

The Oxhill News



May 2003

Quotations of the month

You must awake and call me early, call me early, mother dear;
To-morrow 'ill be the happiest time of all the glad New-year;
Of all the glad New-year, mother, the maddest merriest day;
For I'm to be Queen o' the May, mother, I'm to be Queen o' the May.

Alfred, Lord Tennyson; The May Queen

Education is what survives when what has been learnt has been forgotten.

B. F. Skinner; New Scientist, 21 May 1964

The way to ensure summer in England is to have it framed and glazed in a comfortable room.

Horace Walpole, Fourth Earl of Orford; 28 May 1774

May 8th is VE Day and May 29th Oak-apple Day. In the USA, Decoration Day is usually the last Monday in May, but, presumably, sometimes it isn't.

Robert McCredie May is an Australian-born US theoretical ecologist.

Here we go gathering nuts in May,

Nuts in May,

Nuts in May,

Here we go gathering nuts in May on a cold and frosty morning.

Anon

May will be fine next year, as like as not:

Oh ay, but then we shall be twenty-four.

A. E. Housman; Last Poems

Pass me the can, lad; there's an end to May.

A. E. Housman; Ibid.

Editorial

The cover picture this week has been supplied by Sue Price, and shows the glories you will see when you take the Bluebell Walk in Whatcote. Full details appear further on in the News.

June issue

The deadline for the June issue is Tuesday, 27th May. This is the day after the Spring Bank Holiday, so, if you are taking a half-term holiday then - think ahead!

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

Village Hall News

Firstly, after everybody's hard work to improve the Village Hall somebody daubed dog faeces on the door and roof. Could we ask all dog walker's who are responsibly 'pooper scooping' to take it home to your rubbish bin and not put it in the waste bin outside the village hall. To the youngster who did this (he was seen), we will take this further if it happens again.

We are now in the final stages of refurbishing the hall. New kitchen units are being installed this week along with a new sink.

We are indebted to many people for their time and hard work to complete this project, however, we cannot let this opportunity pass to mention an outstanding contribution by Brian Badger who has worked tirelessly to finish this project. Our grateful thanks go to him from all the Committee members.

In the next week we need you, the villagers, to help us to repaint the main body of the hall. Please call Ray if you are willing to give some time for this on **680850**.

The **Progressive Dinner** will commence at **7pm on Saturday 3rd May** at the Peacock. We hope everyone enjoys themselves.

After all the spending, we are desperate for more funds. Any donations would be gratefully received. Please call Ray on **680850**.

Finally, a very important date for your diary is the **AGM** which is being held on **Wednesday 14th May @ 8pm in the Village Hall**. **PLEASE** come along and support this event. We would be delighted to welcome new Committee members who want to get involved with village events and share their views.

YOUR VILLAGE NEEDS YOU!!!

Linda Dagg

Poetry Corner

Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?
Thou art more lovely and more temperate.
Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,
And summer's lease hath all too short a date.
Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines,
And often is his gold complexion dimm'd;
And every fair from fair sometime declines,
By chance or nature's changing course untrimm'd;
But thy eternal summer shall not fade
Nor lose possession of that fair thou ow'st;
Nor shall Death brag thou wander'st in his shade,
When in eternal lines to time thou grow'st:
So long as men can breathe or eyes can see,
So long lives this, and this gives life to thee.

William Shakespeare, Sonnet XVIII

Church Services in May

Church of St. Lawrence, Oxhill

Sunday, May 4 th	Easter II	9.30	Holy Communion
Sunday, May 11 th	Easter III	9.30	Holy Communion
Sunday, May 18 th	Easter IV	6.30	Evensong
Sunday, May 25 th	Rogation Sunday	9.30	Church Farm, Oxhill. Open Air Service by invitation of Tom and Ann Heritage

Oxhill Methodist Church

Sunday, May 4 th	Easter III	3.00	Mrs. M. Gibbs
Sunday, May 11 th	Easter IV	3.00	Mr. D. Brazier
Sunday, May 18 th	Easter V	3.00	Rev. A. Roberts
Sunday, May 25 th	Easter VI	3.00	Mr. R. Ellis

Oxhill Festival Choir

My thanks to everyone for singing so beautifully on Palm Sunday. For those who can manage it, we shall be singing again on Whit Sunday, which is Sunday, June 8th, at 9.30 a.m. In the Church.

