

The Oxhill News



June 2004

June 1

Is the National Day of Tunisia.

It is also the Feast day of Saints Gwen of Brittany, Justin, Nicomedes, Ronan, Whyte, Wistan, Symeon of Syracuse, Caprasius of Lérins, Pamphilus of Caesarea, Inigo, Proculus the Soldier, Proculus the Bishop, and Theobald of Alba.

And it was the date in 1679 when the Scottish Covenanters defeated Royal troops under Claverhouse at Drumclog, in 1792 when Kentucky became the 15th US state, in 1915 when the first Zeppelin attack on London took place, in 1946 when Television licences were issued in Britain for the first time; they cost £2, in 1957 when ERNIE drew the first premium bond prizes in Britain, in 1958 when Iceland extended its fishery limits to 12 miles and in 1994 when South Africa rejoined the Commonwealth.

It was the birthdate in 1796 of Nicolas Carnot, the French founder of thermodynamics, in 1801 of Brigham Young and in 1926 of Marilyn Monroe.

Finally, at least for them on this earth, it was the day in 1815 when James Gillray, in 1941 when Hugh Walpole and in 1943 when Leslie Howard died.

Editor

July issue

Please could I have all copy for the July issue by Midnight on Saturday, 26th June? 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

Ian Broderick supplied this fine shot of Ben Nevis, taken on the walk that he and Sally recently undertook through Scotland.

See his report on their experiences later in this issue.

If you have not already done so, why not pop an envelope containing money through their letter box? You know it's worth doing.

The picture on the back cover is Loch Leven. Same source.

Editor

OXHILL PROMISES OPEN GARDENS EXTRAVAGANZA

Saturday /Sunday 19th & 20th June

The weekend promises a great time for the whole family:

Lots of fabulous gardens to view - including Oxhill Manor & The Old House

Home made teas, cakes and scones served at 'Gateways' in the centre of the village

The Village Hall is staging an exhibition of local artwork and will also be selling books, home made cards, cakes, jams & plants

A free 'hop on, hop off' mini bus service will be available throughout the weekend to transport visitors around the village

A treasure hunt is available free for children - great prizes!

Admission to all of the above is only £3 for adults, with under 11's admitted free and there is ample car parking available in the centre of the village. All proceeds will be shared between Oxhill Church and the Stratford Samaritans.

Oxhill is one of Warwickshire's most ancient and picturesque villages and boasts some of the most beautiful gardens in the County.

The gardens open at 2pm on Sat and 11am on Sunday, closing on both days at 6pm.

Rhian Cooper, 680574

Belated Welcome

We are delighted to welcome David and Holly, who came to live in Duckpool Barn in February, to our village.

We hope that their stay here will be very happy, and are only sorry that it has taken us so long to get round to recording their arrival.

Editor

Editorial

I do try to do without Editorials; such boring reading, I always think.

However, may I use this one to plead with you? If someone moves into the village and you know their name(s) and the house they are in, please let me know. Your Editor is a shy retiring bird who keeps his ears a long way off the ground. He relies entirely on the rest of the village doing his spying job for him.

Church Services in June
Church of St. Lawrence, Oxhill
Sunday Services

Sunday 6th	Trinity Sunday	9.30	Holy Communion
Sunday 13th	Trinity I	9.30	Open air service in Oxhill Manor grounds by kind permission of Mrs. Rodwell
Sunday 20th	No service in Oxhill due to Open Gardens		
Sunday 27th	Petertide	10.30	United Service in Whatcote , conducted by the Bishop of Coventry, for the dedication of the newly adapted church

Midweek Services

	Short (less than 30 minutes) informal services		
Thursday 3rd	7.30	Bible based meditation	
Thursday 10th	7.30	Compline	
Thursday 17th	7.30	Compline	
Thursday 24th	7.30	Holy Communion	

PCC Meeting

The Oxhill PCC will meet on Thursday, 8th July at 8.00 p.m.

Jill Tucker

Diamond Geezers

A little bird told me, just too late for the May issue, that Joy and Bert Bloxham were about to celebrate their diamond wedding.

By now, of course, the celebrations are done and dusted, but we do want to add our congratulations to both of them. Sorry it's so late.

