

The Oxhill News



July 2003

Quotations of the month

K2 (8611 m or 28 250 ft) was first climbed on 31 July, 1954, by an Italian team. It was named K2 as it was the second peak to be measured in the Karakoram Range.

That's one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind.

Neil A. Armstrong, on landing on the moon, 21 July 1969

The Tory Party ... So far as I am concerned they are lower than vermin.

Aneurin Bevan, Speech at Manchester, 4 July 1948

Idleness is only the refuge of weak minds.

Earl of Chesterfield, 20 July 1749

Prose = words in their best order; poetry = the best words in the best order.

Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Table Talk, 12 July 1827

La distance n'y fait rien; il n'y a que le premier pas qui coûte.

(The distance is nothing; it is only the first step that is difficult.)

Mme. Du Deffand, Commenting on the legend that St. Denis, carrying his head in his hands, walked two leagues. Letter to d'Alembert, 7 July 1763

We must indeed all hang together, or, most assuredly, we shall all hang separately.

Benjamin Franklin, Remark to John Hancock, at the Signing of the Declaration of Independence, 4 July 1776

The noblest prospect which a Scotchman ever sees is the high road that leads him to England!

Samuel Johnson, 6 July 1763

You ain't heard nothin' yet, folks.

Al Jolson, in the first talking film, The Jazz Singer, July 1927

July issue

The deadline for the July issue is Wednesday, 23rd July. If you normally prepare your material using a computer, it would make my life easier if you could submit your offering in electronic form, though paper is, of course, fine.

My 'official' e-mail address is: news-editor@oxhill.org.uk if you wish to send me stuff that way.

George Adams, 680286

Open Gardens

A lovely weekend with the weather at its best. We made just over £1000, to be divided between the Samaritans and Church funds.

A very very big thank you.

Firstly to Mrs. Swan for the use of her home. We do just take over for two days.

Thank you, you always make us very welcome.

To all the ladies for the excellent cakes, and to the tea ladies. As usual you got on with the task, and it all ran like clockwork. Thank you.

To all those who helped with the gate and the car park.

A big thank you to everybody who opened their garden. You are the most important; without you we would not make this money each year. I know all the hard work you put into your gardens, but it is worth it. They are all beautiful, and very much appreciated by everybody.

To Janet for having the Plant Stall on your drive, and to your helpers. The stall is always very popular.

Lastly to John Baines, Tom Heritage and David Grasby for moving tables and chairs etc. We cannot manage without you.

Lilian

Oxhill Village Fete

July 12th at Oxhill Manor

If you have any bric-a-brac, anything for the tombola stall, any cakes etc, would you please let me or Janet have them. We will have the usual stalls. There will be a donations bar, sports and fancy dress for the children and, of course, the tug of war. Hope you girls are in training!

Lilian

Poetry corner

(Only room for a little one this month)

Fleas

Adam

Had 'em.

Anon

Church Services in July

Church of St. Lawrence, Oxhill

Sunday, July 6th	Trinity III	9.30	Holy Communion
Sunday, July 13 th	Trinity IV	9.30	Holy Communion
Sunday, July 20 th	Trinity V	6.30	Evensong
Sunday, July 27 th	Trinity VI	9.30	Holy Communion

Oxhill Garden Club

The first of our outings this year took place on 17th June, when members and friends enjoyed a visit to Savill Gardens, near Windsor. The weather was ideal for walking along the stream and into the woodland which is one of the many fine features of this beautiful garden. Members were also able to enjoy a meal in the restaurant, visit the gift shop and the plant nursery before rejoining the coach for our journey home. Thank you Lilian for arranging yet another very successful day out.

The next meeting will be our annual Garden Party, on Thursday 24th July, at the Forge Bungalow, Gilkes Lane, by kind permission of Mrs Doreen Neale.

Children's Competition – children are invited to bring their potatoes to Forge Bungalow, on Thursday 24th July, at 6:30pm for judging prior to the garden party.

Adult's Competition (A display in a tub or container) – residents of Oxhill (not necessarily club members), are reminded to leave their entry form with Rosemary Brown, or Lilian Welsby, as soon as possible, please.

Sheila Osgood, Secretary.

Plants provide pleasure and profit

We were immensely grateful to everyone who gave us plants to sell at the open gardens and also to Janet and Bill Gardner for the use of their drive (even though it meant that Bill's car was marooned in the garage!).

