

# **The Mouthpiece**

*Culham's Newsletter No 316*

*Village Diary for May 2010*

*9<sup>th</sup> Family Communion & Baptism - St. Paul's Church, 10 am*

*10<sup>th</sup> Parish Council Meeting, The School, 7.30 pm*

*14<sup>th</sup> Mobile Library - The Glebe, 1.40 - 1.50 pm*

*15<sup>th</sup> Culham Plant Sale & Church Fete - St.Paul's Church, 1.30 - 4 pm*

*15<sup>th</sup> Deadline for June's Mouthpiece*

*16<sup>th</sup> Evening Prayer - St. Paul's Church, 6 pm*

*18<sup>th</sup> Police 'Have your Say' Meeting - The School, 6 - 7.30 pm*

Date	Time	Place	Service
<b>SERVICES AT CULHAM</b>			
Sunday 9th	10 am	Culham	Family Communion & Baptism
Sunday 16th	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 2nd	8 am 10 am	Clifton Hampden Long Wittenham	Holy Communion Family Service
Sunday 9th (Rogation)	10 am 6 pm	Clifton Hampden Long Wittenham	Holy Communion Evening Prayer
Thursday 13th	7 pm	Wittenham Clumps	Ascension Day Communion
Sunday 16th	10 am	Long Wittenham	Holy Communion
Sunday 23rd (Pentecost)	8.30 am 10 am	Little Wittenham Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion Family Communion
Sunday 30th	11 am	Berinsfield	Team Communion

*Ascension Day on **Thursday 13th May** is a special occasion when we 'ascend' Wittenham Clumps for an outdoor communion service. Do come and join us. We meet at the car park or at St Peter's Little Wittenham at **7 pm**.*

*Please note that the Team Communion Service on **Sunday 30th May** at Berinsfield will start at **11 am**.*

**Dear All**

Each April we are required to have an annual meeting for the church and I thought that I would share what I said to this year's meeting.

***This year has been a difficult year for me on a personal front as it has also been for our Church Warden, Charles Reichardt and his family. We are all very saddened by Charles and Ingrid's son Christopher's death at such a young age. They fought Chris' illness as a family and I know that the church family has been crucial in supporting Charles, Ingrid, Chris and***

**David. I must thank Revd David Haylett for his weekly visits to take communion with anointing for healing and the involvement of The Beaumonts in those services as well.**

**Such events take their toll on any church community and I must record my especial thanks to Charles for continuing in the role of warden this year. My thanks also to those who have supported me as I've recovered from my broken ankle.**

**This year Jean Diggins has resigned as our PCC secretary. She has served this church faithfully and with such active concern and loyalty over many years. She deserves her retirement and we know that Jean remains very much part of us.**

**Thanks must also go to Brian Bracher for all his work to get the details of the quinquennial work done with the minimum of cost and for securing a grant from The Oxford Historic Churches Trust. Steve Beaumont has also been crucial, in finding and supervising people to do the work.**

**This year we have all needed to contribute our part and this we have done. I'm very grateful to Roy Epps and Jane Lay for agreeing to join our PCC this year. We all pray for a year where we can know the blessing and growth of our spiritual lives without so much distraction from physical problems and issues relating to the building, which brings me to a final thankyou! Thank you Steve Beaumont, for organising the opening of St Paul's on Saturdays and to all those who are helping. Thank you for making it possible for our church to be open for the public to come in and enjoy this space.**

During the course of the meeting we were able to welcome Peter Brooke as another new member of the PCC. Very understandably Charles, who had only agreed to continue as Warden for one year, stepped down and we didn't have anyone willing to take on the job. I was not prepared to drag on anyone but I am confident that people will take on sharing the work that the Church Warden does and I hope that next year someone will be willing to accept the role, meanwhile I am very pleased to have new people involved and look forward to the year ahead and to seeing many of you very soon at the Plant Sale.

### **Every Blessing Anne**

<b>Talking Point</b>	<b>Revd David Cleugh</b>
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The general election is upon us. Once again we have the opportunity to make our voices heard. The more cynical amongst you might think that the result in our particular constituency is a foregone conclusion, and that casting your vote is a waste of time and energy. I'm inclined to disagree with this sentiment, if everyone felt that way then nothing would happen. Sometimes when we are brave enough to express what we think is a minority view we find out that others agree with us. Even if others do not agree with us at least they have heard a dissenting voice. It is all too easy to fall into the trap of believing that people all agree on a particular issues and that no sensible person could hold contrary views.

I am of course bound to say that this sort of thing also exists in the church, particularly perhaps the Church of England. Although we are united in the central tenets of our faith, there exists a diversity of opinions. It is only by listening to those we disagree with that we can better understand where they are coming from and they in turn can understand our position. Such dialogue is by no means easy, requiring a degree of mutual trust. but the potential rewards are also great. The vision of people with differing views working side by side, to me speaks something of God's Kingdom, of the reign of God who loves each of us in our diversity, and who longs to see us living together in harmony, recognising the image of our Creator in each other. This vision might not be realised until the next life, but making baby steps towards it in this life would be a powerful witness of the love of God in the world.

