



The Mouthpiece

Culham's Newsletter No 326

Village Diary for May 2011

- 8th Family Communion - St. Paul's Church, 10 am*
- 13th Mobile Library - The Glebe, 1.40 - 1.50 pm*
- 15th Evening Prayer - St. Paul's Church, 6 pm*
- 15th DEADLINE FOR JUNE'S MOUTHPIECE*
- 16th LoC 'Virtual Tour' of London - 7 pm, location TBA*
- 21st Plant Sale & Church Fete - St Paul's Church, 1.30 - 4 pm*
- 21st, 22nd Pottery Weekend, 8 The Green, 11 - 4 pm*
- 27th Mobile Library - The Glebe, 1.40 - 1.50 pm*
- 27th SCS Race Night at the School, details TBA*



Church Services in May

Date	Time	Place	Service
SERVICES AT CULHAM			
Sunday 8th	10 am	Culham	Family Communion
Sunday 15th	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>			
SERVICES ELSEWHERE			
Sunday 1st	8 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
	10 am	Long Wittenham	Family Service
Sunday 8th	10 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
	6 pm	Long Wittenham	Evening Prayer
Tuesday 10th	10.30 am	Long Wittenham	Home Communion
Sunday 15th	10 am	Long Wittenham	Holy Communion
Sunday 22nd	8.30 am	Little Wittenham	Holy Communion
	10 am	Clifton Hampden	Family Communion
Sunday 29th	10.30 am	Newington	Team Communion

Annual Plant Sale & Church Fete – Culham PCC

This will take place on **Saturday 21st 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, 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), books and DVD's. These can be brought to the church after **5 pm** on **Friday 20th 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!

The Future of Culham School

Latest Developments – Andrew Churchill Stone

There have been some encouraging developments in recent weeks. The governors have reached agreement with a candidate to lead the school from 1st September but we will not make a formal announcement until the future of the school is known for certain. We have held meetings with representatives of OCC and the final decision will be made at a meeting of OCC cabinet on 24th May. In the meantime governors and Save Culham School group are working to deal with council's remaining queries arising from the submissions we have made. I realise that 24th May will be after the deadline for the Mouthpiece in June but I am sure that some way will be found to communicate the outcome of that meeting to the community at large. In the meantime, many thanks again to everyone for their support and good wishes, and I very much hope that there will be something positive to say in May.

Save Culham School (SCS) Group - Cheryl Collier

As you will know we are trying to continue with some fantastic fundraising events to raise money for Culham Parochial C of E Primary School. We have already had a great pub quiz and street party. Now we wish to bring the community together for a few more fun social events, all for a good cause but great to get talking to the neighbours too! They are as follows:

Friday 27th May - Race Night (for adults) with film night run alongside for the children, at the school. Time TBC on noticeboard

Saturday 4th June - Car Boot Sale on The Green 1-4pm

Friday 17th June - Beetle Drive for all the Family - 6 pm onwards at the school. If you've never been to one, don't worry- learn as you go along. Good old-fashioned fun! Tables of 4 but come along as singles and we'll find you a space- we'll all change round anyway!

Please help us to keep the school!

Cheryl Collier (SCS member)
28 High Street, Culham
01235 527951 for more details

Village News

Pottery Open Weekend - Charlotte Storrs

Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd May from 11am to 4 pm

Have a go at throwing a pot (£5 donation to the Pavement Dweller Project, Dhaka, Bangladesh). I'll glaze and fire it for you.

Sale of old stock and seconds: 20% of sales will go to the Pavement Dwellers Project
The Pottery, 8 The Green, Culham, OX14 4LZ - www.charlottestorrs-stoneware.co.uk

Save Culham School Open Gardens Day – Sam Casey

So far we have four gardens in the village for the open garden day, all very different. To make it a real fund raiser we need a few more. The gardens would be open from 2pm to 5pm, with tickets and teas sold at the school. Dates suggested have been either Sunday **19th June** or **26th June**. Extra people can be allocated to each garden to help with the visitors if needed. Join in, and open up your garden (especially after visiting the village Plant Sale and buying all those lovely plants!) - let me know: scaseyrerhaye@gmail.com

FOR SALE - Dandy Delta 4+ berth Folding Camper (polyester/pvc), fully winterised, with awning and many extras. £1500. For more information please ring 01235 525885.

