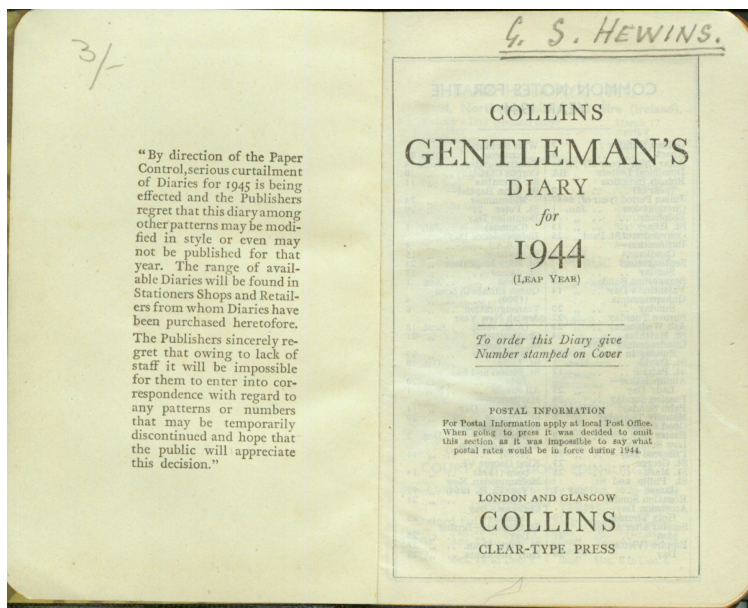


THE OXHILL NEWS



July 2007



THE HEWINS' DIARY

Quite why Paper Control instructions for 1945 were published in a diary for 1944, which by its very nature must have been printed in 1943, escapes me, but the 1944 version seems to have escaped restrictions. After the two front pages illustrated above there follow 40 pages of useful information, including the excise duty on a motor tricycle, the number of minims in a drop (1, if you need to know), the start and finish dates for Oxbridge terms, entry requirements for Brazil and Sweden, notes on wills and a list of the days on which stock dividends would be paid at the Bank of England. The Golden Number was 7, the Solar Cycle 21, the Julian Period 6657 and July 1st was a Saturday.

So now you know.

AUGUST ISSUE

Please could I have all copy for the August issue by Midnight on **Thursday, 26th July**? If you normally prepare your material using a computer, it would make my life easier if you could submit your offering in electronic form, though paper is, of course, fine. 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

Another rousing victory for Lewis Hamilton as he sweeps down the Whatcote Road. Picture, and everything else, courtesy The Collins.

SCARECROW WEEKEND

Well you did it again! What an absolutely wonderful weekend.

I have never seen so many people in this village, and all looked so happy. Scarecrows do put a smile on your face, from children upwards!

I do not know where to start with the Thank Yous to everybody that made those fantastic scarecrows, which this year seemed to pop up everywhere. What a great effort, a lot of work for you all. Thank you, it was worth it. Without them we would not have had such success.

To all involved with the road closure, bollards, signs, posters and publicity – Thank you.

For the trip to Birmingham market for flowers, to the flower arrangers – Thank you. The Church looked lovely.

To everyone that had gardens open – Thank you. It was a lot of hard work but it was most appreciated.

One thing we could not do without was the many many people that helped on stalls, in the car park, with teas, with setting up on Saturday and Sunday mornings and, most of all, clearing away on Sunday evening – a very big Thank you.

To Gaynor and her team for looking after the Teas – a very big Thank you.

Another very big Thank you to all that worked on the pig roast; shame about the weather but we all managed to get in the Hall and had a good evening. Thank you, Carol and Tom.

To Jill and Colin for the use of the lovely Chapel for the Craft Fair – Thank you.

To my son for once again providing the straw – Thank you.

Last but by no means least, to the committee, all six of them, who worked for weeks beforehand with me to make this a success – many many thanks.

It was all in all a very successful weekend. We raised a grand total of £2,643 for Church funds.

The village does still look a bit weird, as many of the scarecrows have been bagged up ready to be unfrocked for the Chernobyl Children's visit on Saturday 30th June.

I did see one person on Sunday take a picture of the Goths outside my house all bagged up. I don't know what he thought they were, but they look as if they were ready for the hangman!

