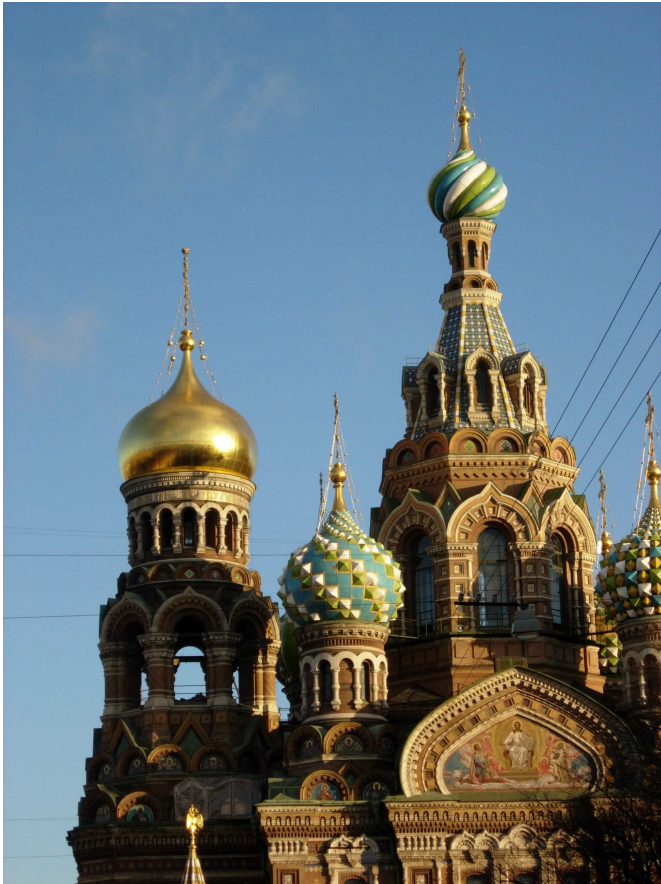


# The Oxhill News



May 2005

## May 1

also known as May Day is the Feast Day of Saints Asaph, Corentin, Joseph, Brioc (that's Brioc, not Brioche, which is an altogether different kettle of fish), Amator, Marcoul, Philip and James, Peregrine Laziosi, Sigismund of Burgundy, and Theodard of Narbonne. They do have lovely names, some of these Saints.

In 1517 it was the day of the 'Evil May Day' riots in London, when apprentices attacked foreign residents, and in 1707 the Union of England and Scotland was proclaimed. In 1851 Queen Victoria opened the Great Exhibition in Hyde Park, London, and in 1926 British miners began a strike that continued until 19 November. The Empire State Building in New York was completed in 1931 and in 1960 Gary Powers was shot down as he spied on the USSR in his U-2 aircraft. In 1961 betting shops became legal in Britain and in 1995 the UN World Health Organization issued its first annual survey of global health. The report cited poverty as the primary underlying cause of disease and death worldwide. About two billion of the world's 5.6 billion people were ill at any time, WHO reported, and many died from preventable causes. There doesn't seem to have been much change in the last ten years.

Arthur Wellesley, Duke of Wellington was born on May 1st in 1769, Sonny Ramadhin in 1929, Una Stubbs in 1937 and Joanna Lumley in 1946.

John Dryden died on May 1st in 1700, David Livingstone in 1873, Antonin Dvorák in 1904, Joseph Goebbels (whose alleged deficiency is fabled in song) in 1945 and Pierre Eugène Bérégovoy in 1993. If you don't know who Pierre Eugène Bérégovoy was then I suggest you ask the Chairman of the Parish Council, who is a veritable fount of information about such things.

Editor

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## May issue

Please could I have all copy for the June issue by Midnight on **Wednesday, 25th May**? 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

Jane Moore sent me this splendid of the wonderfully named Church on Spilled Blood in St Petersburg. She assures me that she has the name right. I am just a trusting soul.

Editor

## **Editorial**

I have heard it suggested that the April issue of this informative magazine was boring. So it was. My fault entirely. Sorry. We will try to do better. That's an editorial 'we', you understand, not a royal one.

Editor

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## **Closure of Tysoe Road**

The maintenance work that was due to be completed on the Tysoe Road by 31st March was not completed by that date.

The works are now due to be completed by 30th June, so at some point between now and then we can expect the Tysoe Road to be temporarily closed.

