

THE OXHILL NEWS



APRIL 2006

APRIL 2

Is the feast day of Saints Francis of Paola, Mary of Egypt, John Payne, Zosimus, Nicetius of Lyons, and Saints Apphian and Theodosia. Zosimus gets another one on December 18, a third on December 26 and, possibly, yet a fourth on March 30th. The latter, however, is Zosimus of Syracuse, who is probably a different person altogether. I suppose there is no reason why there should not be four completely different Saints Zosimus. After all it's a nice name, so why not keep using it.

The first mint was established in the USA in 1792. This must not be confused with the first Polo. In 1801 the British and Danish fleets met in the Battle of Copenhagen. That was the one during which Nelson reportedly put his telescope to his blind eye and ignored Admiral Parker's signal to stop fighting, so the British fleet won. No comment. The Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst was founded in 1946, and Argentina invaded the Falkland Islands in 1982. This was not cause and effect at work. In 1996 the former Polish president Lech Walesa clocked on for work as a £120-a-month electrician at a Gdansk shipyard. I wonder if we could persuade Brown and Blair to follow suit 10 years later? Fair's fair, Cameron and whoever is this week's leader of the Lib Dems would have to go with them. Also in 1996 the Dutch legislature voted to reduce the amount of marijuana that could be sold in coffee shops. Finally, in 1997 Tennessee at last got round to ratifying the 15th Amendment, which guarantees US citizens the right to vote regardless of 'race, color or previous condition of servitude.' It had taken them since 1870! A bit like the British attempts at introducing the decimal system, really.

Editor

MAY ISSUE

Please could I have all copy for the May issue by Midnight on Tuesday, 25th April? 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 News is currently set in Garamond 10 pt, with headings in Lucida Sans Unicode 14 pt bold. This may, of course, change, possibly without warning.

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

This picture of the Methodist Trowel, provided by Mike Collins, illustrates the article by Ann Hale which appears later in this issue.

Editor

ROBBERIES IN OXHILL

There have been (at least) two burglaries in our village during the month of March, and we all need to be aware that the unpleasant characters that commit these crimes are active even here in Sleepy Valley.

We are a Neighbourhood Watch area, but that only works if neighbours keep watch! Please keep an eye open for anything unusual or suspicious. If you see a car or van parked by the roadside with the occupants seemingly doing nothing, take notice of it. One way would be to go up to it and ask if help or directions are needed. Innocent motorists will not be offended. Putative criminals just might realise they have been clocked, and move on elsewhere. At least you will have had a look at their faces, and of course taken the vehicle registration in passing.

We have not had a lot of trouble from events like this over the time I have lived in the village, but burglaries are highly unpleasant (especially when they happen to you) and we all need to do everything we can to prevent them.

Editor

THE METHODIST TROWEL

One of the rewards of maintaining the village website is the unexpected correspondence received from all parts of the globe.

One such e-mail last November proved very exciting as it offered the return of a trowel that was used in the ceremony related to the last restoration of the Methodist Chapel in 1878. Its return was arranged and after a nervous 4 week wait the parcel eventually arrived.

Ann Hale has researched the events and pieced together the story of the trowel and her article is included in this edition of the news. The trowel has been reviewed and recorded by the County Museum Archivists; they will advise on its preservation and presentation in the future.

Currently the plan is for it to be used again in any ceremony following the current refurbishment of the Chapel and then go on permanent display in the building. I hope everybody agrees this proposal is appropriate, but if anybody has any views on the matter then please make them known.

Oxhill Webmaster

ST. LAWRENCE CHURCH, OXHILL

Church Services for April

Sunday 2nd	9.30	Holy Communion – Rev. Stephen Knight
Sunday 9th	9.30	Holy Communion – Rev. Bill Rolfe
Sunday 16th	10.00	Easter Day, Holy Communion – Rev. Bill Rolfe
Sunday 23rd	9.30	Holy Communion Rev. G. Rowston
Sunday 30th	9.30	United Benefice in Oxhill – Rev. Tony Upton

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Following the Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 19th March, Church Wardens and P.C.C. members were elected as follows:

Church Wardens Andrew Buchanan and Carol Fox

P.C.C. Members John Baines, Lilian Welsby, Bill Fox, Gill Rodwell, Charles McCall, Graham McDonald, Diane Harper, Linda Heritage, Linda Creedy-Smith and Belinda Roberts

We would like to wish Diane Harper, who has been in hospital recently, a very speedy recovery.

