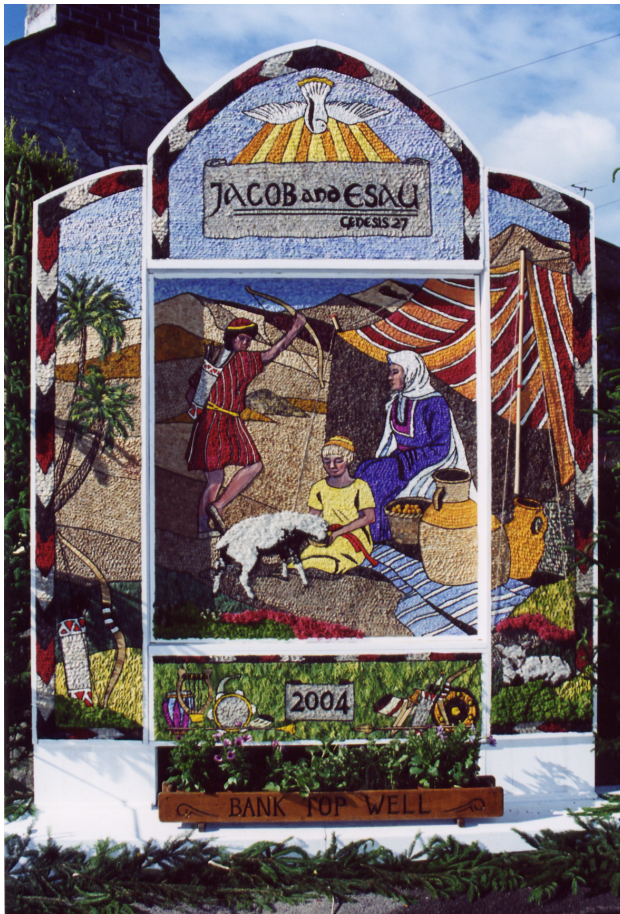


# The Oxhill News



August 2004

## August 1

is the National Day of Switzerland and the Feast day of Saints Pistis, Elpis, and Agape (Faith, Hope, and Charity), Peter Julian Eymard, Ethelwold of Winchester, Almedha (or Aled), Alphonse Liguori, and the Holy Macabees.

And there was me thinking the Holy Macabees played basketball for Israel.

It is the day in **1498 when** Christopher Columbus reached the American mainland, and named it Santa Isla, believing it to be an island. Being completely surrounded by sea, of course it is an island. Just rather a large one.

It was also the day in **1714 when** George Louis, Elector of Hanover, was proclaimed King George I of Great Britain. In **1774** Joseph Priestley identified oxygen, which he called 'a new species of air', and in **1778** the first savings bank was opened, in Hamburg, Germany.

Claudius (the "I" man) was born in 10 BC, Jack Kramer in 1921 and Yves Saint-Laurent in 1936.

Louis VI of France died in 1137 and Anne of England in 1714. There's a saying about that one. Pianist John Ogdon died in 1989 and pianist Richter Syvatoslav in 1997. I've heard of John Ogdon.

Editor

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## September Issue

Please could I have all copy for the September issue by Midnight on Tuesday, 24th August? 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. If you do use electronic form, the best would be a Word file with the page size set to A5 and margins of 1.5 cm all round. The font size should in general be 10 point.

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

George Adams, 680286

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## Cover Picture

The cover picture this month shows one of the dressed wells at Youlgrave, Derbyshire. The photo of the sparrowhawk was taken by Geoff Stewart in his garden this April.

Editor

## **Our Special Day**

Our Wedding Blessing took place on 19th June at St Lawrence Church, Oxhill. We would like to thank just a few people, who made this a very special day.

Special thanks must go to:

Joyce McKail and Angela Keen, for such superb flower arrangements in the church. Not forgetting John who acted as Joyce and Angela's 'runner'!

Janet and Bill Gardner, for opening up the car park far earlier than expected to make way for our guests. Thank you Janet for also helping during the service.

Father Thomas (Dad) for his new career as a removal man, collecting the tables and chairs for the reception!

Our catering team of Wendy Thomas (mum), Gayle Barker-Harland and Thelma Knight deserve a big pat on the back for a wonderful spread (they never want to peel another potato ever again!).

Nadia and Charles, for the generous offer of their garden for the reception. What a wonderful setting. Thank you so much.