Despite reduced numbers of customers on the Sunday, possibly due to the heat, we took £210, only slightly down on our best year.

Rather than consign them to the compost heap, the plants that were left over went to Tysoe School for their Summer Fayre the following Friday, where they raised a further £64. The P.T.A. would like to thank you for your (unknowing) support.

Eve Whaley

Broadband Responses

I certainly agree with the comments made in the last issue of the news. However, it is my understanding that the government has stated it wants all doctors' surgeries and schools on broadband asap. This gives me hope given the large surgery at Tysoe. I presume you are aware that in order to receive broadband you have to be within 6 kms of a digital exchange. Where our local exchange is I don't know. I would hope there is one in Tysoe, in which case we might be able to get broadband sooner than we think. Let's hope so! Also I am one of the 39 and actively encourage anyone I can to register.

Regards, Alan Beavis

I had been told that the numbers required to justify the installation of facilities at the exchange for the use of broadband may have been reduced to 50. If however the figure of 500 is the minimum we may be hard pushed to achieve that figure in the Tysoe, Oxhill area. What is needed however is for enough people in the potential market to register. Many households will have children with, or hoping to have computers and their parents may have little interest in meeting the extra cost of using the service.

We should still seek to target the children to get their parents to register because at sometime in the future they may need such a service. We should also target businesses that use computers because working from home as I do it is a vital tool to keep me in the market.

Alan Hedley, Merrydown, Green Lane

Oxhill Methodist Church

An Extract from The Minister's Letter

You will notice that Services are no longer being held at Oxhill. Oxhill has a long and honoured history. The Circuit will want to acknowledge the place the Chapel has played in sharing the Good News of Jesus through the life of the Circuit. I am hoping the Circuit Meeting in June will make plans for that to happen.

It has been the habit of Methodism to speak in terms of the 'failure of the cause' when a Church closes, and one cannot deny that reality. There is another side to that coin, and it is that we need to acknowledge the fulfilment of a mission, which gives a positive view of the situation. Members and friends of Oxhill are sad about what is happening, and I feel that sadness with them. The Circuit shares it also, and the Circuit will not forget or neglect them. They will continue to be part of our fellowship. My hope and prayer is that we shall all, recognising the reality of the situation, and feeling sad about it, nonetheless have a sense of privilege at being part of the witness that Oxhill Church has maintained for a long time.

Alec M Roberts, Superintendent Minister

Village Hall News

We are pleased to announce some new Committee Members, Tracey & Rhiainon Hackett and Sarah Hobill. We have therefore updated our records as below:

Committee List 2003

Ray Dagg - Chairman	2 The Sett, Oxhill	680850
Linda Dagg - Secretary	As above	
Ian Brodderick – Treasurer	Kisdon, Main St. Oxhill	688167
Lisa Roebuck – Lettings Officer	Barnside, Main St. Oxhill	680967
Elin Montague	The Granary, Rouse Lane, Oxhill	680681
David Knight – Advisor	The Vicarage, Tysoe	680201
Marcus Robertson	Hawthorns, Whatcote Rd, Oxhill	680408
Youth Advisor		
Keith Seabridge	April Corner, Rouse Lane, Oxhill	680654
Julie Seabridge	As above	
Sarah Hobill	Hogwood Farm, Oxhill	01926 646345
Tracey Hackett	The Malt House, Back Lane, Oxhill	680268
Rhiainon Hackett – Youth Advisor	As above	

We would like to thank them for their participation.

Events for the diary:

Fun for all the family the Village Hall BBQ on Saturday 26th July from 3pm onwards. Come rain or shine the event will go ahead.

Tickets: £5.00 Adult, £3.00 Children

Secure your place by calling Lisa on 680967 or Keith on 680654

Back by popular demand the Village Hall Quiz Night on Friday 1st August at 8pm

Tickets: £3.00 each or £10.00 for a table of 4

Refreshments & snacks available

To avoid disappointment – call Lisa on 680967 or Keith on 680654

Hiring the Village Hall or Equipment

The Hall and its equipment are available for hire

Price List

Hall Hire	£5 per hour
Trestle Tables	£2.50 each
Square Tables	£1 each
Crockery and Glasses	£5 per hire of event
Cutlery	£2 per hire of event
Chairs	25p each
Gazebo	£5 per hire of event
Barbeque	FOC hire within Oxhill
Barbeque	£5 per hire outside Oxhill

You may obtain a key from any of the Committee Members.
Breakages must be paid for.

