

# **The Mouthpiece**

*Culham's Newsletter No 319*

## *Village Diary for September 2010*

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Mobile Library - The Glebe, 1.40 - 1.50 pm*
- 4<sup>th</sup> Musical Entertainment - St Paul's Church, 7.30 pm*
- 11<sup>th</sup> Ride & Stride - St. Paul's Church, 10 am - 6 pm*
- 12<sup>th</sup> Family Communion - St. Paul's Church, 10 am*
- 13<sup>th</sup> Parish Council Meeting - The School, 7.30 pm*
- 15<sup>th</sup> Deadline For October's Mouthpiece*
- 17<sup>th</sup> Mobile Library - The Glebe, 1.40 - 1.50 pm*
- 17<sup>th</sup> Culham Women's Group - Home Farm, 7.30 pm*
- 19<sup>th</sup> Evening Prayer - St. Paul's Church, 6 pm*

<b>Services of Worship</b>	<b>September 2010</b>
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Date	Time	Place	Service
<b>SERVICES AT CULHAM</b>			
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup>	10 am	Culham	Family Communion
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup>	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 5 <sup>th</sup>	8 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
	10 am	Long Wittenham	Family Service
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup>	10 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
	6 pm	Long Wittenham	Evening Prayer
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup>	10 am	Long Wittenham	Holy Communion
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup>	8.30 am	Little Wittenham	Holy Communion

<b>Village News</b>
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**'Pandemonium' Concert in the Church**

Pandemonium, the Wantage-based Folk and Ceilidh band, will be performing their particular brand of music, poems and jokes in aid of St Paul's PCC and the Friends of St Paul's on **Saturday 4th September at 7.30 pm** in the church. Expect foot-tapping tunes, soulful ballads, chorus songs and lots of audience participation. Tickets cost £8 for adults and £5 for children: they are available from:

Andrew Churchill Stone, 18 High Street, Culham (Tel 01235 533011) and  
Revd Anne Ilsley, The Vicarage, High Street, Long Wittenham (Tel 01865 407605)

Refreshments will be provided, including soft drinks. Glasses will be available if you would like to bring your own alcohol.

**Ride and Stride****Jean Diggins**

The annual "Ride & Stride" event, which raises money for the Oxfordshire churches, takes place on **11th September** this year. Each cyclist or walker aims to visit as many churches as possible in a day, and their sponsorship money is shared between the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust and the church of their choice. We have just received a generous £2,000 grant

from the Trust towards the maintenance of our own church in Culham, so support for this event is greatly appreciated.

So - please think about getting on to your bicycles or into your walking boots and visiting as many churches as possible on the 11th September. Previously we've received really good support from the Rockall and Lever families and the many people who sponsored them. Unfortunately they cannot participate this year, so if any of you want to 'have a go', please contact Jean Diggins on (01235) 520540.

Also, help in 'manning' St Paul's Church on the day, to greet visiting cyclists and walkers, would be much appreciated. We usually keep the church open from **10 am to 6 pm**. Again, please contact Jean Diggins for information.

#### For your Diary

**Elizabeth Harrison**

**Saturday 2nd October from 10 am to 12 noon: Garage Sale**, East Wing, High Street, Culham. Household Items, Bric-a-brac, Paperbacks. *(Please park on High Street or in the Lock Car Park & walk down the drive.)*

<b>The Mouthpiece - Help Wanted</b>	<b>Brian Bracher</b>
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The 'Mouthpiece' is in need of assistance. At present our finances are tidy, the advertising is running well and to maintain this situation help is needed with the photocopying and collating of the newsletter. For the last four years we have had a beneficial arrangement with a local company for this, but because of illness this help is temporarily unavailable. Is there any reader who could provide this help? The normal print run amounts to 188 copies of six double-sided pages stapled together.

In fact, any assistance with producing the Mouthpiece would be welcome. If you can help please contact Brian Bracher (Tel 5325885), or email [brian@thebrachers.com](mailto:brian@thebrachers.com)

<b>Culham Women's Group</b>	<b>Mary Rickford</b>
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We would like to thank everyone who supported "The Big Lunch" on the village green last month. It was lovely to meet and get to know others in the village whilst relaxing in the sunshine, picnicking or playing the outdoor games. There was an attendance of around 60 people from all different parts of the village and we are especially grateful to the Parish Council who kindly donated money towards the event. We look forward to hosting other community events in the future and welcome any suggestions or ideas you may have.

Following the summer break, the women's group will be meeting on **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> September**. Dr Rosa Hubbard-Ford, a Harley Street Psychotherapist, will be talking about the power of the human mind and how we can use our minds to enrich our lives. This presentation will take place at **7:30 pm** at **Home Farm, High Street**. All women are very welcome.

If you are attending please RSVP to Sarah Kynoch, 01235 538994 or e-mail [kynochfamily@btinternet.com](mailto:kynochfamily@btinternet.com) before **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> September**.

If you would like e-mail updates and reminders of upcoming activities, please send your e-mail address to [mike@sdcresource.co.uk](mailto:mike@sdcresource.co.uk).

