

# ***The Mouthpiece***

## ***Culham's Newsletter No 275***

### ***Village Diary for May 2006***

*6th Issue of Travel Tokens , The School, 10 - 11 am*

*7th Family Service, St Paul's Church, 10am*

*8th Parish Council Meeting, The School, 7.30pm*

*11th Mobile Library, The Glebe, 12.05 – 12.20 pm*

*15th Deadline for June Mouthpiece*

*20<sup>th</sup> Culham Village Plant Sale, 2pm-4pm*

*21st Evening Prayer, St Paul's Church, 6pm*

*25th Mobile Library, The Glebe, 12.05 – 12.20 pm*

*27th Village Lottery Draw, The Lion*

## VILLAGE NEWS

### Travel Tokens

**Bob Griffiths**

Travel tokens will be issued at the School on Saturday 6 May from 10 o'clock until 11 o'clock. Please bring along evidence of qualification and residence. The qualifying age for tokens has this year been raised from 60 to 70. Application forms for bus passes will also be available.

### Garden Waste

**Bob Griffiths**

A new garden waste service - a fortnightly collection of garden waste from a wheeled bin (at a cost of £29 a year) - will start at the beginning of June. The current services (trial eco-sacks and the green waste vehicles at the community waste sites) will be discontinued and no eco-sacks will be collected after 29 May. I still have a small stock if anybody would like some before then but will not be obtaining any more. For residents not interested in joining the new service, options include composting their garden waste and using a waste recycling centre. Compost bins may be bought for only £6 (including delivery). To order, call Blackwall on 0870 844 3006. Waste recycling centres at Oakley Wood, Redbridge and Drayton are open all year round from 8 am to 5 pm daily. Late night opening until 8 pm on Thursdays until the end of September.

### Culham Village Lottery

**Lynn Hancock**

Congratulations to Joan Gibbs, winner of the March draw. If anyone else wishes to take part in the village lottery, please contact Lynn on 523778.

### Village Website

**John Storrs**

Culham Village has a gleaming new website at [www.culhamvillage.org.uk](http://www.culhamvillage.org.uk). You can now read Parish Council minutes and The Mouthpiece online, find out what the Friends of St Paul's are doing to improve the church, look at Culham History Society records, and view your home from a satellite. Please visit the site and tell me what you think of it and where you would like it to go.

John Storrs ([js@storrs.demon.co.uk](mailto:js@storrs.demon.co.uk))

### Culham Plant Sale

This will be held on **Saturday 20th May** from 2 pm to 4 pm at St Paul's Church, in aid of Church funds. Donations for the various stalls will be gratefully accepted: contact names and phone numbers are given below.

Plants	Linda Youthed	(01491) 835927
Raffle	Carole Sutcliffe	(01235) 528764
Books & videos	Brian Bracher	(01235) 525885
Cakes	Mollie Jennings	(01235) 523714
Bring & Buy	Jean Diggins	(01235) 520540
Tombola	Kath Pearce	(01235) 555073



In addition, we would be grateful for the loan of tents or gazebos in case of wet weather. Please contact Ingrid Reichardt on 520534 if you can help.

### Parish Council AGM

We will be receiving a number of reports from different organisations following the AGM. These will be published in the newsletter over the coming months.

For sale

Brian Bracher

**Panasonic set-top box for digital TV: £10. 2 chrome towel rails: £5. New (Wickes) white plastic toilet seat: £5. White medicine cabinet, 2 doors with mirrors, size (cm) W 62, D 16, H 12: £5. Tel 525885**

**FROM THE TEAM VICAR****Rev. Nigel Hawkes**

As Easter recedes into memory, it is tempting to think that life gets less hectic for a while – at least in Church. But looking through the diary I see that this month is packed with significant events. Berinsfield are holding their Festival of Childhood from 1<sup>st</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> May, with lots of events for everybody to join in with; the Team is interviewing applicants for the House for Duty post in the Bridge Parishes; the Christian Resources Exhibition takes place at Sandown Park this month; we celebrate Ascension Day on 25<sup>th</sup> May; and we have two Public Holidays. Phew! Add to this the prospect of some good gardening (or barbecuing) weather and it looks like May should be very exciting.



