

# **The Mouthpiece**

## ***Culham's Newsletter No 297***

### ***Village Diary for June 2008***

***8<sup>th</sup> Family Communion - St. Paul's Church, 10.00 am***

***13<sup>th</sup> Mobile Library - The Glebe, 1.40 pm - 1.50 pm***

***15<sup>th</sup> Evening Prayer - St. Paul's Church, 6.00 pm***

***15<sup>th</sup> Deadline for July & August's Mouthpiece***

***27<sup>th</sup> Mobile Library - The Glebe, 1.40 pm -1.50 pm***

***29<sup>th</sup> Team Communion - St. Paul's Church, 10.30 am***

<b>Services of Worship</b> <b>June 2008</b>
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<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Service</b>
<b>Services at Culham</b>			
<b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10 am</b>	<b>Culham</b>	<b>Family Communion</b>
<b>Sunday 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6 pm</b>	<b>Culham</b>	<b>Evening Prayer</b>
<b>Sunday 29<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Culham</b>	<b>Team Communion</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>			
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup>	8 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
	10 am	Long Wittenham	Family Service
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup>	8.30 am	Little Wittenham	Holy Communion
	10 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup>	10 am	Long Wittenham	Holy Communion
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	10am	Clifton Hampden	Family Service
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup>	2.30 pm	Long Wittenham	Pram Service
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup>	6 pm	Long Wittenham	Evening Service

<b>Talking Point</b>	<b>Rev. Anne Ilsley</b>
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On the surround to my microwave, I've now got the sample fridge magnet from the Children's church activity morning held at Long Wittenham Village Hall on 5<sup>th</sup> April. It's on my microwave because I bask in the luxury of a built in fridge! Perhaps I'm weird, but seeing it there makes me think of the children and on many occasions will prompt me to what I would call a quick arrow prayer. An arrow prayer is a quick dart of communication with God, by way of a thought directed towards Him in thanksgiving or request. The benefit being that it doesn't need to take long or be noticed by anyone around us and it doesn't need churchy language.

Since my mother's death, I have of course brought into the vicarage some of the treasured things from my childhood home and they have me thinking of my parents. Other objects hold memories of my son or daughter, but one generic object, namely butter dishes frequently remind me of friends who now live in Southampton. Now perhaps that is weird! But the object has become a kind of symbol to me!

Of course if we do this kind of thing too much, we will all be very unfashionable, because we will be surrounded by clutter, but I suppose, I'm encouraging you if you are a praying person, to use these prompts if you have them, to send up a quick prayer. Another similar example is when I pray for the situation that I imagine a police car, ambulance or fire engine might be speeding towards, when I see or hear a siren.

We had a wonderful morning with the children. With Easter being so early this year, we looked at the theme of Spring and new life, including the new life celebrated and given at baptism. We often like to do a joint project with the children on these mornings, which can be displayed in church or used in a service. On this occasion we made a temporary altar frontal, which is currently being used in St Mary's. We created a river at the base, which reminded us of Jesus being baptised in The River Jordan as well as the fact that some people today still go to a river when they have a baptism. The river teems with fish and above it are beautiful butterflies which symbolise the new life of Spring and can also be associated with resurrection.

St Mary's is open in the daytime, so do go and have a look at the altar frontal in the next few days. Sunday May 11<sup>th</sup> is Whit Sunday when we celebrate Pentecost, known as the 'Birthday of the Church' the day when The Holy Spirit was poured out on Jesus' followers emboldening them to begin to preach the gospel and found the early church communities. In The Dorchester team Ministry, our confirmations are taking place at Dorchester Abbey at 3.00pm on that afternoon and it's also the day when we change our altar frontal colour to red. Finally if you are considering baptism, which could be as an adult or a christening for a child, do get in touch with Revd David Haylett or myself

### Village News

#### Friends of St Paul's

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

#### Plant Sale & Church Fete

#### Culham PCC

A record amount of over **£1180** was raised at the Culham Plant sale & Church Fete on 17th May. Congratulations and many thanks to all who supported this event! This was a record-breaking amount - we made £825 last year & £707 in 2006 - and there were more than 14 stalls and attractions this year, catering for all ages and interests.

