

# **The Mouthpiece**

*Culham's Newsletter No 314*

*Village Diary for March 2010*

- 5<sup>th</sup> Mobile Library - The Glebe, 1.40 - 1.50 pm*
- 8<sup>th</sup> Parish Council Meeting - The School, 7.30 pm*
- 14<sup>th</sup> Family Communion - St. Paul's Church, 10 am*
- 15<sup>th</sup> Deadline for April's Mouthpiece*
- 19<sup>th</sup> Mobile Library - The Glebe, 1.40 - 1.50 pm*
- 21<sup>st</sup> Evening Prayer - St. Paul's Church, 6 pm*
- 26<sup>th</sup> Quiz Night at the School 7.30pm*

Date	Time	Place	Service
<b>SERVICES AT CULHAM</b>			
Sunday 14th	10 am	Culham	Family Communion
Sunday 21st	6 pm	Culham	Evening Prayer
<i>Join us for coffee and a chat after Sunday 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 - 9.00 am.</i>			
<b>SERVICES ELSEWHERE</b>			
Sunday 7th	8 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
	10 am	Long Wittenham	Family Service & Baptism
Sunday 14th (Mothering Sunday)	10 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
	10 am	Long Wittenham	Mothering Sunday Service
	6 pm	Long Wittenham	Evening Prayer
Sunday 21st	10 am	Long Wittenham	Holy Communion
Sunday 28th (Palm Sunday)	8.30 am	Little Wittenham	Holy Communion
	10 am	Clifton Hampden	Family Communion

By the time you come to read this we will probably be some two weeks into Lent, heading towards Mothering Sunday which comes almost exactly halfway through Lent. That is why it used sometimes to be called "Refreshment Sunday", a time when it was OK to take a breather from Lenten disciplines. In this more secular age when Lenten disciplines are largely ignored by our society and Mothering Sunday has been transformed into "Mothers Day", an American invention, which will be observed, depending on which country you live in, on either the first or second Sunday in May, perhaps the idea of a break from Lent is not necessary. MOTHERING SUNDAY is on March 14<sup>th</sup>.



So how are you observing Lent? Perhaps the question should be, "Are you observing Lent?" Is it by some sort of token nod to "discipline" by giving up chocolate, or walking instead of taking the car for short journeys? I sometimes think we ought, not to "give something up" for Lent, but to take something on.

For example there is, once again this year, a series of Lenten lunches, ably organised by Anne Walsh and spread across the three parishes of the Bridge Group. The first one in March is on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> at Rye Farm House Culham, the following Wednesday it is at Church Farm, Long Wittenham, and so on every Wednesday throughout March. Any time between noon and 2pm you can sample delicious home-made soups at no charge but make a donation (£3 minimum) to your choice of one of two charities, either PACT (Parents And Children Together) which is a local charity, or to the work of the South African Diocese of Kimberley and Kuruman.

Or again, you might like to join a house group – discussing a book written by the Bishop of Reading, “Things He Carried”. You do not need to buy a copy of the book, although it is quite inexpensive and contains more than can be discussed in a short series of meetings, but you may feel sufficiently interested to buy your own copy and read more. Stretch your mind a little, learn something new, come along and share with your neighbours ideas put forward by the Bishop and by others in your group.

Yet again you might like to consider coming to church services a little more frequently than you usually do. Sunday is the obvious time when the “main” services are held, but perhaps you might like to join the dozen or so of us who meet for an informal Communion at 9.30 on Wednesday morning in Berinsfield Church. Or again Anne and I say Morning Prayer in the various churches of our Group weekday mornings at 8 or 8.30am. If you would like to join us, we would welcome your company.

Then again on Maundy Thursday the congregations of the Bridge churches and the Abbey meet in Dorchester Abbey in the evening for a meal and re-enactment of the Last Supper. This is a very moving, but simple, act of worship. Good Friday services are observed in Long Wittenham, Clifton Hampden and Dorchester Abbey. Then on Easter Day at 10am there are joyful services of Holy Communion in Clifton Hampden, Culham and Long Wittenham. In “the old days” it was considered obligatory to take Communion on Easter Day. It would be really great if all our churches were full to overflowing to celebrate the Resurrection.

Have a thought provoking Lent and a joyful Easter.

