

The Mouthpiece

Culham's Newsletter No 282

Village Diary for February 2007

- 4th Family Service, St. Paul's 10 am***
- 5th Parish Council Meeting, The School 7.30 pm***
- 9th Mobile Library, The Glebe 2.15 pm – 2.25 pm***
- 8th Plant Sale Meeting, 'Fair Green', Henley Road, 10.30 am***
- 15th Deadline for March's Mouthpiece***
- 18th Evening Prayer, St. Paul's 4 pm***
- 23rd Mobile Library, The Glebe 2.15 pm – 2.25 pm***
- 24th Lottery Draw, The Lion, Culham***
- 25th Family Communion, St. Paul's 10 am***

SERVICES OF WORSHIP

4th February - 4th March 2007

DATE	TIME	PLACE	SERVICE
FEBRUARY			
Sunday 4th	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
Sunday 11th	8 am	Little Wittenham	Holy Communion
	8 am	Dorchester	Holy Communion
	10 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
	10.15 am	Dorchester	Sung Eucharist
Sunday 18th	8 am	Dorchester	Holy Communion
	10 am	Long Wittenham	Holy Communion
	10.15 am	Dorchester	Family Service
	4 pm	Culham	Evening Prayer
	6 pm	Dorchester	Evensong
Thursday 22rd	2 pm	Long Wittenham	Pram Service
Sunday 25th	8 am	Dorchester	Holy Communion
	10am	Culham	Family Communion
	10.15 am	Dorchesster	Sung Eucharist
	11.15 am	Little Wittenham	Family service with baptism
MARCH			
Sunday 4th	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

FROM OUR VICAR

Anne Ilsley

I love when on holiday, to find the Church of God in that place. It doesn't have to be Anglican, and the church that I've attended over the years of regularly visiting Whistler in Canada is an independent very informal church, which meets in the community hall. They are so used to visitors there, that the minister always asks new people to say a few words about themselves and where they come from.

As the minister spoke about the different groups which make up Whistler community church, I listened with a new perspective! Whistler is an all year resort, with skiing in winter. The congregation always has visitors from Canada and abroad who are there on holiday. They also have regular attendees who own 2nd homes in the area. The 3rd group are those who are working and living in the area on short term contracts in the holiday business. Finally there are those who are long term residents.

I can imagine that there's a considerable burden on the long term residents to maintain things and to manage the changes they must face. As I contemplated our full churches, especially at Christmas Eve Carol services, I was immensely glad that the desire to come home at Christmas included coming into the churches and that we have dedicated members of the church able to prepare and decorate our churches. Thank you to you all.

The complexity for us is the moving between churches rather than the numbers of short term or intermittent visitors. It's a challenge to be one Christian community with 4 church buildings, respecting and recognising our differences, but we must be and we are one in Christ. St Paul in speaking about the church said this.

Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all and is in all. Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. (Colossians Chapter 3, verses 11 – 14 NIV Translation)

The things that divide us may be different from those in Paul's day. The solutions through forgiveness, character and love remain the same. We are reminded of the need for these things starkly, as I write, with the furore over racism in The Big Brother House in the media. At the same time it is the week of prayer for Christian Unity, when part of our prayer must be to ask forgiveness for the damage that our disunity has done.

For myself, I have always found that I have much in common with Christians whom I meet abroad, despite other cultural differences that we might have. I hope that we can offer the same welcome to those who visit us, whether long or short term or planning to stay! Our service pattern may be complicated but it is published in full in the magazine for the month ahead. We hope to see you soon.

Anne

VILLAGE NEWS

Jan Postlethwaite

Andy, April & Brian

We thought that readers would like to know that Jan Postlethwaite left Culham in December 2006 to be nearer her family in Hertfordshire. A keen and knowledgeable gardener, Jan moved to this area when UKAEA's London Office closed down, and chose to live in Culham so that she could have both a large garden and an allotment.

