



# **The Mouthpiece**

*Culham's Newsletter No 321*

*Village Diary for November 2010*

- 8<sup>th</sup> Parish Council Meeting, The School, 7.30 pm*
- 11<sup>th</sup> Short Remembrance Service, St Paul's Church, 10.50 am*
- 12<sup>th</sup> Mobile Library - The Glebe, 1.40 - 1.50 pm*
- 12<sup>th</sup> Culham Women's Group Quiz -  
in the barn at Home Farm, High Street, 7.30 pm*
- 14<sup>th</sup> Family Communion - St. Paul's Church, 10 am*
- 15<sup>th</sup> Deadline for December/January Mouthpiece*
- 21<sup>st</sup> Evening Prayer - St. Paul's Church, 6 pm*
- 26<sup>th</sup> Mobile Library - The Glebe, 1.40 - 1.50 pm*
- 28<sup>th</sup> Dorchester Advent Carol Service - The Abbey, 6 pm*



## Services of Worship

November 2010

| Date   | Time     | Place            | Service                   |
|--|----------|------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>SERVICES AT CULHAM</b>  |          |                  |                           |
| Thursday 11th  | 10.50 am | Culham           | Short Remembrance Service |
| Sunday 14th  | 10 am    | Culham           | Family Communion          |
| Sunday 21st  | 6 pm     | Culham           | 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. |          |                  |                           |
| <b>SERVICES ELSEWHERE</b>  |          |                  |                           |
| Sunday 7th   | 8 am     | Clifton Hampden  | Holy Communion            |
|  | 10 am    | Long Wittenham   | Family Service            |
| Sunday 14th  | 10 am    | Clifton Hampden  | Holy Communion            |
|  | 6 pm     | Long Wittenham   | Evening Prayer            |
| Sunday 21st  | 10 am    | Long Wittenham   | Holy Communion            |
| Sunday 28th  | 8.30 am  | Little Wittenham | Holy Communion            |
|  | 10 am    | Clifton Hampden  | Family Communion          |
|  | 6 pm     | Dorchester Abbey | Team Advent Carol Service |

**Talking Point****Revd Dr Hannah David Cleugh**

As the weather turns colder, and the days become shorter and darker, many of us will be able to relate all too easily to the sentiments expressed by the nineteenth century poet Thomas Hood, in his poem 'November', as he laments that the month brings 'No sun – no moon! No morn – no noon – No dawn – no dusk – no proper time of day.' At the beginning of the month, however, the cold autumn dark is lit up with fireworks and the glow of bonfires as we celebrate Guy Fawkes' Night. Less than a week later, the chilly grey is splashed red with poppies as we remember with solemnity and silence those who have given their lives for their country in time of war.

These two national commemorations have more in common than might appear at first glance: in both, we remember as a community something about where we have come from, and who we are today. We remember that the failure of 'gunpowder, treason and plot' safe-guarded our political life; on Remembrance Sunday we remember those who gave their tomorrows for our today. Both commemorations reflect our shared recognition

of the importance of freedom, and a shared sense of thanksgiving for deliverance from danger.

Remembering is not neutral: we are not simply looking back at things which happened in the past; we are telling a story about what we think matters for who we are today. Even the decision about whom and what to remember is significant, and those who have been 'forgotten' by oppressive regimes across the world stand as silent witness to that. Our own circumstances alter how we remember: 'gunpowder, treason and plot' has a rather more immediate significance in these days of international terrorist threat, and remembering those who fell in the poppy fields of Flanders assumes a new poignancy as our young servicemen and women face danger amid the poppy fields of Afghanistan.

Shared remembrance is essential for building up a sense of common identity, and for each of us as we seek to relate ourselves to the world around us. It is by remembering together that we strengthen our bonds of family and friendship, that we build community, and that we tell a story about where we have come from and where we are going. What story do you want to tell? What is it important to you that other people should not forget?

### **Advent Carols**

You are warmly invited to the Dorchester Team Advent Carol Service at **6 pm on 28<sup>th</sup> November** in the Abbey. This is an opportunity to draw together congregations from all the Dorchester Team villages to experience the special sense of watching and waiting for Christ's coming. Following the service Richard and Sue Booy invite you to remain in the Abbey for a drink!

*Please send items for December and January combined issue of Team News to Dorchester Rectory by 8<sup>th</sup> November. [dorchesterabbey@enterprise.net](mailto:dorchesterabbey@enterprise.net).*

|                       |                               |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Singers Wanted</b> | <b>Andrew Churchill Stone</b> |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|

St Paul's will be having its annual Carol Service on **Sunday 19th December** and we hope to have a small choir as in previous years. If anyone is interested in joining us to lead the singing and perform one choral piece I would love to hear from you. The intention would be to have one rehearsal only, on **Sunday 12th December at 11 am**. Please contact me at 18 High St, on 533011 or by e-mail to [a.churchill.stone@givemail.co.uk](mailto:a.churchill.stone@givemail.co.uk). Many thanks.

|                                  |                       |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Help Wanted with Delivery</b> | <b>The Mouthpiece</b> |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|

April Jones has said that she would like to 'retire' after some 16 years' involvement with our Village Newsletter. In this time, she has been joint editor and distribution manager, and for some time she has delivered 52 copies of The Mouthpiece to The High Street and The Barns.

