

THE OXHILL NEWS



June 2007

CHERNOBYL'S CHILDREN

COFFEE MORNING

at

THE OLD CHURCH HOUSE OXHILL

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

JULY ISSUE

Please could I have all copy for the July issue by Midnight on **Sunday, 24th June**? If you normally prepare your material using a computer, it would make my life easier if you could submit your offering in electronic form, though paper is, of course, fine. 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

Returning to our French theme after the Mae diversion, we offer this splendid shot taken by David Kean in Calais. I cannot say I have ever seen the place myself, but promise to keep a careful lookout the next time I rush from ferry to motorway or vice versa. I suspect though that it is in a quite different part of town.

Editor

OXHILL PROGRESSIVE SUPPER

Saturday 23rd June

Enjoy good company, good food and good wine.

What better way to spend a Saturday evening?

Please call **Diana** on **680938** (or email **dianacronin@fsmail.net**) to confirm if you would like to host a course (and if so which course, and for how many) or simply to join in as a guest.

THE LEAGUE OF FRIENDS OF SHIPSTON HOSPITALS

The League of Friends is a group of volunteers who feel that having a hospital and care home in our local area is a wonderful amenity that we are anxious to preserve.

We raise funds in order to provide additional equipment and facilities for the benefit of patients in both the Ellen Badger Hospital and Low Furlong Care Home.

Please help us to continue our efforts by being a Friend of the Shipston Hospitals too and contributing £1, or more if you wish, per year.

If you would like to become a Friend please ring me on 01295 680420 and I will put you on my list and collect your money during August or September.

Many thanks, *Ruth Gibson*

THANK YOU

Thank you to all those who made it to my Art Exhibition with Quaker Artists and Friends, over the May Day bank holiday.

I was very touched by the turn out from the village. It was very nice that so many people took an interest.

Although I was there for short periods everyday at the exhibition I unfortunately did not get to see all the people who came so my apologies to anyone I missed.

Daniel Hale

ST. LAWRENCE'S CHURCH, OXHILL

SERVICES IN JUNE

All are warmly welcome

Sunday 3rd	Trinity Sunday	9.30	Holy Communion (ML)
Sunday 10th	Trinity I	8.30	Holy Communion (ML)
		6.30	Evensong (ML)
Sunday 17th	Trinity II	3.30	Festival Praise (NM)
Sunday 24th	Trinity III	9.30	Family Service (NM)

ST. LAWRENCE GOES ON-LINE

St. Lawrence PCC, Oxhill has decided to launch an on-line shop to help with fundraising for the church.

This shop is available to charities and allows those using it to buy goods at the normal internet prices from major companies like M&S, John Lewis, Tesco, Thompsonfly and many more. But by using the church on-line shop those companies will pay between 2%-10% of the purchase price to the church as a charity.

So please support us by shopping at <http://buy.at/oxhill> .

Jim Saxton

A CALL FOR CAKES!

SCARECROW WEEKEND JUNE 16 AND 17

CAKES AND HELP URGENTLY REQUIRED!

Once again will all the cake bakers of Oxhill rise to the challenge and provide us with the wonderful array of cakes, scones and gateaux that we are famous for? Last year the weekend raised an amazing £2400. You can imagine how many cups of tea and slices of cake were served, let alone how much washing up was done. We have a marvellous band of helpers but this year we need even more. So if you can spare even 1hr of time on either Saturday or Sunday to help with teas or on stalls or washing up (we provide the Marigolds) we would be very grateful to hear from you! I will try to ring as many of you as is possible but if I don't manage to speak to everyone please accept my thanks for all the support we receive.

Please ring me on 680473 or Lilian on 680468.

Gaynor Fila

YOUR VILLAGE NEEDS YOUR CAKES!

SCARECROW WEEKEND

June 16th will soon be upon us! The straw for stuffing your scarecrows will be outside the village hall in the next few days, and we hope you will all be just as inventive and industrious in producing attractive scarecrows as in past years.

There will be a meeting in the village hall on Thursday 31st May at 7.30 for communal scarecrow building, but this notice may perhaps reach you just a little late! If you want to produce a scarecrow (or several?) but need help and advice then please contact me.

There will be a pig roast in the grounds of the village hall in the evening of Saturday 16th. Tickets at £7.50 are available from Lilian on 680468 or Rosemary on 680260.

