

The Mouthpiece

Culham's Newsletter No 291

Village Diary for November 2007

- 2nd Mobile Library - The Glebe, 2.15 pm – 2.25 pm***
- 6th School Book Fair - 3.15 pm every day until 9th November***
- 11th Family Communion - St. Paul's Church, 10 am***
- 12th Parish Council Meeting - The School, 7.30 pm***
- 15th Deadline for December/January's Mouthpiece***
- 16th Mobile Library - The Glebe, 2.15 pm – 2.25 pm***
- 18th Evening Prayer – St. Paul's Church, 6 pm***
- 22nd Christmas Shopping Evening - The School, 8 – 10 pm***
- 26th Friends of St Paul's AGM - St Paul's Church, 8 pm***
- 30th Mobile Library - The Glebe, 2.15 pm – 2.25 pm***

Services of Worship	November 2007
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DATE	TIME	PLACE	SERVICE
SERVICES FOR CULHAM			
Sunday 11 th	10 am	Culham	Family Communion
Sunday 18 th	6 pm	Culham	Evening Prayer
<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 4 th	8 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
	8 am	Dorchester	Holy Communion
	10 am	Long Wittenham	Harvest Service
	10.15 am	Dorchester	Morning Prayer
Sunday 11 th	8.30 am	Little Wittenham	Holy Communion
	8 am	Dorchester	Holy Communion
	10 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
	10.15 am	Dorchester	Remembrance
Sunday 18 th	8 am	Dorchester	Holy Communion
	10 am	Long Wittenham	Holy Communion
	10.15 am	Dorchester	Family Service
	6 pm	Dorchester	Evensong
Thursday 22 nd	2 pm	Long Wittenham	Pram Service
Sunday 25 th	8 am	Dorchester	Holy Communion
	10 am	Clifton Hampden	Family Communion
	10.15 am	Dorchester	Sung Eucharist

Village News

Church Concert

On Saturday 29th September, the PCC & Friends of St Paul's organised a concert featuring "Charity Opera" – a group of singers who have raised thousands of pounds for various charities. Their programme varied from opera via Broadway to music hall and was thoroughly enjoyed by a large audience. A supper was served during the interval and the profits will be shared between the PCC & the Friends. To all those who helped to make this a successful evening – THANK YOU!

Friends of St Paul's AGM**Rob Kennedy**

The **Friends of St Paul's** will be holding their Annual General Meeting in the Church on **Monday 26th November at 8 pm**. The Friends were formed to help maintain and develop the church, and recently paid for installation of a new kitchen.

Pottery Open**Charlotte Storrs**

Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th November from 2 pm to 6 pm: Charlotte Storrs, 8 The Green, Culham. For details email pots@charlottestorrs-stoneware.co.uk or see website

Parish Council Notes**October's Meeting**

We are awaiting the removal of the fencing around the play area in the field at the top of The Glebe. Also, since no offers of funding for new play area equipment have come through, PC is proceeding with the refurbishment from its own funds.

The Burial Ground Guidelines were redrafted, discussed and passed by PC. A copy can be seen elsewhere in the Mouthpiece, on Notice boards (soon) and on the village website (soon). The guidelines will also be issued to those requesting a plot.

From the County Councillor (John Howell)

The various groups with an interest in the Culham site stem largely from an historical perspective. John is to request a regularisation of the various stakeholder groups to streamline their representation.

There is a proposal to prevent a right turn from the A4074 into the lane that runs past Burcot Farm. This would mean traffic would continue to Berinsfield roundabout, then turn.

With effect from 1st October the Parish Clerk is **Judith Beck**. Her phone number is **01235 847126** and her email address is ***judith.beck@btinternet.com***

Date of next Parish Council meeting: **Monday November 12th 2007 at 7.30 pm.**

From our Vicar**Anne Ilsley**

'Who do you think you are?' is a program which bears some fascination for me. Learning about the background and histories of different celebrities makes for very good stories. The same search relating to any family is equally as interesting as that of more famous names. We find quirky connections, family secrets and skeletons, which tell of misdemeanours, guilt and shame. As Graham Norton said, we all want to believe that our ancestors were basically good people, so we struggle when we find forebears who were on what history has judged as the wrong side. I'm happy to say, for example, that Captain Henry Rogers (my great grandfather) was fighting to stop the slave trade, rather than profiting from it.

If as a society we are more forgiving of people's mistakes, more understanding of their points of view, I think that that is a good thing. However are we also more tolerant of their faults? And is this a good thing? Christians are often portrayed as judgemental and intolerant of others and it's true that God's standards, as portrayed in The Bible, are high. However it's also true that God's character, especially as demonstrated through Jesus, is one of compassion and forgiveness. Our forebears who covered up what they considered shameful aspects of their lives, must have felt that society, including the church, was unforgiving. We should love the sinner and not the sin and yet so often we have singularly failed to do this. We promulgate God who judges us and finds us wanting, rather than God who created, loves and forgives us.

