

The Mouthpiece

Culham's Newsletter No 301

Village Diary for November 2008

- 9th *Remembrance Service, St. Paul's Church, 10 am*
- 10th *Parish Council Meeting, The School, 7.30 pm*
- 14th *Mobile Library, The Glebe, 1.40 pm – 1.50 pm*
- 15th *Deadline for December/January Mouthpiece*
- 16th *Evening Prayer, St. Paul's Church, 6 pm*
- 27th *Christmas Shopping Evening, The School, 7 – 9 pm*
- 28th *Mobile Library, The Glebe, 1.40 pm – 1.50 pm*

Services of Worship	November 2008
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Date	Time	Place	Service
SERVICES AT CULHAM			
Sunday 9 th	10 am	Culham	Remembrance Service with Communion
Sunday 16 th	6 pm	Culham	Evening Prayer
<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			
Sunday 2 nd	8 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
	10 am	Long Wittenham	Family Service
Sunday 9 th (<i>Remembrance Sunday</i>)	8.30 am	Little Wittenham	Holy Communion
	10 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
Tuesday 11 th	11 am	Long Wittenham War Memorial & School	Act of Remembrance
Sunday 16 th	10 am	Long Wittenham	Holy Communion
Thursday 20 th	2 pm	Long Wittenham	Pram Service
Sunday 23 rd	10 am	Clifton Hampden	Family Communion
	6 pm	Long Wittenham	Evening Prayer

*Also: **Sunday 30th November at 6 pm** - Advent Carols for the Dorchester Team in the Abbey*

Village News

St Paul's Church – Cleaning & Flower Arranging for Remembrance Sunday

Please come along to the Church at 2 pm on Saturday 8th November if you are willing to help. Everyone welcome – the more the better!

Janet Bracher

Proposed Sutton Courtenay Incinerator**Paul Gibbs**

Thank you to all those in the village who signed the petition against the Incinerator. In all, 113 of us signed (by 21st October) and I will be delivering the petition to The Vale of White Horse DC office in Abingdon on 22nd October. The Council will hear the planning application for the Incinerator on **29th October**.

There are several other ways you can do more to object, and the more you can do the better. You can find information about this as well as more details about the site, size and dangers of the proposals on a website set up by the action group: www.scai.co.uk. In addition, letters to Ed Vaisey (Sutton Courtenay's MP) at the House of Commons and to Oxfordshire County Council, whose project this is, really will count. If you have not signed our village petition, it's not too late, as you can sign on-line. Details may be found on the above website.

**Culham Parochial School Christmas Shopping Evening,
Thursday 27th November, 7 pm – 9 pm**

Tickets £2.00 to include Mince Pies and Mulled Wine.

Come and do your shopping on your doorstep! Sellers to include:

Usbourne books ~ Phoenix cards ~ Traditional preserves ~ Chocoholics ~ Bodyshop ~
Handbags and crafts ~ Decorations ~ Lyn's jewels

Tickets available from Lea Allmond at Pre-School, Nikki Hillier at Main School, or on the evening. If you would like to be a seller at this event please call Lea on 01235 529236 or Nikki on 01235 848301

Proposed Reservoir**Sarah Sharpe (Thames Water)**

Thames Water launched their 'Stage 2' consultation on the proposed reservoir in January 2007. It asked for the views of local people on design, landscaping, conservation and recreation and generated over 300 responses. The consultation is now closed and a 'Statement of Response' including these comments was sent to the Department of Food and Rural Affairs. It will be considered by the Secretary of State for DEFRA, who will then decide whether to call for an inquiry or direct what changes should be made to the draft Plan. From **5th November**, you can see the Statement of Response online at www.thameswaterconsult.co.uk, or ring 0800 1078001 for a paper copy.

OCVA Good Neighbour Scheme**Liz Pride**

Good Neighbour Schemes are local voluntary groups which offer a service in their community for those in need of help and support. These may be older or disabled people, single parents, young mothers, those temporarily in need through illness, or anyone who may be isolated within the community.

The help offered by Good Neighbour Schemes may include:

- Providing transport for appointments or hospital visits
- Errands, shopping a collecting prescriptions
- Household tasks or gardening
- Visiting or befriending
- Letter-writing or simple form filling
- Helping people after discharge from hospital
- Reading to partially sighted or blind people

- Providing information

Where the scheme is available to the community it is well-used and highly valued by the residents: *“As a single woman without any family living nearby I get quite anxious whenever I get ill, wondering how I’m going to get the prescription, my shopping etc. Knowing that there is a Good Neighbour on my street that I can call if I have to have help gives me real comfort and peace of mind”*

OCVA (Oxfordshire Community and Voluntary Action) is currently running a project funded by the County Council to help local communities establish new schemes. A limited number of start-up grants are available to help communities meet the costs of setting up, e.g. buying a mobile phone, public liability cover and publicity material. For further information on these grants (available on a first-come, first-served basis) please contact **Liz Pride** on 01865 251946 or email her at liz.pride@ocva.org.uk.