Editor

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## **Oxhill Garden Club**

Mr Brian Douthwaite entertained us royally this month with his slides of his escorted garden tour of Japan. Besides some wonderful pictures of sculpted gardens of moss and gravel we were shown street scenes, weddings, tea ceremonies and other aspects of Japanese life that put the gardens in context.

Our next meeting will be in the Village Hall on Thursday May 19th at 7.00 and is our annual plant sale. There are always heaps of bargains, it is fun and if like me you have been caught out by the frosts a very useful place to buy gap fillers.

Heather Brennan, Secretary

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## **Plant Stall**

**June 18th and 19th**

Just to remind you that there is still time to dig up that overgrown plant and put a bit of it into a pot for the stall! You might then have room for something you like the look of **from** the stall!

I have plenty of the small pots (3" approx.) if anyone needs them, but I could do with 5" and 6" ones if you have any going spare. (Sorry, I still work in "old money".)

Let's hope for good gardening weather. Last call next month.

Eve Whaley, 680224

**St. Lawrence, Oxhill**  
**Sunday Services in May**

May 1st	9.30 a.m. Open Air Service at Church Farm, by kind permission of Tom & Ann Heritage
May 8th	9.30 a.m. Holy Communion: Sunday after Ascension Day, 60th Anniversary of VE Day
May 15th	9.30 a.m. WHITSUNDAY, Matins with Choir
May 22nd	9.30 a.m. TRINITY SUNDAY, Holy Communion
May 29th	9.30 a.m. United Benefice Service in Oxhill, Holy Communion

**Midweek Services**

**Informal services lasting no more than 30 minutes**

Thursday, May 5th	ASCENSION DAY 7.45 Deanery Service in ALDERMINSTER
Thursday, May 12th	7.30 p.m. Celtic Worship
Thursday, May 19th	7.30 p.m. Holy Communion
Thursday, May 26th	No service due to Archdeacon's Visitation (Brailes)

**Advance Warning**

There will be a Scarecrow Festival Evensong in Church on Sunday 19th June at 3.00 p.m., with the choir, to which everyone, including visitors, is very welcome.

Jill Tucker

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**Church Flowers**

Thank you to all who helped to decorate the Church for the Easter festival.  
May I remind all who are interested (hopefully a good few!) that we have our

**Flower Arranging Demonstration**  
**On Wednesday May 11th**  
**In the Church**  
**At 7.30 p.m.**

I look forward to seeing you all then.

Carol Fox, 680223

## **Helen House Hospice**

**May 26th**

**10.30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.**

May 26th is a very important date, as it will be the first Coffee/Tea Day at St. Peter's Cottage, Stretton –on-Fosse, for this year.

The day will be in aid of the Helen House Hospice, which cares for children with cancer, leukaemia and other death threatening illnesses.

As usual, it will start at 10.30 a.m. and continue until about 5.00 p.m. – or in other words until the last person has left! There will be many items for sale, as well as a raffle, and you may, of course, eat and drink as much as you like (within the social limitations!).

So, please make a note of the date and come along. Every penny you spend will go to the charity – nothing is taken out for expenses.

Donald Smith, 01608 662790

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## **Twentyfive Years Ago**

Oxhill News Issue No. 84 carried copious details of the Annual Parish Meeting held the month before – these notes written by our long-serving Parish Clerk Angela Kean. Also mentioned were the results of the Attic Auction, held to raise funds to keep the Church tower standing and raising over £900, a considerable sum in 1980.

The A.G.M. of the Village Hall Committee was reported at some length. Robin Teall and George Adams retired as Chairman and Treasurer respectively, being replaced by Vic Walters and Roy Markham. Una Hill announced the Monte Carlo night, to be held later in May.

Harvey Brooker was enthusiastically raising money (by offering to deliver the EVENING mail and to do work in gardens), as was Tom Heritage (who offered farm manure at £8 per trailer load).

Editor

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## **For The Record**

His epigrams are not his own;  
The man's an epigramaphone.

*Justin Richardson*

## **Chernobyl's Children**

### **Outline of Belarus and the Chernobyl Disaster**

The Republic of Belarus, the capital of which is Minsk, is west of Russia, east of Poland, and north of the Ukraine where Chernobyl is actually situated. The nuclear plant is in the very north of the Ukraine and only 17 kms. from the Ukraine/Belarus border.