It's only when we allow ourselves to give and receive God's forgiveness that we can be set free. Set free from shame rather than covering up and hiding it. We can find a sense of rootedness and belonging through knowing where we come from as well as an endless fund of stories and intrigue. However the greatest sense of knowing who we are, comes, I believe, when we see ourselves as children of God.

If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me," even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you. For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full

well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.
Psalm 139:11-16

Anne

Culham Parochial School	Cathy Gray
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Members of our choir have been rehearsing each Tuesday ready for the Schools' Prom at the Royal Albert Hall on **Wednesday 14th November**. They will be performing as part of the Oxfordshire Massed Choir which totals some 500 children from across the county. They will be singing a work entitled 'Five Thousand Children' which has been specially commissioned by WaterAid. It will be a long, tiring but, we hope, exciting day, made especially more so because it is the last night of the prom and will have all the traditional elements including 'Land of Hope and Glory' with flag waving and fireworks.

For the first time we have adopted a charity for the year and it seemed appropriate to choose WaterAid. The children have entered enthusiastically into fundraising and have already raised £65 by their efforts. They have several exciting ideas in the pipeline to add to this total and we will keep you posted of events in which you may be interested.

We shall again be taking part in Operation Christmas Child this year. This has become an annual event when families fill a shoebox as a gift to children who would not otherwise receive anything at Christmas time. If you would like to contribute individual items for the children to pack, or to donate a whole box, you can collect a leaflet, explaining restrictions on contents and other details, from school. We are happy to make sure boxes reach the collection point but they must be in school by **Friday 16th November**.

There will be a Book Fair in school between **Tuesday 6th November** and **Friday 9th November**. Books will be on sale at **3.15 pm** each day so come and make a start on your Christmas shopping! Please make a note in your diary for our Christmas Celebration in Culham Church at **6.30 pm** on **Wednesday 19th December** and the Carols and Mince Pies afternoon on **Monday 17th December**.

If you have a child due to start primary school during the academic year 2008/2009, applications must be received (CAPF forms) by Oxfordshire County Council by **Friday 23rd November**. Many thanks to those of you who have sent us Tesco vouchers and also for the many Harvest Gift thank you letters.

Dates for your diary:

Book Fair 6th - 9th November 3.15 pm daily

Shoe boxes into school by Fri 16th Nov 2007

Christmas Shopping Evening at Culham School, **November 22nd 8 pm – 10 pm** - Come and enjoy a relaxed shopping evening with lovely gift ideas and refreshments.

School (& Pre-school) Christmas Bazaar on **Friday 7th Dec 2007, 3 pm – 5 pm**. Stalls, games, refreshments, Father Christmas in his grotto and lots more fun.

Carols and mince pies afternoon on **Monday 17th Dec**

Christmas Celebration in Culham Church on **Wednesday 19 Dec 6.30 pm**

The New Burial Ground	Guidelines
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The Burial Ground Guidelines

General:

The burial ground is reserved for the use of those who have been residents of Culham Parish.

The area will be maintained as a traditional lawned area.

The layout of the burial ground is in rows running parallel to the boundary wall of the adjoining churchyard, eventually forming a grid of 1.2 x 2.75 metre (4' x 9') grave plots.

Plot No. 1 is positioned in the south east corner of the burial ground, and subsequent plots follow on from this in a westerly direction until completion of the first row.

Subsequent rows will start at the easterly boundary wall.

Burials and Internment of Ashes:

After a burial has taken place, relatives can leave floral tributes and a **wooden** sign/inscription, cross or other religious symbol on the grave. All other materials must be approved by Culham Parish Council. Culham Parish Council reserves the right to remove materials if, ***in their opinion***, it is deemed necessary to do so.

Headstones should not be placed on graves for at least six months after a burial has taken place. This will allow the ground to settle and provide a secure base for the memorial. *Wooden* signs/inscriptions, crosses or other religious symbols are considered a temporary memorial and should be removed when a permanent fixture is erected.

Permanent Memorials & Inscriptions:

All permanent headstones, memorials and inscriptions are subject to approval by Culham Parish Council – a copy of the inscription, a drawing of the proposed monument, its measurements and proposed materials must be submitted. Inscriptions should be concise, simple and inoffensive.

The maximum height of a headstone shall not exceed 1.0 metre (3' 4") and its width should not exceed the width of the plot (1.2 metre or 4'). All memorials must be installed using the National Association of Memorial Masons (NAMM) approved anchor system.

Memorials, vases, plaques, and their inscriptions are only permitted on purchased plots. In the interests of safety, glass vases or bottles must not be placed on graves.

Culham Parish Council will not be held responsible for any damage to headstones and/or memorials, by whomever or however caused.

