

Mouthpiece

Culham's Newsletter No 298

Village Diary for July & August 2008

July:

6th Summer Fete, The School 12pm – 2pm

11th Mobile Library, The Glebe 1.40pm – 1.50pm

13th Family Communion, St. Paul's Church 10am

14th Parish Council Meeting, The School 7.30pm

20th Evening Prayer, St. Paul's Church 6pm

25th Mobile Library, The Glebe 1.40pm – 1.50pm

August:

8th Mobile Library, The Glebe, 1.40pm – 1.50pm

10th Family Communion, St. Paul's Church 10am

15th Deadline for September's Mouthpiece.

17th Evening Prayer, St. Paul's Church 6pm

22nd Mobile Library, The Glebe, 1.40pm – 1.50pm

31st 'Songs of Praise', St Paul's Church 6.30pm

Services of Worship	July & August 2008
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Date	Time	Place	Service
SERVICES AT CULHAM IN JULY			
Sunday 13 th	10 am	Culham	Family Communion
Sunday 20 th	6 pm	Culham	Evening Prayer
SERVICES AT CULHAM IN AUGUST			
Sunday 10 th	10 am	Culham	Family Communion
Sunday 17 th	6 pm	Culham	Evening Prayer
<p><i>Join us for coffee and a chat after morning services at Culham Church! All welcome. Come along for informal prayers with Revd Anne Ilsley at Culham Church on Thursday mornings, 8.15 - 9.00am.</i></p>			
SERVICES AT CLIFTON HAMPDEN & THE WITTENHAMS IN JULY			
Sunday 6 st	8 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
	10am	Long Wittenham	Family Service
Sunday 13 th	8.30 am	Little Wittenham	Holy Communion
	10am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
Sunday 20 th	10 am	Long Wittenham	Holy Communion
Thursday 24 th	2.30 pm	Long Wittenham	Pram Service
Sunday 27 th	10 am	Clifton Hampden	Family Communion
	6 pm	Long Wittenham	Evening Service
SERVICES AT CLIFTON HAMPDEN & THE WITTENHAMS, ETC IN AUGUST			
Sunday 3 rd	8 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
	10 am	Long Wittenham	Family Service
Sunday 10 th	8.30 am	Little Wittenham	Holy Communion
	10 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
Sunday 17 th	10 am	Long Wittenham	Holy Communion
Thursday 21 st	2.30 pm	Long Wittenham	Pram Service
Sunday 24 th	10 am	Clifton Hampden	Family Communion
	6 pm	Long Wittenham	Evening Service
Sunday 31 st	10.30 am	Drayton St Leonard	Team Communion

We are having something of a family get-together this weekend. Martin, our youngest son, has been home from Australia for a holiday and to see friends and relations. So we have his two brothers and their families staying with us as he prepares to fly off on Saturday evening.

Our elder grandson, Caspar, is now eighteen months old and is very much a "granddad's boy". He keeps coming up to me clutching his shoes and saying, "Walk, walk!" So we go through the ritual of putting on shoes and then we either go into the back garden to find the "bees" or pursue the long-suffering "cat! cat!", or out of the front door and along to the nearby play area where he remembers there is a see-saw and slide.

This came to mind last evening when we had a meeting of the Dorchester Team Council and were seeking approval from members of the Council for the ideas the Clergy Staff meeting had been hatching for a programme running from September this year through to the end of Lent 2009.

When I am taking funerals I often say in the Sermon that life is a pilgrimage, a journey, a walk with God, and that death is a continuation of that earthly journey, following in the footsteps of the Jesus who said, "I am the Way, the truth and the life". Each individual is at a different stage in that journey of faith, nobody except God knows the point each person has reached. All of us are on the same journey, and in the same need of God's grace, forgiveness and compassion.

The Programme that the Team is planning to mount is designed to meet us wherever we are on that journey and encourage us to take a few more steps.

