

THE OXHILL NEWS



No. 404
July 2008

WEEKDAY WALKERS

Join us for our walks in July; they are as follows:

Friday 11th July

Great Rollright - Ascott - Hook Norton, a 7½-mile walk with 420 feet of ascent and lunch at "The Pear Tree" in Hook Norton. We will leave Oxhill at 9:45 a.m.

Friday 25th July

Upton House – Edgehill, a 6-mile walk with 300 feet of ascent and lunch at "The Castle Inn". We will leave Oxhill at 10.00 a.m.

Please contact Jim Saxton 01295 680613 or saxton@tiscali.co.uk before the Thursday prior to the walk.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

BAPTISMS

Welcomed into the Lord's Family on June 28th; Henry Kennedy

WEDDINGS

Congratulations to:

June 21st	Andrew Merriman and Victoria Warne
June 28th	Robert Fox and Julie Kaye

BREAST CANCER FUND

A very special 'Thank You' to Myrtle Knight who very kindly donated the £30.00 proceeds of the Oxhill Garden Club plant sale to the Breast Cancer Fund. The total amount I have raised so far is £1003.00. Many thanks again to all who have supported me in this important fundraising charity event.

Jane Saunders

AUGUST ISSUE

Please could I have all copy for the August issue by Midnight on **Friday, 25th July**?

If you normally prepare your material using a computer, it would make my life easier if you could submit your offering in electronic form, though paper is, of course, fine. My 'official' e-mail address is news-editor@oxhill.org.uk if you wish to send me stuff that way.

George Adams, 680286

COVER PICTURE

Whatever choice of scarecrows I make is bound to be wrong. There were so many splendid ones again this year. I have picked out a few that particularly caught my eye and tickled my fancy.

Ed.

BASTILLE EVE

A STORMING EVENT

On the eve of Bastille Day, Sunday 13 July, Oxhill Village Hall is hosting a French Boules event at Lunchtime for the prestigious Gardner Cup.

In addition to a thrilling Boules competition for all of the family (it's easy to play and guidance will be available for any novices), there will be French Cheese, Pate and Bread all washed down with French Beer and Wine.

Starting at 12.00 p.m. (Competition starts at 12.30) the event will last for a couple of hours. A team can consist of 1, 2, 3 or even (at a pinch) 4 people, and age (or lack of it) will be no bar to success. Come along and enter a family team from your house, or join with neighbours. The winning team will be presented with the Gardner Cup at the conclusion of the afternoon.

Tickets are priced at £5 for an Adult, £3 for a Child and £15 for a family and the price includes food, drink and tournament entry.

Please contact George or Gwyn Adams on 680286 or the editorial email for Tickets. Tickets can also be bought on the day, though if you arrive late the tournament may have started without you.

Derek Harbour

BREAST CANCER QUIZ NIGHT

Thank you to everyone who came along to support us in our fundraising event putting their brains to the test!! A BIG Thank you also to all those folks who helped on the night and donated prizes. We raised £366.00 which added to our fundraising for the moonwalk (26 miles overnight around London!!) brings us to well over £2000 with donations still coming in!

This is an important charity as more and more women seem to be falling victim to the disease. Men also are not immune from breast cancer so a message to you all...

CHECK YOUR BOOBS AND MOOBS REGULARLY!!!
THANK YOU AGAIN FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT.

Jane Sanders

ST. LAWRENCE'S CHURCH, OXHILL

SERVICES IN JULY

All are warmly welcome

Sunday 6th	Trinity VII	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion (ML)
Sunday 13th	Trinity VIII	3.30 p.m.	Pet Service at Oxhill Manor (NM)
Sunday 20th	Trinity IX	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion (ML)
Sunday 27th	Trinity X	9.30 a.m.	Family Service (NM)

VICARAGE NOTES

Scarecrow Weekend June 14th/15th.

Huge thanks to Lilian Welsby and her team for all the hard work put into the weekend. Thanks to everyone in the village who so kindly made scarecrows, opened gardens and welcomed visitors to Oxhill – the hundreds who came had a great time. The generous support given by many has been a real boost to St. Lawrence's Church!

Pet Service 3.30 p.m. July 13th 2008

All are invited to Oxhill Manor for the annual outdoor service to which both people and pets are invited! There will be the informal service suitable for all ages followed by tea. Do come along, with or without a pet. Please note that there is no 8.30 a.m. H.C. that day.