Culham Parish Council, October 2007:
These notes supersede any previous guidelines

Culham Pre-School	Lee Allmond
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This term the children have been learning about the Harvest festival and different fruits and vegetables. They have been cooking various dishes and have made a beautiful display of an allotment including some scarecrows!

We are now beginning to look at the way other countries hold different celebrations and how their foods and cultures are different to ours.

We shall be holding a Christmas Bazaar with the main School on **Friday 7th December**, please come along and see us.

Sutton Courtenay Women's Institute

Yvonne Moeliker-Twigg

We had a very busy time over the summer with various outings including one to the Blists Hill Victorian Village and the Iron Bridge Gorge. Parts of it were very nostalgic and reminded some of us of many things from our childhood – suppose that makes us old!

At our September meeting we had a talk by Mr George Spenceley on his two and half thousand mile trip, with his wife, paddling a canoe down the Mississippi. He was a delightful speaker and most interesting. The fact that he had embarked on the trip after an age when most of us retire and put on our slippers, added to our amazement at his journey.

Our October meeting was a Halloween party with witches' outfits and a 'bring and share' supper and on 20th November, we will welcome Aly Atkins who will give a talk on "Scrapbooking".

We meet on the third Tuesday of each month at 7.30 pm in the village hall. Do come and join us – we would love to see you.

Yvonne Moeliker-Twigg (Tel: 01235 848 461)

Newington Nurseries

Fab foliage

Get into some winter 'lipstick gardening' and pep up your patio or doorstep. With just a couple of well chosen, well placed planters you can make a new addition to your outside space that will put a spring in your step throughout winter. *Euonymus fortunei* cultivars are the ideal evergreen shrubs for the job with their bright, beautiful leaves and attractive growth habits. Choose a couple of these and some matching pots to give you patio an instant eye-catching makeover or make you shrub border glow.

This range of cultivars bring striking, confident colour even on the dullest winter day. With names like 'Emerald Gaiety' and 'Emerald 'n' Gold' or 'Silver Queen' you know it's going to be good! These three shrubs are particularly fun examples. 'Emerald Gaiety' has green leaves with white margins that bear pink tinges in winter. This shrub is compact, reaching a height of approx 1 metre. Alternatively, go for 'Emerald 'n' Gold'. The gorgeous, deep yellow margins and green hearts on the leaves of this plant never fail to get noticed. Looking like a trove of sparkling gold coins, this exciting small shrub is a great choice to take pride of place to greet you to and from your journey to work. The unmistakable star of the range has got to be 'Silver Queen'. The glossy, dark green leaves with exquisite white margins bring a sense of affluence and style to the garden. Growing to a possible height of 2.5 metres and a width of 1.5 metres this shrub really is a winter treasure bringing all year round garden magic to your home.

These plants offer masses of value throughout the year. In addition to boosting the look of your garden or patio in early winter, when Christmas comes, you've already got outdoor colour to enhance your festive decorations. Plus, if you are planting your *Euonymus fortunei* in a shrub border, then how about adding some spring bulbs to change the scene as spring comes and take advantage of the sumptuous colourful backdrop your *Euonymus* can provide. Choose spring bulbs with mellow yellow, soft blue or crisp white flowers to create a really special seasonal show.

Euonymus fortunei cultivars not only make your garden feel like a million dollars, they're easy to have and keep too. The plants will cope quite happily in poor soil, are tough and of course, can stand winter frosts. They enjoy a sunny position especially if you really want to make the best of the variegation on the leaves. Planting some fabulous foliage is quick, easy and gorgeous – a fun winter project to bring some special plant magic to your garden on those grey days.

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 & About

NORTHMOOR TRUST EVENTS

Every year the Northmoor Trust puts on a programme of events open to the public, such as guided walks, bird walks, didgeridoo workshops, etc. For most events there is a small charge. Some restrictions apply so please check beforehand whether events are suitable for very young children or if dogs are allowed. For further information please ring **01865 407792** or email admin@northmoortrust.co.uk

Hurdle weaving workshop: Saturday 10th November 2007, 10 am – 4 pm, at the Riverside Meadows, Crowmarsh, Wallingford. A one day practical workshop making traditional hazel hurdles to take home.
Cost: £30 (£25 for Northmoor Trust Friends and concessions). Booking, with payment, is essential. Call 01865 407 792

Geology Day at Timescape: Sunday 18th November, 11 am – 4 pm, at Project Timescape, Little Wittenham. Enjoy a day of geological intrigue at Hill Farm.
Cost: Adults £5.50, Children £3.75. To reserve your place, call **01865 409402**.

CANCELLATION

We regret that the Model Railway Exhibition previously advertised for Saturday 3rd November in Wantage Civic Hall has been cancelled.

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 December / January Mouthpiece by November 15th please, to:
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