

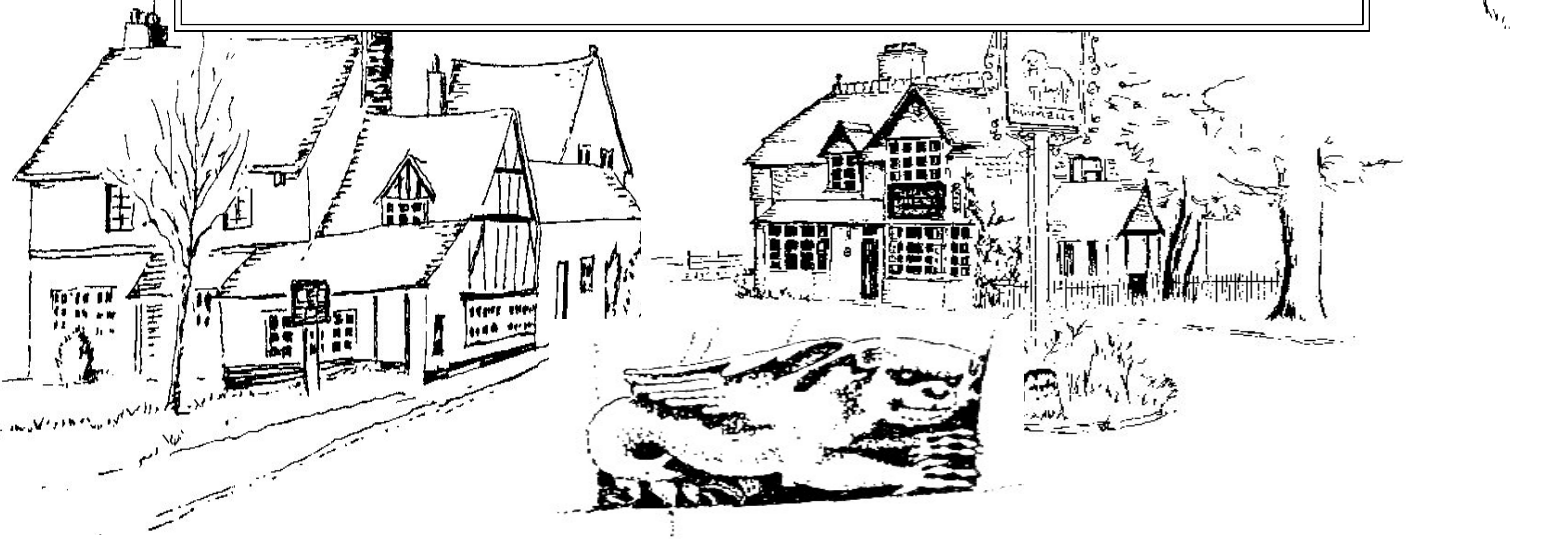
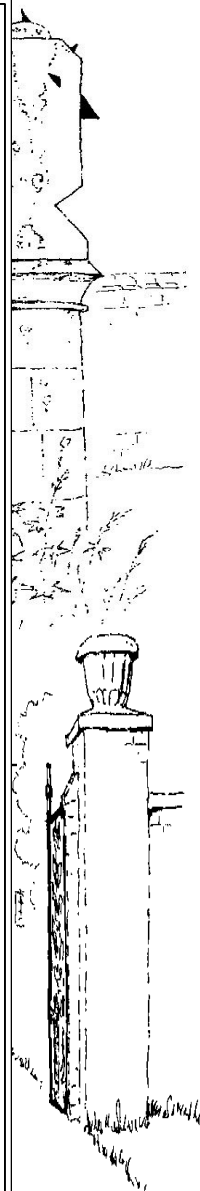
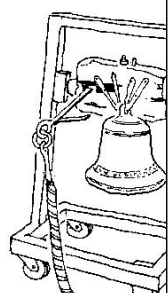


