



# **The Mouthpiece**

*Culham's Newsletter No 327*

*Village Diary for June 2011*

- 4th SCS Car Boot Sale, The Green, 1.00 - 4.00 pm*
- 10th Mobile Library - The Glebe, 1.40 - 1.50 pm*
- 13th Parish Council Meeting - The School, 7.30 pm*
- 15th DEADLINE FOR JULY/AUGUST MOUTHPIECE*
- 16th LoC Meeting - 'The Other House', 7.30 pm*
- 17th SCS Beetle Drive - The School, from 6 pm*
- 19th SCS Open Gardens Day, 2 - 5 pm*
- 19th Evening Prayer - St. Paul's Church, 6 pm*
- 24th Mobile Library - The Glebe, 1.40 - 1.50 pm*



Date	Time	Place	Service
<b>CHURCH SERVICES AT CULHAM IN JUNE</b>			
<b>Sunday 12th</b>	<b>NO SERVICE AT CULHAM</b>		<b>See Dorchester below</b>
<b>Sunday 19th</b>	<b>6 pm</b>	<b>Culham</b>	<b>Evening Prayer</b>
<i>Informal prayers at Culham Church - Thursday mornings, 8.15 - 9.00 am.</i>			
<b>SERVICES ELSEWHERE IN JUNE</b>			
Thursday 2nd	7 pm	Wittenham Clumps	Ascension Day Communion
Sunday 5th	8 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
	10 am	Long Wittenham	Family Service
<b>Sunday 12th</b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>DORCHESTER</b>	<b>TEAM CONFIRMATION SERVICE</b>
	6 pm	Long Wittenham	Evening Prayer
Tuesday 14th	10.30 am	Long Wittenham	Home Communion
Sunday 19th	10 am	Long Wittenham	Holy Communion
Sunday 26th	8.30 am	Little Wittenham	Holy Communion
	10 am	Clifton Hampden	Family Communion
<i>Please note changes to usual service pattern on Sunday 12th June</i>			

## Village News

### Save Culham School (SCS) Activities in June

**Saturday 4th - Car Boot Sale** - The Green 1-4 pm

**Friday 17th - 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! Cheryl Collier, 28 High Street, Culham – tel 01235 527951 for more details.*

**Sunday 19th - Open Gardens Afternoon, 2-5 pm.** £4 per adult, children (under 16) free. Tickets for sale at the school with a hand drawn map of all the gardens open in the village. Tea & cakes on sale at the school. Free cup of tea for fathers!

**Please see Kitson Thomas's letter at the end of this edition, pages 6-7.**

### Ladies of Culham – Mary Rickford

The next meeting of Ladies of Culham will be at **"The Other House"** on **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June at 7:30 pm** when Charlotte Franklin will try and share her fascination with **The Art of Mosaic**. There will be a small exhibition of the work by leading and much acclaimed British Mosaicist Elaine M Goodwin and some large eighteenth century folios by Antiquaries conveying their excitement unearthing Roman mosaics that had not been seen for a thousand years, as well as books showing the works of the most avant-garde artist. Charlotte will also discuss Mosaic as an enjoyable craft for young children to oldest adults (ie. herself aged 83) with an opportunity to handle the material used for making mosaics, from recycled broken crockery, pebbles & shells to wonderful Venetian golden glass. Charlotte will make some suggestions where mosaics can be seen locally. To find the house just look along the brick wall of the High Street for the mosaic!

### Royal Wedding Street Party – Mary Rickford

The Royal Wedding street party was a huge success raising just over **£600** for Culham School. Thank you to everyone who supported the event in its planning, setting up, attendance, and kind donations. It was great to see the community coming together to celebrate the day. We enjoyed many activities and events throughout the afternoon including a village tug of war, a fabulous show jumping display by Isobel Kynoch followed by a close race that pitched Kit in his 4x4 against Toby and his horse. After the excitement of the race, we enjoyed a tutorial on the art of the polo swing whilst the children enjoyed a pony ride under the tutorage of Melanie who worked really hard walking Hannah and co. around and around! The children enjoyed the fantastic face painting and fun races including sack and egg and spoon, whilst others listened to the folk band from John Mason secondary school. A real highlight was a fabulous BBQ that was kindly donated by the owners of the Railway Inn pub. There was a well stocked beer tent, delicious cake stall with numerous homemade cakes and plenty of ice cream to keep everyone cool.

