

THE OXHILL NEWS



March 2007

Everyone is warmly invited to our

EXHIBITION

Celebrating

90 years WI in Tysoe

Wednesday 4 April

2-5 p.m.

Tysoe Village Hall

Projects past and present

Village History scrapbook: 1956

Tysoe in Photos: 1963

Tysoe in Photos: 2000

WI archive material

Something of interest for everyone

Largest women's association with a voice in government offices and in the UN
(ACWW)

Community projects

Friendship

Skills and hobbies

**Our County Chairman will be joining our members and will be happy to
answer questions**

Come and share tea and cake

April ISSUE

Please could I have all copy for the April issue by Midnight on Tuesday, 27th March? 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

A quiet game of Boules at St. Tropez, provided by Tony Eastaugh.

VILLAGE HISTORY

WILLIAM GEDEN AND THE OXHILL METHODISTS

Back in December, the Editor printed an email from an enquirer to the website about his ancestor William Geden from Tysoe and his connection with the Methodist movement in Oxhill.

The information I had on this came from the biography “Joseph Ashby of Tysoe” by M.K. Ashby. It tells how a Methodist Society had been established in Tysoe by a small group of villagers including William Geden, a tailor. Tysoe men of this time walked thirty miles to hear John Wesley preach, and the story of this was long remembered with pride in the village. William Geden was apparently the first tradesman of that time to close his shop on the Sabbath, and he would tackle drinkers and Sabbath-breakers to remonstrate with them. Sometimes they would retaliate and he would suffer a beating.

This redoubtable man also founded and nurtured the small Oxhill Society, and it was said that for thirty years he walked year-round across the open fields to the Sunday evening services and then again to a class-meeting on a week-night. When he was over seventy he could be seen setting out with his lantern and stout stick. His grandson, G.H. Geden, when speaking at the celebrations in 1914 to commemorate the Chapel Anniversary, said not only that his grandfather had been the first Methodist class leader in Oxhill, but that he had been appointed by Wesley himself.

This first Methodist meeting is known to have been held in 1769 at Oxhill House, the home of the Ward family, devout Methodists. When the Chapel was later built in 1814, William Geden and his son John (their occupation given as breeches maker) were two of the eleven Trustees who signed the conveyance for the purchase of the Chapel plot. (The land was not, as I had earlier believed, donated by the Ward family, but John Ward, both father and son, head the list of Trustees.) As to William Geden, his service to the little Oxhill Society would seem to be even longer than the thirty years recorded.

Ann Hale

VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING

Chris and Ellen, our new Landlords, have kindly agreed to hold The Village Coffee Morning on Wednesday 7th March from 10.15 a.m. in the newly-refurbished Peacock! We are very grateful to them and wish them the very best of luck in their new venture. All are very welcome (gentlemen included!) – if you need a lift, or have any other queries, please let me know!

Posy McDonald 688202

ST.LAWRENCE'S CHURCH, OXHILL

SERVICES IN MARCH

All are warmly invited to our services

Sunday 4th	Lent II	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	(ML)
Sunday 11th	Lent III	8.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	(ML)
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong	(ML)
Sunday 18th	Lent IV	9.30 a.m.	Special Mothering Sunday Service	(ML)
Sunday 25th	Lent V	9.30 a.m.	Family Service	(NM)

CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL

The Church of St. Lawrence is preparing a new Roll, as we must do this year.

Anyone who attends the Church fairly regularly is most welcome to be on the Roll.

Information will be pinned up either in the porch or the Church itself, and forms will be on the table on the left just inside the door. When you have completed the forms please either return them to me or leave them in the Church. Forms must be completed and delivered not later than Tuesday 10th April.

Di Harper

CHURCH FLOWER ARRANGING

First of all, now that Lent is upon us, I would like to thank all who were concerned with Flowers in Church this last year. I have had several compliments about the flowers throughout the year. I am about to begin the new Rota and would like to invite anyone not already on the list to let me know if they would like to be. At this point I need to let everyone know that the vases and oasis are still kept behind the door curtain in the Chancel of the church. This may have to change due to Health and Safety regulations requiring the Church to have an exit through another door so we will be working on another storage area for the vases. I will let everyone know when this is about to happen. Again thank you for all your efforts.

