



The Mouthpiece

Culham's Newsletter No 342

Village Diary – December/January 2012/3

December

- 4th Culham Community Group, Waggon & Horses, 7 pm*
- 7th Mobile Library - The Glebe, 1.40 to 1.50 pm*
- 9th Family Communion - St Paul's Church, 10 am*
- 10th Parish Council Meeting - The School, 7.30 pm*
- 16th Annual Carol Service - St Paul's Church, 6 pm*
- 19th Community Christmas Carols - The School, 2.15 pm*
- 20th School Nativity Play - St Paul's Church, 7 pm*
- 21st Mobile Library - The Glebe, 1.40 - 1.50 pm*
- 25th Christmas Family Communion - St Paul's Church, 10 am*

January

- 4th Mobile Library - The Glebe, 1.40 to 1.50 pm*
- 8th Culham Community Group, Waggon & Horses, 7 pm*
- 13th Family Communion - St Paul's Church, 10 am*
- 14th Parish Council Meeting - The School, 7.30 pm*
- 15th DEADLINE FOR FEBRUARY'S MOUTHPIECE*
- 18th Mobile Library - The Glebe, 1.40 to 1.50 pm*

CHURCH SERVICES - DECEMBER 2012 & JANUARY 2013

DATE	TIME	PLACE	SERVICE
DECEMBER SERVICES AT CULHAM			
Sunday 9th	10 am	Culham	Family Communion
Sunday 16th	6 pm	Culham	Annual Carol Service
Tuesday 25th	10 am	Culham	Christmas Family Communion
DECEMBER SERVICES ELSEWHERE			
Sunday 2nd	8 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
	10 am	Long Wittenham	Family Service
Sunday 9th	8 am	Long Wittenham	Holy Communion
	10 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
	6 pm	Long Wittenham	Evening Prayer
Tuesday 11th	10.30 am	Long Wittenham	Home Communion
Sunday 16th	10 am	Long Wittenham	Holy Communion
Sunday 23rd	8.30 am	Little Wittenham	Holy Communion
	10 am	Long Wittenham	Holy Communion
	10 am	Clifton Hampden	Family Communion & Crib
	6 pm	Clifton Hampden	Carol Service
Monday 24th	6 pm	Little Wittenham	Carol Service
Christmas Eve	6 pm	Long Wittenham	Carol Service
	11.30 pm	Clifton Hampden	Midnight Communion
Christmas Day	10 am	Long Wittenham	Holy Communion
JANUARY SERVICES AT CULHAM			
Sunday 13th	10 am	Culham	Family Communion
Sunday 20th	6 pm	Culham	Evening Prayer
JANUARY SERVICES ELSEWHERE			
Sunday 6th	8 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
	10 am	Long Wittenham	Family Service & Christingle
Tuesday 8th	10.30 am	Long Wittenham	Home Communion
Sunday 13th	8 am	Long Wittenham	Holy Communion
	10 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
	6 pm	Long Wittenham	Evening Prayer
Sunday 20th	10 am	Long Wittenham	Holy Communion
	6 pm	Culham	Evening Prayer
Sunday 27th	8 am	Little Wittenham	Holy Communion
	10 am	Clifton Hampden	Family Communion
	10 am	Long Wittenham	Holy Communion

VILLAGE NEWS

Merry Christmas from the Mouthpiece!

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.

Harvest Festival at St Paul's Culham - Culham PCC

A most enjoyable service was held in the Church on Sunday 7 October followed by a ploughman's and wine for all those who wished to stay. The evening was extremely sociable with everyone making the most of the company, and all the harvest flowers and decorations looked wonderful. Our thanks go to everyone who helped with the evening and also to the 75 adults and children who attended the service which also helped to make a profit of £235, which is good news indeed!

Poppy Appeal - The Poppy Collection in Culham raised £385.00 for the Royal British Legion.

