



The Mouthpiece

Culham's Newsletter No 337

Village Diary June 2012

- 2nd Jubilee Street Party – The Glebe*
- 8th Mobile Library – The Glebe, 1.40 to 1.50*
- 10th Family Communion – St Paul's Church, 10 am*
- 10th Friends' BBQ Lunch – 6 The Green, 12.30pm*
- 15th DEADLINE FOR JULY/AUGUST'S MOUTHPIECE*
- 16th Car Boot Sale – The Green, 1 pm to 4 pm*
- 17th Evening Prayer – St Paul's Church, 6 pm*
- 22nd Mobile Library – The Glebe, 1.40 to 1.50 pm*



Church Services in June

DATE	TIME	PLACE	SERVICE
SERVICES AT CULHAM			
Sunday 10th	10 am	Culham	Family Communion
Sunday 17th	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 3rd	8 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
	10 am	Long Wittenham	Family Service
Sunday 10th	8 am	Long Wittenham	Holy Communion
	10 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
	6 pm	Long Wittenham	Evening Prayer
Tuesday 12th	10.30 am	Long Wittenham	Home Communion
Sunday 17th	10 am	Long Wittenham	Feast
Sunday 24th	8.30 am	Little Wittenham	Holy Communion
	10 am	Clifton Hampden	Family Communion
	10 am	Long Wittenham	Holy Communion

Village News

New Church Open Hours – Culham PCC

As from June 1st, The Church will be open during daylight hours. Volunteers are needed to open and close the Church on a monthly rota. Please contact Revd. Anne Ilsley, 01865 407605 annefi36@aol.com or Janet Beaumont, 01235 520484.

Annual Plant Sale & Church Fete – Culham PCC

We would like to thank all those who helped at the Plant Sale on May 19th. We raised £956, plus £126 from the Friends' Tombola, making a total of **£1082**. Whatever you did – growing plants, making cakes, erecting and dismantling, or manning stalls, etc - a big 'thank you' to all of you!

Have a go at throwing a pot! - Charlotte Storrs

Pottery Open Saturday 2nd, Sunday 3rd, Monday 4th June 2012 from 2 to 5 pm at 8 The Green, Culham, Abingdon, OX14 4LZ. The pottery is at the back of the house - follow signs "Pottery". I'll glaze and fire it for you. Sale of old stock and seconds.

(£5 donation in aid of Kabeho Mwana: Life for a Child in Rwanda, to help tackle malnutrition and preventable illnesses in children under the age of 5.)

www.charlottestorrs-stoneware.co.uk

Ivy Waters: We have just learnt of the death of Ivy (Bet) Waters on 17 May 2012 aged 86. She will be sadly missed, and our thoughts go to Alf, Adrian, Nigel, Andrew and their extended families.



Come and join the celebrations for The Queens Diamond Jubilee at The Glebe, Culham, Street Party on Saturday 2nd June from 2pm

Bring Food and Drinks to share, Chairs to sit. BBQ, Raffle, Fun and Games.

Donations, help and contributions welcome. To get involved and help create a wonderful event contact Dee Woodley-Shead on 01235 522448 or Joan Woodley 01235 529905

Friends of St Paul's: BBQ Lunch and AGM – Philip Owen

After the church service on 10th JUNE, starting at 11 am, the Friends of St Paul's Church will host a presentation on a community project in Stadhampton which is seeking to convert Stadhampton's parish church in into a multi-use village amenity.

After the end of the presentation the Friends' AGM will be held, followed by a BBQ Lunch. **For further details please see page 9 below.**

'Support Culham School'

'Support Culham School' - Jon Woodley-Shead

Fundraising for the school continues. The March car boot sale raised £359.00. Unfortunately the April sale had to be cancelled due to the wet weather that we are enduring, however always the optimists, the dates for further car boot sales are:

June 16, July 21, Aug 18, and Sept 22 The cost of a pitch is £6.00. 12 noon for sellers to set up, buyers from 1 pm (we all know that they arrive early).

The proceeds from the Sept sale will go towards a village bonfire and fireworks evening in November. Donations for the Sales are very gratefully appreciated - they can be dropped off at **18 The Glebe, Culham**, or for collections, **call Dee or Jon Woodley-Shead on 01235 522448**.