We would like to thank April for her many years of invaluable support. Her 'delivery round' is the largest of anyone's and she has suggested that we split it into two halves. We have one volunteer so if anyone else would like to help with April's 'round', please contact Brian Bracher or Adrian Waters (see contact details in "Who's Who" on back page).

|                             |                      |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Culham Women's Group</b> | <b>Mary Rickford</b> |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|

*On Friday 12th November the Culham Women's Group will be meeting again for a fun and informal quiz night. Come along and test your general knowledge skills on a wide range of topics. Teams will be organised on the night so all you need to bring are - yourself and your favourite nibbles to share with your team!*

*The quiz will be held in the barn at Home Farm, High Street at 7:30 pm. To help with the planning, please let me know if you are coming on 07939 221846 or email [mike@sdcresource.co.uk](mailto:mike@sdcresource.co.uk)*

|   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| <b>Parish Council Notes: October 2010 Meeting</b> | <b>Glenn Bartley</b> |
|---|----------------------|

#### **From SODC**

John explained that the SODC has now returned to a core strategy for housing whereby housing targets can be spread around villages rather than having large single area allocations. However this does not apply to Didcot and the proposed Ladygrove expansion could impact adversely on Culham, particularly in regards to the road bridge. There will be no money for new roads north of Didcot.

#### **From OCC**

Numerous options are being investigated regarding the expected £200m cuts required in the council budget.

It has been a good year for the H Riders club (at Berinsfield) with many fewer complaints this year than last. It is expected, however, that the budget for training and information will be lost.

All reported potholes have now been repaired.

On gravel extraction there is good news for Culham in that the working group has recommended that only existing sites continue to be used although this has to be ratified after several more consultations. It does mean that Sutton Courtenay has about 8 years of useful life remaining.

The meeting was attended by local PCSO Rebekah Kent and her colleague. With regards to speeding they said that all cameras in Oxfordshire were now switched off and the mobile vans had been withdrawn. The only enforcement now was down to individual officers with radar guns.

There was a 'Have Your Say' meeting with Rebekah in the lock car park at 18:00 on October 22nd.

CPC is still awaiting quotes for the burial ground improvement.

A Remembrance Day Memorial Service will be held in St Paul's Church starting at **10:50 am on Thursday 11th November**. All are welcome to attend.

Finally a warning about work on Sutton Bridge traffic lights. This will be undertaken from 15-19 November between 10:00 and 15:30 each day. Expect disruption during these times.

**Next meeting: Monday 8 November 2010 at 19:30** at the school.

|                      |
|----------------------|
| <b>Out and About</b> |
|----------------------|

**March for Honour****Bob Griffiths**

On 4 November, four teams, each representing a branch of the Armed Forces, will begin a speed-march dedicated to the men and women who have lost their lives on operations in Iraq and Afghanistan since 2001. Members of the teams, who will wear military uniform and carry at least 40 pounds of equipment, will march a mile for each life lost.

They expect to march about 250 miles at an average of 30 miles a day to Wootton Bassett. The Royal Marines will start in Plymouth, the Royal Navy in Portsmouth, the Army in Cardiff and the Royal Air Force at RAF Wittering, before uniting in the Wiltshire town. The four teams will then continue their march to London to deliver the Book of Remembrance to the Royal Albert Hall on 11 November. Between them, the teams hope to raise £1 million for the Royal British Legion. LCpl Ram Patten, who came up with the idea, hopes the March for Honour will become an annual event.

One of the marching teams will be passing through Appleton at **10.17 am on Sunday 7 November**. Please be there to show your support, if you can.

**THE NORTHMOOR TRUST**

The Trust is offering three interesting and different courses to take our minds off the increasingly cold weather. The details are:

**Hedge Laying Course**

A two day hedge laying course is held on the Northmoor Trust Estate at the Wittenham Clumps in Oxfordshire.

**Date:** Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th November 2010

**Time:** 9.30am - 4pm

**Location:** Hill Farm, Little Wittenham, Abingdon, Oxon, OX14 4QZ

**Cost:** Adults £75, [Friends](#) £60

**Booking:** Please call 01865 407792 to reserve your place.

**Landscape Photography Course**

Join professional landscape photographer David Hall for an enjoyable one day course designed to improve your photography. Learn to capture the stunning autumnal colours of the beautiful Oxfordshire countryside.

