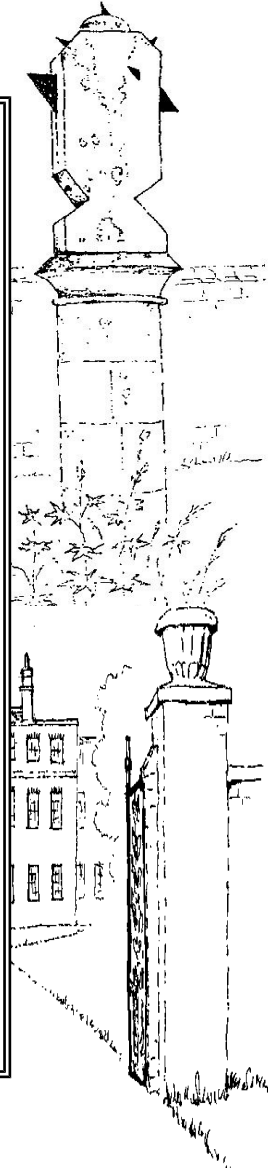
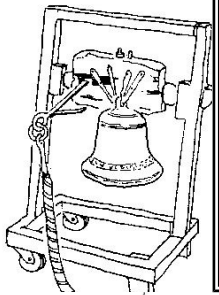
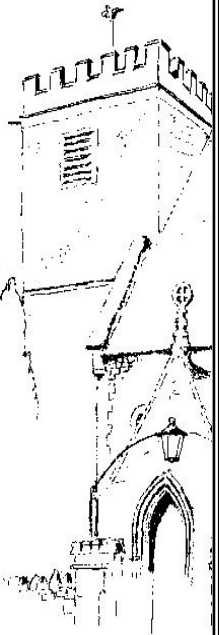


The Mouthpiece

Culham's Newsletter No 343

Village Diary – February 2013

- 1st Mobile Library - The Glebe, 1.40 to 1.50 pm*
- 5th Culham Community Group, Waggon & Horses, 7 pm*
- 10th Family Communion - St Paul's Church, 10 am*
- 11th Parish Council Meeting - The School, 7.30 pm*
- 14th Police 'Have your say' - Village Green, 5.30 – 6 pm*
- 15th DEADLINE FOR MARCH'S MOUTHPIECE*
- 15th Mobile Library - The Glebe, 1.40 to 1.50 pm*
- 17th Evening Prayer - St Paul's Church, 5 pm*



Church Services - February 2013

DATE	TIME	PLACE	SERVICE
SERVICES AT CULHAM			
Sunday 10th	10 am	Culham	Family Communion
Sunday 17th	5 pm	...	Evening Prayer – Please note revised time!
<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 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	10.30am	Long Wittenham	Home Communion
Sunday 17th	10 am	Long Wittenham	Holy Communion
Sunday 24th	8.30 am	Little Wittenham	Holy Communion
	10 am	Clifton Hampden	Family Communion
	10 am	Long Wittenham	Holy Communion

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New Electoral Roll for St Paul's Church, Culham - Jane Lay

It is time for a new electoral roll to be prepared for St Paul's Church.

A notice giving details of enrolment will be posted on the church notice board from 7 February 2013 to 14 March 2013.

Anyone wishing to enrol must complete a SG3 form and these can be obtained from Jane Lay, High Lodge Farm, Thame Lane, Culham, Oxon OX14 3DX (tel 01235 535188). The form must be completed and returned by 14 March 2013.

A new roll will be posted on the church notice board on 30 March 2013 and will come into effect on 14 April 2013, which is the date of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

Christmas at the Railway Inn

In mid-December, Pauline Davidson gave a free Christmas Lunch for Culham's senior citizens at The Railway Inn. A good number of us enjoyed a delicious four-course turkey dinner, a visit from Santa Claus, Christmas Carols and some games. We would like to thank Pauline and her staff for their splendid efforts, and also both her customers and others who jointly funded this generous event. We had a great time!