On **Saturday 2nd June** from **12 noon to 4 pm** the Support Culham School Group will be holding a Teddy Tombola and information stall at the Fun in the Park event in **Abbey Meadows**, Abingdon to continue to raise the profile of the school as well as raise funds. Any offers of help would be gratefully received, as would any unused cuddly toys (good condition, please) as soon as possible, either to the school office or **Cheryl Collier**, 28 High Street, Culham, **01235 527951**.

Work and Funding - Andrew Churchill Stone

I am sure you will have noticed that work is currently taking place to improve the outside area at School. This work is being funded from the school's capital budget which is kept separately from the revenue budget which we are fundraising to support. The capital funds are allocated by the LEA to be used only for spending on the buildings etc and, in view of the uncertainty in recent times, this money had not been spent until now.

As I mentioned last month, we continue to be very grateful for the fundraising efforts and financial support of the community. A recent budgeting exercise has shown a sustainable future for the school within the next two years as pupil numbers increase. The outside work we are doing will, we hope, add to the appeal of the school and pre-school for prospective parents.

Culham School Activities

KS2: The children in our Junior Class are busy learning about the last sixty years of Queen Elizabeth's reign and the events and changes in each decade. They are focusing on a different decade each week, and are really enjoying their independent historical research, art work and singing and dancing to music from each decade! Our working wall is filling up with interesting facts and the children are looking forward to sharing their learning with our parents and friends on the morning of the last day of term (Friday 1st June).

FS/KS1: Currently the children's studies are based on their topic of life cycles. We have recently installed a tadpole tank in the FS classroom, where the children are excitedly watching the tadpoles grow. The children have also been looking and learning about our new classroom additions – caterpillars! We are hoping these will grow into beautiful butterflies before we release them into their natural habitat. We have also been busy watching our recently planted sunflower seeds grow and can't wait to see whose grows the tallest!

Fancy dress for Jubilee Party: To celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, we will be holding a street style party on Friday 1st June. To complement the children's learning in

FS/KS1 and KS2, the children will be dressing up in an outfit from a decade of their choice. We are looking forward to seeing an interesting collection of costumes!

Parent Governor: Congratulations to Craig Burchall who has just been appointed Parent Governor following the recently held election.

'Readathon': A huge WELL DONE to the children for taking part in our recent Readathon. We collected over £1,000 (this goes towards national charities to help ill children in hospital). Our total raised has earned us credit towards book purchases for our library.

Prayer Space: During May, Mrs Jill Ward and Rev Anne Ilsey will be hosting an interactive prayer space in school with the help of the national group, 'Prayer spaces in schools'. Prayer spaces in other schools have been thoroughly enjoyed by the children, and have received very positive comments from staff and parents. Our Prayer Space will be decorated creatively to inspire prayer and reflection, and the children will be able to visit it in small groups throughout the day. In addition the prayer space will be open to parents from the end of the school day until 4pm.

The Prayer Space helps to support aspects of the National Curriculum, Religious Education and our school values. It provides an opportunity for staff and parents, as well as pupils, to reflect on their lives and the wider world from a spiritual perspective in a calm environment.

For Your Diary: Summer Fair, Friday 6 July, 3.30pm. Please join us, all welcome! Further details can be provided from the school office (01235 521766)

Parish Council (CPC) Notes for May 2012 – Andrew Steele

Jon Woodly-Shead was unanimously re-elected as Parish Chairman for the year. There was no report from County or District councillors.

The Glebe will be closed for the Jubilee Celebrations due to take place on Saturday 2 June. It has been determined that CPC is responsible for the repair to the fence in the playing field and this will be investigated.

Material for stabilising the slope in the burial ground has been received. It is hoped to install this in the next couple of weeks.

Jon Woodly-Shead will make a minor repair to the slide in the playing field.

CPC will write to the residents of The Green with an update on options for the repair of the bridleway path to the church.

CPC has agreed to the use of its bank account by the Culham Community Group (CCG). There is a further meeting of the group at **7:30 pm on Monday 21 May** at the **Waggon and Horses**.

