors arrived early in the morning to 'sniff out' the Abbey and the visit was under way. Her Royal Highness drove herself from Wallingford where she had visited the Farmers' Market and, on arrival was presented with a posy by Josh and Ella Forman. At the door she met Jane MacDonald and then walked on into the Nave. For me the best of many good moments occurred when she stopped in the nave, looked up and her enjoyment of the space of the Abbey was clear. After meeting our architect, members of the Fabric Committee and Friends, the Princess Royal was then conducted into the Cloister Gallery by John Metcalfe, who explained as they went in that this was his special baby - an opportunity to tell the history of the Abbey through a really exciting display of worked stone saved from the medieval monastery buildings, along with very clear interpretation. In the Gallery the Princess Royal was introduced first to the design team: Chris Hudson, Sally Rousham, David Kendrick, Richard Riddell and Pat Owen; and then to the contractors from Ashted Engineering: Mike Harvey, Mike Cutler, Toby Kilner and other staff members. the Princess Royal had a lot of questions about the detail of the project, and also in the pentice building itself.

Following her visit to the Cloister the Princess Royal met a group of historians and conservators, Dr Kate Tiller and Professor Warwick Rodwell, who have lent their considerable historical scholarship to the Abbey and Anne Ballantyne who completed work on the People's Chapel Wall paintings last year and will return later in the Spring to work on the large wall painting in the Shrine area – a figure is clearly discernable – but who or what it is remains to be seen. At the end of her visit the Princess Royal was introduced to the Chair of the Parish Council and some of his fellow councillors and Margot Metcalfe introduced members of the Tea Room staff and the church coffee team who had provided coffee and home made biscuits for all. Before she left Her Royal Highness met members of the Campaign committee and was presented with copies of the recently published History of the Abbey Heavenly Cakes (the Tea Room recipe book) by Mary Tame.

### **Lent Courses**

There will be two Lent Courses in Dorchester and the Bridge Parishes for Lent 2006. In Dorchester many people appreciated the talk that Russ Parker from the Acorn Christian Healing Trust gave at the Morning Service in Dorchester in November. 'Growing a Healing Ministry' is a five session course about Christian Healing and this will be one of our Lent Courses. The other course will be a course suitable both for those who wish to be confirmed and those who would like to re visit some Christian Basics during Lent. Please keep Monday evenings during Lent free!! If you would be willing to host a Lent group please contact me.

### Retirement of the Bishop of Oxford

Bishop Richard Harries retires in June. Before his last service on Easter Day in Christ Church Cathedral, he will visit our Deanery on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February. We are invited to contribute to a leaving gift, as individuals, parishes and deaneries. If you want to make a contribution please send it to Sue Heath at Diocesan Church House, North Hinksey Lane, Oxford. OX2 0NB by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2006. Cheques payable to ODBF Administered Funds, and marked for Bishop Richard's collection.

-4-

### SERVICES OF WORSHIP IN THE BRIDGE GROUP

Feb 2006

| DATE            | TIME         | PLACE            | SERVICE               |
|-----------------|--------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Sun 5th</b>  | 8 am         | Clifton Hampden  | Holy Communion        |
|                 | 8 am         | Dorchester Abbey | Holy Communion        |
|                 | 10 am        | Long Wittenham   | Family Service        |
|                 | <b>10 am</b> | <b>Culham</b>    | <b>Family Service</b> |
|                 | 10.15 am     | Dorchester Abbey | Morning Service       |
|                 |              |                  |                       |
| Sun 12th        | 8 am         | Little Wittenham | Holy Communion        |
|                 | 8 am         | Dorchester Abbey | Holy Communion        |
|                 | 10 am        | Clifton Hampden  | Holy Communion        |
|                 | 10.15 am     | Dorchester Abbey | Sung Eucharist        |
|                 |              |                  |                       |
| <b>Sun 19th</b> | 8 am         | Dorchester Abbey | Holy Communion        |
|                 | 10 am        | Long Wittenham   | Holy Communion        |
|                 | 10.15 am     | Dorchester Abbey | Family Service        |
|                 | <b>4 pm</b>  | <b>Culham</b>    | <b>Evening prayer</b> |
|                 |              |                  |                       |
| Thurs 23rd      | 2 pm         | Long Wittenham   | Pram Service          |
|                 |              |                  |                       |
| Sun 26th        | 8 am         | Little Wittenham | Holy Communion        |
|                 | 8 am         | Dorchester Abbey | Holy Communion        |
|                 | 10 am        | Long Wittenham   | Family Communion      |
|                 | 10.15 am     | Dorchester Abbey | Sung Eucharist        |

### PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

Notes from the December 2005 and January 2006 meetings

#### December 2005

A recent risk assessment carried out on Parish Council insurance procedures has been approved. A sum of £50 was agreed to go towards the Pensioner's Christmas party at The Lion.

