

The Mouthpiece

Culham's Newsletter No 302

Village Diary for December 2008

- 5th Christmas Bazaar - The School, 3.15 pm*
- 8th Parish Council Meeting - The School, 7.30 pm*
- 10th School Carol Service Rehearsal, St Paul's, 1.30 pm*
- 11th School Carol Service, St Paul's, 6.30 pm*
- 12th Mobile Library - The Glebe, 1.40 pm - 1.50 pm*
- 14th Family Communion - St. Paul's Church, 10 am*
- 16th Tea & Carols, The School, 2.00 pm*
- 21st Annual Carol Service - St. Paul's Church, 6 pm*
- 25th Christmas Day Communion - Paul's Church, 10 am*

Village Diary for January 2009

- 9th Mobile Library - The Glebe, 1.40 pm - 1.50 pm*
- 11th Family Communion - St. Paul's Church, 10 am*
- 15th Deadline for February's Mouthpiece*
- 18th Evening Prayer - St. Paul's Church, 6pm*
- 23rd Mobile Library - The Glebe, 1.40 pm - 1.50 pm*

**Services of Worship
2009**
December 2008 & January

Date	Time	Place	Service
DECEMBER SERVICES AT CULHAM			
Sunday 14 th	10 am	Culham	Family Communion
Sunday 21 st	6 pm	Culham	Carol Service
Thursday 25 th	10 am	Culham	Christmas Day Communion
DECEMBER SERVICES AT CLIFTON HAMPDEN, THE WITTENHAMS, etc			
Sunday 7 th	8 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
	10 am	Long Wittenham	Christingle
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
	6 pm	Clifton Hampden	Carol Service
Wednesday 24 th <i>Christmas Eve</i>	6 pm	Long Wittenham	Carol Service
	6 pm	Little Wittenham	Carol Service
	11.30 pm	Clifton Hampden	Midnight Communion
Thursday 25 th <i>Christmas Day</i>	10 am	Long Wittenham	Holy Communion
Sunday 28 th	10.30 am	Marsh Baldon	Team Service
JANUARY SERVICES AT CULHAM			
Sunday 11 th	10 am	Culham	Family Communion
Sunday 18 th	6 pm	Culham	Evening Prayer
JANUARY SERVICES AT CLIFTON HAMPDEN & THE WITTENHAMS			
Sunday 4 th	8 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
	10 am	Long Wittenham	Family Service
Sunday 11 th	8.30 am	Little Wittenham	Holy Communion
	10 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
Sunday 18 th	10 am	Long Wittenham	Holy Communion
Thursday 22 nd	2.30 pm	Long Wittenham	Pram Service
Sunday 25 th	10 am	Clifton Hampden	Family Communion
	6 pm	Long Wittenham	Evening Prayer

Join us for coffee and a chat after Sunday morning services at Culham Church! All welcome. Come along for informal prayers with Revd Anne Ilsley at Culham Church on Thursday mornings, 8.15 - 9.00 am.

Village News

Merry Christmas!

The editors would like to thank all those who have contributed to, and delivered, *The Mouthpiece* this year for their help. We wish all our readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

St Paul's Church – Cleaning & Flower Arranging for December

Janet Bracher

Please come along to the Church at **2 pm** on **Saturday 13th December** if you are willing to help. Everyone welcome – the more the better! Thank you to all those who helped in November – the church positively sparkled!

Christmas Services at St Paul's

The annual **Carol Service** will be at **6 pm** on **Sunday 21st December**, followed by refreshments. Do come and join our celebrations! On **Christmas Day** there will be Holy Communion at 10 am.

Sutton Courtenay Against The Incinerator (SCAI)

Paul Gibbs

The Vale of White Horse District Council unanimously rejected plans for the incinerator on 27th October. However, the final decision will be taken by Oxfordshire County Council (OCC), it is believed in April, although OCC Planning Dept. will be considering the plans before then.

You can still sign the on-line petition organized by Sutton Courtenay Against Incinerator at www.scai.co.uk. Please also consider writing to your County Councillor and MP.

The latest version of the signed petition, which includes many signatures from Culham residents, was personally presented to a full OCC meeting, on 4th November along with a note of the following reasons why 97% of Culham residents contacted signed it:

FIRST, and most important, it will create a health hazard. There has been no independent evaluation that the combined effect of the Didcot Power Stations and the Incinerator will be safe. Waste incineration causes air pollution over at least a 12 miles radius in the form of fine particles of toxic metals and known carcinogens, mutagens and hormone disruptors which are a serious threat to human health [infant deaths, cardio-pulmonary disease and cancer]. [Since the petition was signed, WRG [the proposed contractor] has produced a Human Health Hazard Risk Assessment which SCAI is now studying].

SECOND, it is unjust. Why must such a beautiful area which already suffers from the pollution from the Didcot Power Stations have to suffer even more.