An apology to Rev David Knight, who had prided himself on not having a wet wedding in twenty years. It poured just as we left the church! Sorry David, it would have to be us!

Many thanks to all our friends in Oxhill who sent cards and presents. We will be sending individual "thank you"s shortly.

To our children Lucy and Alexander, who made us so very proud.

Neil and Angela Chick

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## **Gardens Open Weekend**

The Oxhill Parochial Church Council would like to thank everyone, under the leadership of Nadia McCall and her committee, for making the weekend such a success.

A big thank you is due to the people who worked so hard to get their gardens 'perfect' for the weekend (not an easy task this year with such adverse weather conditions).

The 'Publicity Force' who put posters in the neighbouring towns and villages and those who put up the road signs must be remembered together with our grateful thanks to the Car Park Attendants, furniture removers and bus drivers.

The Art Exhibition and stalls in the Village Hall were very much appreciated and added to the enjoyment of the visitors.

The total taken over the two days was £1,100 – a very good effort. It will be divided between the Church and the Samaritans.

Janet Gardner, Church Warden

**Church Services in August**  
**Church of St. Lawrence, Oxhill**  
**Sunday Services**

Sunday 1st	9.30	Matins, Dr. Jill Tucker
Sunday 8th	9.30	Patronal Festival, Holy Communion, Ven. Donald Smith
Sunday 15th	6.30	Evensong

*We apologise for the cancellation of the Open Air Service. It has been postponed until September 12th, at 9.30 a.m. at Oxbourne House, the home of Graeme and Posy McDonald.*

Sunday 22nd	9.30	Holy Communion
Sunday 29th	10.30	United Benefice Service of Holy Communion At Tysoe Church

**Midweek Services**

The Thursday evening services will resume on September 2nd.

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**Changes at Kineton Methodist Church**

We would like to wish Alec and Marion Roberts well in their retirement. His farewell service will be held on Sunday, August 1st at 3.30 p.m. in Kineton Methodist Church.

We welcome John and Rosemary Taylor who will be taking over from them: they will be welcomed formally at a service at Kineton Methodist Church on Wednesday, 1st September at 7.30 p.m..

Jill Tucker

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**Oxhill Festival Choir**

After a very well earned summer break we will be singing again for the Harvest Songs of Praise on Sunday, September 26th at 6.30pm in Church. To this end we shall be rehearsing on Friday, September 3rd, Friday, September 10th, Friday, September 17th and Friday, September 24th.

All rehearsals are at 7.30 p.m. The first three are at The Old House, and the last one will be in Church. As always, anyone who likes to sing is very welcome to join us.

Following on from that the Remembrance Day service is at 9.30 a.m. on Sunday, November 14th, and Carols by Candlelight is on Wednesday, December 22nd at 7.30 p.m. You have been warned!

Jill Tucker, 680663

## **Village Hall News**

The Village Hall Committee have organised the following events this year, so put a note in your diary. More will follow in due course.

We hope you will be able to join us for these events. It is an ideal way to meet new and greet old friends!

### ***Sunday 12th September***

‘Oxhill Euro 2004’ 5-aside Dads & Lads or Lassies football tournament!

Kick-off 12.30 with a BBQ at 4 p.m.

Cost to enter £10 Dads, £5 Children, Spectators £1 each.

Contact Marcus on 680404 or Rhiannon on 680268 to book your side

### ***Friday 17th September at 8 p.m.***

Bingo night for all the family, everyone is welcome, many prizes to be won. Refreshments available.

£2 to include 1<sup>st</sup> book, extra books at £1 each.

Contact Ray on 680850 to reserve your place.

### ***Saturday 2nd October at 7 p.m.***

Progressive Dinner, back by popular demand. Guest fee £15.

To find out more contact Tracey on 680268 or Linda on 680850

### ***Friday 15th October at 8 p.m.***

Quiz Night fun for all the family,. Tickets £5 each or £15 for a table of 4. Refreshments & Snacks available.

Contact Ray on 680850 to book your table.

### ***Friday 19th November at 8 p.m.***

Bingo night for all the family, everyone is welcome, many prizes to be won. Refreshments available.

£2 to include 1<sup>st</sup> book, extra books at £1 each.

Contact Ray on 680850 to reserve your place.

