

The Oxhill News



July 2004

July 1

Is the National Day of Canada and the Feast day of Saints Gall of Clermont, Aaron and Julius, Eparchius or Cybard, Oliver Plunket, Carilephus or Calais, Thierry or Theodoric of Mont d'Or, Servanus or Serf, Simeon Salus, and Shenute.

I like the idea of St. Oliver Plunket. There is a resonance about it. Who was he, and when and why was he beatified? Anyone know? (I bet Russen does.)

It was the day in 1690 when, at the Battle of the Boyne, William III of England defeated the Jacobites under James II. In 1838 Charles Darwin presented a paper to the Linnaean Society in London, on his theory of the evolution of species, and in 1863 the Americans started the Battle of Gettysburg. In 1916 the first Battle of the Somme began with more than 21,000 men killed. The 999 emergency service became operational in Britain in 1937, and in 1940 the Germans occupied Guernsey. In 1996 it became legal for doctors in Australia's Northern Territory to perform voluntary euthanasia on the terminally ill.

George Sand was born in 1804, though at the time she was better known as Amandine Dupin. Louis Blériot was born in 1872 and Charles Laughton in 1899.

Charles Goodyear, he of the tyres, died in 1860, and Allan Pinkerton, of the Detective Agency, in 1884. Harriet Beecher Stowe died in 1896 and Charles Duran in 1997. You may know Charles better as Robert Mitchum. He was no relation to Duran Duran.

Editor

August Issue

Please could I have all copy for the August issue by Midnight on Monday, 26th 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. 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

Cover Picture

Russen Thomas was kind enough to send me this shot of the sea lock where the Bude Canal enters the Bristol Channel.

I will be very pleased to receive other offerings of photos from round the United Kingdom to grace our cover. If I don't get any you will see an awful lot of Scottish scenery over the next year.....

From our Lancashire Correspondent

Dear Mr Adams,

Having stayed in Oxhill for a week-long holiday last week, I felt compelled to visit your website to remind myself of how lovely the village was. I also wanted to drop you a line to thank the community for making us feel welcome, and to give an "outsider's view" of the village.

We live in a densely populated area of Liverpool (BBC's Ground-Force recently "made-over" a patch of derelict land not 100 yards from our house, so you may be aware of the difference between our neighbourhood and yours). This is not to say that I'm not fiercely proud of being from and living in Liverpool, but taking an annual break away from urban life to visit the English countryside is a necessity, and I'm glad we chose your village!

Oxhill is truly delightful; we were so comfortable that we barely left the village all week (except for the necessary trips to Tysoe for supplies, and a day-trip to Stratford (or was it London?!)). The first thing that struck me was how quiet it was. Actually, "quiet" is completely the wrong word - the dusk cacophony of territorial song-birds was quite something - a pleasant change from the pigeons and magpies we're limited to at home. The occasional very low-flying plane (I'm sure that pilot had blue eyes), the clapping of hooves and the distant baa-ing of sheep were more or less the only other sounds we heard; it was so very peaceful.

With the opening of Euro 2004 coinciding with our arrival, we couldn't resist a few drinks in The Peacock, and the landlord and landlady were really friendly. Of course, it would have been rude to refuse their hospitality, so we spent a few evenings at the bar, watching the football, and marvelling at the fact that the pub swears allegiance to Doncaster Rovers, and also sells candy necklaces - quite bizarre!

We also spent some time wandering around the church grounds, trying to decipher the inscriptions on the older gravestones. Lichen clearly thrives in Warwickshire!

It was a shame to miss the open gardens last Saturday, but we had to set off for home that morning. A peek over the fences on Friday evening revealed a tantalising glimpse of your residents' horticultural skills, and I hope that the event went well.

So, I'll conclude by thanking you for a relaxing holiday, and by admitting to feeling a little envious that you get to enjoy every day what we sampled for just seven. We've been back in work for a week now, so the stress levels are already building up. Hopefully we'll get the opportunity to visit again soon!