If you have plants that you could donate to the Plant Stall please could you take them to Janet Gardner at Oddcot.

The flowers will be arranged in the Church on Thursday 14th. If you can lend a hand please come along to the Church any time after 10 a.m.

If you have bric-a-brac or prizes for the tombola please could you get them to me a few days before the event as it takes me some time to deal with the tombola.

Last year we had lovely scarecrows and a really fun weekend, so let's all try and make it even better this year.

Many thanks, Lilian

APPLICATION FOR ROAD CLOSURE

Oxhill Scarecrow Event

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 10am 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.

NOTES OF THE OXHILL ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 8th MAY AT 8.00 P.M. IN THE VILLAGE HALL

All Councillors were present.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Proposed David Hill to remain as Chairman and Tom Heritage to remain as Vice Chairman. Both Councillors accepted.

MATTERS DISCUSSED

FINANCE

Mandatory Insurance cover was paid at £294.28. £150 was accepted by the Clerk as an honorarium including admin expenses. Rural Outreach Fund had contributed £100 towards the cost of producing copies of the Welcome Packs. The Account of Receipts and Payments for the year ended 31st March 2007 was presented and signed by the Chairman. The Audit Account with Notes to the Account, Variation Statement and Bank Reconciliation were presented and signed by the Chairman. Notice will be posted inviting examination of the accounts.

HIGHWAYS

We will not be pursuing changing the road priority by the church after considering safety issues and the additional signs required.

Request has been made, as a matter of priority, to re-lay the old stone paving across from the "Peacock Inn"

We have requested to take part in the Speed Aware Scheme. This scheme provides a mobile flashing sign and a temporary fixed sign, both alerting motorists of the 30 mph speed limit. We have asked that the mobile sign be positioned at the bottom of Whitehill just as you enter the village.

PLANNING

Appeal against decision to refuse single storey extension at Appletree Cottage has been dismissed.

Planning consent granted for monopole and antenna at Windmill Farm

Planning consent granted for conservatory to rear at Windmill Farm

Letter had been received regarding potential development of the six-acre field which occupies the centre of the village.

VILLAGE LIAISON PROJECT

A reception was attended to mark the achievements of this project. We thank Doug Netherclef our Village Liaison Officer for the real contribution he has made to this village.

CODE OF CONDUCT

A new model Code of Conduct comes into force 1st October 2007. This Code of Conduct has been adopted by the Councillors and the necessary forms will be completed.

VILLAGE HALL

A Vote of Thanks was given for the outgoing Chairman and outgoing Committee of the Village Hall. We thank them all for their hard work over the last years and for giving up their time voluntarily in what is a thankless task.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 10th July 2007 at 8.00 p.m. in the Village Hall.

Angela Kean, Clerk

DISTRACTION BURGLARIES

Warwickshire police have asked that if anyone should see a black Audi car, registration number RJ 02 NZU or AO 55 RDY, they should phone 999 immediately with details of time and place. The people in the car(s) are allegedly responsible for distraction burglaries where they pretend to be working for the water company. They are apparently very plausible, asking, having gained admittance to a house, that the householder holds the downstairs taps to check for vibration whilst they look at the other taps around the house. These people usually, but not exclusively, target the elderly or the infirm.

David Hill

PILATES CLASSES

We have been informed that there are a few spaces available at Linda Heritage's classes in The Old Fire Station, Tysoe, for next half-term. A half term consists of six classes, running on Wednesday evenings between June 6th and July 11th.

The early class is from 7.15 to 8.15 and the late one from 8.30 to 9.30, and the course costs £33. They come with my personal recommendation – I find them cheaper than a half-hour session with my chiropractor every time Gwyn requires me to do some digging!

For further information call Linda on 01295 688058 or email her at poise_pilates@yahoo.co.uk

Editor

NATURE NOTES FOR JUNE

Celtic names for June contain words for “mid” or “middle” as this month was regarded by the Celts as the height of summer. In Welsh it is Mehefin, in Irish Gaelic Meitheamb, and a former Scottish Gaelic name is Meadhans’ambraidh! What a mouthful.