Carol Fox

PAROCHIAL ELECTORAL ROLL

If anyone who is not on the Church Electoral Roll would like to be on it please would they collect an application form from the table inside the Church, complete it and then return it to one of the Church Wardens. Thank you.

Carol Fox

NOTES OF A MEETING OF OXHILL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 14TH MARCH 2006 AT 8.00 P.M. IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Apologies were received from David Hill

The meeting, chaired by Tom Heritage, was attended by Steven Hackett, Gwyneth Adams and Brian Emmerson. One member of the village also attended.

MATTERS DISCUSSED

Elections

District and Parish Elections are to take place on 4th May 2006. Relevant notices will be posted on the Notice Boards

Finance

A payment of £257.87 was agreed for production of the Oxhill News for the 12 month period to February 2006. A grant towards the cost of cutting the Village Hall grass for the 2005 season was agreed at £150.

Road Signs

A sign for Whatcote Road would be put up across from Green Lane. The 30 mph sign could not be moved further out, before the bend, on the Whatcote Road as its position is determined by the extent of the village – this is a legal requirement.

There were no Planning matters.

Highways

A number of potholes needed repair and the Highways Department would be notified. Road repairs to the Tysoe Road have been rescheduled for the summer between April and September.

A system of licensing A Boards and Trade Displays on the highway was being introduced by the Warwickshire County Council at a cost of £50 and £100, respectively.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 9th May 2006 at 8.00 p.m. in the Village Hall.

Annual Parish Meeting

This is the Village meeting and will be held on Tuesday 11th April 2006 at 8.00 p.m. in the Village Hall. If you have any item you would like to discuss please let me have it for the Agenda, or just come along to the meeting.

Angela Kean, Clerk

NATURE NOTES FOR APRIL

The Roman Aperilis – from aperio, to open or display: the month when the earth opens.

As I write these nature notes, it is the spring equinox and the first day of Spring, and as if on cue, the sun has shone all day. Driving back home through Honington towards Whatcote I noticed two “mad March hares” cavorting round the large field that rises to your right as you leave Honington. I pulled over to watch, and for a good 15 minutes they stood on hind legs, vaulted over each other, ran round in circles, and dashed in all directions. They were only about 100 metres from me and every so often one would stand and look towards me. The sun was setting behind me and for split seconds the sun would catch in their eyes and flash back at me like car headlights. It was quite magical. After a period of vigorous play the hare that I presumed was the female would flop down and recline on her side in a suggestive manner, while the male for his part seemed to take on a nonchalant attitude – or was it vice versa?

“The common sort of people suppose that hares are one year male and one year female ... yet hunters object that there be some which are only females and no more; but no male that is not also a female, and so they make him an hermaphrodite.” Edward Topsell – ***History of Four-footed Beasts*** 1607.

While watching the hares, my attention was also drawn by a movement in the grass just yards from when I had parked – it was a pair of Red-legged Partridge, or “Frenchmen”, except by their behaviour this was a Frenchman and a Frenchwoman!! At this point I took my leave and left nature to pursue its natural path, but there was more to come.

On approaching Oxhill from Whatcote there is a wonderful old pasture field on the left and my eye was caught by a large white shape – a Barn Owl – perhaps one of Oxhill’s breeding pair. It was moving towards me, so once again I pulled up and parked in the gateway. The owl quartered the field backwards and forwards, flying just a couple of metres above the ground. I sat motionless as it approached the gateway, then when only about 10 metres away it dropped like a stone and I could clearly see that it had made a kill. I watched as it threw its head back and a large mouse was gulped down head first, the tail slowly vanishing down the owl’s throat. My usual five-minute drive from Honington to Oxhill had taken over half an hour, but what a wonderful half hour.

