

The Mouthpiece

Culham's Newsletter No 339

Village Diary - September 2012

2nd *Baptism – St. Paul's Church, 2.30 pm*

8th *Ride and Stride – St. Paul's Church, 10 am – 6 pm*

9th *Family Communion – St. Paul's Church, 10 am*

10th *Parish Council Meeting – The School, 7.30 pm*

13th *Honey Bees Talk – Earth Trust Centre, 7.30 pm*

14th *Mobile Library – The Glebe, 1.40 – 1.50 pm*

15th **DEADLINE FOR OCTOBER MOUTHPIECE**

16th *Evening Prayer – St. Paul's Church, 6 pm*

22nd *Bright Ring Concert – St. Paul's Church, 7.30 pm*

28th *Mobile Library – The Glebe, 1.40 – 1.50 pm*



Church Services in September

DATE	TIME	PLACE	SERVICE
SERVICES AT CULHAM			
Sunday 2nd	2.30 pm	Culham	Baptism
Sunday 9th	10 am	Culham	Family Communion
Sunday 16th	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 2nd	8 am 10 am	Clifton Hampden Long Wittenham	Holy Communion Family Service & Baptism
Sunday 9th	8 am 10 am 6 pm	Long Wittenham Clifton Hampden Long Wittenham	Holy Communion Holy Communion Evening Prayer
Tuesday 11th	10.30 am	Long Wittenham	Home Communion
Sunday 16th	10 am	Long Wittenham	Holy Communion
Sunday 23rd	8.30 am 10 am 10 am	Little Wittenham Clifton Hampden Long Wittenham	Holy Communion Family Communion Holy Communion

Village News

New local jogging group for complete beginners

We are looking to start a new jogging group in Culham.

The group will be run by a qualified jog leader with the GO Active (Get Oxfordshire Active) project, aimed at encouraging everyone the chance to take part in some regular exercise.

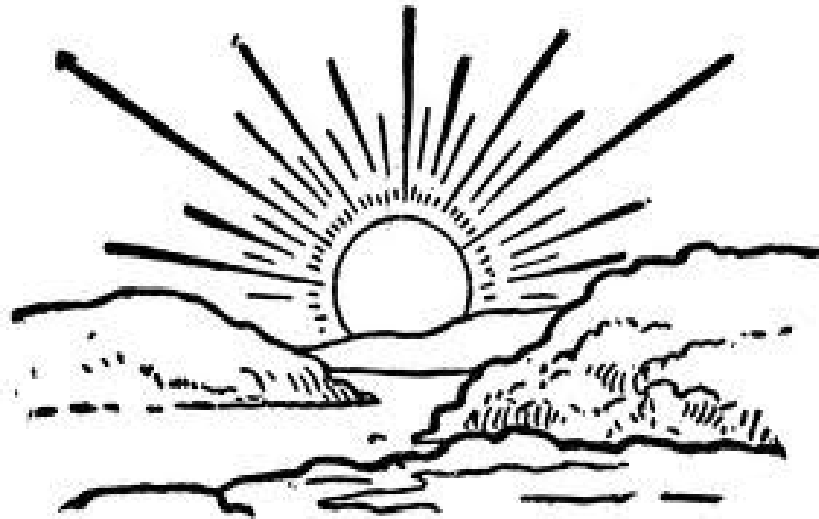
Everyone will be welcome to join up, whatever their age (16+), size or ability. A fully trained group leader will make sure that you are well looked after and having loads of fun.

If you would be interested in joining this group (time/date tbc) please get in touch with Anna (GO Active coordinator for the Vale) for more details on 01235 540377 or anna.capel-davies@southandvale.gov.uk

St. Paul's Church, Culham, OX14 4LZ

Bright is the Ring of Words

A concert in aid of maintaining our church building



Julia Booker

Soprano

Emma Gale

Flute

Robin Howles

Tenor

Peter Toye

Piano

Songs including Sea Fever (Ireland), Pavane (Fauré), Chanson de Matin (Elgar), Down by the Salley Gardens (words by Yeats), The Crocodile (Britten), The Song of the Nightclub Proprietress (Madeleine Dring to words by Betjeman).

