

THE OXHILL NEWS

February 2017

No. 506



The Fire Starters at the Wassial, a ceremony & celebration of cider
at the WOT2Gro Community Orchard in Tysoe

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news-editor@oxhill.org.uk or oxhill@btinternet.com*

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE OXHILL NEWS

The editors welcome any pictures, photographs, drawings, poems, puzzles, recipes, announcements or items of local news for possible inclusion in The Oxhill News. Please email oxhill@btinternet.com or place paper contributions in the box labelled 'The Oxhill News' in the Church.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS THE 15TH OF EVERY MONTH.

MOBILE LIBRARY

The mobile library has books with **large print**, ordinary print, picture books, children's books, paperbacks, non-fiction, novels, sagas, crime, mysteries, adventures, westerns and romance. The van has talking books, cassettes and CDs.

The library van will continue to visit Oxhill every 3rd **Friday**, stopping at the Village Hall at 14:30 and staying there for 30 minutes. The van will visit us on February 10th For further info please telephone: 01926 851031

WEEKDAY WALKERS

Weekday Walkers usually walk on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month. If you are interested in joining or to find out further information, please contact Jim Saxton on 680613 or saxton@talktalk.net

REFUSE COLLECTION

Recycling and green waste bins (blue and green bins) will be collected on Tuesdays February 7th and 21st.

The grey rubbish bins will be collected Tuesdays February 14th and 28th.

THE PEACOCK

The village coffee morning is on Wednesday February 1st at 10:30 am.

The village lunch is on Wednesday February 15th



OXHILL LAAAAADIEEES MIGHTY HIKE FOR MACMILLAN

**WE ARE
MACMILLAN.**
CANCER SUPPORT

A group of girls from Oxhill are fundraising for Macmillan by taking part in the Cotswold Way Mighty Hike challenge - a 26 mile trek of the Cotswold Way on Saturday 22nd July 2017. Our target is to raise over £4000 for this amazing charity.

Training started in earnest in January at The Peacock with walks planned for most weekends in preparation for the hike. If you are interested in joining us on the hike in July or for just some of the training, please get in touch with Caroline Keena, Katy Dowding, Catherine Kimmins or Sarah Stratton-Smith at The Peacock.

Donations can be made via our JustGiving page at <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Oxhill-Laaaaadieees> and collection boxes can be found in The Peacock for any spare bits of loose change.



Caroline Keena and Suzanne Hall on the first of our training walks

A huge thank you to everyone who has sponsored us so far.

Donating through JustGiving is simple, fast and totally secure. Your details are safe with JustGiving - they'll never sell them on or send unwanted emails. Once you donate, they'll send your money directly to the charity. So it's the most efficient way to donate - saving time and cutting costs for the charity.

OXHILL VILLAGE HALL UPCOMING EVENTS AND NEWS

Coming next...

Saturday 25 February - Après Ski Night

It's time to dig out the old C&A ski wear as the village hall stages its first ever Après Ski Night – an evening celebrating all things Alpine. There will be cheeses, warming food, Toblerone and Jägermeister on offer and Alpine themed decorations

The ski wear is optional but if you fancy turning up in Alpine winter sports dress or even digging out that Christmas jumper again, then please do as there's a free drink for those that do! And if you bring along your St Bernard, free drinks all night for the owner!

Starts 7.30pm. Tickets are £10 and available from Jay Roberts on 680030.

Saturday 25 March - Quiz and Cuisine

And another new event for the New Year. This time we combine quizzing with cuisining (if such a word exists). Quiz teams are invited to take part in a village quiz over a meal of sausage and mash (quality cuisine, of course!). The quiz master will be our village hall chairman, Stuart Whittaker.

Teams to be formed on the night. All welcome.

Starts 7.30pm. Tickets are £10 and available from Jay Roberts on 680030.

Coming soon...

Saturday 22 April - St George's Night

There'll always be an England! Celebrate our patron saint by wearing something red and white and enjoying a village hall supper. Details to be confirmed. Cost will be £12.50 each, reflecting an additional course for the meal.

