

Mouthpiece

Culham's Newsletter No 299

Village Diary for September 2008

September:

5th Mobile Library, The Glebe 1.40pm – 1.50pm

8th Parish Council Meeting, The School 7.30pm

14th Family Communion, St. Paul's Church 10am

19th Mobile Library, The Glebe 1.40pm – 1.50pm

28th Harvest Service, St. Paul's Church 4pm

Services of Worship September 2008

Date	Time	Place	Service
SERVICES AT CULHAM IN SEPTEMBER			
Sunday 14 th	10 am	Culham	Family Communion
Sunday 28 th	4 pm	Culham	Harvest Service (Back To Church Sunday)
<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 IN SEPTEMBER			
Sunday 7 th	8 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
	10 am	Long Wittenham	Family Service
Sunday 14 th	8.30 am	Little Wittenham	Holy Communion
	10 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
Sunday 21 st	10 am	Long Wittenham	Holy Communion
Thursday 27 th	2.30 pm	Long Wittenham	Pram Service
Sunday 28 th	10 am	Clifton Hampden	TBA
	10 am	Long Wittenham	TBA
	6 pm	Little Wittenham	Harvest Service

Talking Point

Rev Anne Ilsley

Sometimes it's hard to get away from the fact that life can be very hard. It's always true that while some people are enjoying festivities, such as the current festival of sport that is the Olympics, others are suffering personal tragedy and loss. One of the things that we do each time we have a service in church is to pray for the sick by name and each week at morning prayer (8.15am on Thursdays) I do the same with those who come to join me. The sick list has been sadly full in Culham and I've taken funeral services recently for Paul Weir and Brian Sutcliffe.

Funeral services are of course an opportunity to give thanks for life and so even here thanksgiving and sorrow exist together. We will give thanks in St Paul's with a special 'Songs of Praise' service on 31st August and on 28th September we will take part in Back to Church Sunday. Back to Church Sunday is a national initiative which has proved popular in other parts of the country. Everyone should be able to feel welcome and unembarrassed in coming to church to try it out, even if you're not used to being in church. Dorchester Team Ministry have decided to join in this year and in St Paul's Culham this will coincide with Harvest Festival. You may find yourself with an invitation from a neighbour, but consider yourself invited!

We had hoped to organise for the church to be open on Saturdays, but the recent added pressure of life among active members of St Paul's has delayed this initiative. If anyone reading this would like to make a contribution to the life of St Paul's, there are a number of ways this could be done, even if you don't feel able to be at services. We would welcome help with flower arranging (as suitable for a country church!), with cleaning and with unlocking and locking the building, if we are to be able to leave it open.

We do need to help each other and this goes beyond our particular village. One of the most significant and far reaching developments in church life in local villages has been the formation of the Dorchester Team Ministry. Initially the team was set up 30 years ago, when Clifton Hampden and Burcot were included in the grouping. The Wittenhams were associated with the team with the appointment of Peter Dewey as Vicar to what has become The Bridge Group of parishes, which included Culham. The 30th anniversary of Dorchester Team Ministry is being celebrated on 21st September with a party followed by a special evensong at 6.00pm at The Abbey. Look out for the advert under 'Out and About'!

Village News

Ride and Stride - Saturday September 13th

Jean Diggins

The Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust is organising its annual "Ride & Stride" event to raise funds towards the maintenance of the County's many historic churches. Last year some £96,374 (plus £9141 in Gift Aid) was raised by the Trust. Our own Church of St. Paul has benefitted in the past from the Trust and this year we are again asking them for a grant towards essential repairs. So – please get out your bicycles or walking boots and enjoy a day out visiting as many churches as possible on this day – or maybe you could sponsor someone who is taking part. In the past our stalwart cyclists Helen & Sarah Rockall have regularly supported "Ride and Stride", and we would like to thank both them and all who sponsored them.

Further information is available from Jean Diggins, 2 Tollgate Road, Tel 520540. Help in manning the church to welcome visitors and offer refreshments on the day would also be greatly appreciated. We usually keep the church open from 10 am to 6 pm.

