

The Mouthpiece

Culham's Newsletter No 286

Village Diary for June 2007

1st Mobile Library, The Glebe 2.15 pm – 2.25 pm

4th Parish Council Meeting, The School, 7.30pm

10th Family Communion – St. Paul's 10am

15th Deadline for July/August Mouthpiece

15th Mobile Library, The Glebe, 2.15 pm – 2.25 pm

17th Evening Prayer – St. Paul's 6 pm

24th Family Communion – St. Paul's 10am

29th Mobile Library, The Glebe, 2.15 pm – 2.25 pm

**SERVICES OF WORSHIP
2007**

JUNE

DATE	TIME	PLACE	SERVICE
SERVICES FOR CULHAM			
Sunday 10th	10am	Culham	Family Communion
Sunday 17th	6pm	Culham	Evening Prayer
Sunday 24th	10am	Culham	Family Communion
<i>Join us for coffee and a chat after morning services at Culham Church! All welcome.</i>			
<i>Come along for informal prayers with Revd Anne Ilsley at Culham Church on Thursday mornings, 8.15 - 9.00am.</i>			
SERVICES AT CLIFTON HAMPDEN, THE WITTENHAMS & DORCHESTER			
Sunday 3 rd	8am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
	8am	Dorchester	Holy Communion
	10am	Long Wittenham	Family Service & Baptism
	10.15am	Dorchester	Morning Prayer
Sunday 10 th	8.30am	Little Wittenham	Holy Communion
	8am	Dorchester	Holy Communion
	10am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
	10.15am	Dorchester	Sung Eucharist
Sunday 17 th	8am	Dorchester	Holy Communion
	10am	Long Wittenham	Holy Communion
	10.15am	Dorchester	Family Service
	6pm	Dorchester	Evensong
Sunday 24 th	8am	Dorchester	Holy Communion
	10.15am	Dorchester	Sung Eucharist
Thursday 28 th	2pm	Long Wittenham	Pram Service

Haylett

Revd David

Some people tell me that when time seems to race by it is a sign of advancing years, others will tell you that "time flies when you are having fun". I am not sure which of these applies to me, both probably, but it seems quite incredible that I am being asked to write something for June magazines when it feels as if 2007 has only just begun.

Our sympathy, prayers and condolences go to my colleague Anne Ilsley and her family on the death of Anne's Mother, Ros, in the middle of May. She had been diagnosed with cancer but the end came faster than anyone expected or realised. The loss of a parent is always traumatic and when it comes suddenly and unexpectedly I think the loss can be even more painful.

During the latter half of April and during May the Church has been celebrating Easter with a run of "Sundays after Easter", culminating with Ascension Day and a Team Service on top of Wittenham Clumps (tomorrow as I write this and look anxiously at the clouds!) and then Pentecost. Then we enter a period of Sundays after Trinity which sometimes seem to go on interminably. Before we know what has happened we will be into Advent and another year.

The Second Sunday of Trinity has been traditionally kept as "Feast Sunday" in Long Wittenham. It commemorates the anniversary of the consecration of St Mary's Church, I don't suppose anyone really knows the exact date of this event some 900 years ago, but it does give us an excuse for a celebration and something a little out of the ordinary. This year we are reviving the practice, which fell into abeyance a few years ago, of beginning our Thanksgiving Service at the Village Cross, a site where by tradition, St Birinus preached to the pagan Saxons of Witta's Ham and converted them to Christianity on his way to Dorchester. The Service starts at 10am and friends from all the Churches in the Bridge Group are very welcome to come and celebrate with us.

I am hoping to start a monthly "House Communion" in Long Wittenham in June, a simple service of Holy Communion on a weekday in someone's house, for those who, through infirmity and disability find it difficult to come down to the Church for services. If there is a need for this on a regular basis in Culham or Clifton Hampden and Burcot I hope I can encourage you to contact either myself or Anne and we will be happy to set something up which caters for your situation. We are also happy to bring you Communion at home in times of illness, but we do need to be asked, as we will not necessarily know.