Tuesday 2 May - Oxhill Village Hall Annual General Meeting (7.30pm for 8pm start)

May (date to be confirmed) - Paella Night returns (7.30pm start)

KNIT & NATTER

Our February dates are Thursday 9th and Thursday 23rd from 2.00pm to 4.00pm in Oxhill Village Hall

PLEASE NOTE: You do not have to knit - Just come along and enjoy a cup of tea and a biscuit with friends.

If you want, you can bring along any craft like embroidery, crocheting, sewing, etc that you want to do.

We also have a selection of paperbacks that you can swap or borrow.

I look forward to seeing you all in February but if you want to speak to me in the meantime, please do not hesitate to call me. Tricia Harbour (680676)



Technology hits Knit and Natter



OXHILL VILLAGE HALL BURNS NIGHT REPORT

In a beautifully decorated Hall (Thanks, Jude MacDonald & Tricia Harbour) some 30 plus people enjoyed an excellent, traditional supper of tasty homemade Scotch Broth (Thanks, Stuart W) Haggis, Neeps and Tatties (Thanks, Tricia & Reuben) a Cranachan desert (Thanks, Lisa & Heather) plus Cheese and Biscuits accompanied by traditional/modern speeches and entertainment.



Stuart Barker was the MC for the evening and carried on his excellent work from last year and oversaw the proceedings for the evening, building on the great 'project management' by his wife Karen in the build-up to the event.

The Address to the Haggis was superbly delivered by Iain MacPherson, then Stuart Barker provided an amusing and informative tribute to Robbie Burns and Eileen MacPherson, not to be outdone by her husband, soon had us awestruck by her brilliant rendition (almost all from memory!) of Burns' longest poem, Tam O'Shanter.



Derek Harbour provided his address to the Lassies and Katy Dowding replied with a very amusing, poetic reply to the Laddies.

Finally, Iain finished the entertainment with a few guitar accompanied songs that had everyone joining in.

It was a wonderful evening – where were you?



PARISH NOTES FOR FEBRUARY

On February 2nd, we celebrate Candlemas; this ancient Festival marks the time when the very elderly Simeon encountered the infant Jesus in the Temple, and realised that in this child lay God's plan for rescuing and restoring his people. That rescue was to involve dying on a cross, hence in that child we see both the crib, when Jesus was born to live among us, and the cross, when Jesus will die for us. Candlemas invites us to turn our attention away from the crib and look to the cross. We are invited to put the celebration of Christmas behind us, and start looking towards the mysteries of Easter.

For many people, therefore, this is the time when Christmas decorations are finally put away. It is also the time when church candles were blessed, and in some cases given out to people to light their homes – hence the name.

So this month sees us finally packing away the Christmas things, and beginning to plan for Shrove Tuesday and the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday, which this year are 28th February and 1st March respectively.

Church Services in Oxhill in February

Sunday, February 5th 9.30am Holy Communion (BCP)
Sunday, February 12th 9.30am Morning Worship
Sunday, February 19th 9.30am Holy Communion
Sunday, February 26th 9.30am Family Service

There will be an informal mid-week Communion service at Oddcote on Wednesday, February 1st at 10.00am, to which anyone is invited.

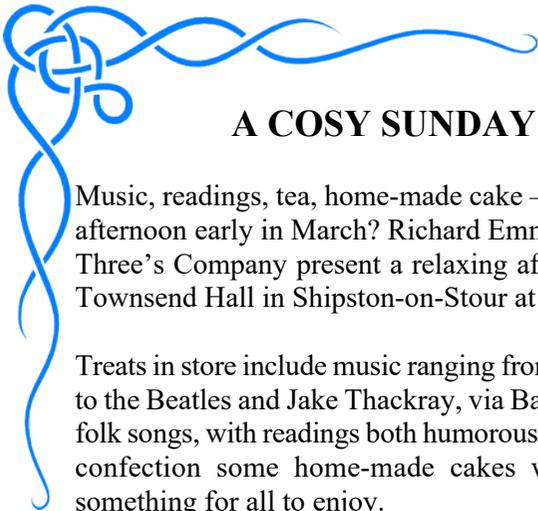
On Tuesday, February 7th at 7.30pm in St Edmund's Church, Shipston, Deanery Synod will be focusing on Eco-Church, with Godfrey Armitage of the Diocesan Environmental Group – anyone is invited to join us.

