

# **The Mouthpiece**

## ***Culham's Newsletter No 295***

### ***Village Diary for April 2008***

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Water-Aid Fun Afternoon – The School, 3.00 pm***
- 4<sup>th</sup> Mobile Library - The Glebe, 2.15 pm – 2.25 pm***
- 13<sup>th</sup> Family Communion - St. Paul's Church, 10.00 am, and...  
Annual Parochial Church Meeting – St Paul's, 11.00 am***
- 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Parish Meeting - The School, 7.30 pm***
- 15<sup>th</sup> Deadline for May's Mouthpiece***
- 18<sup>th</sup> Mobile Library - The Glebe, 2.15 pm – 2.25 pm***
- 20<sup>th</sup> Evening Prayer– St. Paul's Church, 6.00 pm***
- 25<sup>th</sup> Quiz Night - The School, 7.30 pm***

<b>Services of Worship 2008</b>
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<b>April</b>
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Date	Time	Place	Service
<b>Services at Culham</b>			
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup>	10 am	Culham	Family Communion
	11 am		Annual Parochial AGM
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup>	6 pm	Culham	Evening Prayer
<p><i>Join us for coffee and a chat after morning services at Culham Church! All welcome.</i></p> <p><i>Come along for informal prayers with Revd Anne Ilsley at Culham Church on Thursday mornings, 8.15 - 9.00am.</i></p>			
<b>Services at Clifton Hampden &amp; The Wittenhams</b>			
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup>	8 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
	10 am	Long Wittenham	Family Service
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup>	8.30 am	Little Wittenham	Holy Communion
	10 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup>	10 am	Long Wittenham	Holy Communion
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup>	2.30 pm	Long Wittenham	Pram Service
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup>	10 am	Little Wittenham	Family Communion
	10 am	Clifton Hampden	Family Communion
	6 pm	Long Wittenham	Evening Service

<b>Village News</b>
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**Annual Parish Meeting**

This will be held at 7.30 pm on Monday 14th April at the school.

**Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting**
**Culham PCC**

This will be held at **11 am**, following the **10 am** Communion Service on **Sunday 13th April**. If you want to keep your village church open and available for services, then you will be very welcome at this meeting.

*We are still using a CD player for morning services and would really like an organist. If anyone can help to fill this vacancy – please get in touch.*

**Dog Walking**
**Parish Council**

The Parish Council would like to remind people that it is an offense to walk dogs in the playing field and the children's play area. Your cooperation in protecting the children's health is appreciated, thank you.

**Culham Plant Sale & Church Fete****Culham PCC**

This will be held on **Saturday 17th May** starting at 1 pm and ending at 4 pm. Now is the time to cultivate your plants for this increasingly successful event. We will have the usual attractions, so if you have any contributions (plants, cakes, books, videos, bric-a-brac, etc) please bring them to the church on Friday afternoon 16th May or on the morning of the plant sale. Offers of help (and goods for sale) to Ingrid Reichardt on 520534 or Brian Bracher on 525885.

**Sutton Courtney W.I.****F. Hayden**

The April meeting will be on **Tuesday 15th**. This month Nigel Glover Wright will show slides and tell us of his African Safari.

An advance notice now for your diaries: on Saturday 10th May we will be having our annual Jumble Sale in the Village Hall at 2.30 pm. Don't forget that we encourage visitors!

**Talking Point****Revd Sue Booy**

Well, the budget and 'end of year' accounts are just behind us and the end of the financial year with all its tax calculations is just ahead. The newspapers are full of gloomy reports about economic downturn, Northern Rock and now there is a steep increase in the price of gold because it's the 'only currency' that people really trust. All this begs the question of what really holds value in our lives.

I have lost count of the number of times when, faced with a crisis of health or the well-being of someone they love, someone has said the equivalent of 'I'd do without everything I have if I could just put this right' to me. The truth is that when we are 'up against it' we know that money and possessions matter much less than our own health and well-being and that of our loved ones. In contrast it seems that when we are comfortable we just want to be more comfortable.