### ***Saturday 4th December at 8 p.m.***

Casino Night, ‘Las Vegas comes to Oxhill’ for age group 16 +. More to follow

Linda Dagg, Secretary

# **NOTES OF A MEETING OF OXHILL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 13th JULY 2004 AT 8.00 PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

All Councillors were present.

## **MATTERS DISCUSSED**

### **Planning**

Permission had been granted for the following

Application for two-storey extension at “Croftdown”.

Application for 2-storey extension and extension over garage at “Fithers Field”

Applications at “Willow Ley” for minor amendments, Car Ports and Store.

Planning Application for replacements windows at Oxhill House had been withdrawn.

Planning Application for extension at “The Conifers” had been refused.

An Appeal would be heard in November against the refusal to allow change of use from agricultural land to commercial use at Wixey Transport

If you would like your views included in the Parish Council’s response to Planning Applications, please contact one of the Councillors.

### **Finance**

Under the new financial system The Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2004 had been audited by Internal Audit and would now be sent for External Audit along with: Notes to the Accounts, Explanation on variations to the previous year, and bank reconciliation.

### **Air Ambulance**

At the request of the air ambulance, Warwickshire County Council Emergency Dept is identifying potential landing sites for the air ambulance helicopter. The Parish Council would provide this information.

A request for a donation to the Air Ambulance had been received. £50 would be sent.

### **Publications**

A New Countryside Magazine “Viewpoint” has been published. The Parish Council would ask the Warwickshire County Council what the cost was to the taxpayers of producing yet another glossy magazine.

### **The Countryside Agency**

A copy of the provisional map detailing open country and registered common land has been sent to all Parishes from The Countryside Agency. Oxhill does not have land in these categories. This map can be inspected on request.

### **Operation Ragwort**

W.C.C. is running a campaign to raise awareness and to take action to control ragwort. This is a very poisonous plant particularly to horses and grazing animals. A leaflet is posted on the Notice Board identifying the ragwort plant.

## **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 21st September 2004 at 8.00 p.m. in the Village Hall.

Angela Kean, Clerk

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## **Oxhill Garden Club**

This month we enjoyed an evening garden party at the home of Rosemary Brown and although it was probably tempting fate to hold it on St Swithin's Day we all had a thoroughly pleasant time indulging in excellent food in excellent company. Apparently there is little truth (and less rhyme) in the doggerel attributed to this ninth-century Hampshire monk:

**St Swithin's Day, if it does rain  
Full forty days, it will remain  
St Swithin's Day, if it be fair  
For forty days, t'will rain no more.**

But July 15th was dull with threatened drizzle and it doesn't seem to have improved much since!

Heather Brennan, Secretary

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## **Garden Party**

There will be a Garden Party at The Old House on Saturday, August 7th from 2.30pm onwards.

Admission will be £3 (children free) – all proceeds will go to the relief work of The Evangelical Alliance Relief Fund (TEAR Fund).

Jill Tucker

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## **Lost and Found**

We seem to have been adopted by a Ginger female cat who has a pink collar, is very friendly and has obviously been well looked after.

If anyone is missing her, please contact us.

Sue Hutsby, Nolands Farm, 01926 640309

## NATURE NOTES FOR AUGUST

The month of Harvest: in Anglo Saxon Weodmonath – the month of weeds.

Those of you walk down Manor Lane may have noticed the terrific “roar” of bees coming from some of the trees. They are not swarming, but feeding on the nectar of the lime tree blossoms. This is a wonderfully fragrant blossom and bees seem to love it, indeed they get “drunk” on it and you will often seem tipsy bees crawling around the road having fallen out of the trees. During the last war people made a rich tea “tilleul” from lime leaves which was recommended as a mild sedative. The inner bark could also be rolled into a cigarette and smoked in the ordinary way, the effect being said to be both rapid and heady. Apparently the young leaves make a good sandwich filling tasting like honey-coated lettuce leaves due to the aphids sweet excretions! And the small round fruits are just about edible and have a curious cocoa-like taste. In the late nineteenth century a French chemist tried to patent a chocolate substitute made from a ground up mixture of lime flowers and fruits.

Today we take honey very much for granted, but in the past honey had many uses. It was used to preserve natural materials and foods from meat to leather, mixed with powdered gold and used as a paint to decorate early porcelain, blended with natural pigments and oil to produce “oil paint”, and not forgetting the alcoholic beverage mead, made by fermenting a mixture of honey and water. The words “bee” and “honey” crop up in many place names and it would seem south Warwickshire has more than its fair share: Honiley (a wood where honey was obtained), Honeybourne (stream where honey could be collected), Honington (homestead where honey was obtained), and just into Worcestershire, Beoley (bee wood).

