

The Mouthpiece

Culham's Newsletter No 278

Village Diary for September 2006

3rd Family Service at St. Paul's, 10 am

4th Parish Council Meeting, The School, 7.30pm

8th Mobile Library, The Glebe, 1.50 pm-2.10 pm

9th 'Ride & Stride' Day, St Paul's Church, 10 am - 6 pm

15th Deadline for October's Mouthpiece

17th Evening Prayer at St. Paul's, 6pm

22nd Mobile Library, The Glebe, 1.50 pm-2.10 pm

30th Village Lottery, The Lion

SERVICES OF WORSHIP

September 2006

DATE	TIME	PLACE	SERVICE
Sunday 3rd	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 Service
Sunday 10th	8 am	Little Wittenham	Holy Communion
	8 am	Dorchester	Holy Communion
	10 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
	10.15 am	Dorchester	Sung Eucharist
Sunday 17th	8 am	Dorchester	Holy Communion
	10 am	Long Wittenham	Holy Communion
	10.15 am	Dorchester	Family Service + Baptism
	6 pm	Culham	Evening Prayer
Sunday 24th	8 am	Little Wittenham	Holy Communion
	8 am	Dorchester	Holy Communion
	10.30 am	Dorchester	Ordination Service #
Thursday 28th	2 pm	Long Wittenham	Pram Service

David Haylett will be ordained at this service - all are invited to attend

VILLAGE NEWS**MUTUAL EXCHANGE - Housing swap!****Sophie Boswell**

Are you a South Oxfordshire Housing Association tenant who would consider exchanging your property?

If so, we have a first floor 2 bedroom flat in a quiet street of Sutton Courtenay with our own large garden and off street parking. We would like to exchange our property for a 2 or 3 bedroom house in Culham. If you at all interested please phone: (01235) 847260 or 07766577062

Culham Village Lottery**Lynn Hancock**

Congratulations to Derek Brownson, winner of the June draw and to Jim and Caroline Bennett who won in July.

Historic Churches 'Ride & Stride', Saturday 9th September**Jean Diggins**

How quickly the time has come around again for this Sponsored Event! Please get on your cycles or put on your walking boots or sponsor those who take part. The money raised is divided equally between the church of your choice and the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust.

We in Culham have benefited from grants by the Trust to help maintain our own lovely church of S Paul. Help in 'manning' the church from **10 am to 6 pm on Saturday 9th September** would be much appreciated. More details and forms are available from Jean at **2 Tollgate Road, Tel 01235 520540**.

Overgrown Hedges

Parish Council

A number of hedges along the High Street are encroaching over the footpath – please ensure your hedges etc are kept trimmed to allow ease of use of the paths – thank you in advance.

Church Gutter Clearance

Parochial Church Council

St Paul's Church is surrounded by trees and we have been advised that its gutters should be cleared twice a year - in late Autumn and in Spring.

We invite tenders for this work, initially for a period of one year. Please contact Brian Bracher by **30th September** if you are interested. Please note that we must ensure that suitable safety precautions are taken for this work.

FROM OUR NEW VICAR

Revd Anne Ilsley

"How was The Galapagos? It's one of my dreams to go there." Anyone I know who is fond of Natural History has been asking me this question about my recent holiday and my rather embarrassed reply is something along the lines of; "The best bit was seeing my daughter and having the family together."

One piece of information about your new lady Priest in The Bridge Group is that people are more important to me than flora & fauna. On holiday, included with a rest, I like architecture and history, especially social history, though with our scattered family we tend to choose destinations according to where they are living!

My life began in Stroud in Gloucestershire, but I moved away from that lovely setting aged 2 when my father, a GP, gained a partnership in Rugby in Warwickshire in the newly emerging NHS. Boarding school brought me to Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire and nurse training to London, where I met and married Charles, currently a cardiologist at Harefield Hospital. Except for 4 years, our married life has been spent in the Greater London area. Those 4 years being very happy and formative ones in Dunedin New Zealand, though I admit to leaving home *very* reluctantly!

Our daughter Kate was turning 3 years old and our son Richard was 3½ months when we left for New Zealand. It was a time of great family bonding and the beginnings of stirrings of a re-awakening faith in me. I was baptised as an infant and confirmed as a teenager, but had moved away from practice of my Christian faith during early adult years.

Returning from New Zealand and with my children doing what children do – growing up! I could so easily have gone back to Health Visiting, in which I was trained, but I was reluctant and I loved being at home with small children. I always found involvement with community groups and with church, so I was stimulated and fulfilled. Later I got involved with studying and revelled in the university experience. I had been an ok student at school, but confirming a long held suspicion that I was dyslexic, triggered the help that I was entitled to and gave me insight into how I had naturally worked to overcome this difficulty. Computers and spell checks make life so much easier!

During my time at Heythrop Collage, London University, I began to go through the process of selection for training for ministry in the Church of England. I went straight from a Theology Degree,

to Ministry training at Wycliffe College in Oxford. Since then I have been working full time as a Non Stipendiary curate at St Mary's Church in Harefield. Harefield has been a wonderful experience, through my incumbent Andrew Gandon, the people in our congregation and all the members of the wider community. They have taught me all I know about village life! Of course the communities of Clifton Hampden, Culham, Little Wittenham and Long Wittenham may question Harefield's credentials as a village, but the people of Harefield would staunchly defend this!