The day ended with a village cricket match that combined players of all ages and levels of ability which was great fun to watch and a perfect way to end a lovely day.

**Found:** Silver wedding ring on the High Street over the weekend 14/15 May. Please call 534202 with a description to claim.

### **Emailing 'The Mouthpiece'**

It seems that at least one email (from the school) was sent to us but not received last month. In addition, two outgoing emails have got lost somewhere. We apologise for this but as yet have no explanation.

## **Culham Parochial CE Primary School - Caroline Evans**

Wow – the children and staff looked wonderful in their royal costumes! They all enjoyed taking part in royal wedding activities which included a royal lunch in the playground, street-party style complete with bunting and balloons. The afternoon finished with games and a treasure hunt.

All the pupils recently enjoyed a fascinating trip to the Oxford University Museum of Natural History where they explored topics surrounding dinosaurs and fossils and joined in sessions relating to animal adaptations. Again, we are very proud to say that our pupils were commended for their excellent behaviour.

### **Topics**

KS1 – the infants commenced the new term looking at royal weddings and are now studying the seasons and Spring. The final part of the term will be spent learning all about sea-sides. We hope the sunshine continues for their sea-side studies!

KS2 – the junior class work has also been involved with studying the royal wedding. Their topic now continues into the summer term exploring rivers and oceans.

To support our topics this term we are hoping to arrange a day trip to the coast - how exciting!

### **Fund raising**

We continue to raise funds for the school and are enormously grateful to all involved who recently held a royal wedding street party in Culham and raised a staggering amount for the school. The total is yet to be confirmed but is in excess of £600! Very many thanks go to everyone who took part on this day and helped to make the event so successful.

The school will be holding a fete on **Saturday 2 July** - details are yet to be confirmed, but please put this date in your diary as many exciting events and activities are planned for this day.

## **Culham Pre-School - Lea Allmond**

The children of pre-school are looking at the topic of Growing and will be spending time in the garden planting and sowing flowers and vegetables. They will also be looking at different animals and how they grow. We are planning a trip to Millets Farm for Strawberry Picking and a picnic in the next term. The children also plan to do a Sponsored Toddle around the village: we will give more details closer to the event and hope that some of you will be able to cheer the children along as they pass by your houses!

## **Talking Point - Revd Nigel Hawkes**

A couple of themes have been in my thoughts and discussions today as I have been thinking about what to write for the magazine. First the recently-held local elections and the referendum on the Alternative Vote; and second, the dreams that people have about their future, and how they might make their dream a reality. In a way these two themes are connected to one another, and to the great feast of Pentecost, when the Church celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit after Jesus returned to the Father. Let me (try to) explain.

Just before the day of Pentecost Jesus' disciples gathered together to appoint a new member of 'the Twelve' to replace Judas, who had betrayed Jesus; they did so by nominating two candidates, then by praying for guidance and then by 'casting lots'. Matthias was the chosen candidate, the first democratically elected member of the Church's leadership. It is up to you to decide how much of the decision was that of the others and how much was influenced by the Holy Spirit through prayer.

My second theme – that of our dreams for our future – is also linked to Pentecost. St Peter and the other disciples, who were a motley bunch of men from different backgrounds, could not have dreamed that they would end up doing what they did on that day of Pentecost. Peter, a fisherman, probably with little formal education and with a history of getting things seriously wrong in his ministry, stood up and preached the news of God's saving love to the crowds who had gathered in Jerusalem. He had made the transition from hiding in a locked room for fear of meeting the same death as Jesus, to openly proclaiming a radical idea with no thought for the risks. Before meeting Jesus, Peter's dream would probably have been to be a successful fisherman living in an independent and self-governing Jewish state. After Jesus' death his dream would probably have been just simply to be alive and be able to return to fishing. The Holy Spirit changed all that and opened up new horizons.

So, my two themes are about choices and dreams, about how we can influence the future and what we dream for the future. The Holy Spirit has a part to play in both of these, in informing and shaping our actions (including how we vote) and in shaping and developing our dreams, that they may become a new reality.

