

The Mouthpiece

Culham's Newsletter No 276

Village Diary for June 2006

- 4th Family Service, St Paul's Church, 10am*
- 5th Parish Council Meeting, The School, 7.30pm*
- 15th Deadline for July/August Mouthpiece*
- 16th Mobile Library, The Glebe, 1.50pm-2.10pm*
- 16th Bag2school collection, Culham School, by 8.30am*
- 18th Evening Prayer, St Paul's Church, 6pm*
- 22nd School Open Day*
- 24th Village Lottery Draw, The Lion*
- 25th Family Communion, St Paul's Church, 10am*
- 30th Mobile Library, The Glebe, 1.50pm-2.10pm*

VILLAGE NEWS

Culham Village Lottery

Lynn Hancock

Congratulations to Beverley Mason, winner of the May draw. If anyone else wishes to take part in the village lottery, please contact Lynn on 523778.

Revised Mobile Library Schedule

The Mobile Library will start visiting Culham on Fridays, rather than Thursdays, starting in June. The last visit on a Thursday at 12.05 is on May 25th.

After a three week gap, the next visit will be on **Friday 16th June** from **1.50 pm to 2.10 pm** and then on Fridays 30th June, 14th & 28th July, 11th & 25th August etc, at these new times.

Wandering Cat

Cheryl Collier

We used to have a longhaired black-and-white cat called Smudge, but it seems she's decided to live elsewhere, and now rarely returns home. We never get the opportunity to brush her, so her coat is in a dreadful state, and it needs to be clipped. She also needs to lose some weight! To do this we need to have her home first (at 28 High Street). Smudge is black with a white bib and paws, and she wears a green collar. If you see her, could you please stop being so kind to her? It's for her own good. Thank you.

Childcare wanted

Tim Marjot

A family in Tollgate Road is looking for somebody to sit with a 13 and 11 year old from 4-8 pm three times a week while father is working in London. Also possibility of daytime work during school holidays. Contact Tim on 01235 529987 after 8 pm.

Bag2school

Sarah Wilkinson

Thank you to those who collected unwanted clothing, bedding, linen, curtains, shoes, belts and soft toys for the last collection which raised nearly £80 for Culham school funds.

There will be another Bag2school collection on Friday 16 June. If you wish to participate, please ensure all bags are in the school playground by 8.30am on the collection date. You may use blue Bag2school bags (obtainable from Sarah) or normal black bin liners. For further information please contact Sarah on 01235 550584.

Village Website

John Storrs

Culham Village has a gleaming new website at 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)

TALKING POINT

Rev. Sue Booyes

Many of you will be familiar with Geoffrey Chaucer's Canterbury Tales. Chaucer's Pilgrim's were a mixed bag of people who hadn't met before they embarked on their journey who agree to keep company and travel together. They decide to while away their journey by telling one another stories. Their stories inevitably tell a great deal about their characters as well – some of it pretty surprising!

In a month's time it will be the Dorchester Pilgrimage. Like the pilgrimage to Canterbury that Chaucer's pilgrims made our pilgrimage reminds us of an earlier journey with religious significance – that of Birinus and Cynegils king of the West Saxons from the point of their meeting and Cynegils conversion to Christianity to a place where Birinus could convert him. Two people unknown to one another meet – have a significant conversation and journey together for a short while. The meeting and conversation affects the rest of their lives.

The journey we make on pilgrimage day in 2006 marks this turning point in two men's lives 1500 years ago. The conversation between Birinus and Cynegils affects us. Dorchester would not be the same place it is today without those events far back in history. Life is a bit like this – we never quite know what the impact of our meetings and conversations with other people will be. Sometimes a brief meeting and conversation with someone we haven't met before can have a profound effect on the rest of our lives. Occasionally it will be clear at the time that this is a significant meeting – very often the significance only unfolds as weeks, months and even years pass.

It is in this sense that life is like a journey. Not because there are start and finish points and we progress from beginning to end but because as we live our lives there are choices to be made about direction and the people whom we meet and with whom we talk affect those choices. For myself, and many others this includes God himself who might 'speak' to us through sudden inner conviction, because we notice something significant about landscape – or we hear in the words of others something that affects us deeply and profoundly.

A pilgrim walk enables us to do all these things – and to have a good time – in good company. At the end of the walk is refreshment – with tea, a service, a barbeque and music. I hope that you will come and share all or part of the pilgrimage experience – a jolly good walk, service and party – with the possibility of meeting new people and, perhaps of hearing something that will change your life – whether you recognise it at the time – or not!