Paul Weir

Anne Brownson

In the summer this year the village lost a gentle man - in all senses of the word. To those of us who knew Paul in his later years he was the man with the charming smile who even when he was very frail could still produce a joke. Paul loved and understood everything about the countryside and was a joint founder of the Abingdon Naturalist Society. When, for the millennium, the village was producing a history of Culham, Paul and his wife Anne walked every inch of the parish cataloguing the wild flowers. Not surprisingly their flower garden put ours to shame and their vegetable garden was a joy to behold - and taste.

Paul had a gift for friendship, as so many testified at the service in celebration of his life. After the war Paul started his own reconciliation process in Germany, building bridges that have remained to the present day. After leaving the Army he met Anne and they married in 1951. When first married they had a smallholding with the minimum of amenities and then both became teachers, training at what is now the European School, then Culham College. A clever man, he read law and classics at Trinity College Oxford, his love of learning never left him, and he always had an apt quote or equally often an atrocious pun for every occasion.

As he became less active Paul relaxed by sewing the most beautiful tapestries, often from his own design, and we were among the friends lucky enough to be given one of these. He was equally generous with his roses and would produce one from behind his back as a gift to the ladies.

Paul leaves behind him his wife Anne, his children John Robert, Penny and Andrew, three grandsons John, David and Gregory and many, many friends who will all miss him.

Pond Clearing Sunday 19th October

Bob Cragg

Volunteers are needed to help clear the reeds on the Village Green side of the pond on Sunday 19th October, starting at about 10am. The reeds have not been cut back for a couple of years, and the pond is no longer visible from the Green. Wellies or waders are recommended as footwear, and additional garden forks and wheelbarrows would be welcomed. Contact Bob Cragg at 1 Manor Farm, Culham (Tel: Abingdon 532565).

Sutton Courtney's WI**Ann Henderson**

It was lovely to see some new faces at the July meeting. Pamela Harmen our speaker entertained us with an amusing look at life through "Odes" She really did make us all laugh with her observations of the funny side of life.

The "W.I. Summer Garden Coffee Morning" held on Saturday 26 July was hailed as a great success. The sun shone and the sky was blue, everyone enjoyed themselves in the sunshine and we raised a wonderful £270.00. Many thanks to Florence and Jim Hayden for the use of their beautiful garden for this event.

Due to the refurbishment of the Village Hall our August meeting had to be cancelled. Our next meeting is once again on the third Tuesday of the month on 16th September, in Sutton Courtenay Village Hall at 7.30pm, and we are pleased to have Erna Bage, a well-respected consultant in the Feng Shui Society. Erna's talk is entitled "Are you Happy with your Clutter – Feng Shui Explained". As usual visitors are always given a warm welcome at our meetings – so please come along and learn a little about the ancient art of Feng Shui. Could visitors please telephone 01235 848128 a couple of days before the meeting just to confirm the venue.

Sutton Courtenay WI always collects money for a local charity and this year our chosen charity is the Oxford Cancer and Haematology Centre. Last year we collected for the Air Ambulance and we were delighted to receive another certificate showing we had collected £104 for them from our collecting tin.

There are several trips and events arranged for this month and next and several of our members will be going to hear Ann Widdecombe speak at Oxford Town Hall in September and there are visits arranged to Portsmouth and Compton Verney. Future events include a trip to a Cider Museum (with tasting I hope) and a watercolour-painting workshop.

Parish Council Notes	July 2008
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The Burial Ground and surrounding area was raised in Public Participation. Principally the state of the gates and the yew hedge along with the road adjacent to the gates were of concern. (Since the meeting the gates have been re-painted). The yew hedge trimming is under discussion and the Council has been offered £300 from Morrels Trust towards the cost of road repair. This is being pursued.

It was felt that the grass cutting had improved after complaints were made about the initial cut.