Editor

The Limerick - 1

It's mainly the shape of the thing
That gives the old limerick swing
These accordion pleats
Full of airy conceits
Take it up like a kite on a string.

100 MILE WALKIES Update

In aid of Warwickshire & Northamptonshire Air Ambulance

We have completed the challenge of walking the West Highland Way finishing on 20th May. We walked the 95 miles plus 10 to and from accommodation and summits, over 6½ days. It was challenging and enjoyable for many reasons :-

brehtaking scenery.....horizontal rain and hail
friendly people.....over friendly midges
sunburnt faces.....snow on the high peaks
physically demanding.....mentally restful

If anyone is interested in knowing more about the West Highland Way, ask us, we have lots of information and photographs.

Many thanks to those who sponsored us, if anyone else would like to support the Air ambulance, it is not too late!

We will let you know the total we raise next month.

Ian & Sally Broderick

"Kisdon" Main Street Tel. 688167

Anyone for Tennis?!

This is just a notice to see how many adults and children aged 13+ would be interested in playing in an Oxhill Village Tournament on Sunday 5th September. The idea is to have a fun day of tennis for all standards followed by a lunch/barbecue/picnic and to raise some money for the Church and Village Hall in the process.

If you are interested please let me know before the next deadline for the Oxhill News and if we get enough interest we will make firm plans.

Posy McDonald 688202

The Limerick – 2

The limerick packs jokes anatomical
Into space that is quite economical.

But the good ones I've seen

So seldom are clean

And the clean ones so seldom are comical.

NATURE NOTES FOR JUNE

The midsummer month, in Anglo-Saxon Litha – the month of the midsummer moon.

Apologies for missing May nature notes, but a holiday in southern Italy is the main excuse. It was interesting that the dawn chorus was absent in Italy, as were many birds, some of which may have made the journey north for summer. The Mediterranean male unfortunately has a fondness for shooting or trapping song birds, although this is now illegal in many parts. I have on one occasion in Greece been offered a tray of deep fried small birds, no larger than a Blue Tit, complete with head and feet. The taverna owner also showed me a bundle of eagle feathers and made a motion of rubbing his tummy and licking his lips. I hasten to add we did not take up his offer of a meal.

For the botanists among you, the most interesting find in Italy was the reasonably rare Wavy-leafed Italian Monkey Orchid, one of the *Orchis militaris* group, which all have large “man” shaped flowers. It was a beautiful robust plant 20-50 cm tall with blotched violet flowers. A sub-species grows on Majorca and is called *Orchis italica longispensis* and I don’t think the variation needs any further explanation!

In April I was walking early one morning along the brook, I was alerted by that glorious haunting call of a Curlew. Looking up I was pleased to see a pair flying quite low along the line of the brook. It is a large bird with a long down-curving beak and a voice that has a slightly human quality, some say reminiscent of a lament. They are easily lured by imitative calls and I called as they flew over and one circled back right over me. They are birds of moorland and estuaries but have now spread to lower ground and farmland, but as a British breeding bird numbers are declining because of changes in farming practices and the drainage of wetlands. For many years now, most summers we have had one or two pairs nesting just of the perimeter of the village, and recently I have heard that master of mimic the starling giving a very passable rendition of the Curlew’s call. Estuary curlews will call at night while feeding, and birds which do this are often accorded a sinister significance. In the north of England a flock of curlews calling in their eerie, haunting voices was said to presage a death, and as such, flights of the “seven whistlers” were feared. In Shropshire and Worcestershire it is said that six whistlers search, calling for a lost one, and when they reunite the end of the world will come! Curlews are also associated with the Gabriel Hounds and the Wild Hunt. Until the 1960s Curlew were legal quarry for wildfowlers and were referred to as “hen-footed fowl”. From the 1931 *Marsh and Mudflat* “The autumn is the best time for shooting curlew, they are then very good eating and give excellent sport. September birds should not be skinned but merely drawn, winter birds taste a bit kippery and should be skinned. Whether in autumn or winter the Curlew provides a good nourishing fare for the humble folk of the shore cottages”.

When I first came to Oxhill I became friends with the late Tom Firman who used in the 1960s to wildfowl with Peter Scott, who of course later became a world renowned naturalist. Tom once told me “put your Curlew in the oven with a house brick; when the brick is cooked the Curlew’s ready”.