In the late 1980s, with April Jones, she took over the "Mouthpiece" and continued to improve it with her expertise as editor until recently, when she recruited Brian to help her, followed by Sarah, Rosemary and, now, Michelle.

To celebrate the recent millennium, Jan was instrumental in setting up and chairing the Culham History Group. The meetings were invariably hosted at her house with refreshments laid on, all at her own expense. She did the majority of the work in chasing funding for the group and despite several funding refusals was always willing to try elsewhere and come up with alternative ideas for the presentation of the gathered information.

We would like to thank Jan for all her contributions to the life of this village - and to our gardens! She will be greatly missed and we wish her all the best in her new home.

Mobile Library - change of time

Please note that the Mobile Library now calls at The Glebe on alternate Fridays from **2.15 pm to 2.25 pm**. The dates for February are **9th and 23rd**.

Culham Village Lottery

Lynn Hancock

Congratulations to Wendy Mills and Sarah Steele, winners of the November and December Draws.

Annual Plant Sale

Ingrid Reichardt

The Annual Plant Sale in aid of Church Funds will take place on **Saturday 19th May**. We are holding a meeting at **10.30 am on Thursday 8th February at Fair Green** on the main A415 Road (opposite the Wagon & Horses). Anyone interested in helping is invited to come to the meeting, or to telephone Ingrid or Charles on 520534.

Wanted - Milk Container caps

Anne Brownson

Please can you save the caps from plastic milk containers?

Abingdon Alzheimer's Club does wonderful work but to be able to continue relies heavily on fund raising. One of the ways they can do this is by collecting the plastic caps from plastic milk containers. Please will you save yours and either leave at Copper Beeches, High Street, Culham or ring me on 01235 527851 and I will collect. Thank you.

Wanted

For a few months only. Garage space for a small car. Please contact Paul Hancock on 01235 523 778

Parish Council Notes

December 2006 & January 2007

December 2006 Meeting

Three groups have been approached with a request to tender for grass cutting in the village.

The increase in size of the barrier outside the school is being pursued.

Payment for damage to the seat by the bus stop opposite The Lion has been received.

Lynne Hancock is stepping down from running the village lottery at the end of the year. The Council would like to extend their thanks to Lynne for her work and effort over the years.

From John Stimson

The Jet Site Stakeholders Group (JSSG) is undergoing an exercise in January with Brookes University PR firm. A final report is due in March.

There is to be a new management structure at SODC with the Finance Director role being replaced by two other existing directors in an attempt to save on costs. It is likely to be with effect from the new financial year.

A choice based lettings system, whereby tenants are allowed to bid for accommodation they would like, is to be tried out. Certain criteria apply to the type of property that can be bid for.

If you should wish to visit or investigate the SODC web site the address is www.southoxon.gov.uk

January 2007 Meeting

Two written quotes for the village grass cutting in the coming season have been received.

New slats for the damaged bus stop bench by the Lion Pub should be with us soon after settlement of the insurance claim.

Parish Council have sent their support to the Oxfordshire Green Belt Network (OGBN) in their efforts over the protection of Oxford's green belt.

From John Howell

The County Council is undertaking a primary school review in the County with a view to finding which are over or under-subscribed. There will be money from HMG in the 2009/10 budget for upgrading of schools, including rebuilding if necessary. For the funding to apply, schools should be shown to be viable in the long term but with the number of children not being the only criteria for viability.

Area reviews will start later this year, beginning in North Oxford.

Date of Next Meeting: 5th February 2007

Protecting the Countryside

Toby Price

From The Campaign to Protect Rural England

The Campaign to Protect Rural England exists to promote the beauty, tranquillity and diversity of rural England. The organisation was set up 80 years ago. The Oxfordshire Branch currently has 1,250 members and is actively involved with a great number of official and other voluntary bodies that influence the rural scene.