When the Chernobyl nuclear reactor exploded on 26th April 1986, over 190 tons of highly radioactive uranium and graphite were expelled into the atmosphere. Because of the wind direction, the country of Belarus received over 70% of the radioactive fallout. For 8 days after the accident Iodine-131 was breathed and consumed in food by the whole Belarussian population. Rain in the immediate days after the explosion ensured that the area of Mogilev was especially badly affected.

### **Aims of the Charity**

The Charity was formed in 1996 in order to provide relief and recuperative care for children who live in conditions of poverty, hardship or distress following the Chernobyl disaster.

We bring 7-11 year old children over to Britain from Mogilev for at least one month recuperative care per year and the charity meets the full cost of these visits which include optical, dental and medical check ups. Wherever possible we bring back the same children annually and ongoing research by doctors both in Russia and the USA shows that this boosts the battered immune systems of the children and is increasing their life expectancy by at least two years. The children are placed for the month with volunteer families who generously give up their homes and time for the month (without recompense). As well as health checks, they partake in a programme of events including swimming, horse riding, visits to farms, schools etc.

Because of the lack of money, most families cannot afford to buy food that has been imported from non-contaminated countries such as Poland and Moldova and so they only eat radiated food. Pork and chicken are the most widely eaten meats, but again the livestock is fed contaminated feed and so the cycle continues. Mothers have been asked how they can justify giving their children contaminated food. The answer is simple. The mother does not have a choice. Their child either eats it or starves to death.

The cost of bringing a child to England is increasing year on year; at present it is £350. This includes air transportation / licence costs in Belarus, documentation arrangements and transportation costs to and from Gatwick airport. Funding to bring the children to England is by fund-raising events and by donations. Each year we try to bring out ten children plus the requisite two teachers/interpreters. The group always arrives mid October and returns home mid November.

Christine Barnett, (Group Co-ordinator)

## **Chernobyl's Children Coffee Morning**

I have had the privilege of helping with these children over the last few years and am keen to do some money raising as they are short of funds to bring the children to England this year.

We will be holding a Coffee Morning at the Old Church House in Oxhill on Saturday 11th June between 10.00 a.m. and 12.00 noon.

For more information please contact me.

Anne Marshall, 680411

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## **Refuse Collections**

Please remember that there are two Bank Holiday Mondays this month, May 2nd and May 30th.

This means that the normal Tuesday collections of refuse and recyclable materials will be a day later, on Wednesday 4th and Wednesday 1st June respectively.

Editor

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## **Payment of State Pensions**

If you collect the State Pension, you should already know that the very last order books have been sent out, and the last payment you will be able to collect with these books will be the end of May.

As of the beginning of June payments will be made directly to a bank account or post office card account. For security reasons it is important that you make the necessary arrangements so that your payment can go directly to one of these accounts.

Should you require any assistance or further information, please contact Mary Harris at Age Concern Warwickshire on 01926 458100. Mary will also be able to advise you on an appropriate bank that deals with this change.

Mary Harris

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## **Shipston Home Nursing**

I have been sent brochures and ticket application forms for the Play in the Park and the Midsummer Orient Ball, which will occur on the weekend of 25th and 26th June.

Unfortunately this does not fit in well with my chemotherapy sessions and so Gwyn and I will not be able to attend either function.

If any reader would like the copies of the brochures and application forms, will they please let me know.

George Adams, 680286

## Nature Notes for May

May is the month of Milk and May Games, probably named after Maia, a Roman goddess of growth and increase. May Day: Beltane, the Celtic festival of Summer's beginning.

To leave a branch of hawthorn (May) at a friend's door is a luck-bringing compliment; but "gifts" of other kinds of tree can be insulting:

Nut for a slut; plum for the glum

Bramble if she ramble; gorse for the whores

Looking back slightly to Easter Monday, you may remember what a beautiful clear sunny day it was. We were in the garden and I heard that familiar "mewing" of a buzzard. Looking up and to my surprise right over the centre of the village were no less than five buzzards all circling and calling. This is the beginning of their breeding cycle when established pairs that have wintered in their territory will start their aerial nuptial display on the first warm clear days of spring, often soaring as much as a thousand feet or more above the ground. A circling pair may attract other neighbouring buzzards, which was obviously what was happening over Oxhill. The male bird being much lighter but with the same wing span always gains more height, often hundreds of feet above the female. Indeed on this day one of the buzzards within just a couple of minutes became a tiny dot in the sky as he rose up on the thermals. Apparently, but rarely a pair will lock claws in flight and will come cartwheeling down, their wings resembling the rotating sails of a windmill. (In February I wrote of two crows emulating this behaviour). As with the crows I saw, they break apart on nearing the ground. However, there is a reported occasion when two struggling buzzards fell on to the back of a horse ridden by an exceedingly surprised Monmouthshire farmer. It was speculated that this was more likely a fight between two rival males.

