



The Mouthpiece

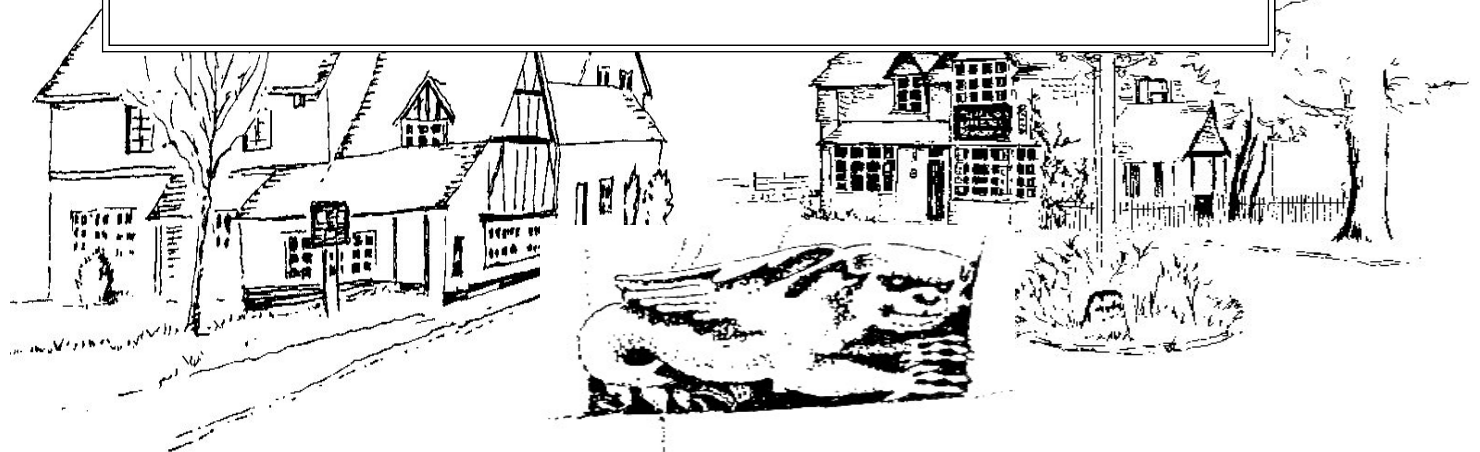
Culham's Newsletter No 322

Village Diary for December 2010

- 4th Churchyard Working Party - St Paul's Church, 9.30 am*
- 10th Community Carol Service - The School, 1.45pm*
- 10th Mobile Library - The Glebe, 1.40 - 1.50 pm*
- 11th Churchyard Working Party - St Paul's Church, 9.30 am*
- 12th Family Communion - St. Paul's Church, 10 am . . .*
followed by Carol Practice at 11 am
- 13th Parish Council Meeting - The School, 7.30 pm*
- 14th School Xmas Production - St. Paul's Church, 6.30 pm*
- 19th Annual Carol Service - St. Paul's Church, 6 pm*
- 25th Christmas Day Communion - Paul's Church, 10 am*

Village Diary for January 2011

- 7th Mobile Library - The Glebe, 1.40 - 1.50 pm*
- 9th Family Communion - St. Paul's Church, 10 am*
- 10th Parish Council Meeting - The School, 7.30 pm*
- 15th DEADLINE FOR FEBRUARY'S MOUTHPIECE*
- 16th Evening Prayer - St. Paul's Church, 6 pm*
- 21st Mobile Library - The Glebe, 1.40 - 1.50 pm*



Church Services

DATE	TIME	PLACE	SERVICE
DECEMBER SERVICES AT CULHAM			
Sunday 12th	10 am	Culham	Family Communion
Sunday 19th	6 pm	...	Carol Service
Saturday 25th	10 am	...	Christmas Day Communion
DECEMBER SERVICES ELSEWHERE			
Sunday 5th	8 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
	10 am	Long Wittenham	Family Service
Sunday 12th	10 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
	6 pm	Long Wittenham	Evening Prayer
Sunday 19th	10 am	Long Wittenham	Holy Communion
	6 pm	Clifton Hampden	Carol Service
Friday 24th (Christmas Eve)	4 pm	Clifton Hampden	Crib Service
	6 pm	Long Wittenham	Carol Service
	6 pm	Little Wittenham	Carol Service
	11.30 pm	Clifton Hampden	Midnight Communion
Saturday 25th	10 am	Long Wittenham	Christmas Day Communion
Sunday 26th	10.30 am	Drayton St Leonards	Team Service
JANUARY SERVICES AT CULHAM			
Sunday 9th	10 am	Culham	Family Communion
Sunday 16th	6 pm	...	Evening Prayer
Sunday 30th	10.30 am	...	Team Communion
JANUARY SERVICES ELSEWHERE			
Sunday 2nd	8.00 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
	10.00 am	Long Wittenham	Family Service
Sunday 9th	10 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
	6 pm	Long Wittenham	Evening Prayer
Sunday 16th	10 am	Long Wittenham	Holy Communion
Sunday 23rd	8.30 am	Little Wittenham	Holy Communion
	10.00 am	Clifton Hampden	Family Communion

Village News

Merry Christmas!

