

The Oxhill News



April 2003

Quotations of the month

Listen, my children, and you shall hear
Of the midnight ride of Paul Revere,
On the eighteenth of April in Seventy-five.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Paul Revere's Ride

(Paul Revere, (1735–1818) was an American silversmith and revolutionary. On 18th April, 1775, he rode out to warn the people of Massachusetts that the British troops were on the march. On the following morning the first shots of the American Revolution were fired at Lexington.)

VAT came into force on 1st April 1973, replacing purchase tax and selective employment tax. It gave a whole new meaning to the phrase 'April Fool' (n. person successfully tricked on 1st April).

Monsieur Wagner a de beaux moments, mais de mauvais quart d'heures.

(Mr. Wagner has lovely moments but awful quarters of an hour.)

Gioacchino Rossini (Said to Emile Naumann during April 1867.)

Oh, to be in England

Now that April's there.

Robert Browning, Home-Thoughts, from Abroad

The Major Rogation Day (devoted to prayer and fasting) is on 25th April.

Editorial

Both the cover picture this month and the one on the back page were taken at the foot of Whitehill on Thursday 9th April 1998. There was a lot of rain that day.

May issue

The deadline for the May issue is **Saturday, 26th April**.

Material can be sent on floppy disc or emailed to me at **news-editor@oxhill.org.uk** .

Alternatively please post paper-based material through the letter box at Karibu.

George Adams, 680286

Update on the Tysoe Fire Station Refurbishment

For those who may not already know, the refurbishment project of the disused fire station in Tysoe will soon be beginning in earnest! Tysoe Children's Group, in taking on the refurbishment, will not only be getting new premises but will also be extending their current services. The *proposed* services will include: THE PRE-SCHOOL (offering longer hours of operation than currently available); MUMS & TOTS GROUP; BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL CLUB; HOLIDAY PLAYScheme/ CHILDCARE (operational for the duration of the school breaks), YOUTH CENTRE (the site will give local youth an opportunity to have a youth group, affiliated to the Warwickshire Association of Youth Clubs and led by trained youth workers); BUSINESS PREMISES (architectural plans include separate and independent office space available for rent); ADULT EDUCATION (there will be the facilities for adult education with IT as a particular focus). There will also be improved access for the disabled and finally, the fire station, a woefully wasted resource, will be put to good use and will benefit a really broad section of the community.

Happily, our bid to Defra for funding was a successful one and we have been offered a fabulous grant: 90% of the funds needed. This success is especially due to the hard work of Linda and Paul Heritage who pulled the bid together and made it happen.

But Paul would be the first one to tell you that the work is far from over! We must now produce the final 10% of funds ourselves to be eligible for the 90% grant Defra has offered. Then, we need to raise a substantial amount of funds to ease cash flow. Concentrated fundraising therefore continues unabated in the shape of appeals and all sorts of exciting events over the next few months. Our warmest thanks to all of you who have contributed so very generously to our cause. Your support is hugely appreciated.

As far as our refurbishment timetable is concerned, we should be able to give you an indication as to when building is due to start in the next month or two.

Watch this space!

Helen Monteith, Secretary, Tysoe Children's Group Pegasus Project) (01295) 680317

Welcome

We welcome James Charles O'Donnel to The Leys Whatcote Road, and offer our congratulations to his Mum and Dad.

We also welcome Anne and Douglas Nethercleft, who have moved into The Orchard in Rouse Lane. We hope you will be very happy in Oxhill.

Church Services in April

Church of St. Lawrence, Oxhill

Sunday, April 6 th	Passion Sunday	9.30	Holy Communion
Sunday, April 13 th	Palm Sunday	9.30	Holy Communion
	Service of dedication of the new screen, with Oxhill Choir		
Thursday April 17 th	Maundy Thursday	7.30	Holy Communion in Tysoe
Friday, April 18 th	Good Friday	10.30	Morning Service in Tysoe Methodist Church
Sunday, April 20 th	EASTER DAY	10.00	Holy Communion
Sunday, April 27 th	Low Sunday	10.30	Holy Communion - a united service for Tysoe, Oxhill & Whatcote

Oxhill Methodist Church

Sunday, April 6 th	Passion Sunday	3.00	Mrs. J. Knight
Sunday, April 13 th	Palm Sunday	3.00	Pastor Issy Walton
Sunday, April 20 th	EASTER DAY	3.00	Rev. Alec Roberts Holy Communion
Sunday, April 27 rd	2nd Easter	3.00	Mrs. M. Roberts

Church Closure

We regret to have to announce that Kineton Methodist Circuit have agreed to the closure of Oxhill Methodist Church at the end of June, 2003.