April 25 – St Mark’s Day – cowslips now blooming. Despite their name, a polite form of “cow slops” or “cow pats” from which they were believed to be engendered, cowslips have long been used as an aid to beauty:

*“An ointment being made cowslips take away spots and wrinkles of the skin, sun-burning, and freckles, and adds beauty exceedingly” Culpepper’s **Herbal** 1653.*

*“The flowers of cowslips conserved in sugar and also the stilled water thereof are very good for them that are weak and very low brought by long sickness, and it hath a singular property to comfort the heart” William Turner **Herbal** 1568.*

*“Three or four handfuls of cowslip flowers cast into a very hot bath, take away tiredness” **Mrs Harrington’s Book** 18th century.*

The population of Oxhill is beautiful enough, so please don’t pick any cowslips; just admire their beauty.

Grenville Moore

ADDITIONAL NATURE NOTES

Whilst travelling on the Oxford Canal recently and enjoying the peace and solitude, I came across a phenomenon that I had not seen before.

Most boaters will have experienced herons standing in canal or river margins hoping that a passing boat will encourage the fish to move to the edge of the watercourse and thus provide instant lunch. If nothing swims within reach, as the boat comes level the heron flaps its way a further 100 yards down the canal and settles down to repeat the process.

My encounter was with a kestrel. This particular bird flew in to a spot some 50 yards in front of the moving boat and hovered some 20 feet above the towpath. As the front of the boat came within just a few yards, it sideslipped to a new position – once again about 50 yards ahead - and hovered looking for prey. This happened some dozen times in all, but perhaps the gentle ‘Chug Chug’ of my Gardner 2LW was not enough to disturb any resident mice or shrews, for the kestrel eventually flew away empty handed.

Doug Nethercleft, (NB Summerlee)

ON THE TRAIL OF A TROWEL

HOME FROM CANADA

Oxhill Methodist Church – now awaiting its new life after closure in 2003 - will have seen many a builder's trowel in its lifetime. The original Chapel was built in 1814, enlarged in 1839, and restored in 1878, when the schoolroom was added. However at the reopening ceremony of the restored building on 21st June 1878, much smarter, silver-plated trowels with ivory handles, made by H. Walford and Son, Jewellers, High Street, Banbury, were presented to the four people who were to lay the memorial stones. Through the good offices of the Oxhill website, one of these presentation trowels has unexpectedly now made its way back to the village from Vancouver.

News of it first came in an email in November, 2005 from the daughter of an elderly man Mr Kenneth Greenaway, who was packing up her father's home as he was now moving to a nursing home in Vancouver. Among his possessions was a silver-plated trowel, with a commemorative inscription to Mr J.G. Ward of Oxhill on the occasion of the reopening ceremony of the Chapel in 1878. Mr Greenaway had inherited this from Mrs Blanche Clarke, nee Ward, for whom, together with her sister, Miss Constance Ward, he had acted as accountant and executor. He now wished that the trowel should be returned to its village of origin.

The Ward family were substantial farmers and property owners in Oxhill during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. They were also devout Methodists, and played a great part in the establishment of the Chapel. Mr James Gardner Ward, who laid the fourth memorial stone in 1878, lived at Whitehill House (then Oxhill Villa). James had an unlucky time of it in his stone-laying, as the rope holding up his stone broke, so that the stone came down into position heavily, and splattered him with mortar! Moreover, later that evening, some miscreants removed all four stones from their positions, uncovering the bottle that had been placed in a cavity in one stone, which contained various memorabilia -a local paper, the day's service sheet, several coins of the realm, etc. Luckily the bottle was still intact, and its seal unbroken, which was considered strange. (Perhaps there were fears for the safety of the coins of the realm; it was a time of great poverty.) Nevertheless, the report in the Banbury Advertiser sternly hoped that the perpetrators would be unearthed and made an example of. There is no evidence to show that they ever were.

James Gardner Ward married twice, and had a large family. It is a happy discovery to find that Constance and Blanche from Vancouver are in fact his grandchildren, daughters of his eldest son Charles. Charles is described at different points in his life as “an engineer” and “a photographer”, and his daughters Constance Effie and Blanche Emily were born in Rochester in 1885 and 1886 respectively. Constance became a missionary in China, and Blanche a teacher, who did not marry until she was 65. Both sisters retired to Vancouver where they were members of the United Church of Canada, continuing the tradition of piety and service that had always been strong in the family. They died there – Constance in 1969, and Blanche in 1973, leaving the trowel to their executor, Kenneth Greenaway, to whom we are indebted for its return to Oxhill.