THIRD, people are worried that a 300,000 tonnes per annum incinerator with a site measuring almost 4 kilometres by 2 kilometres is bigger than Oxfordshire needs and that it will be used to dump non-Oxfordshire waste. When the European country which incinerates the most only incinerates 32% of its municipal waste, why does Oxfordshire need an incinerator to burn 60%?

FOURTH, when the whole world is trying to emit less noxious fumes, why is OCC moving in the opposite direction? People are worried that OCC have allowed the important decision about the county's principal method of waste disposal to be made by the market [ie the contractors bidding for the job] on commercial grounds. They feel OCC should make this decision itself, with health being the main criterion, not what is most profitable for contractors.

New Advertiser

Mike Harvey - 'Arbocare'

This month we have a new advertiser on page 7. Mike Harvey is a tree surgeon trading as **Arbocare**. He trims trees and hedges, removes trees and plants new ones: he can also supply

woodchip dressings and mulches for your garden. He reminds us how important it is for customers to see a copy of a tree surgeon's insurance & health & safety policy. Not all tree surgeons operate quite so stringently, which means that their insurance would be invalid if a customer needed to make a claim against them.

Christmas Cards

Cathy Gray

A reminder that Christmas cards sold in support of **Cancer Research UK** and **Children's Hospices UK** are now available at 6 High Street, Culham. Cathy has a great selection in stock together with gorgeous giftwrap and everyday cards as well. Just give her a call on 01235 533370 or pop in.

Culham Parish Council (CPC) Notes	November 2008 Meeting
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A large part of the meeting concerned the incidence of speeding traffic in the village and possible measures to counter it. Peter Ronald of OCC Highways attended and explained the overall situation in the County regarding speeding and traffic. Essentially there is nothing that can be done by OCC to reduce speeding in the village which is down mainly to budget priorities. Since 2006 the budget has been re-prioritised which is why surrounding villages have schemes as they were put in place before then. Since Culham is not an accident blackspot, i.e. no serious injuries have occurred, it is a low priority.

He mentioned a speed survey which had been carried out on Tollgate Road and showed 'no significant speeding' (CPC now has this information and will be studying the numbers - it was carried out over a Mon to Fri period in early October 2007). According to ACPO (Association of Chief Police Officers) speeds in excess of the limit by 10% + 2mph are considered 'acceptable', so presumably anything up to 35mph in the village is allowed - even when there is a police presence.

Traffic calming schemes are not considered for low priority areas even if a school travel plan has raised concerns about traffic in the vicinity - again it depends on budget availability and accident rates. Also we were told that even if Parish Councils offer to pay for schemes they would not be allowed.

CPC was given a contact name for problems with road maintenance and will be chasing the pavement maintenance at The Lock along with the state of the road surface there. (Since the meeting a notice has gone up on Tollgate Road, beyond High Street saying the road will be closed on 23rd Nov - this may mean some maintenance is due to be carried out!)

The chairman agreed to contact the school with the results of the meeting as they had raised concerns about traffic.

Other news:

Two trees have been planed on The Green. One is a sorbus and the other an english oak. The latter has been paid for by a donation from The History Group which has now been wound up.

CPC expects to arrange delivery of several tonnes of aggregate material to help repair the roads around the burial ground, particularly the approach.

Work has started on repairs to the shed on the playing field.

OCC has written to the land owner concerning the state of several trees on the Causeway.

Date of next meeting: Monday 8th December, 7:30 pm at the school.

Culham Parochial School	Anne Andrew
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It always seems in schools that we have to begin Christmas preparations long before we reach the festive season itself. The children have begun learning Christmas songs and carols ready for our **Carol Service in St Paul's Church on 11th December, for Carols and Tea in School on Tuesday 16th December** and also for singing outside Tesco. If you are unable to get to the Carol Service you are welcome to attend our final rehearsal in Church on **Wednesday 10th December at 1:30.p.m.** Our **Christmas Bazaar will be held from 3.15pm on Friday 5th December** - gifts, refreshments, games, raffle and lots more including a visit from Father Christmas - everyone welcome.

Sunday 16th November was 'Shoebox' Sunday when we encouraged our children to think about those less fortunate than themselves. A number of services were held in the area where our families were able to take shoeboxes which they had filled with gifts. These are now to be shipped to developing countries or to those troubled by war or natural disasters and handed out to children during the Christmas season.

We have some other exciting events planned over the next few weeks including the pantomime in January, a visit by Welsh National Opera for the older children and a workshop and concert in the Jacqueline Dupré Centre for the younger children. We have a variety of PE specialists also visiting in order to pass on their skills and enthusiasm to the children.