O.S. Wilde

The Church of St. Lawrence

The officers elected at the church A.G.M. were:

Vice Chairman	Mark Gummer and Janet Gardner
The Church Wardens	Mark Gummer and Janet Gardner
Treasurer and Gift Aid Secretary	John Baines
Secretary	Ann Heritage
Electoral Roll Secretary	Rosemary Brown
Social Committee Chairwoman	Lilian Welsby
Clerk of Works	Bill Fox

Ann Heritage, 680216

Church of St. Lawrence, Oxhill

Church events for 2003

If you can help at any of these events, please let me know.

Joy's Jumble Sale	April 5 th
Car Boot Sale	May 31 st
Open Gardens	June 14 th and 15 th
Fete at Oxhill Manor	July 12 th
Harvest Supper	September 20 th
Telgath Choir	October 18 th
Pate and Puds Evening	November 1 st

Lilian Welsby, 680468

Car Boot Sale

The Church will have a stall at the Car Boot Sale on Saturday 31st May.

If you have any items to donate to the stall please let me have them. If it is awkward for you to deliver please just let me know – we can collect.

Lilian Welsby, 680468

25 Years Ago

In Issue number 60, April 1978, there was news of the forthcoming Village Hall Annual Meeting.

David Whaley gave information about his sponsored Show jumping and gymkhana, to raise funds for the Village Hall. It was to be held in Tom Heritage's field. Did Tom really only have one field?

There was a report on the activity of the Fete Committee, and the Youth Club seems to have been very active and successful.

Coventry Diocese gave information on the planned celebrations for its Diamond Jubilee, and Wendy Blunt was raising funds for Tysoe Tappers by holding a Pied Piper Toy Party. I suppose it made a change from Tupperware.

On the nature front, we were informed that the traditional date for the cuckoo to arrive in Warwickshire is April 17th, and on the poetical side the same quotations from Longfellow and Browning as appear on page 2 were referred to. There are not actually that many references to April in the poetic canon.

Editor

Oxhill Website

It's a pity that the designers of our village website wish to remain anonymous because many people, who know much more about these things than I, have said how good it is and that the designers should take a bow. Having advised friends of the site when it was launched, I have since received emails from Australia, the United States, London, Staffordshire and Yorkshire saying how professional and enjoyable it is.

The guy from Australia has passed it on to various other British ex-pats who, if I understand him correctly, were almost tearful to recognise a microcosm of old England. One chap said to him, "You can almost hear the birds and the church bells". My American pal was vastly impressed by the technical excellence of the site, as well as being happily reminded of his 6 years in England.

Apart from anything else, the site provides more opportunities for us all to keep in touch. It will be of increasing benefit to all of our favourite Parish institutions and will provide much interest and amusement to all of us who are lucky enough to be on line.

dahill60@aol.com

Hi! We have just seen the Oxhill website and it's fantastic. But for the younger web-searchers maybe you could get some games on!!!!

The Foy Family!!!

(The request has been forwarded to the Webmaster. Ed.)

Thank you for designing the Oxhill website. I have moved away from the village now but still keep in touch with friends I made there. The memories I have of living in Oxhill will always be dear to me and it is comforting to know I can look up on the web and see "What's On." It is quite surprising really as if I remember correctly electricity there was a bit touch and go !! We didn't mind too much though as we knew there would always be a warm fire and conversation in The Peacock.

Louise Brook.

Sumer is Icumen In

To all those villagers who have taken the decision not to use their powered mowers, trimmers, hedgecutters, drills etc after 6pm on Saturdays and Sundays, may I, on behalf of all peace-loving parishioners, thank you most sincerely for your thoughtfulness

Editor

Unfortunately, the issue of dogs fouling the grass verges on Whatcote Road is still with us. The start of the grass-cutting season and the resultant arrival of lawn-mowers on these verges has uncovered considerable quantities of what ought not to be there.

PLEASE will owners prevent their dogs from using this tended grass as lavatories, and if the dog gets away from you, please clean up the resultant mess yourself.

Editor

Notes of a meeting of Oxhill Parish Council held on Tuesday 18th March 2003 at 8.00 p.m. in the village hall

Apologies were received from David Hill.