Kind regards,

Kate Wildman and Ange Rawlinson, Bootle

[Thank you, Kate and Ange. We like it here too. Ed.]

Church Services in July
Church of St. Lawrence, Oxhill

Sunday Services

Sunday 4th	9.30	Holy Communion
Sunday 11th	9.00	Open air service at Willoughby Grounds (by kind permission of Mr. & Mrs. Bill Fox)
Sunday 18th	6.30	Evensong
Sunday 25th	9.30	Holy Communion (Revd. Richard Sluman)

Midweek Services

Short (less than 30 minutes) informal services		
Thursday 1st	7.30	No service
Thursday 8th	7.30	Holy Communion
Thursday 15th	7.30	Compline

This is the last Thursday worship before we break for the summer.
Services will resume on Thursday, September 2nd.

Parochial Church Council Meeting

There will be a meeting of the P.C.C. on Thursday, July 8th at Church Farm.
Jill Tucker

Church Trip to France

If you are a teenager and would like to join a church trip to the Taize community in France this August (8th – 14th) please get in touch with David Knight (680201) or Jill Tucker (680663) AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. The total cost will be around £100. There are only a few places left on the minibus, so please act quickly.

Jill Tucker, 680663

Retirement

The congregation of St. Lawrence's Church would like to wish Alec and Marian Roberts a very long and happy retirement.

Revd. Alec Roberts' final service will be held on Sunday, August 1st at 3.30 p.m. in Kineton Methodist Church.

Jill Tucker

Trading Standards Open Day

The Trading Standards Service is holding an Open Day on Saturday 10th July between 10.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m. at the Service Headquarters on Old Budbrooke Road (just off the A1477 near Warwick Parkway Station). Come along and find out about the wide range of our activities. There will be lots going on to interest everyone – here is just a sample....

- Had a problem shopping or buying a service? Find out about your rights – an Advice officer will help you sort out your consumer problems
- If you have an electric blanket, have it checked free of charge by experts but please ring in advance to book your appointment **Freephone 0800 413332** (50% discount voucher on new blankets for those that fail)
- Make sure that your child's car seat is fitted correctly – free checks by an expert – children can visit the animals from Umberslade Children's Farm, play in Safety Street (a fun game which tells them about our work) or on our Watchdogs computer game and meet the Warwickshire Bear who will be handing out balloons.
- Find out how to spot a fake and win a prize in our counterfeit competition
- Take a look at the Killu car and learn how to avoid the pitfalls of buying a secondhand car and check out the dodgy car boot sale
- Wary of shopping on line? – we can give you some helpful tips and show you some useful websites
- Visit our weights and measures testing laboratories where modern equipment allows us to weigh anything from an elephant to an ink dot.
- Learn about what food labels really mean

For more information contact Trading Standards on 01926 414040

Garden Party

There will be a Garden party on Saturday, August 7th in the garden of The Old House from 2.30 p.m. onwards.

All proceeds will go to Tear Fund (The Evangelical Alliance Relief Fund) for their work overseas.

Jill Tucker

NATURE NOTES FOR JULY

July – the month of haymaking. In Gaelic Am mìos buidhe – the yellow month.

The other morning I was walking down Back Lane and approached the bridge quietly. I was pleased to see gliding through the water under the bridge a mallard duck with five ducklings. When she saw me watching she stopped and ushered her offspring behind her and called with a low-note rapid quacking. After a few seconds four more ducklings came furiously paddling out from under the bridge and joined the others, and together they slid off in amongst the water weeds and disappeared. This interested me as I understood birds could not count to more than three; the ducklings under the bridge were certainly not making any sound, and she did appear to check her first contingent and then turn to see where the remainder were. Nature can always dispel a myth. Mallard are the largest, most plentiful and most adaptable of all the inland ducks. Most varieties of domestic duck are derived from the mallard and have had a long and close relationship with man, indeed there are records of the Chinese keeping mallard 2000 years ago. Even today among many country people and especially wildfowlers the word “mallard” refers only to the male and the word “duck” to the female, and coastal birds are just referred to as “wild duck”.