Pentecost, 4th June

Family Services will be held in the morning at Long Wittenham and Culham to celebrate Pentecost. In the afternoon there will be a Team Service at 3.30pm as part of the Team Flower Festival in the Abbey.

English Music Festival

This October (20-24th), our beautiful Abbey will play host to the inaugural English Music Festival, an annual event that will celebrate Britain's rich musical heritage when artists of the calibre of Julian Lloyd Webber and the BBC Concert Orchestra will bring our innovative and inspiring composers to live audiences. If you can spare some time during this period and would like to become involved in this unique project, please contact Managing and Artistic Director Em Marshall on 0207 834 5743/07808 473889, or email her at em.marshall@btinternet.com. For more details visit www.englishmusicfestival.org.uk.

House for Duty

We are delighted to announce that the post of House for Duty colleague in the Bridge Group has been offered to Revd Anne Ilsley, who has accepted. It is anticipated that she will be licensed in October.

Anne is presently an assistant curate at St Mary the Virgin, Harefield and trained at Heythrop College and Wycliffe Hall. Her background prior to ordination was in the health service, where she worked in obstetrics and as a health visitor. She has a husband who is a consultant cardiologist at Harefield hospital and two grown up children.

I am sure you will all join me in looking forward to welcoming her to our churches.

SERVICES OF WORSHIP IN THE BRIDGE GROUP

May 2006

DATE	NAME	TIME	PLACE	SERVICE
Sunday 4th	Pentecost	8 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
		8 am	Dorchester	Holy Communion
		10 am	Long Wittenham	Family Service
		10 am	Culham	Family Service
		10.15 am	Dorchester	Morning Prayer
		3.30 pm	Dorchester	Team Flower Festival
Sunday 11th	Trinity	8 am	Little Wittenham	Holy Communion
		8 am	Dorchester	Holy Communion
		10 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion & Baptism
		10.15 am	Dorchester	Holy Communion
Sunday 18th	Trinity 1	8 am	Dorchester	Holy Communion
		10 am	Long Wittenham	Holy Communion
		10.15 am	Dorchester	Family Service
		6 pm	Culham	Evening Prayer
		6 pm	Dorchester	Evensong
Thursday 22nd		2 pm	Long Wittenham	Pram Service
Sunday 25th	Trinity 2	8 am	Little Wittenham	Holy Communion
		8 am	Dorchester	Holy Communion
		10 am	Culham	Family Communion
		10.15 am	Dorchester	Holy Communion

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

Notes from the May meeting

A large part of the meeting was taken up with a presentation by representatives from Thames Water talking about the proposed new reservoir in the Marcham area. This was in response to a Parish Council request to inform us about the proposed new outfall of the restored Wiltshire and Berkshire Canal on the west bank of Thames Reach, opposite The Cut. (The intake/outfall tunnel of the reservoir is proposed to be further north along the Thames at the confluence of the Thames and Swift Ditch, opposite Culham Old Bridge).

The current state of the reservoir scheme is the production of a full environmental and impact assessment, detailed engineering and design of full scheme due by Summer 2007. Further details can be found at the following locations: Customer Centre - Tel 0845 9200 800

Thames Water Utilities Ltd., PO Box 436, Swindon, SN38 1TU Quote Reference 669903

Email: customer.feedback@thameswater.co.uk , www.thameswater.co.uk/utmrtd

The PC made donation of £60 to the Oxfordshire Association for the blind.

Our new neighbourhood Police Officer is PS 3926 Frazer Weller on:

01235 5168 16/08458 505 505/Frazer.weller@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

Date of next Parish Council meeting: Monday 2nd June 2006 at 7.30pm.

COUNTY COUNCIL NOTES

John Howell

John has recommended the Oxford Castle development be well worth a visit.

As regards traffic calming in the village, John suggested the PC contacts OCC directly to see what is available under the latest budget constraints.

The County Council speed reference group is considering the possible 'inappropriate speed limit' along the A415 between Burcot and Berinsfield, possibly with a view to raising it to 40mph.

Similarly a government 'sponsored' mandatory review of all speed limits is in the planning stage. For more information please contact Dr Howell on 07889 646845.

THE PRE-SCHOOL ELLIOTT BUILDINGS 1996-2006: A MEMOIR

Michael Chatwin

In mid 1996 Culham Primary School needed more space for teaching pupils. At the time I sat on the school governing body and was Chairman of the Parish Council. At an open village meeting it was agreed that the community use of School House could cease, the school could take it over and the Pre-School could be relocated into temporary buildings.