Planning plays a vital role in protecting the countryside from urban sprawl, in encouraging urban regeneration and improving the quality of new development. CPRE is consulted on the content of the County Structure Plan (soon to be replaced by a Regional Spatial Strategy) and locally the South Oxfordshire Local Development Framework. CPRE resists wherever practicable the development of Greenfield sites (the proposal to build upwards of a further 3,000 houses in and around Didcot in the decades after 2016 and following the 3,200 dwellings at Great Western Park, Didcot being another glaring devaluation from the policy we in CPRE favour). It aims to protect existing buildings of architectural and historic importance, such as barns, as well as rights of way and field boundaries of historical and nature conservation value. It is concerned about the development of market towns and with the design of urban buildings, roads and other infrastructure elements.

We review all planning proposals in the area covered by Wallingford District, represent any objections we have to the District Council and at planning committee hearings and draw attention to cases where we believe enforcement of planning requirements is lacking. Our current concern is with the major increase in house building promoted by the Government Office of the South East. Apart from planning of buildings, we are engaged with a variety of subjects which are either carried on in the countryside or interact with the rural scene. In addition to agriculture, these include the working of gravel and restoration of gravel pits, the care and creation of sites of habitat conservation, road schemes and signage, including advertising on roundabouts, works on and beside waterways, renewable energy schemes and waste management.

An Oxfordshire Branch was inaugurated by John Buchan (later Lord Tweedsmuir) 76 years ago. Since then it has fought and won the case against a reservoir at Otmoor, and later, the building of the M40 across Otmoor, created the Oxfordshire Way in the early 1970's, has safeguarded the retention of the Oxford Green Belt, was instrumental in saving Great Tew in the late 70's, objected and continues to object to South Oxfordshire District's decision to allow advertising on all roundabouts in the District, led by the successful campaign against an advertisement in a field alongside the M40 near Tetsworth, and is in process of creating an Oxford Green Belt Way on public rights of way through the Green Belt. Members receive twice yearly Bulletins on activities in Oxfordshire and also a magazine 'Countryside Voice' from the National Office in London. We hold two meetings locally per year and welcome new members. Your local contact is Dr. Toby Price (01235 522889) and the membership secretary is Sue Bowditch (01865 407534). Our first event of 2007 will be a talk by Harry Barton, recently appointed Chief Executive of the Northmoor Trust, on 'The local landscape – past, present and future' the meeting will be open to all and is to be at 7.30pm on Wednesday 7th February in Wallingford Town Hall. We look forward to seeing you then.

CULHAM PAROCHIAL SCHOOL

Cathy Gray

Term 3 is quite a short term this year with the next holiday starting in the second full week of February. This being the case, we have settled straight down to work as there is much to cover during the next few weeks. Key Stage 1 children have launched straight into their new topic about Global Gardens and have been producing some wonderful pictures of plants as well as learning more about different parts of the world.

Key Stage 2 children are approaching their new topic, the Victorians, in what we intend to be a more creative way involving many areas of the curriculum and culminating in a Victorian Music Hall performance in Sutton Courtenay village hall. We hope that many friends of the school, as well as parents, will be able not only to enjoy, but also take part by dressing in costume and joining in with 'community singing' on the night. Please look out for further details but in the meantime keep the evening of **Thursday April 26th** free!

Week beginning 19th February is Chinese Week and our Open Day this year will be on **Thursday 1st March** – please come if you can.

Thank you to all those who sent in Tesco Sports Vouchers – we have used them to order additional tennis nets for short tennis. Our Christmas Bazaar raised £400 and the raffle £350 – thank you for your support.

CULHAM PRE-SCHOOL NEWS

Lea Allmond

We have had a very busy start to 2007, welcoming new children to our Pre-School, we have Daniel, Liam, Amelia, Marvin and Isobella, and we hope they enjoy their time with us. We also said goodbye to Henrietta and Telmo and wish them well in their new schools.

This term children will be looking at the theme of shapes with lots of wonderful craft activities and cooking.

May we take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped us in our recent fundraising events, especially to Audrey and Cameron at the Railway Inn, John & Norimon at the Wagon and Horses and Lynne and Albert at the Lion. Your help, support and generosity are greatly appreciated.