Ann Hale

GOURMET DINNER

The Old Church House, Oxhill

Saturday 6 May 2006

7.30 p.m. for 8.00 p.m.

Come and join us for a fabulous evening.

Enjoy excellent locally sourced food with complementary champagne and canapés on arrival.

Tickets strictly limited and to be booked by 26 April 2006.

Price £30.00 per head.

All profits to Chernobyl's Children, who will be coming to our coffee morning on 1 July.

To book and for more details telephone

Anne Marshall, 01295 680411

OXHILL GARDEN CLUB

At the A.G.M. this month we said a sincere thank-you to Rosemary Brown, who has done her 3 year stint as chairman of the garden club excellently, with a bouquet of spring flowers. Myrtle Knight kindly agreed to become our new chairman and we also welcomed onto the committee a new member Anne Nethercleft.

The rest of the evening was spent enjoying a wine and cheese buffet and discussing our forthcoming plant sale and trip to Normandy.

April is the start of the gardening club year and with an annual subscription still at £7.50 now would be a very good time to join the club. We have a mixture of speakers, visits to gardens of interest and social events – very good value and fun. The next meeting is in the village Hall on Thursday April 20th at 7.30.

The May 18th meeting is the **Plant Sale**. Bring your bags and boxes and fill up with locally grown plants at very economical prices.

Heather Brennan, Secretary

NEW SEATING

It is pleasing to announce that Oxhill Village Hall has been awarded a £1000 grant towards new chairs to complement the much-needed replacement tables already funded by the Parish Council. When the Stratford branch of the Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) decided in favour of our village's application to their Rural Outreach Fund, they felt that the comfort and letting potential of the Hall would be significantly enhanced by the new seating. The CVS, too, was impressed by the on going commitment and 'self help' evidenced by the Village Hall Committee who do so much behind the scenes to keep this valuable asset available for use by organisations and individuals within our community.

Doug Nethercleft, (VLO, Oxhill)

WHATCOTE

"Bluebell Walk"

Come for a gentle walk up to Hell Brake to see the Bluebells, and enjoy tea and scones on your return. There will be a well stocked produce stall.

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

Provisional date Sunday May 7th Time: 1.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.

(Because of the late cold weather the date may have to be changed. Watch for the posters later in April)

The proceeds will go towards St Peter's Church

Strong shoes or boots are essential!

Enquiries Telephone 01295 680007

Sue Price

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Having replaced the old red tables and the curtains, we have now been given a grant by the Council for Voluntary Service (Stratford on Avon District) to replace some of the chairs in the Village Hall. Our sincere thanks to them and to Keith and Douglas for their assistance.

A reminder to our footballers in the village. Don't forget that we have portable goalposts and nets which are available in the hall.

We also have a portable photocopier which has been donated to the Village Hall. If anybody would like to use it, please contact one of the committee members.

Linda Dagg

“I’LL VOLUNTEER IN 2006”

A RESOLUTION YOU SHOULD KEEP

Helpers are needed by these very worthy local groups:

- **Mencap Society Stratford & District (Helping those with learning disabilities)** - needs a Minute Secretary for the Quarterly Executive Meetings of Stratford and District
- **SSAFA - Forces Help (Helping Serving and ex-service men and women and their families)** - needs people to help those supported by obtaining practical and financial assistance from the state and other places.
- **Age Concern Warwickshire (Befriending service for vulnerable lonely isolated older people)** - needs befrienders to help those in need. Befrienders for the Radway and Ettington areas are particularly needed.
- **Contact the Elderly (Taking elderly isolated people out the Sunday afternoon tea in small parties.)** - needs Sunday afternoon rota drivers (to take elderly people to tea parties) and semi-annual hosts for those parties (of up to 14 people twice a year).
- **Council for Voluntary Service, Stratford (facilitates projects with other voluntary organisations)** - needs a volunteer treasurer to maintain an overview of the company's financial affairs.
- **WE URGENTLY NEED VOLUNTEER DRIVERS TO HELP US WITH OUR COMMUNITY TRANSPORT SCHEME, (40P PER MILE ALLOWANCE PAID).**

Call us if you are interested, or, if you can get on the web (www.stratfordvbx.org.uk) check out our web site for all the latest opportunities for volunteering.

