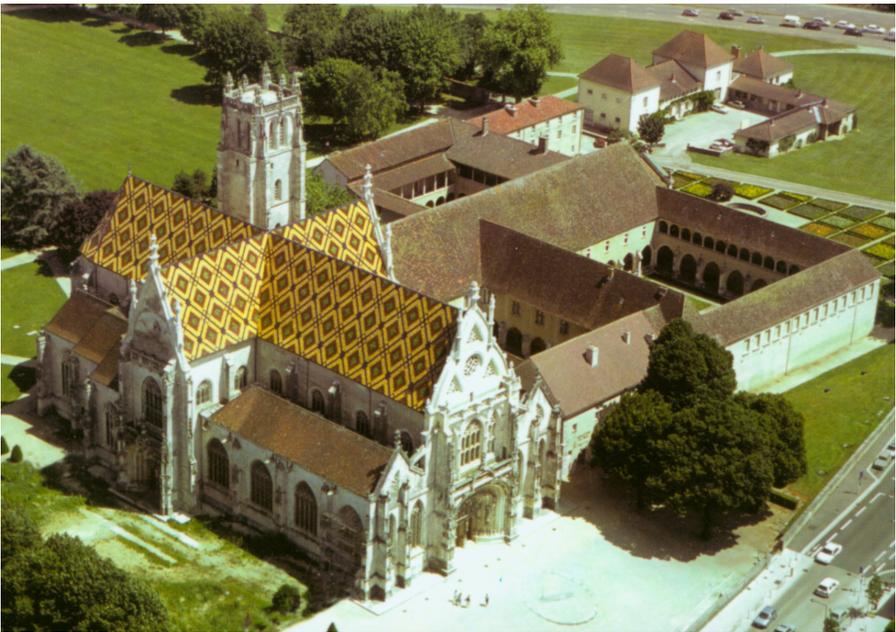


THE OXHILL NEWS



April 2007

DARLINGSCOTT CHARITY FUN RIDE

(starting at Longdon Road Farm)

SUNDAY, 6 MAY 2007

In aid of Darlingscott Church Restoration

(particularly the roof and porch)

with donations to Shipston Home Nursing and Air Ambulance

First horse 10 a.m. - Last horse 2 p.m.

Adults £15 (£18 on day) Children £9 (£10 on day)

11 miles of stunning South Warwickshire/North Cotswold countryside (8 mile shorter route), optional jumps, official photographer, pig roast/refreshments, rosettes

For further details please contact Cathy Noon on 01608 682847 (e-mail cathynoon@aol.com)

WARWICKSHIRE SURVEY

Warwickshire County Council has published a draft strategy on the 'Quality of Life for an Ageing Population' on its website www.warwickshire.gov.uk. Survey / consultation forms outlining the various issues are available at the back of St Lawrence's church for you to read and, should you so wish, submit your views. Deadline for submissions is Friday 27th April 2007.

Doug Nethercleft

APRIL ISSUE

Please could I have all copy for the April issue by Midnight on Thursday, 26th 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

The truly remarkable monastery at Brou, now deconsecrated and brilliantly run by the French state. Wonders never do cease. Really.

VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING

Chris and Ellen will be holding the Village Coffee Morning in The Peacock on Wednesday 4th April from 10.15 a.m.

All are very welcome (gentlemen included!) – if you need a lift, or have any other queries, please let me know!

Poey McDonald 688202

CURRY AND ROAST LAMB LUNCH

Sunday May 6th

Please don't forget the lunch, this year to be held at Church Farm

£7.50 Adults £3.50 Children

Tickets obtainable from Lilian, 680468 or Rosemary, 680260

REFUSE COLLECTION

BANK HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS

EASTER

There will be no collection in Oxhill on Tuesday 10th April. Refuse (black bags only) will be collected instead on Wednesday 11th April.

MAY DAY HOLIDAY

There will be no collection in Oxhill on Tuesday 8th May. Refuse (black bags only) will be collected on Wednesday 9th May.

TYSOE MARIONETTE GROUP

A reminder that "The Cat That Walked by Himself" will be performed on Friday 27th April at 7:30 p.m., Saturday 28th April at 2:30 p.m. and Saturday 28th April at 7:30 p.m. It will also be presented in May on Saturday 19th May at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday 20th May at 2 :30 p.m.

