

# **The Mouthpiece**

## **Culham's Newsletter No 277**

### **Village Diary for July/August 2006**

#### **July**

- 2nd Family Service at St. Paul's 10 am*
- 3rd Parish Council Meeting, The School, 7.30pm*
- 14th Mobile Library, The Glebe, 1.50pm-2.10pm*
- 15th Evening Prayer at St. Paul's 6pm*
- 28th Mobile Library, The Glebe, 1.50pm-2.10pm*
- 29th Village Lottery, The Lion,*
- 30th Team Communion, St Paul's, 10.30am*

#### **August**

- 6th Family Service, St. Paul's 10am*
- 11th Mobile Library, The Glebe, 1.50pm - 2.10pm*
- 15th Deadline for the September Mouthpiece*
- 20th Evening Prayer, St. Paul's, 6pm*
- 25th Mobile Library, The Glebe, 1.50pm-2.10pm*
- 26th Village Lottery, The Lion*

## SERVICES OF WORSHIP

July &amp; August 2006

DATE	TIME	PLACE	SERVICE
<b>JULY</b>			
<b>Sunday 2nd</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 Prayer
	6.30 pm	Dorchester	Pilgrimage
Sunday 9th	8 am	Little Wittenham	Holy Communion
	8 am	Dorchester	Holy Communion
	10 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion + Baptism
	10.15 am	Dorchester	Sung Eucharist
<b>Sunday 16th</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 27th	2 pm	Long Wittenham	Pram Service
Sunday 23rd	8 am	Little Wittenham	Holy Communion
	8 am	Dorchester	Holy Communion
	10 am	Long Wittenham	Family Communion
	10.15 am	Dorchester	Sung Eucharist
<b>Sunday 30th</b>	8 am	Dorchester	Holy Communion
	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Culham</b>	<b>Team Communion</b>
<b>AUGUST</b>			
<b>Sunday 6th</b>	8 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
	8 am	Dorchester	Holy Communion
	10 am	Long Wittenham	Family Service + Baptism
	<b>10 am</b>	<b>Culham</b>	<b>Family Service</b>
	10.15 am	Dorchester	Morning Prayer
Sunday 13th	8 am	Little Wittenham	Holy Communion
	8 am	Dorchester	Holy Communion
	10 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion + Baptism
	10.15 am	Dorchester	Sung Eucharist
<b>Sunday 20th</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 24th	2 pm	Long Wittenham	Pram Service
Sunday 27th	10.30 am	Dorchester	Holy Communion

## VILLAGE NEWS

### Culham Plant Sale 2006

### Parochial Church Council

Many thanks to all those who helped and supported the Plant Sale on 20th May. The amounts raised from the various stalls are shown below.

Plants	£304.00		Books & videos	£36.85
Teas & cakes	£133.86		Treasure Hunt	£26.00
Raffle	£116.50			
Bric-a-Brac	£30.32		Tombola (Friends of St Pauls)	£60.25

The grand total was £707.78 - a bit more than in 2005, and over £50 more than in 2004 when we had warm Summer weather. Also this is the first time that the Plant Stall itself raised over £300, so we are very pleased with these results, and we hope everyone enjoyed the event.

### Culham Village Lottery

### Lynn Hancock

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

### Church Notes

### Sue Booy

Please note that on Sunday 30th July, a Dorchester Team Communion is being held at St Paul's Church, Culham. **It will start 30 minutes later than usual.** The congregation will be coming from further afield than usual - eg. Benson, Drayton St Leonard, Berinsfield, the Baldons, etc.

The appointment of Anne Ilsley as the new 'House for Duty' Priest in the Bridge Group was announced in June's Mouthpiece. The date for her licensing in the Dorchester Team will be 18th October.

### British Red Cross Collection in May

### Kath Pearce, Charles & Ingrid Reichardt

We would like to say a big "Thank You" to everyone who contributed and helped us to collect in Red Cross Week. A total of £122.07 was given, which is up on last year.

### For Sale

### Paul Hancock

Stompa pine cabin bed - excellent condition, £115 including transport in village if required. Ring 01235 523778 for details.