The meeting was chaired by Tom Heritage and attended by Gwyneth Adams, Brian Emmerson and Stephen Hackett

MATTERS DISCUSSED

Finance

Revd Russen Thomas completed an Income and Expenditure document for the Oxhill News.

Planning

* Amendment notification received to application for a single storey extension at the rear of The Hollies. No objection was raised.

* Application refused for House, Garage and Yoga Studio at Willow Ley.

Gritting

It was not the Warwickshire County Council's policy to grit all school bus routes and therefore the C54 to Kinton would not be part of the gritting programme. The Parish Council would ask them to re consider.

Pot Holes

Several potholes needed attention on the road between Oxhill and Whatcote. Highways Dept to be notified.

Road Signs

"Whatcote Road" sign had been damaged. Stratford District Council would be requested to replace this.

Proposed Future Development of Air Transport - United Kingdom

A second edition questionnaire has been sent out for completion. Copies can be downloaded from the website, www.airconsult.gov.uk or you can telephone on 0845 100 5554.

Communal AED Equipment

Information had been received from Tony Eastaugh regarding this. The opinion was that Oxhill was too small a community to run such a scheme on its own. Tony Eastaugh had written to Tysoe Surgery regarding this and the Parish Council's opinion was that this would be a good place to keep such equipment along with the expertise in its use.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 13th May at 8.00 p.m. in the Village Hall.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING - 8th April 2003, 8.00 p.m. in the Village Hall

Item for the Agenda: Traffic Speed

Angela Kean, Clerk

Nature notes for April

April – The Roman Aperilis, from aperio, to open or display – the month when the Earth opens.

If there is one ornithological signpost each year more widely recognised than the arrival of the first swallow, it is the sound of the first cuckoo of spring. For decades this singular event has been a regular matter for the correspondence columns of the national press. It has long been said that the first cuckoos arrive in Sussex or Kent on 14th April and within seven to ten days are then heard in the north of England. There is much folklore surrounding the cuckoo (or ‘gowk’ in Scots) and one should be sure to react promptly and properly should you hear one.

It is lucky to be walking when you hear the first cuckoo and to be sitting when you see your first swallow, but unlucky if you hear your first cuckoo from your bed. If you have no money in your pocket when she calls, you will be poor all that year, but if you immediately sit down and take off your left shoe, you will find in it a hair of exactly the same colour as that of your true love!

Sadly the numbers of cuckoos are on the decline, and it is thought this may be due to the fall in population of their host birds. Indeed last year there seemed only to be one pair in and around the village, although in previous years I can remember getting rather tired of their constant “cuckooing” especially in the early morning.

The cuckoo is commonly mistaken for a sparrowhawk which is similar in colour and outline, both having a barred breast with mainly grey upper parts. The resemblance to a sparrowhawk might also explain the old belief that cuckoos turn into hawks in autumn.

In April come he will
In May he sings all day
In June he changes tune
In July he prepares to fly
In August go he must
If he stays until September
Tis as much as the oldest man can remember

The other morning I had just got up when I heard an amazing cacophony going on outside, and looking out of the window I saw what I estimated to be 90 to 100 crows and jackdaws circling over the area above the telephone box. The noise was alarm mixed with aggression. As I watched, birds kept diving out of the melee and swooping down to the entrance to Mrs Swan’s drive. I rushed down to see what it was and on the ground was a rolling bundle of black and brown feathers, which broke up as I approached, and a sparrowhawk and a jackdaw flew away. The sparrowhawk had obviously swooped down on what it may have thought to be a blackbird (large prey even for a sparrowhawk) and was surprised by the size and fighting spirit of its catch. What amazed me was that it was not only the immediate group of 20 – 30 jackdaws

that live in the area, but other groups including crows that came to give support to one of their own. The escaped jackdaw seemed completely unharmed.

23 April – St George's Day: beware of dragons:

To save a Maid, St George the Dragon slew
A pretty tale, if all is told be true
Most say, there are no Dragons, and tis said
There was no George; Pray God there was a maid.
John Aubrey 1688

Grenville Moore

The rabbit has a charming face:
Its private life is a disgrace.
I really dare not name to you
The awful things that rabbits do.
Where such depravity is found
It only can live underground.
Anonymous

Village Hall News

The Village Hall Committee would like to apologise for any inconvenience experienced during the refurbishment. This has resulted in the cancellation of the Quiz Night and also the Disco for our younger members.

New dates for the above will be arranged shortly.