I was very pleased to see at the far end of Manor Lane the other day four young pheasants that scurried out of my way into the undergrowth. These were wild pheasants, unlike the 20 million birds that are reared and then released for shooting, forming part of a major rural industry. The wild bred birds are far more wily than their hand-reared cousins and can survive for quite a few years, and an old male bird will be distinguished by his big ear tufts and long spurs that can grow up to 1½ inches. The pheasant was introduced to Britain by the Romans and it is likely that they kept them rather like we keep chickens in pens for domestic use. Their bones have been found in Roman excavations.

We have recently made several visits to the vet with our cat Frank who injured his head in a fight some months ago and had a wound that kept coming back. The vet said that the poison lies dormant under the skin after the wound has healed and then re-erupts. I came across this from Edward Topsell’s *History of Four-footed Beasts* 1607. “The Flesh of Cats can seldom be free of poison, by reason of their daily food, eating Rats,



Mice, Wrens, and other birds which feed on poison: and above all the brain of the cat is most venomous, for it being above all measure dry, stoppeth the animal spirits, by reason whereof memory faileth, and the infected person falleth into a Phrensy. In Spain they eat cats, but first of all take away their head and tail, and hang the flesh a night or two in the open air to exhale the poison of it, then finding the flesh to be almost as sweet as a coney.”

I have assured Frank he is quite safe – as long as he doesn’t go to Spain for his holidays!  
Grenville Moore

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## **Oxhill Village Tennis Tournament**

We now have 19 players for tennis on Sunday 5th September, starting at Oxbourne House at 10.00 am. Gill Rodwell has kindly agreed to allow us to use her court as well. Lunch will be provided and the cost of entry will be £10.00 per adult and £8.00 for under-18s.

There is still room for a few more players if anyone is interested, and others of your family who are not playing are very welcome to join us for lunch at a cost of £8.00 (but please let me know by 20th August).

*All* the money raised will be divided between the Village Hall and Church, so let’s hope for some good weather, lots of fun and not too serious tennis! If the weather is bad on that day, please telephone me.

Posy McDonald 688202

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## **Welcome**

We welcome Claire, Christopher and daughter Chloe to 3 Beech Road, and hope that their stay in Oxhill will be long and happy.

Editor.

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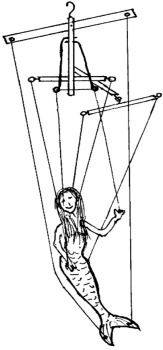
## **100 Mile Walkies – an Update**

Just to let you know the final sum we raised for the Warwickshire and Northamptonshire Air Ambulance was £600.

Many thanks to everyone.

Ian & Sally Broderick

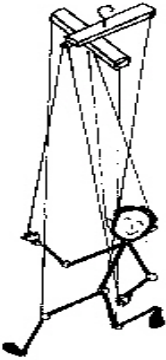
## Tysoe Marionette Group



Our successful season of the “**The Little Mermaid**” in the Barn Theatre has finally come to a close, having played seven performances, and raised over £700 for a variety of charities.

Our younger puppeteers, Amber, Bethany, Laila, Tia and Victoria are moving on up to secondary school. We thank them, wish them well and trust that their experience with our “little people” will add to their enjoyment of theatre in later life.

Work has already started on script writing for next season’s productions. Soon work will begin on making puppets, carving marionette bodies, moulding heads, sewing costumes, fabricating props and painting scenery. Later we will be seeking “recording artists” to put together the pre-recorded sound track. This time one of our productions will have a decidedly French flavour



Anybody interested in participating in this fascinating art form is invited to contact Jon and Ann Beeny on Tysoe 680431, or Email us at [JonBeeny@AOL.com](mailto:JonBeeny@AOL.com)

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### **Another Belated Welcome!**

We welcome Andy, Jude and Angus McDonald, who came to live at Willowbrook a couple of months ago.

We also offer our congratulations on the birth of their daughter Ailie in early July.