When we are comfortable and have more to lose we also seem to worry more about relatively little things. Who hasn't counted the cost of the budget or worried at the rising cost of getting to work or to school as the cost of petrol increases - let alone the cost of enjoying ourselves! Yet at the same time we cannot help but know that however badly off we feel we are so much better off than people in many other parts of the world. In fact to hear about the rush on gold and the some of the situations across the world, in Darfur for example, in the same news bulletin seems almost obscene.

The modern world is complicated – we know about the difference between ourselves and neighbours much further away than we ever did before. Many examples today and from history show that we are not all that good at responding to need on our own doorstep. We are appalled at the sight of refugee children on our television screens; we hear, and yet question the veracity of, reports about child poverty and deprivation in our own country. Mostly as a result we feel helpless.

Of course there are the heroes and heroines who offer direct service in such situations (and there are some of them living very locally) and there are many people who think carefully and intentionally about the money they give to charities and give a regular proportion of what they have to support others. The Abbey does this too – mostly through the amazing work of the tea room, and we have been overwhelmed by the thanks we have received from the charities who received donations.

Most religious teaching – whatever the religion – urges generosity today rather than stockpiling for tomorrow. We live in a world that makes hard and fast observance of this pretty difficult. But we can do all that we can to live generously. Whether we are wealthy or not the opportunity to live generous lives – just giving time to stop and chat or to share a simple meal – is one that we all have. Many of us have the opportunity to be more generous, both with our lives and with our support for the work of others.

Many of you are much more generous than I am, I know, so thank you personally, for your example and 'as the Rector' on behalf of those who benefit from your generosity.

<b>London Marathon, Sunday 13th April</b>
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<b>Mike Bainbridge</b>
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Mike Bainbridge, who lived in Culham with his wife Sally for more than thirty years, is running in this year's London Marathon. They have a terminally ill grandson, Sebastian, now aged eight, who over the years has received assistance from 'The Children's Liver Disease Foundation'.

Mike is hoping to raise money for this charity by way of a 'thank you' for the help given to Sebastian, and any readers who feel able to sponsor Mike can contact him on **01643 708455** or write to him at **Little Stoke, The Parks, Minehead, Somerset TA24 8DD**.

***Mike was a churchwarden here for some 24 years and we hope that the village will support him in this appeal.***

<b>Parish Council Notes</b>
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<b>February 2008</b>
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Parish Council will check with highways about improving the signage at the end of the cycle path at Colmoor Farm to discourage cycling on the Causeway.

John Thomas will provide a new tree for the eastern edge of The Green to replace a dead one.

The area around the shed in the playing field is to be cleared.

The village grass cutting contract is due for renewal. Parish Council will request a split of work between BCB (the existing contractors) and Jim Boyland.

#### **From Pamela Tomlinson**

Leda Holdings, responsible for Culham Number 1 site, has undergone a period of retrospective planning permission submissions. Some of the applications went through on appeal but those that didn't will now have to be complied with. They have 12 months to comply, a time limit now set at September 2008.

Car park charges within the SODC area will increase from April 2008 but the first hour will still be free.

The cost of brown wheelie bins will also increase to £29/yr from April 2008.

There has still been no decision on the SE plan.

The District Council is in negotiation concerning the retention of the threatened Post Offices at Stanton St. John and Crowmarsh. The Long Wittenham office is likely to close.

#### **Date of next meeting: Monday 14th April**

This will follow the **Annual Parish Meeting** and will be a short meeting for urgent matters only.

<b>Culham Parochial School</b>
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<b>Cathy Gray</b>
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KS2 children have recently visited the Abingdon Museum and spent the day learning about, and doing activities to do with, the Egyptians. They will be following this up at the beginning of April with a trip to the Ashmolean in Oxford to see and hear about the artefacts housed there. This topic has proved to be very popular with the children, especially the details about mummification, and they have produced some impressive art and homework projects.