While walking up Manor Lane a couple of weeks ago my attention was drawn to the road ahead of me and in the morning sunlight I could clearly see something almost glowing a yellow orange against the grey background. As I looked at it I realised it was a Hornet (*Vespa crabro*). I haven’t seen a Hornet for several years. Apparently now rare, it has almost disappeared from south-east and central England, possibly because of persecution and loss of nesting sites. The Hornet likes to nest in hollow trees and old derelict buildings, and in fact there are several hollow trees in Manor Lane. The Hornet is one of the seven species of social wasps in Britain, all but one of them (the Cuckoo wasp) having the same sort of life history. The mated queens hibernate in a sheltered spot and emerge in spring to look for a nesting site, and I suspect that this Hornet was a queen doing just that. Having selected the site, the queen starts to collect building materials. As wasps have no wax glands, they use paper which they make from wood pulp. They have powerful jaws and will scrape away at trees, fences and sheds, and with their saliva make a paper pulp which they spread out to make combs. When I have been in my shed I have often been aware of a quiet scraping sound coming from the outside, and have gone out to see that the culprit is a wasp and watched in amazement as they “scythe” off a path of top soft wood, their jaws working away like hydraulic cutters.



If ever you get the chance to have a close look at a wasps nest (preferably a deserted one!) it is without doubt one of nature’s masterpieces of insect architecture. Wasps are probably the most unjustifiably maligned of British insects. They can undeniably be troublesome in late summer when the workers have finished looking after the young and are attracted by the ripening fruit or your al fresco meal. But a plea; please don’t kill them or set out those awful jam jar traps, instead if they are being troublesome, place a saucer with some fruit jam on some way away from your kitchen and back door and you should remain wasp free. It is not generally realised, and this is why you don’t notice wasps until late summer, that the wasps spend their time killing insects such as aphids and caterpillars and scavenging on dead animal matter, which they feed to their larvae. In return the wasp feeds on the sweet saliva that the larvae produce. On several

occasions I have been sitting in my stationary car and watched fascinated as wasps have cleared my windscreen and wiper blades of dead moths and other insect “clutter”.

My Hornet was not moving and seemed very lethargic. It had been a very wet morning and the sun was only just breaking through. It was nearly 1½ inches in length and I didn't want to see it squashed under a car tyre, so I picked it up on a leaf and put it on a gate post (see picture).

W H Hudson wrote in *Hampshire Days* in 1903 “*These large-sized October hornets are all females, wanderers from ruined homes, in search of sheltered places where, foodless and homeless ... each may live through the four dreary months to come*”.

On another subject entirely – it was lovely to see two pairs of Lapwings and several Skylarks nesting in the two large set-aside fields off Manor Lane, but now, sad to say, the set-aside is being ploughed.

The rose is at its most prolific and beautiful in June. The red rose is the symbol of love, of England and St George, of the Tudors, of Lancashire, and of the British Labour Party!! A midsummer tradition takes place annually in London. The Knollys Rose ceremony dates back to 1381 when a fine was imposed on Sir Robert Knollys (and all his heirs) for building a covered bridge between his two properties on Seething Lane without permission. Each year the fine is still paid when a red rose is taken from Seething Lane Gardens by the churchwardens of All Hallows to be presented to the Lord Mayor.

Grenville Moore

St Peter's Weekend at Whatcote

June 23rd & 24th

On Saturday 23rd June an entire Symphony Orchestra, the Leamington Sinfonia, by some feat of compression, squeeze into Whatcote Church and will perform a varied and enlivening range of works, from the gentle Elgar Chanson de Nuit/Chanson de Matin, to the showy Mozart Horn Concerto no 4, and ending with Czech composer Antonin Dvorak's warm and joyful Symphony no 8.

Is this the first time that such music has been performed in our small church ?

Tickets, priced at £8.00 (concessions £6.00) are available from PCC members, or phone 01295 680007/680294. Proceeds for St Peter's Church.

The concert will start at 7:30 p.m. and light refreshments are included.

On Sunday 24th June we are holding our annual Open Air Service at St Peter's tide in the churchyard when all are very welcome. Coffee/tea/soft drink and biscuits will be available afterwards.