Once again many many thanks to you all.

Lilian

ST. LAWRENCE'S CHURCH, OXHILL

SERVICES IN JULY

All are warmly welcome

Sunday 1st	Trinity IV	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion (ML)
Sunday 8th	Trinity V	8.30 a.m.	Holy Communion (ML)
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong (ML)
Sunday 15th	Trinity VI	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion (ML)
Sunday 22nd	Trinity VII	3.30 p.m.	Family Pet Service at The Manor (NM)
Sunday 29th	Trinity VIII	11.00 a.m.	United Benefice Service at Tysoe

CURRY AND ROAST LAMB LUNCH

I am sorry I forgot the report on this event last month.

A big Thank you to Ann and Tom Heritage for giving up their home to us on Sunday 6th May. We had a very pleasant and successful lunch, with over £500 being made for Church funds.

Thanks to everyone who worked so hard.

Lilian

FLOWER FESTIVAL

The Church fund-raising committee and its supporters are now taking a well-earned break until the weekend of September 15th and 16th, when there will be a Flower Festival with a Harvest theme in the Church.

We would like to get as many people as possible involved with this event, as it will be more hard work. There will be further details published at a later date.

Lilian

LOST AND FOUND AGAIN

During the scarecrow production period I found a ladies silver watch by the straw at the village hall. If it is yours please let me know and I will return it to you.

David, Duckpool Barn, Rouse Lane, ☎ 680 880

CHERNOBYL'S CHILDREN

COFFEE MORNING

at

THE OLD CHURCH HOUSE

OXHILL

(If wet, in Village Hall)

SATURDAY 30th JUNE 2007

10 a.m. - 12 noon

CAKE, PRODUCE and PLANT STALLS

Any donations of cakes, preserves and plants will be most welcome

The Chernobyl Children will be attending the Coffee Morning and afterwards will be going for a walk around the village. It would be appreciated if anyone who made a scarecrow for the festival on 17th and 18th June would keep them and put them out again on 30th June, as I am sure the children would really love to see them.

Anne Marshall Tel 68041

THE OLD FIRE STATION

Shortly after our last issue went to press we received a flyer from The Old Fire Station in Tysoe giving details of their new course programme. Courses included Computing for Improvers, Drawing and Family Research. Unfortunately all of these started in the middle of June and only run for five weeks anyway, but if you feel you might be interested in the future you could 'phone 01295 688244 and add yourself to their mailing list. They will then contact you direct with details of courses and events.

Over 50s who are free on Mondays between 10 a.m. and 12 noon and would like help using the internet might like to drop in and join the Silver Surfers – help is available.

Editor

NATURE NOTES FOR JULY

Anglo-Saxon names for this month include Haymonath or Maedmonath, referring respectively to haymaking and the flowering of the meadows. The modern word July was formerly pronounced with the stress on the first syllable, as in duly or truly. The change in pronunciation took place in the 18th century, probably to make the name sound less like June. As the month progresses, the crops ripen and the fields start to turn from green to gold. There was little if any respite between the end of haymaking and harvest, and it was considered unlucky to marry at this time – “They that wive between sickle and scythe shall never thrive”!

Talking of hay meadows, we now only have two or three in or around Oxhill. Not long ago the hay meadow was the most common type of field in the lowlands. I read that of those, a mere 5% have escaped agricultural intensification. The 1980s were probably the worst decade of escalating loss; in just six years Dorset lost 60% of its best flower meadows. Graham Harvey wrote “The flower-rich hay meadow is a masterpiece of the pastoral arts. Like the great cathedrals, its construction has taken a century or more. Like them it is the handiwork of generations of unknown craftspeople.”