Saturday 22nd September 2012 at 7.30pm

A Light Buffet Supper will be served during the interval

Tickets £7.50, Concessions £6.00, Families £20.00

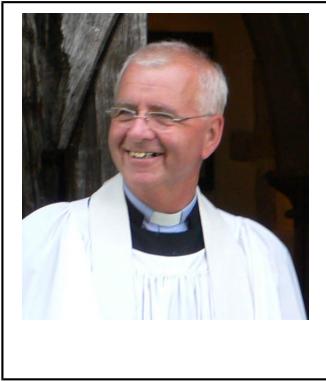
Contact Philip Owen 01235 555223 : pandj@btinternet.com

'Ride & Stride', 8th September - Ingrid Reichardt

The annual 'Ride and Stride' event in aid of the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust will take place on **Saturday 8th September** 2012. Each cyclist or walker aims to visit as many churches as possible between 10 am and 6 pm. It is an effective way of raising funds for your Church as 50% of the sponsorship money

comes back to the church designated by you. There will be a list of churches open on 8th September between these times but if you are busy on that day you could take part on a different day. However the churches you may want to visit may not be open and you would have to sign your own sponsorship form. People sitting in the church and signing sponsorship forms can also be sponsored, so if you feel less energetic and like to meet riders or walkers you could also raise money in this way. Sponsorship forms are available from **Ingrid Reichardt** at Fair Green, Abingdon Road, Culham (opposite the Waggon and Horses). Tel: 01235 520534.

Talking Point by Revd David Haylett, Associate Vicar



I recall commenting before that it is never particularly easy to write something “topical” a month before it is likely to be read! Today all the news is about the Olympics and Team GB successes with gold medals. By the time you read this my guess is that this will be a distant memory, although there has been much talk of the “legacy” of the Games.

Will the sports facilities built for the Games find a continued use? The village built for the athletes will probably be converted into housing and a previously semi-derelict area of east London will have been rejuvenated. The up-graded transport links will be of benefit in the future.

All this leads me to wonder about the “legacy” of our Team and its churches.

What are we passing on to the future?

One obvious “legacy” is our buildings. Large sums of English Heritage money are currently being spent on St Peter’s Little Wittenham, once that is completed the attention of the parish will switch to St Mary’s Long Wittenham which needs several tens of thousands spent on stonework repairs. Dorchester Abbey has been massively restored and its facilities improved over recent years. Other churches in our Team have also been repaired and improved in recent years. Our buildings are one way of witnessing to our belief, entries in visitors books show how much people appreciate finding our churches open to provide a haven of peace and spirituality.

It is the “people” aspect of our legacy I find more perplexing. I know I am not alone in receiving appreciative comments after Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals but for the most part I do not see those people coming to regular, “normal”, Sunday worship. In the Wittenhams very successful Children’s Activity Days and a Summer Club are well attended and the children enjoy them. But any attempt to link that on to the next Family Service is usually a failure. I understand that a Team Confirmation Service planned for later this year may well be cancelled because we have no candidates.

All that seems rather gloomy, but there is good news, there is a “people-legacy” to hand on, the Diocese has had to recruit extra staff to cope with the increased numbers of people coming forward to test their vocation and to explore ordination and other forms of authorised ministry.

Playing the “numbers game”, “bums on pews” is problematical in the rural church. I can vividly remember what happened some years ago when a family - husband, wife, five daughters -, who were regular Sunday attenders moved away, the congregation lost seven people “at a stroke”, and you noticed seven absentees when you had only fifty to start with.

What is really encouraging is the regular, faithful witness, day by day of Church members putting their faith into action often by just “being there”, offering a sympathetic ear, perhaps a word of encouragement or some other practical form of help.

That is the real legacy of our churches, handing on the torch of the light of the Gospel to succeeding generations.

September

Saturday 1st September, 10am-4pm. Campfire Cooking, Earth Trust Centre, Little Wittenham. A BBQ with a difference, this is a relaxed day for anyone wanting to get to grips with cooking outdoors without charcoal and firelighters! Bushcraft expert Nick Smart will be cooking a variety of food with minimum fuss. Adults £75, Friends £60.

Friday 7th September, 7pm-10pm. Moth Night, Earth Trust Centre, Little Wittenham. An opportunity to get really close to moths and see how beautiful British moths can be. Learn the basics of identification and more about these light loving creatures that we see every day. Adults £5, Children £2.

Sunday 9th September, 9.30am-4pm. Into to Scything, Earth Trust Centre, Little Wittenham. Learn the traditional skills of scything on this practical course with expert Clive Leeke. All specialist tools and equipment provided. Adults £50, Friends £40.

Sunday 9th September, 10am-4pm. Wild Plant Dyes, Earth Trust Centre, Little Wittenham. This course will give you an insight into the wide range of plants that can produce dye. Forage for plants and learn the processes to extract and fix colours. Adults £50, Friends £40.