Potholes in the Glebel have been repaired by OCC Highways. Additional signage, reminding cyclists to dismount at Colmoor Farm before walking along the Causeway, will be installed by OCC. OCC has also cleared the overgrown vegetation along The Burycroft and the Burycroft/High St Junction. Council will contact BCB concerning overgrown hedges on Tollgate Road, and the landowners concerning overhanging trees on the east side of The Burycroft and on High Street. The siting of new trees for the Green has been postponed until the Autumn which is a better time for planting.

Repairs to the tractor shed are being pursued after the area around the shed was cleared. Local firms will be asked for quotes.

It was noted that The Lion public house has been sold.

Date of the next meeting: Monday 8 September 7.30pm at the school.

The Following extracts are from the Parish Council Minute books, several of which were recently taken to the Oxford County Records Office for long term storage.

Parish Council notes Dec 1957 - Jun 1958:

December 1957

The Parish council agreed not to withdraw their objection to the closure of the footpath at Culham Airfield.

The precept for 1958/9 was set at £85 covering Lighting, General and Special requirements. (2008/9 precept will be £9800).

The Chair suggested requesting the County Council to change the finger post on Culham Bridge to read 'to Culham Village' and not as at present 'to Sutton Courtenay'. This was misleading as the village gets traffic of all classes having to ask the way to Sutton Courtenay when they get to the village.

Write to the District Surveyor drawing attention to the footpaths in The Glebe and between Culham Bridge and Culham Post Office (Post Office was on the corner of Burycroft and High Street).

No answer had been received from the Vicar, Rev. Halewood (?) re purchase of land for the playing field. Proposal was to write again, quoting the Church Commissioners' letter.

A suggestion was made that if County Council could meet with Dorchester Parish Council and Culham Parish Council, we would have a stronger backing to put to the Oxford Bus Company. This was agreed. (Details of the problem were not clear but presumably it was about the lack of service).

April 1958

A further letter to the District Surveyor asking for the footpaths to be repaired. Write again to OCC quoting our previous letter about the closure of the Airfield footpath and asking OCC to keep Culham Parish Council informed as to the reply from the Admiralty as we are the parent body in the Parish.

The Chairman was due to see Abingdon Borough Council about the Abingdon Bridge car park.

June 1958

An emergency meeting was called to discuss the letter received from Director of Education Oxford concerning the proposed partial closure of Culham School and the protest meeting held on 4th June 1958. Four councillors were elected to meet the Director on 17th June in Oxford to put forward our views.

Culham Pre School	Lea Allmond
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Culham Pre-School continues to provide an early years education to children of the village and surrounding areas. We currently have a full roll and a waiting list for those wishing to join us. There are many changes taking place within the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum and staff are attending training sessions in preparation for this - it will be officially used from September 2008. We continue to have very good relations with the main school and our Partnership Foundation unit is working very well. The older children from Pre-School (F1) join the foundation stage class three times a week for 'Jolly Phonic' lessons. We also join together for other activities such as cooking and outdoor play. During the summer we joined the whole school for a shared picnic lunch. This makes the transition into school much smoother for the children. Pre-School children have also enjoyed trips to Millets Farm for strawberry picking and to the indoor adventure playground 'Snakes and Ladders' as well as trips to the lock and the recreation ground.

We say goodbye and thank you for all her hard work to Sue Knox who has now retired and welcome to Mrs Anne Andrew the new head teacher from September. Goodbye also to 12 children who were moving on. We wish them well and hope they enjoy their new schools. They had a busy end of term with the whole school enjoying their visit to London to the Science Museum. The children had a great day and especially loved the interesting 'hands on' activities. Sports day was also great fun. The sun shone and the children and parents enjoyed taking part in the races followed by a picnic, ice creams and a coconut shy.

Courtyard Classics

When it's hot, and it still can be well into September, there's nothing like sitting under or amongst trees. Courtyard and urban gardens have long made a feature of compact trees and with the ranges available now so can you whatever your outdoor space is.