All members of the parish council swung into action; two 'Elliott' units were located at Harwell, inspected and offered to us for £1. We negotiated with Amey to move them onto site for us at no cost. A site was identified, planning permission obtained with the submission of complete architectural drawings. Following excavations, drainage, water and electricity connections were made and then pillars to support the 'Elliott' buildings were erected. The units were prepared for the move and were hoisted into position on 4th September 1996.

Six to eight weeks of fairly constant construction and preparation followed. The roof was re-sealed and complete re-wiring of all power and lighting circuits carried out. Walls were re-lined with plasterboard and papered, an excellent entrance lobby doorway was built, all plumbing-in of loos, sinks and the kitchen followed. Tiling, building of cupboards and re-decoration, with re-carpeting last, completed the inside work. Outside fencing was created, an entrance ramp built ready for a re-opening on 28th October.

All this work was done by a dedicated group (aged from 8 to 80) of residents, including all the Parish Councillors. Most materials were either free or at reduced prices, which were then paid for by

the Parish Council. This was clearly one of the best communal activities we have achieved in the village in the 24 years I have been a resident.

I wrote a thank-you note in 'The Mouthpiece' at the time, so I have not mentioned names here again - they know who they are! I do, however, reiterate those thanks now, because over the last two days (as I write on 9/10 May) the 'Elliott' buildings are being demolished and taken away. For those of us who worked so hard to provide the village with the facilities it has been a day or two tinged with sadness and nostalgia but, with the knowledge that the Pre-School is now in excellent newly provided accommodation, a touch of pride too. Well done past Culham residents, Parish Council and School. We all know how much effort will have gone in to this latest building.

CULHAM PAROCHIAL SCHOOL NEWS

Cathy Gray

With the SAT's (Standardised Assessment Tests) over we have begun rehearsals for our end of term production – Roald Dahl's version of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. All of the children will be taking part and there will be plenty of singing and dancing. We hope that the weather will be kind to us on the afternoon of Tuesday 11th July and evening of Wednesday 12th July as we are planning open-air performances. As usual all will be welcome at the afternoon dress rehearsal.

Please keep some time free on Thursday 22nd June to come to our Open Day. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible. This will be an opportunity for you to see the children at work and to have a closer look at improvements to the school building. Culham Pre-School will also welcome visitors in the morning.

Now that the temporary building has been removed from the rear of the school we intend to go ahead as quickly as possible with the landscaping of the outside area. At the moment we are finalising plans and seeking tenders from contractors.

Thank you to all those who have been passing on Tesco and Sainsbury vouchers. These schemes will be finishing soon so please let us have any remaining ones.

CULHAM PRE-SCHOOL NEWS

Lea Allmond

This term the children will be looking at the theme of holidays and creatures under the sea. We hope to have some lovely displays of their work for the School open day on 22nd June - we hope you will come along and see us at work in our new classroom. The children will also be taking part in a sponsored "teddy toddle" during the week beginning 12th June, this will be followed by a grand Teddy bears picnic.

We would like to say a huge thank you to Audrey & Cameron at the Railway Inn, John & Noriman at the Wagon & Horses, Nigel & Jackie at the Lion and all of their customers for once again generously supporting us in our latest fundraising events. Your support is greatly appreciated.

OXFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITY

The Oxfordshire Rural Community Council aims to improve the quality of life for those who live and work in rural Oxfordshire. We help people living in rural areas to identify and tackle local needs – and – we raise awareness of rural issues among policy-makers and the public.

ORCC's team of fieldworkers provide support to village communities on a range of issues:-

Parish plans, village halls advice, village shops and community shops, rural transport, affordable housing, village newsletters, community groups and projects and funding for youth projects. They also run the Oxfordshire Villages of the Year Competition – contact them for details on 01865 883 488 or visit their website: www.oxonrcc.org.uk

NEWS FROM NEWINGTON NURSERIES

Architectural Acers

Everywhere you look at the moment a dozen different greens are unfolding -think of deciduous trees, shrubs, hedges and the new growth of perennials. Not all leaves are green however and mixing in some trees and shrubs with red, purple or yellow leaves can make this time of year even more of a visual feast in the garden.