A proposed Thames Water outfall on the Thames Reach to the west of the parish is being investigated as to position, size, usage, etc.

As yet the council has not received confirmation about what to do with any 'temporary' signs taken down by the council when, in April 2006, it receives the power to do so.

A recent minor accident was reported where a cyclist on a pavement struck a vehicle emerging from a driveway. Although there were no injuries reported, this could obviously have been a more severe incident. Council would like to point out to cyclists that Rule 54 of the Highway Code (which itself is also a legal requirement) states you must not cycle on the pavement.

### **From John Stimson**

A request for a £280k bid to reinforce the planning team has been made to SODC.

The Forestry Team is in the early stages of being reviewed.

There is an SODC benefits hotline available on 0845 4585449, available from 09:30-16:00 weekdays for all questions on Council benefits.

According to a recent press release, from April 2006, there will be free bus passes for the elderly (over -60) and the disabled. These will cover the towns of Oxford, Reading, High Wycombe, Princes Risborough, Abingdon and Aylesbury. They will be usable from 09:00 onwards. More information can be obtained on 01491 823748. It is *possible* that there will be no bus tokens issued as from April 2006.

-5-

### **January 2006**

The council's precept for 2006/7 was discussed and agreed at £9860. This is a reduction of about 4% compared with 2005/6.

John Stimson confirmed that SODC has had an increase in allowance from government of around 13% for this coming financial year. It is likely that OCC will increase their part of the Council Tax by 4.5% but as yet we do not know about the Thames Valley Police increase. SODC therefore has some options on its spending plans. After some discussion Parish Council decided to request the following to be considered.

- 1) The use of both bus passes (as planned) and bus tokens as they offer alternative means of transport.
- 2) That large domestic items of waste (such as chairs, sofas etc) be collected free of charge.
- 3) That planning enforcement has an increase in resources to minimise the backlog and to allow possible random checks on completed constructions.

There was a local liaison committee meeting on December 19. It is likely that a new chairman for the committee will be appointed later in the year and this process will commence in April 2006.

At the next Council meeting it is likely that a brief discussion will be held on setting up a village web site. This will be placed on the Agenda if all the main parties can attend. All however are welcome to the meeting. **Next meeting is on Monday 6 February at 7.30pm.**

### **CULHAM PAROCHIAL SCHOOL NEWS**

**Cathy Gray**

During the Christmas period, we were very pleased to see so many people at the school bazaar, in the church and at our 'mince-pies' and carol afternoon. The Christmas Bazaar and Hamper raffle raised almost £500 and a donation of £114.96 was made to St. Paul's Church following our 'Christmas Celebration' there.

After an enjoyable and, no doubt, busy Christmas break, the children have come back this term to start new topics.

Children in KS1 will be learning about 'Clothes and Coverings' and those in KS2 will be finding out about Weather at Home and Around the World.' The whole school will also be embarking on a project with Lane Elementary School, Alexandria, Virginia, USA. They will be exchanging letters and e-mails

together with weather data and also doing some joint story writing. A member of staff from the school visited us just before Christmas and brought us photographs of the children and letters from them.

Those of you who live nearby will have seen that good progress is now being made on the new extension, although bad weather before Christmas has put work back by about two weeks. We had good news on our return from the holiday when we were informed that the application to form a Partnership Foundation Stage Unit with Culham Pre-School had been approved. We look forward to working in even closer co-operation with the playgroup.

Although a little belated, everyone at school and pre-school would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Very Happy New Year.

## **CULHAM PRE-SCHOOL NEWS**

**Lea Allmond**

We would like to say a special thank you to John and Noriman of the Wagon and Horses, Cameron and Audrey of The railway Inn and Nigel and Jackie of The Lion and all their patrons for their support in our fundraising over the festive period. We would also like to thank the Sparkes family of Halls garage in Sutton Courtenay for their support and indeed everyone who helped to make this a success for us.

This term we have said goodbye to Dylan and Nathan who have moved on to Culham School. We wish them well. And we would like to offer a big welcome to our new children, Amelia, Ella, Lauren, Jack and Sacha – we hope they enjoy their time with us.

