

# **The Mouthpiece**

## ***Culham's Newsletter No 296***

### ***Village Diary for May 2008***

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Mobile Library - The Glebe, 2.15 pm – 2.25 pm***
- 11<sup>th</sup> Family Communion - St. Paul's Church, 10.00 am***
- 12<sup>th</sup> Parish Council Meeting - The School, 7.30 pm***
- 15<sup>th</sup> Deadline for June's Mouthpiece***
- 16<sup>th</sup> Mobile Library - The Glebe, 2.15 pm – 2.25 pm***
- 17<sup>th</sup> Plant Sale & Church Fete, St Paul's Church, 1 pm – 4 pm***
- 18<sup>th</sup> Evening Prayer - St. Paul's Church, 6.00 pm***
- 30<sup>th</sup> Mobile Library - The Glebe, 2.15 pm – 2.25 pm***

<b>Services of Worship 2008</b>	<b>May</b>
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<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Service</b>
<b>Services at Culham</b>			
<b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10 am</b>	<b>Culham</b>	<b>Family Communion</b>
<b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6 pm</b>	<b>Culham</b>	<b>Evening Prayer</b>
<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>			
<b>Services at Clifton Hampden &amp; the Wittenhams</b>			
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup>	7 pm	Wittenham Clumps	<b>Outdoor</b> Holy Communion
Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup>	8 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
	10 am	Long Wittenham	Family Service
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup>	8.30 am	Little Wittenham	Holy Communion
	10 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup>	10 am	Long Wittenham	Holy Communion
Thursday 22 <sup>th</sup>	2.30 pm	Long Wittenham	Pram Service
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup>	10 am	Clifton Hampden	Family Communion
	6 pm	Long Wittenham	Evening Service

### **Ascension Day May 1<sup>st</sup> – Dorchester Team Communion on Wittenham Clumps**

Meet at 7 pm in either the Car Park for a gentle walk up to the top of the hill, or outside St. Peter's Church, Little Wittenham for a more strenuous climb.

<b>Talking Point</b>	<b>Rev. Anne Ilsley</b>
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We've just been through the time in the church year between Easter and Ascension. Ascension day this year being May 1st, I shall have joined in an earlier tradition of celebrating May Day by singing with The Wittenham singers at The Northmoor Trust at dawn - and in the evening I will have been up The Clumps to remember the disciples' last sight of Jesus' risen body as he ascended into heaven. The time when the resurrected Jesus was appearing to his followers must have been a vital period for them. Something amazing had happened, but it wasn't what they had expected. The crucifixion was the end of their previous expectations, but it began a new era and they needed to realise that they were the ones who had to take this forward.

Looking at the stained glass windows in church I realise that I am sitting within the pages of a wonderful picture book, a book that I was introduced to as a child. We recently found an old copy of 'The Children's life of Christ' by Enid Blyton which took me back to my childhood. I think that it was from the pages of this book that I grew to love my favourite story about Jesus, the story of Jairus' daughter. Rummaging in a regular bookshop recently, a lady complained to me that the choice of good children's bible story books was depleting. I suggested going to a Christian bookshop, but the fact that it might be necessary to seek out a specifically Christian bookshop reflects an economic and social reality. The stories of our faith won't be lost, but they may be lost in childhood if we don't share them with this generation.

Looking at those stained glass windows, I imagined previous individuals from earlier generations being able to retell to themselves the stories that they'd heard when they were youngsters, as they looked up and I wondered what the same windows mean to people today. The churches in the Bridge group are worth a visit to see the windows alone, but looking at them made me think of the importance of telling the stories, and not just the story of Christmas or Easter or Ascension or of Pentecost, but less well known biblical stories; the healing stories and Jesus' parables.

I'm lucky enough to go into our schools at Long Wittenham, Clifton Hampden and at Culham, so if you hear that 'The Vicar' or 'Vicar Anne' has been into school, do ask what the story was. Just as the disciples were charged with taking forward the Good News of Jesus' message of salvation, we are charged with the same job. It's everyone's job really, but it's certainly my job!