The other afternoon I was walking down to the long meadow below the church and had just crossed the footbridge when to my left my attention was caught by clouds of butterflies. Just inside the field there is a patch of thistles which were in flower and the butterflies were going mad for the nectar in the afternoon sun. I counted five different species; small copper, meadow brown, small skipper, common blue, and ringlet – a wonderful sight. There are a total of 59 different butterflies in the UK with nearly half being localised, scarce, or very rare. Around Oxford there are several nature reserves where in the right conditions you could see upwards of 50 of the British butterflies, although obviously not all in one go! In our garden we have recorded 24 species over the years, so I urge you to leave some nettles and thistles and plant some wild flowers as a nectar source.

Have you noticed how nearly every house in the village has at least one chimney with a pair of jackdaws nesting in it. These intelligent birds will relentlessly throw sticks down a chimney until one gets lodged which then traps others to make a nest. But remember to clean your chimney in the autumn to prevent chimney fires – which happened to us last Christmas. The old name for the bird was Daw and in the sixteenth century Jack was added – which meant knave and rogue, and the Jackdaw became renowned for its thieving habits. I was working in a house in Warwick last summer and we heard a kerfuffle and squawk in the chimney, and suddenly a pile of sticks and soot came crashing into the room. Something shiny caught my eye and among the sticks I found the following: a small piece of silver jewellery chain, a new one penny coin, a milk bottle top, several bits of silver paper, and what looked like a two-inch section of the top of a car aerial!

In my late teens I lived with my parents at the Butchers Arms in Priors Hardwick and a young Jackdaw fell down my bedroom chimney into the hearth. Apart from being very dusty it seemed unhurt, so I decided to keep it. To start with while I fed it, it lived in an old parrot cage, but very soon became so tame it would sit on my shoulder while I went about my daily tasks. He became a favourite of the locals and was known as Fred Daw. He had his own pint pot which would be filled and he would perch on the edge and sup his beer with the locals. He was also fond of pulling a cigarette out of packet and holding it while it was lit, but he never did master the art of smoking. The back door was left open and he was free to come and go as he pleased, and eventually the time between the going and returning got longer and longer until he didn't come back. However for months afterwards when I called his name he would fly down on to a fence or guttering and put his head on one side and fix me with his beady eye.

27 July – Beans are now ready for gathering, but a cautionary warning:

“The Earl of Oxford, making of his low obeisance to Queen Elizabeth happened to let a Fart, at which he was so abashed and ashamed that he went to travel, seven years. On his return the Queen welcomed him home and said, ‘My Lord, I had forgot the Fart’”.

John Aubrey, *Brief Lives*, late 17th Century

Grenville Moore

Oxhill Garden Club

A Grand Day Out

It was a superb day and I'm sure will long be remembered. We lunched and shopped in Chesterfield then headed into the Derbyshire Dales to see some Well Dressings. Only a couple of hours from Oxhill but the change in scenery was amazing, especially that around Chatsworth House. The floral displays that decorated the wells in Youlgrave were stunning; such detailed pictures from flower petals, cones, seeds berries and moss seemed hardly possible. En route to our next village and a cream tea we found ourselves travelling slightly 'off-piste' for a large coach on the sort of roads with grass growing in the middle and where people abandon their cars for a chat with a neighbour. Our unflappable driver sorted it out but I will always cherish the memory of a very low bridge and one of our party standing astride two seats peering through the roof ventilation hatch checking for clearance as we crept through.

Don't forget to get your entry forms for the container of plants competition to Myrtle Knight as soon as possible; judging will take place mid July.

Heather Brennan, Secretary

Gardens Open Children's Competition

We have been asked to publish the official ('right' is always a slightly dodgy word to use in events like this) answers to the "Discover the Village" competition, to slake the curiosity of those who got stuck.

How many Post Boxes are there?

3 *Outside the Old Rectory, the Old Post Office, and Binswood.*

How many "No Through Road" signs are there?