Rehearsals will be on Fridays May 16th, 23rd and 30th, and June 6th, at 7.30 p.m. at The Old House as usual.

Looking ahead, you might like to note that the Harvest Festival at which we shall be singing is on Sunday, September 21st at 6.30 p.m. The Remembrance Day service is at 9.30 a.m. On Sunday, November 9th, and the Carols by Candlelight is at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 17th.

Happy Christmas!

Jill Tucker, 680663

I know two things about the horse,
And one of them is rather coarse.

Anon

Nature notes for May

May – named after Maia, a Roman goddess of growth and increase. May Day is 1st May and is also Beltane, the Celtic festival of summer's beginning.

“May” – which should be gathered at or before sunrise can be any kind of flowering greenery, though hawthorn (or May blossom), birch and rowan are the favourites, while blackthorn is ill omened. To leave a branch of hawthorn at a friend's door is a luck-bringing compliment, but gifts of other kinds of tree can be insulting. Here's a little sixteenth century tip for young ladies:

A fair maid who, the first of May
Goes to the fields at the break of day
And washes in dew from the hawthorn tree
Will ever after handsome be

Some of you walkers may have noticed an entertaining family of rats by a pond in the village. They live in the base of an old willow tree and can often be seen running around and climbing along the willow branches. These are the common Brown rat (*Rattus norvegicus*). Extremely good swimmers, they originated in central Asia and came in on trading vessels and swam ashore. They were first recorded in England in 1728, By the end of the 18th century they had almost completely replaced our indigenous Black rat (*Rattus rattus*). Many people seeing a rat swimming assume it to be a water rat, or more correctly a Water vole (*Arvicola terrestris* formerly *A.amphibius*). The water vole has longer dark brown fur, a shorter tail and a stubby face and is now unfortunately a rare animal to see, and I have yet to see one along the brook in Oxhill, although they used to be present. A survey done about 12 years ago reported that Water voles had declined by 70% since the 1940s, probably due to predation by mink and water pollution.

Can I make a plea to those of you who enjoy outdoor eating? I have recently noticed in several of the gardening catalogues that come through the post an “outdoor insect killer” offered for sale. These ultra violet lamps lure all flying insects including moths and hoverflies to a “fried alive” death. They were developed for the meat and catering trade, but somehow have found their way into the retail market. It is very important to keep all our flying insects, which are part of nature's cycle and food chain, and of course plant pollinators. If you feel as strongly as I do, perhaps a letter to these companies might have some effect.

24th May, Whitsun, or Pentecost was originally “White Sunday” from the white “robes of innocence” worn by converts who were traditionally baptised at this season.

Grenville Moore

Oxhill Open Gardens

We are still looking for more gardens to be open to the public on 14th and 15th June. The Plant Stall will be in the drive at ODDCOT (next to the Chapel). Please bring your surplus plants (labelled, if possible) on Friday, 13th June, or else **early** on Saturday morning.

Thanking you in anticipation,

Janet Gardner

Joy's Jumble

Joy would like to say a big 'Thank you' to everyone who worked so hard for her Jumble Sale, Cake Stall and Raffle on April 5th. On the day we made £296.93, and afterwards £35.00 in donations. Considering we were fairly short of customers we did very well indeed.

Especial thanks are due to Tom Heritage for the use of his vehicles, and to the drivers, of course.

I must apologise for not providing cups of tea during the afternoon, but the Tysoe Village Hall kitchens were being enlarged and so we could not get any water, or the use of electricity.

Joy Bloxham

No Defibrillator for Oxhill

The reported Parish Council Minute in the April Oxhill News and correspondence to me from the Parish Council has misconstrued the proposed Defibrillator scheme in fundamental respects.

It was not my considered opinion that the village was too small for such a scheme - if it were I would not have bothered to investigate it. Such a view could only have been taken (and the possibility of embracing Whatcote explored) by a Committee formed to consider the idea.

More importantly (and, in my opinion, significantly) the Council's opinion that the Tysoe surgery would be a 'good place' to keep and from which to operate the equipment reveals a failure to understand the fundamental feature of the scheme, which requires a fast response with the equipment lodged with the trained 'First Responder(s)', who act as a tactical arm of the Ambulance Service. This was made amply clear in the information sent to the Council.