### **'Quiet Spaces' in Dorchester Abbey**

Quietness is a rare commodity in the 21st century, yet it is something recognized as having the ability to soothe, heal and restore, opening the way for growth and re-creation. The sacred space within our Abbey walls is known for its gentle and quiet welcome, and we are now inviting visitors to absorb this enriching atmosphere in a series of 'Quiet Spaces' evenings.

To launch the series we are inviting the public to contemplate Carl Gabriel's interfaith wire sculptures, meditate on the symbolism within the new High Altar frontal, walk the labyrinth and enjoy a glass of wine.

Celebrating the presence of God through worship and art is among the aims of the Abbey community, and we hope you will join us on 9 May from 8.30 to 10.00 pm for the first in this series, then again on Friday 20 June at the same time, when you can enjoy all of the above in the golden evening light of the year's longest day. Entry is free, but donations are encouraged to sustain this project.

'Quiet Spaces' events are organized by Rebecca Hind, chair of Contemporary Arts in Dorchester Abbey (CADA). The new altar frontal was made by textile artist Helyne Jennings, commissioned by CADA and funded by the Friends of Dorchester Abbey. Carl Gabriel's wire sculptures form a temporary exhibition by kind permission of the artist.

Contacts: CADA, 01865-340633 or [post@rebeccahind.com](mailto:post@rebeccahind.com); the Abbey Church of St Peter and St Paul, Dorchester on Thames, Oxon. OX10 7HZ or [dorchester-abbey.org.uk](http://dorchester-abbey.org.uk).

### **Village News**

#### **London Marathon, Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April**

**Mike Bainbridge**

In April's Mouthpiece we published a note by Mike Bainbridge, a former resident & Churchwarden of Culham, about his intention to run in the recent London Marathon. We are pleased to publish the following note from him.

*"I would like to thank all those villagers who so generously sponsored me in this year's London Marathon. In total I will have raised £1500 for The Children's Liver Disease Foundation, the charity that has assisted my terminally ill grandson over the past eight years.*

*As to the Marathon itself, although my finishing time of 5 hrs 51 mins 14 secs was somewhat slower than I had hoped, my son Paul did reassure me that I was in the top 100 of my age group (males over 70)! While it was certainly exhilarating to be part of a great occasion, it was a bit demoralising to see a running lady knitting on one side of me, while on the other there was a man with a large rucksack supporting a huge, heavy cannon, to say nothing of the two 'rhinos' in front. But just to finish at all was a great feeling and it reminded me of my five marathon finishes under the Abingdon Bridge back in the 1980s."*

Mike can be contacted on **01643 708455** or at **Little Stoke, The Parks, Minehead, Somerset TA24 8DD**.

## **CULHAM PLANT SALE & CHURCH FETE**

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May                      1 pm - 4 pm**

### **ST PAUL'S CHURCH**

**Plants ~ Cakes ~ Teas ~ Bric-a-Brac ~ Books ~ Tombola  
Balloon Races ~ Face Painting ~ Welly-Wanging**

**All in aid of Church funds**

**Please bring any contributions 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**

#### **For your diary**

The Friends of St Paul's will be holding their Annual General Meeting at **8 pm on Monday 9th June** in the Church. The Agenda will be posted on the Church Noticeboard.

#### **Friends of St Paul's**

#### **New advertiser**

This month we welcome a new advertiser, Alicia Woodley-Shead. She is an Avon Representative for this and surrounding areas. If you would like to view this season's AVON Brochure please call her on 07920 448 919.

#### **Parish Council Notes**

**Dr John Howells OBE**

Anyone who was alarmed by an inaccurate and mischievous letter from the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council (ORCC) that the school was under threat as a result of the Primary School Review being conducted by the County Council should be assured. The County Council has to undertake this review in order to access government money for capital improvements to schools. However, Cllr Keith Mitchell, the Leader of the Council, has written to Parish Councils with a clear message that the County Council's policy had not changed: small rural schools which can deliver the national curriculum are not at threat. Contact Dr John Howells on 07889646845

#### **Culham Pre School**

**Lea Allmond**

The children of the Pre-School have enjoyed an end of term Picnic shared with their parents and friends. This was an opportunity to say goodbye to Jack, Ella and Tom who are joining the main school full time. We wish them well.