4 *Church Lane, Gilkes Lane, Rowse Lane and Manor Lane (the setter forgot about Manor Lane, but was corrected by the children).*

How many cottages are there with front doors NOT facing the street?

3 *Southview, Homestead and Binswood.*

How many thatched cottages are there?

2 *Southview, Bilton Cottage.*

What is the name of the slave girl buried in the churchyard?

Myrtilia

Who fought at the Battle of Edgehill?

Daniel Blackford (and a lot of other people of course, but we wanted Daniel).

What Saint is the Church named after? *St. Lawrence.*

Who is doing the flowers on June 20th? *Mrs. McKail.*

What tree has had candles on it that were never lit? *Chestnut.*

Does a Welshman live here? *Ty Hapus.*

Who is the King at the pump looking at? *You!*

What is odd about this cottage? *Oddcot.*

An exotic bird at the pub? *Peacock.*

How many green doors are there in Beech Road? *1*

Where does the Methodist Minister live? *The Manse, Kinton.*

Where can you see a B.T. Bugler? *On the 'phone box.*

Did Charlie Gilkes live in this lane? *Gilkes Lane.*

How can you get out of Main Street without using a road?

Use the stile across the fields.

Ducks in the garden, but how many on the windowsill?

7 *At Rachel's house.*

Whatever is a horse doing on this wall? *Lying down.*

Who is sitting on the lawn at "Barnside"? *A fox.*

What is the tree at "The Homestead"? *An Oaktree (on the name-plaque).*

38 posts standing in a row. Where? *The Homestead.*

What is the Village Hall licensed for? *Public Entertainment.*

Martin Knight R.I.P.

Martin Knight died in the Myton Hamlet Hospice in the early hours of Wednesday 26th May, aged 41 years. St. Lawrence's Parish Church was full to capacity for Martin's Funeral Service on Thursday 3rd June.

The Service was conducted by the Vicar, Fr. David Knight and the Address was given by Fr. Russen Thomas, friend and neighbour.

Martin and Thelma were married in September 1987 and moved into Number 2, Beech Road in May 1990; their daughter Stacey was born in August that same year.

Martin had not enjoyed good health for some time and two years ago was diagnosed with a terminal cancer. He faced the future with fortitude and maintained a positive outlook. He was an ardent supporter of Birmingham City Football Club and went to his rest in their colours.

Our sympathy is given to Thelma and Stacey, Martin's three sisters and to his many friends and neighbours.

London Marathon 2004

A big **THANK YOU** to all those people who offered vocal support and financial encouragement in April, when I ran the London Marathon.

I am pleased to report that with your help I raised a total of £517.37 from sponsorship and donations, which is going to the Stroke Association.

Many thanks, Tony Wilde

Stamp Collection

I have a collection of stamps in an album that belonged to my late father. It is of no great value, but interesting to a collector.

If you know of anyone who would like them I would be pleased for them to go to a good home!

No charge.

Ruth Gibson, 01295 680420

Minutes of the Oxhill Village Hall AGM

Held in the Village Hall on 27th May 2004 at 8.00 p.m.

Present: Ray Dagg, Linda Dagg, Elin Montague, Ian Broderick, Julie Seabridge, Keith Seabridge, Marcus Robertson, Tracey Hackett, Rhiannon Hackett

Apologies: David Knight, Sarah Hobill, Lisa Roebuck

Attendees: Mr & Mrs Eastaugh, S.Hackett

Minutes of AGM 14/05/03: Read and agreed

Chairman's Report

The evening commenced with a wine and cheese welcome to anyone who attended the meeting. Internal building work has now been completed. The new windows have now been installed. The Chairman would like to thank Keith for overseeing the work and obtaining the quotes. It is our intention to continue to raise money to enable all windows to be completed. A grant was awarded from the District Council for £5,000 for the new windows. Events held last year included two progressive dinners, quiz and bingo nights, Village BBQ, Tarts & Tartan evening, Live and Local and a very successful Senior Citizens Xmas Lunch. Lettings were up from the previous year. We will continue to support Live & Local this year and look at new events. Purchase of goal posts for the Village Hall green is now complete and these are being used regularly by many of the Oxhill youth. The Chairman has noted that many more people from our village are using and hiring the village hall for a nominal amount. It is therefore very disappointing that the attendance outside of the committee, at this meeting, was limited to 3 people. This either reflects apathy or total confidence in the committee. However, it would be nice to see some new faces.