Editor

# ART EXHIBITION

by

*Hazel Robinson*

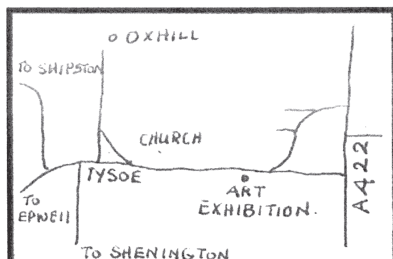
*Saturday, 4th September 2004 until*

*Sunday, 12th September 2004*

*10.30 am to 4.30 pm*



*Teas available in aid of Tysoe Church  
In a delightful cottage garden setting  
(weather permitting).*



*Hopkin House, Lower Tysoe  
Warwickshire*

## **Village History – Oxhill v The Reformation**

The Reformation was slow to catch on in Oxhill, and landed the village in some trouble. In 1535 instructions had been sent requiring all parishes to proclaim Henry VIII as Head of the Church weekly from the pulpit, and to remove the Pope's name from the service books. The Oxhill curate, Thomas Burley read the proclamation only once, and it was some time before the villagers, by asking around, found out that it should be done weekly. Moreover Burley failed to erase the Pope's name in the service books, even though the Rural Dean had shown him how it had to be done. The story is to be found in G.R. Elton's book "Policy and Police", about the enforcement of the Reformation. He continues: "Burley's excuse was that his master the parson, after making the initial announcement, had taken the document away and would not suffer him to do his duty. When the investigating justices asked for the parson he had made himself scarce."

So scarce indeed that it is unclear from our list of Rectors who **was** in charge in 1535, as there is a slight break in the entries at this point! Oxhill was not alone in the area in clinging to the old religion, nor of being nervous of the act of scratching out the Pope's name. A contemporary Puritan survey lists several priests in Warwickshire deemed to be "a popish priest". Ignorance may also have played a part, since the Rural Dean had to take trouble showing Thomas Burley what to do. The survey describes ministers who were "dumbe and unlearned", and one could "neither preach nor read well, his chiefest trade is to cure hawks that are hurt or diseased."

No wonder it was an uphill task! Even at this early date Oxhill had only a curate, and a Rector who was probably non-resident, as was certainly common in later centuries. Our list of Rectors does not always record those who did the work!

Ann Hale

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## **Mobile Library and Information Service Visits**

I would be most grateful if you could publicise our Mobile Library and Information visits in the next edition of the Oxhill News. [Always obliging, me. Ed.]

The Mobile Library visits Oxhill on alternate Mondays throughout the year, stopping opposite the Peacock Inn at 14.20 until 14.40, then moving on to the Village Hall at 14.40 until 15.00.

If you need further information please contact me on 01926 413488.

Jackie Taylor, Principal Transport Assistant, Warwickshire County Council  
Library Transport Services

## **A Letter to the Editor**

Dear George,

Reference the 'official' answers to the "Discover the Village" competition:-

There are 3 thatched cottages - Porthkerry was omitted.

A Welshman doesn't now live at Ty Hapus (it means Happy House); presumably one did at some time before Sheila Osgood.

A Welshman (that's me) does live at Porthkerry (it means Stone Harbour) which is the name of a hamlet between Barri (Barry) and Llanilltud Fawr (Llantwit Major) in South Glamorgan.

As they are 'official' answers, I think they should be correct if not 'right'!!!

Diolch yn fawr!

Russen Thomas

[Thank you, Russen. We are always delighted to correct our errors. Ed.]

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## **Dog Mess**

I would just like to put in a word for all the long suffering dogs and their owners who are chastised on a regular basis en masse for the indiscretions of a few. Why is it always dogs who are to blame for fouling the paths, verges and roads around Oxhill? I have had to pick my way over very large mounds of HORSE MESS on pavements and roads on a regular basis, not to mention having to drive through it outside my house frequently. I would like to see the horse owners with their shovels and dustbin bags keeping our pavements and roads clean too. Some hope!

Gaynor Van Dijk

[Instead of dustbin bags, why not use saddlebags? More equine, somehow. Ed.]

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## **THE SMILE OF THE WALRUS**

The Smile of the Walrus is wild and distraught,  
And tinged with pale purples and greens,  
Like the Smile of a Thinker who thinks a Great Thought  
And isn't quite sure what it means.

Oliver Herford

## **YOUR COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTRE - UPDATE**

Since the Centre opened just a few months ago, some forty students have attended over sixty different Adult Learning courses at the Old Fire Station, Tysoe. Classes run to date include: Computing for Beginners (four separate groups), World Religions, First Aid, Flower Arranging, Cookery, Yoga, and Signing. Broadband is due to be installed before the end of July which will enable us to go ahead with the planned drop-in Internet Café.