Thought for the month

When speaking with couples planning their marriage service, the choice of hymns – old and new - is always discussed: hymns of praise; reflective hymns, jolly songs and national hymns. I have a long list of those chosen at weddings over the years. A perennial favourite is "Praise my soul the King of heaven" by Henry Lyte, the author of "Abide with me". Lyte provides a poetic interpretation of Psalm 103 with memorable phrases, but one verse is always omitted, as the sentiments expressed are too unsuitable and difficult for a hymn of praise. However, these are the words – so you can make up your own minds!

*Frail as summer's flower we flourish, blows the wind and it is gone;
But while mortals rise and perish, God endures unchanging on.
Praise him! Praise him! Praise the high eternal one.*

Best wishes and God bless,

Nicholas Morgan, 01608 685230

RACHEL COSTA

We are pleased to report that Rachel is making a good recovery from her recent accident. The plaster has already been removed and she expects to be fully fighting fit soon.

Special thanks are due to Adam Dean who, with his friend, was first to hear Rachel's call for help and rushed round to provide assistance, and to Tracey Hepplewhite who was not far behind. Rachel also thanks her son Joe for looking after her so well during her troubles.

Editor

GARDEN PARTY

Oxhill gardeners braved the summer weather at their recent annual garden party. We sat with our coats and rugs and some of us discovered it wasn't too difficult to eat strawberries and cream without removing the gloves. Everyone enjoyed the great food and company and watched the sun go down with a glass or two of wine in the garden of Binswood Cottage. A big "thank you" to Lilian for the use of her facilities and to the hardworking committee for the preparation and clearing up.

Ann Saxton

I should like to add some special thankyou's to the above regarding the Garden Party. Of course to Lilian for hosting the event, but also to those not part of the "chain gang" (alias the committee) who helped to make the rather chilly evening such a success for 23 members. Jim helped to set up tables, Ann and Gwyn provided very welcome extra dishes, Heather the cutlery and glasses and many helped to clear up afterwards. Thanks to you all. The "chain gang" did a splendid job too!!

Myrtle

TYSOE SPORTS PAVILLON FUN DAY

12th JULY 2008

2 p.m. ONWARDS

BBQ Bar Skittles Aunt Sally

Golf Putting Welly Wanging

Teas & Coffee Sweets Penalty Shootout Cricket Match

SCARECROW & OPEN GARDENS WEEKEND

What a fabulous weekend! This year there were even more visitors.

I really do not know where to start with the thank yous.

Firstly to Mike for organizing the road closure last year as well as this. I forgot to say thank you to him then – made it this time.

To George for all the poster printing. There were loads of them. And thanks to Marianne and Gwyn for putting up dozens of posters across such a very wide area. Thanks to Janet, Brian and Josie for all their work on publicity. It certainly paid off. Thanks also for the use of the field for the car park.

Thanks to Roger and Chris for getting the tables from Tysoe, and also for the use of the large marquee.

Thanks to Carol and Tom for both of the pig roasts. They were excellent as always.

Thanks to Ann, Jude and Carol for the flower arrangements in Church. They looked lovely. And thanks to Val for doing the trip to Birmingham to get the flowers.

Thanks to Heather for producing the maps and stickers. I'm sorry you had so much stress with the computer failure. Thanks again to George for stepping in to help out on the day when extras were needed.

What would I have done without Gaynor, who organises all the teas; she really does take a great load off my shoulders. The teas were excellent as usual, with all the lovely cakes. We did for the first time run out of cakes to sell.

Thanks to all of you who helped out on the car park and church rotas.

Thanks to my son Kevin for the straw. It was a bit stressful this time, but he managed to get it to us bang on time.

Thanks to Mike for being on call for medical assistance all weekend.

Thanks to Charles for making and putting up notices all round the village.

Thanks to all of you who had your gardens open. Many compliments were made by visitors. Well done. I know it is hard work, but they did look splendid.

To my team, Doreen, Helen, Janet, Diana, Val and Carol – many heartfelt thanks. I could not do it without you all.

Thanks to everyone who helped to get everything set up on Saturday and Sunday mornings. Thanks to Alan and Tony, and to everyone who helped on the stalls and teas.

