



The Mouthpiece

Culham's Newsletter No 332

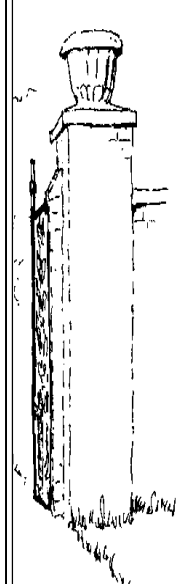
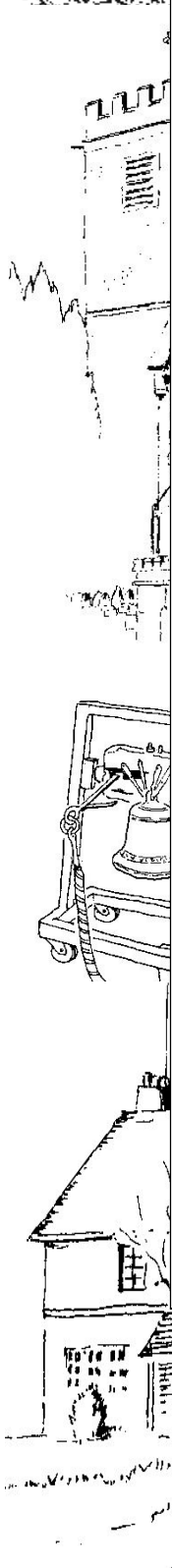
Village Diary – December/January 2011/2

December

- 1st Ladies of Culham - Christmas Wreaths, Home Farm, 7.15 pm*
- 2nd Christmas Bazaar - The School, 3.30 pm*
- 2nd Friends of St Paul's AGM - St Paul's Church, 7 pm*
- 9th Mobile Library - The Glebe, 1.40 to 1.50 pm*
- 9th Community Christmas Carols - The School, 2 pm*
- 11th Family Communion - St Paul's Church, 10 am*
- 12th Parish Council Meeting - The School, 7.30 pm*
- 12th School Nativity Play Rehearsal - St Paul's Church, 1.45 pm*
- 13th School Nativity Play - St Paul's Church, 6 pm*
- 18th Annual Carol Service - St Paul's Church, 6 pm*
- 23rd Mobile Library - The Glebe, 1.40 - 1.50 pm*
- 25th Christmas Day Communion - St Paul's Church, 10 am*

January

- 6th Mobile Library - The Glebe, 1.40 to 1.50 pm*
- 8th Family Communion - St. Paul's Church, 10 am*
- 15th DEADLINE FOR FEBRUARY'S MOUTHPIECE*
- 15th Evening Prayer - St Paul's Church, 6 pm*
- 23rd Mobile Library - The Glebe, 1.40 to 1.50 pm*



December's Church Services

DATE	TIME	PLACE	SERVICE
DECEMBER SERVICES AT CULHAM			
Sunday 11th	10 am	Culham	Family Communion
Sunday 18th	6 pm	...	Carol Service
Sunday 25th	10 am	...	Christmas Day Communion
DECEMBER SERVICES ELSEWHERE			
Sunday 4th	8 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
	10 am	Long Wittenham	Family Service
Sunday 11th	10 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
	6 pm	Long Wittenham	Evening Prayer
Sunday 18th	10 am	Long Wittenham	Holy Communion
	6 pm	Clifton Hampden	Carol Service
Saturday 24th (Christmas Eve)	2 pm	Clifton Hampden	Danish Carols
	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
Sunday 25th	10 am	Long Wittenham	Christmas Day Communion
JANUARY SERVICES AT CULHAM			
Sunday 8th	10 am	Culham	Family Communion
Sunday 15th	6 pm	...	Evening Prayer
JANUARY SERVICES ELSEWHERE			
Sunday 1st	10.30 am	Long Wittenham	Team Communion
Sunday 8th	10 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
	6 pm	Long Wittenham	Evening Prayer
Sunday 15th	10 am	Long Wittenham	Holy Communion
Sunday 22nd	8.30 am	Little Wittenham	Holy Communion
	10 am	Clifton Hampden	Family Communion
	10 am	Long Wittenham	Christingle
Sunday 29th	11 am	Berinsfield	Team 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.

Following recent revelations in the national press, we would like to reassure our readers that the Mouthpiece has not been hacking into anyone's phones or emails!

Carol Service – Andrew Churchill Stone

Following the success of the informal choir we put together for the Carol Service last year, we would like to try to do the same again. The Carol Service will be on **Sunday, 18th December at 6 pm** and the idea is to form a choir to lead the singing and sing one or two 'performance' items. There would be one rehearsal on the morning of Sunday 11th December, although we may also gather before the service on the day. If you are interested in joining us please contact me at 18 High Street, email a.churchill.stone@givemail.co.uk or ring **533011**.