Thursday 13th September, 7.30pm-9pm. The Incredible World of the Honey Bee, Earth Trust Centre Little Wittenham. Join Steve Moll of Brightwell Bees to discover more about the honey bee and the challenges facing bee colonies throughout the world. Adults £5, Children £2.

Backhaus German Bakers

At Culham (The Lion) every Tuesday from 12 noon until 5 pm.

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E-mail Backhaus1@gmx.net

Events at the Waggon & Horses – Hamish Forsyth

Monday nights - Steak night from £6-50

Tuesday nights - quiz night, 8:30 pm

For more information please ring **01235 525012**

Events at the Railway Inn – Pauline Davidson

8th September: live music "Parell Blondie" - a Blondie tribute band.

15th September in the Marquee: a fundraiser for "Help for Heroes" –

2 bands working together to raise funds, NAMELESS and WHO ARE YOU (a Who tribute band).

Tickets for this are £5.00 and are available from The Railway Inn.

NB: 15th December 2 to 6pm – Senior Citizens' Christmas Party – details next month!

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Local Police – Rebekah Kent

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

Sarah Talbot and PCSO Rebekah Kent.

The Benson and Berinsfield neighbourhood covers the parishes of Berinsfield, Nuneham Courtenay, Culham, Clifton Hampden, Dorchester On Thames, Shillingford, Warborough, Berrick Salome, Benson, Ewelme and Brightwell Baldwin.

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.

Parking

Parking is something that your NHPT deal with on a day to day basis and we rely on residents to keep us informed of issues arising for us to 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 carry a fine of £30 by means of a fixed penalty notice. Recently reported parking issue have been; garage obstructions in Wey Road, Berinsfield and double yellow line parking in the High Street, Benson. These spots in particular will be monitored for offences over the next few weeks.

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Newington Nurseries: “Living Architecture” – Anne Hendry

Ask anyone to name an ornamental grass and the response is usually ‘Pampas Grass’, now despised by many as these magnificent grasses were allowed to grow to immense and uncontrollable proportions. Smaller varieties of the beautiful Cortaderia are now available though and hopefully they will find favour again as eye-catching specimen plants. However, there are other smaller, ornamental grasses on offer which are suitable for most gardens whether planted in borders or tubs.

These under-rated plants have superb architectural qualities, provide a touch of the exotic and are relatively low maintenance. They are truly desirable additions to gardens, offering spectacular displays throughout the year, are trouble free and are fantastic for softening hard landscaping. The taller species and varieties are wonderful for sensory environments, providing movement and sound as the breeze moves through the leaves. Shorter grasses are suitable for container planting or the fronts of borders. Grasses can be used as

ground cover plants, as focal points in the garden, in soil erosion control projects, naturalistic garden designs and modern planting schemes. The foliage not only provides interest for the best part of the year but the airy flower plumes create colour and contrast from summer to winter.

There are 2 types of grasses to choose from: cool season and warm season. Cool season grasses show signs of life in early spring and can often retain their foliage throughout the winter provided there isn't an arctic blast of freezing air. Drought conditions can force the grasses into dormancy resulting in unattractive brown foliage. However, the plants will perk up with the help of water. The majority of cool season grasses are clump-forming in habit meaning they will need to be divided every few years. Cool season grasses to look out for include Deschampsia, Festuca and Sesleria.

The warm season grasses throw up small green shoots in spring but they do not retain their green foliage during the winter. The leaves and feathery flower spikes turn to shades of cream, bronze, gold and chestnut as autumn progresses to winter, providing colour and vertical form in the dormant garden. The fluffy seed heads provide food for visiting birds and the dense, crisp foliage provides cover for small mammals. As with

cool season grasses, most are clump-forming and will need to be split over time. Warm season grasses include Miscanthus, Panicum and Pennisetum.

When selecting grasses, choose the right grass for the location. Warm season grasses tend to be taller than the cool season varieties. Plant accordingly, either as specimens or in drifts, combining heights and textures for a more naturalistic effect. Strategically placed, grasses will create greater impact if they catch the morning or evening sunlight. Grasses combine well with summer and autumn-flowering herbaceous plants such as Cephalaria, Crocosmia, Echinacea, Helium, Kniphofia, Leucanthemum and Verbena as well as shrubs such as Aucuba and Elaeagnus.

Once established, most ornamental grasses require very little attention except for a spring clean and division as needed. New plants should be watered thoroughly and frequently throughout the first growing season. By the following year, the roots should be well established thus reducing the need for irrigation unless drought conditions prevail.