The Village Hall Committee would also like to thank Guy Loveridge for the superb job he has done on the refurbishment. We now need to install a new kitchen and other facilities which will take a little longer than we envisaged.

The Village Hall also needs repainting and any volunteers for this should contact Judy on 688010 or Keith on 680654

The Progressive Dinner on Saturday 3rd May is confirmed and anybody who would like to participate or provide a starter, main course or desert or simply wish to attend should contact Lisa on 680967

Linda Dagg

Tysoe Children's Group
(Registered Charity No. 1032192)
present a

Summer Ball
Saturday 7th June
Brailes Golf Club

Drinks Reception 7.30pm Dinner 8pm
Dancing 'til late

Dress – Black Tie

Tickets

(to include drinks reception and wine with dinner)
£30 per person £280 per table of 10
contact Linda Heritage on 01295-688058

Fundraising for the Fire Station Refurbishment Project

Shipston Home Nursing

Annual Plant Sale

Saturday 17th May, 10 - 12 noon
Townsend Hall, Sheep Street, Shipston on Stour

We would be glad of your support once again, if you have extra cuttings, seedlings etc. to donate to the sale.

All offers of **plants, flowers, shrubs, vegetables, books on gardening** and **help** will be gratefully received.

Please contact Sonia Baker on 01608 661459 or take plants to the Townsend Hall on Friday 16th May between 12 noon and 6 p.m.

Speeding through Oxhill

Sir,

Living as we do on one of the "entrances" to the Village, we are certainly concerned about speeding. Whatcote Road, past our house, is particularly bad. However, road bumps are not the answer: such so-called "traffic-calming" measures tend to act more as "driver-irritants". Speeding drivers brake sharply then accelerate hard, quite defeating the object, whilst heavy lorries have to go down through their gears, air brakes hissing away, rattle and crash over the humps and then crawl painfully and noisily up through the gears again.

They are also a real pain for farmers trying to get about with their implements. The result is increased noise, pollution, irritation and inconvenience for residents with no worthwhile return in speed reduction and improved safety.

We don't need sleeping policemen: we just need one who is wide awake and here!

Yours sincerely,

Graeme McDonald, Oxbourne House, 01295 688202

Sir,

Whilst wholeheartedly supporting safer driving through the village, I would like to register my strong opposition to Speed Bumps. In an attempt to slow the thoughtless minority (who in any case will only see them as a challenge) the majority will have to suffer their ugliness, the increased noise and pollution as traffic repeatedly slows and accelerates, and the cost of premature suspension wear. Speed bumps and chicanes are completely out of place in a rural village, along with the multi-coloured tarmac and over-zealous road painting that normally go with them. They also slow emergency vehicles (sometimes with fatal consequences) and present a significant hazard - particularly to motorcyclists - in the wet or the dark. The best approach is probably a clearly signed lower speed limit, polite notices requesting careful driving at the boundaries and a quiet word in the ears of the regular offenders. We all know who they are.....

I'm thinking of forming an organisation called The League Against Unnecessary Growths in the Highway. The acronym may be LAUGH, but it's a serious issue.

Sincerely

Peter Taylor

Mrs. Gibbins

The family of the late Mrs. Gibbins (Gerty) would like to thank the people of Oxhill for keeping a watchful eye on her over the last few years and also for their messages of sympathy and the floral tributes.

Tracy Gibbins (via email)

London Marathon 2003

Charity Sponsorship

Not long to go before the big day! I am training hard and seeking to raise much-needed funds for the *Parkinson's Disease Society*. I'm writing to ask you if you would be kind enough to pledge an amount to my chosen charity. This would help towards finding a cure for Parkinson's and also assist in the care of those people already suffering this terrible disease.

Please be assured that your generosity would be helping a very worthwhile cause. In addition, it would be an extra incentive for me to reach the finish line on 13th April! For more information please phone 680409 or call at Elmville.

With thanks in anticipation,

Tony Wilde

Tysoe W. I.

First and foremost we send our condolences to Joyce Clark's family in their sad and sudden loss of their mother.

Joyce was a lesson to us all in that, for all her ups and downs, and of late there were a good many downs, I for one never heard her complain or grumble. She always looked on the bright side.

We finally managed to enjoy our "Spring" dinner at the White Hart at Newbold. Sixteen of us had a very enjoyable evening.

We are already planning our Summer outing, probably to the 'Alternative Hampton Court' near Leominster, Hereford. When dates have been finalised we hope we will be joined by friends and non-members for the day.