Bonfire Night - Jon Woodley-Shead

Well now didn't that go off with a bit of a bang? And I am happy to believe that all enjoyed the Culham Bonfire and Pyro musical. Thank you to all who gave time, effort and materials to make this such a successful event; thank you to the ladies who manned the soup and hot dog kitchen, to the young men of the village who built the Bonfire, to the bucket shakers, and to all who attended and helped the donations total to a massive £1723.00. (There is a small amount of expenditure to be deducted, but we have the funds for next year)

And finally a massive "Thank You" to Karl (my son) and his team from Spyrotechnics, who worked tirelessly and with passion for a few after-event beers, for an absolutely fantastic fireworks display. For all who would like to relive the event it has been uploaded to YouTube, and can be seen in full HD, "**Culham Village Fireworks 10th Nov 2012**".

Lost Property - Found on the recreation ground, during the clear up after the Bonfire night event on Saturday night, a black glove, please call 01235 522448 to reclaim

Charlotte Storrs Stoneware

Pottery opening times in December 2012: Sunday afternoons from 2.00pm to 4.30pm – 2nd, 9th, 16th December. I will be working on orders. Do come along if you want to see pots being thrown on the wheel. www.charlottestorrs-stoneware.co.uk

The Pottery, 8 The Green, Culham, Abingdon, OX14 4LZ *Follow signs to "Pottery"*

St Paul's Carol Service - Sunday 16th December 6pm

This year *Sine Nomine Singers* from Oxford will be joining us to help lead the Carols in our annual pre-Christmas service. There will be some old favourites and some new music performed by the choir with congregational carols and readings as usual, followed by refreshments.

This year the PCC have decided that the collection at the service will be donated to two local charities which offer help to families in need of support: Homestart Abingdon and Care for Carers based in Didcot. Please come along to support these charities as well as enjoying the music

Women's Institute – Charlotte Franklin

On October 18th Sunningwell Women's Institute held a coffee morning in their Village Hall in order to make the work of the WI better known. The subscription is £30 per annum. For this you receive their monthly printed newsletters, twelve meetings a year of talks and access to their courses at Denman College, Marcham. We are lucky to live so near it. Sunningwell would be delighted for us to join them or we could start our own group. Sunningwell meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month in the Village Hall at 2 pm. Our neighbours, Sutton Courtenay, have been members of the WI for nearly one hundred years. If anyone would be interested for us to have our own branch of

the WI please get in touch with me, Charlotte Franklin, at the Other House, telephone 522544, or email colinfranklinculham@gmail.co.uk

VICAR'S LETTER – REVD. ANNE ILSLEY

Dear friends,

Who do they say that I am? Jesus asked his disciples this question. Their answer reflected the stir that this miracle worker made among his contemporaries. They reported that the people thought Jesus might be one of the prophets returned. Peter had the insight and courage to say that he believed that Jesus was the Messiah, the Christ, the saviour figure expected by the Jews.

Who do you say that I am? This question continues to echo down the ages and remains relevant today. Many people today, including religious people and secular people, would view Jesus as a prophet. But it is the claim that Jesus is the Son of God, that he is God himself entering into the confines and limitations of human existence that sets Jesus apart. We call this the Incarnation, a belief that brings such meaning to our celebration of Jesus' birth. It is the incarnation that St John describes so powerfully in the final reading that we use each year to conclude our Carol services. I hope that many of you will find the time to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas with us at St Paul's. You will find the times and places for services in The Bridge Group on page 2 in this newsletter. If you come to the New Year, it's been a whirr of activity and somehow those moments for stopping in gratitude, awe and wonder have passed you by, then please come to our Family Service at St Mary's Long Wittenham on January 6th, when we plan to hold a Christingle Service.

It is true! Christmas is coming and the trappings that accompany this celebration of God's saving act through Jesus coming as a vulnerable baby, can overwhelm us to the point that we lose sight of what we celebrate and begin to find it a burden. There is a danger that Boxing Day is greeted with a sigh of relief; as an ending. I'd love to hold on to The Twelve Days of Christmas and they BEGIN on Christmas Day, the birthday of someone who stirred up so many questions and ignited a flame that still burns today.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

John 1:1-5 New International Version of The Bible

I wish you all a blessed Christmas and a prosperous New Year, Anne

DCS JONCARE LTD

Specialist equipment, furniture and gadgets to make life easier

We sell, service and repair

Stairlifts - Wheelchairs - Scooters - Daily Living Aids

Rise & Reclining Beds and Chairs

7-8 Radley Place, Radley Road Industrial Estate, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 3RY