#### Recycling

#### Oxon District & County Councils

The district and county councils have recently set out what can and cannot be recycled via green boxes and the like. Many items now carry the recycle mark so that we know that they can be recycled but many items don't. The following items can be put into green recycle boxes:

- All paper and cardboard (including glossy magazines, catalogues, envelopes with windows, phone directories and the Yellow Pages) ✓
- Plastic bottles (including drink bottles, detergent bottles, shampoo bottles, plastic tubs and pots that food and cosmetics come in) ✓
- Carrier bags ✓
- Plant pots ✓
- Drink cans ✓
- Food Tins ✓
- Plastic coat hangers ✓
- Drinking straws ✓
- Plastic tops from plastic milk bottles ✓

Common household items that cannot go out with the weekly collection include glass, foil, cling film, textiles and footwear. Drinks cartons and crisp packets can't be put out either due to their foil or plastic lining. However many of these items can be recycled at recycling banks.

The District Council offers a fortnightly collection of garden waste such as grass cuttings, leaves, branches, weeds and hedge clippings. A special brown wheeled bin can be bought for this purpose. Alternatively you can buy a home composter. South Oxfordshire residents can buy reduced price composters from WRAP – details on SODC website.

You can recycle further household rubbish at one of the waste recycling centres (rubbish tips) including household batteries, car batteries, televisions, fridges and freezers, computer monitors, soil, rubble, light bulbs, fluorescent tubes, foil, engine oil, timber and textiles. At some you can also now recycle tetrapaks. Tetrapaks (such as juice cartons) are made up of different materials including cardboard, plastic and foil and have been a problem to recycle in the past.

### **Mobile Library**

### **Didcot Library**

The Mobile Library is changing its visiting times in June from 2.15 - 2.25 pm to **1.40 - 1.50 pm** at The Glebe on alternate Fridays as usual - these will be **13th & 27th June**. This is the South East Oxon mobile library, organised from Didcot Library tel 01235 813103.

### **Community Times**

### **Martin Jamieson and Linda Allan**

Community Time Abingdon and surrounding villages is a magazine that will be delivered FREE directly to local households each month. The magazine will also be available at; [www.ctabingdon.co.uk](http://www.ctabingdon.co.uk)

It will provide coverage of local news and events, articles of local interest, recipes, puzzles, competitions, information on local services and more. A designated 'what's on' section will provide local charities and non-profit making organisations FREE publicity.

If you have an event or organisation that you would like us to consider including in our first edition in June, please contact us as soon as possible on 01235 539138, email: [info@ctabingdon.co.uk](mailto:info@ctabingdon.co.uk)

### **Village AGM**

### **Culham Parish Council**

We have received various reports from the village AGM which will be published when space permits. The first, from the Parish Council, is published below.

<b>Annual Parish Meeting 2008</b>	<b>Glenn Bartley: Chairman, Culham Parish Council</b>
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All Parish and Town Councils throughout England are required by law to hold an annual parish meeting at this time each year. It is a forum for parish electors and interested local organisations where electors may set the agenda, and local activities and achievements may be celebrated and current issues in the community debated. After a busy year I would like to report the key activities and issues discussed during Parish Council meetings since May 2007.

Local Elections were held in May and Toby Price, John Thomas, Andrew Steele and Glenn Bartley were re-elected unopposed as the only candidates coming forward to fill six positions on the council. Bob Griffiths decided that, after 8 years as Chair of Culham Parish Council, he would stand down. After a discussion and ballot, Glenn was elected as new Chairman.

Action was taken to start work on a long overdue upgrade of the children's play area. During discussions it was decided that the defunct Culham Community and Recreational Committee should be disbanded and the outstanding funds be 'ring fenced' for future community projects. The Parish Council were delighted to receive a donation from UKAEA towards play equipment – many thanks to them. The new facilities were finally completed in January and would appear to be a big hit with the younger members of our community.