Carol Fox, Churchwarden

PARKER SMITH

Parker died on 9th February having battled with leukaemia for a number of years; he refused to let his illness stop him from doing the things he enjoyed.

He and Nancy knew each other from childhood and eventually married in 1944 during Parker's embarkation leave. He served with the Royal Artillery and was wounded – hence his permanent lameness.

After the war Parker worked for H.P. Foods, including for a while in America turning round a failed company.

Parker and Nancy came to Oxhill in 1974 and soon became absorbed in village life. Parker was a Churchwarden for some years, when his wisdom and sense of humour were much appreciated.

Our thoughts are very much with Nancy and with Anne, Jane and Richard and their families.

Think of Parker and his red socks and thumb stick, and smile fondly. He was a good man, and a great friend who will be missed.

Eve Whaley

THE WEDNESDAY SHIPSTON LINK

Leave from outside The Peacock, Oxhill at 09.38

Travel via Whatcote, Idlicote & Honington

Arrive at Shipston-on-Stour Square at 10.00

Spend 1¼ hrs shopping or whatever*

Depart from the Square at 11.15

Return to Oxhill at 11.38

The fare is approx £1.50 return. Bus passes accepted.

* Unfortunately the Library is closed Wednesdays!

Doug Netherclef (VLO, Oxhill)

NATURE NOTES FOR MARCH

March takes its name from Mars (Martius) the god of war – this is the month when military campaigns generally began after the end of winter. In the early Roman calendar it was the first month of the year. March is also the first month of Spring:

“He is Nature’s Old Forester, going through the woods and clothing the trees with green, to mark out the spots where the future leaves are to be hung. The sun throws a golden glory over the eastern hills, as the village clock from the ivy-covered tower tolls six, gilding the hands and the figures that were scarcely visible two hours later a few weeks ago. The streams now hurry along with a rapid motion, as if they ... were eager to rush along the green meadow lands, to tell the flowers it is time to awaken” (Chambers Book of Days – 1864)

As I write this at the end of February, the early spring flowers, crocus, snowdrops are everywhere, primroses will follow shortly, and many birds and animals are beginning their courtship rituals. Most Corvids are already paired – I think practically every chimney in Oxhill has a pair of Jackdaws nesting in it. The Common and Great-crested newts in our pond are gliding in and out of the weeds, the males displaying their magnificent dragon “sails” and flipping over to show off their resplendent orange and black undersides. But alas this year as yet, not a frog or toad have I seen. In years gone by Back Lane at night would see the march of the toads and invariably there would be the odd fatality from passing cars, but this year nothing. I would be interested to hear if other pond owners in the village have either frogs or toads this year.

I was thrilled to see a Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*) on our bird feeder a few days ago. It is a member of the warbler family. Normally thought of as a spring or summer visitor, with its rich and liquid notes bringing it the title of “King of the warblers” the Blackcap’s status as a winter visitor is another recent development. Most of our breeding Blackcaps migrate southwards to the Mediterranean areas of Europe and North Africa. Although the year-round presence gives the impression that some birds are resident, the winter population is also migratory, arriving from Germany and Austria usually about the time the summer breeding birds are leaving. Today the winter total is estimated at several thousand, a rise that I am sure is due to the increased feeding of birds during the winter.

Unfortunately for the Blackcap, it is still seen as a delicacy in many Mediterranean countries, especially Greece, Cyprus and Malta, and is still sold in restaurants. Many years ago we were offered a tray of about 20 little roasted birds in a Greek taverna – we declined! The Mediterranean trapping of songbirds is illegal under European law and has been the subject of several British conservation campaigns, but amazingly it still goes on. Across the whole region the annual total of spring and autumn migrants being

killed is estimated at a whopping 900 million! Apparently being migrants they are carrying large amounts of fat which gives them the required flavour.

On a lighter note, I was pleased to see a flock of about 200 Fieldfares in the long meadow below the Church the other morning and on several occasions I have also noticed Redwings (also Thrush family), the wonderful rusty chestnut underwing colouring only visible in flight. The Redwing is more nervous than other British thrushes so is often more difficult to see, so keep your eyes open for it in the next few weeks when this beautiful bird will once again leave the British Isles and make its way north.