As I was writing these notes, I was disturbed by furious bird chatter outside our front door, and on looking out of the window I saw a starling and a house sparrow fighting on the ground (different species rarely engage in actual aggressive fighting). This carried on for some time until the starling gained the advantage and standing on the sparrow began pecking at it in a very savage manner. Now I know one should not intervene with nature, survival of the fittest and all that, but I'm afraid I did rush out and in non uncertain terms told the starling where to go! Thankfully it did and the sparrow flew away seeming none the worse for its encounter.

Talking of strange happenings, a friend from Kinton phoned me the other evening. He had been standing in his kitchen and noticed from his window a sparrowhawk pursuing a wood pigeon across his garden. They had their baby granddaughter staying, who was in the drawing room, and seconds later he heard a tremendous crash and the shattering of glass. Fearing that his granddaughter had perhaps hurled a projectile at the television, he rushed in to see that the wood pigeon had smashed



through the centre pane of his large sash window, completely removing it, and smashing the two panes on either side. The wood pigeon was lying in the middle of the carpet and to his amazement it picked itself up, adjusted its feathers, and calmly flew back out of the open window pane. Thankfully his granddaughter, apart from being somewhat surprised, was safe and sound, although it proved to be rather a costly “nature experience” for him.

10 May is “Dotterel Day”: the high point of the bird-netting season. *“The dotterel is a very foolish bird, but excellent meat, and with us accounted a great delicacy, indeed all manner of small birds be good and light of digestion except sparrows, which be hard of digestion. Titmouses, colemouses and wrens, the which eat spiders and poisons, be not commendable: and of all small birds the lark is best, then is praised the blackbird and thrush.”*

Andrew Boorde, *Dietary of Health* 1547

Grenville Moore

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## **Annual Parish Meeting**

This was held at the Village Hall on April 12th. The meeting was chaired by David Hill and was attended by seven members of the Parish. After the formalities, the following points of interest arose:

- 1 Helen Whitelegg, who moved into the Parish at Croft Cottage in November, gave the meeting an interesting brief on the horse sanctuary which will be opened to the public on 23rd July. There will be a shop and a cafe at the sanctuary as well as an opportunity to witness the splendid work done by the staff at 'Redwings'. Helen is the manager and will probably give us an update in the 'News' closer to opening day.
- 2 Douglas Nethercleft described his role as the newly appointed Village Liaison Officer, on behalf of Oxhill, for the Council for Voluntary Service set up to provide local help for local people in rural areas. He will be posting leaflets describing his role in due course. Douglas also intends to approach CVS in connection with the provision of a village bench. The meeting wished Douglas well in his role.
- 3 Charles MacCall reported vehicle damage to verges in Main Street and elsewhere and was promised action by the Parish Council, which will meet soon.

I would like to thank those who attended for their positive contributions and constructive questions at the meeting.

David Hill

# **TYSOE MARIONETTE GROUP**

Our dramatisation of Paul Gallico's

## **“LOVE OF SEVEN DOLLS”**



is **rescheduled** for

**Fri. 11th & Sat. 12th November**

and

**Fri. 25th & Sat. 26th November**

at 7:30 p.m.

Work on our new production is progressing well. The perfect scale-model vintage car, designed and built by Rob Batley, is on stage awaiting painting. Marionettes and glove puppets are visiting the dressmaker for final fittings and are keeping appointments at the beauty salon to try on wigs and have their faces painted!

Rehearsals with stage lighting, sound and props take place on Thursdays from 7 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. from now until the end of June. We shall break for the summer holidays and resume on Thursday, 15th September, with continuity rehearsals in early November in preparation for the opening night on 11th November.

We would like to invite newcomers to the group and have allocated time to train people in this fascinating art.