I very much look forward to living and working in The Bridge group of parishes and to meeting you all as I am given opportunity.

Revd Anne Ilsley
Husband Dr Charles Ilsley
Children Kate & Richard.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Notes from the July meeting

The next two bus stop benches are due to be installed on 17th July at the west end of the High Street.

The non-cutting of the grass on the High Street/Glebe intersection area will be reported.

A gift of a tree has been made to the village. Parish Council is considering an appropriate location in the area of The Green. Details will follow.

Toby Price has resigned as Parish Council appointee on the CCRC panel. The probable disbanding of the CCRC will be raised as an agenda item on the September agenda.

From John Howell

John is to discuss the list of our traffic schemes requests with Peter Ronald of OCC with a view to a site meeting. This is in view of the recent loss of funds from both AbITs and Didcot expansion.

Recently painted areas on the Causeway into Abingdon have had no further attention. Priority will be given to those areas considered 'dangerous'.

The SE Plan – there are now plans for an extra 50% of housing in the South East, beyond that in the original government plan. This means increased housing all round.

Date of Next Meeting: Monday 4th September 2006

CULHAM PAROCHIAL SCHOOL NEWS

Cathy Gray

At the end of the school year we said goodbye and 'good luck' to ten children in Year 6 who are moving on to secondary school This is an unusually high number for the school and will leave us with a smaller than usual junior class this year. However, the lower end of the school will be welcoming six new children at various times during 2006 – 2007.

The new school year starts with new topics for both the junior and infant classes. The juniors will be learning about 'Houses and Homes', looking in particular at the geographical aspects of settlement and the infants finding out about 'Journeys'.

Over the holidays you will have noticed that the school has had a bicycle shed built. Its' provision is part of the school Travel Plan and its' aim is to encourage children to cycle to school rather than

come by car. Children using the shed have entered into an agreement with the school to follow the 'bicycle rules' stipulated in the school's Cycling to School Policy and no child should be cycling without adult supervision unless they have undertaken and passed OCC Cycle Training. We hope that there may be a slight reduction in the number of cars being parked near the school in the morning and afternoons as a result.

The tendering process for the outside play area to the rear of the Foundation Stage classroom is taking longer than expected but we hope that work will start as soon as a contract is awarded.

It was good to see so many people at our Open Day and at our end of term play and we hope to see as many of you as possible at similar events during the coming year.

New Homes in South Oxfordshire

South Oxfordshire District Council

South Oxfordshire District Council is looking for sites to build a number of houses outside Didcot in the next ten years. It has received details of 100 sites for development and 30 comments on development locations. From 6th October, details will be put on their website www.southoxon.gov.uk

There will be more formal consultations in October and November through the SODC website and exhibitions as follows (from 3 pm to 8 pm).

Berinsfield Church Hall	Monday 9 October
Henley Town Hall	Thursday 19 October
Thame Town Hall	Tuesday 10 October
Wallingford Town Hall	Friday 20 October
Wheatley Merry Bells	Thursday 12 October
Woodcote Village Hall	Wednesday 25 October

SODC would like to hear your views by Friday 17 November. If you would like to be kept informed please register to be on their consultation database by email at planning.policy@southoxon.gov.uk, by post to Planning Policy Team, Benson Lane, Crowmarsh Gifford, Wallingford OX10 8NJ, or by telephone on 01491 823725

Witness Service Volunteers Wanted

Muriel Greenhalgh

One of the most crucial ways in which you may become involved with the court system is as a witness. If you see or hear a crime happening then you could be called upon to give evidence in court about it. Many people feel frightened by the thought of this. They often find the courtroom a bewildering place, and feel terrified at the thought of taking the stand and facing cross-examination.

However, the Witness Service exists to smooth the process and make it less of an ordeal. Trained volunteers provide information about the court procedure, offer emotional support to the witness and even accompany them into the courtroom. All these services are free, but we do not discuss the evidence or give legal advice.

The Witness Service is there not just to help and reassure witnesses of crime, but also to offer support to **victims** of crime and their friends and family who are attending court. The Witness Service supports all prosecution and defence witnesses, but not defendants in their particular case.

The Witness Service is currently looking for more volunteers to develop and strengthen the service in courts across the County. Volunteers can be young or old and from all backgrounds. You do not need any prior experience of the criminal justice system, as this will be covered in the comprehensive training given to all volunteers. The next training programme starts in September. If

you would like to volunteer please ring Muriel Greenhalgh on 01865 751511 or email *muriel.greenhalgh@victimsupportoxon.org.uk*.

HOME-START SOUTHERN OXFORDSHIRE

Lynn Hancock

Do you have a couple of hours a week to spare? Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire is a voluntary organisation offering support, friendship and practical help to families with pre-school children. Being a parent is not easy whatever your situation; many parents feel exhausted and overwhelmed by the stresses of family life with under fives.