Our God is a God of the possible, and of turning the unlikely into a surprising reality. What decisions are you struggling with? Can you find guidance through prayer and the Holy Spirit? What are your dreams for the future? What needs to happen for that dream to be changed into a reality? God knows. I pray that you will find time this Pentecost to seek the Holy Spirit's guidance, and that you will be surprised by new possibilities and new dreams that will transform your life and the lives of those around you.

### **Culham Parish Council Notes, May 2011 - Andrew Steele**

This month required the election of a Chairman and once again Toby Price was proposed, seconded and returned unopposed to the post.

John Cotton has been returned as District Councillor at SODC and attended part of the meeting. The main topic he mentioned was the upcoming decision on the future of the school, due to take place on 24 May. He is confident that a working solution has been found.

St Edward's football club were in attendance and have requested that the playing field on the Glebe be made available for them to run football match fixtures under their control. The proposal is that they would refurbish the shed to use as a meeting facility, and maintain the ground in return for its use for various types of local football e.g 7 and 11/side games. The first step is for them to assess the ground with a view to begin preparation during the coming summer for use in September 2012. The Parish Council would charge a rent for the use of the facility to be agreed with the club. The issue of parking in the vicinity was raised and it was proposed that as part of the agreement, parking would be limited to the use of the lock car park for the majority of the visitors. Only 2-3 vehicles belonging to club officials would be allowed on to the playing field. Parking in the Glebe would not be allowed as part of the deal. Support for funding the refurbishment etc. will be investigated.

Some work is required to stabilise the monkey bars on the play area in the playing field. This will be undertaken by CPC.

Decisions on Burial Ground fees and stabilisation of the slope to provide improved access are ongoing.

Documents relating to ownership of parts of what have been referred to as the Village Green have been received from the land registry and are under consideration.

CPC agreed to offer support to Long Wittenham Council in their deliberations with SODC in the process of the Core Strategy.

**Next meeting: Monday 13 June 2011 at 19:30 at the school.**

### **Newington Nurseries - "All about herbs" - Anne Hendry**

Herbs are so easy to grow in the garden and not only look more appetizing than the dried offerings found in jars in supermarkets but taste significantly better. Grow them in pots, planters, raised beds, amongst flowers and vegetables in the border or simply in a dedicated herb area in a sunny spot in the garden. Make sure the area is well drained as herbs don't like to sit in water.

We're so used to seeing pots of herbs for sale and probably don't give their origins a second thought. In fact, herbs have played an important role in human societies for centuries; not only were they used to flavour foods but were used to make perfumes, as remedies, as health supplements and even used as currency (the Ancient Greeks regarded dill as a sign of wealth). Not much has changed though apart from the use of herbs as legal tender.

There are many interesting ways in which herbs have been utilised and their uses make for fascinating reading. Indians thought that if a basil leaf was buried with them, their passage to heaven would be assured. In contrast, the Greeks thoroughly disliked basil, assuming that scorpions bred under the growing pots. Oregano was planted in graveyards in the belief that it offered comfort to the departed and as a guarantee to their eternal peace and happiness

Chives were used in Ancient Rome to relieve pain from sunburn, to cure a sore throat, to increase blood pressure if low and to act as a diuretic. In the Middle Ages, chives were also used for the treatment of depression. The Dutch intentionally planted chives in meadows so cows would produce chive-flavoured milk (why would anyone want to drink milk that tasted of onions?).

The Greeks, Romans and Egyptians maintained that coriander was an aphrodisiac and used dill to make love potions. Combine these two beliefs with the Ancient Greeks conviction that anointing oneself with marjoram or oregano would result in dreaming of one's future spouse and we have a recipe for success. Less excitingly, marjoram or oregano leaves were chewed to relieve indigestion, toothache, coughs and rheumatism during the Middle Ages (oregano is wild marjoram and has a stronger flavour). Parsley was also used as a medicine to help relieve rheumatism, kidney pains and improve general health.

In Ancient Greece, students regularly wore garlands of rosemary braided into their hair or around their necks in order to improve their memory when taking exams. Sage was believed to increase mental acuity in Roman times. It was used in the Middle Ages as a healing herb to treat memory loss, epilepsy and fevers, infection, intestinal and eye problems. Maybe we could take rosemary and sage into exam halls in the hope of achieving greater success or to stem memory loss later in life. Food for thought!