The Programme will start on "Back to Church" Sunday at the end of September (28th) with publicity to encourage those who may not attend Church services very often to come on that Sunday. In Long and Little Wittenham this will be accompanied by a Church Open Day on Saturday 27th September showing the church in the community, making everyone feel welcome in the church and to be able to learn more about what goes on there with demonstrations of bell ringing and flower arranging, historical tours of the building, and so on.

Then during October and November there will be a Team-wide course explaining the basics of our Christian Faith based on Luke's Gospel. After a break for Advent and Christmas there will be three further sessions before Lent. This Course will be an excellent way for all of us (and I include myself) to explore the basis of our faith and learn something new. It will also double as Confirmation preparation for anyone interested in the possibility of being confirmed.

This leads into Lent when it is planned to invite a range of speakers to talk about their own understanding of the Bible and how it relates to their belief. It is planned to invite speakers who are authorities in their own particular field and who hold strong views on various subjects to come and explain their view. The Bishop of Oxford has already been approached and has agreed, in principle to come. It is suggested that these meetings could be held on Sunday evenings after, or as part of, the regular Evening Services which are held around the Team Parishes.

It is proposed that this Programme should culminate with the normal 5th Sunday Team Service on March 29th with a Confirmation and Communion Service in the Abbey. I hope that this Programme will appeal to many of you and that you will feel able to participate as much as possible.

Village News

Village AGM

We have received various reports from the village AGM which will be published when space permits.

Culham Parish Council

Sutton Courtney's WI**Ann Henderson**

The Women's Institute was formed in 1915 with two clear aims: to revitalise rural communities and to encourage women to become more involved in producing food during the First World War. Since then our aims have broadened and we are now the largest women's organisation in the UK.

But the WI is as relevant today as it was in 1915 and just as radical. The WI enables women to "make a difference" to the life they lead, their community and the world they live in.

Women have the opportunity to learn new skills, take part in a variety of activities and campaign on issues that matter to them and their community. Any issue can be dealt with, and along the way you will be able to make lots of new friends.

Visitors are always welcome to our meetings so why not come along on Thursday 15 July at 7.30pm at the Village Hall, Frilsham Street, Sutton Courtenay. Our speaker that evening is Pamela Harman who will be giving a talk entitled 'Odes a light-hearted Look at Life.' There is no charge for visitors and after the talk we serve refreshments.

Another event you are all invited to is the "W.I. Summer Garden Coffee Morning" at 17 Milton Road, Sutton Courtenay on Saturday 26 July from 10.30am – 12.00. There is going to be a wonderful home made cake stall, plant stall, raffle and a bring and buy stall – so why not sort out all your unwanted presents and bring them along. Entrance is £1.50 to include coffee and biscuits.

'Songs of Praise' at St Paul's Church**Andrew Churchill Stone**

St Paul's will be holding a 'Songs of Praise' service at **6.30 pm on Sunday 31 August**. This will be a chance to come and sing some favourite hymns and we are hoping to have some food and drink afterwards. There is no charge, but we will be having a collection for the work and fabric of the church. If there is a hymn you would particularly like to include, please contact Andrew Churchill Stone at 18 High St, 533011, email a.churchill.stone@fish.co.uk.

Parish Council Notes**June 2008**

A large part of the meeting was taken up with discussion about the ABITs scheme with a presentation by Councillor Ian Hudspeth, Cabinet Member for Transport at Oxford County Council. Essentially a number of minor changes to the scheme are expected to be implemented on a trial basis in consultation with TRL (Transport Research Laboratory). They (TRL) will undertake an examination of the signalling aspect of the scheme and will use the information from the recent Halcrow report, work carried out between October 2007 and February 2008, to make presentations at a meeting on 01 July. It is then proposed that another independent consultant be taken on to examine the whole scheme and give a 'full overview' in excess of the work undertaken by Halcrow.

It was agreed that the terms of reference of that review will be set after consultation with local bodies, including Culham PC, to obtain the required answers.

It was generally agreed at the meeting that recently there had been an overall improvement, especially for Culham, with reduced queue lengths and frequency between Culham and Abingdon, possibly linked to the re-siting of the lights to the west of Abingdon Bridge. There was however no room for complacency.