Finally - Once again there are instances of dog fouling on paths in the village. Several dog bins are available for the disposal of this material so please be considerate to other residents and remove your dog's waste.

Also, whilst the Clerk is willing to take phone calls on Parish matters, please be considerate in the timing of your phone calls. Phone calls after 21:00 (**9 pm**) are considered to be intrusive, so please limit your calls to this time. Thank you in advance.

Next meeting: Monday 11th June 2012 at 7:30 pm at the school.

Local Police – Rebekah Kent

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

Parking: This is something that your local PCSOs deal with on a day-to-day basis and we rely on residents to keep us informed of any issues that arise so that we can tackle the problem.

We understand that inconsiderate and illegal parking can be both frustrating and dangerous and we will assess and deal with all reports appropriately. Vehicles parked illegally or causing an obstruction can be given a fine of £30 by means of a fixed penalty notice.

Speeding: This month we have carried out speed checks using our Speed Indication Device (SID) in Brightwell Baldwin, at Burcot on the A415, Dorchester (Abingdon Road) and Brightwell Baldwin near the Public House. In all some seven people were caught speeding. The owners of these vehicles will receive letters advising them of the speed limit and warning that their details may be passed to our Road Policing Team. The speed checks above are carried out by the neighbourhood team and exclude the use of the mobile speed van.

Meetings: You have the opportunity to attend *Have Your Say* meetings in person. The nearest one to Culham will be on **Sunday 3rd June** outside the Church, High Street, **Clifton Hampden** from 11.30 am to 12.00 noon

These meetings are an ideal opportunity for local residents to speak to their local police officers and PCSOs about any local issues. No appointment is necessary - just turn up and speak to your local officers. Further meetings will be publicised locally and on the force website at www.thamesvalley.police.uk.

Newington Nurseries - Anne Hendry

Let it rain!

April was the wettest month on record and it continues to rain at the time of writing. But our aquifers, reservoirs, rivers, lakes, gardens, plants and wildlife desperately need this precious water. Some of us have water butts and similar water-catching devices (even underground water storage tanks) so that we can at least water some plants and vegetables, especially as a hosepipe ban has been imposed upon us. However, to conserve even more rainwater than we do, it's possible to create 'rain gardens'.

Rain gardens are becoming particularly important and useful in helping to protect the environment as a whole. We're experiencing more and more extremes in weather patterns and can no longer rely on winter rains and snows to see us through subsequent summers and autumns. Rain gardens not only help to prevent deluges of storm water causing environmental havoc through flooding and the associated pollution, but give our native wildlife a much-needed hand in their survival in our increasingly built-up surroundings.

A 'rain garden' is designed to catch rainwater and channel it, literally, towards a specific area of the garden. It's also known as a 'bioretention' garden - a system of pond area, soil, plants and mulch that will retain water and soak it up instead of letting it run off. Creating a bowl-shaped area of the garden will help do this and the garden can be planted with native

perennials. A big garden isn't necessary; it can be postage-stamp sized or an acre. Rainwater from roof gutters and down pipes can be directed towards the rain garden via rills. Even better would be to install a 'rain chain' or two (much more attractive than the ubiquitous yet hideous black plastic down pipes) to the gutter and channel the water into the rain garden or pond – indeed, both if you have a large roof and garden to match.

Most gardens will have a low-lying point where rainwater will collect. Provided this is away from the house, that will be the natural area for the rain garden. As with any new border preparation, the soil needs to be dug over to a depth of at least 60cm and new matter incorporated for the garden to work. A fairly even mix of sand, quality soil and good mulch is the ideal blend. Ensure that the pH value of the new matter is fairly neutral. Rain gardens are split into 3 zones: wet in the middle, wet-to-dry and dry at the margins so plant accordingly. Plants that can be used include *Acanthus spinosus*, *Alchemilla mollis*, *Astilbe* varieties, *Crocsmia* varieties, *Echinacea* varieties, *Filipendula ulmaria*, *Geraniums*, *Hemerocallis* varieties, *Iris pseudacorus*, *Iris sibirica*, *Iris versicolor*, *Lobelia cardinalis*, *Lysimachia punctata*, *Lythrum salicaria*, *Miscanthus* varieties, *Monarda didyma*, *Penstemon digitalis*, *Persicaria bistorta*, *Phlox paniculata*, *Primula vulgaris*, *Thalictrum aquilegifolium* and *Vinca minor* – a long but useful list to get this new concept of gardening underway.