Thank you to Yvonne and Pam for the donation of £55 from the Aunt Sally game at the Peacock on Sunday evening.

The pig roast on Saturday evening was a great success with over 80 people present. Thanks to James and Linda for running the bar, and to Joe for clearing up and removing straw from the hall.

Special thanks to Angela, who made all the scarecrows in the congregation in the Church. The Bishop of Oxhill looked very grand. I bet it's the first time a bishop has worn a pair of red fleecy pyjamas under his regalia.

I do hope I have not left anyone out; you all worked so hard. I did say in last month's News "Come on Oxhill, let's do it again", and boy, did you! Those wonderful scarecrows; such great ideas – without them we would not have a weekend. I do not know how to say thank you enough to you all for your efforts.

I cannot finish without saying thank you to all my family, who worked for a solid week making 21 scarecrows and then worked all through the weekend.

It was the best weekend we have ever had, with £3,760 made for Church funds. My heartfelt thanks to you all.

Lilian

HOSPITALS SHAPE UP TO BE 'FIT FOR THE FUTURE'

South Warwickshire General Hospitals NHS Trust is applying to become a Foundation Trust (FT) and a key part of the FT application process is a formal 12-week public consultation exercise which began on Monday 7 April and continues to Monday 30 June 2008.

This consultation period has included a series of open public meetings that began at Warwick Gates Community Centre on Tuesday 15 April and will conclude at Kenilworth's De Montfort Hotel on Friday 20 June. People living in the area have been giving a positive response to the Trust's vision of making its services 'Fit for the Future' and its plans for gaining FT status.

Local people are also being urged to play an active role in the future of their local hospitals by signing up to become Members of the new FT.

Trust Chief Executive Glen Burley explained: "At South Warwickshire General Hospitals NHS Trust we have a clear vision for the future of our services. We want local people to share in this vision and help shape our plans for the future.

"The best way to do this is to become a Member. Membership is free and open to anyone aged 16 or over who lives in the South Warwickshire area.

"We recognise that different people will want to be involved in different ways and we aim to be flexible about what Members can do. Some people may want to simply receive regular information by email or newsletter so they can keep up to date with the Trust's activities, whilst others may want to help us develop our services by giving us their views or by taking part in focus groups or playing a more active role in gathering patient feedback. Either option is fine and those people who want to be even more involved can put themselves forward for election to the Council of Governors.

"Our Members will play a pivotal role in the exchange of information and ideas between us and the community we serve. They will tell us how we could improve our services and act as the link with the community gathering views from their friends and family. I would therefore urge everyone to consider becoming a Member to help ensure that our proposed Foundation Trust works effectively and in your interests."

Membership applications can be made either by completing the form in the back of the FT brochure available at both Stratford and Warwick Hospitals; online at www.warwickshire.hospital.nhs.uk/ft; by emailing ft@swh.nhs.uk or contacting the Trust's FT Office at Freepost RRUR-BBAH-CAJA, Foundation Trust Office, Warwick Hospital, Lakin Road, Warwick, CV34 5BW. There is also a freephone number for the FT Office which is 0800 085 2471.

More information on the consultation (including an electronic copy of a detailed consultation document) is available on the Trust's website at www.warwickhospital.nhs.uk

[I have pointed out to the Trust that the time to send out press releases like this is before the public consultation process starts rather than as it finishes, but they don't seem to find that particularly important – Ed.]

THEY DID THE RIGHT THING

We have been asked to print the following press release from the West Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust:

Ambulance bosses are praising the mother of a six year old boy who suffered potentially serious burns to his bottom after he sat on a lit barbeque.

West Midlands Ambulance Service was called to a small village midway between Stratford and Banbury at 6.10pm this evening (Tuesday).

An ambulance and the County Air Ambulance from Strensham were sent to the scene.

Paramedic, Mike Blizard (corr), said: "By great good fortune a Community First Responder was attending the barbeque and immediately got his medical kit from his car and started treatment using a water gel dressing.

"The boy was understandably very upset. The CFR and the boy's mother took the youngster to the shower and hosed the affected area with cold running water.

"When we arrived we dressed the burn and then let the helicopter fly him to Birmingham Children's Hospital where he will receive specialist treatment. His father went with him.