March 26 – March hares now breeding: *“It is found by Experience that when one keeps a Hare alive and feedeth him, till he have occasion to eat him, if he tells him before he kills him, that he will do so, the hare will thereupon be found dead, having killed himself.”* (John Aubrey – *Remains of Gentilism*, 1688).

Grenville Moore

ST. LAWRENCE CHURCH EVENTS

Sunday May 6th

(at Church Farm)

CURRY AND SPIT-ROAST LAMB LUNCH

Tickets £7.50 adults, £3.50 children

Tickets from Lilian, 680468

June 23rd and 24th

SCARECROWS, CRAFT FAIR, OPEN GARDENS FESTIVAL

September 15th and 16th

FLOWER FESTIVAL

September 29th

HARVEST SUPPER

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Marcus Robertson who was presented with his Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award at St. James Palace London on 21st February 2007 by The Duke of Edinburgh.

Malcolm, Maria and Samuel Robertson.

[And, indeed, congratulations from all the rest of us. Well done, Marcus. Ed.]

KINETON OIL CONSORTIUM

Oil will be ordered again in March. The last time for ordering is 6 p.m. on Thursday 15th March (please note this is a change from previous information).

We have a new co-ordinator and this will assist him in his search for the best price.

Di Harper, 01295 680529

STRICTLY BALLROOM AT OXHILL?

At the next Village Hall Committee meeting I am going to suggest we start Ballroom Dancing sessions with a professional instructor who would revise what (little) we know and introduce some new routines.

Suggested is an hour long 'lesson' on a regular weekday evening, provided my instructor contact is still available. Cost would be £3.00 per person per session and it looks as though some 20 regulars would be needed.

I'd like to have some idea of the interest in this, so, if you think it could be for you, please call me on 680708, drop a note through the door at Charity House or email me at antonyeast@aol.com.

Tony Eastaugh

[Sounds good to me. Ed.]

Bosch Tumble Dryer

Logixx electronic condenser dryer (no external vent necessary) available for a donation to Church funds

Approx. 5 years old, now surplus to requirements.

Good Condition

Telephone Collins, 680564 to arrange collection.

GREEN BINS

Following the removal of two of our green bins, which had been loaned to a neighbour and left for emptying with her green bins, I had long telephone calls to various people at Stratford Council. Now it has become clear that the policy on green bins is currently as follows:

The maximum entitlement to green bins provided by the Council is two bins. Unless they (Biffa) “have a recollection of bins being purchased” extra bins in excess of two found outside a property on green bin day will be removed without any notice or advice of the action.

Additional bins purchased by the householder do not count to the allowed number and they will be emptied with the others.

The problem is that if, like us, you purchase additional green bins from the Council’s agent Biffa, the bins supplied are identical to the two bins provided officially. Furthermore once removed bins will only be returned if you can prove additional bins were purchased either by a receipt or in our case details of payment by cheque.

As a result it seems that grouping together of more than two green bins outside any property risks removal of bins beyond two unless you ensure that purchased bins are clearly and indelibly marked or if the white bin collection van arrives you are ready to rush out with proof of ownership.

In our case, following our telephone calls, I am pleased to say that we have received a letter apologising for the mistake and confirming that our two bins will be returned.

Geoff Stewart

TYSOE MARIONETTE GROUP

“THE CAT THAT WALKED BY HIMSELF”

(based on the story by Rudyard Kipling)

will be presented on Friday 27th April (Premier) 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 performed in May on Saturday 19th at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday 20th at 2:30 p.m., all in the Barn Theatre in Tysoe.

Children (aged 5+) £3 Adults £5

Proceeds will go to RSPB, Mind & Marie Curie Cancer Care.

Admission by ticket only, from:

Jon and Ann Beeny on 01295 680431

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

FUNERALS Remembering with thanksgiving

February 23rd Thomas Parker Smith, aged 87

VICARAGE NOTES

Lent 2007

Labels for this year's Lent appeal are still available for jam-jars and envelopes. We are supporting the work of Helen House Hospice in Oxford. The Deanery Services have commenced on Tuesdays at 7.45 p.m. with the theme "Faith in Action". Do come if you can.

March 20th: Shipston on Stour 27th: Cherington

April 3rd: Tysoe

All are warmly invited to the special Mothering Sunday service on the 18th. Historically, this is also Refreshment Sunday – when the Lenten fast was broken and a few treats could be enjoyed!