The Council has not indicated whether or not it is favour in principle of the idea being followed up, but the tone of its correspondence suggests that it is indifferent - even potentially antagonistic.

I do not intend to waste the time of those residents who conveyed their support, with pledges of money in some cases, whom I wish to thank through your pages. I do not intend to take this matter any further.

A E C Eastaugh

Shipston Home Nursing

Annual Plant Sale

BARGAINS!

Annuals, perennials, bedding, fruit, vegetables etc.

Please come and support us on

Saturday 17th May

10 – 12 noon

Townsend Hall

Sheep Street, Shipston on Stour

To donate plants, please contact Sonia Baker on 01608 661459
or deliver to the Townsend Hall on Friday 16th between 12 noon and 6 p.m.

Rebecca Mawle

The Children's Society

The Children's Society

Spring Fair & Coffee Morning

Alscot Park, Preston on Stour

Thursday 8th May 2003

10.30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

The Decorative Gardener
Leather gifts & jewellery
Cakes, preserves & plants

Jason Wright Ironwork
Aromatherapy products
Silk Ties

Fiona Howard, 01608 682570

Whatcote Road

I have been asked to thank the dog owners of the village, and possibly indeed also the dogs of the village, for their cooperation in keeping the verges of the Whatcote road clean and sweet smelling.

Editor

Tysoe W. I.

Our President welcomed three visitors to our almost full house. Lighter evenings and a popular speaker make all the difference to an attendance. Mr. Allan Winterburn was the speaker with his talk on 'Little known Warwickshire'. With the help of slides he pointed out all sorts of nooks and crannies over the county that most people would overlook.

Philippa Robinson gave us a résumé of the County Spring Council meeting, the A.G.M. in other words, that she and Pam McLeod attended in Leamington. After business in the morning we had two excellent speakers to entertain us, one being Norman Willis. Many of you will remember him as being Secretary General of the T.U.C. Not so well known is that he is Director and Trustee of the Royal School of Needlework. He brought samples of his work to prove it. He is also quite a comedian.

We are having our annual Coffee, Cakes and Plant morning at the Old Schoolroom, Tysoe on Saturday May 24th.

We have also planned our Summer Outing for Thursday, June 26th, to what is known as the 'Alternative Hampton Court'. This is between Leominster and Hereford. We hope to be joined by friends and keen gardeners, especially vegetable gardeners. More details will be provided in the next report.

Philippa Robinson

Bluebell Walk

This year's walk is on Sunday May 11th, starting from Hell Brake House, Whatcote. Come for a gentle walk up to Hell Brake to see the Bluebells, and enjoy tea and scones on your return.

There will be a well stocked produce stall.

The cost is £4.00 for adults and £2.00 for children, (Family Ticket £10.00) and this includes the tea and scones!

Time: 2.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m.

The proceeds will go towards St Peter's Church Repair & Alteration Fund.

Strong shoes or boots are essential!

Enquiries: Sue Price, 01295 680007

25 years ago

In May 1978, as a sort of quinquennial celebration, the News started its sixth year with a price hike to 40 pence per year, and with a heartfelt plea to the good folk of Oxhill to please pay up.

Another plea from the heart came attached to the announcement of the Parish Council meeting. "Please do not, at a later date, say that you did not know. All Meetings are announced in the News, as well as the official notice being on the village notice board. If you do not choose to read the News, then there is not much else that I or anyone can do about it." Then, as now, few people attended Council meetings.

Rachel Costa wrote to the News telling the world how much she enjoyed living in Oxhill. I hope she still feels the same way, 25 years on.

The departure of John and Val Woodward and the arrival of Andrew Emerson were noted, details of the Fete were provided, and John McKail pleaded for volunteers to mow the churchyard.

George Adams

Oxhill Garden Club

Our April meeting was held in the Church, by kind permission of Rev. D Knight. The speaker, Mr G Ottewell, guided us, via his collection of beautiful slides, 'On foot along the Windrush'. Beginning at Taddington (by Snowhill), and progressing, for us quite effortlessly, 30 miles to Newbury where the Windrush flows into the Thames. A very picturesque journey, full of interesting facts about the settlements, past and present, along the route.

The monthly competition was won by Dot Richards, with Joyce McKail second, and Myrtle Knight third.

We still have seats available for the outing to Savill Gardens, Surrey, on Tuesday 17th June. Guests and friends are very welcome. For further information, please contact Lilian Welsby, 01295 680468.