Events at the Railway Inn

9th February - Karaoke and disco:

16th February - Live music 'DOG HOUSE ROCK AND BLUES BAND' -

Monday 25th February: Chocaholics - come along and order your Belgium chocolate for Mother's Day and Easter. Wonderful presents for reasonable prices.

Events at the Waggon & Horses

Monday - Steak Night

Monday - Friday 3 - 6pm: £2.10 for Fosters, Carlsberg and Abingdon Bridge

Music

9th February - Subway from 9 till late

13rd February - Dirty Earth Band

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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.

Support Culham School – Cheryl Collier

As we start term 3, I am pleased to say that we now have 47 pupils in our thriving village school. It is very well documented that the school nearly closed two years ago, but remained open thanks to the pupils', parents' and community's determination to keep a school in the village. Our last OFSTED was rated satisfactory. Things have moved on from then and the new Governing Body of the school is driving it forward towards outstanding. Nothing less will do.

It is the role of the Governing Body to ensure the school provides the best possible education for the pupils and to make it accountable to the children, parents, staff and community who fund and support it. Our small school provides a safe, secure and fun environment, with small class sizes, but in order to preserve this, we must ensure cost effectiveness.

We are striving to save money in non-staff areas, and have already started work on this. However, school funding is paid in arrears and therefore our increased pupil numbers (on roll at the time of the October 2012 pupil census count) means that funding will not be reflected until our 2013/14 budget. There are a number of ways that the parents, carers and community can financially support the school:-

- Become a member of the '5.33 group'. The current shortfall in funding is being met by parents and friends from the community, known collectively as the '5.33 group' for the amount they give each week. It wouldn't be right to name them, but they should be very proud of the fact that their continued contribution is helping to keep the school here.
- Join 'Parents and Friends', which aims to meet monthly immediately after school. All are welcome, bring your children to play, drink juice and eat biscuits, while we thrash out new ideas to raise money purely for the children, be it for trips, parties or special materials to make their school experience even more enjoyable and worthwhile. We hope to see as many of you there as possible, because without your support, the children will miss out.
- Volunteer an hour or two of your time in the school. The children enjoy reading to adults and sharing their work. It also isn't just inside the school. Could you spend a few hours making the grounds and gardens a brighter place for the children? Whether you are retired, semi-retired, a student looking for experience for your CV or just have a few hours spare then why not help out.

Your support is what makes a school in the village even more special. Even if you can't help out please come to the events and let the children of Culham show you why you should be proud of them. Also, please check out our new website: www.culham.oxon.sch.uk, and look out for a celebratory evening by the "Support Culham School" Group in the near future.

As ever, I am happy to discuss any of these issues with you. Many thanks again for supporting our wonderful little school, as we strive towards excellence. You are the key to making this happen.

*Mrs. Cheryl Collier,
Chair of Governors & Parent Governor, Culham Parochial C of E Primary School*

Culham Parochial CE Primary School

We have all returned from the Christmas break full of enthusiasm to start term 3 with our new exciting topic – Space!

FS and KS1 children will be studying space with a focus on the stories "Aliens Love Underpants" and "Whatever Next"! They will be making their own aliens in underpants, looking at the planets and learning where they are within the solar system. The children will also gain a simple understanding of climate change and the changes happening to the Earth. They have also written accounts of their Christmas holidays in Literacy, using story maps to help them.

The KS2 pupils have commenced the term's topic and science lessons studying space and the solar system involving planets, black holes and comets. Literacy lessons are following plans covering instructions, explanations and imaginary worlds – all connected to the topic of space.

The children are enjoying their newly refurbished library area together with the new books, kindly provided by funds raised through our Parents & Friends Association – our grateful thanks for all their recent successful fundraising efforts. The library is now used on a regular basis and our library monitors are taking great care looking after the area and keeping our lovely new books in order!

We welcome visits to our school at any time – please call in and see us!

Culham Pre-School - Lea, Nikki and Marie

The children all had a wonderful time on their visit to see Father Christmas at Chilton Garden Centre in December. They all enjoyed a lovely breakfast with him and received gifts. We also had a great party at the end of term with lots of games, party food and a visit from Father Christmas.