Until a few years ago there was a service of Holy Communion in Long Wittenham on Thursday, once a month, around midday. The need for this Service, judging by its low attendance, passed and the service was discontinued. Again, if there is a need for a midweek service of Communion in any of our churches we would be happy to see what we can do to meet the need. (For example there is a weekly Service of Holy Communion in Berinsfield which regularly attracts a congregation of 10 – 15 people, some from outside the parish, including the Team Clergy who follow it with a Staff Meeting.)

Speaking of the Team Clergy, during June we shall bid farewell to Sandra Millar who has been a much-valued colleague in charge of Berinsfield, the Baldons and Drayton St Leonard. She is moving to Gloucester Diocese to advise on Children's Work in that Diocese. She will be much missed and Gloucester's gain is very much Dorchester's loss. We wish her well and pray for her future ministry.

In Culham Charles Reichardt has stepped down as Churchwarden after many years of faithful and loyal service. Again we wish him well in his 'retirement' and hope that we can still draw on his experience and help when necessary.

Finally, I hope that the summer will prove to be a time of re-creation and recreation for you and that you can relax and enjoy, what I hope will be, summer weather.

VILLAGE NEWS

Ride & Stride

Jean Diggins

This year's Ride & Stride is on 8th September and is in aid of the Historic Churches Trust. Cyclists, walkers and help in manning the church on the day will be most welcome.

Sponsorship forms will be available soon. Further details are available from Jean Diggins on 01235 520540.

The Lion pub**Stephen Gray**

You may be interested to hear news of the Lion pub in the village, currently closed. I have contacted the owners of the Lion pub and asked them for their position on the sale of the pub. It is as follows from Paul Hobbs at Admiral Taverns:

'Admiral ran the Lion with a management company at a large loss whilst I was actively trying to get a tenant to take it on. Admiral were prepared to invest a large amount of money and I had prepared plans. However, even people I knew locally could not be persuaded to take it on at nil rent! We have therefore decided to put it on the market for sale. It can be purchased and run as a pub. We are not delicensing it and I can assure you this is not a tactic. This is not the way we wanted it to happen but sometimes we have to admit failure. If you can persuade someone to take it on as a pub then it can remain as one. If not it may one day get change of use due to no one being prepared to take the risk.'

Burglaries to sheds and outbuildings**Thames Valley Police**

There has been an increase in burglaries to sheds and outbuildings in Didcot and Wallingford but offences are happening all over the area. Residents can help by remaining vigilant, reporting any suspicious activity and by reviewing the security of their homes and gardens and following the following advice:

- ensure all tools and equipment are locked away when not in use
- use high-quality locks on gates and doors
- most outbuilding door hinges are exposed and easily removed by taking out the screws. Replace ordinary screws with non-return screws or coach bolts
- windows can be fitted with a grille or, as a cheaper alternative, chicken wire, to slow a thief down
- a shed alarm can also be installed. These are available at low cost on line or at Didcot Police station for £10
- postcode or mark all property, such as lawnmowers, using ultra-violet pens, paint or engravers
- install security lighting as a deterrent, and plants such as thorny shrubs to act as a barrier at potential access points
- if building a shed, put it where it is most visible to yourself and your neighbours

This time of year sees an increase in the purchases of new lawn mowers and gardening equipment, which makes the shed an attractive target so please take action now.

For a free crime reduction survey of your home please contact Mark Bradfield or Alison Smith on 01235 516842. To report any suspicious incidents dial 0845 8 505 505 or to report something anonymously call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Garden waste service – update**South Oxfordshire District Council**

To date, we've taken orders for 11,014 brown wheeled bins for our garden waste service. The number of orders is increasing each week now that the weather is improving, so don't miss out, order yours now!

To order yours, visit our website at www.southoxon.gov.uk, call 01491 823416 or email public.amenities@southoxon.gov.uk.

For Sale**Brian Bracher**

Computer Printer (HP Deskjet 3920), Scanner (Primascan Colorado 2400) with USB 2.0 cables, £15 each. Please call Brian on 525885.

Wanted

Garage in village for storage of small car. Could exchange for grass cutting or similar or nominal payment. Please call Paul on 523778.