V-Tech power pad plus pre-computer for ages 9+, with mouse & mains adaptor. £20. Ring 01235 523778

### **Adverts in the Mouthpiece**

Please remember that we are happy to publish private advertisements free of charge to Culham residents: not just 'For Sale' & 'Wanted', but also births, marriages, lost pets, etc. We are happy to publicise charitable events in the village and also special events organized by any of the pubs. It does help if something is emailed or even just written on paper & given to one of the editors. **The deadline is the 15th of the previous month.**

### **FROM THE TEAM VICAR**

**Revd Sue Booy**

### **A matter of perspective**

Last month Richard and I had a few days' holiday on the river. We saw lots of kingfishers and so many herons that we wondered whether the populations were increasing. We concluded that this was a matter of perspective – when you are on the river rather than walking the riverside path you can see riverbank wildlife much more easily - so although I comparatively rarely see herons and kingfishers when I walk the dog they are almost certainly there. One thing I never see when walking are turtles. However we have twice now seen turtles sunning themselves on dead logs at the edge of the river. Anything up to the size of a dinner plate they seem to be one time pets, discarded from home aquaria, that have thrived even in the unwelcoming English climate. A quick search of the Internet revealed that others have sighted similar turtles (or technically overgrown terrapins) not only in the Thames but also in other lakes and canals - an unusual result of a cruel and throwaway society. Will they colonise and gradually become a common species on the riverbank? This gives a rather different perspective on what 'belongs' and what doesn't. Grey squirrels, for example, are once-cute colonists that now fill many of us with rage!

The Internet also revealed that although our *walker v boater* impression of a greater number of herons *is* largely a matter of perspective there has actually been a significant increase in the heron population on the Thames and particularly in London in the last fifty years. In 1957 the Thames in London was declared biologically dead but it is now a 'stronghold' for herons that are able to colonise because of the increasing fish stocks. It seems to me an entirely good thing that such graceful birds should be increasing in numbers - but I don't own a fishpond and if you do I suspect that your perspective might be rather different!!

The perspective from which we view our lives can radically affect the way we make choices and the way we behave towards others. Who belongs and who doesn't? Have we really always done it this way - and if so does that mean it is automatically right. If it doesn't hurt me do I notice that another person's life is diminished? Being able to look at something from a new perspective can be a great help - it can open our eyes to new riches or help us to see something or someone in an entirely different way.

Taking a holiday or time doing something different from the norm can change our perspectives - foreign travel certainly does this but so too does resting and looking at what we are making of our lives. In the great story of Creation God rested, looked and saw that it was good.

If you are going away on holiday - I hope you have a good one - if you are staying at home -hope you are able to have a change.

### **PARISH COUNCIL NEWS**

### **Notes from the May meeting**

#### **News from John Stimson**

John is now the deputy leader of the Liberal Democrat Group.

With regard to the lights at the railway station — these were installed by First Great Western and SODC has no planning control over their installation. However SODC is consulting with the

buildings management team of FGW over the matter.  
 The hoarding in the field close to Number 1 Site has been removed.  
 There is a deadline of 29 July 2006 regarding the enforcement of planning on Number 1 Site.  
 Some enforcement notices are being prepared for the cessation of work on the site.

A fund of £1.25m has been received by SODC for good planning policy. John is keen to see some of this being used for planning enforcement activities.

SODC has received a good report from the District Auditor and the Council is now officially 'good' with a 3 on the scale of 1-4.

A growth bid grant application is being made to central government of £167m. The money is for 'non-strategic; infrastructure installation and is likely to be used for the two locations of Grenoble Road, south of Oxford City and at Didcot.

Date of Next Meeting: Monday 3rd July 2006. (There will be no meeting in August)

### **CULHAM PAROCHIAL SCHOOL NEWS**

**Cathy Gray**

At the moment the school is working hard towards achieving 'Healthy School Status' and over the past weeks has been involved in several activities to help promote healthy and safe lifestyles for its pupils.