Home-Start volunteers are all either parents themselves or have parenting experience. We can offer you a free course of preparation which will include topics such as child development, relationships, confidentiality and community resources. Could you offer two hours a week on a regular basis to visit one or two families in their own homes?

We have been based in Didcot for 16 years and our service now covers most of the Vale and Southern Oxfordshire. If you would like more information about the scheme or becoming a volunteer, please contact Hilary, Lynn or Pat on (01235) 511152 or Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire, 197 The Broadway, Didcot, OX 11 8RU (first floor, Didcot Library).

South and Vale Carers Centre

Tom Fox

If yours is an average street, then one in ten houses will be home to a person who is long-term ill, frail or disabled. A friend or family member who spends at least 10 hours and sometimes more than 60 hours a week in their caring role for no financial reward will look after that person.

Carers are usually glad of a bit of help. Maybe you know someone who would appreciate a bit of shopping, baby-sitting, mum-sitting, or just a chat. Caring is not an easy job - it often takes place behind closed doors and can be lonely and stressful and some people need more help than a friendly neighbour can provide. There is a local charity that can help with benefits advice, carers' breaks and other support. They also provide some much needed fun and are currently taking bookings for a summer outing to Bournemouth, an autumn shopping trip to Bristol, and a training course in massage techniques. Call The South & Vale Carers Centre on 01235 510212 for free advice, or e-mail *carers@svcarers.org.uk*

NEWS FROM NEWINGTON NURSERIES

Redecorate your Patio

Plants in pots give instant impact. They bring flexibility and convenience as well as being ornamental in their own right.

Bamboo and flowering grasses are great for creating an exotic, faraway feel in the most suburban situation! Decorative foliage and seed heads will also provide a longer lasting effect than many other plants.

Flowering grasses are a plant kingdom all of their own. Here are examples from some of the main families. Pennisetum villosum (Feathertop) is a compact flowering grass (height and spread 60cm). In late summer it produces gorgeous seed heads, covered in delicate bristles. Chinese silver grass (Miscanthus sinensis 'Kleine Fontane') produces lovely sprays of light brown seed heads in summer (height and spread 1m and 60cm). Carex flagellifera, with its arching, evergreen leaves, is perfect for container growing. Flower heads are brown and form at the end long stalks which will trail down over the edge of a pot (Height and spread approximately 1m).

For foliage, form and a strong yet sympathetic personality, bamboo (Pleiblastus) should be high on your shopping list this month. Producing wonderful woody canes and long pointed leaves, sometimes variegated, they are fully hardy and range in height from 1.2 - 3m (Pygmy bamboo height reaches 40cm). Looking at specifics, Pleiblastus auricomus is a great choice that would enhance any garden. The yellow, pointed leaves are striped green and look fabulous in the sun. Ideal for container growing, this bamboo can spread to cover larger areas if planted out. Pleiblastus variegatus (Dwarf white striped bamboo) is another small bamboo well suited to container growing. It reaches a height of 75cm and carries stylish dark green leaves striped with cream. Some varieties of bamboo can be very vigorous, so container growing can be an ideal way to keep them in check and enjoy them too!

Once you've chosen your plants, follow a few simple steps to get the best results from your pots. Put stones or crocks in the bottom of pots to ensure good drainage. Choose a good quality, compost; this will help to preserve moisture and maintain healthy plants. Water and feed plants regularly during the growing season. Cut out dead leaves on grasses during summer. Shelter bamboos from cold drying winds. Although most of these plants do not have any particular soil requirements, always check the needs of individual varieties. Full sun or partial shade is generally suitable. A layer of slate mulch or pebbles in the top of the pot will not only help to retain moisture but enhance both pot and plant.

OUT AND ABOUT IN SEPTEMBER

Abingdon Touring Theatre Company is currently presenting **The Canterbury Tales** at various village halls, etc in the county. Tickets cost £7.50 or £6.50 and performances start at **8 pm**. In **September** they are performing at the **Unicorn Theatre, Abingdon** on the **1st** (tel 01235 522239), the **Amey Theatre** on the **15th** (tel 01235 522239) and **Harwell Village Hall** on the **17th** (tel 01235 832802). Alternatively see their web site www.attc.org.uk or phone 01865 305305 for information.

BBOWT - Treading Lightly

Come along and join us for a recycled day out at **Sutton Courtenay Environmental Education Centre** on **Sunday 17 September!** Learn how to lead a greener life with lots of hands-on activities for all the family. Make birdfeeders and musical instruments out of recycled materials; discover how you can transform your garden into a wildlife haven and lots more. Come along at any time between **10am and 3pm** and stay as long as you like. Admission £1 per adult, 50p per child. For more information, please call the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust on 01865 775476

Saturday 23rd September 2.00 – 3.30 pm: Sutton Courtenay Produce & Craft Show in the Village Hall. Traditional annual village event - fruit, flowers, vegetables, photography and craft all on display. Open to everyone to come along and enjoy, raffle, refreshments, tea and home made cakes.

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 October Mouthpiece by September 15th please to;

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