Our Speaker at our March meeting gave us a most interesting insight into Elizabeth I's visit to Charlecote: how they behaved, what they had to eat and even what the weather was like. You might have thought he had been there himself.

Philippa Robinson

Oxhill Open Gardens

Spring is upon us and most of us are getting busy in our gardens, or else thinking about it!

Would you be willing to open your garden to the public for the weekend or one day? It need not necessarily be a **large** garden. Small are appreciated just as much and if there are a few weeds about the public will know we are all amateurs!

If you have a garden within easy walking distance from the Peacock and would like to open please contact Janet Gardner on 680280.

There will be the usual Plant Stall. The venue for this will be decided later (see next month's Oxhill News). Any contributions will be gratefully received.

Janet Gardner

Oxhill Garden Club

This year our A.G.M. was held on 20th March, at The Old House, by kind permission of Jill and Colin Tucker.

The Chairman, Myrtle Knight gave her report and thanked the committee and members for their support during the previous eleven months. This was followed by the Treasurer's Report given by John McKail.

It accordance with the terms of the Constitution, Myrtle reported that she was unable to stand for re-election as Chairman.

The new Committee was then elected:-

Chairman	Rosemary Brown
Secretary	Sheila Osgood
Treasurer	John McKail
Committee	Myrtle Knight
	Doreen Neale
	Dot Richards
	Lilian Welsby
	June Wreford.

During the evening Joyce McKail was presented with a small prize, having earned the most points during the year in the monthly competitions.

The Meeting concluded with Wine and Cheese.

Our next meeting will be in the Church of St. Lawrence, 7:30pm on Thursday 17th April.

The speaker will be Mr G Ottewell, and his subject: 'On foot along the Windrush'.

Sheila Osgood, Secretary

Poetry Corner

April is the cruellest month, breeding
Lilacs out of the dead land, mixing
Memory and desire, stirring
Dull roots with spring rain.
Winter kept us warm, covering
Earth in forgetful snow, feeding
A little life with dried tubers.
Summer surprised us, coming over the Starnbergersee
With a shower of rain; we stopped in the colonnade,
And went on in sunlight, into the Hofgarten,
And drank coffee, and talked for an hour.
Bin gar keine Russin, stamm' aus Litauen, echt deutsch.
And when we were children, staying at the archduke's,
My cousin's, he took me out on a sled,
And I was frightened. He said, Marie,
Marie, hold on tight. And down we went.
In the mountains, there you feel free.
I read, much of the night, and go south in the winter.

T.S. Eliot, The Waste Land: I. The Burial of the Dead

(Suggested by Mr. David Hill)

Neighbourhood Watch

Please be aware that there have been a number of distraction burglaries in the area recently. In particular you are warned about three men in their early thirties driving an old red estate car (possibly with a roof rack). These men are visiting houses and, whilst one of them distracts the householder, the other two enter the house.

If you receive such a visit, please contact the police on 01789 414111, quoting Incident Number 661.

Unfortunately, visitations such as these seem to be more and more a part of our lives now. General vigilance is always a good idea, as is locking the house door when working hard at the bottom of the garden. I know this goes against the grain, but it is a lot better than being turned over!

Eve Whaley, 680224

What's On

April

Friday 4 th	7.30	Old House - Choir practice
Saturday 5 th	2.00	Tysoe Village Hall - Jumble Sale
Friday 11 th		Village Hall - Disco
	7.30	Old House - Choir practice
Sunday 13 th		London Marathon: Support Tony Wilde
Thursday 17 th	7.30	Church of St. Lawrence - Garden Club

May

Saturday 3 rd		Progressive dinner
Tuesday 13 th	11.30	Moreton Morrell Manor - "Champagne and Shop" for Shipston Home Nursing
Saturday 16 th	10.00	Townsend Hall, Shipston - Plant Sale
Saturday 31 st		Church Car Boot Sale

June

Friday 6 th		Little Hill Farm, Wellesbourne - Barn Dance for Shipston Home Nursing
Saturday 14 th		Open Gardens
Sunday 15 th		Open Gardens

July

Saturday 11 th		Oxhill Manor - Village Fete
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Correction

We apologise for the error in last month's issue.

A normally reliable source informs us that Mrs. Gibbins was not Oxhill's oldest inhabitant – that honour should go to Mrs. Annie Messer.

Apologies are due to Mrs. Messer and to anyone else who may have been discommoded by our mistake.

Editor



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