All performances are in The Barn Theatre, Upper Tysoe. Tickets are £5 for adults and £3 for children (aged 5-15) and can be obtained from Jon & Ann Beeny on 01295 680431. Proceeds will be in aid of RSPB, MIND, Marie Curie Cancer Care and the Lamin Jawara Memorial Eco Farm in The Gambia.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

FUNERALS Remembering with thanksgiving
March 6th William John Groves, aged 77

ST. LAWRENCE'S CHURCH

SERVICES IN APRIL

All are warmly invited to our services

Sunday 1st	Palm Sunday	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion (ML)
Friday 6th	Good Friday	2.00 p.m.	Devotional service (ML)
Sunday 8th	Easter Day	9.30 a.m.	Easter Communion (ML)
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong at Brailes (NM)
Sunday 15th	Easter I	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion (ML)
Sunday 22nd	Easter II	9.30 a.m.	Family Service (NM)
Monday 23rd	St. George	7.30 p.m.	Patronal Festival at Brailes – wear your red roses!
Sunday 29th	Easter III	11.00 a.m.	United Benefice Communion at Oxhill (ML)

DIVINE INSPIRATION

The Church of St Lawrence has recently been registered with the Diocese of Coventry Visitor Development Project, 'Divine Inspiration'. The project aims to encourage and enable individual parishes, urban and rural, ancient and newer, to develop a more engaging and absorbing experience for all who make visits to their church buildings. The project has already identified the Church presence on the Oxhill Website as an example of best practice of communicating with potential visitors.

The project is funded by English Heritage, the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Bellefontaine Trust and the Diocese of Coventry. Further details are available from the project web site at www.divine-inspiration.org.uk or by telephoning Helen McGowan on 024 7652 1346.

As a direct result of participation in the project the article on the Slave Grave in the Church yard, originally prepared for the Oxhill News by Ann Hale, has been further extended and will be published in the May edition of Warwickshire Life. The subject is topical with the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the slave trade in Britain this year and has enabled recognition for Ann of the hours spent researching and collecting together the history of this small part of Warwickshire.

Mike Collins

OXHILL DANCING CLASS – THE OUTCOME

Despite the interest shown in the idea of a Ballroom Dance class in the Village Hall it proved too difficult to reconcile everyone's existing commitments with the need for a viably large class.

Perhaps a village of Oxhill's size just isn't large enough to support something like this.

Tony Eastaugh

DEANERY RETREAT

You are all invited to join us
On the Shipston Deanery Retreat
1st to 3rd June
(From Friday evening to after lunch on Sunday)

There is always a warm welcome at Offa House, the Coventry Diocesan Retreat House at Offchurch and it is there that we are again holding our Deanery Retreat. Even if you have never been on retreat before, do think about joining us. There will be a balance between organised and free time: time to relax, to be with others, to worship and to enjoy excellent food, time to be by yourself, to read, to pray, to listen to God.

The Revd. Prebendary Michael Pollit, an experienced retired priest from the Lichfield Diocese, will lead us during the weekend.

Curious? Interested?

Phone Elisabeth Ashworth (Deanery Lay Chair)

01608 686391 for more information.

We do hope you will be able to join us.

SHIPSTON HOME NURSING

Sat 21st April

Shipston on Stour Rotary Club are having their annual Concert, starts at 7:30 p.m. in St Edmunds Church, Shipston on Stour. £7 per ticket, available from Rebecca on 01608 674929.

Sat 28th April

An evening of Music with the Porter Family, in Cherington Village Hall, starting at 7.30 p.m. Tim, Helen, Hannah, Beth and Barney will be entertaining us with an eclectic mixture of classical, jazz, blues and pop. £12.50 a ticket to include canapés. Bar available. Tickets from Rebecca 01608 674929 or Helen 01608 685332.

THANK YOU

Timothy and Sylvia Groves would like to thank everyone for the beautiful flowers and cards and for attending the funeral of their brother John.

Thanks also go to Canon Nicholas Morgan for the lovely service, to Locke and Son for the arrangements so excellently done and to all at the Peacock for the warm welcome and the wonderful buffet. Last but not least, a big thank you to Kevin Welsby for taking John to his final resting place aboard his beautifully restored tractor and splendidly decorated trailer.