**From SODC & OCC:**

No Report

CPC is awaiting a response from SODC planning about the burial ground slope and the requirement for planning permission to install a more accessible ramp.

Further to the burial ground, CPC asks parents to prevent their children from playing in and on the burial ground. It is a place worthy of respect to the families of those resting there and not a playground.

CPC is awaiting a response from several companies regarding the replacement of an item of play equipment in the play area. A source of funding for the equipment is also being sought. The installation of a BMX track on the playing field is also being investigated.

A meeting has been arranged with the traffic department to discuss speeding traffic in the area.

The affordable housing survey will only now go ahead if a more appropriate location for the potential houses can be found. CPC has found that the site presented by the company on the playing field is not suitable.

CPC will write to Adkins (Agents for Morrells) about several matters including pot holes and overgrown hedges.

**Next meeting: Monday 13 September 2010, at 7.30 pm at the school.**

<b>Talking Point</b>	<b>Revd's Anne Ilsley &amp; Ros Latham</b>
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*We've had several truly wonderful weddings in The Bridge Group churches this summer and even as the weather began to falter from the heights of June and July, no-one's day failed to shine. Together with other summer parties, an Area Dean's Visitation, the Children's Holiday club, and more funeral services than we would like, August hasn't seemed to slow down too much! Both David and I have however, been able to take some time off and we do trust that as a new academic year begins, you have also been able to recharge your batteries in some way.*

*The Team clergy have agreed to take turns to write what is called 'Talking point', so your local clergy's words will be short and informative on local issues where relevant and act as an introduction... This month's letter is from Ros Latham...*

The BBC recently presented an item on the cruel ways in which animals were trained to perform in Chinese circuses. It was clear from the footage that elephants, tigers and bears were beaten in order to train them, for example, to stand on two legs, dance or box. Training the animals to perform the routines that they did was referred to as 'humiliating'. I have been left wondering what it means to humiliate an animal.

I have lived on farms for four and a half decades of my life. I know that well cared for animals are healthy, they thrive and are happy. I have been challenged by visitors to our farm about keeping pigs in pens and not letting them run free. I could only assure them that badly kept animals produce poor quality meat over a longer period of time and that is not in the interest of any farmer (especially a Yorkshire one!). The Bible gives us 'dominion' over animals. I regard this as a serious responsibility to care for them well, especially if we choose to deprive them of their freedom and natural habitat. I certainly do not regard good farming practice as humiliating.

Teaching a bear to playbox wearing boxing gloves or an elephant to walk on two legs was regarded as humiliating, and clearly these are unnatural acts for such animals. Yet is this so much different from training a dog to live in a house and walk on a lead or a parrot to talk? Who is to be the judge? I do not condone any activity which would affect the mobility or health of an animal purely for people's amusement but there is also a risk of attributing to animals human feelings and emotions which they do not have. My sheepdog was very intelligent and would assess the best way to guide a cow in the right direction when he entered a field, he enjoyed the reward he received when he did well, he also enjoyed the reward he received when he did his famous shaking hands trick, one a natural skill, one taught by humans. Was one acceptable and one humiliating?

The item on Chinese circuses did include some cruel practices but some less harmful activities were castigated because they were culturally different or not our way of doing things. Before starting a campaign against Chinese circuses, perhaps better to learn more of Chinese culture and look more closely at ourselves. If only we could see ourselves as others see us! Then perhaps we would be less keen to judge others so severely or so quickly. As Jesus said, "How dare you say to your brother, 'please let me take that speck out of your eye', when you have a log in your own eye."

<b>Thames Valley Police Update</b>	<b>Sarah Talbot</b>
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Here is the latest Benson & Berinsfield neighbourhood update from Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) Rebekah Kent and PCSO Sarah Talbot.

The level of crime in this neighbourhood is still rated as average. The average number of crimes has decreased from 52.7 to 50 which is good news. This is a 5.1 percent decrease compared to the same time last year (April, May, June).

The crime categories are: burglary (53.37 percent increase this is due to an extra 3 burglaries since last year), robbery (no change), vehicle crime (19 percent decrease), violence (21.7 percent increase), anti-social behaviour (ASB) (36 percent decrease). More information about the above figures can be found on the Thames Valley Police website under Local Crime mapping [www.thamesvalley.police.uk](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk)

**Police "Have Your Say" meetings.**

No meeting is scheduled for Culham in September: the next is on **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> September** at Clifton Hampden, outside the village store on High Street from **4 pm to 4.45 pm**.

**Open Day**

Thames Valley Police will be holding an Open Day on **Saturday 4 September 2010** between **10.00am and 4.00pm**, at Thames Valley Police Training Centre in Sulhamstead near Reading. The aim is to help promote greater understanding of the work of the various departments and specialist roles within the Force. The public will be able to look around the Force Museum, which is packed with the history of Thames Valley Police, and meet some of the officers from the Force's specialist departments.

Admission is £2.50 per adult and under 16's go free. No dogs, except guide dogs, are allowed on site. Parking at the site is limited and will be available on a first-come-first-served basis. Disabled access is available.