This term we are looking at the theme of Dinosaurs - we will be making dinosaur sandwiches and biscuits, as well as some collages for our displays.

We have welcomed Mae, Vaeda, Arther and Phin to our setting and hope that they will have a happy and enjoyable time with us.

Culham Parish Council (CPC) notes – Andrew Steele

December 2012 Meeting

CPC will write to SODC concerning the large size of the waste disposal lorries used in the village, in particular those taken down the bridleway. Smaller, more appropriate vehicles will be

requested.

Councillor Lindsay-Gale said there was no money available for the resurfacing of the bridleway and similarly there was none available for a speed limit review (on the A415). CPC will ask highways if extra signage on the A415 could be added to increase awareness of the speed limits

A quote for the fence across the playing field has been accepted from The New Lawn company. The cost is just over £4300.

Parish Plan

The Parish Plan is proceeding well and a questionnaire is being planned/designed with a view to sending it out early next year. A donation of £400 to the group was agreed.

January 2013 Meeting

From the County Councillor

The OCC grant from government has been cut by a further £17m. The original savings target of £119m had almost been reached before this further cut was announced. The budget will now be targeted at the most vulnerable groups, mainly children and old people.

Due to these cuts the Area Stewardship fund will be wound up. Proactive road maintenance will be curtailed but the pothole repair budget will not be affected.

OCC Council Tax is most likely to go up by 1.99% in April to help protect services. This will mean an extra £23 per year on a Band D house.

The affordable houses scheme on the playing field is proceeding. SODC were concerned about the loss of the playing field area but it will amount to only about 10% of the area.

At an appropriate time the matting on the burial ground slope will be assessed. The area just inside the gateway will require further work, probably by refilling and re-seeding.

Speed awareness signs have been offered to CPC from the Fire Service Safety Group. These will likely go up on the A415 by the traffic lights and on Tollgate Road.

The use of smaller bin lorries for use in the area of The Green has been offered by SODC.

Highways will contact Atkins concerning the potentially dangerous state of the trees on the corner of High Street and Tollgate Road.

The proposed CPC budget for 2013/4 has been reduced in order to keep the Parish Precept the same for this coming year as last.

Parish Plan

The Parish Plan is proceeding well and a questionnaire is being planned/designed. A pilot questionnaire is being put together from the recent consultation results.

Next meeting

Monday 11th February 2013, 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.

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Sutton Courtenay WI - Ann Henderson

It was great to welcome so many new ladies to our first meeting in 2013. I'm sure they were not disappointed as we had an excellent talk from Nicola Bird from the Oxford University Museums. She gave us a brief, but comprehensive history of the Museums in Oxford and then we had the opportunity to see and hold some of the more usual objects from the Museums.

We have an exciting programme planned for 2013 and some forthcoming events include a trip to Adam Henson's Cotswolds Farm Park, a Chess Taster day, a Beading Workshop and we are hoping to organise a coach trip from Sutton Courtenay to Gloucester Quays to see the Tall Ships. (Watch this space for more details).

If this dull weather is getting you down, why not come along to one of our meetings and meet new friends, you will be made very welcome. No age limit. New members bring new ideas and that's what the WI is all about, plus it can be great having a go at something you have never tried before.

For our next meeting on **Tuesday 19 February at Sutton Courtenay Village Hall at 7.30 pm** we have the truly inspirational speaker Keith Jansz, who after a motorcycle accident was left paralysed. Through determination and a lot of effort, he took up painting, and is now one of this country's finest Mouth Painting Artists. He has had several exhibitions in this country and abroad including Italy, Mexico and America.

We would especially love to see ladies from Culham: several have attended already. For further details please phone Ann on 01235 821834.

Culham School Parents and Friends Association - Gill Greenway

We are a group of parents and friends, who are passionate about the school, and fundraise directly to benefit the children. This year we have set ourselves the task of raising £2000 to fund the training of a 'Forest School Teacher' at the School. This is a popular way of teaching primary children about the great outdoors, to enjoy nature, and is a fun tool to teach while working in a group Maths, English and Sciences. An area of the recreation ground at the top of the Glebe has been identified as a suitable space. It will be great to see the village being used in this way by our schoolchildren, enabling them to enjoy their natural surroundings. Alongside this project, we hope to improve the school playground: providing a sensory garden & improving the old pond area. If anyone can help with donations of plants, gardening knowledge and or manpower, etc. please contact the school or myself - all help is welcome and needed.