The Mouthpiece

Culham's Newsletter No 334

Village Diary – March 2012

- 2nd Mobile Library - The Glebe, 1.40 to 1.50 pm*
- 7th Lent Soup Lunch - Rye Farm House, 12.00 noon*
- 11th Family Communion - St Paul's Church, 10 am*
- 12th Parish Council Meeting – The School, 7.30 pm*
- 15th DEADLINE FOR APRIL'S MOUTHPIECE*
- 16th Mobile Library - The Glebe, 1.40 to 1.50 pm*
- 16th School Mothering Service - Culham Church, 2.00 pm*
- 18th Evening Prayer - St Paul's Church, 6 pm*
- 28th Lent Soup Lunch - Fair Green, 12.00 pm*
- 29th School Easter Service - Culham Church, 9.30 am*
- 29th Easter Chocolate Extravaganza - Culham School, 3.15 pm*
- 30th Mobile Library - The Glebe, 1.40 to 1.50 pm*



CHURCH SERVICES IN MARCH

DATE	TIME	PLACE	SERVICE
SERVICES AT CULHAM			
Sunday 11th	10 am	Culham	Family Communion
Sunday 18th	6 pm	...	Evening Prayer
<p><i>Join us for coffee and a chat after Sunday morning services at Culham Church! All welcome.</i></p> <p><i>Come along for informal prayers with Revd Anne Ilsley at Culham Church on Thursday mornings, 8.15 - 9.00 am.</i></p>			
SERVICES ELSEWHERE			
Sunday 4th	8 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
	10 am	Long Wittenham	Family Service
Sunday 11th	8 am	Long Wittenham	Holy Communion
	10 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
	6 pm	Long Wittenham	Team Talk & Compline
Tuesday 13th	10.30am	Long Wittenham	Home Communion
Sunday 18th (Mothering Sunday)	10 am	Long Wittenham	Holy Communion
	10 am	Clifton Hampden	Family Service
Sunday 25th	8.30 am	Little Wittenham	Holy Communion
	10 am	Long Wittenham	Holy Communion

Extra Church Service & Annual Meeting - April 1st

There will be a short 'Family Service' (without communion) on **Palm Sunday, 1st April at 10 am** followed by the **Annual Church Meeting at 11:30 am**.

This is a **very important meeting** as all the expenses needed to keep our village church in good repair are borne by the village, not by the Church of England. Do come along as this is your opportunity to put forward your ideas for the future of our church in Culham. Everyone is welcome!

Lost Property in Church

Boy's Jacket: Found in Church around Christmas time: a boy's black 'leather-look' jacket, age 3-4, with white stripes on sleeves. Label inside reads 'REBEL', with 'SPEEDWAYS RBL' logo, plus a small blue & white metal badge, on the front. If it isn't claimed, then we will donate it to charity.

Village News

Ladies of Culham (LOC)

The LOC Bring and Share Supper held at Charlotte's Storrs's home was a great success, with members enjoying tasting and sharing many tried and tested recipes. Thank you, Charlotte. LOC generally meet every month and anyone who would like to join this friendly group and is aged between 20+ and 80+(!) should get in touch with Mary Rickford. Her contact details are on the 'Who's Who in Culham' page of the Mouthpiece.

New plans for Dial-a-Ride bus services in South Oxfordshire

Oxfordshire County Council is planning to create a new Dial-a-Ride bus service for disabled and mobility-impaired people across the whole county.

While there is no national requirement for councils to fund Dial-a-Rides, a number of well-used services have operated in Oxfordshire for many years, jointly funded by the county, district and city councils.

This has meant that service users in some parts of the county have had access to different levels of service from others, and South Oxfordshire residents currently have no access to Dial-a-Ride.

The county council has come forward with a proposed solution that will ensure an equal and consistent 'baseline' level of service across the whole county, with the option for the district and city councils to provide additional funding to 'top up' local service levels.