Parish Council Notes

There are no Parish Council Notes owing to the Annual General Meeting

Talking Point by Revd Dr Hannah Cleugh

Dear Friends,

At the Oxford Literary Festival this year I heard Simon Sebag Montefiore speak about his new book, Jerusalem – The Biography. In it he traces the fascinating and often horrifying story of Jerusalem up until 1967, beginning with the Old Testament kings. He tells the story of the place through the stories of the people who have lived there, thus he calls his book a 'biography', rather than a 'history'.

I expect that by the time you read this, the royal wedding will have just happened. All being well, William and Kate will have met in Westminster Abbey, and – before God, the congregation and the entire international media – made their vows to one another. They will have left that building as man and wife, future king and queen. As well as carrying their own joy and hopes for their marriage, they carry a lot of hopes and expectations for them as a couple, and – in ways we may find very difficult to articulate – for our shared national future. Westminster Abbey tells a story of our nation: it tells the story of kings and queens and great men (mostly men!) who have shaped our political and cultural landscape. Our shared interest in the royal wedding, and the celebrations of it in communities across country, says something about how we see ourselves in that landscape. This is something we feel belongs, however obscurely, to all of us.

In each of our villages there stands a church building, a place of worship where generations of people have come, in joy and sorrow, to mark the significant moments in their lives. They have come too to mark the significant moments in the Church's life, as in these weeks when we celebrate Easter. And they have come when things are just ordinary, on ordinary Sundays or seeking ordinary quiet moments. Our church buildings are part of our physical landscape, but they are also part of our spiritual landscape, pointing beyond our own lives and own time, connecting us with those who have gone before and those who will come after, and connecting us with God. The biographies of our village churches might be smaller, quieter biographies than can be written of Jerusalem or of Westminster Abbey, but they are significant nonetheless, because they tell the stories of lives shared and loves recognised. Each is, as Philip Larkin put it, 'a serious house on serious earth/ In whose blent air all our compulsions meet' and it belongs, however obscurely, to all of us.

With best wishes for a joyful Eastertide,
Hannah.

Culham Pre-School - Lea Allmond

This term has been very busy for the pre-school. We have had many exciting visits from people in the community, including the Community Police, Abingdon Fire Brigade and Vicar Anne who came to read the children the Easter Story.

We have also enjoyed a lovely visit to Northmoor Trust to see the lambing taking place. The children all made wonderful Easter bonnets and paraded for parents, and the children and staff of Culham School. This was followed by a picnic in the garden, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all in the sunshine.

We also had our Ofsted Inspection in March and I am very pleased and proud to say we were deemed 'GOOD' in all areas. This is a great achievement for everyone involved in the running of Pre-School and also of course the children who were delighted to show the inspector what they do each day.

Hoping that you have all had an enjoyable Easter

Newington Nurseries – “Ferns and Fronds” - Anne Hendry

Ferns are one of the oldest groups of plants on earth, comprising some 12,000 species. Their life cycles differ to those of flowering plants and conifers as they produce spores as opposed to seeds. Ferns were at their most popular in the 'pteridomania' ('fern fever') period of the mid 19th century. The Victorians were avid collectors and ferns were no exception. Their popularity then waned but their fortunes have recently seen a resurgence, thanks in part to our interest in architectural plants. Despite their age of some 400 million years and their prehistoric appearance, their form and shape suit today's contemporary garden.

Although ferns are usually grown in shady positions or woodland settings, there are those that are happy to grow in sun, in sand, on rock and in water. Terrestrial ferns prefer to be planted in open and free-draining soil as this suits their fibrous root system. Incorporating well-rotted compost or leaf mould on an annual basis around the plant is more than sufficient for the fern's needs. Fertilizer is unnecessary as ferns do not need additional energy for the production of flowers or seeds. In fact, fertilizers can cause ferns to die back so avoid using these products.

Ferns are tough and resilient plants. If the fronds shrivel during dry weather or are damaged during cold weather, new fronds will develop later the same year or early the following year. The fronds of deciduous ferns can be trimmed from the plant when they start to turn yellow during autumn or early winter. Older fronds of evergreen ferns can be removed in spring just as the new fronds are beginning to emerge.

Although the majority of ferns prefer shade, there are some that do well in sun, particularly *Blechnum chilense* or *Dryopteris cycadina* AGM. Once planted, ferns prefer to be left alone to mature and spread. Do not divide as this will inhibit their growth.