We took part in 'Walk to School Week' at the end of May and as part of this held a 'Wacky Shoe Day' when pupils and staff made a donation in order to wear unusual footwear in school. A reporter from BBC Radio Oxford came to report on the event and the children also recorded items for their Breakfast Show Competition, which were broadcast during the following week. Approximately £40 was raised for the Oxford Children's hospital that day and throughout the week a large percentage of children either walked to school or parked further away than usual and walked part of the way.

Children in Year 5 and 6 have been taking part in the Oxfordshire Cycling Proficiency Programme and several parent volunteers have been trained as 'Footsteps' instructors to enable them to teach the children road safety.

The infants have been trying lots of new fruits and vegetables as part of 'Food Awareness Week' and Years 5 and 6 enjoyed going to Radley College where they had an afternoon of 'Kwik Cricket' coaching with several other schools.

Our recent joint Open Day with Culham Pre-School gave many people their first opportunity to see inside our new building and also to see the school and Pre-School at work. We always like having visitors in school and hope that those of you who came enjoyed your visit. Thank you to all of those who have continued to donate vouchers and who filled bags with unwanted items for our recent Bag2school collection.

Still to look forward to before the end of term, are joint sports days with the other school in our local cluster, our own sports day and our end of term production. This is an open air presentation of Roald Dahl's version of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. The whole school will be taking part with the dress rehearsal taking place at 2 o'clock on Tuesday 11th July and the evening performance at 6.30p.m. on Wednesday 12th July, weather permitting.

We are asking anyone who would like to come to either performance to bring their own garden chairs to sit on.

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

**Lea Allmond**

We have had a very exciting term, and have had great fun doing our 'Teddy Toddle' around the village and have enjoyed a teddy bear picnic as a *grand finale* on the village green.

The children are looking at the different holiday destinations they would like to go to, and how they would get there!! The most popular destination at the moment is the Moon. Parents

have been asked to supply a dish from their country, so the children may sample different foods, and perhaps be able to cook some during a session.

### **Monumental Inscription Recording**

### **Oxfordshire Family History Society**

During the summer months a small team from Oxfordshire Family History Society will be recording the inscriptions on the gravestones and memorials at St. Michael & All Angels, Clifton Hampden, and St. Paul, Culham.

Over the years, individuals have recorded many churchyards but results have been haphazard or lost so under the umbrella of The Federation of Family History Societies, county societies are now making a co-ordinated effort using a common system. You will have noticed that many of the older headstones have already lost their inscriptions to the weather so we are recording before more history disappears forever. The parish burial register tells who was buried and

when but seldom anything more. A bare family tree with just a list of names and dates is interesting but dull. An insight into who our ancestors were can be gleaned from the information on a headstone: ages and relationships, the choice of text or verse, the size and style of the headstone.

We work a couple of hours either side of mid-day to take maximum advantage of the sun casting shadows across the engravings on the headstones which mostly face east-west. If the sun doesn't oblige then we have to get the torch out. Another technique is to look down a tube with the end held almost against the face of the stone. By slightly tilting the tube, a shadow can be induced from any angle. We will produce a plan showing the location of each grave and a printed copy of the inscriptions which is also transferred to microfiche and now, of course, to computer CD which will include a photograph of each grave.

We shall start around Easter when the weather warms up so if you are passing when we are in session on a Wednesday, please call in to see what we are up to and have a chat or even join in; we are a friendly bunch.

### **NEWS FROM NEWINGTON NURSERIES**

### **Summer Flowering Climbers**

Get excited about climbers this summer! Here's a selection of climbing plants from three different families, each of which can bring cascades of colour to your garden through the summer months. Climbers are also really handy for disguising unsightly features in the garden and don't need much space on the ground.

Campsis, or Trumpet Creeper, is a favourite because it's vigorous, tolerant of most soils and the trumpet-shaped flowers are just so much fun! Look out for *Campsis grandiflora* which produces clusters of wonderful trumpets in later summer. They can be dark orange to red. *Campsis radicans* produces more slender flowers, again in late summer, and has the added bonus of being self-clinging.