The Carol Service will be followed by refreshments including a glass of wine. Do come and join our celebrations!

Ladies of Culham – Mary Rickford

For our December meeting Sarah Kynoch has kindly offered to host an evening making Christmas wreaths on Thursday 1st December at 7:15 for a 7:30 start, at Home Farm, High Street.

There are a few things you will need to bring with you - a wire circle frame, from any florist - and a bag of festive foliage e.g. holly, berries, ivy, leylandii, pine cones and any other greenery that you can find in your garden or surrounding areas. We will share the foliage but ask that you also make a contribution of £2 towards other materials that will need to be purchased, i.e. twine, sprays, ribbon etc. Please can you let me know ASAP if you will be attending so that the necessary materials can be purchased (tel 07939 221846 email mike@sdcresource.co.uk)?

We have also discussed taking the children Carol singing in the village one evening in December. If this interests you either as a parent who would like your children to join in, or as someone who would like some lively Carol singers to visit you then please let me know and depending on the response I will organise an hour or so of Carol singing fun!

Friends of St Paul's Annual General Meeting: Friday December 2nd, 7pm

Due to circumstances beyond our control, including the sad and untimely death of the Secretary of The Friends, Angela Griffiths, we are late in calling the AGM of The Friends of St Paul's, to meet in the church on 2nd December. The Friends were set up to raise funds for the preservation of the church building. Fund raising, together with annual subscriptions, has helped the Parochial Church Council (PCC) to fund repairs, the need for which is established through our quinquennial survey by an approved architect. By following this process with the help of The Friends, St Paul's has been kept in a good state of repair. The Friends need new members, including people willing to serve on the committee. If you are interested in joining or becoming involved, please contact me, Revd Anne Ilesley on 01865 407605 or email annefi36@aol.com

Culham Bonfire and Fireworks - Jon Woodley-Shead

Dear villagers, Well what can I say? I think it went rather well. So with that said, give yourselves a pat on the back - your donations and being there made this event possible. A very special thank you to Edward and Binnie Reily-Collins for the use of their field, the materials to build a Bonfire, and their generous donation towards the Fireworks.

Thank you also to the team of four who reconstructed the pile of timber and garden trimmings, moulding it into the structure that it was. Thank you to Dee and Joan for preparing the soup and hot-dogs. Thank you to all of you for your donations of fireworks and money: the bucket raised almost £240 towards next year's event. Finally, A very big Thank you to Karl Shead and his team from Spyrotechnics, I think he has a challenge to beat this year's show, but he has assured me he can. Again – Thank You!

Christmas at the Railway Inn - Pauline Davidson

Pauline is still offering Christmas Lunches for Culham's senior citizens at The Railway Inn this Christmas on Saturday 10th December from 2 pm to 6 pm. For more details, please ring **528046** or email info@railwayinnculham.co.uk

Culham Parochial School - Caroline Evans

We are already underway with Term 2, but have enjoyed a busy Term 1 in which the children have been working really hard with their exciting projects.

Our KS2 pupils have been studying the Egyptians and have created some wonderful artwork. This was displayed for the parents at an Egyptian afternoon held a couple of weeks ago, when the children shared their work and also their Egyptian cooking! They also took advantage of the lovely sunny weather we have been experiencing and went for a walk with Ms Rowe, Mr Attree and Mrs Cousins along the river. They collected various leaves and plants which they have used to create some interesting pictures. Recently, through their DT studies, the children have been making puppets. Woodwork and needlework have been part of the construction, which the children have thoroughly

enjoyed carrying out, with some fantastic results. The children enjoyed a fascinating afternoon at the Pitt Rivers Museum last week, with many tales of their visit to tell on their return!

The KS1 children are studying various topics related to 'precious to me'. They have also been writing all about 'super heroes' and comic strips. In addition they have been talking about our surrounding area – Culham, Abingdon and the village church. Discussions and work have also taken place around the subject of 'healthy me' and how our bodies work. The Foundation Stage children have been learning some interesting facts about penguins and have carried out some fabulous artwork relating to penguins (masks, models and a colourful collage). A joint outing with the Pre-school took place recently at Peach Croft Farm, Abingdon, where the children enjoyed a tour of the farm and also learnt all about pumpkins (they even brought some back to school!).

Please make a note of the Christmas events dates below - we would love you to join us and look forward to welcoming you to our school.

Friday 2 December, 3.30 pm	Christmas Bazaar - in school
Friday 9 December, 2.00 pm	Community Christmas Carols - in school
Monday 12 December, 1.45 pm	School Nativity dress rehearsal - in church
Tuesday 13 December, 6.00 pm	School Nativity - in church

Culham Pre-School – Lea Allmond

Well the time of year for lots of glitter, glue and snow is fast coming upon us. The children are very excited and looking forward to making lots of nice Christmas gifts and Christmas cooking. We shall be making mince pies and coconut ice sweets!! We shall also be looking at Christmas celebrations from other countries and the traditions that are followed.