Play area refurbishment**Culham Parish Council**

The Parish Council is considering refurbishing the play area in the field at the north end of The Glebe. This is likely to include removal and replacement of the existing fence (should replacement be necessary) and an updating of the play equipment. During May the area will be assessed by a company approached to supply information about likely costs etc. Funding will come from a number of sources including the CCRC coffers and the Parish Council reserves. It is possible that matching funds will be sought. Depending on the amount and type of refurbishment, the cost could be in the several thousand pounds region.

Parish Council would like your thoughts on this proposal before pressing ahead with detailed plans and budgeting. If you (or your children!) have any views they would like to put forward please contact any Parish Councillor. This proposal will be an agenda item for the June meeting so if you prefer, please come along then.

To our advertisers**Brian Bracher**

We would like to thank all those who have supported 'The Mouthpiece' with their advertisements. Sadly, in 2006 we lost both of the ladies who had dealt with our advertising – Rachael Evans and Jan Postlethwaite. This year, we propose to start afresh with advertising fees corresponding to the financial year, i.e. April 2007 – March 2008. The necessary invoices have been sent out and we do hope that you will continue to advertise with us as we rely on your support to produce the newsletter.

The Mouthpiece is delivered to every house in Culham (about 190 copies) ten times a year: it is non-profit making and run entirely by volunteers.

This month we welcome two new advertisers - Mr Boswell offers help in your garden and Justin Denno of *IMCARTIAL* will help you find a new car. See pages A1 to A4 at the end of this issue.

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES 2007	MAY
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Bob Griffiths has now stood down as chairman of Culham Parish Council and has also resigned his post as a Councillor. The position of Chairman has been filled by Glenn Bartley who was voted in at the meeting on Monday 14th May. All the pre May election councillors (excluding Bob) stood for re-election and were returned unopposed. The council recorded their thanks to Bob for his work and efforts over the 8 years of his tenure as Chairman.

During the recent District elections, John Stimson was replaced as District Councillor by Pamela Tomlinson (Conservative). Pamela did not attend the May meeting of Culham Parish Council. John will remain as Chairman of the Jet Site Stakeholders Group.

Two companies were approached for information concerning costs for the repair and upkeep of the playing field play equipment. This included the costs for replacing the fence around the area. The first choice of metal railing fence proved to be prohibitively expensive. The second company is due to make a visit to the site later this month - see notice above.

The Oxford Green Belt Network (OGBN) is entering its 50th year and has stated that the subscription for next year will be waived.

There has recently been substantial work (again) at the Lock car park to remove the flooding that takes place during/after heavy rainfall. We await the outcome.

The Culham Community Recreation Committee is being dissolved as a charity. The funds remaining in the account are destined to be used for the proposed play area refurbishment.

Date of next meeting: Monday 4th June 19:30

**CULHAM PAROCHIAL SCHOOL
GRAY**

CATHY

With Term 6 just begun we are now entering one of the busiest times of the year in school. Sat's tests are over and we have a packed programme for all of the children right up to the end of term.

At the beginning of June, years 5 and 6 are joining with children from Clifton Hampden School for a residential visit to Yenworthy, the Oxfordshire outdoor activity centre in Devon. This is a trip which many have been looking forward to for a long time and which offers them the opportunity to take part in a wide range of exciting activities, as well as developing their social skills and sense of responsibility. While they are away the rest of the pupils will be visiting Sutton Courtenay Environmental Education Centre and Years 3 and 4 will be hosting a Technology Day for children from other local schools.

Other activities planned for this term are an Art Week, a Food, Nutrition and Cooking Week and various sporting events, including our own school Sports Day. Year 6 will also be taking part in the Junior Citizen event held annually at Upper Heyford.

Finally, Parents and Friends of the school are organising a **Special Summer Event** – barbecue, bar, games and tombola – on **Sunday 8th July** from 12.30pm onwards. Tickets are available in advance (£5 – adults / £3 - children) to include lunch and a dessert. All are welcome, so please make a note in your diaries and contact the school if you would like tickets.

**CULHAM PRE-SCHOOL
ALLMOND**

LEA

The children have been enjoying the wonderful weather in the garden, having great fun on their pirate ship and new sandpit. This month they will be busy making fathers day gifts and cards. We shall also be planting some vegetables.