Many thanks for all the helpers and supporters of the Christmas Fayre and Raffles: we raised a brilliant £800. The school hosted a children's "New Year Disco" on 12th January which was a great success, and enjoyed by all.

Our next event is a Handmade Crafts and Shopping Fayre on **Saturday 2nd March**, 12 noon till 4 pm, in the School. **Stalls, Pampering, Refreshments, Tombola and Raffle.** If you're interested in having a Stall, please call Alicia 07920448919 for further details.

gilly_clark@hotmail.com

Oxfordshire Woodfuel Programme - Riki Therivel

The Oxfordshire Woodfuel Programme now has a website, www.oxonwoodfuel.org.uk, which provides lots of advice on growing, cutting, storing and burning woodfuel. I will be running a series of one-day woodfuel-related study visits on 15 April, 13 May and 8 June. They cost £25 each and more information is available on the website. The Oxfordshire Woodland Project is also running workshops on woodland management: see www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/public-site/woodland-workshops.

I hope to set up some 'logs for labour' matches. If you are a woodland owner who could use some free help with woodland management in return for people taking some firewood (labour for your logs), or are a group of people who would like to work outdoors in return for some firewood (logs for your labour), please get in touch with me. The moisture level of woodfuel is important: a freshly cut log at 50% moisture has only about half the energy content of an equivalent well-seasoned log at 20% moisture. The woodfuel programme has a moisture meter that you are welcome to borrow.

Riki Therivel, manager@oxonwoodfuel.org.uk, 01865 243488

Local Police – Sarah Jones

The local priority for Benson and Berinsfield is theft from vehicles and burglary. There has been an increase in tools being stolen from vehicles and also burglaries to outbuildings in particular in the Warborough, Shillingford and Benson area.

This month we have had an increase in theft from vehicles and criminal damage to vehicles, particularly in Berinsfield and Benson. Various items such as radios and tools have been taken and on one occasion a catalytic convertor was taken from a vehicle. We urge everyone to remove items of value from vehicles when leaving them parked.

Parking is something that your neighbourhood officers deal with on a day to day basis and we rely on local residents to keep us informed of any issues arising. We understand that inconsiderate and illegal parking can both be frustrating and dangerous and we will assess and deal with all reports appropriately. Vehicles parked illegally or causing an obstruction can be fined £30 by means of a fixed penalty notice.

Have Your Say online. You can now send non-emergency messages to us using the online form on the Thames Valley Police website. To do that please follow the link: www.thamesvalley.police.uk/yournh/yournh-about-nh-pol/yournh-tvp-pol-area-n153-hys.

Please allow some time for us to get back to you as we only check our mail box at certain times of the day.

You can also attend 'Have Your Say' meetings in person on the following dates in February:

Friday 1st - Library car park, Wimplestraw Road, Berinsfield 5.30pm – 6pm

Thursday 14th - The Village Green, High Street, Culham 5.30pm – 6pm

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 contributions and advertisements in good faith and cannot be responsible for errors therein.

Contributions to the **MARCH** issue of The Mouthpiece by **FEBRUARY 15th** please, to:
generalmouthpiece@gmail.com

or

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

Advertisements to: **advertmouthpiece@gmail.com**

HELP!

We are about to start send out invoices to our advertisers for the year April 2013 – March 2014. Our printing expenses have recently been much higher than usual so advertising income is necessary. We have lots of help with delivery, but would like extra help with advertising – especially generating invoices and chasing up some of our advertisers!

Without income from advertising The Mouthpiece may eventually cease to exist in its present form.

If you can help, please email us on **advertmouthpiece@gmail.com**

If you're familiar with email and Microsoft WORD, and you'd like to try editing an edition, then we'd also be pleased to hear from you: please email **generalmouthpiece@gmail.com**

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