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

St Paul's Church Cleaning & Flower Arranging - Ingrid Reichardt & Janet Bracher

Thank you, all, who signed our rota and turned up to help clean and decorate the church. We were able to admire the flower arrangements and the church was spotlessly clean. Please note that we are circulating a new rota, so if you'd like to join in - even for a day a year or more often - please contact one of us.

Christmas Services at St Paul's - Culham PCC

The annual Carol Service will be at **6 pm** on **Sunday 19th December**, followed by refreshments. Do come and join our celebrations! On Christmas Day there will be **Holy Communion** at **10 am**.

At the Carol Service on 19th December 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. We will have one rehearsal only, on **Sunday 12th December at 11 am**, after the Communion Service. Please contact me at 18 High St, on 533011 or by e-mail to a.churchill.stone@givemail.co.uk. Many thanks- Andrew Churchill Stone.

Printing Problems at the Mouthpiece

The firm which photocopies "The Mouthpiece" is very short-staffed and has asked us to schedule copying dates well in advance so that they can help us do the work. This means that we really **must** regard the **15th of the month** as the deadline for contributions. If you have any contributions, notices of events, etc for the next issue, please let the editors have them as soon as possible: anything received after this deadline may be carried over to the next issue or even omitted. We regret this situation, but it does seem to be the only way we can provide a free newsletter for the whole village. Volunteers to help with photocopying would be welcome!

Churchyard Working Party

The North side of the churchyard has lost 30m of stone walling and is sliding towards the pond. As a first step to rectifying this we want to put up a fence, but first the suckers on the lime trees need trimming back. We are appealing for volunteers to roll up at **9.30 am on the 4th and 11th December**, armed with secateurs and appropriate clothing, to help with this work. Please contact Roy Epps at 14 The Glebe, Tel 07517 582 003, or email royepps@googlemail.com for further information.

Parish Council Notes for November 2010 - Glenn Bartley

From SODC - .No report

From OCC - (The full text will, hopefully, be available on the village website)

Spending Review

As expected from the Government's financial review, there will be significant cuts in OCC spending but the actual amounts will not be known until the Government announces the Local Government Finance Settlement in late November or early December. Of the £540m for Children, Young People & Families, £400m is ring fenced for schools. Adult social care at £200m is under severe pressure. All areas will have to take a share of the cuts in government funding.

Gravel Extraction

This will now be concentrated in areas of the county already supplying material. In my view (County Councillor) there is simply no need to open up new areas for extraction within the life span of the proposed Mineral & Waste Development Plan up to 2026. The Council must provide evidence of the supposed falling demand and these figures are now being prepared by OCC.

Area Stewardship - Highways

Significant structural changes have taken place across the County Council's Highways and Transport Service and a network of Area Stewards has been put in place. Keith Stenning is AS for the South of the county and will respond to day-to-day highway demands and enquiries.

Re-introduction of Safety Cameras

The County Council is in negotiation with Thames Valley Police to provide safety camera enforcement in Oxfordshire on a self funding basis. TVP will manage all activity and management (not Thames Valley Safer Roads Partnership). The current fixed sites will remain the property of the County Council who will continue to maintain them

Other Items

Given the very high costs of creating a purpose built access slope in the burial ground from the gate, it has been decided to install ground stabilisation instead. This will prevent the area becoming muddy and will, in combination with a hand rail, allow easier all year access to the site.

Quotes will be requested for the large scale replacement of the bark in the play area. A longer lasting type will be investigated.

The CPC request to extend the 30mph extent on the A415 from the Waggon & Horses, along the Causeway to Abingdon is now subject to the OCC spending review. However a pedestrian crossing is being considered for the traffic lights at the Waggon & Horses. The phasing of the crossing with the lights is being investigated.

There are several meetings this month with regard to the proposed northward expansion of the Ladygrove estate in Didcot. CPC is opposing this expansion, in coalition with several other local parishes.