### **The Bridge Group of Churches - Lent Lunches & Groups**

Please come along and enjoy a simple healthy lunch of **SOUP, BREAD and CHEESE, FAIRTRADE BISCUITS, TEA or COFFEE**. You will be very welcome to join us at the following addresses **between 12 noon & 2.00 pm**.

**Wednesday 3rd March** at Rye Farm House, Culham. (c/o Janet & Stephen Beaumont)

**Wednesday 10th March**, Church Farm, High Street Long Wittenham (c/o Sue & Richard Kewish)

**Wednesday 17th March**, The Pool Room, in the grounds of The Manor House, Little Wittenham (c/o Lady Audrey & Sir Martin Wood - *please park behind the Church*)

**Wednesday 24th March**, the Old Farmhouse, High Street Long Wittenham (c/o Ruth McCreight)

**Wednesday 31st March**, the Vicarage, High Street Long Wittenham (c/o Revd Anne Ilsley)

Minimum donation is £3 per person. All proceeds go to the two charities mentioned in David Haylett’s article above. For more information please ring Anne Walsh on 01865 407249 or Janet Haylett on 01805 407382

**LENT GROUPS** are being held in all the Bridge Group parishes. In **Culham**, we will be meeting on **Tuesday afternoons at 25 High Street** (c/o Brian & Janet Bracher) starting at **2 pm**. Four meetings are planned – **2nd, 9th, 16th & 23rd March**.

### **Village News**

#### **The Mouthpiece – Help!**

How much do you value your **Mouthpiece**? As we have just lost one of our editors, we would really like some occasional help with editing the newsletter. If you can use Microsoft WORD and Email on a PC, then you could do it. For more information, please contact Brian on **525885** (email [brian@thebrachers.com](mailto:brian@thebrachers.com)), and help to keep your Village Newsletter going.

**Brian Bracher**

**Home-Start Valuation Day****Lynn Hancock**

Bonham's Valuation Day, in aid of Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire, will be held on **24th March**, from **10 am to 1 pm**, at **Didcot Civic Hall**, Britwell Road, Didcot. Dig out your treasures and bring them along for valuation by Bonham's - auctioneers and valuers since 1793. The cost of valuing 2 items is £5.00 and £1.00 per subsequent item. Refreshments are also available. **For more information, please contact Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire on 01235 511152.**

*Home-Start is a voluntary organisation offering support, friendship and practical help to families with children under five. Being a parent is not easy whatever your situation and many parents feel exhausted and overwhelmed by the stresses of family life. There are often times when it helps to have a friend to turn to and talk with. Could you spare 2-3 hours a week to visit a family? We are holding a Preparation Course for new volunteers in the Spring: to find out more please call Hilary or Lynn on 01235 511152.*

**School Quiz Night****Cathy Gray**

**Culham School** is hosting a **Quiz Night** on **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30 pm**. Refreshments will be served and all are very welcome. For more information please ring the school on 01235 521 766

**St Paul's Church - Saturday Opening****Culham PCC**

In common with the other churches in the Bridge Group, we are leaving St Paul's Church open on Saturdays from 11 am to 5 pm, for the benefit of visitors or those who would just like a few quiet moments.

**CULHAM PLANT SALE & CHURCH FETE****Brian & Janet Bracher**

The 2010 Plant Sale will be held on **Saturday 15th May**. A meeting for helpers (with snack lunch) will be held at **25 High Street**, Culham on **Saturday 13th March** starting at **12 noon**. If you want to help before, during or after the Plant Sale, you are warmly invited to come along. New volunteers especially welcome!

**Oxfordshire Rural Community Council**

*We received two flyers about EMERGENCY OIL SUPPLIES from Oxfordshire Rural Community Council during the recent snowy weather. We're printing details here for future reference (in case it returns!)*

Are you running short of heating oil or finding it hard to find a supplier? Emergency oil top-up supplies are available (80 – 200 litres) - for details please contact Oxfordshire Rural Community Council. Please ring **01865 883488** or email [orcc@oxonrcc.org.uk](mailto:orcc@oxonrcc.org.uk)

Many people are now getting to the very end of their supply of heating oil because of the recent snow – and because suppliers are still not able to meet orders. ORCC are working with others to try to help make sure no-one runs out of oil altogether. However they need volunteers to help with small 'top-up' emergency deliveries and your help to tell people about this service! For details contact ORCC on **01865 883488** or email [orcc@oxonrcc.org.uk](mailto:orcc@oxonrcc.org.uk)

**Parish Council Notes: February's meeting****Andrew Steele****Erratum**

In last month's notes, it was indicated that OCC would be supporting Viridor in their appeal against being refused planning permission for the incinerator at Ardley. In fact OCC will be supporting the planning committee decision to refuse the permission.