Everyone from across the Benefice is invited to join us in Oxhill on Shrove Tuesday, February 28th, at The Old Chapel, Oxhill, for a **Pancake Supper**, at 7.30pm.

Donations are invited toward Christian Aid. Full details are elsewhere.

Every blessing, Jill





A COSY SUNDAY AFTERNOON

Music, readings, tea, home-made cake – what could be better on a Sunday afternoon early in March? Richard Emms’ a cappella choir Cantamus and Three’s Company present a relaxing afternoon’s “**Teapot Pourri**” at the Townsend Hall in Shipston-on-Stour at 3.p.m. on Sunday, 5th March.

Treats in store include music ranging from Cole Porter and George Shearing to the Beatles and Jake Thackray, via Bach and arrangements of traditional folk songs, with readings both humorous and poignant. Add to this delicious confection some home-made cakes with tea or coffee, and there is something for all to enjoy.

Tickets are available from Clarke’s Electricals in Shipston, or at the door, and cost £10 – which includes refreshments.

PANCAKE SUPPER 28TH FEBRUARY 2017 SHROVE TUESDAY

For the last few years Jill Tucker has successfully hosted this event at the Old House in aid of Christian Aid. This year Jill is not available so the PCC thought it a good idea to use the Old Chapel for this event. So all are welcome to come and enjoy savoury and sweet pancakes.



SHROVE TUESDAY

Admission is free .
Donations will go to the
Charity. There will be a donation bar.

Time 7.30 at the Old Chapel. Hope you will give it your support.

Minutes of a meeting of Oxhill Parish Council held on Tuesday 10th January at 8.00pm in the Village Hall.

The meeting, chaired by Grenville Moore and was attended by Councillors Duncan Harper, Stuart Whittaker and Derek Harbour and Sue Hunt. Five members of the public attended.

Minutes – Minutes of the previous meeting were read, agreed and signed.

Matters arising

Parish Council Website – The website is gradually building, after this audit round at the end of this financial year, most Parish Councils will not need external audit from 2017-18 onwards. It is therefore important that the financial information required by the transparency Code is available on a website therefore we need to ensure that we have the facilities to comply with that. The Government are likely to be making spot checks after this point to ensure that small councils are complying.

Leys Field Update – The plans and house designs have been distributed to interested parties. It was proposed by Grenville Moore and seconded by Derek Harbour that there was an opportunity for an open discussion at the end of the meeting in order for comments from both the Parish Council and members of the public to be raised and to the appropriate person from Sandgate developments.

Benches and Planters- In discussion with users of the bus stop the desire for a shelter has been raised as the removal of the phone box will leave people exposed to the elements whilst waiting for the bus. It was also discussed whether this would be a suitable location for the defibrillator – further investigations will be carried out.

Planning – Permission has been granted for: 2 detached houses and the demolition of the garage at Oakwoods House, Green Lane.

Planning pending – Arboricultural works at Auchneiven House, Whatcote Road. A dwelling adjacent to Merrydown, Green Lane. Change of use to barns at Harrods Farm and a new dwelling at Hollies, Rouse Lane. Landscaping and reserved matters at Stablecroft, Green Lane.

Planning withdrawn – A new dwelling at the Homestead, Main Street.

Finance

Transparency Fund –Permission was given for the clerk to purchase of the equipment as funded by the Transparency Fund Proposed by Duncan Harper and Seconded by Derek Harbour.

Precept – Due to an increase in costs during the year 2016-2017 it was decided to increase the amount requested through the precept to £3000 to cover these costs. Proposed by Grenville Moore and seconded by Sue Hunt.

Payments- A payment of £377.90 was made for the printing of the Oxhill News from April to September. A contribution of £200 was made towards the cost of moving the village hall.

Any other Business

It was raised that a resident they were concerned that restoration works to land outside their property after electrical works was not completed to a satisfactory standard. Having reviewed the situation the Parish Council considered that it would not be possible to improve the situation further.

Speeding – Councillor Seccombe will be contacted again to see if funding can be secured to move the 30 mile an hour signs. Stratford District Council will be contacted in order to establish the cost of the works.



A Wintery Oxhill Scene

Dates of future meetings
2017 /18 – 7th March, 9th
May, 11th June, 12th
September, 7th November and 9th January 2018.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.30 pm. Date of the next meeting 10th January 8.00pm in the Village Hall.