Thankfully this interesting bird is now protected.

A summer warning – remember “Raw cream, eaten with strawberries, is a rural man’s banquet: yet I have known such banquets that put men in jeopardy of their lives, by the excess thereof”

Andrew Boorde – *Dietry of Health* 1547

Grenville Moore

Diamond Wedding

On 6th May we spent the day on the Isle of Wight with the Venturers to celebrate the Diamond wedding of Joy and Bert Bloxham.

Sixty years; what a wonderful achievement. God bless you both.

Rachel Costa

Nice People

Once again it is time to thank all of those nice people in the village who have taken a personal decision not to use any electrical/ mechanical implements - mowers, strimmers, drills etc. after 6.30pm on Saturdays and Sundays, thus preserving the peace, calm and quiet of our village. Much appreciated.

David Hill

FOR SALE

Medium Antler expandable suitcase

Vital statistics: 26" x 17" x 9"

Purchased new in April 2004 and only used once

Proved too difficult for a frail little old lady to handle

Cost new £85

How about £40 o.n.o.

Myrtle Knight, 680555

[Frail? Myrtle? Ha! Editor]

NOTES OF THE OXHILL ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 11th MAY 2004 AT 8.00 PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL

All Councillors were present.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR 2004/2005

David Hill would remain Chairman and Tom Heritage Vice Chairman for this period.

MATTERS DISCUSSED

PARISH MEETING HELD 6TH APRIL 2004

One item brought up at the Parish Meeting was the concern of mail being mislaid at the local sorting office. To establish the extent of this problem would anyone who has had mail mislaid please bring it to the attention of a Parish Councillor so that this can be taken further, if appropriate.

Finance

Chairman signed the Receipts and Payments Account presented by the Clerk for the Year 2003/2004.

Notification of the Audit had been received for completion 26th July

Mandatory Insurance renewal was paid and the Clerk accepted an honorarium of £150 which included administrative expenses.

Planning

Application for Dormer windows to front at Barnacre had been refused.

Application for Double garage to side and conversion of existing garage into ancillary living accommodation, Oxbourne House, was granted

Application for Conservatory to rear of property at Medway was granted

Application for Single and two storey side/front extension at Conifers was being discussed at the Area Planning Meeting.

The following new applications had been received and returned with no planning objections:

Minor amendments at "Willow Ley".

Carport and Store construction "Willow Ley".

Two storey extension, "Old Church House".

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

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 13th July 2004 at 8.00 p.m. in the Village Hall.

Angela Kean, Clerk

Diamond Thank You

Bert and I would like to thank everyone who sent us either cards or presents, making our day wonderful in every way.

We were actually away on May 6th, our true anniversary date, but our hotel also came up trumps, even to making a special anniversary cake which everyone thoroughly enjoyed.

Thanks one and all for a wonderful day.

Joy and Bert Bloxham

Farewell

As you may have noticed we departed our home of 8 1/2 years on 7th May. It was a very sad day as we have all been so happy in Oxhill. We left behind many dear friends, but will keep in touch and treasure the memories for years to come.

We are now close to Luke's school and can participate more in his school life, Edward has settled into his new school, and Jess has found 2 new playgroups. I have been busy finding curtain poles and sorting through Pickfords Boxes.

Tibberton, where we now live is a small village on the outskirts of Newport, its very pretty and quiet with a village shop, post office, pub, Church and School. Edward walks to school across the fields and Tilly is having a fantastic time meeting new friends and looking for scavenging opportunities!

Finally, thank you to all of the residents of Oxhill who were kind friendly and made our stay so enjoyable, with very special thanks to Rachel and Joe whose kindness and care was limitless.

Best Wishes, Nicola Kendall

Lost and Found

I have a necklace which was found on the Bluebell Walk. It is a rather pretty necklace of red and pearl beads.

Sue Price, 01295 80007

YOUR COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTRE - UPDATE

Computer classes for beginners at the Old Fire Station, Tysoe have proved very popular with three courses run to date. Microsoft Word, Excel, Publisher and PowerPoint sessions are planned for the future as is an Internet café for casual 'drop ins' as soon as broadband arrives. Once advertised, E-mail and 'Surf the Net' courses are likely to be taken up very quickly – so put your name down in advance!