We are not only looking forward to Christmas but also further on towards the summer Term. In the week commencing July 6th we are going to hold a curriculum week with the broad theme of 'TEXTILES'. It would be lovely if some of the members of our parish could be involved in this with us. Does anyone have any skills they could share with us for at least a small part of that week? Skills could be simply knitting or crocheting – skills that are largely overlooked in today's busy world and will soon be lost if we don't encourage our young children to learn them. Skills could be more unusual or adventurous, for example, working with wood, clay or another medium. You may have photographs or artefacts of related skills or samples you would be prepared to share with us. You would not be expected to run activities by yourself but could work alongside members of staff or other parents. Please let me know if you think you can help in any way, however small.

Culham Pre-School	Lee Allmond
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The children have recently enjoyed a wonderful Autumn fundraising event where everyone had lots of fun games to play and delicious hotdogs, soup and hot chocolate to indulge in. Monies raised were for the Pre-School and also for Children in Need - well done and thank you to all who supported this event.

We are now looking forward to Christmas with lots of glittery crafts and festive cooking. The children are busy writing invites to a very special person whom they hope will come along to their Christmas party!!

May we take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Peaceful 2009.

Celebrate Christmas with plants this year! Use them as decorations inside and out; give them as gifts to friends, family and neighbours. Most of all, enjoy plants and nature this winter, and if your garden falls a little short of perfect, plan some planting now that will lift it for next winter.

Using plants as living decorations helps us to get back to some of the roots of the Christmas celebration. Our ancestors understood the symbolic and practical significance of foliage and berries in the bleak mid-winter and the deep-seated responses that we still have to plants means that wonderful displays awaken in us feelings of comfort and well-being.

Considering plants as 'Christmas crackers' also includes giving them as gifts. A beautiful shrub in a stylish pot is a fabulous way of showing you care and anyone with outside space (even a balcony!) will benefit from a gift like this.

What qualities does a plant need to make it great for winter interest or as a living decoration or gift? It must be hardy and attractive, even during the most hostile weather of the year. It must exhibit exciting visual features like colourful foliage and it helps if it's a low maintenance plant because the winter garden really needs to be able to look after itself.

Evergreen *Leucothoe* species, including *Leucothoe* SCARLETTA 'Zebliid', are an excellent choice. 'Zebliid' has beautiful foliage – long, slim, glossy leaves that turn burgundy and bronze in autumn and winter. Although it can reach to between 1 and 2m in height, if it's kept trimmed, it will form a lovely dome-shaped mound and can work very well as a ground cover plant. It thrives in acid soil so if you want to grow it in pots and containers, make sure you use ericaceous compost. A small evergreen shrub such as *Leucothoe* SCARLETTA planted in a container is excellent for use on a patio, roof terrace or small garden. It can work well as a focal point or as part of a group of containers.

So whether it's to brighten up the dash out of the house in the morning, improve the view from the window or make those forays into the garden on fine days more enjoyable, let's all get more winter interest into our gardens this year. Whatever plants you choose to help you do this, *Leucothoe* SCARLETTA will get you off to a great start.

For further inspiration and advice, visit us at Newington Nurseries, Newington, Nr Stadhampton, Oxon, OX10 7AW. Tel: 01865 400533. www.newington-nurseries.co.uk

Out & About in December & January

Beautiful Music Horrible Sounds - The Battle of the Bands II by Steve Mesure Friday December 12th, 1.30 pm / 7.00 pm for 7 year olds+

This is a show about getting into the X Factor and breaking World Records. Steve Mesure - science communicator, physicist, physical theatre practitioner and budding star-maker - will use sound science and engineering to give two terrible groups a make-over.

'Phluffy Nice' is a classic girl-boy duet group while 'Grim Reaper' is a close harmony group. Steve explores whether technology could have the potential to make or break their bid for fame and fortune. The show will explore what sound is and how it is made; frequency, pitch and hearing ranges as well as different types of noise. Demonstrations to show how wind instruments work will include the worlds largest whoopee cushion with a diameter of 3.05m.

To reserve seats for any Talking Science - Rutherford Appleton Laboratory Lectures please either email stfctalkinciscience@rl.ac.uk or telephone the talking science booking line 01235 445959.

Age Concern Carol Service**Mary Daniel**

Age Concern Oxfordshire invites all older people, their families, carers and those who work with and for them to a Carol Service to be held on Tuesday 9th December, 2.00pm at Christchurch Cathedral, Oxford. The service will follow the traditional format of lessons and carols with singing led by the Christ Church Cathedral Senior School Choir and the Worcester College Chapel Choristers, with the Bishop of Ebbsfleet, Rt Rev Andrew Burnham officiating. There will be a shuttle minibus from Redbridge Park & Ride.

For more information or to RSVP, please contact Kerry Bateman at, Age Concern Oxfordshire, St Edmund House, 39 West St Helen Street, Abingdon, Oxon, OX14 5BW. Email: kerrybateman@ageconcernoxon.org.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 February issue of The Mouthpiece by January 15th please, to:

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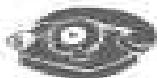
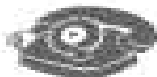
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