Lis Stuart
Parish Clerk

Oxhill Garden Club

On the evening of Thursday 12th January, by means of some wonderful slides, members were taken on a trip to the world famous sub-tropical Tresco Abbey Gardens by a knowledgeable and entertaining speaker David Brazier who stepped in at the eleventh hour when the scheduled speaker fell ill. David is a Trustee of the Studley College Trust which awards grants amounting to some hundred thousand pounds a year to agricultural students. When the Studley Horticultural & Agricultural College for Women closed in 1969 the assets were used to found the Trust, and David's involvement each year has been to oversee the placement of three particular students at a stage of their career when a year's funded experience on Tresco would be of most benefit.

Tresco Abbey Garden was established by the 19th Century proprietor of the islands, Augustus Smith, originally as a private garden to the home that he designed and built within the old Abbey grounds. To provide shelter for the exotic flora in his garden, Augustus planted trees - latterly Monterey cypress and Monterey pine which are fast growing and suited to coastal conditions.

The island shrugs off salt spray and Atlantic gales to host a myriad of exotic plants, many of which would stand no chance of survival even on the Cornish mainland less than 30 miles away. The tropical garden is home to more than 20,000 species of plants from 80 countries, ranging from Brazil to New Zealand and Burma to South Africa. Even at the winter solstice there are more than 300 plants in flower.



- o o o -

The February meeting in the Village Hall takes place at 7.15 for 7.30pm on the 9th of the month. Jacqui Vallance of the Warwickshire Chicken Coop will give a talk titled "All About Chickens".

Douglas Netherclef

TYSOE CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

The New Year started with a topical focus on ways to keep healthy, with a particular emphasis on the Science aspects of diet, exercise and leisure activities. Surprising facts investigated by the children include the amount of sugar in popular fizzy drinks and how these also can damage your teeth. As part of this emphasis on food, the School Council met with the Catering Managers to consider changes to the menu and feedback about the meals. The children were very honest in their comments and also provided helpful suggestions to improve the service.



Tysoe CE School participated in the Christingle Service at Coventry Cathedral

Another important feature at Tysoe School is the high quality provision of sport and extra-curricular clubs. The Sports Premium Funding has enabled a lunchtime activity club, coaching support in gymnastics and an after-school dance club. All teachers are also generous with their time to provide a wide range of after school clubs including computers, cookery and art. Peripatetic teachers offer lessons in a range of musical instruments, football and French. Exciting events for the term have already been booked. These include a poetry and music event to introduce a poetry week. Teachers have also arranged a wide variety of trips. Different classes will visit the British Museum to study the Ancient Greeks, Chedworth Roman Villa, Herbert Art Gallery and Coventry Cathedral, and Warwick Castle. The historical theme continues with a planned Viking Invasion in school, with the opportunity for children to dress up! Lots of hands-on experiences to promote good learning!

Finally thank you to anyone who shopped at Stratford Waitrose in November and posted tokens in the Tysoe box. We received £250 and are very grateful for your support.

OXHILL RISK ASSESSMENT

For the attention of London based Employers

Due to your employees prolonged absence over Christmas from their employment (you will note that we have not used the word 'work' as this word appears to be unknown to them) residents of Oxhill thought that a risk assessment was appropriate. Here follows the assessor's observations:

1. We are unsure whether your employees remember what is supposed to happen when the alarm clock goes off and consequently suggest that some allowance should be made for the start time on their first day back.
2. We are confident that your employee will find their way to Banbury Station as the sign-posting is good and some often have a navigator with them but we cannot guarantee what will happen when they get to Marylebone.
3. We are unsure of what will happen, if and when, they get to their place of employment. When asked to think of a 4 letter word beginning with 'W' and ending with a 'k', the assessors were not impressed with the answer they were given!
4. Close watch should be maintained around the middle of the day as they apparently have a tendency to consume alcohol and then take all their clothes off and seek out their partners.
5. On this front there is some good news, your employee's partner has stated that their skills in the bedroom department have improved a little. However, when you have been working at something for 2/3 weeks non-stop, we imagine that some improvement should take place.
6. Finally, if you are not hugely impressed by their output when they first come back to their place of employment, please do not do anything drastic as they will probably soon be off again for a prolonged period, when they go on holiday.