Deanery Confirmations

The next confirmation service is on Saturday May 19th at Brailes. If anyone would like to talk about being confirmed, please contact me at the Vicarage.

Thought for the month

I have just received preliminary details about the Oberammergau Passion Play in 2010 from Inter Church Travel aka Saga – planning ahead! I have registered interest, so further details will be sent in due course. As Lent is in full swing it is good to be reminded that people still want to remember "the greatest story ever told". For some that will mean sharing in a theatrical production, for others it means quiet reflection. For the world it should mean rediscovering justice, compassion and principles – for the church it is the reminder to be steadfast to its calling.

God bless, Nicholas Morgan, 01608 685230

MOBILE MASSAGE

We hear that Louise Nevill (who is based in Oxhill) can offer various kinds of massage, including Indian Head, Back, deep Tissue and Full Body Massages.

Full details can be obtained from Louise herself on 07796 962687.

Editor

WI REPORT FEBRUARY 2007

Mr W. Davies spoke about his journey to Santiago de Compostella by bike. Had he made his journey in the Middle Ages he would have reduced his time in purgatory by half. Quite deservedly too! The journey across Northern Spain traversed two deserts and four mountain ranges, including the 17-mile slope on day one. Overnight stops in refugios were basic but companionable. On arrival he touched the Pilgrim's Pillar, hugged St James' reliquary and attended mass. On presentation of his pilgrim's passport he was rewarded with a bowl of soup and a certificate.

£20 collected from our coppers will be sent to the 'Water for All' project. We agreed to help equip the children's cookery area in Tysoe School, as our local project. Fundraising will include a strawberry tea in Whatcote and a coffee morning in each of the villages.

Our team came 5th in the regional quiz and the celebration cake has been given its second dose of brandy. Collect Tom Thumb lettuce seeds next month for the Oxhill Cup. Entries of 3 lettuces will be judged in September.

Belinda Keep

OXHILL GARDENING CLUB

Our speaker for last month, Mrs Thorpe from Leicestershire, gave an interesting talk on hellebores and their suitable companion plants. This was most appropriate for February, being the time when hellebores are brightening up what would otherwise be wet and possibly dull gardens.

She brought examples of the most suitable under planting flowers to accompany different colour/type of hellebore in order to show them off to their best advantage. Mrs Thorpe also dispelled any idea that hellebores only like shade, saying provided they are planted in a well drained position, using good compost or leafmould and are not allowed to dry out, would do well in sunny positions too.

The evening was deemed a great success by an excellent speaker, who also brought much wit and humour to her subject.

Anne Netherclef

FOR SALE: FORD FIESTA GHIA 16V, 5 DOOR

'X' registration, 68000 miles, in excellent condition

Alloys and air conditioning

M.O.T. until September, taxed until June

£1895 – ideal runabout or first-time buyer

Tel: 01295 680565 Mobile: 07977044592

WHAT'S ON IN OXHILL

MARCH

Thursday 1st		The Peacock – Re-opening spectacular
Sunday 4th	10.00	Heritage Motor Centre, Gaydon – Floral Art
Wednesday 7th	10.15	The Peacock - Village Coffee Morning
	7.30	Tysoe Village Hall – W. I.
Tuesday 13th	8.00	Village Hall – Parish Council meeting
Thursday 15th	6.00	Last chance to order oil with the Kineton Consortium
	7.30	Village Hall – Garden Club A.G.M.
Tuesday 27th	23.59	Copy deadline for the News

April

Wednesday 4th	2.00	Tysoe Village Hall – W. I. Birthday celebrations
Saturday 14th		Garden Club workshop – see advert below
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

May

Sunday 6th		Church Farm - Curry & Roast Lamb Lunch
Thursday 10th	7.30	Village Hall – Garden Club plant sale
18th – 20th		Garden Club trip to Normandy



GARDENING WORKSHOPS

SATURDAY 14TH APRIL

Oxhill Village Hall

10.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. OR 2.00 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.

Both sessions have the same content

- Regenerate Pot Bound Plants and divide clumps
- Appropriate compost mixes
- Take Basal Cuttings
- Take Soft Tip Cuttings

Cost £5 per person a session

To book a place ring Anne Nethercleft, Oxhill Garden Club, 01295 680041 –
Closing Date: 10.03.07

Garden plants will also be on sale.