Anyone interested in taking part - whether manipulating, working the glove puppets, stage managing, prompt/coordinating, or if you have an interest in things technical, please contact

Jon and Ann Beeny on **Tysoe 680431**, or  
**Email: [JonandAnn@annbeeny.f9.co](mailto:JonandAnn@annbeeny.f9.co)**.

## **WI REPORT – APRIL 6th 2005**

After the Secretary read the minutes of the last meeting, our President, Ann Beeny asked the Vice President, June Wreford to let us know about the Spring Council meeting she had attended, with others, in March. After this report, Kath Silman told us a little about her visit along with others to Denman College which she had found very interesting and well worth a visit for any member.

Please note that Saturday 28th May has been booked at the Old Reading Rooms for a coffee morning with plant and cake sale, from 10 a.m. until 12 noon. All donations will be very gratefully received.

Also, a white bag will be with the Treasurer, Chris Smith each month to collect pennies and tuppencies (i.e. spare change) for a project for ACWW. June Wreford will let us know more about this project later in the year.

Our President then introduced Mr. D. Fowler, the owner of one of the few independent cheese making farms in the country, who gave us a talk, slide show and demonstration of cheeses and cheese making.

Mr. Fowler had traced back the family ancestry to the early 1600s when they were living in the Derby district, and even then the family was into farms and cheese making, although with sheep's milk. In the early 1800s the family left Derby to move down to the Warwickshire area, and one of Mr. Fowler's enterprising ancestors decided to use cow's milk rather than sheep's, and sold the resulting cheese to the local market.

The company has gone from strength to strength since then, and now have contracts to supply different cheeses to diverse markets, including supermarkets.

The slide show was of working practices some ten to twelve years ago, and even to a layman's eye, it was obvious how standards of hygiene have altered since then, all to the good.

This was an interesting talk but even more enjoyable was tasting the different cheeses afterwards!

The meeting closed at 10 p.m.

### **The Women's Institute – A Modern Voice for Women.**

The ideals of the Women's Institute of truth, justice, tolerance and fellowship, are as strong and important now in the 21st Century as they were at the birth of the WI in 1915. Anyone who would like to join would be made very welcome. Come and enjoy the company of other women of our community.

Jackie Batchelor

## **Parish Clerk**

This year marks Angela Kean's 25th as Parish Clerk for Oxhill. The job is largely unsung and grossly under-rewarded but requires levels of diligence, tenacity and patience which would tax the most robust business person.

Angela has all of these qualities but has perhaps been helped most by the retention of a sense of humour. She has seen a procession of councillors come and go over the years and has been even-handed and helpful to all without exception. It is not always easy to explain the intricacies of precepts and budgets to a group of councillors on a cold, wet February night as the Village Hall heating system struggles to achieve 6 degrees, but Angela manages it. The Parish Clerk has to deal with a wide range of technical, legal and administrative matters in the course of the year and has to comply with the ever-burgeoning legislation affecting councils. Councillor's [Councillors'?] lives are made that much easier as Angela is always the first to be contacted by phone or mail by the many dozens of different organisations which affect our daily life here.

I am sure that I speak for all councillors and all of the ex-councillors in the village when I thank her most sincerely for her unrelenting effort. I hope also that I speak for all the other villagers too who, whilst maybe not realising it, have been the beneficiaries of Angela's work, carried out with quiet modesty for all this time.

David Hill

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## **Rocky the Labrador**

I have been very deeply moved by all the tributes and thoughts expressed to me over the last few weeks following the sad demise of my loyal dog, Rocky. Life is not forever for any of us but I'm sure I would have enjoyed several more years with my devoted friend had circumstances been different.

Fosseway remains loving and as fun filled towards us as ever, but shows signs of loneliness at times and all we can do is shower her with more affection.

I will miss Rocky's presence for some time to come but his image will remain with me for ever and be held in high esteem for the pleasure he gave to the family for over a decade. May he now rest in peace.

Sue Duckworth

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## **Just A Thought**

If all the trains at Clapham Jcnt  
Were suddenly to cease to fctn  
The people waiting in the stn  
Would never reach their destintn.

*Anon.*

# **COFFEE MORNING**

**WITH PLANT AND CAKE SALE**

**TO BE HELD AT**

**THE OLD READING ROOMS, TYSOE**

**ON SATURDAY 28 MAY 2005**

**FROM**

**10AM UNTIL 12 NOON**

**Women's Institute**

**PLEASE COME AND SUPPORT US!**

## **Pot Competition**



Have **YOU** planted yours yet?