Courses scheduled to start in September include more advanced, as well as new beginner, computer classes. Hobbies and interests are catered for in planned Pottery, Rag Rug Making, Sugar-craft, Digital Cameras, Christmas Crafts, Genealogy, Art, Lace Making and Golf one day workshops, day or evening classes. We are hoping to interest local businesses in Basic Food Hygiene and Hygiene Refresher courses.

Learning opportunities at the Old Fire Station continue to be subsidised as part of Government's support for rural areas and we are able to offer all places at a nominal £5 per student irrespective of the length / duration of a workshop or series of classes.

To cope with demand, a second telephone line is shortly to be installed at the Centre solely for use by Adult Learning. BT have suggested that the new number is likely to be 688244 – but nothing in this life is certain! The phone is most likely to be manned between the hours of 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., but there will be an answer-phone facility. If all else fails, ring Douglas Nethercleft on 680041 to find out more about what's on offer or book your place on a course.

Doug Nethercleft

**Teas on the Green and Table Top Sale**

**Bank Holiday Monday, August 30th**

**from 2.30 p.m.**

**On the Village Green, Whatcote**

**Opposite the Royal Oak**

## **Open Gardens**

Despite the inclement weather we raised over £1100 for the Church and the Stratford Samaritans.

Thank you very much to everybody who helped by baking cakes, serving teas, raising and selling plants, distributing posters, putting out road signs, showing work at the exhibition, shifting tables, driving the minibus or manning the car park.

Special thanks to Mrs Swan for providing the tea room, Bill and Janet Gardner for the use of their field, Gaynor Fila and Lilian Welsby for organising the catering, Rhian Cooper for marketing and Myrtle Knight for devising the children's competition.

Lastly and most importantly, thank you to everybody who opened their garden, without whose continuing support this extremely worthwhile event would not be possible.

Nadia MacCall

[We regret that technical gremlins prevented this article appearing in the July edition. In other words, the e-mail system didn't work the way it should have done. Ed.]

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## **Local Bobbies**

I thought the following might be helpful. My next-door neighbour visited Kineton Library on Saturday where there was a 'Meet the Police' session going on. Having spoken to the Police and told them where he lived, i.e. Oxhill, he was given the name and 'phone number of our local "bobbies" - PC Dale Packer, PC Derrick Pope and PC Nicky Smith. All are based at Shipston, 'phone 01608 661415 direct to the station. Hope this helps someone.

Alan Beavis

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## **Twenty-five Years Ago**

Issue 76 started with a lengthy report on the Flower Festival (followed by skittles at Bilton Cottage) that had been held during July. There followed advance notice of the date for the Harvest Supper and a report on the exploits of the Youth Club's Five-a-Side football team (they had won).

Gwyn Adams announced a sale of postcards and greetings cards featuring the Church and costing 5 and 7 pence respectively.

The Women's Circle announced that it was closed for the summer, and Gwyn Adams (her again!) requested a supply of empty jars. Probably to fill with chutney.

The Playgroup was still on the lookout for toys, books, games and larger pieces of equipment suitable for use at the Playgroup, which was to be started in September.

Editor

## What's On in Oxhill

### August

Sunday 1st	3.30	Kineton Methodist Church - Farewell Service for Alec Roberts
Saturday 7th	2.30	The Old House - Garden Party
Sunday 8th to Saturday 14th		Church trip to France

### September

Saturday 4th - Sunday 12th	10.30 - 4.30	Hopkin House, Tysoe - Art Exhibition
Sunday 5th	10.00	Oxbourne House - Oxhill Village Tennis Tournament

### October

Saturday 2nd	7.00	Progressive Dinner
Friday 15th	8.00	Village Hall - Quiz Night

### November

Friday 5th & Saturday 6th Thursday 18th		Darlingscott - Shipston Home Nursing, Designer Sale Townsend Hall, Shipston - Shipston Home Nursing, Gift Fayre
Friday 19th	8.00	Village Hall - Bingo Night

### December

Saturday 4th	8.00	Village Hall - Casino Night
Wednesday 22nd	7.30	Oxhill Church - Carol Service



**Not your usual garden bird, even in Oxhill**