Long discussions have been held during meetings with County Councillor John Howell and District Councillor Pamela Tomlinson on the bigger issues in our surrounding area. These usually involve local gravel extraction; housing and planning issues; traffic calming in the village; the proposed Steventon reservoir and the Abingdon Town traffic scheme. These are all ongoing matters being closely monitored.

One particular issue that caused some concern to the Parish Council in September was the consent for a used tyre recycling plant at Culham No.1 site. We were given the impression that planning approval for this facility would be rejected – the main concern from our perspective was the impact of greatly increased lorry movements on local roads. The fact that this project appeared to ‘slip quietly through’ was partly due to the lack of a more vocal response from the community – it proves that the Parish Council as a representative body can only do so much in these situations and should serve as a warning that the local community must be more proactive in dealing with contentious issues, or accept the consequences.

Happily this has not been the case with regard to the new traffic scheme in Abingdon town centre. Public participation was very much in evidence at a meeting in January with Highways Planning Officer Joanna Clegg. The effects of the scheme are generally negative in all its aspects, with local villages congested, Abingdon town businesses failing, and increased pollution. The meeting was inconclusive with no positive solutions from Ms. Clegg, but it has been noted that congestion had slightly improved in recent months.

In July, after two years excellent service our Clerk, Bernadette Cannings, decided to resign. Once again her input would be greatly missed. Luckily it did not take too long to find her replacement and Judith Beck was duly welcomed in October.

As I write, the future of one of the last amenities in the village, The Lion Public House, hangs in the balance. The use of this building is uncertain, but the position of the Parish Council has always been that it should remain a pub if at all possible. However we are all too aware that previous efforts to do this have ultimately failed. The other likely options are to convert to other commercial use or to convert to a residential property, either single or multiple occupancy - time will tell on this issue.

Detailed minutes are available from the Clerk or on the village website: [www.culhamvillage.org.uk](http://www.culhamvillage.org.uk)

Despite general business being pretty mundane, the Parish Council would encourage electors to attend meetings, raise matters that are of concern to them and generally participate in village issues. There are currently two vacant positions on the Parish Council.

Glenn would like to record his thanks to all those villagers who *have* volunteered; his colleagues on the council; those who have presented reports for this meeting; those listed on the back page of The Mouthpiece and any others who by their activities have made valuable contributions to village life.

<b>Culham Pre School</b>	<b>Lea Allmond</b>
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The children have been enjoying the glorious weather, spending lots of time outdoors in the garden, they are tending to the tomato and strawberry plants - which we hope to enjoy eating! We are looking at the theme of summer, holidays and how we get there. We shall be enjoying walks around the village to feed the ducks and watch the boats at the river.

<b>Culham Parochial School</b>	<b>Sue Knox</b>
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The last few weeks have been very busy in school as we have undergone both an Ofsted inspection and a SIAS inspection (Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools). I am pleased to

report that the school was deemed to be 'a good school' by both inspectors. The relevant inspection reports can be found on the Ofsted website [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk) and [www.natsoc.org.uk/](http://www.natsoc.org.uk/).

The Fun Afternoon organised by the School Council for WaterAid raised an incredible £186 bringing the total collected since September to over £500. All of this has been due to the efforts of the children themselves who have thought of the fundraising ideas and executed them. The Fun Afternoon was enjoyed by all. The next event will be a Children's Quiz.

The final term of the school year is always packed with extra activities and this year is no exception. Children will take part in various sporting events with our partnership schools, Year 5 will be doing their cycling proficiency training, Year 6 will attend the annual Citizenship Day and the whole school will be visiting the Science Museum in London. There is to be a Creative Week and sports day and we will say goodbye to the eight children transferring to secondary school at the leavers' assembly in Culham Church on the last day of term. Also during the term Mrs Anne Andrew, who has recently been appointed Acting Head Teacher, will be visiting school to get to know the pupils, staff and parents before taking up her post in September.

## Newington Nurseries

## Hardy Exotics

If you are thinking of revamping an area of your garden and want something that will cause excitement year round, why not choose some hardy exotic plants? Some have powerful architectural shapes and others just have a magnificent presence. Whichever plants you decide to have, you'll certainly create a distinctive and unique look to your garden.