Sue Price

THE RECTOR'S DIARY

I have to confess that the rural delights of Warwickshire were until recently unknown to me. The village of Oxhill, I had never heard of. That was to change with my discovery of a small diary bought at a local (Doncaster) antiques fair. It was in fact the personal record of the year 1944, of a former Rector of Oxhill the Reverend Geoffrey Shaw Hewins. Every page was completed, every day recorded in minute detail, providing a graphic account of his everyday life in wartime Oxhill and later Exhall. Though difficult to read at times, the diary is a charming record of his activities in the Oxhill locality. There are some interesting references to the war but Mr. Hewins and his family appear to have been largely unaffected and they enjoyed a rather idyllic lifestyle despite the restrictions of the times. His clerical duties are recorded but he also finds time to visit Wolverhampton, Stratford and other towns, enjoys lunch in Woolworth's, walks over the fields to Whatcote, collects windfalls from his orchard, loves reading and clearly appreciates the benefits of a stable and loving family life. It is the recording of minute everyday detail that makes the diary such fascinating reading.

By some strange coincidence my daughter has recently taken up a position at the Banbury Hospice and is now living in the area. On a recent visit, I felt I should go to nearby Oxhill and see Mr Hewins' church. The experience there was strange and moving since I felt I had come to know Mr. Hewins via his diary. Mrs. Whaley kindly invited me into the rectory, Mr. Hewins' former home, and suggested I should write an article for your local journal as she felt sure the material would be of interest to the villagers of Oxhill.

I have chosen some snippets from the diary to provide a flavour of Mr. Hewins' writing and included in the article a few illustrations from the diary itself though it is quite difficult to read.

It is my intention to pass on the diary to Ann Hale who will, I understand, deposit it in the archives at Warwick. It is without doubt a fascinating and valuable little historical document.

Alan Thrall

[We are most grateful to Alan for his kind donation of the diary, which is currently with our village historian Ann Hale. She is diligently producing a transcript for publication prior to depositing it in Warwick. The excerpts to which Alan refers, together with others provided in due course by Ann, will appear in later editions of the News. Ed.]

TYSOE MARIONETTE GROUP

The April shows of "The Cat that Walked by Himself" have raised £485, thanks to generous audiences, and with full houses for the two May performances we hope to raise a further £250. Proceeds will be divided between the four charities, namely RSPB, MIND, Marie Curie Cancer Care and the Lamin Jawara Memorial Eco Farm in The Gambia.

Jon and Ann Beeny

VICARAGE NOTES

Scarecrow Weekend

We look forward to welcoming crowds to this special annual event and my thanks go to all who have agreed to take part and, of course, Lilian Welsby and the organising team. We'll hope for fine weather! The afternoon service will be a 40 minute Trinity Songs of Praise that visitors can share for just a short while if they wish.

Local Events

There's a warm welcome to Tysoe Church Fete at The Manor on June 9th and Brailes Church Fete at Brailes Village Hall on July 7th. The Armonico Consort is at Brailes on the 16th at 7.30 p.m. – part of the Shipston Proms. Tickets are £10.

Thought for the month

The year races on. With the start of the season of Trinity green becomes the colour of the altar frontal and textiles in Church. Green is the colour of life, which is fairly obvious for anyone gazing on the fields and woodlands of this beautiful corner of Warwickshire! Some years ago an eminent psychologist suggested that schools should have greenboards rather than blackboards as it didn't tire the pupils' eyes. I can just remember greenboards but I suspect they have been replaced by "interactive whiteboards". However, I am still fond of a prayer from "Prayers of Life" by Michel Quoist, which concludes:

It has occurred to me Lord, that you didn't wait so long to paint the trees and meadows green. Your research labs were efficient, and in order not to tire us, you perfected shades of green throughout creation. The finds of men consist in discovering what you have known from time immemorial. Thank you, Lord, for being the good Father who gives his children the joy of discovering by themselves the treasures of his intelligence and love. But keep us from believing that we know everything!

God bless, Nicholas Morgan 01608 685230

GARDEN CLUB

The next meeting of the club will be on Thursday 21st June when we will hold our annual garden party at Appletree Cottage, Blackford Way, by kind invitation of Ruth Gibson. This will be followed on Wednesday July 11th by our trip to Powys Castle. Details of this trip will be published next month.

Anne Netherclef

SMOKING IN PUBLIC PLACES

It is eight years since I sold the farm, unable, due to my ill health, to continue with the rigours of agricultural life.

This Bank Holiday weekend however I returned to the full joys of rural pollution as I glanced out of the window thinking, "oh someone has lit a bonfire."

Now that was a figment of my imagination if ever there was. Green Lane was to undergo a makeover as the wind picked up. Not for us the joy of burning wood smoke, instead we were to experience the unadulterated impact of rural pollution in the form of an agricultural pea souper.