This is all about securing the best possible, unified level of service with the funding we have at our disposal. We know Dial-a-Ride offers a transport lifeline for some of the county's most vulnerable residents and we want to continue to offer this service for people across Oxfordshire.

While some areas of the county could ultimately see a reduction in the level of service currently provided, it should also be noted that our countywide proposal will see a more equal level of provision, and include South Oxfordshire where there was no previous service at all.

Under the proposed scheme, the county council will maintain its current level of funding to provide for a 'baseline' level of service across the county. In addition the Government has made available a one-off sum for community transport services and the county council's cabinet has agreed to allocate some of this extra money to Dial-a-Ride.

The combined funding will provide for a baseline service in all parts of the county, operating 9am to 5pm five-days-per-week. District and city councils will have the option to make additional contributions to further enhance service levels in their areas, should they wish to continue funding Dial-a-Ride.

As such the new Dial-a-Ride arrangements will run for one year, with a view to putting in place longer-term arrangements from April 2013.

Lorraine Lindsay-Gale
Cabinet Member for Growth & Infrastructure

Culham Parochial School - Caroline Evans

Chinese New Year

What a wonderful day the children (and staff!) had. We celebrated the Year of the Dragon by learning about Chinese legends, art work (zodiac book marks and paper plate dragon heads), playing and singing Chinese music and baking traditional food. Thank you to the parents and friends who joined the children in the village parade with their fabulous colourful Chinese Dragon made from recycled cardboard, fabric and colourful decorations. The children relaxed at the end of the day and enjoyed tucking into their Chinese feast. We hope you saw our article in the Oxford Mail (Tuesday 31 January) and Abingdon Herald (Wednesday 1st February).

Dates for your diary

Friday 16 March, 2.00pm – Mothering Service

This will take place in Culham Church. Following the service you are invited for tea and cakes in school.

Thursday 29 March, 9.30am – Easter Service

Our service will be held in Culham Church – all welcome!

Thursday 29 March, 3.15pm – Easter Chocolate Extravaganza!

Please join the parents, staff and children at our Easter Fair. Games, cake stall, raffle, refreshments and more!

Talking Point – Rev Hannah Cleugh

Dear Friends,

In his book *Nine Lives*, the travel writer and historian William Dalrymple goes in search of the sacred in modern India. Through the lives and stories of nine very different people, of varying cultural and geographical backgrounds, Dalrymple explores what religious identity means in a rapidly changing society. Sensitively and evocatively, he writes about their lives, their stories and their worlds - worlds which are in several cases fast disappearing. One of the people Dalrymple encounters is an artist in Kerala, who makes the statues used in the worship in his local Hindu temples. The artist describes the festival times as 'pools of sacred time', when divine power is particularly close, and prayers are particularly likely to be answered.

The Christian understanding of prayer does not suggest that there were times when prayers were more likely to be answered than others, but the idea of 'pools of sacred time' is a very compelling one, especially in this season of Lent, which is much more than a time of getting ready to celebrate Easter. It is a season of preparation, penitence, self-examination, and reflection. During Lent we are encouraged to re-evaluate our lives and our priorities - what things do we indulge in that it's good to give up now and again? Do we need to rethink our charitable giving, or give more of our time or skill to an organisation, or to a neighbour who could really do with a bit of help?

Traditionally, Lent is also a season for exploring more about our faith, spending time studying or thinking about the big questions of life. This Lent across the Dorchester Team, we are exploring prayer, through a creative focus for prayer in some of our churches, a group studying the Lord's Prayer, and some extra different services. Everyone is most welcome to join in with any of these, and if you would like to know more please contact your local clergy. Maybe you don't pray. Maybe it's so long since you did that you've forgotten how. Or maybe you pray all the time and would like to think about it a bit more. Wherever you are, make some time this Lent to explore and reflect. I hope you find this season truly sacred time.