So to create some structure, start with the Chusan Palm (*Trachycarpus fortunei*). Despite looking extremely tropical with its large, fan-shaped leaves and hairy trunk, it can withstand temperatures of -20°C. This palm is happy in all but the most exposed situations. A smaller but equally robust palm is the Mediterranean Fan Palm (*Chamaerops humilis*) which produces really tough spiky leaves. It tolerates all sorts of wild and windy weather, including snow, and is hardy to -10°C. Like the Chusan Palm, it can be planted in a sunny position or light shade and puts up with most soils apart from waterlogged conditions.

Bamboos create a wonderfully tropical feel in the garden and the sound of their leaves moving in the breeze is truly relaxing. The Arrow Bamboo or Metake (*Pseudosasa japonica*) makes an excellent screen or container plant. It is one of the most forgiving bamboos, tolerating conditions that most bamboos dislike. It is happy in virtually any soil, sun or shade. Or try the Black or Golden Bamboo (*Phyllostachys nigra* or *Phyllostachys aurea*). Again, both can be used as screens and are very tolerant of cold conditions down to -20°C as is the Metake.

And don't forget the Cabbage Palm (*Cordyline australis*) or the New Zealand Flax (*Phormium tenax*). Both are equally exotic in look but extremely hardy in nature. The Cabbage Palm is forgiving of winds, salt and frost! When mature, it produces beautiful and superbly fragrant sprays of white flowers. The New Zealand Flax will also produce stunning flower spikes in various shades of red/brown, sometimes twice the height of the plant, and their fragrance is reminiscent of pine needles.

Having created some structure, you can add some smaller but just as resilient plants such as the False Castor Oil Plant (*Fatsia japonica*). Its delightfully glossy green foliage is topped by gorgeous white flower spikes in the autumn. Or the Heavenly Bamboo (*Nandina domestica*) whose young foliage is bronze in spring, turning green in summer then rusty red in autumn. Its mass of white spring flowers are followed by shiny red berries in the autumn. And don't forget the hardy ginger (*Hedychium 'Assam Orange'*) whose lush green leaves are complemented by masses of orange flowers on tall stems.

The best thing about all (except for the hardy ginger) of the plants listed above is that they are evergreen! Maintenance is minimal so you can spend more time enjoying your garden 12 months

of the year. Just give the plants an occasional feed, water if weather conditions are really dry and remove the odd bit of dead foliage. It couldn't be easier!

*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

### **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June - PACT Concert by the Radcliffe Orchestra**

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. 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).

### **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June – Rutherford Appleton Laboratory's 'Talking Science' Programme**

Quentin Cooper presents 'Cape Farewell' in this latest talk hosted by the Science and Technology Facilities Council at 10.30 am and 7 pm. Quentin is a science journalist and will talk about his ongoing involvement with the Cape Farewell project to raise awareness about climate change. For more information on the project visit; <http://www.capefarewell.com/>

The talk is aimed at those aged 12 years and above and to reserve seats please email [stfctalkingscience@rl.ac.uk](mailto:stfctalkingscience@rl.ac.uk) or telephone 01235 445959.

### **Saturday 28th June 2008 - The Bicester Village International Polo Match - England v Australia**

Kirtlington Park Polo Club, with fun fair, food stalls, trade village & Pimms bar. A fun and exciting day out for the whole family. Contact Sarah Barlow on 07860 394284 or the Polo Office on 01869 350138 for more details.

### **Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> to Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July - Abingdon Drama Club presents Improbable Fiction by Alan Ayckbourn**

At Unicorn Theatre Medieval Abbey Buildings, Abingdon at 7.30pm. Tickets £7 (concessions £6) from The Bookstore, Abingdon Precinct or from Ticketline 01235 524538.

### **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> August - 'Wedding Belles' display**

A unique display of wedding dresses and accessories over the last 50 years from 10am to 6pm on each day at St John the Baptist Church, The Green, Stadhampton, Oxon, OX44 7TZ. Entrance free and all money from donations, raffle and competition will go to help our local church.

## 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 July/August Mouthpiece by June 15th please, to:**

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