The end of the Lane was lost to us, Birch Bark was disappearing before my eyes, as I turned on the lights on my tractor mower to try to finish cutting the lawns. The visibility was the least of our problems, as gardening was now out of the question. Our friends had to be phoned to cancel the barbecue and inside the bungalow frantic efforts were being made to close the windows as quickly as possible because it was filling up with foul smelling smoke from, what we now realised, was a burning muck heap of substantial proportions.

Our clothes had begun to stink, the curtains and carpets smell and need cleaning and washing, hanging on the line, had to be redone. Worst of all for me the machine which keeps me breathing when I fall asleep seemed to concentrate the smoke and blow it into my lungs. Numerous households in the Lane were affected in similar ways.

The farmer apologised, He had tried to put out the fire which had been started by vandals or spontaneous combustion, unusual at this time of year. The Police didn't want to know, but of course if you chalk hopscotch lines on the pavement they will be there in force. The Fire Brigade were equally disinterested, unless it was life threatening, it wasn't; if the wind hadn't changed it might have been, and my life at that.

The 24 hr service for the Department of the Environment Agency? Don't make me laugh, it is a recorded message giving the number of their local offices, which in any event are only open in normal office working hours and yes, this was the Bank Holiday. Budding terrorists please note, environmental disasters are best instigated on Bank Holidays or weekends.

Four days later the fire still burned merrily, emitting clouds of noxious smoke, when, to their credit, on the Tuesday, Stratford Council stepped into gear. Thanks to them the Fire Brigade, who remember cannot do anything unless the problem is life threatening, recollected, when prompted by the Local Authority Environmental Health officer, that they now have a duty to protect the environment. With lights flashing they set to with a will and spend a couple of hours squirting water at the problem.

Progress reports begin to come thick and fast and Stratford's Environmental Health Officer can only be commended for the helpful efficiency with which he addressed the assault on our nasal epithelia. Then came the bad news, depending of course on which

way the wind was blowing, it would take the Fire Brigade three days to put out this type of fire and they haven't got the manpower or time availability.

So once again we have the incongruity of Government appointed gestapo acting as smoking police, prepared to fine you for enjoying a sly fag in any publicly accessible enclosed space. Refuse collectors spying for an opportunity to fine you for placing a dustbin out on the wrong day or with the wrong item of refuse inside. Litter wardens now wander city streets, who will dig deep into your pockets if you pick up someone else's litter and have the temerity to put it in a public bin, if by chance it is commercial litter ie a used envelope or a letter on official headed notepaper. To hell with keeping the country tidy **WE** are concerned with a nobler issue, **WE** are saving the environment.

So what happens when the whole Bank Holiday weekend is wrecked with half the village obliterated by foul smelling burning waste from agricultural industry? Absolutely nothing, because the jobsworths who wrote the legislation have not thought of something so complicated happening in their bailiwick. Anyway it wouldn't raise any revenue for this government to throw into the melting pot of wasted causes.

Oh excuse me Mr Hedley you dropped that supermarket receipt when you pulled your handkerchief out of your pocket. You do realise sir that this is a **very** serious offence, **WE** are trying to save the environment, that will be a £50, on the spot fine sir. Would you like to pay by cash, debit or credit card sir? No we don't take cheques, its the paper you see sir and the impact it has on the rainforests, American Express? That will do nicely. Have a nice day.

Alan T Hedley

APOLOGY

We are very sorry for the smoke that blew over the village (Green Lane especially) on the May Day Bank Holiday weekend.

Somehow our muck heap was set alight, either by spontaneous combustion or vandals. It was not lit by us, but as well as causing nuisance to the village we have lost a considerable amount of manurial value for the fields.

On the Saturday we spent over an hour with the digger isolating the burning part into one small heap but on Sunday the whole heap re-lit and, with the strong wind blowing, it was impossible to put it out.

Tom Heritage

SHIPSTON HOME NURSING

Events in June & July

Tuesday 5th June, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. - Champagne & Shop - Burmington Grange

Patrick and Fudge Ramsay are very kindly hosting this successful event again in their beautiful home and garden. We have moved the date on a week so that Fudge's roses will be at their best. We are also serving a delicious lunch from 12-2.

£5 entrance to include a glass of champagne.

Saturday 9th June, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. - Our Anniversary Awareness Day

Celebrating ten years of Shipston Home Nursing's terrific success.