A traditional hay meadow could have as many as 150 different grasses and flowers just in the one field. It would be cut after mid-July giving the grasses and flowers time to set seed and also giving time for the ground nesting birds to fledge and a myriad of insects to go through their life cycle. These types of meadows are traditional or “unimproved”; they receive only an occasional light dressing of farmyard manure or lime. “Improved” grassland receives artificial fertiliser which encourages the stronger grasses that out-compete and severely reduce the abundance of flowering plants. Sadly a lot of the Oxhill hay meadows are “improved”. Some of the meadow grasses have wonderful names. In just a few minutes I picked nine different grasses from Mrs Rodwell’s bank: perennial rye grass, red fescue, sheep’s fescue, cock’s foot, crested dog’s tail, Yorkshire fog, false oat grass, timothy, and wall barley. Of course a hay meadow is wonderful for wildlife. I was recently working in Lower Tysoe and behind the house is an old orchard and meadow of about an acre, rich in wildflowers and grasses. For about ten minutes I watched a pair of greenfinches burrow their way through the grass tussocks feeding on seed heads. I could hear the “snapping” of the seeds and see the small casings flying out from their beaks as they extracted the seeds. Other birds and animals will also frequent this field; goldfinches search for thistle and knapweed seeds; linnets will eat the seeds of sorrel and dandelion; kestrels and barn owls will hunt for long-tailed field mice, bank voles, field voles, and shrews; burnet moths, meadow brown, small copper, skipper and orange tip butterflies will visit their food plants; grasshoppers, crickets, meadow ants, beetles, crane flies, rabbits, hares, foxes, and the occasional deer will also visit or be present.

These wonderful, almost vanished, places should be preserved. I think a movement should be started so every parish in the country has at least one traditional hay meadow.

Did you know that in Warwickshire those delightful triangular islands of grass at the junctions of two or three old country lanes are known as “jam puffs” or “god cakes”?

*Here lye two poor lovers, who had the mishap
Tho' very chaste people, to die of a Clap*

Epitaph at Stanton Harcourt, Oxfordshire, allegedly by Alexander Pope, on *"John Hewett and Margaret Drew, an Industrious young man and Virtuous Maiden of this Parish, Contracted in Marriage; who being at Harvest-Work were in one instant killed by Lightning, the last day of July 1718"*.

Grenville Moore

OXHILL GARDEN CLUB

We must have some very righteous people in our garden club because we managed to have a lovely evening party in the garden of Ruth Gibson without getting drenched, must have been the only dry few hours this week. Thanks to Ruth for hosting the party and for the obvious hard work that had gone into preparing the garden for us. There is a day trip planned to Powys Castle on Wednesday 11th July. These are spectacular gardens and this should be a very pleasant day not to be missed. You do not have to be a garden club member to join the party, just give Lilian Welsby a ring on 680 468.

Heather Brennan, Secretary

SCARECROW WEEKEND

TEAS AND CAKES

A big big thank you to all of you who helped make the weekend such a success.

Thanks to you all who slaved away over hot stoves in order to provide us with the delicious cakes we are famous for. Although the weather at times was against us the village hall was full of people looking for teas and cakes. Can you believe we ran out of scones on Saturday and people had to be dispatched to bake more! Much appreciated everyone!

Thanks to all of you who lugged tables and chairs around, set them up and arranged the flowers, and of course a big thanks to the merry band who served the teas and cakes, did battle with the tea urn (a health and safety nightmare) and the valiant who donned the marigolds. You are too numerous to mention individually but your help and support is greatly appreciated.

And finally a big thank you to Lilian who is the mastermind behind the whole event. She's already planning next year so beware!

Thanks again everyone we couldn't do it without you!

Gaynor Fila

WI REPORT

June 2007

Mrs J. Warner gave us a brief history of childrearing. We were then able to look at a wide selection of items from her museum of childrearing. We heard that the design of early feeding bottles meant that they were unhygienic and impossible to clean thoroughly. Together with an overall lack of hygiene, contaminated milk supplies and very little knowledge of babies' dietary needs, the mortality rate of the under twos was horrendous up until the late Victorian period.

Mary Greenway was the hostess. Gwen Pritchard and Sue Price served us samples of three Kenco coffees so we could choose our favourite and enter a draw. One of us might be the lucky winner of a fortnight's holiday in Brazil or Costa Rica. The flowers of the month were a rose and clematis.

Thanks to all who supported the Tysoe coffee morning we hope to present a cheque for £250 towards the Tysoe schoolchildren's cooking area.

Belinda Keep

THE HEWINS' DIARY, PART 2

Two more pages from the 1944 diary of the Rector of Oxhill.

You will doubtless be pleased to learn that future extracts from the diary will be presented in the form of transcripts from Ann Hale, so you will not have to strain your eyes trying to read the handwriting.