Officers will be on hand to give a personal insight into their role and work, the majority of which the public might not be aware of as it goes on behind-the-scenes. Attractions include:

the police helicopter manned by the Chiltern Air Support Unit; the Roads Policing department with various vehicles, and the mounted and dog sections. Displays will take place throughout the day.

## Water & Energy

Gordon Glass

**What has Water got to do with Energy?** The short answer is... plenty! About 70% of global freshwater is used in agriculture - this provides us with our food energy. Hydropower provides some 20% of global electricity.

On average each person in the UK uses 150 litres of water a day. According to Waterwise, this rises to 3400 litres a day when you add the water used to produce the goods we import. Moving this lot around takes energy.

We're lucky - we get rain in the UK, but as summer hosepipe bans imply, we should not take water for granted. There are many easy ways to use less:

- Keep showers short - especially if you have a power shower. (*Waterwise* point out that power showers can easily use more water than a bath.)
- Reuse water - bath water is fine for watering plants
- Have a water meter fitted - on average metered homes use 15% less water
- Modify your toilet to give you a reduced or graduated flush
- Fix dripping taps

About 30% of the average UK gas bill goes on heating water, so insulating your hot water tank and using less hot water will save you money.

Water companies often offer free 'Hippos' to displace water in your cistern. See [interflush.co.uk](http://interflush.co.uk) for a DIY retrofit providing a graduated flush. Some older cisterns use 9 litres of water on each flush. For further information on reducing domestic water use, see [waterwise.org.uk](http://waterwise.org.uk).

For further information, visit [www.cocoonyourhome.co.uk/saving](http://www.cocoonyourhome.co.uk/saving)

## Out and About

### NORTHMOOR TRUST EVENTS IN SEPTEMBER

Please meet at Hill Farm, Little Wittenham for all events unless otherwise stated. Booking is required - to book call 01865 407792 or email [admin@northmoortrust.co.uk](mailto:admin@northmoortrust.co.uk) See [www.northmoortrust.co.uk](http://www.northmoortrust.co.uk) for more information.

#### **Sunday 5th September: 10am - 4pm. BUSHCRAFT DAY: USING PLANTS AND TREES**

A fascinating day looking at the uses of plants for food, medicine and folklore.  
Adults £75, Friends £60

#### **Wednesday 8th September: 7.30pm - 9pm. THE INCREDIBLE WORLD OF THE HONEY BEE**

Discover what makes the honey bee so special in this illustrated talk with Steve Moll from Brightwell Bees. Adults £4.50, Children £1.50

#### **11th & 12th September: 9.30am - 4pm. BUILD A PUDDLED CLAY POND**

Learn the traditional art of constructing and lining a wildlife pond using puddling clay in this 2 day course. Ideal for anyone interested in digging a garden pond without the need for plastic pond liners. Adults £75, Friends £60

**Sunday 19th September: 10am - 4pm. BUSHCRAFT DAY: WILDERNESS COOKING**

Lots of fun practising bush cooking techniques from around the world! Adults £75, Friends £60

**GO ACTIVE IN SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE**

GO Active Groups offer high quality, fun and affordable exercise for people getting into exercise for the first time in a long time! For more information contact Hendriette Thorn: ring 01491 823175, email [hendriette.thorn@southoxon.gov.uk](mailto:hendriette.thorn@southoxon.gov.uk) or see web site [www.getoxfordshireactive.org](http://www.getoxfordshireactive.org)

Activities *near* Culham include the following.

FREE Swimming Lessons for 50+

Abbey Sports Centre in Berinsfield: Tuesdays 3.15 – 4pm, starting 7 September. *To book call 01865 341035*

Didcot Wave: Wednesdays 6.15 – 7pm, starting 15 September. *To book call 01235 819888*

Return 2 Netball: Rediscover the fun in Netball – or come along and try it for the first time! Only £3 per session. *Call Hendriette on 01491 823175 to express your interest.*

Didcot Vibe Youth Centre, Mondays 7 – 8pm

RAF Benson, Wednesdays 7.30 – 8.30pm

Tai Chi Taster Session in Clifton Hampden - Clifton Hampden Surgery, Watery Lane. 1 September, 1.30 - 2pm, £2. *Call 01491 823175 to book your place*

Just Jog

Join in with our social jogging groups, whether you're new to jogging or want to improve.

Benson Village Hall, Mondays 8 – 9pm

Didcot Wave Leisure Centre, Tuesdays 7.15 – 8.15pm & Wednesdays 7 – 8pm

Cost: £2 per session

NEW Beginners Jog Group in Didcot: complete a 10 week beginner's course & receive a running shirt, water bottle and training log book!

Didcot Wave Leisure Centre, Mondays, 11am – 12pm, starting 13 September

Cost: £2 per session

*Call Annette on 077 5458 0749 to book your place.*

<b>Endpiece</b>
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***Please note that any opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the editors.***

**Contributions to the October issue of The Mouthpiece by September 15th please, to:**

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