We are also welcoming new children into our group. They are Samuel, Alice, Sam, Nesa and Rosamund. We hope that they and their families have an enjoyable time with us.

We have also enjoyed a great trip to the adventure indoor playground at 'Snakes and Ladders'. A fabulous time was had by all.

<b>Culham Parochial School</b>	<b>Sue Knox</b>
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The school's 'WaterAid' Fun Afternoon held on 3<sup>rd</sup> April was a great success and raised a grand total of £285.56. Most of the organisation was done by the children themselves who also paid to wear blue for the day instead of their school uniform. The bucket of pennies was filled and was counted by the children the next day. It contained over £90. Thank you to all those who came or donated pennies. Thank you, also, to all those of you who have collected Tesco and Sainsbury's vouchers - they have been much appreciated.

OFSTED paid a visit on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March to carry out an inspection. This went very well. If you would like to read the full report you can do so by going to the Ofsted website, [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk) after 25<sup>th</sup> April.

The week beginning 19<sup>th</sup> May is 'Walk to School Week'.

<b>Sutton Courtney WI</b>	<b>Ann Henderson</b>
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For our April meeting we were transported to East Africa via a talk and slide show by Nigel Glover-Wright. We saw wild animals in their natural habitat, when he photographed them during his visit to three safari parks. Many of our members last month attended a Fashion Show in Didcot and an amusing informative talk on "Turkoman" held in Abingdon.

Our May meeting is again on the third Tuesday 20 May at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall. This month is our Members Resolution Meeting. The recently formed Drama Group will also be performing a play and a sketch written by two Sutton Courtenay members. Members are also looking forward to their trip in May to the Playhouse theatre in Oxford to see the "Pirates of Penzance"

Please try and make it to our Jumble Sale to be held in the Village Hall on Saturday 10 May. Doors open at 2.00pm, entrance fee 50p. There is guaranteed to be some wonderful bargains to be had.

**If you fancy coming to one of our meetings, don't forget Sutton Courtenay W.I are always pleased to welcome new visitors.**

<b>Oxfordshire Green Pages 2008</b>	<b>Rachel Viney</b>
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Eco-friendly living has been made easier for Oxfordshire residents with the publication of Oxfordshire Green Pages 2008. Subtitled 'The Amazing Directory of Green Living', Green Pages carries details of the incredible variety of companies and organisations in the county that provide goods or services with a green and ethical slant.

Readers looking for a green accountant, organic pet food or a local vegetable box scheme will find the answer in Green Pages. And with the inclusion of a new Office section, it's now also a great resource for local businesses wanting to become more sustainable. Among other additions for 2008 are guest editorials on topics such as saving energy, sustainable travel, ethical investment and more.

The directory is on sale now at over 30 bookshops and other outlets around the county, price £4.50. It can also be ordered online at [www.oxfordgreenpages.co.uk](http://www.oxfordgreenpages.co.uk)

Branches laden with eye-catching flowers are perfect for capturing the mood of late spring and early summer. Wisteria is a 'love-it-anywhere' plant, perfect around a country house or the courts and quads of ancient colleges or against a modern building. The hanging bunches of pea-like flowers bring a feeling of comfort and elegance wherever you find them. As with all the best plants, they're always in fashion.

Climbers like wisteria are a possibility for every garden; they're incredibly economical on space. And when it comes to climbers, wisteria is an especially good choice because it's tough and easy to look after as well as putting on a breathtakingly beautiful display every year once it's established. It also provides attractive features beyond simply the blooms. The foliage of some wisteria turns a lovely yellow in autumn.