A number of items that Culham PC had been trying in vain to have addressed by OCC concerning other traffic and road issues were presented to Councillor Hudspeth who agreed to take them up with his colleagues on the council as some were outside his direct jurisdiction. These included: Pot holes in the Glebe and the state of The Glebe pavements, Traffic calming and speeding on Tollgate Road and the A415, the possibility of a pedestrian crossing at the Waggon and Horses, the use of The Causeway as an unofficial cycle track, the grass cutting within the village and the state of the pathway on the Burycroft.

We await developments.

Other Items

Adkins have offered a sum of £300 towards the repair of the road around the Green on behalf of the Morrells Trust. PC agreed to match the figure from funds and will look into organising a contractor to repair these roads.

A partial clear up of the area around the shed in the playing field has been carried out prior to having the roof of the shed removed (asbestos) and replaced. The possibility of funding for this is being pursued but neither OCC nor SODC give grants directly for repair such work.

Now that the 'handyman' who was to repaint the gates at the burial ground is again available, they will be repainted as soon as possible.

The internal audited accounts have been agreed by the auditor and were signed off by the Chairman

Date of the next meeting: July 14th 7.30pm

Culham Pre School	Lea Allmond
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On 22nd May we had an un-announced two day inspection from Ofsted and staff were very pleased that we were given the following outcome.

The quality and standards of care and nursery education are good. The inspector also wrote some very positive comments about our provision. The full report can be read on the Ofsted website.

We shall be taking the children to Milletts Farm this month for fruit picking and a picnic.

We are also planning a lunchtime get together for children and parents on 4th July weather permitting. We shall enjoy this in the garden.

Culham Parochial School	Sue Knox
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At the moment the school is working hard towards achieving 'Healthy School Status' and over the past weeks has been involved in several activities to help promote healthy and safe lifestyles for its' pupils.

We took part in 'Walk to School Week' at the end of May and as part of this held a 'Wacky Shoe Day' when pupils and staff made a donation in order to wear unusual footwear in school. A reporter from BBC Radio Oxford came to report on the event and the children also recorded items for their Breakfast Show Competition, which were broadcast during the following week.

Approximately £40 was raised for the Oxford Children's hospital that day and throughout the week a large percentage of children either walked to school or parked further away than usual and walked part of the way.

Children in Year 5 and 6 have been taking part in the Oxfordshire Cycling Proficiency Programme and several parent volunteers have been trained as 'Footsteps' instructors to enable them to teach the children road safety.

The infants have been trying lots of new fruits and vegetables as part of 'Food Awareness Week' and Years 5 and 6 enjoyed going to Radley College where they had an afternoon of 'Kwik Cricket' coaching with several other schools.

Our recent joint Open Day with Culham Pre-School gave many people their first opportunity to see inside our new building and also to see the school and Pre-School at work. We always like having visitors in school and hope that those of you who came enjoyed your visit.

Thank you to all of those who have continued to donate vouchers and who filled bags with unwanted items for our recent Bag2school collection.

Still to look forward to before the end of term, are joint sports days with the other school in our local cluster, our own sports day and our end of term production. This is an open air presentation of Roald Dahl's version of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. The whole school will be taking part with the dress rehearsal taking place at 20'clock on Tuesday 11th July and the evening performance at 6.30p.m. on Wednesday 12th July, weather permitting. We are asking anyone who would like to come to either performance to bring their own garden chairs to sit on.

Sunday 6th July 12.00pm – 2.00pm School's Summer Fete

A summer fete organised by the school will be held in the school grounds on Sunday 6th July. All are welcome. There will be a BBQ, Cake Stalls, Raffles and Tombola. There will be Pimms for the grown ups and ice-cream for the children. Sounds fun doesn't it? So do come and support the school and the community.