We are lucky, I think, to be living in a rural area, where the seasons still provide a shape and pattern to our lives. We are reminded of this in another of the Church's festivals – Rogation Sunday – which falls on 21<sup>st</sup> May.

Rogationtide was traditionally prayed for God's blessing on their crops and work on the land. A service was followed by a the neighbourhood. Often this was combined 'Beating of the Bounds', a very old custom from a time when it the boundaries of the parish. In many cases supplied by the Church or wealthy people within



a time when Christians other aspects of their visit to various places in with the 'Beating of the was important to know food and drink were the village.

George Herbert, the poet and country parson who lived in the seventeenth century, called this tradition 'Procession' and described it in the following terms:

who lived in the

"The advantages of it are:

- first, a blessing of God for the fruits of the field;
- second, justice in the preservation of bounds;
- third, charity in loving walking and neighbourly accompanying one another, with reconciling differences at that time, if there be any;
- fourth, mercie in relieving the poor by a liberal distribution of alms."

Whilst we may have lost some of the elements of this ancient custom, many parishes do still meet to celebrate the work on the land and to ask God's blessing on and those who work on it. Herbert's third point seems to me to be a as there are few experiences which engender companionship better shared walk. This may be why our Christian life is often described in pilgrimage or journey, and why our journey is better made together than

both land good one than a terms of on our own.



May God richly bless you, and those with whom you journey this May.

**Revd Nigel Hawkes, Team Vicar for Warborough with Shillingford, on with Chiselhampton, and Newington.**

**Stadhaupt**

## SERVICES OF WORSHIP IN THE BRIDGE GROUP

May 2006

<b>Sunday 7th</b>	8 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
	8 am	Dorchester	Holy Communion
	10 am	Long Wittenham	Family Service
	<b>10 am</b>	<b>Culham</b>	<b>Family Service</b>
	10.15 am	Dorchester	Morning Service
Sunday 14th	8 am	Long Wittenham	Holy Communion
	8 am	Dorchester	Holy Communion
	10 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
	10.15 am	Dorchester	Sung Eucharist
<b>Sunday 21st</b>	8 am	Dorchester	Holy Communion
	10 am	Long Wittenham	Holy Communion
	10.15 am	Dorchester	Family Service
	<b>6 pm</b>	<b>Culham</b>	<b>Evening Prayer</b>
	6 pm	Dorchester	Evensong
Thursday 25th Ascension Day	2 pm	Long Wittenham	Pram Service
	8 pm	Wittenham Clumps	Team Service
Sunday 28th	8 am	Little Wittenham	Holy Communion
	8 am	Dorchester	Holy Communion
	10 am	Clifton Hampden	Family Communion
	10.15 am	Dorchester	Sung Eucharist

## PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

## Notes from the April meeting

This was a brief meeting held after the Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 3rd April.

The only item of note was about a proposed improvement to the facilities on the 'island' opposite the lock car park. A group of three representatives of Hinksey Sculling School outlined their proposals to enhance the sculling/rowing facilities on the island whereby increased training and improved facilities would be provided. This facility would be available for both the current, mainly adult, users and be extended to younger age groups. The PC indicated their general support for the scheme and the group will now approach SODC with more detailed planning application requests.

Date of next Parish Council meeting: Monday 8th May 2006 at 7.30pm.

**COUNTY COUNCIL NOTES****John Howell****Trains at Culham**

Trains serving Culham have been protected and improved under the latest draft timetable after intervention by the County Council. Last year the Department for Transport announced plans to cut the number of trains at Culham which the County Council vigorously opposed. The Council put forward an alternative timetable that increased the number of trains and this was agreed and included in the First Great Western consultation that ended earlier this month.

From December, Culham will get a two-hourly service, with 27 trains each weekday, nine more than originally proposed. Although the timetable will not be finalised for several months, it does look as if Culham will receive a much better service thanks to Council intervention.