Those of you who have recently hired the hall or equipment and have not paid, would you please forward your payment to Lisa Roebuck, otherwise we will have to revert to payment prior to hiring.

WI Report

I do hope that when I am 94 years old I will be able to stand for three quarters of an hour and speak throughout that time without the aid of notes. This is what Mrs. Colyer, nee Gilbert, did when she came to speak to us of her childhood, spent mostly in Oxhill.

Our June meeting always takes place in Oxhill, and it was the first time Mrs. Colyer had been back to what was, to her, her old school since she had left at the age of 14. In those days just two teachers taught 5 – 14 year olds in the one school and, judging by Mrs. Colyer, they did an excellent job.

Looking back to the month of May, we had a very successful coffee, cakes and plant morning, so many thanks to all those who took part, whether buying or selling.

Looking forward to July, we will be back in Tysoe listening to Mr. Parker speaking on “Landscapes of English Music”. Do remember that visitors are always welcome to join us.

Philippa Robinson

Oxhill Annual Parish Council Meeting

Held on Tuesday 13th May 2003 at 8.00 PM in the Village Hall

Apologies were received from Tom Heritage. All other Councillors were present.

Election of Officers

David Hill was re-elected Chairman for the forthcoming year, and Tom Heritage was re-elected Vice-Chairman.

Matters discussed

Parish Meeting

Five people from the village attended the Parish Meeting on 8th April. Items discussed were: speed of traffic, dogs fouling verges and planning matters.

Traffic Speed

The general feeling of the village seems to be that we don't want traffic calming systems installed but would prefer speed reducing request signs. The use of mobile indicators identifying speed of passing traffic was discussed. This is used in other counties. The Parish Council would look into its availability and possible use in the village.

Dog Fouling

Provision of bins had been discussed at the Parish Meeting and the costs had been obtained. The main concern is where to place them and provision of emptying them. A Bye Law is in place through the centre of the village against dogs fouling pavements and instances of this can be reported to the District Council who are obliged to act upon such information. However, we would hope that all dog owners take responsibility for cleaning up after their pets, which the majority already do.

Communal AED Equipment

The Parish Council would like to apologise to Mr. Eastaugh for any misunderstanding in its discussions on the possible provision of AED equipment for village use. We did not intend to be antagonistic but following discussions at the March P.C. Meeting and receiving differing views from members of the village, felt it could not take the matter further as a Parish Council. This is not to say that the matter could not be pursued elsewhere.

Finance

Mandatory Insurance was renewed at £216.83, Clerks honorarium and expenses were paid at £150, £450 was paid for 2002 season of mowing the churchyard, a grant of £500 was made towards the refurbishment of the village hall, and £100 was paid towards producing the Oxhill News

Planning

Unrestricted occupancy of properties at Stonecroft had been refused planning permission in line with the Structure Plan.

The unpleasant smell reported in the village was caused by the use of crop fertilization which dispersed after a few days

Items on the Notice Board

Subsidised Driving Lessons. Connexion is an initiative to help young persons to find jobs and pursue training by subsidising driving lessons.

Compost Bins and Water Butts. Many villagers have already benefited from the S.D.C. subsidised compost bins and water butts. These can be obtained from local garden centres.

Chipping Norton Theatre Programme. Although the Parish Council has not offered financial support to this theatre we have agreed to post their programme of events.

Date of next meeting:

Tuesday 8th July 2003 at 8.00 p.m. in the Village Hall.

Angela Kean, Clerk

I apologise to Angela for the late appearance of this item. She got it to me in plenty of time, and I simply forgot to put it into last month's issue.

George Adams

25 years ago

Issue No. 63, for July 1978, was a short but sweet single sheeter. The Fete and Barn Dance Committee announced a profit of £470, and the sponsored show jumping one of £264.77. The Youth Club had considerable success, coming third in "It's a Knockout and reaching the semi-final of the county darts and the finals of the table tennis tournaments.

A sponsored walk – Oxhill-Whatcote-Tysoe-Oxhill – was announced for July 9th. Sponsorship forms were sent out with the News. I seem to remember a certain young lady of Oxhill steaming round multiple laps of the 8 mile course, leaving everyone else trailing far behind.

George Adams

Thank you from Joe

I would like to thank all my friends and relatives for their support and kindness in my recent bout in hospital.

Joe Costa

Nature Notes for July

July – named in honour of Julius Caesar, and is the month of haymaking.