NATURE NOTES FOR APRIL

The Roman *Aperilis* – from *aperio*, to open or display: the month when the Earth opens. All Fool's Day has been observed in England since the mid 17th century when practical jokes were played. They generally took the form of sending gullible victims in search of something such as elbow grease or pigeon's milk, or simply sending them from one person to another with a supposedly important message. The origin of this tradition is unknown, but it is generally thought to derive from the French *poisson d'Avril* (literally, April fish). The French term was used in the late 15th century for a go-between in an amorous liaison, and it may have progressed to sending someone on a fool's errand. The *poisson d'Avril* custom also involved pinning a paper fish on the back of someone's clothing, without their knowledge, to make that person a butt of ridicule.

Two rather unusual incidents happened a couple of weeks ago during the last warm spell. Firstly, I looked out of the kitchen window and to my surprise saw feeding on the rosemary flowers, a humming-bird hawk moth. It continued to flit from flower to flower for a couple of hours. This hawk moth is a summer visitor which migrates each year from the South of France where it is extremely common. It is a day flying moth and feeds on flowers such as geraniums, honeysuckle, petunias and verbenas. Exactly like a humming bird it hovers in front of flowers and inserts its long proboscis into the flower to drink the nectar. It moves from one bloom to the next with a characteristic darting action. While hovering it beats its wings at such a high speed that they are just a blur. It also gives off a high-pitched humming sound that is said to be more audible to women than men. In my butterfly and moth field guide, published in 1986, it quotes "about 50 humming-bird hawk moths are reported in Britain each year". Over the last few years that has certainly changed and the 50 is now probably thousands. Last year saw a massive influx and they are generally seen in the southern counties between May and September. Last August we saw about 20 to 30 on honeysuckle bushes at Kiftgate. Some moths now hibernate in the warmer areas of the country, and while this early sighting is quite rare in the Midlands, it is not uncommon in the South.

The second unusual incident was the discovery of frogspawn, which in itself is unusual now in Oxhill. But far more curious was that it was found in one of the flash flood pools in Mrs Rodwell's first field off Back Lane. Neil Chick alerted me to this and we all went on an "adventure" to see if there was any more – unfortunately there was not. As this flash flood had already started to dry out and with the danger from the Heron, the frogspawn has been moved to a safer location – hopefully Oxhill will have at least one hatch of frogs!

Those of you who walk down Manor Lane will also have noticed the rather smart piece of hedge laying, another rarity and so much better than the mechanical hedge flail, much beloved of the County Council, which not only makes a dreadful mess, but opens up the damaged trees to infection. Did you know that not so long ago every county had its own style and height of hedge laying and gates. The tools – slasher and bill hook – also had county characteristics. I have all my late father-in-law's hedge laying tools, and he

was known as one of the best hedge layers in Warwickshire. As you look at the hedge notice the “heathering” (plaiting) along the top. The hedge layer ‘plashes’ these in a particular style, and this is the Warwickshire style.

Figures released by the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology showed that the total hedgerow length fell from 341,000 miles in 1984 to 266,000 by 1990, accounting in six years for a third of the entire post-war loss. This destruction is still going on. Hedges still mark ancient boundaries between manors, parishes or large estates. Saxon settlers called the hedge haga, derived from their name for the hawthorn fruit. Many of our Midland hedges were planned and planted only two hundred years ago as common land was parcelled out to landowners and enclosed. Max Hooper laid out a now quite well known formula, that the number of different woody species in a 30 yard stretch equals the age of that hedge in centuries. This is only a general rule of thumb and not an exact equation (we created a hedge in our garden with 11 species – gosh, 1100 years old already!).

Grenville Moore

OXHILL GARDEN CLUB

The format for the March meeting was the Club’s Annual General Meeting. Myrtle Knight as Chairman gave her report, as did the Secretary and Treasurer. As April 19th would be the last indoor meeting to be held until September member’s attention was drawn to the various dates for outings and events taking place over the summer. The rest of the business was dealt with fairly swiftly and the members were then able to enjoy an evening of cheese and wine and socialise at their leisure.

The speaker for April 19th meeting will be Mr Gerald Sinclair who will talk on Discovering Day Lilies. All visitors and new members will be most welcome. The meeting will be held at the village hall at 7.30 p.m.

A few places still remain on the Gardening Workshops on 14th April. If interested, please contact me on 01295 680041.

