



The Mouthpiece

Culham's Newsletter No 330

Village Diary - October 2011

- 7th Race Night - The School, 7.00 pm*
- 9th Family Communion - St. Paul's Church, 10 am*
- 10th Parish Council Meeting - The School, 7.30 pm*
- 14th Mobile Library - The Glebe, 1.40 - 1.50 pm*
- 15th DEADLINE FOR NOVEMBER'S MOUTHPIECE*
- 16th Evening Prayer - St. Paul's Church, 6 pm*
- 22nd LoC - "The Magic Flute" - Phoenix Picture House, 3 pm*
- 23rd Village Pond Clearance, from 10 am*
- 28th Mobile Library - The Glebe, 1.40 - 1.50 pm*



October's Church Services

Date	Time	Place	Service
SERVICES AT CULHAM			
Sunday 9th	10 am	Culham	Family Communion
Sunday 16th	6 pm	Culham	Evening Prayer
<i>Join us for coffee after morning services at Culham or for informal prayers on Thursday mornings, 8.15 - 9.00 am.</i>			
SERVICES ELSEWHERE			
Sunday 2nd	8 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
	10 am	Long Wittenham	Harvest Festival Service
Sunday 9th	10 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
	6 pm	Long Wittenham	Evening Prayer
	6 pm	Little Wittenham	Harvest Service
Tuesday 11th	10.30 am	Long Wittenham	Home Communion
Sunday 23rd	8.30 am	Little Wittenham	Holy Communion
	10 am	Clifton Hampden	Family Communion
Sunday 30th	10.30 am	Clifton Hampden	Team Communion

Help Wanted - The Mouthpiece

We urgently need more help with editing and delivery of the Mouthpiece.

Editing - If you can use Microsoft WORD and extract articles from emails **you** could be an editor. You don't have to be a computer expert to do it. If you are interested please get in touch with Brian Bracher (Tel 525885) or John Mason (527440). Some time ago the Mouthpiece had 3 editors and another person to handle the advertising. Now there are just two of us to do everything!

Distribution - Adrian Waters, who organises our distribution, won't be able to do this for much longer. We will need someone to take and collect the Mouthpiece from the printers, divide up 180-odd copies into bundles and get them to about a dozen people who do the door-to-door deliveries.

Delivery – We also need someone to deliver The Mouthpiece to **one half of the High Street**.

Please contact Brian Bracher if you can help with distribution or delivery (ring **525885** or email brian@thebrachers.com).

Village News

Ladies of Culham - Mary Rickford

We have a trip planned for the end of October –The Phoenix Picture House in Walton Street, Jericho have a special screening of Ingmar Bergman's film of "The Magic Flute" followed by a Q&A with Hakan Hagegard (Papageno) whose career highlight was his appearance in the film. It is screening for one day only **Sat 22nd October at 3pm**. Tickets are from £6.50 and are likely to sell fast so please contact me very soon should you wish to go. Transport / car pooling will be arranged once we have final numbers.

Village Pond Clearance - Bob Cragg

We are again calling for volunteers to help clear the reeds from the village pond. The planned date this year is **Sunday 23rd October**, starting at about **10 am**.

For the benefit of any new recruits, it is advisable to wear old clothes, strong gloves and wellies or waders. A garden fork is the best tool for the job, and an extra wheelbarrow or two would be appreciated. For further information please contact Bob Cragg (tel 532565).

Heating Oil Supplies- ORCC

Please join online at www.oxonrcc.org.uk/home/bulk-oil-buying-scheme for an annual membership fee of £20. The local coordinator for Culham is **Chris Houet**, contact 3 Manor Farm, OX14 4NP, email houet@tiscali.co.uk or Tel 01235 559106. The next deadline for ordering is 29th September.

Proposed new community building - Andrew Steele

Discussions have been undertaken at recent Parish Council meetings about the possibility of constructing a new community building or pavilion on the playing field. Several previous attempts over the years have failed to get off the ground despite detailed plans being drawn up. Culham is slowly losing its amenities and this proposal will give a boost to the village's prospects & potential. This proposal will be discussed again at the next Parish meeting and CPC is hoping that several villagers will be willing to pursue this venture by serving on a sub-committee of the CPC. If you feel you would like to help in this venture, please attend the next CPC meeting (10th October) where more details will be presented.

Christmas at the Railway Inn - Pauline Davidson

Pauline is still offering Christmas Lunches for Culham's senior citizens at The Railway Inn this Christmas. See page 7 for details, ring **528046** or email info@railwayinnculham.co.uk.

Culham Parochial School - Caroline Evans

A very big welcome back to the children and staff and an especially warm welcome to our new pupils— Joshua, Rhys, Elise, Jamie, Riley, Lilia, Lilly, Marcos, Eden, Rose, India and Jessica. We hope all our new children enjoy their time here at Culham School. We are very pleased to welcome Ms Carole Rowe back to school, who will be teaching our KS2 pupils on Wednesday and Thursday each week.