7. The assessors recommend a further assessment, if and when, your employee returns to their employment duties.

*Yours sincerely,
Oxhill Assessment Team*



CARERS 4 CARERS

Friday 24th February 10.30 – 12noon: Carers4Carers meeting at Kineton Village Hall. Coffee and chat then ‘Let off steam’ with Karen Swan.

We can look after your loved one in our Companionship Group while you attend the meeting; please request this in advance.

For more details, including help with transport, phone Gillian on 01926 640203/07947 893504

ST. PETER’S CHURCH WHATCOTE CHRISTMAS PUDDINGS 2016

All the puddings were sold making a profit for church funds of £379.67. One travelled to America and another to Switzerland as well as to other parts of the United Kingdom.

May I say thank you to all our regular and new customers and to wish you all a happy and peaceful 2017.

June Wreford

OXHILL SCARECROW WEEKEND UPDATE

Preparations are progressing well for the weekend on 1 and 2 July with the theme of `That's Entertainment`. Here is a quick progress update:

- Volunteers - 27 offers of help given, which is fabulous - thank you! More volunteers welcome particularly flower arrangers, people to open their garden and also cake makers and washer uppers
- Treasure Hunts - kids and adult treasure hunts being planned
- Art Exhibition - also confirmed for the Old Chapel
- Local produce stalls - there are a lot of talented food and craft producers in the village, we would love you to promote your produce over the weekend
- Raffle - prizes for a raffle for the weekend welcome, especially if they are creative or the sort of prizes that `money can't buy`
- Publicity - the word strategy has been mentioned which must be serious! We will be looking to advertise the weekend in local papers, invite perhaps a magazine to cover our event - in addition to the esteemed Oxhill News! Also creating a poster for local shops etc. And we now have a Facebook page: www.facebook.com/OxhillScarecrows
- Road closure plans, insurance etc - in hand
- Entertainment, bell ringing in the church etc - also in hand
- Save those old clothes - old trousers, shirts, tights are perfect for making scarecrows - do save them!

And finally for now, we are planning a scarecrow making afternoon in June in the Village Hall where straw bales will be available; plus those saved old clothes to make your scarecrow will then come in handy. Details to follow.

For offers of help or any queries, Katy Dowding at kdowding@me.com or on 688194 will be pleased to hear from you. Katy is kindly-co-ordinating our plans.





WOT2Grow Community Orchard

A quiet month at the orchard after the festive season but at least the pruning has been started and it is really interesting to see the different ways the varieties of apples and pears grow. Some of the trees are very upright and strong whilst others have a more relaxed way of growing!

The blueberry raised beds have been constructed and lined with plastic with drainage holes. However we are still awaiting the correct soil with which to fill them, it needs to be acidic with a ph between 4.5 and 5.0. When this arrives we will be ready to plant up several different varieties to extend the fruiting season.

So we will carry on pruning and tidying up over the coming month whilst we wait for the warmer weather! After the mild winter so far the buds are forming and swelling fast so we hope that it doesn't turn too cold for too long. Then we can start to think about feeding and doing the initial organic sprays to help with keeping the bugs and diseases at bay.

For more information contact

Liz Atkinson (680045), Paul Sayer (680451), Sue and Mike Sanderson (688080)



WOT2Grow Community Orchard WASSAIL

Wassailing is a wonderful tradition of song, fire, incantation, lots of cider drinking and blessing of trees to produce a good crop in the forthcoming season. The wassail in our community orchard was brilliantly conducted by Wassail King Duncan Harper.

Here we come a wassailing
Among the leaves so green,
Here we come a wandering
So fair to be seen.
Love and joy come to you,
And to you your wassail too,
And God bless you and send you a happy New Year.
And God send you a happy New Year.

— Somerset, 1871



Apple-tree, apple-tree,
Bear good fruit,
Or down with your top
And up with your root.

— 19th century S. Hams.



There were three different cider drinks available, including a warming Mulled Cider and a Spiced Cider - all made from the apples of the orchard.



The Kinton Boy Scouts group were on hand to raise funds for their troupe by selling delicious burgers and hotdogs - they even had veggie sausages!