The infants, meanwhile, have been designing and making model rockets and a picture of the universe as they near the end of their topic on journeys.

We hope to see as many people as possible at our WaterAid fun afternoon on **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April** at **3.00 pm** where one of the aims of the School Council is to fill a bucket with pennies (or two pence pieces).

Our Parents and Friends are organising a **Quiz Night on Friday April 25<sup>th</sup>** in the school at **7.30 pm**. Tickets are £5 & include a ploughman's supper. All welcome - please ring 01235 521766 for details.

<b>News from the District &amp; County Councils</b>	<b>Dr John Howell OBE</b>
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### **Doorstep energy salesmen warning**

Oxfordshire County Council's Trading Standards is warning the public to beware of energy salesmen who use aggressive tactics and misleading information to brow-beat people into changing their suppliers. Reports have been received of salesmen claiming they have the right to see people's utility bills, investigate a recent power cut or examine customers' gas or electricity meter. **They have no such rights** and OCC's Trading Standards team advises residents that if they wish to change energy suppliers they should check the information available on the Internet and then approach the company themselves.

### **Under-fives get ready to party!**

A free event for Oxfordshire children aged under five, organised by Oxfordshire County Council's Early Learning and Childcare Service, is back for its seventh year. Over 2,000 children aged under five and their parents and carers are expected to attend the Oxfordshire Early Years Fun Day in Cutteslowe Park, Oxford on 26 June between 10am and 3pm. There will be a variety of entertainment provided including fairground rides. Tickets for this free event are available by calling 01865 815535. Parents are asked to bring their own packed lunch and plenty of drinks. There is no entry without a ticket.

### **Enrol on courses - try something different!**

Adult Learning courses run by Oxfordshire County Council are filling up fast – but it's not too late to enrol on a wide range of exciting courses, giving you a chance to make new friends, learn a new skill or gain a qualification. For more information or to enrol, visit the County Council adult learning pages or call 0845 351 0646.

### **Gearing up for community planning**

Oxfordshire County Council is gearing up to help parishes and towns with community planning. A growing number of communities across Oxfordshire have been producing community-led plans, such as parish plans or market town health checks, to agree an action plan for their community. Following a Local Government White Paper a new statutory 'duty to involve local people' comes into force in 2009. The council, with its partners, is ensuring that it understands early what the implications of this are so that it can further understand the needs of our distinctive communities.

### **Website is in the top 10% of council websites in the country**

SODC's website is in the top 10% of council websites in the country according to an annual survey published this month by the Society of Information Technology Management (SOCITM). According to them, SODC's website is easy to use, offers a good range of interactive services and provides up-to-date information. They praised the website for its online payments, particularly the one for the council's garden waste scheme, which it highlights as an example of good website practice.

County Councillor: **Dr John Howell OBE** 07889 646845  
 District Councillor: **Pamela Tomlinson** 07834 899860

<b>Newington Nurseries</b>	<b>Herbal Presence</b>
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Herbs have played an important role in human societies for centuries – in romance, religion, health and food. So why not grow your own herbs and enjoy the delicious taste and fragrance of your own plants? Your produce will be so much fresher and tastier than that bought in the

supermarket. Herb growing is also an ideal way to introduce children to the world of gardening. They'll delight in watching their own special plants growing into edible leaves ready for their home-made pizzas!

Creating a herb bed just outside the kitchen window or back door will make it easily accessible to the kitchen as well as being a wonderfully sensory area. Herbs can be planted directly into the ground or grown in a selection of terracotta pots. The ideal plan is to do both. You can even recycle old and chunky hardwood timbers by constructing a raised bed; the edges will be perfect for relaxing on at the end of a gardening day (and drinking a Pimms with some home-picked borage!).