**Traffic calming and 'gateway' features**

Culham had originally been earmarked for a number of traffic calming measures as part of local integrated transport strategies. In addition, it had been hoped to bring some relief to the Tollgate Road through the provision of speed cushions. However, it now looks as if both of these schemes have had to be abandoned.

However, Culham has two potential opportunities to obtain some traffic relief:

First, I have lobbied the County Council (and they have agreed) to install a number of low cost 'gateway' features in the village during 2006/7. The precise mix of features (which can include new village entrance signs and road markings) will need to be agreed with the parish council.

Second, there may be some funding for measures on the Tollgate Road itself under the Better Ways to School scheme if both the European School and Culham School can include the road on their list of problem roads. I am, therefore, trying to get this support in place.

For more information please contact Dr Howell on 07889 646845.

**CULHAM PAROCHIAL SCHOOL NEWS****Cathy Gray**

The new term has begun with the completion of the Foundation Stage classroom which we shall be sharing in the mornings with Culham Pre-School who have now moved into the new premises. The Pre-School will continue to be run by its own management committee and have its own admissions policy. Consequently it is not part of the school, but as a Foundation Stage Partnership Unit we intend to work closely together and take part in many joint activities. We hope that this will be the start of a long and successful working relationship.

Work on the outside play area will start as soon as possible to add to the facilities for both settings.

A new term means new topics for both key stages. The junior children will be finding out about the Tudors and Tudor Life and the infants about Oceans. After the SAT's in early May, we are organising a range of additional activities involving sports, art and drama as well as various visits to extend our normal curriculum. We hope to be having an Open Day during the term when members of the community, as well as parents and friends, will be able to come into school to see what we have been doing. We will keep you informed when dates are finalised.

**CULHAM PRE-SCHOOL NEWS****Lea Allmond**

This has been a very exciting time for the children and staff of Pre-school, after a few minor hiccups we have now moved into our Foundation Stage Building. The children and staff are settling in well to their new home!!

Our next stage for development will be the garden/play area and we hope work will begin once the Elliot building has been removed.

We are planning to have a School Open day on Thursday 22 June 2006 when you will all be more than welcome to come and see the children at work during a school day and also see the Foundation Stage up and running. We look forward to seeing you then.

We would like to express our thanks to everyone who has helped and supported us during our move.

**HOME-START****Emma Anderson**

Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire is a locally serving charity promoting the welfare of families with at least one child under the age of five years of five. Volunteers offer regular support, friendship and practical help to young families under stress in their own homes helping to prevent family crisis and breakdown.

We are looking for volunteers in your area. If you have a couple of hours free a week to spend with a family and are interested in taking part in the preparation course which begins in May, please contact Hilary Mundy, Senior Organiser, on 01235 511152 or Emma Anderson.

**BERINSFIELD VOLUNTARY DAY CENTRE****John Howell**

Do you know any older people who are lonely or isolated? Berinsfield Voluntary Day Centre can cater for their needs. It meets on Tuesdays and Fridays in Marsh Baldon Village Hall. Transport will be provided from villages within the catchment area. The Day Centre (Charity number 1039922) is supported by Oxfordshire County Council and by local parish councils: for more information contact the secretary, Ken Hall on 01865 340908.

**NEWS FROM NEWINGTON NURSERIES****Azaleas are exciting!**

For vibrant colours this spring, azaleas should be top of your list! So if you're serious about putting some real excitement into your garden, then look no further than azaleas for help. From late autumn to late summer, a huge range of different species and varieties are in flower, but the choice is greatest in spring.

Azaleas are a subset of the rhododendrons, regarded by many to be one of the most important plant families. They are smaller-leaved, generally more compact and twiggy in habit. The history of these plants is complex and fascinating. However, all that the practical gardener really needs to know is what they need to thrive and put on that really spectacular display of colour.