The work on Sutton Bridges, scheduled for 15-19 November, has been postponed until February.

CPC would like to remind residents to keep pavements clear of parked vehicles and other obstructions to allow free passage of pedestrians and pushchairs etc. Please do not obstruct the footways.

Next meeting: **Monday 13 December 2010 at 7:30 pm at the school.**

Talking Point – Revd Anne Ilsley

I wonder when Christmas begins for you. Is it when you begin to make up a present list, when you send and receive cards, when you sing your first Carol? Because these days all those things have occurred well before Christmas Day and the big day can often feel like the end of Christmas rather than the beginning. In Mediaeval times the twelve days of Christmas began on or after Christmas day, the Holy Day when the birth of the saviour was remembered. The feasting and celebration, time to relax and enjoy the season occurred after Christmas Day itself and depending when you counted from; the 5th or the 6th of January was the 12th day. So that confusion about when to take down the decorations is understandable!

The season preceding Christmas, the season that we are in now, is called Advent. Advent means coming or arrival and it is during this season that the church recalls the prophets' call to prepare the way of the Lord. This coming is both the coming of Jesus as a baby, the birth of the saviour and the return of Jesus, the end time when Christians expect the return of Jesus, the wrapping up of time and the perfection of creation. The coming in its complete perfection, of the Kingdom of God.

Just as Lent is a penitential season in preparation for the joy of Easter, Advent should also be a similar period of self examination in preparation for Christmas, but it is very difficult to do this in the face of the current pre-Christmas buying season. In church we use the Advent ring with 4 candles being lit, first one then two until in the 4th Sunday of Advent when we light four candles and on Christmas day, we light the 5th central candle to represent Christ, the Light of the World coming into the world.

Broadly the candles remind us of the Old Testament prophets, John the Baptist, Jesus' immediate forerunner and the announcing of Jesus' birth to Mary, by the Angel Gabriel. The symbolism of the candles varies in detail according to different traditions. Last year the school in Long Wittenham came into St Mary's to join in the season of Advent using an Advent ring as a thoughtful way of looking forward to Christmas. The Advent ring will be a feature of their devotion again this year and it will also be used in the churches as we make our annual preparation for the festive season.

I suspect that we will not turn back the tide of present buying for Christmas, but when I said, *please no presents*, for my 60th birthday in October this year, the school in Long Wittenham were very resourceful and gave me the best present! A donation to Oxfam, which paid for a desk and chair, as well as educational supplies for a school overseas. I do hope that we can find thoughtful ways to bless others this Christmas, whether it's by the well-chosen gift, a newsy letter or card, an invitation to a party, or time spent with someone who will really appreciate seeing YOU!. I hope too, that we can welcome you in church as we celebrate the true meaning of Christmas together in the Bridge Group Churches.

Every Blessing for Christmas and the New Year - Anne

Culham Pre-School – Lea Allmond

The children have had a very enjoyable term making many trips out in this lovely autumnal weather. We visited the river to see the passing boats and collect leaves and conkers for our Autumn displays. We have also visited the Polo Ponies in Culham where the children had the opportunity to pick apples, feed them to the ponies and then groom the ponies. Our last trip was to Peachcroft farm where the children were able to see the geese and turkeys and then walk through the pumpkin fields and pick one to take home.

We have just celebrated Divali with a themed party - a big thank you to the Dil Raj in Abingdon who donated lots of food to us for this occasion.

We are now looking forward to Christmas and all of the glittery activities that this will involve!!! May we take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all at Culham Pre-School.

Culham Parochial Primary School - Caroline Evans

On 5th October we had a fabulous Harvest Festival service in Culham Church, in which the children thoroughly enjoyed taking part. It was lovely to see so many parents, friends and residents joining the celebration. Thank you to all who donated harvest gifts: these were gratefully received by our friends in the village.

On 7th October we opened our doors and held an Open Day. The children welcomed many visitors into school and proudly showed their work and displays etc. This event proved really successful and we were very pleased to receive such positive comments and feedback.

Finally on 11th November we attended a Remembrance Service at the Church. The children, staff, parents and village residents all attended this moving service with much reflection.

At the beginning of term we welcomed new pupils and also the following staff members: Matt Attree (Head of Teaching & Learning), and Teaching Assistants Val Cooper & Mandy Brumfitt.

We look forward to welcoming you all to our Christmas celebrations. The first will be Community Christmas Carols on **Friday 10 December at 1.45pm at the School** (all welcome - refreshments, sing-a-long etc.), and later, our School Xmas Production at Culham Church on **Tuesday 14th December at 6.30pm** (all welcome). All are welcome to both events - please join us!