The Club Plant Sale will be held at our May meeting on 10th May. Note that this is the second Thursday rather than the normal third Thursday.

Anne Netherclef

OXHILL GARDEN CLUB

NORMANDY GARDENS

This year’s coach trip to gardens in Normandy takes place over the weekend of 18th – 20th May.

If you are interested in going please contact Lilian on 680468.

NOTES OF A MEETING OF OXHILL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 13th MARCH at 8.00 P.M. IN THE VIL- LAGE HALL

Apologies received from David Hill. The meeting was chaired by Tom Heritage, all other Councillors were present.

MATTERS DISCUSSED

FINANCE

Production costs for the Oxhill News of £364.03 for the year was paid.

A request from the Village Hall Committee for help towards the cost of new chairs was granted at £400. £100 was paid towards the cost of mowing the Village Hall grass.

Affiliate Membership CVS of 27.50 would be paid by the Village Liaison project for this year. This was accepted.

HIGHWAYS

The footway on the left hand side of the Whatcote Road would be included in the 2007/2008 programme, and the signpost at the top of Green Lane on the Whatcote Road would be replaced.

The section of footway across from the Peacock is getting very uneven and broken. Another villager has had a nasty fall whilst others walk in the road. This item will be put on the Agenda for the Parish Meeting on 17th April to seek opinion on replacing these old slabs with tarmac.

To help reduce traffic through the village a suggestion had been put forward to change the road priority by the church in favour of Green Lane. This has been put to Warwickshire County Council Traffic Section.

PLANNING

Application to fell three trees at Meadow Cottage was returned with no objection.

Application for monopole and transmission dishes at Windmill Farm was returned with no objection.

Application for conservatory to rear at Windmill Farm was returned with no objection.

Listed Building consent was granted for relocation of bathroom at Oxhill House.

Planning consent was granted to fell three trees at Merrilees.

TREE WARDEN SCHEME

Being a Tree Warden is a volunteer position open to anyone with an enthusiasm for trees. If you are interested please let us know.

BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION

This item will be placed on the Agenda for the Parish Meeting.

WARWICKSHIRE POLICE – SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS

Warwickshire Police have created Safer Neighbourhood Teams to meet the demands of our local communities for a more visible and effective presence and tackle crimes such as graffiti and anti social behaviour. You are invited to share your issues with them. Please help by emailing your concerns to them (sr.snt@warwickshire.police.uk) using the headings:

Type of issue Location Comments/requests for action

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 8th May 2007 at 8.00 p.m. in the Village Hall.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Tuesday 17th April at 8.00 p.m. in the Village Hall. This is your meeting. Please let me have any further items for the Agenda or just come along to the meeting.

Angela Kean, Clerk

OXHILL SCARECROW WEEKEND

Application for Road Closure

Would all villagers kindly note that an application has been made to Stratford on Avon District Council for the closure of roads in and around the village of Oxhill on Saturday the 16th June and Sunday the 17th June 2007 between 10 a.m. and midnight on Saturday and 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Sunday.

Details of closure – Main Street & Church Lane, Oxhill - for their full length. Main Street from the junction with Kineton Road and Whatcote Road at one end of the village until it becomes Church Lane and continuing to its junction with Green Lane and Tysoe Road adjacent to the Church at the other end of the village. It is expected that a large number of pedestrians will be in the village and from previous experience it is desirable to ensure the safety of all visitors by diverting through traffic away from the centre of the village.

Diversionsary Route – the alternative route during the period of closure will be via Green Lane and the Whatcote Road and represents only a minor detour.

Access – will be maintained to all properties at all times.

Should any residents have any concerns about this application they are asked to contact Lilian Welsby on 680468.

VILLAGE HALL FOR SALE

A headline I hope nobody wants to see, but it looms on the horizon as a possibility. We have listened to Villagers comments and improved the hall and its facilities considerably. The running and maintenance of the hall fall on the shoulders of a small number of people. The cost of the hall is not being met due to under use. In the seven years of tenure of this committee the maximum attendance at our AGM is two. This from a village of 360 people. It is time you, the villagers took responsibility. The next AGM is to be held at the Village Hall on 3rd May 2007 at 8 p.m. We need people to be involved, particularly those with financial or organising skills or a willingness to help by providing their time.