Japanese maples (*Acer palmatum*) score particularly highly in terms of providing wonderful leaf colours and shapes and the choice ranges from red, red-purple, grey-green, mid-green, blue green, yellow, and even pink. Many also assume fabulous autumn hues.

This beautiful family of trees and shrubs also comes in a great range of shapes and sizes. Many are suitable for growing in large ornamental containers making them a flexible way of bringing living plants to hard areas and achieving immediate impact. They are so charismatic that even one specimen in a suitable container can transform the look and feel of an area of garden.

In standard tree form, *Acer palmatum* can reach 8 metres in height but it is the low growing, more shrubby varieties that tend to be more useful in most garden situations. Leaves may have between five and nine lobes and in many cases they are deeply and finely cut. Some pointers to sure-fire varieties of *Acer palmatum* to get you started include: 'Dissectum', height and spread 2 metres by 3 metres. Fine, deeply cut green leaves which assume a beautiful red tint in autumn. Choose 'Dissectum Atropurpureum' for red-purple leaves in the growing season. 'Garnet', a vigorous, mound forming shrub. Height and spread 4 metres, leaves are red-purple through the growing season and into autumn. 'Corallinum' can reach a height and spread of 1 metre in ideal soil conditions (moist and rich, with a good balance of minerals). Normally may be half this size. Leaves are brilliant pink when they first open in spring. 'Bloodgood', another mound-forming cultivar, height and spread of 5 metres and dark red-purple leaves and 'Crimson Queen' reaches a height and spread of 3 metres by 4 metres and has red-purple leaves.

Sometimes all it takes is the right plant in the right place to transform a garden. Only a few plants have the star quality to achieve this and *Acer palmatum* is one of those plants at the top of the list.

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

OUT & ABOUT IN JUNE

Sunday 4 June 2pm-4.30pm: Newts, Frogs and Toads

The Northmoor Trust

Come along for a chance to find out more about these amazing amphibians. Meet at Little Wittenham Church. For more information Tel: 01865 407792 or see www.northmoortrust.co.uk

Sunday 4 June 2.30pm-5pm: Harcourt Arboretum

Plant Sale and Teas at the Harcourt Arboretum, Nuneham Courtenay organized by Friends of Oxford Botanic Garden.

Friday 9 June 6.00pm/Saturday 10 June 2.00pm

Ray Davies

Abingdon bowlers are now out on the green enjoying the new season of bowling. The combination of the sun on your back and bowls at your feet and a drink in the bar afterwards is really rewarding. If you would like to join us for a free trial, come along to one of our 'Open Sessions' in Albert Park, Abingdon. All welcome, equipment provided. Ring Ray on 01235 524591 if you need further information.

Saturday 10 June 10.00am-1.00pm: Antiques Roadshow

Come along to Wallingford Town Hall with your treasures and bring them along for valuation by the experts. Bonhams will be using their expert skills to value your household wonders, all in aid of Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire, a local charity helping local families with small children. The cost of valuing two items is £5.00, and £1.00 for each subsequent item. Refreshments will also be available. For more information contact Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire on 01235 511152.

Saturday 10 June 2pm-5pm**Dorchester Pre-school**

Dorchester Pre-school is holding an 'Open Gardens' event for fundraising. There will be a bouncy castle, face painting, tea and cake stalls at the pre-school plus a plant stall at the Rectory.

Thursday 15 June 10am-2.30pm: 'Caring For Carers' Information Day**Nicola Oddy**

Guideposts Trust will be holding an Information Day for National Carers Week (12 - 18 June 2006). If you are a carer, come along to the Corn Exchange, Witney, enjoy a cup of tea and find out what services are on offer. For more information, contact Nicola Oddy at the Guideposts Trust, Two Rivers, Station Lane, Witney OX28 4BH (Tel 01993 772886).

Friday 16 June 7pm: CCLRC Rutherford Appleton Laboratory : Rainforest Roadshow

Come along and find out about the fascinating ecosystem of the tropical rainforest and the interesting lives of the tribal people who make their home there. To book places please contact Lisa Faircloth on 01235445789 or by email l.h.m.faircloth@cclrc.ac.uk

Thursday 22-Saturday 24 June 7.45pm nightly at Dorchester Village Hall**Dorchester Amateur Dramatic Society is performing Calamity Jane.**

Tickets cost Thursday £6, Friday & Saturday £7 Children £1 less than adults and are available from Dorchester Post Office, The Stores Warborough or Jane Cannon on 01865 340792.

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. 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 July/August 2006 Mouthpiece by June 15th please, to:

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