On 3rd July the hot and unhealthy “Dog Days”, when Sirius the Dog Star is in the ascendant, begin and continue until about 11th August (we hope!).

Take your minds back to the morning of Oxhill’s car boot sale, a hot and pleasant morning. We were having breakfast in the garden when I was alerted by a continuous purring coo, repeated in groups of two to five. This was a sound I haven’t heard for quite a long time. I went into the pub car park, and there at the top of the dead ash tree I spotted it – a single Turtle dove, its pink breast and red brown mottled back marking it out from the slightly larger Collared dove (very numerous in Oxhill). The number of Turtle doves has dropped dramatically over recent years and it is now officially a species of conservation concern. A bird of woodland and hedgerows, it is rarely seen in towns or villages. A summer visitor from winter quarters in sub-tropical Africa, they arrive late April through to late May. The name “turtle” originated from the Latin *turtur* and imitates its soft rippling call. The bird’s role as a mark of affection is old and it is believed that they pair for life and if one or the other dies, the remaining bird will never take another mate. Shakespeare also remarked on their supposed faithfulness:

When arm in arm they both come swiftly running
like a pair of loving turtle-doves,
That could not live asunder, day or night
(Henry VI part I Act 2 Scene 2)

Perhaps this single bird I saw had just arrived from its long arduous journey and was calling for its mate. It stayed around for about an hour. Unfortunately many are shot as they fly over France and Spain (although it is now against the law). I sincerely hope this one’s mate didn’t end up on a French table.

15th July is St Swithin’s Day. The feast of St Swithin, a humble and much loved Saxon Bishop of Winchester. On his deathbed he ordered his body to be buried among the poor in the common churchyard, but so many miracles occurred at his graveside, the monks removed his remains to a splendid shrine in Winchester Cathedral on 15th July, whereupon it is said the saint wept in protest, causing a continuous downpour which lasted forty days.

And here are a few other July feasts: 20th July – St Wilgefortis or Uncumber, the original bearded lady, 22nd July – St Mary Magdalen, 25th July St Christopher and St James the Greater, and July 26th – Feast of St Anne, mother of the Virgin Mary. And if you celebrate all of these, make sure you are well stocked up with Rennies and Alka-Seltzer!

Grenville Moore

Consider this

If we could shrink the earth's population to a village of precisely 100 people, with all the existing human ratios remaining the same, it would look something like the following:

There would be:

57 Asians

21 Europeans

14 from the Western Hemisphere, both north and south

8 Africans

52 would be female, 48 would be male

70 would be non-white, 30 would be white

70 would be non-Christian, 30 would be Christian

89 would be heterosexual, 11 would be homosexual

6 people would possess 59% of the entire world's wealth and all 6 would be from the United States.

80 would live in substandard housing

70 would be unable to read

50 would suffer from malnutrition

1 would be near death

1 would be near birth

1 (yes, only 1) would have a college education

1 would own a computer

When one considers our world from such a compressed perspective, the need for acceptance, understanding and education becomes glaringly apparent.

The following is also something to ponder:

If you woke up this morning with more health than illness you are more blessed than the million who will not survive this week.

If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation you are ahead of 500 million people in the world.

If you can attend something you believe in without fear of harassment, arrest, torture, or death you are more blessed than three billion people in the world.

If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep you are richer than 75% of this world.

If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish somewhere you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy.

Submitted (I think) by Revd. David Knight

I have seen this several times before, the last time questioning the accuracy of most of the numbers quoted in the first portion. It is fairly difficult to argue with the general ideas in the last five paragraphs, though.

Editor

What's On in Oxhill July

Tuesday 8 th	8.00	Village Hall - Parish Council Meeting
Saturday 12 th		Oxhill Manor - Village Fete
Wednesday 23 rd	22.00	Copy deadline for August News
Thursday 24 th	6.30	Forge Bungalow - Potato judging, followed by Garden Club Garden Party
Saturday 26 th	3.00	Village Hall - Village Barbeque

August

Friday 1 st	8.00	Village Hall - Quiz Night
Thursday 7 th		Garden Club Outing to Ball Colgrave

September

Saturday 20 th		Notorious Villains Ball in aid of Shipston Home Nursing
Sunday 21 st	6.30	St. Lawrence's Church – Harvest Festival

December

Wednesday 17 th	7.30	St. Lawrence's Church – Carol Service
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