The next two events are:

The Casino Night on Saturday 2nd June 2007

The Progressive Supper on Saturday 7th July 2007

If you wish to support these functions, please contact:

Casino Night -Ray 680850

Progressive Supper – Diana 680938

The Committee

[I seems to me that this notice raises a number of questions. They could be addressed at the A.G.M or, perhaps, in the next issue of the News, which is due out just before the A.G.M. Ed.]

SCARECROW FESTIVAL

CRAFT FAIR

OPEN GARDENS

16th – 17th JUNE

I am sorry I gave George the wrong date for him to publish in the March News. The date above is the correct one, and events will run from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Any items you might have for the tombola or the bric-a-brac stall would be much appreciated. Please give them to me.

Any offers of help for the weekend will also be gratefully received. We do need loads of help as it is a very busy time. If you can help in any way please let me know.

Lilian, 680468

HOMEOPATHY

We have heard that Carol Bowler is training in Homeopathy and is also a qualified shaman. Anyone interested can contact her on 680279.

Editor

WI REPORT

Mr Godfrey entitled his illustrated talk 'Postman's Knock'.

Complaints about the carriers of mail and abuses of the system were part and parcel of the history of the mail.

Brian Tuke set up five major routes for Henry VIII to send missives about his kingdom. It used walking post boys for distances of 10- 20 miles, or messengers on horses for longer distances in stages. Post haste was faster without stops.

Even though Queen Elizabeth 1 had a favourable rate of 1d/mile for her post, there were 16 years when it wasn't paid. Post was opened to the public in the reign of Charles 1st, but at 2d for 40 miles or 8d to Scotland even for the literate poor it wasn't accessible.

Some time later high performance coaches, rented from a middle man were brought in to cut the journey time on the West Country route- an idea imported from France. The sound of the post horn made turn pike operators leap into action because the post could not be delayed. The idea of pay to use roads built by local businessmen struck a familiar chord.

Roland Hill worked hard at post office reform, removing free postage for MPs and newspapers; introducing pre-payment; reducing the cost to 1d and introducing post-codes. He was so difficult to work with he had to work in the Treasury.

Rosemary Brown was the hostess. Molly Swift, Ramona Richards and Ann Evans provided the refreshments. Flower of the month: 1st. Kath Silman (leucojum or spring snowflake); 2nd. Myrtle Knight (hellebore)

Members busily signed up to offer items for the display of current members' skills, to steward, to bake cakes and biscuits for visitors to the 90th Birthday Exhibition, to make table arrangements of spring flowers for the evening meal and to enter the Spring Show.

We were reminded that our new project is to help fund the Tysoe schoolchildren's cooking area. Special events to raise funds are:

Tysoe coffee morning: Reading Room: 26th May

Whatcote Strawberry Tea: 26th June

President's 'At Home': 8th August

Oxhill coffee morning (Autumn date)

Everyone took home a ceramic dish to commemorate our special birthday, made by Tysoe potter, Penny Varley.

Our next meeting is the 90th Birthday Celebration. (Wednesday 4 April: Exhibition and teas from 2-5 p.m.; evening dinner with musical entertainment 6.30 for 7.00).

The May meeting on Wednesday 2nd is the Spring Show & Resolutions meeting, while the meeting on June 6th (Childrearing from the 1700s) will be in Oxhill Village Hall.

Belinda Keep

JOHN GROVES

1929–2007

The following eulogy was read at the John's funeral on Tuesday 6th March

John was born to John and Ivy Groves at Hardwick Farm Kineton on 4th May 1929, another in a long line of Groves. A large farming family stretching across Warwickshire, Oxford, and with some family still in Devon today.

John was the first-born, followed by a sister Sylvia and a younger brother Timothy. They followed their ancestors before them, farming many acres of land, working long hours. An early memory of John is as a young teenager cycling from Kineton to Oxhill, where he then walked some distance across the fields to harness up 'Duke', his white horse, and then load up the cart with hay to feed the many animals around, sometimes before his school day started.

Of course post-war farming was hard work without any of the modern machinery or amenities we have today, but John accepted the harshness of the elements and worked with dedication; he often spoke fondly of working alongside the land girls and prisoners of war that were allocated to work on his father's farms.