*Wisteria x floribunda* (Japanese Wisteria) is one of the best choices for flowers now. It's a vigorous, twining climber that produces racemes (long, hanging clusters) of violet blue flowers in spring and early summer. Foliage is refined and attractive too, with numerous leaflets lending it an almost feathery appearance. Some superb varieties to look out for are 'Alba' which produces white blooms in racemes up to 60cm long and 'Multijuga' which is outstanding because of its exceptionally large flower racemes – the largest of any wisteria at up to 90cm.

*Wisteria sinensis* (Chinese Wisteria) is often the one you see growing around older houses and gardens. Varieties include 'Sierra Madre' which produces very fragrant, lavender-violet flowers. 'Alba' bears white flowers and 'Prolific' will yield an abundance of lilac-blue or pale lilac-blue flowers. Look out also for hybrids also - *Wisteria x formosa* is a great example (a crossed Japanese and Chinese wisteria). Flowers of this hybrid are fragrant. 'Black Dragon', which produces purple-violet flowers, is a real beauty.

Wisteria is fully hardy and quite fast growing. It's happiest in fertile, moist, well drained soil, but will tolerate poorer soils too. Full sun or partial shade is equally suitable. Train against a wall, over an arch or pergola, or into a tree. Wisteria can also be grown as a specimen half-standard. To keep wisteria under control, it should be pruned twice a year; once in summer and again in winter. As wisteria flowers in spring, the major pruning should be done in August. The long trailing shoots should be cut back to 15cm (6in). In December, the shoots should be again cut back to two healthy buds from the main stem. If mid August pruning was forgotten, prune to two buds now.

So if you want some comfort and elegance around the exterior of the house or somewhere in the garden, consider a beautiful and long-lasting wisteria. You won't be disappointed!

*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

**Rutherford Appleton Laboratory - Talking Science Programme**

**"Small Actions x Lots of People = BIG Change" Nick Stanhope Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2008 at 1.30pm audience 14+**

What happened when Nick asked 8 million children and young people the question: What simple action would you ask a million people to do to change the world? The very best action will sit at the centre of a national campaign to inspire 1 million people to take part and have a massive, immediate social impact. Come along and find out how you can get involved.

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)

**Oxford Art Society Members' Exhibition 6<sup>th</sup> April – 5<sup>th</sup> May** 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 Air & Country Show: Sunday 4th May 2008 10am – 5pm**  
**Abingdon Airfield / Dalton Barracks, Oxfordshire**

ADMISSION (On the Gate) Adult £10, Senior Citizens & Children 5-15yrs £5, Under 5s Free

ADVANCE TICKETS: Adult £8, Senior Citizens & Children 5-15yrs £4, Under 5s Free

Advance Ticket Sales:-

Purchases can be made from the following outlets:

Abingdon Information Office – within the Old Abbey House building.

The Warehouse, Abingdon (near Coxeters) and of course online via our website.

Enquiries: tel. 01235 529142 or email: [neilsevent@aol.com](mailto:neilsevent@aol.com)

Website: [www.abingdonfayre.com](http://www.abingdonfayre.com)

Proceeds to the Thames Valley & Chiltern Air Ambulance

*Attractions include:-*

3 Hour Afternoon Flying Display ~ Static Aircraft / Aircraft Fly In ~ Arena Demonstrations

Craft Fayre and Trade Stalls ~ Children's Activities ~ Vintage & Classic Vehicles

Abingdon Car Works MG Rally ~ Pleasure Flights & Tank rides ~ Refreshments & much more

**Concert – for your Diary**

PACT (Parents And Children Together) is the family charity of the Church of England in Berks, Bucks & Oxon. It was originally an adoption agency, but now also places children for fostering with families. The charity also runs many housing and community projects for families, such as the South Abingdon Children's Centre. On **Saturday 7 June**, PACT will be the lucky beneficiary of a concert by the Radcliffe Orchestra, in the **Tingewick Concert Hall** at the **John Radcliffe Hospital** at **7.30pm**. This will be a light classical concert followed by cheese and wine refreshments **for only £8**.

For more information about PACT, or to book tickets, please call 01235 83 42 95 or visit the website [www.pactcharity.org](http://www.pactcharity.org).

**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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**Advertisements to:**

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