There really are some 'must have' culinary plants for the herb garden. Fresh bay (*Laurus nobilis*) leaves give a casserole a wonderful flavour. Bay likes to be in a sunny and protected position but otherwise is hardy throughout the winter months. Lower growing and equally essential hardy herbs include oregano (*Oreganum vulgare*) and sweet marjoram (*Oreganum marjorana*) as well as a selection of thymes such as Thymus Silver Posie and Thymus Doone Valley.

Chives, French tarragon, garlic, parsley, rosemary (try *Mrs Jessopps Upright* in the bed and *Prostratus* in a pot) and sage (green and purple varieties) are other hardy musts. One of the most flavoursome herbs is basil which can be planted out in the summer but must be dug up and over-wintered in a pot in the conservatory or on the kitchen window sill. All are perennial except for basil which is an annual and parsley which is a biennial.

And don't forget mint, another necessity but a rampant one so is best planted in a large pot, at least 30cm across, and partially plunged into the ground to help retain the moisture. Keep cutting the mint during the summer to ensure it remains lush. Try growing *Mentha spicata* (garden mint, ideal for cooking with new potatoes) and *Mentha spicata* var. *crispa* 'Moroccan' (perfect for mint sauce or mint jelly).

For fragrance, plant chamomile, chocolate mint, curry plant, lavender, lemon balm and pineapple sage. Brushing against these plants will produce a heady aroma which is at its most pungent during early summer evenings.

Herbs really require very little maintenance. They're easy to grow and rarely suffer from pests and diseases. They like to be in a sunny position and planted in very well drained soil that isn't too fertile. Of course some fertiliser can be added to the new bed during preparation but after that, all your herbs will need is watering when the ground becomes too dry.

Make sure you keep them healthy and bushy by regular trimming and of course those fresh leaves can be used straightaway either in cooking or around the house for bursts of summer fragrance. Of course it isn't going to be possible to use all of the leaves during the summer so once picked, simply rinse them, dry with some kitchen roll and freeze in bags or plastic containers. They can be used straight from the freezer during the winter months to flavour warming soups and casseroles – and to remind you that summer is just around the corner!

*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](http://www.newington-nurseries.co.uk)*

## Out and About

**Rutherford Appleton Laboratory - Talking Science Programme**  
**Friday 11th April – 'The Climate Change Challenge – what we can do about it', by**  
 Dr Jonathan Wood. **10.30 am & 7.00 pm**

Climate Change has been identified as one of the biggest challenges facing the world. Evidence that the climate has already changed has become overwhelming – with further change inevitable because of emissions to the atmosphere over the past century. Technology may provide part of the answer, be it through energy efficiency, renewables, nuclear power or the clean use of fossil fuels. This lecture will consider the impacts of climate change, the consequences of inaction and the steps we may need to take if the climate challenge is to be confronted. *Audience 14+*

**1.30 pm – Carbon Footprint Challenge (Audience 14+)**

Interactive workshop focusing on how the local community of Oxfordshire can address the issues of reducing their carbon footprint.

Admission to these events is by ticket only. Tickets are free – please ring 01235 445959 or email [stfctalikingscience@rl.ac.uk](mailto:stfctalikingscience@rl.ac.uk)

**6 April - 5 May: Oxford Art Society Members' Exhibition** at The Oxfordshire Museum, Fletchers House, Park Street, Woodstock. **Stephen Gray from Culham** will be part of this exhibition. Opening times: Tuesday – Saturday, 10 am – 5 pm (Closed Monday), Sunday 2 – 5 pm & Bank Holiday Monday 2 – 5 pm. The exhibition will feature paintings, sculpture and printmaking with most works for sale. A map and parking information can be found at [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/the\\_oxfordshire\\_museum](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/the_oxfordshire_museum)

**Abingdon Drama Club** presents “**Separate Tables**” by Terence Rattigan at the Unicorn Theatre, Abingdon, **Wed 16 – Sat 19 April at 7.30 pm**. Tickets £7, concessions £6 from the Bookstore, Abingdon Precinct or Ticketline on 01235 524538.

**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 May Mouthpiece by April 15th please, to:**

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