Tel: 01235 523353 www.joncare.co.uk

Waggon and Horses

Abingdon Road, Culham

01235-525012

Opening times:

Monday-Thursday 11am – 11pm
Friday & Saturday 11am – Midnight
Sunday 12 Noon – 10.30pm

Food Times:

Monday – Friday 12-3 & 6-9
Saturday 12-9
Sunday 12-7 Carvery Only



www.waggonhorsesculham.com

Monday night is Steak Night: A choice of Rump or Sirloin for £6.50 or a choice of one of our exotic steaks for £8.50, all served with mushrooms, tomato, peas and chips. **Tuesday night is Quiz Night:** £1 per head, winner takes all. The quiz starts at 8.30pm. Join in one of our teams, meet new people and have loads of fun, Monday night is Men's Darts, Wednesday is Cribbage, Thursday is Ladies darts and Sunday night is Pool night.

CULHAM COMMUNITY GROUP – JUSTIN DENNO

Thank you to everyone who has put forward their ideas for the future of Culham. If you haven't spoken to one of the CCG volunteers, they were unable to catch you at home when they called round. If so, we still want to hear from you. You can put forward as much or as little as you want – the suggestion boxes at each notice board are there for you to use. If you have contributed and want to share more of your ideas, please get them in quickly.

In the New Year, the CCG will examine all the points raised. This will enable us to put together an in-depth questionnaire which will be delivered to all households. The purpose of the questionnaire is to really establish just how practical or viable our ideas are. For example, will we use the facilities enough to merit creating them? Are we willing to pay to keep certain projects going? This will form a vital community viewpoint and allow us to shape Culham for the future.

We will endeavour to publish monthly updates here in the Mouthpiece so check back next month to see the next step in the process! In the meantime, have a great Christmas & New Year!

If you are interested in getting involved in any way, shape or form, please email community@culhamvillage.org.uk or telephone Sam Casey-Rerhaye on 799489. The next CCG meeting is on Tuesday 4th December at 7pm at the Waggon & Horses pub.

CULHAM PAROCHIAL SCHOOL – CAROLINE EVANS

All are welcome to our forthcoming Christmas events:

Wednesday 19th December, 2.15pm:

Thursday 20th December, 7.00pm:

Community Carols & refreshments in school

School Nativity Performance, St Paul's Church

newington nurseries

lovely plants and pots
for the garden
at unbelievable prices!

planting service

garden design

newington nr stadhampton OX10 7AW ☎ www.newington-nurseries.co.uk ☎ tel 01865 400533 ☎ closed on Mondays except Bank Holidays

CULHAM PRE-SCHOOL - LEA, NIKKI, MARIE AND ALL THE PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN

The children have been enjoying looking at the theme of Celebrations: this included Bonfire Night with some fabulous paintings and drawings of the experiences they had watching fireworks. They also made a beautiful poppy wreath for Remembrance day. We have celebrated Divali and would like to say a special thank you to the Spice and Vine Indian Restaurant at Long Wittenham who very kindly donated an Indian Feast for the children's lunch to help with the celebrations!!!

We have also been looking at the Sky at Night and have a wonderful display of tree branches with bats and owls created by the children. During December we shall be very busy with our Christmas Activities which will include a trip out to Chilton Garden Centre to see Father Christmas, which will be a joint trip with the Year 1 and Foundation stage children of the main school.

May we take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Peaceful & Happy New Year.

CULHAM PARISH COUNCIL (CPC) NOTES, NOVEMBER 2012 – ANDREW STEELE

There was no report from the District Councillor.

Lorraine Lindsay-Gale, County Councillor

The minerals and waste plan has been signed off and has been sent to the Secretary of State. It will be heard in public in February 2013. It appears to be good news for us in that, in the Culham area, there will be little or no disruption as most of the extraction is now destined for the Cholsey area.

The County Council is setting their budget for next year - "it is not looking good" was the quote.

Five parishes in the county put in requests for pedestrian crossings and a Pelican crossing has been agreed for Shillingford, across the A4074.

The Diocese has stated that the fence across the playing field must remain as a chain link fence with a gate. An amount for the replacement fence, which falls on the CPC to provide, has been added in to next year's budget.

There was nothing to report from the fortnightly safety check list on the playing field. However the bark will be replenished.