This will take place on **Saturday 15th May** from **1.30 pm to 4.00 pm** outside the church (stalls inside if wet!) As well as plants we will be selling home-made cakes, bric-a-brac, books / videos / DVDs, etc. You will also be able to try your luck on the tombola and raffle as well as other stalls, such as welly-wanging!

We would be very grateful for donations of plants, cakes, bric-a-brac (no clothes, please) and books / videos / DVD's. These can be brought to the church between **2 pm and 8 pm** on **Friday 14th May** or on the **Saturday morning**. Please can you name your plants if you know what they are!

We'd also be pleased to receive cakes, but please could you label them and note down whether or not they contain nuts? We look forward to seeing you there.

### **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING - 2010** **Report by Glenn Bartley: Chairman, Culham Parish Council**

Welcome to the Annual Culham Parish Meeting. All Parish and Town Councils throughout England are required by law to hold an annual parish meeting at this time each year. It is a forum for parish electors and interested local organisations where electors may set the agenda, local activities and achievements may be celebrated and current issues in the community debated. I would like to report the key activities and issues discussed during Parish Council meetings since May 2009.

Along with the usual general upkeep to the village and surrounding area including grass & hedge cutting, household planning issues and financial matters, during the past year the Parish Council have either resolved or are dealing with the following:

Now that the road at the village green approaching the Burial Ground has been repaired, the issue of making access easier within the actual Burial Ground has been highlighted in that the grassy slope is not ideal and that a more substantial metalled path or steps are needed. Also the management of the Burial Ground needs reassessing and a proper plan drawn up to make record keeping and allocation of graves easier and more consistent.

The playing field tractor shed was repaired once again following further vandalism. The windows were properly boarded and made more secure - thanks to Cllr Woodley-Shead for organising and implementing this work. A skip was hired and all the Parish Councillors volunteered to help clear the many years of accumulated rubbish and redundant items from inside the shed.

The shed is one of the few community assets remaining in the village and whilst it is not actually used very much at present (having been a changing room/pavilion in the past), there is always the possibility that its potential may be realised in the future. Therefore the Parish Council believes this sometimes costly maintenance is important and justified. The same can be said for the children's play area which is also in line for further work and improvement.

And with the fate of the The Lion public house resolved last year with a private dwelling finally taking it's place it is easy to see how such amenities can be lost forever.

The issue of speeding traffic is often on the agenda and the situation appears to be relatively stable at present, this despite the occasional misguided thought of the Highways department at Oxford County Council. In September OCC decided it would be a good idea to *raise* the speed limit on the A415 outside the European School from 30 to 40mph. This prompted the largest gathering for public participation at a PC meeting in recent memory, and after subsequent feverish correspondence with

the school, Cllr Lindsey-Gale, myself and OCC Highways the plan was dropped by the end of the following day. People power *can* work...

As mentioned in my last report, figures had been requested from OCC regarding the speed of traffic through the village - this information was received and proved to be fairly inconclusive with regard to the actual levels and frequency of speeding traffic; it is available to members of the public to make their own conclusions.

The primary ongoing issue of the past year has been the debate surrounding the Waste Incinerator proposal at Sutton Courtenay, and the concern that how such a facility would affect the wider area, including our community. This is not the forum to go into great detail on this matter, but I am sure that many people are aware of the successful outcome for those opposing this plan and I would like to thank Cllr Paul Gibbs for his dedicated effort on behalf of the majority of the Parish Council, and parishioners, for voicing our strong concerns to the authorities.

However, just as one big issue appears to be resolved another pops up - this time it is gravel extraction. I have recently attended a meeting presented by OCC to allow affected communities to voice an opinion on the proposals. It quickly became apparent that those affected are very keen not to have yet more large scale gravel extraction on *their* doorstep, and consequently I believe Culham Parish should be no different in holding a similar view. If opinions on such issues are not made clear to the authorities then it all too easy for decisions to be made that are in the best interests of other communities at the expense of our community. It is still early days as OCC makes it's plans known and the Parish Council is monitoring the situation closely.

This is just a brief record of the main items discussed over the year. Remember that detailed minutes of meetings are available from the Clerk or on the village website: [www.culhamvillage.org.uk](http://www.culhamvillage.org.uk) Despite general business being pretty mundane, the Parish Council would encourage electors to attend meetings, raise matters that are of concern to them and generally participate in village issues.

Last year we said goodbye and thanks to Judy Beck, our clerk from October 2007, and welcomed new clerk Lucy Dalby who joined us in September 2009. And after three years as Chairman of CPC I can confirm today that I have decided to stand down to allow me to concentrate more on family and business commitments - there will be a vote amongst the Parish Councillors at the beginning of the May Parish Council meeting to elect a new chairman.

I would like to record my thanks to my colleagues for their balanced and thoughtful approach to the business of the Parish Council and also to those who have presented reports for this meeting, to those listed on the back page of The Mouthpiece Newsletter and any others who by their activities continue to make valuable contributions to village life.