Election of officers

All officers remained in place with Lisa Roebuck elected as Country Member. The Committee elected Tony Eastaugh.

Treasurers Report

A written report was provided. The Finances remain stable. The 2002/03 audit is completed, awaiting a written report. The Chairman would like to thank Ian for all his continued vigilance of the finances.

AOB

The Committee would like to thank everyone who contributed to the events and the upkeep of the surrounds of the Village Hall. The AGM adjourned to the Committee Meeting

Meeting Closed

Linda Dagg, Secretary

Oxhill Village Hall Committee 2004

Ray Dagg	Chairman/Lettings	2 The Sett	680850
Linda Dagg	Secretary/Lettings	As above	
Ian Brodderick	Treasurer	Kisdon, Main Street	688167
Elin Montague	Events	The Granary, Rouse Lane	680681
David Knight	Advisor	The Vicarage, Tysoe	680201
Marcus Robertson	Youth Advisor	Hawthorns, Whatcote Road	680408
Keith Seabridge	Events	April Corner, Rouse Lane	680654
Julie Seabridge	Events	As above	
Sarah Hobill	Events	Hogwood Farm	01926 640345
Tracey Hackett	Events	The Malt House, Back Lane	680268
Rhiannon Hackett	Youth Advisor	As above	
Tony Eastaugh		Charity House, Whatcote Road	680708

Linda Dagg, Secretary

Village Hall Notice Board

The committee would like to say a belated 'thank you' to Douglas for installing the new doors on the notice board outside the Village Hall.

Linda Dagg

Ann Heritage

We are pleased to report that Ann is now recovering well from her recent operation. She and Tom send their thanks to everyone who has been praying for her.

Editor

LOST AND FOUND

An orange coloured Dog Mace & Rope (shades of medieval jousting) has been found on the lane by the 'tumbledown' cottage spinney.

Any claimant should bark at the door of "Porthkerry" on Beech Road, or alternately instruct his/her charge to telephone 680452!

Russen Thomas

Village Liaison Officer 2004

Village Liaison Officer 2004 is a new exciting programme supported by Stratford-upon-Avon Council for Voluntary Service and funded by South Warwickshire PIE Programme, Warwick District Council, Stratford-on-Avon District Council and Warwickshire County Council, using volunteers living in rural villages to signpost people enabling them to access services and information provided by organisations such as the Local Authorities and the Voluntary Sector.

We are looking for people from rural villages in the Stratford and Warwick Districts to become Voluntary Liaison Officers, supported and guided by the Rural Outreach Project Co-ordinator, Ruth Spaak.

Village Liaison Officers will be invited to network meetings every other month at venues around the district to enable them to signal the requirements of their particular villages so that Ruth Spaak can access appropriate responses to the needs of communities and pass on the information.

Regular information bulletins will be sent out to VLOs, and guest speakers will be invited to give talks on their service areas at the network meetings.

Village Liaison Officers are given packs of information about a number of services which they pass on to anyone who requests information, they are not expected to give specialist advice or to become involved in individual cases.

Ruth will be at the centre of the network of Village Liaison Officers providing a link between services, information and local people and the communities they live in.

We are hoping that a range of people will apply to become VLOs; from different age groups, different ethnic origins, and with different life experiences to provide a rich, varied and accessible cross section of volunteers to make this vital project successful.

Expenses for travel to meetings and telephone calls will be reimbursed by the Council for Voluntary Service.

HOW TO BECOME A VILLAGE LIAISON OFFICER

Contact: Ruth Spaak, Rural Outreach Project Co-ordinator,
Telephone 01789 262889
Council for Voluntary Service,
The Hospital Arden Street,
Stratford-upon-Avon
Warwickshire
CV37 6NX

Dog Mess!