Below is a small selection of tough and hardy outdoor ferns that suit our climate:

***Athyrium filix-femina* AGM** (Lady Fern), native to the British Isles, is a tall, upright, deciduous species that will get to a height of 1.2 metres. It's one of the most attractive resident ferns and has many cultivated varieties such as 'Frizelliae' and 'Lady in Red'. Its preferred planting situation is a shady position or a woodland setting in moist soil conditions.

***Athyrium niponicum var. pictum* AGM** (Japanese Painted Fern) is native to Japan, China, Korea and Taiwan and gets to a height of around 40cm. It has bipinnate (feather-like) fronds, silver/grey/green in colour and mauve midribs. This deciduous fern likes moist soil conditions, shade or semi-shade and tolerates a minimum temperature -15°C. Again, there are many cultivars including 'Burgundy Lace' and 'Ursula's Red'.

Blechnum chilense (Chilean Hard Fern) is a large fern, growing up to 1.2 metres in height and has leathery, matt green fronds that are deep red when young. This evergreen fern likes moist soil conditions and tolerates a minimum temperature -15°C. It can be planted in either full shade or full sun and is best sited in a protected area of the garden.

***Dryopteris filix-mas* AGM** (Male Fern) is a hardy British native that will grow to around 90cm in height. It has elegant but fairly robust foliage and is able to cope with a sunnier site and drier soil conditions than most hardy ferns. It's classified as deciduous but in mild climates,

the foliage may remain all winter. It has a lovely shuttle-cock habit and the fronds turn a coppery colour in autumn.

Anne Hendry, Newington Nurseries, Newington, Wallingford, Oxon, OX10 7AW
www.newington-nurseries.co.uk

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Let's Talk Money – Age UK

This is the title of a booklet just issued by Age UK to help older people make the most of their money. It is full of information on various benefits, taxation, products and offers.

In particular, there are two useful contacts. To '*put more money in your pocket*' ring **0800 169 29 39** or visit www.ageuk.org.uk/guides.

To '*make the money you've got go further*' ring **0800 169 88 00** or visit www.ageuk.org.uk/products.

The nearest Age UK office is at 39 West St Helen Street, Abingdon.

'Talking Science' lecture series at Rutherford Appleton Laboratory

Friday 6 May 2011 (please note change of date from 29 April):
"How alien invaders can change governments" by Chris Frost
 1:30pm & 7:00pm - Audience: 14+

Using ISIS, a world-leading particle accelerator and neutron source, to solve many of nature's more curious problems.

What connects cosmic rays, the observation of a 19th Century solar flare, the internet, a Belgian voting machine, aircraft autopilots and a natural 'rain' that contains no water? The answer to this question, and how a major facility here at the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory is taking up the challenge presented by the answer, will be revealed in this talk.

Wednesday 25 May 2011
"In search of the northern lights" by Jim Wild (RAL)
 1:30pm & 7:00pm - Audience: 10+

The aurora borealis or 'northern lights' are a beautiful example of the Earth's link to outer space.

These mysterious dancing lights in the night sky have captivated observers since ancient times. In regions bordering the Arctic Circle, aurorae feature heavily in the mythology and folklore of numerous cultures, but what causes these beautiful displays in the polar sky? Dr Wild explores our planet's intimate relationship with the Sun and reveals the science behind the aurora, on our own world and beyond.

This series of FREE monthly scientific lectures by invited speakers takes place at STFC's Rutherford Appleton Laboratory every month. To book your place at any of the events, please either call 01235 445 959 (24 hour answer phone) or email us at rltalkingscience@stfc.ac.uk

Changes at the Mouthpiece – Brian Bracher

One of our editors, Rosemary Waters, has had to resign for health reasons. She's been an editor since late in 2004 and we greatly appreciate all her help. We wish her well and hope for a speedy improvement in her health.

Lynn Hancock, who organised Mouthpiece distribution until recently, has now decided to give up her delivery round and it has been taken over mainly by Angela Griffiths and Sophie Wilson. It did include two of the firms – in Sutton Courtenay and Didcot – who have supported us for many years with their advertising. If anyone regularly goes through these places (eg. to work) and can deliver two copies every month, please get in touch with me on 525885 or by email (see "Who's Who").

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:

Brian Bracher, 25 High Street, 01235 525885 or email: brian@thebrachers.com

John Mason, 20 High Street, 01235 527440 or email: johnu.mason@gmail.com

Advertisements to:

Brian Bracher, 25 High Street, 01235 525885 or email brian@thebrachers.com

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