"I would like to pay tribute to the CFR and the mother who did exactly the right thing; not only did they remain calm, they gave the lad the right treatment.

"It is an important lesson to learn; if you suffer a serious burn from something like a barbeque, make sure you keep cold running water on the affected area."

Don't forget – if you have a medical emergency contact our local Community First Responders Mick and Barbara Shepherd. They can get to you considerably faster than an ambulance can.

Editor

SINGERS WANTED

Cantamus a cappella, Shipston's chamber choir, has vacancies for experienced choral singers in the alto, tenor, and bass sections. Singers need to be competent music readers who are confident to hold a line on their own.

For further details, please contact Richard Emms, Director, on 01608 662163. Please visit www.cantamus.org.uk for information about the choir and its repertoire.

Yvonne Ridley, (Secretary to Cantamus)

FIRST RESPONDERS

Mick and Barbara Shepard, First Responders for West Midlands Ambulance Service covering Oxhill and a 4-mile radius.

Oxhill residents could, if they wish, contact us direct for serious accidents and medical emergencies after they have dialled 999. If we are at home, or in the area we will respond as quickly as possible.

The dedicated ambulance mobile number is 07977149317 (Try this one first) or the home number is 01295680644. We are now able to provide greater daytime cover.

Over the past few months we have been attending basic and intermediate IHCD First Person on Scene courses in order to further develop our skills.

Mick and Barbara

WOW, WHAT A WEEKEND!

THE BEST YET!

CAKES AND TEAS!

A big thank you to all of you who helped make the weekend such an amazing success. Crowds of people descended on Oxhill from far and wide. Nuneaton, Coventry and Solihull to name just a few places we heard mentioned. We were busy all day long, both Saturday and Sunday, and managed to raise a staggering £760 on the teas alone! When you consider that a cup of tea and a slice of cake costs on average £1.50, you begin to realise how many cups of tea were made and just how much washing up had to be done!

So a really big thank you to everyone who contributed in making it all such success, to everyone who helped at the hall, served the endless cups of teas and did the piles of washing up and to everyone who supplied us with the delicious cakes. We were so busy some hardy folk went home Saturday and baked more cakes and scones. But even so for the first time ever we actually ran out of cakes on Sunday, so you know what that means! Yes, we will need more next year!

We received loads of compliments about the cakes, one gentleman actually saying we served the best homemade cakes in the area and that he always makes a point of visiting Oxhill Scarecrow Weekend just for the cakes. No pressure then!

Everyone worked incredibly hard but I hope we had some fun along the way.

THANK YOU!

Gaynor

P.S. I will understand if nobody answers their phone next year or rushes off in the opposite direction!

VILLAGE HISTORY

Parliamentarian Cavalry camp in Oxhill 1644

Our local Royalist, Daniel Blackford, lies in a place of honour in the aisle of Oxhill Church, (and was no doubt flattered to have been recently resurrected, by Myrtle's hand, as a handsome scarecrow). However the other side did not go unrepresented here, and on the nights of 25th and 26th June, 1644, Oxhill was the site of a Parliamentarian encampment of horse. King and Parliamentary forces criss-crossed the Midlands that summer, destroying bridges as they went, and depleting local food supplies. In June, 1644 (two years after the battle of Edgehill) Waller's army, marching from Stow, reached "Shipston-on Stower," where the exhausted foot soldiers were quartered, while his cavalry came on to Oxhill.

It is probable that the church was used as accommodation for horse or men, as often happened, and it would be surprising if a visit over two days had not left some marks. There is an old local legend told to me by Bert Bloxham that might apply here, although it has been assumed to relate to the battle of Edgehill two years earlier. The story is that soldiers sharpened their swords on the smaller window on the south (far) side of the church chancel. I have always been uncertain of the Edgehill connection, as there was to my knowledge no large band of soldiers in the village at that time. Local combatants such as Daniel Blackford would probably have born pikes, and in any case would have had their own whetstones at home for any swords. Nevertheless, the window's mullions are quite noticeably flattened, and if this is due to sword sharpening it seems to me more likely that it would have been done by the troops quartered here in 1644.

Another thought. A month before they visited Oxhill, Waller's soldiers had torn down the old market cross at Abingdon. I wonder if it was they who destroyed the top of Oxhill's preaching cross, whose stump remains to the right of the churchyard path? Could be!