Acid soil is a must with nearly all of these shrubs, but if you lack this, containers and raised beds can work just as well in providing the necessary conditions. Ideal soils are moist, humus-rich and acidic, with good drainage. All azaleas are surface rooting, which means that when planted, soil should just cover the root ball. A bonus of this is that it's quite straightforward to move them, should you need to. Maintenance is minimal and easy. Cut off dead flowers and stalks soon after flowering as this will stimulate new growth. Otherwise, prune lightly to maintain the desired shape. As to the choice of species or variety, this depends on the look you wish to create, and what will work best in your garden. To give an indication of what's available, here are a few examples of spring performers:

- Rhododendron 'Cecile' is a vigorous deciduous azalea which achieves a height and spread of around 2 metres. It produces clear, salmon-pink flowers in late spring.
- Rhododendron 'Homebush' is a compact variety with a bushy habit. It achieves a height and spread of some 1.5m and in late spring produces trusses of bright pink flowers. It's an excellent choice for container growing.
- Rhododendron 'Narcissiflorum' is a wonderful garden plant producing sweetly scented pale yellow flowers from spring into early summer.
- Among the evergreens, Rhododendron 'Palestrina' produces delicate white flowers in spring, whilst those of 'Beethoven' or 'Vuykk's Scarlet' are pink and crimson scarlet respectively

Flowering shrubs like these offer so many benefits that they really are a must in every garden. Have fun shopping for them this month because our passion for shrubs like azaleas means that there's nearly always plenty to choose from.

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 MAY

### **Monday 1 May: Dawn Chorus and May Day Celebrations 4.30am-6.00am to 7.00am-8.30am**

Organised by the Northmoortrust, come and listen to birdsong, listen to music and readings. Breakfast on sale!! For more information please call 01865 407792 or visit [www.northmoortrust.co.uk](http://www.northmoortrust.co.uk)

### **Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 May: Spring Festival Weekend at The Botanic Garden in Oxford**

Come and hunt for early bulbs and admire brave buds on silhouetted branches. For more information, please call 01865 286690.

### **Saturday 6, 13 and 20 May: Hands-On, Marble Mayhem, Science Oxford**

There are three timed sessions which can be booked in advance. To book tickets and for more information please call 01865 728953.

### **Thursday 11 May: 2.00pm in the Roysse Room, Abingdon Guildhall**

Come and hear about our health service with guest speakers Christine Hewitt, Assistant Director of Modernisation and Ben Clark, Clinical Advice and Liaison Service Manager. For more information, please call Cathy Dyer on Freephone 0800 052 3225

### **Saturday 13 May: Wild Waste Show, Northmoor Trust**

Find out about reducing, recycling and composting rubbish. For more information please call 01865 407792 or visit [www.northmoortrust.co.uk](http://www.northmoortrust.co.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 3 miles up to a major 37 mile hike along the entire Wychwood Way. Call the Wildlife Trust for further information on 01865 775476.

### **Saturday 20 May, 7.30pm: Concert at St Helen's Church, Abingdon**

Programme includes Four Cornish Dances (Arnold) and Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra (Britten). Tickets at £8 (£10 on the door) available from 01865 735182 and Dawson's Music, High Street, Abingdon.

### **Thursday 25 May, 8pm, Wittenham Clumps**

The service for the Dorchester Team will be held on Wittenham Clumps at 8pm, as it was a couple of years ago. There will be the opportunity to walk up from Little Wittenham Church from 7.30pm, or park at the top car park and walk round the hill. Look out for posters.

### **Saturday 27 May, 7.30pm The Friends of Dorchester Abbey Concert**

The Thames Consort choir and instrumentalists directed by Jeremy Boughton, the Abbey organist, will perform the programme. The Friends are raising a Fund for a new frontal for the high altar in the Abbey, and all profits will go to that Fund. Please call Susan Jupp on 341066 for tickets.

### **Dates for your diary**

#### **Saturday 14 October, 11am-4pm: Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire Fair**

Home-Start are looking for local trades and crafts people to hold a stall at their annual Autumn Fair, which this year takes place in Sutton Courtenay Village Hall. Tables will cost £15.00 each plus 10% of sales on the day. It will be a fun, family event with plenty to do for children and adults alike, so please help them to make it a success! For more information, please contact Emma Anderson on 01235 511152.

## ENDPIECE

*Please note that any opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the editors.*

### **Contributions for the June 2006 Mouthpiece by May 15th please, to:**

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