Editor

PERSONAL MEMORANDA.		Train Service.	
		To Town	From Town
Watch No.....			
Season Ticket No.....			
Motor No.....			
Bicycle No.....			
Bank Pass Book No.....			
Telephone No.....			
Telegraphic Address.....			
Size in Gloves.....			
Size in Collar.....	16		
Size in Hats.....	7		
Size in Boots.....	8		
Weight.....st.....lbs.			
Height.....ft.....ins.			
Insurance falls due on.....			
Name and Address.....	J. HEWINS		
Identity Card No.....	RKOA/1167/r		

SEASONS (ASTRONOMICAL) 1944.	
Spring Equinox—Sun enters Sign Aries, March 20, 6 p.m.	
Summer Solstice—Sun enters Sign Cancer, June 21, 1 p.m.	
Autumnal Equinox—Sun enters Sign Libra, September 23, 4 a.m.	
Winter Solstice—Sun enters Sign Capricornus, December 21, 11 p.m.	

(Times are G.M.T.)

JANUARY 1944

Five Day. ^{Saturday 1} ~~Friday~~ ^{to be cold.}
We had a parcel from Annie Katie containing a Penny Ring, a tube, Saffron, Christmas & other good things.
Received quarterly cheque from Eccl: Comm.
Wrote letters in Study in aft.
E. did some wood-cutting.

Y. ^{2nd after Christmas} ^{Sunday 2} ^{B.}
Fine, but Wind rather cold.
Took M. + H.C. at Oxhill at 11 (Y). Walked to Winstock for Evening at 3. Dinky + Betsy were out.
We had for lunch the second of the Christmas Plum Baking.
Started to mend & kidnapped to D.

NEWS FROM THE PEACOCK

June seems to have whizzed by and its been great fun, if a little wetter than we would have liked!

The food has been going really well, and Nick seems to have settled in well. We are in the process of tweaking the menu again driven by the seasonal changes as we are now coming to the end of a fantastic Asparagus season, but the good news is that the Strawberries are here and the ones from Kineton are very tasty.

Once again entertainment has been well on the agenda and we have had two good nights, from the Farm Cart Orchestra and Andrew James. Next month we are looking to plan some more events and we are looking to get another local band (to be named once secured) to play, so pencil into your diary for 28th July.

Even with the weather the Scarecrow weekend was very enjoyable. I especially enjoyed the street atmosphere that it generated. Well done to Lillian for all her hard work.

June was the first month that we had both a coffee morning and the village lunch club which seemed to go down very well so we will put it on again in July – Coffee morning will be on Wednesday 4th and lunch club will be on Wednesday 18th. I will give out menus at the coffee morning.

Also we are planning the next Peacock quiz for 22nd July and if its anything like last time I would recommend you reserve your place soon.

Here's hoping for more sunshine so we can get some more use from the BBQ.

Chris and Ellen

A SPOT OF FRENCH LEAVE?

We hear that Sue Hutsby still has some vacancies this summer (including July and August) at her hilltop farmhouse in the Tarn & Garonne region of France. Three double bedrooms, two bathrooms, two acres of gardens and a swimming pool. Easy flight access from Birmingham or Stanstead.

For more details you can phone Sue on 01926 640309, or email her at inthecountry@nolandsfarm.co.uk.

Editor

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

The progressive supper was held last Saturday and according to those who took part was a great success. The format was a little different this time with everyone piling into the Village Hall at the end of the evening for their pudding. A special thank you to Diana Cronin and all her merry band of helpers for making this event such a success and raising a tidy sum to boot. Apparently the hall looked stunning. Well done Diana.

While we are on the subject of praise we must give a special thank you to Pat and Pat and all their helpers who organised the Greek evening last month which was not only a very merry evening with loads of lovely Greek food but also raised a substantial amount for the Village Hall.

We are now planning several events for the future and hope that you will all give us your continued support. Since the Greek evening proved to be so popular we are planning to hold a Hallowe'en Evening on 26th October at which we will be serving traditional food from around Britain – details later but make sure you put the date in your diary.

Of course the Bill Gardener Football Challenge is always a fun day out for the whole family and we are hoping to hold it this year on 1st September. As usual we will also be holding a BBQ make sure you get your boots out of the cupboard and your team practising their footie. More details later.