Scams and rogue traders



**KEEP ME
POSTED**



25/01/2017 Rogue traders tackled with approved trader scheme partnership

25-01-2017 11:35 AM GMT

Worried about rogue traders? Warwickshire Trading Standards has entered in to a new partnership with [No Rogue Traders Here](#) - an approved trader scheme.

'No Rogue Traders Here' is an approved trader scheme with a difference, putting consumers in touch with traders who have been fully vetted.

All traders are:

- Approved by Trading Standards
- Bankruptcy and identity checked
- Home and business addresses verified
- Licences and insurance verified
- Monitored on both quality & price
- Interviewed before being admitted to the scheme

'No Rogue Traders Here' vetted traders include: Builders – Roofers – Plumbers – Double Glazing – Central Heating & Boilers – Electricians – Carpenters – Decorators – Bathrooms – Kitchens – Driveways. They also have handymen who will carry out small jobs.

To find out more and register, visit: [No Rogue Traders Here](#) or phone 0800 233 5000.

- Make a scam/rogue trader complaint to Trading Standards via [Citizens Advice Consumer Service](#) on 03454 040506.
- Warwickshire Trading Standards [Website](#) [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#)
- Sign up to scam alerts at www.warwickshire.gov.uk/scams
- Avoid rogue traders. Use Warwickshire Trading Standards [No Rogue Traders Here](#) approved trader scheme
- Please feel free to pass on or re-publish this email alert

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Shire Hall

Warwick



**KEEP ME
POSTED**



Warwickshire
County Council

FOUND CAT

A big black male cat was found in Oxhill and is presently residing with Mike and Vanessa Druce. If you know him or his owners, please contact us on 07972 240818

Thank you, Vanessa



CLEANER WANTED

2 or 3 hours a week on a day to suit... possibly some ironing too
Immediate start

Please contact: Hilary Stait 07891 838 314



Anniversary 1997-2017

2017 is a special year for Shipston Home Nursing, celebrating its 20th Anniversary. Your local Charity, nursing the terminally ill within their own homes since 1997.

We would like to thank everyone who has been involved and all who have supported this wonderful Charity over the last 20 years. We look forward to seeing you all at fundraising events throughout our Anniversary year.

visit www.shipstohomenursing.co.uk for further details

Registered Charity No. 1061405



Wellbeing Day - Saturday March 11th 2017, 10am - 3pm

The Butts, Cherington CV36 5HZ
£30 inclusive of 3 1/2 hour treatments & refreshments

For further details contact Beverley 07866 988355



Thank You EH SPENCER

EH Spencer have been fundraising for the charity for 19 years through the Collection Box Scheme and sales of this amazing diary.

THE ROYAL WARWICKSHIRE REGIMENT

The Centenary of the start of the 1914-18
BATTLE OF THE SOMME
will be remembered on 1st July.



"Thank You Mr Spence 'That's Great Enough!'"

"The diary is a great help to me by Royal Warwicks Regt."

is available for purchase

from E. H. Spencer (Sales and Marketing Dept)

Blackwell House

11100

Shipston Home Nursing

will be available to purchase from the diary proceeds.

WHAT'S ON IN & AROUND OXHILL

February

Wednesday 1st	10:30	The Peacock - Village Coffee Morning
Tuesday 7th		Green & Blue bin collection
Thursday 9th	14:00	Knit and Natter
Thursday 9th	19:30	Oxhill Garden Club talk "Through the Garden Gate - Adrian James"
Friday 10th	9:30	Weekday Walkers
Friday 10th	14:30	Village Hall - Mobile Library
Tuesday 14th		Grey landfill bin collection
Wednesday 15th		Oxhill News submission deadline
Wednesday 15th	12:30	The Peacock - Village Lunch
Tuesday 21st		Green & Blue bin collection
Thursday 23rd	14:00	Knit and Natter
Friday 24th	9:30	Weekday Walkers
Friday 24th	10:30 - 12:00	Carers4Carers Kineton Village Hall
Saturday 25th	19:30	Après Ski Night, Village Hall
Tuesday 28th		Grey landfill bin collection
Tuesday 28th	19:30	Pancake Supper, Old Chapel

March

Saturday 25th	19:30	Quiz and Cuisine, Village Hall
Sunday 5th	15:00	Teapot Pourri, Townsend Hall