As the years moved on John and Sylvia moved to Oxhill Farm, where John would often be seen on his tractor around the village, still working as hard as ever, without even a day off let alone a holiday. His love of all animals drove him on. But if anyone were to call into the farm to visit he always made them welcome, opening the whiskey bottle and retelling farming stories of times gone by and relating old weather lore. His vast knowledge of the British Isles was amazing for a non-driver. If you asked where a place was he would reply "I know where that is. We went to a farm sale there years ago."

Although he had no children of his own he was especially fond of Timothy's children; his two nieces Shelley and Carley and his two nephews Ryan and Shaun. He also encouraged the children of the village to help with the calf feeding, the bottle feeding of pet lambs and searching in the bales in the barns for eggs or the latest litter of kittens. A special treat for John was market day, when after an early morning start with preparations for market lambs or cattle or sheep went to be sold and, sometimes, the youngsters were treated to dinner in the market café.

Age creeps up on us all, and after years of toiling John grew tired and spent more time inside enjoying his jigsaws and crossword puzzles, but still every morning he would start up his tractor to drive round the barns to feed his hens and his beloved cats.

Sadly, after never having visited a doctor, or had a stay in hospital all his life, he sat down for the last time and fell asleep.

WELCOME TO OXHILL!

Welcome to Jim and Ann Saxton who have recently moved from Coventry to 'Medway', Green Lane.

A belated welcome to Chris and Ellen Joel (also originating from Coventry) at The Peacock and to their cat (every home should have one) Jack.

An Oxhill Welcome Pack has recently been produced, jointly funded by the Parish Council and The Rural Outreach Fund as administered by the Council for Voluntary Services (CVS). The Pack contains a comprehensive list of local suppliers of goods and services together with details of clubs, societies and places of interest nearby. If you know of a potential or new resident, give me details and I will contact them.

Should you be a supplier of goods or services to the local community, you merit an entry in the general listing – albeit there is no implicit endorsement or preferment. The Pack, too, is designed to incorporate A5 advertising leaflets should you wish to detail more fully what you have on offer.

Doug Netherclef (VLO, Oxhill) 01295 680041

VICARAGE NOTES

Thought for the month

In an act of suffering, the love of God was brought to our short-lived world. The altar cross reminds us that the promises of God are offered to us by the outstretched arms of the crucified.

The life of Jesus of Nazareth was part of an often-suffering world. It never ceases to amaze me that it is often those who suffer most who exemplify the greater love and peace. At Passiontide and Easter, suffering accompanies the victory that the Christian Faith sees in the resurrection.

Almighty God, who through thine only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, hast overcome death, and opened unto us the gate of everlasting life.

So proclaims the collect (special prayer) for Easter Day; may the church join faithfully in saying those words.

There is, of course, a special welcome to the special services over Holy Week and Easter, and also, if you're feeling patriotic, a welcome over the hill at Brailes for St. George – I promise a good sing with "Jerusalem" and "I vow to thee".

God bless

Nicholas Morgan, 01608 685230

POPPY DAY APPEAL 2007

Dear Oxhill,

Thank you all for supporting the Poppy Appeal so well again this year. It is entirely appropriate that we should have had another record year in this the 90th anniversary year of the Somme. The Somme was arguably one of the defining battles of the Great War, but with catastrophic loss of life. Although of limited tactical benefit, strategically it was a vital success.

Although Field Marshall Haig wanted to wait until his preparations were fully completed by August or September before committing the British Army, his hand was forced by the French, who had been fighting for months at Verdun. The French leader, Marshall Foch implored Haig to launch an offensive to draw some of the pressure off the French. This was achieved, albeit at an appalling cost in casualties, with over 20,000 British dead on the first morning. However, it relieved the pressure on the French, who were able to hang on at Verdun and confound General von Falkenhagen, whose aim at Verdun was to bleed the French white.

It is ironic that 90 years after one of the Army's greatest battles the British Army should find itself once again stretched to the utmost. With over a third of the Services currently committed to operations, the Army has not experienced operations at this intensity since the Korean War. Inevitably this will impact on the already considerable workload of The Legion.

What we have achieved at the Poppy Appeal this year would never have been possible without all the hard work of my dedicated team of collectors and the magnificent generosity of you all. Thank you very much, over £2100 has been raised. If anyone would like to be involved in collecting for next year's Poppy Appeal, please make yourself known either to myself (680234) or Pat Crowther (680705).