Talking Point	Revd Anne Ilsley
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I wonder if it’s THE age or MY age, or my innocence, but seeing the film version of *Brideshead Revisited*, I was struck by the different things that I came away with from the film version, compared with the 1981 TV serial. I’ve had my sister Sally staying with me and so this was the perfect opportunity for a girly night out. As we came out of the cinema, we turned to each other and admitted that we’d felt great empathy with Lady Marchmain!

Now this could have been Emma Thompson’s wonderful acting and I’m sure that it helped, but while I remember her as the unsympathetic character who was the centre of all the problems in her family, now I understood her to be a mother, desperately concerned for her son and seeing in his friend Charles Ryder the one person in Sebastian’s circle who seemed steady and potentially a good influence. Because of MY age, I was viewing the story from a mother’s point of view and moreover as the mother of a son....

Perhaps it was my innocence. I can’t remember being very exercised by the issue of homosexuality in the TV adaptation, nor again this time, though it seemed more obvious to me. Perhaps it was simply a more live issue in 1945 when Evelyn Waugh’s story was published, but would this have been the more troubling thing to Lady Marchmain, or was it Sebastian’s drinking, and dissolute lifestyle which pained her so?

Before I saw the film I’d heard at least one reviewer questioning the meaningfulness of a story about class and religion (more specifically the Roman Catholic faith) for today, but I would say that the concerns of THE age are explored. The condensing of an epic tale has allowed some changes, but for me this time, I felt less sympathy with Charles Ryder’s lack of understanding for the Marchmain’s faith. Or rather I felt the fact of their faith and the way it ultimately governed their moral choices was treated with more sympathy.

There is a critique to be made of fundamentalist faith and we may feel that this traps people rather than guiding them. But in an age when so called militant atheism also exists, it seems to me that the film does deal with what is a live issue. Certainly scriptwriter Jeremy Brock thought that fundamentalist faith versus those governed by conscience alone, was something worth revisiting¹. Perhaps *Brideshead Revisited* was more thought provoking to me because I’m older and more thoughtful myself.

I would certainly argue that thinking through the values that guide us, as well as those that guide other people is helpful. Learning to empathise is a good thing, but were Sally and I too sympathetic to Lady Marchmain? We have recently started an Emmaus course at Dorchester Guest House, which is aimed at helping people to ask and answer questions about Christian

faith. I believe that Christian faith should inform our consciences, giving us good guidance in how to live our lives. There is much to make us think, question and discuss!

Telegraph.co.uk 13/09/2008 'Brideshead Revisited: Sacred and Profane'

Parish Council Notes	October 2008
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There has been no contact from OCC regarding our request to meet and discuss traffic calming measures in the village. Council will continue to press for a meeting, particularly in the light of concerns raised by the School Governors.

Signs have been put up on the end of the cycle path from the Waggon and Horses to Abingdon (at Colmoor farm) reminding cyclists to dismount and not cycle along the Causeway.

Trees for The Green and The Glebe are likely to be planted in November.

Access to the burial ground, and its improvement, is ongoing with requests being made to a local company for materials for the job of 'repairing' the road around the burial ground.

The tractor shed on the playing field is due for repair during October.

The gate to the playing field and items of equipment in the play area has been repainted.

From the District Councillor

From October 1st, new planning rules have meant that small extensions and minor alterations may not need planning permission (but are still covered by building regulations). For details please phone 01491 823000 for more information or see the web site www.planningportal.gov.uk/uploads/hhg/houseguide.html

The boundary commission has said that there will be no review of the boundary between Oxford City and SODC (the green belt area south of Grenoble Road) until at least 2009.

SEERA is undertaking a consultation about Gipsy sites in the area of SODC until the 21st November.

SODC has been voted the 11th best council to work for (out of an unspecified number) by the staff working there.

Date of next meeting: Monday 10th November 2008, 7:30 pm at the school.

Culham Pre School	Lea Allmond
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The children have all been enjoying our beautiful autumn weather: we have collected leaves and used these for various craft activities. We have celebrated the Michaelmas Fair in Abingdon by making our own toffee apples and popcorn!

With Guy Fawkes' night approaching we shall be making rockets and bonfire displays.

On 23rd October we shall be opening the Pre-School along with the main School for you to come and have a look around and see the lovely work the children do. We look forward to seeing you.

We are now at the end of my first half-term at Culham Parochial Church of England Primary School. I choose to use the full name for our school as I believe that it perfectly describes what we as a school are about – educating children within a Christian setting.