Volunteer Centre Stratford-on-Avon District

Phone: 01789 262886

SALSA

On Friday 12th March some 90 people from Tysoe, Oxhill and surrounding villages attended an introductory Salsa class in Tysoe village hall.

There were only slightly more female attendees than male and dapper Donato Cappiello the Salsa instructor, whose dancing partner was unable to attend that particular evening, was very willing to look after the difference! It is of note that Donato favours the Cuban style of Salsa dance where, most definitely, men are expected to take the lead.

Given the level of interest shown, it is hoped to run regular Salsa classes starting in April. Keep your eye open for publicity flyers on the Oxhill village notice board.

Doug Netherclef (Chair, TCG)

THE OLD FIRE STATION

Spring Programme 2006

Sat 22 & Sat 29 April	0900 – 1630	Early Years First Aid	£28
Fridays, 28 April, 5 weeks	1000 – 1200	Computers for Beginners	£10
Thursdays 27 April, 5 weeks	1930 – 2130	Design and Build a Simple Website	£10
Fridays 28 April, 5 weeks	1930 – 2130	Computing Improvers	£10
Fridays 28 April, 5 weeks	1300 – 1500	Digital Cameras and Image Manipulation	£15
Wednesdays 26 April, 10 weeks	1930 – 2130	Bridge for beginners	£40
Tuesdays 9 May, 3 weeks	1000 – 1200	EBay for Beginners	£12
Mondays	1000 – 1200	Silver Surfers	

More details from Mary on 01295 688244

TYSOE MARIONETTE GROUP



Work has started on making the characters, this time most of them animals, for our forthcoming production of Rudyard Kipling's well-known "Just So" story of **"The Cat that Walked by Himself"**. This tale so neatly sets out the origins of the Cat's relationship with Woman, and Man and Dog!

Apart from head modelling sessions, we have to carve the bodies, design and construct the first cave (probably on a part-revolving stage) and sort out the props. We will soon be recruiting voices and animal noises! to record the soundtrack. After that manipulation rehearsals will start with a view to "going public" next winter.

Any folks interested in joining in this fascinating venture are welcome to come and see us. We meet on Thursday nights.

Meanwhile we plan to give another performance of **"Love of Seven Dolls"** on **Friday 19th May** and another in late June. Suggestions for charities that might be supported next would be welcomed.

Tysoe Marionette Group is also hosting a Long-Strings Workshop organised by the British Puppet and Model Theatre Guild to be led by Mary Turner of "Thunderbirds" fame on Sunday afternoon 2nd April 2006. We might even be allowed to operate these famous characters!

Jon & Ann Beeny 01295 680431

Visit: www.PuppeteersUK.com & www.warkcom.net

STOUR SINGERS CONCERT

SATURDAY 13TH MAY 2006

The finale of Stour Singers 30th Anniversary Season takes place on Saturday 13th May 2006 at 7.30 p.m. in St Edmund's Church, Shipston-on-Stour.

The programme, appropriately entitled '*Celebrations*', opens with Haydn's *Te Deum for the Empress Maria Therese*, a festive piece written in response to repeated requests from his royal admirer who was very fond of singing. Lord Nelson and Lady Hamilton attended the first authenticated performance directed by Haydn on 8th Sept 1800.

Then Stour Singers contribute to the worldwide celebration of Mozart's birth 250 years ago with the *Coronation Mass*, regarded as the finest of his completed mass settings, composed for Salzburg's Easter celebrations of 1779 and performed at the Coronation of Leopold II twelve years later.

The programme also includes the youthful Faure's well-loved *Cantique de Jean Racine* which gained him a first prize in composition in 1865 and '*Lauda Sion*' written in 1846 by Mendelssohn, a Protestant, for a celebration of the 600th anniversary of the first Corpus Christi procession in Liege at St. Martin's Roman Catholic Church.