Yours sincerely,

David Sewell, Poppy Appeal Coordinator

[We apologise for the somewhat tardy arrival of the above, and trust that your response to the 2007 Appeal will be equally magnificent. Ed.]

OXHILL COOK BOOK

We would like to produce another Oxhill Cook Book to sell at the Flower Festival in September [more of this later – Ed.]. The last one we produced was very successful, but it was quite a long time ago now. [1977. Ed's Wife.]

Please could you let me have your favourite recipes – starters, main courses, sweets, jams, pickles, indeed anything edible at all. We really would like to make it representative of the whole village.

Lilian, Binswood Cottage.

THE PEACOCK RE-OPENS ITS DOORS

As you read this we would have been fully open for a month now and discovering what it's like to be part of the Oxhill community. We would like to say a big thanks to all those who popped in to have a look around and showed their support for the huge project we had set ourselves.

In our previous Oxhill entry we introduced ourselves. We would like to take this opportunity to re-introduce The Peacock. Our aim was to turn it into the type of pub we enjoy going to- a clean smoke free country pub with good British food and a wide range of beers wines and soft drinks. Our draughts will include Carlsberg, Tetley Smooth Flow, Timothy Taylor, and Guinness to name a few. Martin is our new head chef and has been cooking up local delights in our new fitted kitchen. You may have seen we have changed the flooring to slate as we fully expect muddy boots to come through our door. We put in a boot rack if you want to take them off and it's next to the radiator to keep them toasty warm! We can see that dogs are a big part of the Oxhill way of life and so there is a place for well-behaved dogs with their owners in our bar. A coffee machine has been installed for those who enjoy a coffee, slice of cake and a chinwag or maybe a more traditional afternoon cream tea!

We have plans for local live music and Andrew James will be joining us on Easter Sunday evening for an 'acoustic chill out'. We will also be open all day on Easter Monday. All our events will be advertised in the pub or via our new website and to be sure you don't miss out log on to our mailing list at www.thepeacockoxhill.co.uk

These are but a few of the changes in the Peacock and we look forward to you visiting and seeing the rest. We welcome any feedback, ideas or suggestions you may have for the pub. We have enjoyed the last few weeks of renovation and cannot wait to start a new chapter at The Peacock Oxhill. Thank you all again for all your support

Chris and Ellen

ART EXHIBITION

Kineton Art Group will be holding their annual Open Art Exhibition and Sale of Paintings in Kineton Village Hall on Saturday May 12th and Sunday May 13th, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day.

You are invited to look at and enjoy over 300 paintings by artists from all over the county, and have a cup of tea at the same time.

The Art Group meet each Monday evening (7.30 to 9.30) in Kineton Village Hall. There are monthly demonstrations by notable artists, and the Group arranges Workshops.

WHAT'S ON IN OXHILL

April

Wednesday 4th	10.15	The Peacock - Village Coffee Morning Tysoe Village Hall – W. I. Birthday celebrations
Saturday 14th		Village Hall - Garden Club workshop
Tuesday 17th	8.00	Village Hall - Annual Parish Meeting
Saturday 21st	7.30	St. Edmund's, Shipston - Rotary Club Concert
Friday 27th	7.30	Barn Theatre, Tysoe – Marionette show
Saturday 28th	2.30	Barn Theatre, Tysoe – Marionette show
	7.30	Barn Theatre, Tysoe – Marionette show
	7.30	Cherington Village Hall - Musical Evening

May

Thursday 3rd	8.00	Village Hall - Village Hall A.G.M.
Sunday 6th		Church Farm - Curry & Roast Lamb Lunch
Tuesday 8th	8.00	Village Hall - Parish Council Meeting
Thursday 10th	7.30	Village Hall – Garden Club plant sale
18th – 20th		Garden Club trip to Normandy
Saturday 19th	7.30	Barn Theatre, Tysoe – Marionette Show
Sunday 20th	2.30	Barn Theatre, Tysoe – Marionette Show

June

Saturday 2nd		Village Hall - Casino Night
17th & 18th		Scarecrows and Open Gardens Festival

PLANTS GOING SPARE

Hellebore Orientalis

(mixed shades)

Hellebore Foetidus

(sprays of green/cream flowers, grows in poor soil)

Euphorbia

(evergreen, will grow in gravel)

Please let me know if you are in need of space fillers. They have got to move!

Eve Whaley, 680224