Best wishes,
Hannah

Lent

Following the good reception for [last year's Lent lectures we have arranged for two excellent speakers to give talks to support and help us in our prayer life.](#) These are:

[Sunday 26th February from 6 to 7 pm in Dorchester Abbey - Ann Verena, followed by Taize@7](#)

[Sunday 11th March from 6 to 7 pm in Long Wittenham Church - David Winter, followed by Compline.](#)

Please make a note of these dates in your diaries today and look for details of further events in your parishes. They will include house groups and courses on the **Lord's Prayer**, the opportunity to spend **'an hour out'** in spiritual reflection with another person and **reflective prayer stations** to explore in different churches. **'An hour out'** is an opportunity to spend a bit of time with someone discussing what you need to about God and about prayer.

Local Police – Rebekah Kent

Here are some extracts from the latest Benson & Berinsfield neighbourhood report by PCSOs Rebekah Kent and Sarah Talbot. Culham itself seems to be relatively crime-free

Speeding

We have received a couple of complaints of speeding in Burcot on the A415 in both directions this month. We will endeavour to carry out checks along this road.

Bicycles

We have had several bikes handed into us at Wallingford Police Station. If you have lost a bike and have an accurate description of it, please call us or pop into the station as we would like to reunite them with their owners.

Since November 2011 callers have been able to use the new national non-emergency number 101 to call Thames Valley Police. This replaces the old 08458 505505 number.

Newington Nurseries: Cornus for all Seasons - Anne Hendry

Cornus, or Dogwood, can be divided into two forms: shrubby and flowering. The shrubby varieties are grown for their dramatic winter stem colours and the flowering types are grown for their colourful summer bracts and autumn colour.

Cornus was apparently called Dog Tree in the mid 1500s, then Dogwood in the early 1600s. By this time, it was also called Hound Tree and the fruits, or drupes, were known as Dog Berries or Hound Berries. It is however thought that Dogwood is a corruption of 'dagwood' as the slender, hardwood stems, were used to make 'dags', or daggers, and skewers.

The best shrubby dogwoods for stunning winter colour are *Cornus alba* 'Sibirica' (red stems), *C. alba* 'Kesselringii' (almost black stems), *C. sericea* 'Flaviramea' (lime green stems) and *C. sanguinea* 'Midwinter Fire' (red, orange and yellow the length of the stems). The summer foliage is nothing out of the ordinary and the creamy flowers are rather insignificant. For a bit more summer interest, *C. alba* 'Elegantissima' provides variegated foliage. To create some theatre in the garden, plant red or black stemmed varieties with lime green varieties. In order to obtain good winter colour, the stems should be cut back each spring to allow the summer to produce an abundance of new, vibrantly-coloured shoots for the following winter. Shrubby Dogwoods are forgiving plants and tolerate any soils including damp conditions. However, do plant in full sun so as to promote the brightest of colours.

The flowering Dogwoods are not noted for their winter colour but for their showy spring/summer bracts and beautiful autumn shades. Of note are *Cornus florida* and *Cornus kousa* and their cultivars. *C. florida* 'Cherokee Chief' produces striking, dark pink bracts whilst *C. florida* 'Rubra' produces dusky pink bracts. *C. kousa* 'China Girl' produces white bracts in early summer and *C. 'Norman Hadden'*, a semi-evergreen, produces masses of bracts in shades of cream. All produce pendent strawberry/raspberry-like fruits (those of *C. florida* are reported not to be edible whereas *C. kousa* are reported to be edible). All get to a height and spread of some 6 and 8 metres. By the time autumn arrives, the green summer foliage turns into hues of fiery red, plum purple, brilliant orange, bronze and gold. The flowering types prefer to be planted in dappled shade. *Cornus florida* prefers neutral to acid soil conditions whereas *Cornus kousa* is more tolerant of neutral to alkaline soils. Pruning is minimal; cut out dead wood as required and prune lower branches to create a clear trunk. Do this between late autumn and early spring whilst the tree is dormant.