The music is shared with the Cherwell Orchestra & the soloists: Juliet Schiemann (soprano), Claire Bartram (mezzo soprano), Nicholas Mulroy (tenor), and Simon Thorpe (baritone), (Nicholas Mulroy is a Philip & Dorothy Green Young Concert Artist).

The conductor: Richard Emms.

Tickets: £7.50 from choir members, Clarkes, & at the door.

Accompanied children free.

New members welcome - no auditions.

Contact choir manager, Vic Twyman, on 01608-664215 for further details.

AGE CONCERN

In my capacity as Village Liaison Officer (VLO) for Oxhill I act as repository/finder of information on opportunities, benefits and sources of help/advice available to individuals of all ages in the community. I am supported in this by the Council for Voluntary Service (Stratford-upon-Avon District).

Given that the function is very similar, I have recently volunteered to act also as local Parish Link (Oxhill, Whatcote & Tysoe) for Age Concern. This latter organisation is particularly concerned with giving help and advice to persons aged 60+ and their Care Services staff will offer support on the telephone or can visit clients in their own homes by appointment.

My job as Parish Link (PL) is to advise potential users of the wide variety of services offered by Age Concern (Warwickshire) and to help the staff to respond to client needs efficiently by directing enquirers to the individual who can best deal with their particular need. To this end I make a start by advertising the little known fact that Age Concern can advise on holiday insurance. Some companies are reluctant to insure the elderly, but Age Concern has a very helpful man, Bob Heapon, who advises on this and can arrange very reasonable rates for older people. He may be contacted on 01926 458123.

Doug Netherclef (PL, Age Concern)

POETRY CORNER

(SORT OF)

She frowned and called him Mr.
Because in sport he kr.
And so in spite
That very night
This Mr. kr. sr.

Anon

COMPTON VERNEY

Van Gogh and Britain Exhibition

31 March – 18 June 2006

Van Gogh (1853-90) is one of the greatest Dutch painters, whose work is epitomised by dynamic brushwork and vibrant colours. The exhibition at Compton Verney offers a representative selection of works from the artist's whole career. It includes *Head of a Peasant Woman* (1885); *Still Life, Basket of Apples* (1887); *Portrait of Alexander Reid* (1887); *Orchard in Blossom, Plum Trees* (1888); *Oleanders* (1888); *A Wheatfield with Cypresses* (1889); *Olive Trees* (1889); *Peach Blossom in the Crau* (1889), and *Rain-Auvers* (1890).

Research for the exhibition has highlighted some important discoveries; the 'lost' *Portrait of Alexander Reid* (1887), presented by Van Gogh to Reid has been identified as a work now in Oklahoma. It has also emerged that *Peach Blossom in the Crau* (1889), which had been owned by Belgian artist Anna Boch, the only person to purchase a Van Gogh during the artist's lifetime, was later sold to Samuel Courtauld. It has transpired that individual paintings had in fact been included in eleven exhibitions in Britain by 1914, although many have remained unrecorded in literature on the artist until now.

Van Gogh and Britain: Pioneer Collectors also features rarely seen archive material relating to the collectors of the artist's work. This includes catalogues of the earliest exhibitions held in Britain; newspaper reviews of these exhibitions; photographs, and correspondence relating to the works. The exhibition at Compton Verney will be accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue, with an essay by Martin Bailey.

In addition to the Van Gogh exhibition there is a vast programme of events at Compton Verney between now and the end of July, with something to cover most tastes and interests. The press handout for this programme covers many more pages than the Oxhill News can manage, so if you are interested please contact Ina Cole or look at the Compton Verney website.

Contact:

Ina Cole, Communications Manager, Compton Verney, Warwickshire, CV35 9HZ

Tel: 01926 645540; Email: ina.cole@comptonverney.org.uk;

www.comptonverney.org.uk

Editor

TWENTYFIVE YEARS AGO

Issue No. 95 started with a report of the proceedings of the Parish Council, with Councillors John Blunt, Tom Heritage, George Adams and Mary Badger in attendance and apologies from George Dale. The village agreed to enter the Best Kept Village Competition again, and the County Council were to be approached concerning the potholes in the road. Readers will have noticed that Angela is writing from the Council to the Highways Authority concerning the potholes in the roads this month. Plus ca change seems in order once again. Or is it just nostalgia?