This was clearly evident when the children presented their prepared items at the Harvest Festival service. The Key Stage 1 children sang a song of thanks about fruit and vegetables and showed us their own special paintings. The Key Stage 2 children used the letters in the word HARVEST to make other words and then offered brief comments on the relevance of these words in today's world. This type of activity gives us an indication as to the importance to our children of events, both locally and further afield, and the way in which they view the world. The harvest gifts were distributed around the village and children and villagers had a brief time to chat to each other, helping just a little to break down pre-conceived ideas that people, young and old, have about the 'other generation'.

As we return from our October break the nights are drawing in and we begin to prepare for the Christmas season, one of the main seasons in the Church's year. Our Christmas Bazaar will be held in the afternoon of **Friday 5th December**. Our Carol Service in Church will be on **Wednesday 10th December** in the afternoon, for anyone who can't make the evening service the following evening. Our annual 'Carols and Tea' will be on **Tuesday 16th December**. I am giving you these dates now as diaries get so full at this time of year. The Parents and Friends Association also have some events planned in preparation for Christmas.

The toy sale organised by our children and the cycle ride undertaken by Judith Keymer along with friends and family, raised an astonishing total of £412.40 for SSNAP. We thank everyone who supported this very worthwhile cause, making an excellent start to our Charity of the Year.

Our activities are certainly very varied as we continue to enable our children to become responsible citizens. To this end we strive to maintain and promote high academic standards as well as attitudes and values within our school community fit for our modern society.

News from Newington Nurseries

Plant a Tree

Trees are powerful symbols of life in many parts of the world and planting them is a statement of commitment to the future. This month we are urging everyone to plant a tree. In your garden, at your child's school, on the village green or community space – look about you and decide where would benefit from a new tree.

Now is the perfect time for tree planting, even better than spring, because trees planted now will have all winter to settle into their new homes before bursting into life when longer days and higher temperatures return. Try to pick a time when the ground is drier because although trees (like all plants) need to be watered-in, most don't like being waterlogged!

So you've decided on the place where your new tree is going, what's it to be? *Sorbus aucuparia* otherwise known as European Rowan or Mountain Ash is a brilliant choice for a whole range of locations. A vigorous, hardy, deciduous little tree that is native to most of Europe, the Mountain Ash looks wonderful in many different situations. As well as being a beautiful shape, this tree bears attractive flowers in spring followed in late summer by glorious berries that ripen as autumn approaches. If you get to them before the birds (redwings, fieldfares, thrushes and blackbirds find them irresistible), you can make a delicious tart jelly that is the perfect accompaniment to lamb, venison or game.

It goes without saying that the Mountain Ash is hardy – look at where it comes from. It's very tolerant of cold and is often found at high altitude in the mountains. In France it can be found as high as 2000 metres. It can also do well on thin acid soils – look at how it grows out of cracks in rocks. But what comes as a surprise to many is the excellent pollution resistance that this tree has, making it a superb choice for urban situations.

On the history of the tree, our forebears regarded it as the possessor of anti-witching qualities and planting them around a garden or village was believed to ward off evil spirits. The wood of the Mountain Ash was also used for making bows and more recently for tool handles, mallet heads, bowls and platters – any purpose requiring a hard wood.

The Mountain Ash can attain a height and spread of approximately 15 metres by 7 metres respectively although it can be pruned to keep it within desired dimensions. It requires very little maintenance.

Anne Hendry, Newington Nurseries, Newington, Nr Stadhampton, Oxon, OX10 7AW – Tel 01865 400533 or see www.newington-nurseries.co.uk

Out and About

A Musical Banquet: concert in aid of the Friends of Dorchester Abbey on **1st November at 7.30 pm**. Early Vocal and Instrumental music by Dowland, Purcell and their contemporaries, interspersed with period anecdotes, featuring Countertenor, Harpsichord, Viola Gambia and Baroque Guitar. *Tickets £10 from Susan Jupp 01865 341066, information www.musical-banquet.co.uk*

Wed 19th to Sat 22nd November at 7.30 pm. Abingdon Drama Club presents “Pride and Prejudice” adapted from the novel by Jane Austen, at the UNICORN THEATRE, Medieval Abbey Buildings, Abingdon. Tickets: £7 (concessions £6) from The Bookstore, Abingdon Precinct, or Ticketline on 01235 524538.

Talking Science: Rutherford Appleton Laboratory Lecture ‘Galaxy Zoo’ by **Dr Chris Lintott** **Friday November 21st, 10.30 am, 1.30 pm & 7 pm (Age 14+)**

The Galaxy Zoo project harnesses the power - and spare time - of more than 160,000 Internet users to sort through images of distant galaxies. Chris will discuss this project and explain how the internet is allowing the general public to work alongside professional scientists.

To reserve seats please email stfctalkingscience@rl.ac.uk or ring 01235 445959.

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 December/January issue of The Mouthpiece by November 15th please, to:

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