*Newington Nurseries, Newington, Nr Stadhampton (on the A329), OX10 7AW
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Out & About

Bridge Group of Churches - 2012 Lent Soup Lunches in March

These started in February and will continue on **Wednesdays** in March between **12 noon** and **2 pm**. Come and enjoy a simple lunch of home-made soup, bread and cheese, Fairtrade biscuits and coffee or tea at the following venues.

7th: Rye Farm House, Culham, c/o Stephen and Janet Beaumont (directions - turn right just before the bridge going into Abingdon, follow the signs for Kingfisher Barn. Go past the barn to Rye Farm House)

14th: Clifton Heath Cottage, Clifton Hampden, c/o Margaret and Clive Antliff (directions- turn left off the Oxford Road before Notcutts Garden Centre)

21st: The Vicarage, High Street, Long Wittenham, c/o Revd Anne Ilsley

28th: Fair Green, Culham, c/o Ingrid and Charles Reichardt (opposite the Waggon and Horses)

There is a minimum donation of **£4** (which can be gift-aided). All the proceeds will go to our chosen charities: **Ragalla Aid** which helps families in Sri Lanka, and **Headway**, a nationwide charity providing therapy and support to people affected by brain injury or disease, including some from our Bridge Group villages. Please contact Anne Walsh 01865 407249 or Janet Haylett 01865 407382 for more information.

ORCC NEWS

250 Free Memberships of Oil Scheme

Thanks to funds from a new Department of Health scheme called **WARM HOMES, HEALTHY PEOPLE**, ORCC Trading can offer one year's FREE membership of the Community bulk oil buying scheme to 250 vulnerable people.

The term 'vulnerable' could refer to anyone who might be struggling to meet the cost of heating their homes to a reasonable warmth – families with young children, older people, those who have a disability or long term illness, someone with employment difficulties. **The offer will only be available until 31 March!**

There will be other benefits to be had under the **WARM HOMES, HEALTHY PEOPLE** scheme (such as information and advice, fuel vouchers, insulation, practical refurbishments, food parcels) – details from the **Warm Homes Helpline on 0844 887 0005**.

Annual Abingdon Arts Festival**15th March to 1st April 2012**

Abingdon Performing Arts Group Enterprise (APAGE) is proud to announce the **14th Annual Abingdon Arts Festival** - a programme of performing and visual arts events for and by the people of Abingdon. This year we're proud to have as our **headline guest**, writer and stand-up comedian, **Mark Steel**.

From **symphony orchestras** to **Indie rock** to the **swingingest of jazz** to **making your own music**; from **classic silent movies with live music** to **photographic competitions**; from **making your own prints** to **printing your own masks**; from **Bollywood dance** to **physical theatre** and of course, a **Rhinoceros**.

For further information on all events including ticket details, please see the festival website:

www.abingdonartsfestival.org.uk or the festival brochure or contact:

Malcolm Ross (Chairman and Co-ordinator), Email: mr@taptan.com, Tel: 01235 524538

Sutton Courtenay Local History Society**"THE THAMES AT WAR"**

An illustrated talk by Bill King, Tuesday 27th March, Village Hall 7.30 pm

The River Thames has played an important part in the history of the country and this area in particular, both in peace and in war, as a major artery and in defence. Bill King will describe its importance in his talk which will include references to local constructions and defences from early days to World War 2.

Everyone welcome: Members £2, Non Members £3

Mary Thompson, Chair, Sutton Courtenay Local History Society

Jazz at the Railway Inn – Events in March

3rd March, Rick Chase, Rock Vocalist

9th March, Black Nasty Rock Band

10th March, St. Patrick's Day Karaoke and Disco

17th March, Mothering Sunday and win a bouquet of flowers in a free draw.

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 APRIL issue of The Mouthpiece by MARCH 15th please, to:

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