The trustees and nurses will be there for you all to meet in either Shipston on Stour (market square), Kinton (the green) and Wellesbourne (Methodist Hall). Julian Day (Meg Rivers Cakes) is generously making 3 celebration cakes for us to hand out in each town. Please do come and join us.

Thursday 5th July, 7.30 p.m. A Summer Treat at Compton Wynyates

Stratford Chamber Choir is performing in this beautiful setting.

£25 per ticket to include canapés and wine. I have a few tickets left for this event.

Rebecca

RESPECT AND THE COUNTRYSIDE

Since moving to Oxhill thirty-two years ago I have found that the attitudes of the larger land-owners (by 'larger' I mean the land, not the person) towards those of us who own just a house and garden, have been friendly, co-operative, helpful and understanding. Few of us in the village are used to owning and managing many acres of land, and I think that, by and large, we have much admiration and respect for those who do.

Some of us wander quite freely over neighbouring field and pasture, happily straying from public paths. Our dogs and children wander even further from the public rights of way, even though they should really be confined to the same path as ourselves. This is all possible because land-owners normally do not seek confrontation or rely on stifling regulation, although both options are open to them.

A farmer put it to me in the pub the other day: 'How would you feel if I turned up on your lawn with my dogs and said, "It's OK, we're not doing any real harm"?'

This is not the biggest issue in the village but one that I would ask is considered each time we walk on someone else's property.

David Hill

NEWS FROM THE PEACOCK

Thanks to everyone for another great month of support, there has been lots going on and it's been a fun and challenging month.

The garden has now been completed and there is some new garden furniture for you to enjoy. This seemed to be very timely with the sunshine we have had and it was good to see the garden full of people enjoying themselves.

We have started to introduce some new drinks, specifically our Guest Ales and so far we have had Jennings Cocker Hoop, Adnams Explorer, Adnams Broadside, St Austell Tribute and we currently have on Old Hooky. Also for cider lovers we have introduced Thatchers Pear Cider. [I always thought fermented pear juice was called perry (and so does the OED), but there you go – Ed.] Please pop in talk to Chris about what's coming over the next month, or give us some feedback.

News from the kitchen is the introduction of a new chef, Nick Ryder, and we have developed a new menu for your enjoyment. Please pop in and take a look or book a table to try the new dishes.

On the entertainment side we have had some great evenings with Andrew James and Alan Maslen playing some chilled out acoustic and the "First Folk Friday" and "The Farm Cart Orchestra". As this is so popular we have planned some more for you. Every first Friday of the month we will have some Folk music in the bar and in June we have added to this two further dates. The Farm Cart Orchestra will be playing on the Friday of the Scarecrow weekend and Andrew James will be playing on Saturday 23rd June.

We will hold the Village Coffee Morning on Wednesday 6th June from 10.15 a.m. As usual all are welcome (gents included). And after a number of requests we will also hold a Village Lunch Club on Wednesday 20th June, giving you another time to get together during the month. We will put on a fixed two-course lunch for £7.95. Please come in to reserve a place or let us know on the coffee morning.

Look forward to seeing more of you all and enjoying the sunshine, and of course rain at night for the gardens!

Chris and Ellen

THE STROKE ASSOCIATION

May I thank all the kind people who supported me for this year's London Marathon. Through sponsorship, donations, raffles and quiz proceeds, The Stroke Association has benefited by £750. It makes all the aches and pains worthwhile!!

Many thanks to everyone who helped to achieve this total.

Tony Wilde

OXHILL VILLAGE HALL AGM

The AGM was held in the village hall on 3rd May 2007, starting at 8.00 p.m.

Chairman Ray Dagg welcomed the largest audience for an AGM for many a long year, and went on to describe the state of the Village Hall's finances. During his term as Chairman £28,000 has been raised and numerous improvements have been made to the hall. However, support for fundraising events has dwindled recently and over the last 12 months the only two successful fundraising events were the Progressive Supper and the Bill Gardner Memorial match.

Treasurer Ian Broderick presented copies of his financial report. The financial situation is not healthy with outgoings such as insurance, council tax and water rates increasing and income, particularly letting income, not keeping pace.

A lengthy discussion, somewhat heated at times, took place.