The Rector reported that Mrs. Blunt and Mrs. McKail had stopped running the Sunday School, an announcement repeated by Wendy Blunt herself on the following page. A report of the Shrove Tide Supper stated that it had been very enjoyable despite being poorly attended.

The Village Hall announced its A.G.M. and proffered the following:

JOKE

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| <u>1st Man</u> | “What’s fun and nostalgic?” |
| <u>2nd Man</u> | “Brian Badger.” |
| <u>3rd Man</u> | “No, a night out at the “Oxhill Fifties Evening.” |
| June 20th | Book early to avoid disappointment. |

See National Press and next edition for further details.

Una Hill could probably still provide photographs, if you want to see what went on. The Youth Club wanted Scalextric equipment, the Village Hall a cooker and the Editors all copy by the 26th April, which is just one day later than I have set this month. That’s despite all the advantages of modern computer processing and printing. Anyone for a typewriter and a Gestetner?

Editor

FOR RENT

Two bedroom, two bathroom modern beach apartment at El Peñoncillo, Costa del Sol, 4km from Nerja.

For further details and photos why not visit our web site at www.brianbadger.com or ring us on 688010

Judy Badger

ARE YOU FINDING IT DIFFICULT TO VISIT YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY OR MOBILE LIBRARY?

If you would like to receive a FREE Home Delivery Library service , you may qualify if you:

- ❖ **Do not have your own transport**
- ❖ **Do not have relatives or friends who can regularly exchange books for you.**

In partnership with Age Concern, two volunteers will visit you in your home once every four weeks, bringing you a selection of books, Talking Books, music cassettes or jigsaws. You can request any items free of charge and we can help you with any information needs you have.

**To find out more about the Home Delivery Library
Service,
Contact Debbie Sly on (01926) 851031**

PLANT STALL – REMINDER

We wouldn't want you to forget! (Though to judge by previous years your response has been fantastic.)

Please do what you can to pot up your spare plants so that they are flourishing by the weekend of 17th/18th June

Janet Gardner, 680280

Eve Whaley, 680224

WHAT'S ON IN OXHILL

April

Wednesday 5th	7.30 p.m.	Tysoe Village Hall – W.I. – Finland, Canon Nick Morgan
Tuesday 11th	8.00	Village Hall – Annual Parish Meeting
Saturday 29th	7.00 p.m.	St. Edmund's, Shipston – Charity Concert, Shipston Home Nursing. Call 01926 641037 for more details

May

Wednesday 3rd	7.30 p.m.	Tysoe Methodist Hall – W.I. – Spring Show & Resolution Meeting
Saturday 6th	7.30	Old Church House – Gourmet Dinner
Sunday 7th	1.30	Whatcote – Bluebell Walk
Tuesday 9th	8.00	Village Hall – Parish Council Meeting
Saturday 13th	7.30	St. Edmund's Church, Shipston – Stour Singers Concert
Sunday 14th	10.00	Ettington Community Centre – Spring Into Action. Contact Gilda Gardner on 01789 740083 for details
Tuesday 16th	10.30	Burmington Grange – Champagne & Shop, Shipston Home Nursing
Friday 19th – Sunday 21st		Garden Club Trip to Normandy
Saturday 20th	10.00-12.00	Townsend Hall, Shipston on Stour – Plant Sale, Shipston Home Nursing
Tuesday 25th	2400	Copy deadline for the News
Sunday 28th		Rectory Garden – Curry Lunch

June

7 June	7.30 p.m.	Oxhill Village Hall – W.I. - Save the Children, Mrs Mitchell
Saturday 17th & Sunday 18th		Scarecrow Festival

July

Saturday 1st		Old Church House – Coffee Morning for Chernobyl's Children
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September

Sunday 10th		Upper St. Dennis Farm – Tennis Tournament, Shipston Home Nursing
Saturday 30th		Harvest Supper

November

Friday 10th & Saturday 11th	12.00 9.00	Darlingstott Farm – Designer Sale, Shipston Home Nursing
Thursday 16th	10.00	Ettington Community Centre – Gift Fair, Shipston Home Nursing