**Date:** Saturday 13th November 2010

**Time:** 10am - 5pm

**Cost:** Adults £50, Friends £40

**Location:** Hill Farm, Little Wittenham, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 4QZ

**Booking:** Booking essential. Please call 01865 407792

**Fungus Foray**

Find the fabulous fungi that are fruiting in the forest.

**Date:** Sunday 14th November, 2010

**Location:** Hill Farm, Little Wittenham, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 4QZ

**Time:** 2pm - 4pm

**Cost:** Adults £5

**Booking:** Booking essential, please call 01865 407792 to reserve your place.

## RAL 'TALKING SCIENCE' LECTURE SERIES

**Friday 12 November 2010: 1:30pm & 7:00pm (Audience: 12+)**

**“Cows in the Maze – mathematical explorations”** by Ian Stewart, Rutherford Appleton Laboratory

### ***Maths in action.***

*Does a confession increase the probability of being guilty? How does a trot differ from a gallop? How does a time machine work? What shape is a teardrop? And, above all – where are the cows? ‘Cows in the Maze’ is a collection of quirky and amusing applications and puzzles in which mathematics plays unexpected roles. Ian Stewart will explain some of the topics in the book, in simple visual terms, and show you that maths is much more interesting and diverse than most people imagine.*

**To book a place please ring 01235 445 959 (24 hour answer phone)**

|                            |                    |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Newington Nurseries</b> | <b>Anne Hendry</b> |
|----------------------------|--------------------|

### **Green Fences**

Hedges are the most basic of green fences. They were the essential tools of land enclosure and before even that, thick barriers of living and dead plant material were used around settlements to protect people and animals from predators (the ‘bomas’ of present-day Africa continuing this tradition). Now ‘green fences and walls’ are in the spotlight as valuable tools in addressing some of the challenges of contemporary urban living.

An entire market has grown up supplying ‘instant hedges’ that deliver all the benefits of an established hedge right from day one. This responds to consumer demand for screening, windbreaks, garden design features and boundaries – all based on living plants. Bespoke green wall systems are also available for indoor and outdoor situations, many based on the kinds of designs for ‘vertical gardens’ made famous by Patrick Blanc and Edouard Francois in high profile locations. Well known examples include facades on the Musee du Quai Branly, the Bangkok Esplanade and others in Tokyo, Madrid and Shanghai.

For most homeowners, simpler living walls and fences of the kind supplied by a growing number of firms will deliver the benefits they seek. Instant hedges offered by specialist suppliers are generally based on well grown plant material (up to 1.8m in height) which may already be clipped into shape. Many retailers also offer ‘hedge packs’ which are multi-buy bundles of young hedging plants. These are much less expensive than true instant hedges, but don’t offer the same immediate results.

In new developments, hedges soften hard edges as well as delivering privacy, security, shelter and nature. They’re perfect for upgrading exterior space around existing buildings and are cost-effective. Some products offer an amazing level of flexibility in that they can be grown in troughs or planted in the ground. It’s also possible to buy instant hedges which are modular and incorporate a weldmesh screen (invisible behind foliage) that locks onto its neighbour and thereby forms an intruder-proof barrier.

The choice of species on offer is as broad, almost, as what’s amenable to growing as a hedge. Favoured species include beech, hornbeam, yew, box, cherry laurel, Photinia, Thuja plicata and holly. The last is especially desirable in situations where a dense,

burglar-repellent and wind-proof hedge is needed. At first sight, instant hedges can look expensive, but when compared with boundaries such as brick walls, which do not offer the myriad benefits of living walls and also require planning permission in most situations, they are extremely good value.

All products marketed as instant hedges are ready to plant and will establish best if you take some time to prepare the ground for them. Time spent on soil improvement will be well-rewarded; digging in well rotted farmyard manure and garden compost is always worthwhile. You'll also need to water well during the establishment phase and guy plants in windy locations.

If instant hedging doesn't appeal then how about new ideas for hedging this autumn with shrubs such as *Berberis thunbergii* and *Ilex aquifolium* (holly). Both offer the prickly benefits that intruders hate and insurers love. Both provide flowers in spring/summer and are berry-bearing, which offers additional visual interest. The berberis is deciduous, and will respond well to pruning into tidy shapes, if that's the kind of hedge you want. *Ilex aquifolium* is evergreen, which brings the benefits of year-round foliage. It's easy and fun to establish a new hedge and the rewards come quickly.

***Anne Hendry, The Garden Centre, Newington, Nr Stadhampton, Oxon, OX10 7AW  
Open Tuesday to Sunday, 10am – 4pm November to February, 10am – 5pm March  
to October***

***T: 01865 400533    W: [www.exoticbotanic.com](http://www.exoticbotanic.com)***

|                 |
|-----------------|
| <b>Endpiece</b> |
|-----------------|

***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:**

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, 01235 527440 or email: [johnu.mason@gmail.com](mailto:johnu.mason@gmail.com)

**Advertisements to:**

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