The edges of the rain garden should be naturalistic so any pieces of weathered timber (e.g. old logs), surplus stone, pebbles, etc, can be strategically arranged. These will provide cover for small insects and animals, while the garden itself will soon become an oasis for wildlife and attract butterflies, bees, various beneficial insects, birds and small mammals. Rain gardens are perfect for the gardener who can't spend as much time as she or he would like to in the garden. They are low maintenance, don't require fertilizers or, it goes without saying, water! Just tidy up once or twice a year and re-mulch each spring in order to retain moisture and keep weeds at bay. But better, rain gardens can help to protect our environment which is at stretching point.

Anne Hendry, Newington Nurseries (on the A329 on the outskirts of Stadhampton)
Tel 01865 400533 www.newington-nurseries.co.uk

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County Councillor's Annual Report – Lorraine Lindsay-Gale

Here are some extracts of the 4-page report which we hope to publish on the Village Web Site.

Council Tax.

The Council Tax was not increased in 2011/12 thanks to central government support, and there will be a second year of tax freeze in 2012/13 due to a further £7 million grant from government.

Revised Plan For Libraries.

After a huge outcry in response to an original set of proposals that would have seen 20 libraries closed, the County Council agreed to revised plans for the county's library network in December 2011. All 43 libraries will remain open: 22 will stay fully staffed by council employees; and the remaining 21 by a mix of paid personnel and volunteers.

Waste Proposals

Oxfordshire has been hugely successful in recycling, indeed at over 60% our figures make us the best county council waste authority in the country, which is a reflection of the joint vision we hold with our colleagues on the District & City Councils, and the truly commendable commitment of the county's residents.

The Europa School, Culham.

The County's first free school will open at Culham in September 2012. It will eventually take over from the existing European School (originally set up to provide for children of employees of the JET project) which is due to close because too few pupils are children of workers at the project. The new school will be multicultural and children will be taught in at least two languages. The school aims to have up to 800 pupils aged 4 -18 and will be funded directly by central government.

Endpiece

Please note that any opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the editors. We accept information from advertisers in good faith and cannot be responsible for errors therein.

“Thank you” to those contributors who used the new email addresses. We have an editors' rota so the new email address makes our lives a lot easier!

Contributions to the JULY/AUGUST issue of The Mouthpiece by JUNE 15th please, to:

generalmouthpiece@gmail.com

or

Brian Bracher,	25 High Street, Culham	Tel 01235 525885
Jon Woodley Shead,	18 The Glebe, Culham,	Tel 01235 522448
John Mason,	20 High Street, Culham,	Tel 01235 527440

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Friends of St Paul's: BBQ Lunch and AGM – Philip Owen

Presentation of Stadhampton Church Village Hall Conversion

After the church service on **10th JUNE** starting at **11 am**, the Friends of St Paul's Church will host, in the church building, a presentation on a community project in Stadhampton which is seeking to convert the parish church in Stadhampton into a multi-use village amenity. After the end of the presentation the Friends' AGM will be held, followed by a BBQ Lunch

Friends' BBQ Lunch, June 10th

12.30 pm on June 10th to be held at 6 The Green, Culham, opposite the rear of the Church
 Adults £5, Children £3.50

All donations go to maintaining the fabric of the Church building in Culham. Please bring drinks.

Please pay in cash or make cheques payable to 'Friends of the Church at Culham' or pay through <https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/friendsofstpaulsculham>. If making payment online please email pandj@btinternet.com once the payment has been made.

Please post completed tickets to The Treasurer, Friends of St Paul, 6 The Green, Culham or hand to any member of the Friends' committee.

I would like to attend the Friends BBQ lunch

We will be a party of adult(s) and child(ren)

I have enclosed cheque / enclosed cash / made payment online

I am a UK taxpayer, please treat my donation as being made under gift aid

Name of party and number in party:
