

THE OXHILL NEWS



May 2007

FAREWELL AND THANK YOU

John and Shirley Baines are about to move to their new home in Cambridgeshire. We wish them all the best in the future, and thank them for their great help in delivering the Oxhill News over a period of several years. Keith Seabridge has very kindly offered to take over their 'walk'.

Gwyn Adams

ART EXHIBITION

CHIPPING CAMPDEN

5TH TO 7TH MAY

Daniel Hale will be one of the exhibitors at an Art Exhibition by Quaker Artists and friends at the Upper Town Hall, Chipping Campden on Saturday 5th May, Sunday 6th May (both days from 10. am. to 5 p.m.) and Monday 7th May (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.) Some of Daniel's friends in Oxhill who remember his artwork may be interested to know this, and of course he would be very pleased if anyone from the village was able to visit the exhibition.

Ann Hale

JUNE ISSUE

Please could I have all copy for the June issue by Midnight on **Thursday, 24th May**? Yes, I know it is early but there are good reasons! 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

For May, it's May. Well, Mae really. Isabelle Mae Adams. Long-term residents of Oxhill may recognise the proud papa. The picture also illustrates Grenville's point (see 'Nature Notes').

VILLAGE HALL A.G.M.

Don't forget that the village hall A.G.M. is on Thursday 3rd May at 8.00 p.m. in the village hall. Come along and join in the debate on what the hall should be doing in the next year.

Editor

PARISH MEETING

NOTES OF THE OXHILL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 17th APRIL 2007 AT 8.00 P.M. IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Seven people attended this meeting, chaired by David Hill – Chairman, Oxhill Parish Council.

Condition of paving across from the Peacock

This section of original paving had become very uneven and dangerous. The meeting preferred to see these slabs relayed but if this were not possible then an alternative would be better than the condition at present.

Possible change of road priority at Green Lane junction - by the church

Although this seemed a sensible idea, several safety concerns and the additional signs required needed to be considered.

Traffic Speed

It was brought to the attention of the meeting the need to report to the police incidents of excessive speeding and dangerous driving, giving time, date and registration number. The police cannot act without information.

A traffic sign reminding motorists of the 30 mph speed limit, on trial in some villages, was thought a good idea and asked if Oxhill could be part of this trial.

Best Kept Village Competition

The village wouldn't enter this year.

Village Liaison Officer's Report

Doug Netherclef reported that a grant, from the Village Outreach Fund, had been obtained on behalf of the Gardening Club to plant a tree by the Village Hall and to replace the damaged railings. A seat would also be provided in front of the Village Hall. Copies of the Village Welcome Pack were passed round and were very well received.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.55 p.m.

Angela Kean, Clerk

ST. LAWRENCE'S CHURCH, OXHILL

SERVICES IN MAY

All are warmly welcome

Sunday 6th	Easter IV	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	(ML)
Sunday 13th	Easter V	8.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	(ML)
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong	(ML)
Thursday 17th	Ascension Day	7.45 p.m.	Deanery Eucharist at Tredington	
Sunday 20th	Ascensiontide	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	(ML)
Sunday 27th	Whitsunday	9.30 a.m.	Family Communion	(NM)
	(Pentecost)			

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Following the annual meeting on 25th May I would like to report the results of the elections.

Churchwardens Carol Fox, Andy Buchanan (Vice Chairman)

Committee Bill Fox (Clerk of Works), Janet Gardner, Diane Harper (Electoral Roll Officer), Linda Heritage, Charles Macall, Mark Roberts, Gill Rodwell, James Synge (Hon Treasurer), Linda Synge (Hon Secretary), Lilian Welsby (Chair Social committee)

Sidesmen The PCC committee plus Eve Whaley, Ann Heritage, Rosemary Brown

The next meeting of the PCC will be on Monday May 21st at 7.30 p.m. at the home of Andy Buchanan

Carol Fox

‘CURRY’ LUNCH AT CHURCH FARM

Sunday 6th May @ 1 p.m.

It's not just curries!

There will also be spit-roast lamb and a vegetarian dish, as well as sweets to follow.

All welcome

Tickets &7.50 adults, £3.50 children

[There has as yet been no response to Lilian's suggestion of a new Oxhill Cookbook. Examples of the previous efforts will be on show at the lunch to see if enthusiasm can be raised.]

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, be with others, worship and enjoy excellent food; time to be by yourself, read, pray, or 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.

SCARECROW WEEKEND

Each year we think this is the last scarecrow weekend, but as it seems everyone is enthusiastic about another one this year, we will try again.

We are going to have a craft fair in the old chapel, and five gardens open to add to the interest.

This does entail a lot of work and we will need lots of help. A meeting has been arranged in the village hall on Thursday 31st May at 7.30 to try and get as many people as possible to come along and let us know how they can help. Even an hour of your time on a stall, car park duty or teas would help.

Any bric-a-brac, plants or tombola prizes would be very welcome.

Please come along to the meeting and have a glass of wine or a coffee.

Many thanks, Lilian, 680468

LONDON MARATHON 2007

I managed to complete the marathon on Sunday 22nd April in spite of the hot weather, lack of training and several aches and pains.

Thanks to all who offered support, financial and vocal, to my chosen charity, The Stroke Association.

Tony Wilde

NATURE NOTES FOR MAY

“In the sixteenth century it was customary for the middle and humbler classes to go forth at an early hour of the morning in order to gather flowers and hawthorn branches, which they brought home about sunrise, with accompaniments of horn and tabor, and all possible signs of joy and merriment. With these spoils they would decorate every door and window in the village. By a natural transition of ideas, they gave to the hawthorn bloom the name of May and called this ceremony ‘the bringing home the May’ and the expedition to the woods as ‘going a-maying’.” (*Chambers Book of Days – 1864*).

As a child I remember my grandmother saying “never cast a clout till May is out” and believed it to mean keeping all your winter clothes until the end of May, and for many years I would swelter in my T-shirt and sweater until I discovered that it referred to the May blossom!

Well – it finally happened. I knew that the rather strange village signs the Council erected a couple of years ago would cause trouble. I’m sure you have all noticed them – a very large duck apparently attacking a small child, thankfully being rescued by a parent (are these the only signs like this in Warwickshire, or indeed the country?) You see it was an open invitation to any marauding bands of mallard, large or small, to invade our village, and this spring that is exactly what has happened – very large fat semi-tame mallard, probably hand reared, can be seen waddling down Main Street, Back Lane, Whatcote Road, and Green Lane, sitting in flower beds and gardens, and worst of all, in our garden ponds. Don’t get me wrong, I am a bird lover, but mallard are aggressive, promiscuous and opportunist, and will foul any small to medium pond. They are a dabbling duck and will eat and pull up all shoots in and around the pond (they took the heads off what would have been a fantastic display of snakes-head fritillaries). They will eat small frogs, tadpoles, diving beetles, dragonfly larvae and newts – in short the pond will become sterile (obviously this does not apply to large deep ponds or lakes). In short I directed them to the brook where they belong, where I saw the other morning a duck with seven ducklings.

On one of the numerous beautiful warm days in April I was walking along a hedgerow just outside the village, when I spotted in two different places, two curled up basking grass snakes taking in the morning sun. They are cold blooded and hibernate between October and mid-March and have to warm up each morning to give them the energy to enable them to hunt. Don’t be afraid of snakes, they are far more likely to be afraid of you, indeed I was very lucky to see these two as normally they can sense the vibration of humans approaching and will quickly slide off into cover. If you do catch grass snakes in the open they will often feign death by lying on their back with their mouths partially open. Some years ago our cat caught a grass snake, which feigned death. We rescued it and as it seemed completely unhurt we took it up to our pond and carefully laid it in the grass by the pond. We sat quietly a short distance away to watch it recover and slide away. After about ten to fifteen minutes it had not moved a millimetre. I turned to Jane and said that I hoped it wasn’t dead, and in that split second when I looked back it had completely vanished.

In the 15th and 16th centuries, May was the high point of the bird-netting season. *“All manner of small birds be good and light of digestion, except sparrows, which be hard of digestion. Titmouses, colemites, and wrens, the which eat spiders and poisons, be not commendable: of all small birds the lark is best, then is praised the blackbird and thrush”* – Andrew Board *Dietary of Health*, 1547.

Grenville Moore

BUS SERVICE

The Saturday Service No. 573 to Shipston is run by Kimlan Coaches, Tel: 01789 269904. The schedule is:

Leave from outside The Village Hall, Oxhill at 09.40

Travel via Whatcote, Idlicote & Honington

Arrive at Shipston-on-Stour Square at 10.00

Spend 1½ hrs shopping or whatever* The Library is open Saturday mornings!

Depart from the Square at 11.30

Return to Oxhill at 11.50

Doug Netherclef (VLO, Oxhill)

MOONWALK

Raising Money for Breast Cancer Research and Breast Cancer Care

I will be taking part in the 2007 Playtex MoonWalk which commences at 11.30 p.m. on Saturday 19th May. The MoonWalk is a 26 mile power walk which starts and finishes in Hyde Park.

The aim of the walk is to raise as much money (and awareness) for breast cancer research and breast cancer care as possible. If you would like to support me with this challenge you can make a donation online at the following website:

www.justgiving.com/yvettebaker

Many thanks, Yvette Baker

SHIPSTON HOME NURSING

Sunday May 6th

10 a.m. - 2.00 p.m.

Darlingstons Fun Ride

All ability riders are invited- optional jumps.

Call Cathy Noon on 01608 682847 or email cathynoon@aol.com

Saturday 10th May

10.00 a.m. to 12 noon

10TH ANNUAL PLANT SALE

NORGREN SOCIAL CLUB

(off Pittway Avenue, Shipston on Stour)

PLEASE NOTE NEW VENUE

LARGE CAR PARK

all plants for sale will be gratefully received

Friday 18th May from 11 a.m. at Norgren Social Club

STOUR SINGERS CONCERT

The Stour Singers Spring concert takes place on Saturday 12th May 2007 at 7.30 p.m. in St Edmund's Church, Shipston-on-Stour. The programme comprises two works, Cherubini's Requiem in C minor & Hummel's Mass in B flat. Richard Emms, the founder director of Stour Singers, will conduct.

Tickets: £7.50 from choir members, Clarkes, High Street, Shipston & at the door. Accompanied children free.

Stour Singers welcomes new members-there are no auditions. Contact Choir Manager, Vic Twyman, on 01608-664215 for further details.

KINETON OIL CONSORTIUM

The next order for oil will be placed at the end of May.

Will you please let me have your requirements by Wednesday May 23rd, at the latest by 6 p.m.

D. Harper, 01295 680529

GOURMET DINNER

The Old Church House, Oxhill

Saturday 9 June 2007

7.30 pm for 8.00 pm

Come and joint us for a fabulous evening.

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

Tickets strictly limited and to be booked by 28 May 2007

Price £32.50 per head

**All profits to Chernobyl's Children, who will be coming to our
coffee morning
on 30 June 2007**

To book and for more details telephone

Anne Marshall – 01295 680411

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

WEDDINGS

Congratulations to:

April 14th James Synge and Linda Creedy-Smith

April 21st Edward Leonard and Sarah Taylor

WI REPORT APRIL 2007

90TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

In April Tysoe WI celebrated its 90th anniversary with an exhibition in Tysoe Village Hall. Projects past and present were on display including: Village History scrapbooks: 1956/ 1963 & 2000; WI archive material and examples of skills and hobbies of present members.

Our County Chairman was among about a hundred visitors to the exhibition. We'd expected a steady trickle so were rather taken by surprise when so many visitors arrived on the dot of two o'clock. WI groups came from all over the county and villagers dropped in to lend support. The items on display stirred memories. On seeing themselves in the albums people wondered that they'd dared to be seen in 60's and 70's fashion, let alone be photographed!

Rosemary Brown's floral arrangements were admired, and the refreshment providers were rushed off their feet.

The evening continued in the same happy mood. Guests were welcomed and greetings read, including one from Her Majesty the Queen. After supper the Tanworth-in-Arden WI Choir entertained us with songs and amusing sketches, and Belinda Keep played her saxophone.

B. Keep

BLUEBELL WALK CANCELLED

We have had to cancel the Bluebell Walk at Whatcote this year because conditions will not be suitable for walking around the wood in early May. Hopefully it will be alright next year.

Sue Price

REFUSE COLLECTION

BANK HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS

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.

SPRING BANK HOLIDAY

There will be no collection in Oxhill on Tuesday 29th May. Both refuse and recyclables will be collected on Wednesday 30th May.

CHURCH DUSTBIN

We thoroughly applaud all you dog walkers who dutifully pick up the resulting droppings in a plastic bag and so remove them from the pavements and verges.

Please, though, would you then not deposit the filled bags in the church dustbin? The contents of the bin are chiefly dead flowers, and volunteers sort through it on green bin days to recycle the waste into compost. They find it distinctly unpleasant to come across leaking and smelly plastic bags.

Editor

PROBLEMS WITH PUPPIES

This is a very frantic plea to everyone who uses the right of way across the top of my garden to walk, either by themselves or with their dogs (who, by the way, are seldom on a lead, even when inside the garden).

I have a nine-month-old spaniel puppy that loves to join them on their stroll, out of the garden and away – though rarely continuing on the actual right of way across the field. She loves people, and especially the other dogs to play with, but she is very young and does not know her way home.

Please, if you find my puppy trying to follow you, will you shut her in a stable or else return her to me after your walk. I am very worried that she will be left on the road alone and be run over.

Gill Rodwell, The Manor

LABRADOR PUPPIES

Yellow and Black Dogs only. K.C. Reg. Free Insurance for 6weeks.

Excellent Hips. Clean Eyes.

Ready 20th May.

Ring Ann Heritage on 680216

Enjoy yourself!

Become a volunteer!

Helpers are needed by these very worthy local groups:

- **WE URGENTLY NEED VOLUNTEER DRIVERS IN ALL AREAS TO HELP US WITH OUR COMMUNITY TRANSPORT SCHEME (40P PER MILE ALLOWANCE PAID).**
- **Marie Curie Cancer Care (Free quality in-home nursing for terminally ill people who wish to stay at home)** - needs help with fund raising events and activities, collection box co-ordinator, delivery of items to support groups/helpers.
- **WRVS (Delivering Meals to peoples' homes)** - needs Drivers to deliver meals.
- **Carers Support Service (South Warks)- SWCSS (Support young people, known as Young Carers, who care for a relative)** - needs person to assist at group nights.
- **Relate South Warwickshire (Relationship Counselling sex therapy)** - needs Evening Receptionists (normally required every third Tuesday evening 5:00pm to 9:00pm).
- **Stratford on Avon Hospital Coffee Shop (Offering a refreshment service to outpatients and friends)** - needs Assistants to help run the coffee shop in the hospital on a regular or relief basis Tuesday and/or Wednesday afternoons 2:00-4:00.

Call us if you are interested, or, if you can get on the web

www.stratfordvbx.org.uk

check out our web site for all the latest opportunities for volunteering.

Volunteer Centre Stratford-on-Avon District

Phone: 01789 262886

THE PHILLIS SERVICE

a helping hand for older people

Warwickshire County Council has recently launched a brand new service to help meet the needs of older people living in the county. This new preventative service is aimed at those who may be finding it difficult to maintain their home or perhaps would like to get out more, socialise or learn a new skill.

PHILLIS (Promoting Health and Independence through Low Level Integrated Support) aims to support independent living for people over fifty who are not eligible for statutory support.

The PHILLIS service will assess what sort of support is needed for an older person and then, working with partners, will identify the services to best help them. So whether it is help with shopping, getting out and about, home repairs, finding social or learning opportunities, claiming benefits, or keeping fit, PHILLIS is here to help!

Research shows that providing help and support for older people as soon as they begin to struggle with some aspects of daily living can help them live safely and confidently in their own homes. Once an older person has had help from PHILLIS, the Service will keep in contact with them on a regular basis, to ensure that they continue to receive appropriate support as and when personal circumstances may change.

