

# THE OXHILL NEWS



No. 416  
July 2009

## MOBILE LIBRARY

The library van will continue to visit Oxhill on Tuesdays, stopping at the Village Hall at 10 a.m. and staying there for 30 minutes.

In July the van will visit us on Tuesday 14th.

You can renew books between van visits by calling 01926 851031, or online at [www.Warwickshire.gov.uk/wild](http://www.Warwickshire.gov.uk/wild).

*Editor*

## LENT APPEAL

A big thank you goes to all those who have contributed by putting loose change in a jar this Lent; we have so far raised £400 which is just £100 short of another well. If anyone still has a jar partly filled please return it to us at Medway, Green Lane.

*Jim Saxton, 680613*

## WEEKDAY WALKERS

We shall be doing only one walk in July as follows:

Friday 10th July: This walk is 7.5 mile long, from Long Compton to Whichford with 700 feet of ascent. Lunch will be at "The Norman Knights" in Whichford. We will leave Oxhill at 9:45 a.m.

Please contact Jim Saxton on 01295 680613 or at [saxton@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:saxton@tiscali.co.uk) before the Thursday prior to the walk.

## AUGUST ISSUE

Please could I have all copy for the August issue by Midnight on **Saturday, 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](mailto:news-editor@oxhill.org.uk) if you wish to send me stuff that way.

*George Adams, 680286*

## COVER PICTURES

There is no space to do them justice on the cover, but those of you with Internet access might care to point your pet browser at the web page below

[www.shipstondeanery.co.uk/churches/Oxhill/scarecrow2009](http://www.shipstondeanery.co.uk/churches/Oxhill/scarecrow2009)

where you will be able to see Jim Saxton's splendid collection of scarecrow photographs in its entirety.

Apologies to everyone I have missed out; it was very difficult to choose so the selection is pretty well random!

*Editor*

## ART EXHIBITION

Oxhill Artists held their first ever Art Exhibition in the Village Hall on the 9th June. It was a great evening, with enthusiastic response from the village, and a lovely social event. For just a £1 donation the Oxhill art group provided a glass of wine and nibbles, not to mention a viewing of their very splendid pictures. We gave £75 to the Village Hall fund and hope to be able to do the same next year. We ended the first year by painting, on the most glorious sunny day, in Phil Brennan's very "Monet" garden, and with a visit to Compton Verney.

The art group begins again on Tuesday 8th September. Thanks to all those who supported the Exhibition and my talented Artists!!

*Barbara Kenny*

## WOW! WHAT A WEEKEND!

### **A HUGE THANK YOU TO YOU ALL! YOU KNOW WHO YOU ARE!**

To all of you who helped make the weekend such a success, a really genuine thank you. Those of you who made the cakes and then went off to make more when the cry went up! We just about managed to last out, just a few lonely scones and a couple of fairy cakes which were sold off by a determined local, who walked the streets looking for buyers. She did it!

To all of you who manned the Village Hall on both Saturday and Sunday a big thank you. To all of you who washed dishes, sliced and served the cakes, cleared tables and poured the never-ending cups of tea, a really big thank you. I know many of you volunteered to help for a couple of hours and ended up working for at least four!

I say it every year but we really couldn't do it without you all.

So about next year .....

THANK YOU!

*Gaynor Fila*

## VILLAGE HALL AGM

If anyone would like a copy of the Minutes of the AGM please let me know. The reason I did not ask the Editor to put them in The News was simply because they would take up too much space. However they are of course open to all to read.

*Judy Badger, Secretary, Village Hall Committee, 688010*

## FOR SALE

**1971 ABBEY CARAVAN 212 GT**

(with awning)

Ideal for the 'retro' buyer

Best offer obtains

Phone Emmerson on 01295 680565

# ST. LAWRENCE'S CHURCH, OXHILL

## SERVICES IN JULY

All are warmly welcome

Sunday 5th	Trinity IV	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion (ML)
Sunday 14th	Trinity V	6.30 p.m.	Evensong (ML)
Sunday 21st	Trinity VI	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion (ML)
Sunday 28th	Trinity VII	9.30 a.m.	Family Service (NM)

## SCARECROW WEEKEND

What a successful weekend! Every year we get better and better!

Firstly I want to say 'Thank you very much' to:

The printers Heather and George for the posters, maps and stickers. Prompt delivery and never a penny charged!