Any size

Any shape

Any colour

Any plants

Annuals or Perennials

Competition open to all, not just Garden Club members

Myrtle Knight

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## **Scarecrow Weekend**

**How to Make a Scarecrow**

**Friday, May 6th**

**7.30 in the Village Hall**

There will be an evening workshop on 'How to make a Scarecrow' for anyone who needs to know how. That is probably most of us!

Any inquiries to Lilian, on 680468.

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## **The Churchyard**

Our Churchyard is a very special place, and we appreciate the tender loving care given to it by a great many people. It would be enormously helpful if, when folk were tending the graves, they could either take any unwanted flowers or wreaths away with them, or pop them in the bin by the front gate.

Thank you very much.

Jill Tucker

# "Bluebell Walk"

**On Sunday May 8th starting from Hell Brake House, Whatcote.  
2-5 p.m.**

Come for a gentle walk up to Hell Brake to see the Bluebells, and enjoy tea and scones on your return.

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

The proceeds will go towards St Peter's Church.

**Strong shoes or boots are essential!** Enquiries:- tel 01295680007

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## **Tysoe School PTA**

Tysoe School will hold their May Fair on Friday 13th May from 3.30 to 5.30 p.m.

There will be a display of Country Dancing as well as all the favourite attractions, including a cake and sweet stall, bottle tombola, bouncy castle, barbecue, children's tombola, second hand toys and books and plenty of games to keep everyone entertained!

All donations of raffle prizes, tombola prizes, children's toys and games would be gratefully received by the school or Ruth Mercer on 680407.

Please come along to school on May 13th and enjoy the afternoon.

Everyone welcome!

Ruth Mercer

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The new bench in the churchyard commemorating Peter Jeffrey

## **What's On in Oxhill**

### **May**

Wednesday 4th	7.30	Tysoe Village Hall – W.I. Spring Show & Resolutions Meeting
Saturday 7th	7.30	St. Edmund's, Shipston - May Concert
Sunday 8th	2 - 5	Whatcote, Hell Brake House - Bluebell Walk
Wednesday 11th	7.00	St. Lawrence Church - Flower Demonstration
Friday 14th	3.30 - 5.30	Tysoe School - May Fair
Saturday 21st	10 - 12	Townsend Hall - Shipston Home Nursing Plant Sale
Tuesday 24th	10.30-3.30	Shipston Home Nursing - Champagne and Shop, Park House, Newbold Pacey
Thursday 26th	10.30	St. Peter's Cottage, Stretton-on-Fosse – Coffee & Tea in aid of Helen House Hospice
Saturday 28th	10.00	Tysoe Reading Room – WI Coffee Morning with Plant and Cake Sale

### **June**

Wednesday 1st	7.30	Oxhill Village Hall – WI meeting – "Pub to a Church", Rev. David Knight
Saturday 18th		Scarecrow
Sunday 19th		Weekend
Saturday 25th		Shipston Home Nursing Midsummer Ball.
Sunday 26th		Shipston Home Nursing Play in the Park. Tickets for both from Rebecca Mawle on 01608 674929

### **July**

Wednesday 6th	7.30	Tysoe Village Hall – WI meeting "St. John's as an organisation"
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### **September**

Saturday 10th		The Old House – Barbeque Shipston Home Nursing Jazz Evening. For details contact Rebecca Mawle on 01608 674929
Sunday 18th		Shipston Home Nursing Tennis Tournament. Please contact Christine Archer on 01608 661930
Saturday 24th		Shipston Home Nursing Notorious Villains Ball. For details see the website <a href="http://www.armscotemanor.co.uk/notoriousvillains">www.armscotemanor.co.uk/notoriousvillains</a> or call Deborah Williams on 01608 682375.

### **October**

Saturday 1st	7.30	Village Hall - Harvest Supper
Saturday 15th	7.30	St. Lawrence Church - Talgarth Choir

### **November**

Wednesday 9th & Thursday 10th		Shipston Home Nursing Designer Sale at Darlingscote.
Thursday 17th 10-7		Shipston Home Nursing Gift Fair at the Ettington Community Centre, Rogers Lane, Ettington.