Newington Nurseries	Anne Hendry
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A Cayman Islands Garden

Where are the Cayman Islands? We were frequently asked this question whilst exhibiting at this year's Chelsea Flower Show. Well, they're situated 180 miles south of Cuba and 195 miles north-west of Jamaica. And the highest point on the island is a grand 30 feet! So gardening here is a challenge as plants and gardens have to contend with the hurricane season from May to October and a dry, sunny period from November to April. But the islanders have created beautiful gardens, overcoming the vagaries of a demanding climate and the typical garden seen today is the Sand Garden.

The gardens are called Sand Gardens because of their use of white sand that is used to act as a mulch. The sand is usually swept once a week, removing any debris that has fallen from plants, using brooms made from the Small Leaf Rosemary Bush. So that the islanders can enjoy a 'White Christmas', a fresh layer of white sand is applied just before Christmas Day! The pathway to the front door is made from dead bits of coral that have been collected from the beach and this acts as a 'doorbell' – visitors footsteps on the coral create a scrunching sound as they walk towards the front door. The pathway is typically lined with conch (pronounced 'conk') shells, large and beautiful pastel-pink shells.

The focal point of the Sand Garden is the traditional Caymanian cottage, a wooden structure with a tin roof, modest in size and painted in traditional pastel colours. The garden itself is typically bordered between road and garden by a dry stone wall made from the island's limestone. White picket fences are used to mark the boundary between neighbours' properties. Usually, a wooden arch is positioned at the entrance to the garden and a climbing Rose or a Jasmine can usually be found twining its way up through the woodwork.

Cayman Island terrain consists mainly of limestone with thin layers of extremely well-drained alkaline soil dotted here and there. This is another challenge! As a result, the plants used in Sand Gardens are those that have to cope with what is above and below ground. There is usually a mix of ornamental and crop plants and the ornamental plants used are those that require very little water.

Crop plants take priority and these include Coconut Trees, Bananas, the Silver Thatch Palm (endemic to Grand Cayman and used for making rope, baskets, hats and shoes), Mango, Papaya, Plum, Cherry, Breadfruit, Tamarind and Cassava as well as smaller but equally important foodstuffs such as Sweet Potatoes, Yams, Okra, Corn, Plantains and Pumpkins. The large palms and fruit trees provide shade for the small plants underneath.

The ornamental plants include Hibiscus, Croton, Jasmine and Bromeliads (for example, the Air Plant), and some of these are placed near to windows and doors so the fragrance and colour produced by the flowers can be enjoyed. Orchids are also to be found in the gardens and around the house and the two endemic species are the Wild Banana Orchid and the Ghost Orchid.

Despite the varying climate, Caymanian gardens are filled with wonderful plants and lush vegetation that is both edible and ornamental. A bit like many UK gardens really!

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

Wednesday 2nd to Saturday 5th 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 16th and Sunday 17th 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.

Summer Club

The Bridge Group Children's Church

A Summer Club will be running from Tuesday 26th August – Friday 29th August 2008

From 9.30 am to 12.00pm each morning at the Manor in Little Wittenham.

There will be music and drama, games, craft activities and lots of fun. The stories will be about Peter; fisherman, disciple and the rock on which the early church was built. This is very appropriate as the church in Little Wittenham is dedicated to St Peter.

All children aged 4-14 from the Dorchester Team are welcome. (You do not have to be a church goer to join in.)

Please contact Janet Haylett on 407382 for more information and to book a place. Please book as soon as possible as spaces are limited.

There is no charge, but we ask for donations to our chosen charity.

Stephen Gray – Treescapes and Skylines at the 03 Gallery Oxford.

A solo exhibition of Stephen's current expressive series of ink and watercolour paintings, exploring the countryside and waterways where he lives in Oxfordshire.

All works are for sale: www.Stephengrayart.co.uk

Exhibition dates Wed.16th July – Sun.10th Aug.2008

Opening times 12pm – 5pm Tues. – Friday

11am – 4pm Sat. & Sunday.

Telephone 01865 246 131

Directions can be found at:-

<http://mail.tesco.net/do/redirect?url=http%253A%252www.03gallery.co.uk%252Fcontactphp>

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 September Mouthpiece by August 15th please, to:

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