It has been a very exciting start to the new term with the children enthusiastically settling in to their new classes. We are now looking forward to the coming Autumn term with the children exploring and enjoying their learning experiences.

Our whole school topic for this term is 'Precious to me'. We will inform you of the children's studies once they get underway.

Race Night: Friday 7 October, 7.00pm. Come and join the fun for this exciting fund raising event.

Car Boot Sale

The recently held car boot sale raised a whopping £364 for school funds. Many thanks to all who were involved and made the event such a success. Our special thanks go to Dee and Jon Woodley (and all their helpers) for their dedicated time and efforts. Although this was the last Boot Sale this Year, we will be doing it all again next year. The total made from the four sales this year is over £1,100.

Vision Evening

A huge thank you to all the children, parents, staff, governors and members of the local community who attended our Vision Evening on Thursday 8 September. It was wonderful to hear all your enthusiastic comments and views. The aim of the evening was to gauge what you, our stakeholders, believe to be the schools key strengths at present (our key values) and looking to the

future and how else you would like the school to develop further. A list of 'key values' and 'areas to develop' were created and the outcomes of this evening will be taken forward by a working party consisting of children, parents, staff, governors and members of the community. Their role is to shape these outcomes into the school's Aims, Values and Vision Statement. This will give us all a clear goal of what we would like our school to look like in 3-5 years time. This will give a great reflection of our school as it is at present, but also some really exciting ideas of areas we can develop in order to make our children's experience an even more positive one

If you are interested in being part of this working party then please register your interest with the school office (01235 521766 / office.3190@culham.oxon.sch.uk).

Culham Pre-School – Lea Allmond

As we begin our new school year we welcome to Culham Pre-School Ben, Rafael, Florence, Kirsty and Toby. We hope that they and their families will have an enjoyable time with us. We have said goodbye to Sasha, Caliegh, Rhys, Riley, Marcos and William who have all now started their 'big' school journey: we wish them all well.

This term we shall be looking at the theme of Harvest Festivals and doing lots of cooking and crafts involving fruits and vegetables. We will also be out and about in the village visiting allotments, picking fruit and of course collecting conkers. During this autumn we shall also be collecting leaves and looking at the various patterns that they make.

We are also pleased to announce that our Pre-School supervisor (Lea Allmond) has passed her Foundation Degree in Early Years Education and Graduated from Oxford Brookes University on 10th September. She will now continue her learning journey studying for the full BA Honours degree.

Culham Parish Council Notes, September 2011 - Andrew Steele

The OCC Councillor's report should be available soon on the Village Website.

CPC has decided to purchase a salt bin, with salt, for use by villagers. It is hoped to place it close to the school.

New burial ground fees have been agreed in line with national guidelines. The rates will be available from local undertakers.

CPC is still awaiting a response from SODC regarding the proposed improvements to the burial ground access slope.

Proposed community building - please see separate Mouthpiece entry.

Next meeting: **Monday 10 October 2011 at 7:30 pm** at the school.

County Council Report, October 2011 - Lorraine Lindsay-Gale

Area Stewardship Fund

The County Council is providing a new opportunity that could go some way towards fixing minor highways problems across the county. As part of the new highways contract a fund has been established that Parish Councils can access for minor highways maintenance and improvements.

The Fund will be administered via the 14 Localities now established by OCC as the structure for delivering Big Society grants. We are in the Benson, Berinsfield and Wallingford Locality which is the Divisions currently held by myself, Cllr Tony Crabbe and Cllr Lynda Atkins.

The Area Stewardship Fund has a total budget of £1million which has to be shared across Oxfordshire. Our share of the pot is £50,000. Cllr Atkins, Cllr Crabbe and I will be responsible for

assessing bids, and then prioritising and allocating funds across our Locality. There is a suggested ceiling of £5,000 per project. Examples of suitable schemes are dropped crossings, minor drainage work and new footways. Parish Councils or community groups will have the opportunity to add to this amount or match fund if their project costs more. OCC are working on a list of ball park costs for reference.

There will be two meetings a year for each Locality area, one to allocated funds in September, and the second in March to monitor progress and make any reallocations as necessary. The first meeting for our Locality was held on 26th September. Due to copy dates I will report on this meeting in the next issue.

Local Police – Rebekah Kent

If you want any advice or would like to contact the neighbourhood team you can call us on the police non emergency number **0845 8 505505** or email WallingfordAreaNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk. Please note this email address cannot be used to contact Thames Valley Police to report crimes or for any urgent matters. Alternatively you can visit the force website at www.thamesvalley.police.uk to view information on your neighbourhood.