The date of the outing to Ball Colegrave has been changed to Thursday 7th August. Further information from Rosemary Brown, 01295 680260.

The Competitions this year will be:

Children – Potatoes grown in a bag

Adults – A display in a container.

Leaflets giving further information will be available next month.

The next meeting will be our popular **Plant Sale**, on Thursday 15th May, at the Village Hall. If you have plants, or other items to do with gardening, for sale please bring them along, the club will take a small percentage of the sale price to add to club funds.

Sheila Osgood, Secretary

Oxhill Web Site and e-mail

I am aware that at least some of the web-enabled households have taken the time to visit the new Oxhill web site at www.oxhill.org.uk. Thank you for the positive feedback and encouragement. The site has been created to act as a place of reference for and about the village. It is intended that it will act as a repository and place of record for material relating to the village. Under the current regime the site will not be used for commercial purposes and will not publish material that is not directly related to village life or activities. I hope you all agree with and support this policy and the need to keep tight control on the material that is published on this world-wide resource. If you disagreed then air your views to the webmaster@oxhill.org.uk or via the Oxhill News.

Any ideas for the development of the site will be gratefully received and if anyone is keen to assist then please do not hesitate to get in contact with the webmaster@oxhill.org.uk or the editor of 'The Oxhill News'. For example, an extended version of 'The Oxhill News' is already carried on the site and contributors might like to consider submitting material over and above the text provided for the paper version. The Rev'd David Knight would like to make extracts from the Parish registers available. Is there anyone who would like to assist with this project? A record of how Oxhill celebrated the Golden Jubilee is planned but photographs are required to enable this to proceed! Any other ideas - get in contact!

A number of easy to remember e-mail addresses have been created to help you contact village organisations.

rector@oxhill.org.uk will reach Rev'd David Knight.

news-editor@oxhill.org.uk is a direct route to the Oxhill News editor - George Adams.
parish-council@oxhill.org.uk will reach the Chairman of the Parish Council - David Hill.

historian@oxhill.org.uk can be used to access a wealth of historical information about the village.

Similar mail addresses can be made available to other village organisations by contacting the webmaster@oxhill.org.uk.

Finally if you would like your personal e-mail address to be added to an Oxhill e-mail distribution list then please send a request to this effect to:

distribution-list@oxhill.org.uk.

The list will be used occasionally to distribute relevant village information.

Subscriber's details will not be shared or disclosed.

webmaster@oxhill.org.uk

What's On

May

Saturday 3 rd		Progressive dinner
Thursday 8 th	10.30	Alscot Park – Coffee Morning for The Children's Society
Sunday 11 th	2.00	Hell Brake House, Whatcote - Bluebell Walk
Tuesday 13 th	11.30	Moreton Morrell Manor - "Champagne and Shop" for Shipston Home Nursing
Thursday 15 th		Village Hall – Garden Club Plant Sale
Friday 16 th	7.30	The Old House – Choir Rehearsal
Saturday 17 th	10.00	Townsend Hall, Shipston - Plant Sale
Friday 23 rd	7.30	The Old House – Choir Rehearsal
Saturday 24 th		Old Schoolroom, Tysoe – W.I. Coffee, Cakes & Plants
Friday 30 th	7.30	The Old House – Choir Rehearsal
Saturday 31 st		Church Car Boot Sale

June

Friday 6 th		Little Hill Farm, Wellesbourne - Barn Dance for Shipston Home Nursing
	7.30	The Old House – Choir Rehearsal
Saturday 14 th		Open Gardens
Sunday 15 th		Open Gardens
Tuesday 17 th		Savill Gardens – Garden Club Outing
Thursday 26 th		W.I. Summer Outing

July

Saturday 11 th		Oxhill Manor - Village Fete
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August

Thursday 7 th		Garden Club Outing to Ball Colgrave
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September

Sunday 21 st	6.30	St. Lawrence's Church – Harvest Festival
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December

Wednesday 17 th	7.30	St. Lawrence's Church – Carol Service
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Guy Loveridge
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07710 987657

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Tysoe Toddlers & Pre-School

Toddlers: Wednesday

9.30 – 11.15 £1.50

Pre-school: Monday to Friday

9.00 – 12.00 £5.00

Lunch Club: Wednesday & Friday

12.00 – 1.00 £1.00

For further information please call
680624