Local Police Report – Rebekah Kent

The Roads Policing Team based at Abingdon spent time enforcing the 30 mph limit along the A415 at Culham by the European school during October. Speeding is a priority here: it is often a hot subject at Parish Council and “Have Your Say” meetings. We acknowledge speeding is a priority for most of our areas and we will be working with the Roads Policing Team to enforce your 30 mph area.

The Neighbourhood teams at Wallingford Police Station will be holding one big ‘**Have Your Say**’ event on **11th December** in Wallingford Market Place from **11am – 1pm**. Members from each neighbourhood team will be there to answer your queries. This is a good occasion for you to inform us of any issues or concerns you have in your neighbourhood or even just to find out what we have been doing/will be doing in your area. There will also be Crime Reduction advice, Neighbourhood Watch information and Country Watch information. We look forward to seeing you there.

Ladies of Culham – Mary Rickford

Thank you to all who attended the quiz night, it was a lovely evening. We are pleased to announce that following much discussion during the quiz night, the Culham Women’s Group has a new name – **L.O.C.** meaning “Ladies of Culham “. We felt this would be especially appropriate as the Lock is such an integral feature of the village.

The next L.O.C. activity will be a Christmas gathering on the evening of **Wednesday 15th December**. It will be an informal get together ending with some carol singing. All ladies are welcome to attend – it would be lovely to have as many from the village as possible. For more information please look on the village notice board nearer the time, ring 01235 52805 or e-mail me at mike@sdcresource.co.uk.

Newington Nurseries: ‘Fresh Air Machines’ - Anne Hendry

Conifers must be the ultimate plant group for year-round appeal. Any weather, any season, almost any soil, they are there delivering the goods. There is such diversity amongst conifers; you can get even more visual value by planting species and varieties with unusually coloured leaves. And it isn’t just the benefit of what we see; it has been proven scientifically that the needles of conifers trap and neutralise those deadly disease-causing particulates thereby improving air quality around our homes and workplaces.

Style and fun are the key concepts to have in mind when thinking about conifers. Dwarf species, for example *Pinus mugo*, are full of natural humour. Take *P. mugo* ‘Mops’, that almost spherical little tree that works so well in beds and borders, or *Pinus pumila* (Dwarf Siberian pine), another star whose diminutive family member ‘Compacta’ will happily slot into most garden situations. These dwarfs need only a couple of metres of ground and will give so much year-round value in return.

Similarly, many of the golden conifers available in this country are dwarf varieties which make them highly adaptable for use in smaller gardens or in areas of special interest such as rock gardens. In these situations they can provide colour and interest, especially when many other garden plants are dormant. The leaves of some take on a bronze tinge in winter which is an added colour bonus and all will look fabulous encrusted with hoar frost or dusted with a covering of snow.

Here are a few species and varieties that deserve a special mention. From the family of the White cedar, *Thuja occidentalis* ‘Rheingold’ is highly valued for its golden-yellow foliage. An added colour feature includes the fact that foliage is pink-tinged when young and turns bronze in winter. ‘Rheingold’ reaches a height of 1 – 2 metres. Another White cedar, ‘Golden Globe’

h...er as a plant for a rockery or small garden. A spherical, dwarf shrub, it has bright
g...ws to an approximate height and spread of 1m.

If... bigger tree with a columnar/conical form to fulfill a particular garden
d... for Thuja plicata. It's an absolute beauty. From the family of the
J... (Cryptomeria) you can choose either end of the spectrum: 'Elegans
c...ive conical shrub that has dark green juvenile foliage which turns
bronze in winter and will reach 2 – 4 metres in height whilst Cryptomeria japonica (Japanese
Cedar) is a handsome tree that can reach 25 metres.

No survey of ever stylish conifers would be complete without a mention of Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) 'Gold Coin'. This slow growing shrub sports intense golden foliage and achieves a height and spread of approximately 2 metres.

Grow these conifers in deep soil with good drainage. They will do best in sheltered, sunny positions. Japanese cedars will tolerate chalky soils and are happy in partial shade. Thujas need shelter from cold drying winds.

A little reminder . . .

Autumn is the perfect time for planting - nature does so much of the work for you if you can get plants in at the right time of year. You can plant right up to early December provided we don't have any hard frosts. So focus on a new gardening project this autumn - perhaps revamping borders by splitting plants and repositioning them or adding new plants and trees to newly created borders or other areas of the garden. Also remember to get spring-flowering bulbs in now.

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. Tel: 01865 400533 Web: www.exoticbotanic.com

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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