The election of the new committee was run by the outgoing treasurer, and Keith Seabridge, Julie Seabridge, Tracey Hackett, Ian Broderick, Diana Cronin, George Adams, Brian Badger, Judy Badger, Angela Emmerson, John McKail, Cecilia Miller, Peter Taylor, Una Hill and Pat Crowther were duly proposed, seconded and elected.

Under Any Other Business Jill Tucker proposed that a letter should be sent to Ray and Linda Dagg thanking them for their work and efforts over the last several years. The proposal was rapidly seconded and accepted by the meeting, which was then closed.

At a committee meeting which took place immediately after the AGM Brian Badger was elected Chairman, Diana Cronin Secretary, John McKail Treasurer and Judy Badger Communications Officer. Gwyn Adams was co-opted to the committee and elected Bookings Secretary.

Editor

PROGRESSIVE DINNER

It has unfortunately been necessary to change the date for the Progressive Dinner. It will now take place on Saturday 23rd June.

Diana Cronin is still organising it, so please get in touch with her on 01295 680938 to let her know you will be taking part. You can then discuss with her which course you would like to host, assuming always that you do want to act as a host.

For anyone out there who has not taken part in the dinner before and is not too sure what is entailed, a three course meal takes place round the village with diners moving from one house to another between courses, meeting a new group of friends each time. Couples are not, of course, split up. This year everyone will start off meeting at Diana's house for drinks and to find out where to go for their first course, and then all meet up again at the village hall for puddings and coffee.

And yes, I do know that there is an advertisement for this event earlier in the News. I just thought that if it is in twice there is more chance of you noticing it.

George Adams

OXHILL VILLAGE HALL

The AGM was held on 3rd May and was very well attended. Ray and Linda Dagg resigned from the Committee after seven years service and a new Committee of fourteen was elected.

The new Committee then elected the following officers:

Chairman	Brian Badger	Tel: 688010
Treasurer	John McKail	Tel: 680412
Lettings Officer	Gwyn Adams	Tel: 680286

The Committee would like to thank Sue Robbins for all the hard work she has put in over the last year to make the garden look so lovely.

If you would like to hire the Village Hall or any of the equipment please give Gwyn a call and she will let you know if it is available and what the charges are.

The Committee are planning several future events and we will keep you posted about these via the Oxhill News but if we want to keep our Village Hall going it is critical that you support these events so that we can all continue to enjoy this facility.

The progressive dinner is now planned for Saturday 23rd June and if you would like to take part please contact Diana Cronin on 680938.

The Casino Night has now been cancelled.

A Greek evening is planned for 25th May so by the time this reaches you we hope we have all had a great evening. [Everyone I spoke to did - Ed.]

If you are on the internet and do not mind receiving emails about the Village Hall events please email your address to thebadgers@hotmail.co.uk and from time to time we will keep you updated on what is planned.

Judy Badger

VILLAGE HALL CLEANING ROTA

After the complaints about dirt that were made at the village hall AGM the committee has decided to try to revert to a cleaning rota staffed by volunteers and see if that improves the situation. Obviously the hall ought to be cleaned once a week, but this is not too arduous a job and should normally take somewhere between 30 minutes and one hour.

If you would be willing to take part in such a rota please will you get in touch with me. The more rota members we have the less often each of us needs to do the actual work!

George Adams, 680286

VILLAGE HALL & EQUIPMENT HIRE

Price List 2007-8

Hall Hire	£5 per hour
Trestle Tables	£2.50 each per day
Square Tables	£2 each per day (note these are the new folding aluminium-framed tables, not the old red ones!)
Crockery	£5 per day
Glasses	£5 per day
Cutlery	£2 per day
Chairs	25p each per day (note that these are the black plastic chairs – the new wooden chairs are not available for hire)
Gazebo	£5 per day
Breakages will be charged at cost.	

If you wish to hire the Hall or any of the equipment please contact Gwyn or George Adams on 01295 680286, or in their absence any committee member.

WI REPORT

May 2007

Our Show was well supported with more than 90 entries submitted by 19 members. As expected, the standards were high. We all enjoyed admiring the range of skills on show at the evening meeting, and reading the carefully made judge's comments in the floral and craft categories. Prizewinners were:

Cookery	Preserves	Floral	Craft/miscellaneous
Pam, Belinda, Ann	Ann	Belinda, Ann	Belinda

Belinda was presented with the Sheila Brinkley rose bowl as the overall winner.