Data from the speed check has been sent through. The survey covered 17-23 October on the A415 at the Waggon and Horses. A brief resume of the data will appear in next month's Mouthpiece.

A donation of £100 was made to the Royal British Legion for the Remembrance Day service.

The budget was set for next year's precept (2013-2014) and by re-arranging some of the items and

amounts, the same amount as for the 2012-2013 year was agreed.

Parish Plan

A request for a £400 donation from the CPC was requested and will be considered at the next meeting.

Next meeting: Monday 10th December 2012 at 7:30 pm at the school.

As ever all villagers are welcome to attend - please come along even if you have no specific items to present/discuss

Enjoy delicious festive lunches in a tropical oasis at Newington Nurseries during December

available Tuesday to Saturday

gorgeous food, great environment

Newington Nr Stadhampton OX10 7AW
Booking advisable—book online or by phone

Closed on Mondays except Bank Holidays
www.juicy-juicy.net tel 01865 400533

JuicyJuicy 

LOCAL POLICE: 'HAVE YOUR SAY' MEETINGS – SARAH JONES

December

Wednesday 5 th	Primary school, Queen Street, Dorchester – 1500 – 1530
Thursday 6 th	Primary School, Wimblestraw Rd, Berinsfield – 1500 – 1530
Monday 10 th	Outside the Parish Hall, Sunnyside, Benson – 1800 – 1830
Friday 14 th	Outside Village Hall, Nuneham Courtenay – 1100 - 1130

January

Monday 7 th	Outside the Village Hall, A415, Clifton Hampden – 1800 – 1830
Tuesday 22 nd	Outside Primary School, Oxford Road, Benson – 1500 - 1530

THE HOLLY AND THE IVY – ANNE HENDRY

Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) and ivy (*Hedera helix*) conjure up all that is traditional and festive. Both evergreen plants are native to most of Europe and western Asia and despite their Christmas connotations, they're very useful and versatile plants in the garden and countryside alike.

Holly is a fantastic health indicator of an ecosystem. It's regarded as a 'pioneer species', i.e. it will establish itself before any other plants in an area that has been devastated by flood, fire, deforestation or man-made destruction. As a tree, holly can get to a height of some 10 metres in time and its lifespan can be 100 years or more. It's a slow-growing plant, untidy in habit whilst young but improving in appearance and habit with age. Planted in a group, it will make a good hedge although taking time to establish. Otherwise, holly can be used for topiary, clipping shrubs into a shape to suit.

Holly produces inconspicuous white flowers during the spring months and these are followed by brightly coloured berries (on female plants only) from late summer, lasting well into the autumn and

early winter. The flowers are a nectar reservoir for bees and butterflies whilst the berries are an important food source for birds and small mammals. Not until the frosts have softened the fruit will the berries be eaten; prior to a cold snap, they're like little bullets and very unappetizing. In addition to offering sustenance to our wildlife, holly is a natural guardian for mammals and birds. Thrushes, in particular but not exclusively, favour holly shrubs and trees for nesting as the prickly foliage provides protection against predators whilst deer use areas of woodland which have become dense and tangled holly warrens as a sanctuary from danger and harm.

To get berries on a female plant, a male plant has to be in the vicinity. If space doesn't allow in the garden, opt for the self-pollinating *Ilex aquifolium* J C van Tol (a non-prickly variety) or *I. aquifolium* Pyramidalis (spiny leaves). *Ilex* Nellie Stevens (a fast grower) also has a tendency to self-pollinate and produces berries. Otherwise, if there is room for 2 or more plants, go for both male and female plants. For reasons unexplained, breeders gave misleading names to their plants, for example *I. aquifolium* Golden Queen is male whilst *I. aquifolium* Golden King is female so check plant labels carefully.

Ivy is also a valuable plant both in terms of its ornamental value as well as its ecological benefits. People love it or hate it; its bad press stems from planting rampant varieties left to their own devices. However, it's a highly useful plant that just needs to be kept in check. Planting it against a house wall is not to be recommended because its aerial roots will break through the mortar but sited against ugly structures such as fences or sheds or planted to grow through trees or pergolas, it will create natural living screens (Frank Lloyd Wright supposedly said that 'doctors bury their mistakes, architects cover them in ivy'). The key is not to let the plant get out of control so regular pruning is a must.