**From SODC**

Nothing to report

**From OCC**

The public enquiry about the Ardley incinerator planning permission refusal appeal will be held in September.

The tyre recycling operation at number 4 site at JET has been refused as the company involved has failed to agree to the 106 agreement concerning the layout of the site.

The local transport 3rd edition has offered Culham the chance of several traffic reglating measures. Of those offered CPC have requested further consultation on

- 1) A mini roundabout at The Glebe
- 2) An illuminating speed sign on the A415
- 3) A cycle/foot bridge over the railway line north of the rail station

**Clerk's report**

A new set of Standing Orders from NALC will be discussed by CPC at the next meeting

Administration of the burial ground requires that a plot of the site is prepared showing the plot locations

A quote for a new approach slope in the burial ground has been received. It is over the limit at which one off quotes can be accepted, therefore further quotes are necessary

With regard to a remembrance service on November 11th this year, both the school and the vicar have given favourable responses.

Traffic speeding figures for Tollgate Road and High Street have been received from the OCC. These will be assessed.

A meeting on the Minerals and Waste Development Framework will be attended by CPC

Finally, CPC would like to remind villagers that they should not park on or obstruct any part of the village green, thank you.

**Next meeting: Monday 8 March 2010 at 7.30pm at the school.**

<b>Newington Nurseries - Oranges and Lemons</b>	<b>Anne Hendry</b>
---	--------------------

Citrus plants are sub-tropical and tropical evergreen shrubs, and despite their exotic appearance, are easy to grow at home. This beautiful evergreen plant provides year-round interest: white, highly fragrant flowers are followed by tasty fruits which take between 3 and 6 months to fully ripen.

Citrus has long been in cultivation, both the fruits and leaves being used in foods and medicines over many centuries. The first recorded Citrus plant in the UK was *Citrus aurantium* (Seville Orange), brought from South East Asia to these shores in the late 16<sup>th</sup> century. By the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century, lemons (*C. limon*) and limes (*C. aurantifolia*) were being used by the Royal Navy to help sailors combat scurvy.

There are around 16 species within the Citrus family, covering oranges, lemons, limes, grapefruits and their hybrids. All will perform well in pots and most are self-pollinating. Fruits start to ripen in autumn or early winter depending on the cultivar. For example, tangerines will ripen by winter but grapefruits can take up to eighteen months to mature.

All varieties of Citrus will need re-potting every few years, either into larger containers or by cutting back the outer roots and re-potting with fresh and free-draining compost (add

horticultural sand or grit to improve drainage). A third of the canopy should be cut back annually and any damaged or dead stems removed. To improve crop quality, excess fruits can also be removed.

The optimum minimum temperature for Citrus is around 10°C although short bursts of temperatures as low as 2°C should not harm the plant as long as the soil is not wet. In fact, Citrus needs to be in a cool environment during the winter months to allow the plant to rest.

Citrus will tolerate high summer temperatures provided there is good airflow around the plant. Open the conservatory on a hot day. Better still, move the plant outside during the summer months. Acclimatise the plant first by moving it to a sheltered and shady position for 2 to 3 weeks then reposition into a sunny and sheltered area. When autumn arrives, move to a shady area in the garden for a couple of weeks then bring back indoors for the winter months. This will minimise stress on the leaves.

Citrus plants should be watered frequently but not excessively and frequency of watering depends on the soil composition and ambient temperatures. Generally speaking, water well in a warm summer and reduce watering to a minimum in the winter months. A good indicator of incorrect watering is leaf colour and texture. Soft, yellow leaves indicate over-watering whilst dry, yellow leaves that easily fall off the plant indicate under-watering.

Although Citrus can tolerate most soil conditions, they prefer a slightly acid medium. Established plants are less prone to disease problems than younger plants although scale and aphids can be an issue in a greenhouse or conservatory environment. Control any outbreaks of this nuisance with a horticultural soap (a highly refined soap made from natural oils which acts as a contact insecticide with no residual effects once it has dried) spray.