The PHILLIS service itself is free, but for some community based services there may be a charge. Access to the service is open to anyone over the age of fifty living in Warwickshire and individuals, their family, friends or support staff can refer to the Service simply by telephoning 01926 731144.

I have a number of leaflets should anyone wish to know more.

Doug Netherclef (VLO, Oxhill) 01295 680041

PLANT SALE

Don't forget to go along to the Village Hall at 7 p.m. on Thursday 10th May to stock up on plants for your garden.

Editor

BEES WANTED – HIVES WAITING

Reports in the press of the demise of the honey bee have been much exaggerated, albeit some beekeepers have suffered the odd colony loss over the winter months. The recent spell of warm weather and early spring flowers have meant that colonies that survived are harvesting a bumper crop of nectar already this year. Some hives are reaching a point where increase in bee numbers is putting pressure on living space and causing half of the colony to consider moving out.

Should you be lucky enough to see a swarm of bees, please telephone me at the earliest opportunity and I will attempt to capture it and give it a new home. Reward, eventually(!), of a jar of honey to the finder.

Douglas Nethercleft Tel. 07850 352905 or 01295 680041

TYSOE MARIONETTE GROUP

The group will be performing 'The Cat That Walked By Himself' at the Barn Theatre, Tysoe again on Sat. 19th May (7.30) and Sunday 20th May (2.30). Tickets, £5 adults, £3 children, can be obtained from Jon or Ann Beeny on 01295 680431.

POETRY CORNER

STEIN

There's a notable family called Stein,
There's Gertrude, there's Ep, and there's Ein.
Gert's poems are bunk,
Ep's statues are junk
And no one can understand Ein.

VICARAGE NOTES

Easter Thanks

St. Lawrence's looked at its best for Easter and our thanks go to the many people who give up their time to arrange flowers both for that occasion and throughout the year. A good congregation was welcomed on Easter Day and I hope that the message of hope and new life inspired us all.

The Annual Meeting

This was held last week and my thanks go to all who are part of St. Lawrence's team, especially the wardens and P.C.C. members, who have worked hard over the past year for church and community. There is a short report in the News.

Christian Aid Week May 13th – 20th

The collection on Sunday 20th will be for Christian Aid, one of the "Big 4" charities that work throughout the world. Christian Aid represents the churches of this country and provides help regardless of race, colour or creed.

Thought for the month

I was astonished to discover the other day that the Vicar of Brailes and his family (6 daughters) wrote 18,000 letters of appeal back in the 1870's to raise funds for the restoration of St. George's. The Victorians were great "doers" and, of course, the Christian Faith is a practical faith with a gospel that must be lived. Jesus was asked on 3 occasions "Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Each time our Lord's replies were stories about "love in action", the most famous being the Parable of the Good Samaritan. The challenge for the disciples after the Ascension was to go out into the world to live and teach the gospel – it's the same for us!

God bless, Nicholas Morgan 01608 685230

HOW TO SERVE THE PERFECT BLOODY MARY

Shake together 2 measures of vodka, 3 measures of tomato juice, ½ measure of lemon juice, 6 dashes of Worcester Sauce (Lea & Perrin's – there is no alternative even if they have been taken over by Heinz), 5 drops of Tabasco Sauce with a little ground salt and pepper. Pour into a glass over crushed ice and garnish with a lemon slice and a small stick of celery.

Hand the revolting concoction to your worst enemy and treat yourself to a large glass of a decent burgundy. Enjoy!

Editor

WHAT'S ON IN OXHILL

May

Wednesday 2nd		Tysoe Village Hall – WI Spring Show & Resolutions
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	7.00	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
Saturday 26th		Reading Room, Tysoe – WI Coffee Morning in aid of the children's cooking area in Tysoe School
Thursday 31st	7.30	Village Hall – Scarecrow meeting

June

Saturday 2nd		Village Hall - Casino Night
Wednesday 6th		Oxhill Village Hall – WI meeting – Childrearing from the 1700s
17th & 18th		Scarecrows and Open Gardens Festival

September

15th & 16th		Flower Festival
29th		Harvest Supper