In early spring, cut the dried stems back. Small clumps are easy to prune with shears and secateurs but larger clumps may require the use of a handsaw. Divide the clumps every few years in order to ensure the health of the plant. If the outer part of the plant shows signs of growth but not the inner, then it's time to divide. The centre of the plant will comprise dead foliage and roots. Dig out the plant in its entirety, remove all dead matter, then divide the clump into new plants. Replant and water well during the first season, giving the plant a good start with a handful of bone meal, or similar food, in the planting hole.

Anne Hendry
Newington Nurseries (on the A329 on the outskirts of Stadhampton)
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Oxfordshire Rural Community Council – Elizabeth Stevens

Here are some items of interest taken from ORCC's 10-page August Newsletter. Thanks to John Storrs the latest edition of ORCC's Newsletter can now be found in the "Community Action" Section of the Village Web Site.

The editors try to extract the most interesting items from ORCC's lengthy Newsletters, but don't see why everyone should have a computer just for ORCC's benefit!

Bulk Oil Buying Scheme – best prices now!

Did you know that since the ORCC Trading Bulk Oil buying scheme started in November 2010, we have bought nearly 1,500,000 litres of oil for our members? And that recently we secured the best price ever for domestic heating oil since the scheme began. Members are benefiting from the group prices, and now is a great time to join if you haven't already done so.

VAT will be charged on membership from 1 September, so to take advantage of the lower membership fee (£20 for individuals), join now!

For further details please go to ORCC website or email Christine on oil@oxonrcc.org.uk or call 01865 733214.

Feeling stressed, anxious or low? Or worried about someone else?

One in four of us in Oxfordshire will have a mental health problem at some point in our lives. The Mind Wellbeing Service provides vital support, advice and information.

In the first instance, the Wellbeing Service provides the opportunity to:

- Meet with a member of staff and talk through what services are available to support you (both within Mind and other organisations)
- Inform you about all Oxfordshire Mind's services and book you into courses, groups or recovery planning sessions
- Listen to you and help you decide what to do

Sessions are confidential and there is no obligation to receive any further support. We are here to help you decide what is best for you. Get in touch with us for details of how to access support your area of Oxfordshire. Call the Information Line on 01865 247788, email info@oxfordshire-mind.org.uk or visit www.oxfordshire-mind.org.uk

CORNERSTONE – AUTUMN SEASON 2012 –

25 Station Road, Didcot, OX11 7NE

Regular Classes and Workshops for all ages.

NEW THIS SEASON

BABY BOOGIE Baby Boogie is our new class for parents and tots. It's great for energetic children who love to dance, run, bounce and roll in a creative way without the restrictions of learning specific 'steps'! Mums, dads, grannies or grandads – book now and come along with your tot on Wednesdays at 1pm.

MATURE MOVEMENT Dancing is great exercise for all ages. Joining this class will help tone your body and your social life too! Of all the performing arts, dance is one of the most therapeutic, and is well

respected as a way to combat those annoying mental and physical aspects of aging. You're never too old to learn to dance!

GALLERY

Entry to the visual arts gallery is absolutely free, so please drop in any time. From local amateur artwork to contemporary craft or photography,

our programme is mixed so our exhibitions appeal to all tastes. See our website for 'How to Exhibit your work at Cornerstone'.

THE INVISIBLES

28 August – 30 September

This reflective exhibition is the response from a group of mature arts students to the theme of loss and disappearance and its effect on the human condition. The artists work in a variety of mediums including pastels, sculpture, print, illustration and multi media, creating a varied and interesting exhibition.

AN EVENING AT THE BALLET

St. Giles Orchestra, one of the top Oxford orchestras, are presenting an evening of ballet music on Saturday 10 November at the Cornerstone... The most well-known pieces from The Sleeping Beauty and Swan Lake will be featured. Music by Gounod and Chopin is also included.

Please note, these are full orchestra versions, the dancing is not included.

Tickets are available online at the Cornerstone website, (www.cornerstone-arts.org.uk), by telephone 01235 515144, or in person at the Cornerstone Box Office.

It starts at 7.30pm

Tickets are £10, £8 for concessions and family tickets are £30.

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.

Contributions to the OCTOBER issue of The Mouthpiece by SEPTEMBER 15th please, to:

generalmouthpiece@gmail.com

or

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

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AND - if you'd like to help with organising the adverts (invoicing, etc.) please let us know!