-6-

## **NEWS FROM NEWINGTON NURSERIES**

### **Winter Glow with Cornus**

If you really want to put heart into your home in winter, a real fire is the way to do it. The primitive energy of the flames takes us back to a time when warmth wasn't available at the flick of a switch. It's the same in the garden. A winter garden with vivid reds and oranges will be rewarding whatever the weather but especially on those fabulous days when the winter sun just peeps over the trees and rooftops.

Wonderful allies in creating a beautiful winter garden come from the Cornus family. Two great choices of Cornus, or Dogwood, for winter stem colour are Cornus alba, including 'Sibirica', and Cornus sanguinea including 'Winter Flame'. However hard the weather, Cornus will still perform. In fact, the winter stems of these Cornus are enjoying their moment of glory right now which makes them a real asset when most of your plants are having a rest!

Cornus combines well with hellebores such as Helleborus foetidus. The bright stems of the Cornus stand out against the apple-green flowers of the hellebore without obscuring them. Cornus don't only offer winter value. White flowers appear along the stems in spring followed by mid or dark green, oval shaped leaves in summer. By autumn, the foliage turns fiery-red when berries (inedible) also develop, black, white or blue tinged, depending on variety. Tolerant of a range of soils, these fully hardy Cornus varieties do best in moist, well drained conditions. You'll get the most impact from the coloured stems if they're planted in a sunny position.

Dogwoods are ideal plants for a focal point in a place that catches the sun. They also work well in a waterside garden, by a pond or stream, where reflection can double ornamental impact on calm days. Contrasting underplanting will also emphasise stem colour. Dogwoods need to be pruned hard (within two or three buds of the base) in early spring to guarantee vivid new shoots in the coming winter. When left to grow, they'll achieve a height and spread of up to 3m.

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 FEBRUARY**

## **DRAMA and PERFORMANCES**

**Friday 3 February at 8.00pm** at The George in Dorchester: local jazz group Queen Street will be playing. Tickets available from Ross Law on 01865 340811.

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30 pm** in Sutton Courtenay Village Hall: Talking Heads by Alan Bennett  
This is the first tour of The Abingdon Touring Theatre Company – see [www.attc.org.uk](http://www.attc.org.uk) for more information. Tickets cost £6 (£4 concessions) from Christine Ellis on 01235 848605.

**Saturday 18 February at 7.30pm** in Dorchester Village Hall: Circus Berzercus  
Tickets available from Dorchester Post Office or [circus@dorchesteronthames.co.uk](mailto:circus@dorchesteronthames.co.uk)

## **TALKS AND LECTURES**

### **University of Oxford Botanic Garden Lecture Series**

**Thursday 9 February at 8.00pm** in the Nelson Mandela Auditorium, Said Business School: Chris Crowder, Head gardener at Levens Hall.

**Thursday 23 February at 8.00pm** in the Nelson Mandela Auditorium, Said Business School: Medwyn Williams (ten times winner of Gold Medal at Chelsea Flower Show) – Chelsea Flower Show through the eyes of an exhibitor.

## **COMPETITION**

### **Deddington Writers Competition**

Further information is available at [www.deddington.org.uk/writing](http://www.deddington.org.uk/writing), [hughm@fish.co.uk](mailto:hughm@fish.co.uk) or by writing with a sae to DWG Competition, 7 The Daedings, Deddington, OX15 0RT.

-7-

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY – advance notices**

**Tuesday 7 March at 7.30pm** in Sutton Courtenay Village Hall: Under Milk Wood by Dylan Thomas presented by The Oxfordshire Touring Theatre Company.

Tickets cost £6 (£4 concessions) from Christine Ellis on 01235 846605, Rita Atkinson on 01235 848694, Madge Bros Butchers or Bergery Stores

**Saturday 11 March at 7.30pm** in Dorchester Abbey: Bach's Mass in B Minor

Tickets are available on 0118 947 0102 or by email on [tickets@readingbachchoir.org.uk](mailto:tickets@readingbachchoir.org.uk)

**Sunday 14 May** : BBONT and Friends of Wychwood Sponsored Walk

The walk will start and finish at Blenheim Palace and there will be different lengths of walks ranging from three miles up to a major 37 mile hike along the entire Wychwood Way.

Contact the Wildlife Trust for further information on 01865 775476.

## **ENDPIECE**

Contributions for the **March 2006** Mouthpiece by **February 15th** please, to:

Brian Bracher, 25 High Street. 01235 525885 or e-mail: [brianh@bbracher.freemove.co.uk](mailto:brianh@bbracher.freemove.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:**

Jan Postlethwaite, 6 The Glebe. 01235 525888 or e-mail: [jan.postlethwaite@btinternet.com](mailto:jan.postlethwaite@btinternet.com)