Ivy attracts wildlife like no other plant. Birds love to nest in its dense foliage so prune only after the young birds have fledged. A wide variety of insects feed on the nectar produced by the greenish-yellow flowers which appear in dainty clusters from late summer to late autumn. Bees are particularly attracted to the flowers making ivy a vital autumn food source for this endangered insect. Purple-black and orange-yellow berries follow the flowers and ripen enough for the birds to devour in late winter when the pickings are slim. Like holly, ivy will form dense clumps in woodland environments, providing shelter and refuge for a variety of birds and mammals including deer.

Hedera helix (English Ivy) is a bit more rampant than the cultivars and is used primarily in amenity landscaping projects. *Hedera hibernica* (Irish Ivy) is probably the one to avoid as it will reach an uncontrollable height of 10 metres or more. For the garden, *Hedera helix* Ivalace is a great choice for ground cover or topiary. It gets to just a metre in height and produces dark and glossy green, deeply-lobed leaves. To conceal a fence or shed, try *H. helix* Glacier which grows to around 2 metres height-wise. The leaves are grey-green, splashed with silver and cream. *H. helix* Atropurpurea is a rather lovely plant whose green leaves in summer turn to purple in winter. It will attain a height of some 3 metres.

Evergreen foliage at this time of year is rather uplifting when the rest of the garden is in its winter dormancy. Use holly and ivy to make natural decorations, hang them on front and back doors and they will last well into January.

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

EARTH TRUST EVENTS - EARTH TRUST CENTRE, LITTLE WITTENHAM

DECEMBER 2012

Sunday 2nd December, 10am-3pm. Christmas at the Earth Trust. Come and enjoy a few hours of Christmas cheer at the Earth Trust. Join a craft workshop and make traditional wreaths, fairy willow wands or aromatic orange pomanders. Take a guided family winter walk, meet Father Christmas in the Earth Trust Grotto or just enjoy a glass of mulled wine and mince pie in Poem Tree Cafe. Charges vary for each activity, from £1, check website for details. No booking required – just drop in, everyone welcome!

JANUARY 2013

Friday 11th January, 6-8pm. Dark of the Moon Hike. Join us for a starlit countryside hike, we'll be looking for secretive animals and gazing at the stars. Adults £5, children £2

Sunday 13th January, 10am-4pm. Winter Fruit Tree Pruning. Give your trees some TLC and get a bumper crop in 2013! Learn all aspects of pruning dormant trees with hands on experience in the Trust's small orchard with Andy Howard. Adults £50

Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th, 9.30am,-4pm. Intro to Hedge Laying. A very practical, hands on, two days laying a Midlands style hedge. Learn about this traditional skill on the job! Adults £75

Sunday 27th, 10am-4pm. Apple Tree Grafting. Andy Howard will show you how to propagate your own apple trees for your garden and learn all aspects of fruit tree grafting, from its history to why we graft and when.

See www.earthtrust.org.uk

THE MOUTHPIECE

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

DRAYTON TELEVISION SERVICES

Digital TV aerials installed ~ Extra aerial points ~ Satellite SKY or FREESAT
TV tuning and programming ~ New TV Sales ~ Repairs ~ Television wall mounting

MARK HOLLIDAY

14 HEATHER ROAD, MILTON OX14 4EX Tel 01235 531451

responsible for errors therein.

Contributions to the FEBRUARY issue of The Mouthpiece by JANUARY 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

Advertisements to: advertmouthpiece@gmail.com

If you have any comments or suggestions regarding the content or the layout of the Mouthpiece, please let us know.

HELP!

Our 'advertising year' runs from 1st April to 3st March. Invoices are generated and sent out by hand, post or email. We must then collect money from our 30-odd advertisers, again by hand, post or electronic transfer. Last year we started in March and most of the invoices had been paid within 5-6 weeks. Some new advertisers need help in designing their adverts, while others need one or two reminders that we'd like some money, please. It's a real mixture of gazing at a computer screen, dealing with people, and helping them!

We have help in collection by hand, but I would like to automate the generation of invoices. If anyone wants to bring some computer expertise to this area (or can help anyway) please contact Brian Bracher on 525885 or email advertmouthpiece@gmail.com