NEWS FROM NEWINGTON NURSERIES

Warm Winter Colours

Year-round gardening is becoming ever more popular as people are discovering how many plants can bring the benefits of foliage, flowers or form right from the start of the year. Beautiful plant life in all its forms quite simply makes us feel better. Even if we don't realise it, our bodies and minds are so much happier when they are presented with plants. At this time of year more than any other it is essential to get our daily allowance of green and living nature, and winter gardening is a fantastic way of doing this.

Viburnum is a winning candidate for a place in the winter garden. Viburnum x bodnantense flowers from late autumn into spring and as with many winter-flowering plants has the added benefit of very fragrant flowers. A deciduous shrub, the large clusters of small flowers develop on bare stems and are a fabulous source of winter colour. Even on a frosty morning, the cheerful blooms have the power to lift the spirits with the warming impression they create.

Viburnum x bodnantense can reach a height of 3m and a spread of 2m, so it's best positioned towards the rear of a border or in a more open space, like a woodland garden. Look out for some star varieties: 'Charles Lamont' produces bright, pink flowers, 'Deben' bears white flowers which flush faintly with pink during the winter months or Viburnum grandiflorum, which is a slightly more compact shrub and bears pink-flushed white flowers from winter to early spring. Viburnum foetens is another slightly smaller variety and flowers from late autumn through to early spring with pink-tinged white or pure white flowers.

To get maximum benefit from a new plant, consider combining it with others that will help show off its best features. Perfect planting partners for winter flowering viburnum include other winter-flowering shrubs, or berrying plants and evergreens that can provide the perfect backdrop to the viburnum's blooms on bare branches.

These viburnums will grow well in full sun or partial shade, and are not fussy about soil type, as long as they are moderately fertile, and moist but well drained. Very limited maintenance required beyond a tidy-up after flowering to trim back any untidy shoots. Don't be afraid to remove older branches if the plant is getting too dense, as this will encourage additional growth of young wood that bears extra flowers.

This selection of viburnums will bring enjoyment through the time when much of nature seems to be sleeping. Winter flowers will 'warm' borders with their happy colours and whether you choose to do your winter gardening from the sitting room window, or out in the garden proper, you are sure to feel better from a little plant magic.

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

OUT AND ABOUT IN FEBRUARY

Rutherford Laboratory Lecture

Friday 9 February 7pm

"Gravity, Gas and Stardust" by **Pete Edwards** of Durham University

How and when did our universe begin? What made it look like this? How will it end?

'Gravity, gas and stardust' will take the audience on a journey through the cosmos, exploring some of the latest research projects of astronomy and what they reveal regarding the birth, life and death of our universe. The show will include demonstrations, hands-on activities and 3D movie clips. Recommended age for children 14+

**For your diary - Rutherford Laboratory Lecture
Enigma Project**

Wednesday 7 March, 7pm
(NB. change from the usual day)

An interactive presentation introduces students to the science and mathematics of codes and code breaking. Presentations involve audience participation and all students see a genuine World War 2 Enigma machine in action, and discover why it is one of the most famous cipher machines of all time. Recommended age for children 11+

Booking information - Rutherford Laboratory Lectures

Admission is free but booking is essential as places are limited. Booking opens four weeks prior to the lecture. To reserve places please either email talkingscience@rl.ac.uk or phone 01235 445959 (24hr answerphone) and leave a message. Please include the following information: The title & time of the lecture, the number of places you require, your name, postal address and a contact telephone number. For the comfort and enjoyment of the audience, a recommended age is given for each lecture. Children under 16 must be accompanied by, and sit with, a responsible adult.

For your diary: Abingdon Model Railway Show - Saturday 3rd March 2007 10am – 5pm

White Horse Leisure Centre, Audlett Drive, Abingdon. Over 50 layouts and stands. Free parking. Entry £5, Concessions £4 Children £3, Families (2+2 or more) £14

ENDPIECE

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

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