After a review of the 90th birthday celebrations and a report from the Spring Council, June presented this year's resolution "to urge H.M. Government to stop the closure of community hospitals, which provide essential services to local people." June's research indicated that there was no immediate local problem, but that a Warwickshire review was due in October 2007.

Points raised in discussion:

Nationally, the funding provided, accounted for and pledged for the rebuilding and refurbishment of community hospitals didn't seem to add up. The argument presented was not balanced. It seems another rural v urban call on funding.

We voted unanimously in favour of the resolution.

Refreshments served by Belinda and Ann included a slice of celebration cake.

Belinda Keep

THE LEYS FIELD, OXHILL

As most people will know, the Leys is the six-acre field behind Main Street and the houses on the left going up Whatcote road.

My father, Jim Taylor, and his brother Robin owned and farmed Kirby Farm for many years, their father having bought it in 1919. During the 1960s, they sold the land bordering Whatcote Road and Main Street for houses to be built but retained the field behind.

In 1969 they sold the farm but kept this field. In time, ownership passed to their widows, my mother and aunt and, since then, ownership of one half has passed to my sister and me and the other half to our three cousins. Therefore it is inevitable that the field has to be sold.

To that end, a small developer has been approached and asked to prepare some proposals for the site that will not only allow us to seek permission to develop it but we hope will also bring added facilities to the village for the benefit of the whole community. By approaching a smaller developer, we seek to retain some control over the site and its development, which may be lost if one of the larger national house-builders became involved.

The developer whom we have approached has developed similar schemes in rural locations and has appointed a firm of Architects and Planning Consultants to advise upon the development potential of this site. Their proposals are based on an investigation into local planning policy, a review of the Oxhill Village Survey and a meeting with us to further develop their understanding of the village and its needs. Following their appraisal of this information they have identified the following needs within the community:

- Low-cost starter homes
- Small, three bedroom family homes
- A good number of retirement/elderly persons' accommodation in bungalows and apartments
- A new Village Hall/Community Building
- An adjacent building for community use
- The potential to retain and refurbish the existing village hall to provide a further community facility
- Children's play area
- Village green

It is our wish that any possible development be dealt with in an open and honest way, thus reducing the potential for the sort of supposition and speculation that often leads to so much misunderstanding. We also wish the Village to have the opportunity to comment on the proposals as they are developed.

To this end, the Developers and Architects are holding a meeting in the Village Hall on Wednesday, 13th June at 7.30 p.m. to give them an opportunity to present their ideas and plans and to receive your feedback. It will start with a presentation at 7.30 p.m. followed by questions.

Posy McDonald

WHAT'S ON IN OXHILL

June

Tuesday 5th	10 – 4	Burmington Grange – Shipston Home Nursing
Wednesday 6th	10.15	The Peacock – Village Coffee Morning
Wednesday 6th	7.30	Oxhill Village Hall – WI meeting – Childrearing from the 1700s
Saturday 9th	10 – 1	Shipston Home Nursing Awareness Day
Wednesday 13th	7.30	Village Hall – Public Meeting to debate the prospect of building on the Leys field
Thursday 14th	10.00	Flower arranging in Church
Saturday 16th & Sunday 17th		Scarecrows and Open Gardens Festival
Wednesday 20th		The Peacock – Village Lunch Club
Thursday 21st	7.00	Appletree Cottage – Garden Club Annual Garden Party
Saturday 23rd	7.30	Whatcote Church – Symphony Concert
		Round Oxhill - Progressive Dinner – contact Diana Cronin on 680938
Sunday 24th	23.59	Copy deadline for the News
Saturday 30th	10.00	The Old Church House – Coffee Morning in aid of Chernobyl's Children

July

Wednesday 4th	7.30	Tysoe Village Hall – WI meeting – WRCC, 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

September

15th & 16th		Flower Festival
29th		Harvest Supper

STOUR SINGERS

Shipston's Choral Society

Stour Singers next concert, on Saturday 8th December 2007 in St Edmund's will feature two unusual pieces, Misa Criolla & Navidad Nuestra, both by the Argentinian composer Ariel Ramirez, along with familiar Christmas carols for audience and choir. The concert is in collaboration with the South American folk group, Caliche. Rehearsals start at 7.30 p.m. on Thursday 20th September at Shipston Primary School. New members are welcome (no auditions).

Please contact Vic Twyman, tel: 01608 66415 for further details.