Middle Ages thinking was that some herbs held mystical powers. Mint was used to neutralize the "evil eye". Drinking an infusion of dill leaves would offer protection against a curse or witchcraft. Burning dill leaves was thought to calm thunderstorms. Putting a freshly-cut spring of rosemary under a pillow would ensure a good night's sleep and prevent nightmares. Rosemary was used in Ancient Greece to drive away evil spirits; chives were used in the same way in the Middle Ages.

Thyme has been used as an antiseptic for thousands of years and the early Egyptians used it as part of the mummification process. The Greeks used thyme as an ingredient in bath oils and for medicinal purposes. The Ancient Romans would bathe in water scented with thyme before going into battle. Maybe our politicians should do the same.

Mint was used by the Romans as a symbol of hospitality. They also used it as a decoration in banqueting halls. On the other hand, Greek athletes used bruised mint leaves as a cooling lotion after bathing. Many centuries later, mint was used in homes to provide a pleasant aroma to probably not so fragrant Middle Aged houses. And it was believed that if rosemary flourished in the garden, the woman of the house was the dominant force. Happy rosemary planting!

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

## 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 July/August issue of The Mouthpiece by June 15th please, to:**

**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)

*Issues of the Mouthpiece are published on the village web site [www.culhamvillage.org.uk](http://www.culhamvillage.org.uk)*

## **SAVE CULHAM SCHOOL Action Group Report**

### ***THE FINAL PUSH***

Dear Culham Resident,

I am writing to give you the very latest in our campaign to save our wonderful 160 year old village primary school:

The good news is that we seem to be winning both hearts and minds at cabinet within Oxford County Council and are extremely hopeful that they will view our efforts as 'robust' enough to vote to end the consultation for closure process at their next meeting on May 24<sup>th</sup>. However there are still two key areas where we are falling short of their requirements:-

- Whilst we are confident that we will have a roll of 36+ children in September this year –in itself a huge improvement from the dark days of December 2010 – this is a still three or four shy of where we need to be.
- We are facing a budget deficit of around £45,000 against which we have the promise of a loan from the Diocese of Oxford for £20,000 and pledges amounting to £12,000 – sadly, this is also some way short of being able to present them with a watertight case for keeping the school open.

### **What are we doing about it and how can you help?**

We are contacting all parents who have shown an interest in the school and asking them to write a letter to the school confirming that they would like their children to attend Culham, without caveat on whether the school would be open or not (as this is what OCC require). We are also talking to those who have previously left and suggesting they might like to review their options and at the same time we are in touch with the ES with regard to siblings who currently do not have anywhere to go.

If you know of anyone who is considering finding an excellent primary education for their children, either immediately or over the next four years, then we would be delighted to hear from them!

We have asked for pledges from various parents and friends of the school and now we need to widen our net, so to that end I am appealing to your generosity to help us secure the future of Culham School for the foreseeable future.

There are many ways in which you can give – there is our pledge form below, you can send a cheque to us directly, or we can accept cash donations! Please do not hesitate to get in touch should you feel that you are able to help.

On behalf of the group and the school, I would like to thank you for all the kindness and support you have already shown us at our many events, meetings and gatherings – it does make one feel really proud to be part of our community.

Yours sincerely,

Kitson Thomas

Chair, Save Culham School Action Group  
[www.saveculhamschool.co.uk](http://www.saveculhamschool.co.uk)

***Together, We Will Win This!***



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Andrew Churchill Stone, Treasurer, St. Paul's Culham PCC

I understand that the PCC is seeking donations on a restricted\* basis to enable the PCC to support Culham Parochial School over the next three years with the aim of providing funding to the school of £50,000 by 31 March 2014.

I am prepared to pledge the sum of £            per week.

I am a UK basic rate taxpayer.

Signed:

Address:

\* A restricted donation is one that the Church cannot use for any other purpose and, in this case, if it were not used to support the school, it would have to be returned to the donor.

Please sign and complete this document and return it to:  
Save Culham School, c/o 10, The Glebe, Culham, OX14 4ND  
Your kind support is most appreciated, thank you.



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