On Sunday August 12th Hugh Rowse of the Oxhill Walkers has kindly agreed (with a bit of arm twisting) to lead a walk for us. We will set out from the Village Hall and do a circular walk of about five miles returning to the Hall for hot dogs, lager and lemonade around lunchtime. Children and dogs are welcome so long as they are accompanied by big people willing to carry them when they get tired. Seriously please come along, you will see a very different perspective of the local countryside when you are walking rather than driving in your car. Don't miss it – we hope it will be a great family event. Details to follow.

Judy Badger, Secretary

FAMILY PET SERVICE

3.30 p.m. July 22nd

All are warmly invited to a special pet service at Oxhill Manor by kind invitation of Mrs Gill Rodwell. Oxhill has enjoyed pet services over the years and we would like to continue these in the future. Do come if you can and bring your pets (dogs should be on leads).

Nicholas Morgan

VICARAGE NOTES

Thought for the month

As the Christian Year unfolds in the season of Trinity, with its focus on life and growth, these words of blessing from David Adam seem specially appropriate:

The sacred three be over me
with my working hands this day
with the people on my way
with the labour and the toil
with the land and with the soil
with the tools that I take
with the things that I make
with the thoughts of my mind
with the sharing of mankind
with the love of my heart
with each one who plays a part
the sacred three be over me
the blessing of the Trinity.

Scarecrow Weekend

On behalf of St. Lawrence's Church, may I thank Lilian Welsby and the organising committee, all who gave their time over the weekend in gardens, stalls and teas, and those who helped with the car park, advertising and behind the scenes organisation! It was a great team effort, with visitors from round and about enjoying the weekend, particularly on the Sunday, and contributing to the overall proceeds of £2650 – a significant increase on last year. Congratulations, everyone!

Local Events

There's a warm invitation to Brailes Church Fete at The Village Hall on July 7th and to a very special treat – the Stratford Flute Festival Concert. This will be held at Brailes Church at 7.30 p.m. on Saturday July 28th. Tickets will be £5 each.

Websites

I am certainly no computer buff, but I know that the Oxhill Village website is regularly applauded as one of the best in the country. Thanks continue to go to the webmaster Mike Collins and others involved. Visit www.oxhill.org.uk. A new weblink kindly provided by Jim Saxton for St. Lawrence's is a modest fundraising opportunity by which folk who purchase things on-line can benefit the Church. To see what it is all about visit <http://buy.at/oxhill>.

God bless, Nicholas Morgan, 01608 685230

WHAT'S ON IN OXHILL

June

Saturday 30th	10.00	The Old Church House – Coffee Morning in aid of Chernobyl's Children
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July

Wednesday 4th	10.15	The Peacock – Village Coffee Morning
	7.30	Tysoe Village Hall – WI meeting – Mrs L. Ridgley, local maps
Thursday 5th	7.30	Compton Wynyates – Shipston Home Nursing
Tuesday 10th	8.00	Village Hall – Parish Council meeting
Wednesday 11th		Powys Castle – Garden Club trip
Wednesday 18th		The Peacock – Village Lunch Club
Sunday 22nd	3.30	The Manor – Family Pet Service
Thursday 26th	23.59	Copy deadline for the News

August

Wednesday 8th		Tysoe WI – President's 'At Home'
Sunday 12th		Village Hall Fun Walk

September

Saturday 1st		Bill Gardner Football Challenge and Barbeque
Wednesday 5th	7.30	Tysoe Village Hall – WI meeting - Nuclear energy. Also the judging of 3 lettuces for the Oxhill Cup
Saturday 15th & Sunday 16th		Flower Festival
Saturday 29th		Village Hall - Harvest Supper

October

Friday 26th	7.30	Village Hall – Hallowe'en Supper
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CONCERT IN LONG COMPTON

The Warwickshire Singers, directed by Paul Sudlow, are, with soprano Barbara Rodway and the Almayer String Quartet, providing a concert on Saturday 7th July at 7.30 p.m. in the Church of St. Peter & St. Paul, Long Compton.

Music by Pergolesi, Haydn, Elgar and Shearing will be performed. There will be an admission charge of £8, and proceeds are in aid of Church Funds.