Use these fabulous plants to bring style, shade and vertical interest to your garden. Here are some suggestions: if your outdoor space is limited, choose from the wonderful range of foliage colours and plant shapes that *Acer palmatum* (Japanese Maple) has to offer. With more room to play with, *Carpinus* (Hornbeam) is a superb garden tree, full of character and interest through the year.

Japanese Maple is a family of small, slow growing trees or shrubs that are ideal for container growing. They're also great for establishing in the ground. They've been cultivated as ornamental trees for hundreds of years and it's easy to see why. The fantastic range of foliage effects and plant forms means that there is an *Acer palmatum* to suit almost every mood.

Acer Palmatum can be a real miniature tree – 'Garnet' will grow to just 2 metres in height and 'Corallinum' gets to around 1.2 metres. 'Crimson Queen' is another great choice with red-purple leaves on arching shoots and reaches a height of about 3 metres. All of these are perfect for container growing. Alternatively you can go for bigger cultivars like 'Bloodgood' which reaches a height and spread of roughly 5 metres.

Carpinus is perfect where there is more room and offers an interesting option if you're looking for a bigger tree. With an elegant growth habit and attractive foliage (great autumn effects), they bring a sense of style to larger spaces. The heritage of Hornbeam is more utilitarian though this doesn't take away from its beauty. The name derives from the hardness of the wood (known as 'ironwood' in America) and historically was used for wagon wheels, carving boards and tool handles.

Hornbeam usually reaches between 10 and 20 metres in height but may grow as tall as 30 metres in optimum circumstances. Common Hornbeam can reach up to 25 metres in height but 'Columnaris' grows to approximately 10 metres with a spread of 6 metres. Spire-like when young, it becomes ovoid as it matures. *Carpinus turczaninowii* is an interesting choice, reaching between 6 and 12 metres at maturity. Its leaves are glossy dark green and turn orange in autumn.

Both these tree species need fertile or moderately fertile well drained yet moist soil in sun or partial shade although some varieties of *Acer palmatum* need more shade to achieve optimum leaf colour. Both are fully hardy and need limited maintenance beyond a trim in late winter or early spring.

Newington Nurseries, Newington, Nr Stadhampton, Oxon, OX10 7AW. Tel 01865 400533
www.newington-nurseries.co.uk

Out and About

**September 19th (10.30am OR 1.30pm) – “Engineering for Life - From Cradle to Grave”
Rutherford Appleton Laboratory Talking Science Lecture**

It is important particularly with the introduction of the new diploma lines to make sure children have a clear understanding of what engineering is, what different types of engineering there are and importantly what career paths are available to them through engineering. The show is aimed at Key Stages 3 and 4. For further information please visit the website:

www.engineeringexplained.co.uk/page17g.html and to book call Elizabeth Clarke or Caroline Collard on 01235 445950 or 07919045129.

Dorchester Team’s 30th Birthday Celebration on Sunday 21st September 2008 at 3.00pm

Please come and join us as we give thanks for the life of our fellowship of Churches and look forward to the next 30 years together. The Dorchester Team was 30 years old in 2008 and we have invited past clergy to come and join us for a Service of Thanksgiving and Celebration at Dorchester Abbey. Bishop Colin will be our preacher and Canon Ray Nicholls the first Team Rector will be able to attend to share this special occasion. The service will be followed by Refreshments in the Rectory Garden. At 6.30pm there will be a service of Celebration and commitment to the future led by the Reverend Janet Russell and members of the St Andrews Church Music Group. I do hope that you will therefore encourage friends in neighbouring parishes and Teams to join us in this final act of celebration.

**Stephen Gray - 'Treescapes and the Thames' at the Vale & Downland Museum, Wantage
Opening times: Tuesday 30 September - Saturday 4 October. 10am - 4pm each day.**

Featuring the current expressive series of ink and watercolour paintings, exploring the countryside and waterways where Stephen lives in Oxfordshire. All work is for sale. I will be at the museum between 1pm - 3pm on Saturday 4 October to answer questions and discuss my approach to the work.

Website: www.stephengrayart.co.uk

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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