Please would people walking their dogs up the lane that leads to the Manor stop them fouling the lane and its verges, at least until they are well past the entrance to the Manor and the Manor Gatehouse Cottage.

There are children living in the cottage and they and others play in the lane. Not unreasonably, they are getting tired of getting smeared with dog dirt whenever they fall over.

While we are at it, please could we keep all the other roads and verges clear as well?

Editor

Litter

It has been reported to us that a considerable quantity of litter was picked up from inside the field on the footpath leading from Main Street to Whatcote Road and on Main Street just before 7 a.m. on Sunday 13th June.

There had been quite a lot of noise from that area around midnight, so presumably a party had gone on. The litter was chiefly beer cans, cigarette packets, and a bottle of Malibu. And a toothbrush!

Please, if you must party outside during the summer, keep the place clean and tidy, and take your litter home.

Editor

Gardens Open Thanks

A big thank you to all the Oxhill Bakers who supplied us with the delicious array of cakes, and to the merry band of friends and family who helped over the weekend, to Mrs. Swan for supplying the venue, Tom Heritage for transport and the Village Hall for the tables and chairs etc.

We received lots of compliments on your behalf, summed up, I believe, by the American visitors who arrived for coffee, stayed for lunch, afternoon tea and supper, and finally went home clutching a large strawberry gateau, having had a "wunnerful" time in a very English village with some "wunnerful" people!

Once again, many thanks. We couldn't do it without you!!

Gaynor Fila & Lilian Welsby

On Devotional Poems

Some musings of a Major English Poet

I shall be interested to see your book of Devotional Poems.
Perhaps I myself may write a Hymnbook for use in the Salvation Army:

There is Hallelujah Hanna
Walking backward down the lane,
And I hear the loud Hosanna
Of regenerated Jane;
And Lieutenant Isabella
In the centre of them comes,
Dealing blows with her umbrella
On the trumpets and the drums.

Or again:

'Hallelujah!' was the only observation
That escaped Lieutenant-Colonel Mary Jane,
When she tumbled off the platform in the station,
And was cut in little pieces by the train.
Mary Jane, the train is through yer:
Hallelujah,
Hallelujah!
We will gather up the fragments that remain.

It seems to come quite easy.

(A. E. Housman)

25 Years Ago

The Church held its Flower Festival between July 6th and 9th, and gardens were open at The Old Rectory, The Manor, Gateways, Fern Cottage and Brookside. Joyce McKail organised a Flower Plate Competition, so that the young of the village could get in on the act.

Una Hill offered thanks for photographs of Oxhill already provided and, never easily satisfied, begged for more. Mr. Roll took over the winding of the Church clock from George Adams, and the Youth Club reported an uneventful month.

The Folk Evening had raised £93 and the Bike Ride over £320. The Playgroup was on the lookout for toys, books and equipment and there was a lengthy report from the W.I. Unfortunately that seems to have lapsed recently.

Pippa Burton and Philip Schofield had got married (to each other), Mr. & Mrs. Hancox had started living in Barn Row (which the council seemed to have casually renamed since then), and Sue Hutsby was hunting for ballet shoes. She's probably found some by now.

George Adams

What's On in Oxhill

July

Sunday 4th	12.00	Loxley Hall - Shipston Home Nursing, Jazz Luncheon
Friday 2nd to Sunday 4th		Idlicote House - Shipston Home Nursing, Art Exhibition
Wednesday 7th	7.30	Tysoe Village Hall – Tysoe WI - The Work of the R S P B
Thursday 8th	8.00	Oxhill PCC Meeting
Tuesday 13th	8.00	Village Hall – Parish Council Meeting
Monday 26th	24.00	Copy deadline for the News

August

Saturday 7th	2.30	The Old House - Garden Party
Sunday 8th to Saturday 14th		Church trip to France

September

Sunday 5th		Proposed Oxhill Village Tennis Tournament
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November

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



The gardens at Oddcot and The Forge looking well on
Gardens Open Day