**Glenn Bartley**  
**April 2010**

<b>Thames Valley Police Update</b>	<b>Sarah Talbot</b>
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Thames Valley Police have advised us that there is a parking issue in local parishes, including Culham, especially near primary schools. PCSO Sarah Talbot and PCSO Rebekah Kent are trying to tackle the problem by carrying out a good parking initiative with pupils. They have recently given a talk on the subject at Culham. On the 9<sup>th</sup> March PCSO Rebecca Kent went back to Culham school to present prizes to the lucky winners of the parking poster initiative – well done to those who anticipated.

A “have your say” meeting will take place on 18<sup>th</sup> May at the Culham Primary School between 6.00 and 7.30pm, These meetings provide an opportunity for local residents to speak to the police about local concerns. No appointment is necessary.

Your local officers, PC 5578 Paul Webber and PSCO Sarah Talbot C9904, are available on telephone number 0845 8505 505.

These meetings are an ideal opportunity for local residents to speak to their local police officers and PCSOs about any local issues. No appointment is necessary – just turn up and speak to your local officers. Further surgeries will be publicised locally and on the force website at [www.thamesvalley.police.uk](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk).

If you want any advice or would like to contact the neighbourhood team you can call us on the police non emergency number 0845 8 505 505 or email [WallingfordAreaNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:WallingfordAreaNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk). Please note this email address cannot be used to contact Thames Valley Police to report crimes or for any urgent matters. Alternatively you can visit the force website at [www.thamesvalley.police.uk](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk) to view information on your neighbourhood.

<b>Newington Nurseries:</b>	<b>Anne Hendry</b>
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### **Fresh Fruit**

It looks fantastic and nothing tastes as good as fruit that you have grown yourself: fresh, in jams, bottled or in delicious pies and pastries. Fruit species are generally divided into two major groups: top fruit (everything that grows on trees including apples, pears, plums, cherries and peaches) and soft fruit (including berries, strawberries, raspberries and blackberries). Nearly all the fruit trees that are grown in our climate are members of the rose family. Nuts are an exception and are actually not classified as fruit but as a separate group of fruits.

**Apples** grow best in nutrient-rich, free-draining soils which must be slightly acidic. Apple trees are supplied in standard (full-size), half-standard, cordon and bush form. The cordon is ideal for a small garden and also because cordons can yield fruit as early as the third year. There are early, intermediate and late flowering apple varieties and the harvest times can also vary considerably. One of the best known apples is 'Cox's Orange Pippin' which stores extremely well. To get a good apple harvest, cross-pollination is generally needed between different apple trees that flower simultaneously. Self pollinating apple trees include 'Summerred' and 'Benoni'.

**Pears** are only known as cultivated crops (wild equivalents do not exist). They are closely related to apples, but need more warmth and they root deeper than apple trees. Well-drained, rich, loose soil is required for their cultivation. Pears can be trained very successfully. Some pear varieties have 'alternating years': in one year they will yield a far bigger crop than in another year. This applies particularly to older varieties such as 'Juttepeer'. Pears also produce the best fruit if different varieties can pollinate one another but fruit can also be produced through self-pollination. 'Conference' is a good self-pollinator as well as producing fruit that keeps well.

**Plums**, on the other hand, usually need a lot of space. The trees can get quite large (depending, on the rootstock onto which they are grafted). 'Victoria' is a very well-known variety with purple fruit the size of hen's eggs. This variety bears so much fruit that the branches often need to be supported to prevent them from snapping. Nearly all plums are excellent self-pollinators. You therefore only need one tree to get fruit. One variety with a big yield is 'Czar' (ripe in August). This has nice fresh tasting purple-blue fruit which look a bit like damsons. Damsons are the well-known firm, fleshy plums which are used for mixed dried fruit, baking and jams. They are ready for harvesting in August-September. One good variety is 'Italian Damson'. 'Reine Claude Verte' is the well-known green plum with an unusual taste.

**Cherries**, broadly speaking, are divided into two main groups; sweet or sour (or morello). Sweet cherries can grow into large trees on nutrient-rich soil and they need cross-pollination. One tree is therefore not enough to produce fruit unless you opt for a 'duo tree' whereby branches of different varieties are grafted onto one rootstock. Sour cherries, on the other hand, are excellent self-

pollinators. They do not bear fruit on the old wood but on annual shoots and must therefore be pruned vigorously (with the added benefit that the trees will remain small and compact).

Once you have been bitten by the bug for producing edible fruit you won't want to give it up. You'll always want something growing in the garden!

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

## Village News

## The Mouthpiece

Following the resignation of Michelle, we are pleased to welcome John Mason as a new editor. His contact details may be found on the "Who's Who" page at the end of this issue.

## 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 June issue of The Mouthpiece by May 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)

John Mason, 20 High Street, email: [johnu.mason@gmail.com](mailto:johnu.mason@gmail.com)

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