Oxfordshire Craft Guild Christmas Exhibitions

This year the Oxfordshire Craft Guild will be mounting two Christmas exhibitions--one their long established show at The Oxfordshire Museum in Woodstock where they have been a seasonal feature for over 25 years--the other a first in the centre of Oxford at the new gallery within the Old Fire Station which will have just reopened to the public after a complete and exciting transformation. Both will feature a range of crafts made by some of the best makers and designers in the county. The exhibition in the Garden and Brewhouse Galleries of the Oxfordshire Museum in Woodstock runs from 2 pm on Saturday the 19th of November until Tuesday the 3rd of January. It is closed on Mondays. Normal opening hours are 10-4:45 Tues through Saturday and 2-4:45 on Sundays, but check their website for Christmas and New Years schedules.

The exhibition in the gallery of the Old Fire Station runs from the 6th to the 23rd of December. The gallery is open from 10 to 5 Tuesday to Saturday and is most easily accessed via the Gloucester Green entrance.

Contact details: Oxfordshire Museum, Fletcher's House, Park St., Woodstock, Oxfordshire OX20 1SN; tel: 01993 811456 www.tomocc.org.uk ; oxon.museum@oxfordshire.gov.uk

The Old Fire Station: George Street Oxford and Gloucester Green, www.oldfirestation.org.uk ; info@oldfirestation.org.uk

Oxfordshire Craft Guild www.oxcg.co.uk

Newington Nurseries - Anne Hendry

Grass Facts

Pennisetum grasses, along with all other grass species, are incredibly valuable plants in any garden. Like hardy plants, the Chinese Fountain Grass provides the necessary form and structure needed in the border. It also gives texture and the same seasonal interest as herbaceous perennials, the 'fireworks' of the garden.

From the bottlebrush-like flower spikes of the *P. alopecuroides* cultivars to the billowing *P. orientale* types, the seeding flowers of this genus waft around in the gentlest of breezes, generating both movement and sound. The subtle ebbing and flowing of grass is at its best and most visible when the plants are used *en masse*, as in the wild, but they also work in harmony with other plants when used in the smaller garden.

Pennisetum grasses also look magnificently architectural when planted in contemporary containers such as zinc or steel which in turn can be sited in front of a modern or light-coloured building.

Otherwise, the larger cultivars make good, stand-alone specimens in borders whilst the smaller varieties are more effective when planted as a group or used in drift planting. A grouping of a single cultivar looks more natural than an assortment of different varieties.

Pennisetum species come into their own in late summer when flowering really starts to get going. Combine these grasses with other late-blooming perennials such as *Crocsmia*, *Echinacea* and *Rudbeckia*, for example, to create maximum interest and colour in the early autumn garden.

Pennisetum species should be grown in well-drained soil and in full sun although they will tolerate dappled shade in southern parts of the UK.

The best time for planting grasses is late spring but plants can be added to beds, borders and containers throughout the growing season. Once established, most grasses are drought-tolerant. However, an eye will need to be kept on the watering during the first year of planting especially if the spring, summer and autumn months are unusually dry.

Foliage and flower spikes are best left in situ throughout the winter so as to help protect the roots and new spring growth. Better though is the interest provided by the foliage and spent flower heads in an otherwise barren winter garden. The seed heads attract birds in search of winter food and the foliage offers a safe haven for small mammals.

Once the threat of frost has passed, the plants can be cut down to ground level. Make sure you don't leave it too late though as pruning may harm new growth. Although the plants can look a little untidy by the end of winter, early-flowering herbaceous plants in the near vicinity will provide a foil for this. *Pennisetum* species are generally pest and disease-free plants. Of equal importance is their low maintenance, perfect if this is a priority in any garden scheme.

Anne Hendry, Newington Nurseries, Newington, Wallingford, Oxon, OX10 7AW
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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 November issue of The Mouthpiece by October 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

Issues of the Mouthpiece are published on the village web site www.culhamvillage.org.uk

CHRISTMAS PARTY AT THE RAILWAY INN - PAULINE DAVIDSON

I would like to invite senior citizens of Culham, aged 65+, to The Railway Inn on **Saturday 10th December** for a Christmas Party, from **2 to 6 pm**. This offer is limited to 30 people who must be Culham residents. It will include:

- Free 4 Course Turkey Meal and refreshments.
- Entertainment, Bingo and Raffle

If you want to come, please fill in and return the tear-off reply slip below. Please note that we need to know if you have any special requirements, such as :-

*do you need to be picked up?
will you be in a wheelchair?
are you on a special diet?*



To Pauline Davidson, The Railway Inn, Culham, OX14 3BT (tel. 528046)

I would like to come to the Senior Citizens' Christmas Party at The Railway Inn on **Saturday 10th December 2011**.

Name

Address.....

.....

Telephone number

*Special needs – please **CROSS OUT** if **NOT** needed*

Please could someone give me a lift?
I will be in a wheelchair.
I am on a special diet –
i.e.



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