Lack of nutrients turns the leaves chlorotic (parts of the leaves turn white or yellow) so it is important to feed Citrus plants during the growing period. Use a specific citrus feed which contains the correct balance of trace elements.

So enjoy your lemons and limes in gins and tonics and your oranges and grapefruits in marmalades or desserts!

**Newington Nurseries, Newington, Nr Stadhampton, Oxon, OX10 7AW**  
Tel 01865 400533    [www.newington-nurseries.co.uk](http://www.newington-nurseries.co.uk)

## Out & About

**The NORTHMOOR TRUST has an exciting range of traditional craft workshops this coming spring.** Please meet at Hill Farm, Little Wittenham for all events. Booking is required for all events except for our lambing weekends. To reserve your place phone 01865 407792 or email [admin@northmoortrust.co.uk](mailto:admin@northmoortrust.co.uk)

### **Basket Weaving Workshop: Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March 10.30am – 4.30pm**

Come and weave your own truly unique basket. Please bring secateurs and a penknife if you have them. Adults £50 and Friends £40

### **Lambing Weekends: March 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> /28<sup>th</sup> 10am – 4pm**

Come and see our new born lambs! Learn about life on the farm, chat to our farmers and have a go at farm activities. (A small entrance fee applies)

### **RUTHERFORD APPLETON LABORATORY: 'TALKING SCIENCE' LECTURE**

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March 1.30pm and 7.00pm (Audience 14+)**

**'Darwin's Islands by Dr. David Robertson**

*The islands of the Galapagos archipelago are credited with providing the stimulus to Charles Darwin to develop his theory of evolution by means of natural selection. The*

wildlife of the islands is 'eminently curious', as he wrote in his journal, but is now facing a variety of threats. What does the future hold for Darwin's Islands?

To book an event please email [rtalkingscience@stfc.ac.uk](mailto:rtalkingscience@stfc.ac.uk) or call 01235 445 959 (24hr answer phone)

### SUTTON COURTNEY HISTORY SOCIETY

The next meeting of the Society is on **Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March at 7.30 pm** in All Saints' Church. There will be an illustrated talk by **Trevor Davies** on "**Staying Healthy and Entertained in Victorian North Berkshire.**"

*Trevor Davies was born in Abingdon and his principal interest in local history is that of 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century North Berkshire and its people. He is the editor of the newsletter of the Oxfordshire Local History Association. Everyone is welcome - entry £2.*

### ABINGDON DRAMA CLUB

The Club's next production will be **Thérèse Raquin** (a stage adaptation of *Émile Zola's* novel by Leslie Sands). **Wed 24 - Sat 27 March at 7.30pm**, Unicorn Theatre, Thames St. Abingdon.

Tickets: £7 (£6) from The Bookstore, Abingdon Precinct or from ADC Ticketline on 01235 524538.

*Zola's classic thriller is a grippingly suspenseful tale of adultery and murder. This adaptation of the 19th Century novel adds a special twist to Zola's original ending. It is a tale of retribution and provides a penetrating study of sexual obsession and guilt.*

### 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 APRIL issue of The Mouthpiece by MARCH 15th please, to:**  
Rosemary Waters, 2 The Willows 01235 559010 or email: [therisenpheonix2@btinternet.com](mailto:therisenpheonix2@btinternet.com)  
Brian Bracher, 25 High Street, 01235 525885 or email: [brian@thebrachers.com](mailto:brian@thebrachers.com)

**Advertisements to:** Brian Bracher, 25 High Street, 01235 525885 or email [brian@thebrachers.com](mailto:brian@thebrachers.com)

<h1>ARBOCARE</h1>		
<i>Professional Tree Care</i>		
<i>Landscaping and Ground Maintenance</i>		
✓ Felling, Reductions & Pruning	✓ Dangerous Trees Dismantled	
✓ Stump Grinding & Root Removal	✓ 40ft Hydraulic Platforms	
✓ Hedge Trimming	✓ Tree Planting	✓ Woodchip & Mulch Supplied
CALL FREE		<b>0808 155 5815</b>
OFFICE		<b>01235 813 619</b>
24HR MOBILE		<b>07778 811 136</b>
<a href="http://www.arbocare.co.uk">www.arbocare.co.uk</a>		NATIONAL TRUST APPROVED