Clematis is a garden classic and we see why. Yellow, pink, red, white and blue flowers all are possibilities. At this time of year, it's those varieties that flower from summer into autumn which are most interesting. Clematis 'Abundance' is a great choice with its wine-red flowers and light green leaves. 'Bill MacKenzie', with its bell-shaped, yellow flowers is another winner. Lonicera is, quite simply, a defining summer garden plant. The flowers are beautiful and many have a fragrance that is so evocative and romantic that it stops you in your tracks. Look out for *Lonicera x brownii* 'Dropmore scarlet' if you want flowers over a long period in summer. For a very fragrant variety, *Lonicera x Americana* is ideal.

Most climbers need to be trained against walls (using trellises), up fences or on other plants (trees, tall shrubs). Some varieties of Clematis & Lonicera can reach 7m in height, but there are many in the 2- 4m size range and some smaller still. Campsis can reach up to 10m in height. Moist, well drained fertile soil is perfect for any of this selection. Work in compost when you plant to help drainage and fertility. Lonicera & Clematis thrive in sun or partial shade. Campsis prefers full sun

against a wall (this plant is only hardy down to -5°C). Pruning will help to establish strong plants - check when you buy how to prune the climbers you've chosen.

## OUT AND ABOUT IN JULY AND AUGUST

**Northmoor Trust Events.** For further information contact Northmoor Trust, Little Wittenham, OX14 4RA (Tel: 01865 407792) or visit web site [www.northmoortrust.co.uk](http://www.northmoortrust.co.uk)

**Sunday 30th July, 2 pm - 4 pm, Damsels and Dragons.** A guided walk for all the family introducing the damselflies and dragonflies of the Nature Reserve. Meet at Little Wittenham Church.

**Bat Walks, Friday 11th & 18th August, 7.30 pm - 10.30 pm.** Join Dave Endacott to learn more about these fascinating 'night flyers'. There will be a charge for this event. Remittance will have to be sent to reserve your place. NOT SUITABLE FOR CHILDREN UNDER 10.

**University of Oxford Botanic Garden** - Summer Festival Weekend, Saturday 22 & Sunday 23 July: Visit the Botanic Garden in Rose Lane, Oxford (Tel 01865 286690) to see Summer ablaze with bold, flashy flowers and insects' industrious activity. Web site is [www.botanic-garden.ox.ac.uk](http://www.botanic-garden.ox.ac.uk)

**Abingdon Drama Club** - Wed.5th July - **Sat.8th** July at 7.30pm. Abingdon Drama Club presents, 'There Goes the Bride' by Ray Cooney and John Chapman. 'A friendly, clever farce that gets madder and funnier as it goes along' - Daily Mirror. At the Unicorn Theatre, Medieval Buildings, Abingdon. Tickets £7, concessions £6, from Dawson's Music, High Street, Abingdon, or from the ticket line 01235 524538

### Calling All 7-12 yrs old in Cuiham

Come to the Pottery at 8 The Green on 16th August from 2pm-4pm if the weather is fine, (I'll have to cancel it if it rains and try to find another time). You can pinch or coil a pot and I'll fire it for you, no charge. Wear some old clothes! Numbers are limited so email me at [cs@storrs.demon.co.uk](mailto:cs@storrs.demon.co.uk) or ring me on 520395 or put a note through my letterbox at the above address. I will need mobile numbers of parents on 16th August or their email addresses. Look forward to seeing you, **Charlotte Storrs**

### Introducing the ORCC — can we help?

Oxfordshire Rural Community Council aims to improve the quality of life for those who live or 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 and communities on a range of issues.

Parish plans

Village Hall advice

Village shops and community shops

Rural transport

Affordable housing

Village Newsletters

Community groups and projects

Funding for youth projects

We also run the Oxfordshire Villages of the Year Competition — contact us for details:

ORCC on 01865 883488 or visit our website: [www.oxonrcc.org.uk](http://www.oxonrcc.org.uk)

## ENDPIECE

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

**Contributions to the September Mouthpiece by August 15th please to;**

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