All parents children and staff at Pre-school would like to wish Kate Boswell and Mark Holliday all the very best for their forthcoming wedding on 16th June.

**NEWINGTON NURSERIES
HENDRY**

ANNE

Plants for shady places

Love the luscious hosta! If you are asking yourself what to grow in the shade of a garden tree or beside the garage or next door's gable end, then look no further than this leafy double problem-solver. As well as being great in shade, the wonderful leafy growth also comes at a time when spring bulbs are dying back. Partner the two and mask the over-blown remains of the bulbs with fabulous new foliage.

But hostas are so much more than simply problem-solvers as their massive following would suggest. They're great in a woodland garden as well as in borders and beds. They're effective in combination with plants with Japanese heritage including the smaller maples, bamboos, hydrangeas and ferns. Leaves in dense mounds are what hostas do best and depending on variety, they may be yellow, green, grey-blue or variegated. The pattern and array of variegation along with the range of colour brings added interest to mixed borders or beds. Leaves may be heart-shaped or oval. Most produce attractive flowers on tall and sturdy spikes in summer.

There's a terrific range to choose from. Look out for 'Wide Brim'. This produces wonderful dark green leaves that have a wide margin of pale cream. It reaches a height of about 45cm and a spread of 1m.

The leaves of *Hosta fortunei* appear early enough to combine well with late spring flowers, for example bluebells. Many variants are available. 'Shade Fanfare' produces large, bright yellow-green leaves with creamy white edges and reaches a height and spread of 45cm and 60cm respectively. 'Halcyon' is a great choice if you're looking for blue-green or glaucous foliage.

Hostas are clump-forming plants which really helps if you want to populate an area. If you dig up established clumps of hosta, it's possible to split the clump with a spade and replant the resulting halves. They'll do well under deep-rooting trees and are perfect near water, for example the shaded sides of a pond or stream.

As perennials they die back completely in winter, the new spear-like shoots of the tightly rolled leaves appearing in spring. Hostas are fully hardy. They need a reasonably fertile, moist but well-drained soil. It's important to stop them drying out but spreading compost over the surface (mulching) in spring should do the trick. Their succulent leaves can prove too much of a temptation to slugs but growing in pots keeps the leaves out of harm's way if the war against slugs is one that you don't wish to engage in!

For further inspiration and advice, visit us at Newington Nurseries on the A329 near Stadhampton. Newington Nurseries Ltd, Newington, Wallingford, Oxon. OX10 7AW. Tel: 01865 890283. www.newington-nurseries.co.uk

OUT AND ABOUT IN JUNE

Abingdon Drama Club presents "The Cripple of Inishmaan" by Martin McDonagh

A strange comic tale in the great tradition of Irish storytelling, at the Unicorn Theatre, Medieval Abbey Buildings, Abingdon on Wednesday 4th to Saturday 7th **July** at 7.30pm. Tickets £7 (concessions £6) from Dawson's Music, High Street or from the Ticketline on 01235 524538.

The Abingdon Concert Band

The Abingdon Concert Band celebrates its 30th anniversary with various concerts throughout the summer of 2007:

- 9 June Playing Day Manor School Abingdon 9:45am - 4:45pm
- 1 July Summer Proms, Abbey Meadows Abingdon 2:30pm
- 15 July, Summer Proms, Wallingford Castle Grounds 3pm
- 29 July, Summer Proms, Mill Meadows, Henley 2:30pm
- 13 October Guildhall, Abingdon, joint concert with Abingdon Town Band

The Abingdon Concert Band, under the baton of Philip Burditt, rehearses Thursdays 8pm at Dunmore Junior School Northcourt Road Abingdon. New players welcome. Visit our web site www.abingdonconcertband.org.uk or email play@abingdonconcertband.org.uk or write to PO Box 672 Oxford OX1 9BY or phone 01235 520145.

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 June Mouthpiece by May 15th please to:

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01235 847698 or email: michelle.thresh@btconnect.com

Rosemary McNish, 2, The Willows, 07933134026 or email therisenpheonix@tesco.net
(Brian Bracher is currently temporarily unable to accept contributions)

Advertisements to: Brian Bracher: email brian@thebrachers.com