The children have been enjoying lots of outdoor play and planting various bulbs and bedding, ready for the spring.

All of us at Culham Pre-School would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and to thank you all for the kind support that you give to us.

Culham Parish Council Notes, November 2011 - Andrew Steele

Update from OCC (Lorraine Lindsay-Gail)

Lorraine's report should soon be available on the village website.

Update from SODC (John Cotton)

There was little news from John except concerning applications for funding for 'community projects'. This was of interest due to the likelihood of the village applying for a community building grant. The next round of these can be applied for in late March for agreement (or otherwise) in June / July.

Other news

The SODC planning framework will be issued in Jan/Feb 2012 and it is likely that Culham will need a neighbourhood plan to be prepared as a consequence of this and the application for building funding. (Neighbourhood plans have previously been called Parish Plans).

Members of the CPC and the Community Building Committee will visit several local parishes to investigate the role and operation of their community buildings before preparing a plan for the Culham building. A proposal to form an 'official' group was made to allow the holding of funds etc. for the community. It was proposed to call this group the Culham Community Association.

It was proposed that the memorial stone to the side of the church door be cleaned up and access improved by removing the overgrown shrubbery in the area around it.

A proposal to move one or more oaks from the playing field to the Green area was made and will be investigated.

Finally - a further plea from CPC to dog owners/walkers NOT to use the playing field to walk their dogs. The dangers of dog faeces to people and children in particular are well known and the area should be used for human recreation only - thank you.

Next meeting: Monday 12 December 2011 at 19:30 at the school.

Talking Point – Revd. Anne Ilsley

I suppose we're all thinking about Christmas. For me it's rehearsing with The Wittenham Singers and thinking about Christmas services. For all of us, no doubt it includes where to celebrate Christmas and with whom. Do we gird ourselves to throw a party this year (though some, I know, simply thrive on having parties) and then there are the cards, the decorations, the food and the presents. We've had Halloween and Bonfire night to distract ourselves from the closing in of winter, but one thing we can say, by the time we've seen in the New Year, the days will be lengthening again.

Meanwhile I've said it before, but I too enjoy all aspects of Christmas, especially contacts with friends and family and yes the decorations food and presents! At the same time I want to sit in awe and wonder as the children perform the Nativity and I want to spend my own quiet times remembering why the arrival of an infant 2000 years ago is so important to me and I hope to us all.

We are separated from the events of Jesus' birth by culture and by the years, so it was special a couple of Sundays ago to look at the customs surrounding marriage in Jesus' time. We were thinking about a story from the bible about bridesmaids at a wedding and to understand what was going on in the parable, we looked at how a marriage would be arranged.

It began with the bridegroom going to ask permission to marry from the bride's father - a process which included working out a 'bride price' to be paid to the bride's father. The betrothal was celebrated with drinking from a shared cup and a blessing being given. This was a binding 'marriage' although the bride had to wait a year before going to live with her husband, which was probably in his father's home. In that year of waiting the bride and bridegroom made preparations for their married life together. The final scene was when the groom came at night to claim his bride - the bridesmaids needed to accompany her and help to light the way.

As we looked at this in the sermon slot I couldn't help but be reminded of Mary and Joseph. For us it may seem strange that their 'marriage' where they had not slept together, was so binding that Joseph would need to divorce her in order to discreetly end the relationship with the pregnant teenager. And then can we really believe this story that her pregnancy was due to the overshadowing of The Holy Spirit? You may never resolve the final question, but acting out the custom as we did, shed light onto the situation that Joseph and Mary found themselves in.

Wishing you every blessing for Christmas and The New Year!

Report from the County Council - Lorraine Lindsay-Gale

The County Council welcomes Court of Appeal ruling on Energy from Waste facility. Oxfordshire County Council has welcomed the refusal to allow a challenge to the planning permission for the Ardley Energy from Waste (EfW) facility to go to the Court of Appeal. The challenge, by campaign group *Ardley Against Incineration*, was dismissed on November 10th by a Court of Appeal judge, enabling the construction of the plant to go ahead.

The Ardley EfW will treat at least 95 per cent of Oxfordshire's non-recyclable household waste, diverting it away from landfill, while generating enough electricity to supply more than 38,000 households. Landfill waste produces methane - a greenhouse gas over 20 times more damaging than CO₂. Continuing to landfill in Oxfordshire would also incur huge tax costs in the coming years as central Government puts pressure on councils to find alternatives.