There are still a couple of places available on the Healthy Eating, Flower Arranging and St John Ambulance First Aid courses. Enrolments are currently taking place for 'Form Filling', 'Assertiveness', 'Negotiation' and 'How to say "No"' classes. Interest is being canvassed for 'Beginners' and 'Improvers' lessons run by a local golf professional. And, by the way, these courses are, for the present, free!

To book your place or register an interest, telephone Samantha Littlewood on 688137.

Twentyfive Years Ago

Issue no. 74 opened by announcing the newly elected members of the Parish Council. Two of them still live in the village, and Tom Heritage still works for us as a Councillor. Could this have anything to do with the fact that he was the only one of the new Councillors who thanked the voters?

The Harvest Supper had finally taken place, postponed from the previous August. A bit like Microsoft release dates, really.

The results of the sponsored bike ride were announced, as were the dates for the Flower Festival Weekend (6th to 9th July, in the Church). Ann Hale begged for help, especially for more stewards for the Church. Children in the village were invited to join in by producing a flower-decorated plate for display.

The Youth Club announced a mixed bag of results, while Brian Emmerson's Folk Evening in the Village Hall had been a great success, raising £93 for the Hall, Church and Playgroup. Mary Badger's coffee morning, also for the Playgroup had raised over £40 and a Woodpecker tray, whatever that was.

The Shenlow Singers had entertained the WI at their May meeting, and George and Gwyn Adams earnestly requested payment of Oxhill News subscriptions. 40 pence it was then, so we seem to have suffered a 500% increase since then. How times change.

Finally the editors tested their readership by announcing Church Service times for June under the heading "Church Services for May" (now who has done something very similar very recently) and begged everyone to vote in the forthcoming European elections. Nothing changes much, does it?

Editor

Oxhill Garden Club

The Plant sale held on Thursday May 20th was great fun. For those of you who did not get there this year make a note not to miss it next, for there were really some very good plants to be had. I got tempted and went home with a sisyrinchium, an ornamental strawberry, a cotoneaster horizontalis, six red snapdragons, a large pot of lecojum bulbs 'Snowflake', a geranium 'Walgrave Pink', a kaffir lily, a euphorbia cyparissias, a pot of yellow striped grass, six bedding begonias, a blue hosta and six mixed tomatoes.....and all for £10.

Its not too late to book places on the Derbyshire Well Dressing excursion which will be leaving the village 9 a.m. Tuesday June 22nd. An opportunity to see our wonderful countryside and not have to drive. :Lilian Wesby on telephone number 680 468 can give you more details if you are interested.

Heather Brennan, Secretary

POTS! TUBS!! POTS!!!

Any size

Any shape

Fill one for the third Annual Village Competition

Judging will be by members of Brailes Garden Club in mid-July

Let's see if we can exceed our usual entries

IT IS UP TO YOU!!

Lots of time to plant yours

PLANT IT NOW

Names please to Myrtle Knight on 680 555

Cover Pictures – Please Help

We have had over a year of views of Oxhill, and it seems to be time for a change. Ian Broderick has kindly supplied me with well over a year's stock of Scottish vistas, but I am thinking wider than that.

If you have a good scenic shot of anywhere in the British Isles that you think would look well on our cover, please could you let me have it?

Real photographs are fine – I can scan and return them. Alternatively electronic photos could be delivered by any means you like. If you are using compressed formats, may I suggest that you keep the compression factor low – pictures that look good on a website don't always print up quite so well.

I await the rush with eager anticipation.

Editor

What's On in Oxhill

June

Wednesday 2nd	7.30	Oxhill Village Hall – Tysoe WI - Harvey Bloom (A Notorious Cleric)
Friday 4th	6.30	Evening Car Boot Sale
Friday 18th	3.30	Tysoe School – Summer Fête
Saturday 19th	2.00	Oxhill Gardens Open
Sunday 20th	11.00	Oxhill Gardens Open
		Admington Hall - Shipston Home Nursing, Horse Show
Saturday 26th	24.00	Deadline for material for the News

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

September

Sunday 5th		Proposed Oxhill Village Tennis Tournament
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November

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