Ann Hale

THE NATIONAL TRUST: UPTON HOUSE AND GARDENS

Volunteer Tour Guides

We are expanding our program of guided tours and are looking for Volunteer Tour Guides.

Upton was the home of a 1930s millionaire; the tours cover the stunning art and porcelain collections, the millionaire lifestyle in the 1930s and 'behind the scenes' tours looking at the life of the staff at Upton.

Being a tour guide can be fun and rewarding. You don't need to be an expert; full training will be given. You need to be enthusiastic, excellent with people and able to inspire an audience.

The tours run every day, Saturday to Wednesday, between 11am and 1pm. We particularly need help on weekends and during our six weeks of 7 day opening in July and August.

If you would like to find out more, please call on 01295 670266 or email mhairi.peters@nationaltrust.org.uk

SHIPSTON HOME NURSING

Armscote Manor Lecture Series

Monday 6th October - James Kerr, landscape and architectural photographer; Shakespeare's Scenery, a photographic journey of Warwickshire and the North Cotswolds

Tuesday 7th October 2008 - Graham Dillamore; The Gardens of Historic Royal Palaces

Wednesday 8th October 2008 - Dr Paula Henderson PhD, FSA; The Tudor House and Landscape

Thursday 9th October 2008 - Val Bourne; The Winter Garden

Friday 10th October 2008 - Maggie Cole with Harriet Walter & Guy Henry (subject to availability); The Scandalous Mrs. Woodhouse - Violet Gordon Woodhouse; a performance in words and music

The lectures start at 7 p.m. with a glass of wine. Sponsored by Bablake Wines Limited

For tickets please contact Deborah Williams or Madeleine James at Armscote Manor, Armscote, Warwickshire CV37 8DA, Tel: 01608 682 375,

deborah.williams@armscotemanor.co.uk

Please make cheques payable to Shipston Home Nursing and send applications for tickets with a self addressed stamped envelope.

Ticket prices: 1 lecture £14.00, 2 lectures £26.00, 3 lectures £33.00, 4 lectures £44.00, 5 lectures £53.00. Tickets not available on the door.

SCARECROW WEEKEND BALLOON RACE

The letter below reached Lilian on June 18th:

Wegberg, 17 June 2008

Dear Lilian,

I have found your balloon in our garden on June 15th at 9.00 hour in the morning. My husband and I didn't know where from the balloon comes. So we look in the Internet and we know the balloon is coming from England and, see, OXHILL has a wonderful Church!

With best regards from Germany, all the best for you and your family.

Annemarie & Herbert Peters

P.S. Wegberg is a little town with approximately 30,000 people, near the Dutsch-border and also 15 kilometres away from "Mönchengladback"- a big town of 260,000 people.

We suspect that this is the winning balloon. And, in case you were wondering, I didn't have to stretch myself too much translating the letter. Annemarie writes far better English than my German.

Editor

WHAT'S ON IN & AROUND OXHILL

JULY

Wednesday 2nd	10.30	The Peacock – Village Coffee Morning
Tuesday 8th	8.00	Village Hall – Parish Council meeting
Friday 11th	9.45	Weekday Walkers
Sunday 13th	12.00	Village Hall – Bastille Eve Lunch and Boules
Wednesday 16th		The Peacock – Village Lunch
Friday 25th	10.00	Weekday Walkers
	23.59	Copy deadline for The News

SEPTEMBER

Sunday 7th	9.00	Honington Hall – Shipston Home Nursing Car Boot
Saturday 27th		Progressive Dinner – more details in August

OCTOBER

Monday 6-Friday 10		Armscote Manor – Lecture series
Friday 10th		Armscote House – Harpsichord recital
Friday 31st		Village Hall – Non-Hallowe'en Dinner – more details later

LOOKING FOR A GOOD HOME

Single Slumberland Bed
with two storage drawers

FREE

Dot Richards, 680475

COUNTRY CAR BOOT SALE

In aid of Shipston Home Nursing

SUNDAY 7th SEPTEMBER

Gates open at 9.00 a.m.

In the Idyllic parkland of the Honington Estate

By kind permission of Lady Sarah Wiggin

Car booters by application only

Please call Rebecca on 01608 674929

Public entry fee £2 per head, maximum £5 per car

Food and refreshments available