Environmental benefit Oxfordshire County Council has entered into a contract with Viridor Oxfordshire Limited for the construction of the Ardley EfW. Planning permission for the plant was recommended for approval by the Government's planning inspector and was approved by the Secretary of State in February 2011. '*Ardley Against Incinerator*' applied to the High Court to have the Secretary of State's decision overturned. This application was firmly refused in July 2011 and permission to appeal was also refused in September 2011.

It's good news that this situation is now resolved. The Council has experienced an eight month delay which resulted in significant costs (about £12million). We now anticipate that Viridor will progress swiftly with construction of the facility at Ardley, making the environmental and financial benefits it will bring to Oxfordshire a reality. The plant should be operational by the end of 2014.
Cabinet Member for Growth & Infrastructure County Heritage Champion

Local Police – Rebekah Kent

Here is the latest Benson & Berinsfield neighbourhood update from Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) Rebekah Kent and PCSO Sarah Talbot.

Crime Mapping. The Home Office national crime mapping website gives the public access to street-level crime information as well as information on their Neighbourhood Policing Teams, Neighbourhood Priorities and Events - details of Have Your Say and other neighbourhood activities. Log on to www.police.uk, type in your local postcode or neighbourhood name and then click on 'Find out more'.

Community Messaging. This free service provides information to subscribers about crime and police activity in their area via phone or email. It also includes information on what we and our partner services are doing to bring offenders to justice or combat anti-social behaviour, and information on opportunities for local residents to raise concerns with their local policing teams. More information can be obtained via our website, and you can sign up here too:

www.tvpcommunitymessaging.org/rmwebportal/startup.aspx

Have Your Say online. You can now send non-emergency messages to us using the online form that is available on the Thames Valley Police website. A number of people have already sent their concerns using this method. For you to do that please follow the link:

www.thamesvalley.police.uk/yournh/yournh-about-nh-pol/yournh-tvp-pol-area-n114-hys. Please allow some time for us to get back to you as we do check our mail box only at certain times of the day. If you want any advice or would like to contact the neighbourhood team you can call us on the police non emergency number 101 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.

From 14 November 2011 callers will be able to use the new national non-emergency number 101 to call Thames Valley Police. This will replace the 0845 8 505 505 number and both numbers will run side by side until the end of March.

Newington Nurseries: 'Pine Needles' - Anne Hendry

It's that time of year again. Christmas will soon be upon us and we're thinking about 'the tree'. Real or artificial? The debate continues as to whether living trees should be cut down annually or whether imitation trees derived from oil and metal compounds should be used. If a live tree is the preferred option, should it be potted with a root system so it can be planted in the garden after Christmas? Or if the preference is a cut tree, can it be recycled as a mulch for the garden borders in January? As a general rule of thumb, there are two types of tree on offer; the Nordmann Fir (*Abies nordmanniana*) and the Norway Spruce (*Picea abies*), two confusing names in themselves.

The Nordmann Fir is one of the most important species grown for Christmas trees. Some describe it as the Rolls Royce of Christmas trees. Named after Alexander von Nordmann (1803-1866), Professor of Botany at the University of Odessa, it was brought to the UK from southern Russia in the mid 1800s. This evergreen conifer has beautiful blue/green foliage with a slightly white hue and the needles are short and stubby without being sharp. They give off a citrus smell when crushed. It also retains its foliage rather well when in the dry conditions of a house so 'needle drop' is generally not an issue with this tree.

Its native habitat is the mountainous regions of Turkey, Georgia, Armenia and the Russian Caucasus. Left to its own devices, it will grow to a magnificent height of some 70 to 80 metres and have a trunk diameter of around 2 metres. Its cones emerge as pale green, maturing to a distinctive red/brown colour by which time they've grown to about 20cm in length. Not for the small garden, this majestic tree is best planted where there is plenty of space so it can be admired from a distance. The

Nordmann Fir is also grown as a commercial crop for the production of paper as its wood is quite soft and almost white in colour.

The Norway Spruce is an equally important species when it comes to Christmas trees. This evergreen tree produces dark green foliage whose needles are quite long, fairly narrow and sharp. The young cones emerge as green in colour, turning to red then brown as they mature. The needles tend to fall more quickly than the Nordmann Fir when in the warm home environment.

The native habitat of *Picea abies* stretches from Norway to Poland, to the Alps, Carpathians and Balkans and from northern Greece to the Ural Mountains in Russia. It plays a vital role in mountainous environments in that its root system helps to stabilize steep slopes. This tree doesn't reach the dizzy heights of the Nordmann Fir but it's still too big for the small garden, getting to some 60 metres when fully grown. Like the Nordmann Fir, it is used commercially in the making of paper. Being a medium/hard wood, it's also used in the building industry for joinery and carpentry purposes. Happy Christmas and enjoy decorating your tree, whether live or artificial!

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.

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