Mike Collins for organising the road closure and putting up the barriers and signs

Charles for all the other signs and open garden signs

Brian and Josie for all the advertising, which paid off wonderfully

Brian also for his tireless work managing the car parks

Jill Rodwell for the use of her field as the overflow car park, so sorely needed this year

All the people who manned the car park(s) for an hour; well done

All those who did an hours stint in the Church

Gaynor Fila for organising the teas; a very big thank you here Gaynor – it's your job for life

Everybody who did such a wonderful job with the cakes; we cracked it this year and made it right to the end

All those who worked so hard on both days serving teas; we have a reputation for our teas because our cakes are so good

All the flower decorators in the Church; it did look beautiful and visitors were so complimentary. I even had a lady ask us to do wedding flowers for a wedding in April as she was so impressed

All those who opened their gardens to our visitors, who greatly appreciated them

Carol and Tom for the pig roast on both days

Roger and Micky for the use of your marquee, and Alan for turning up as he does every year to help us set it up

And, of course, the biggest thanks of all to everyone who made all the wonderful scarecrows; without them we would not have this weekend, and they were brilliant!

The Scarecrow is for me one weekend in the year when the whole village pulls together with everyone happy, young and old alike. It is so nice to see so many cheerful faces. Thank you, everybody.

As I had nearly thirty scarecrows to make I have a special very big thank you to my family who worked tirelessly for days helping me out. Thanks also go to my son Kevin for the straw supply; he could only provide a few bales this year as he had hens sitting on eggs in the bales (13 chicks hatched out on the Saturday morning) so it was Nick Butcher to the rescue for the rest. Thank you, Nick. Thank you to Ruth who sat and made all my faces, and to the face painters Helen and June who spent a whole day with me painting 30 scarecrow faces.

Saturday evening we had a splendid pig roast, enjoyed by nearly eighty people. It's a good way of winding down before the rigours of the Sunday to come!

And, of course, I have to offer my heartfelt thanks to my committee Ann, Helen, Diana, Janet, Carol, Doreen and Val, who work throughout the year to pull everything together. I really could not manage without you.

I do hope I haven't missed anyone out, and I'm sorry that I haven't been able to mention everybody by name but the list is so long. So just to make sure, one very last great big THANK YOU to absolutely anybody who was involved in any way at all!

It was a wonderfully successful weekend, raising about £4,500 (up from £3,200 last year!) to boost Church funds and support the Air Ambulance.

*Lilian*

## VICARAGE NOTES

### **Scarecrow Weekend**

On behalf of St. Lawrence's, may I thank Lilian Welsby, the Social and Fundraising committee and the many folk who put so much time and effort into making this event such a success. There were hundreds of visitors from far and near who really enjoyed visiting Oxhill – now firmly on the map. The weather was, like the curate's egg, good in parts and I think every aspect of the weekend was successful – the teas, raffle, stalls, exhibition, open gardens, the village pigroast and, naturally, the wonderful scarecrows. To all of Oxhill, thank you for your support!

### **Thought for the month**

When planning the Scarecrow weekend Songs of Praise, I was remembering how St. Lawrence's will have been the focus for so many village and family events through the centuries, including the Solemnisation of Matrimony, as those who had a close look at the church scarecrows will know. The church itself contains many items that are "historical treasures". However, in the stories surrounding St. Lawrence, who was an early deacon to Pope Sixtus II, when he was challenged to bring forth the treasures of the church, he gathered the poor together and proclaimed that they were the true treasure who God loved. The church is always about people, and one of the good things about the C of E, for all its faults, is its spirit of openness and welcome – even to scarecrows!

God bless,

*Nicholas Morgan, 01608 685230*

## NATURE NOTES

Traditionally for farmers and land workers the time between haymaking and harvest were the busiest times of the year and it used to be considered unlucky to marry at this time. “They that wive twixt sickle and scythe shall never thrive”. “If the first of July it be rainy weather ‘twill rain, more or less, for four weeks together”, and if it does and your mind wanders to ‘other things’ take heed, Markham’s *The English Husbandman* warns “In this month of July, eschew all wanton bed-sports, and of all things forbear Lettuce”.

As we go into July, notice the quietening of the dawn chorus, and with the exception of the robin and maybe the “storm cock” (song thrush) conjuring up a storm, most birds will now be quiet and some of our summer visitors will start to get restive as their migratory urge makes itself felt, which will be quite soon for the swifts. Unfortunately there are few swifts and swallows this year and there only seem to be about half a dozen swallows over Oxhill this year. I remember days when it would be 30 or 40 and indeed when I lived at the pub there were regularly five or six pairs that nested in the stable (as it was then) and under the arch entrance, for those of you who remember. As well as young birds making their way, many young mammals will be look for their own new territories. You may recall last month I wrote about a stubble field where lapwings were nesting. About a week ago we were watching the young lapwings when I noticed a group of four leverets (young hares) who had formed a circle. Taking turns, one would rush into the centre then another would rush at it, and what I can only describe as leap-frogging, jump over the first. This carried on for several minutes in a quite frantic manner, although it seemed deliberately choreographed. Then, as one, they all stopped and rushed off ten metres or so, vanishing through a thick hedge. Seconds later one hare came out of the hedge and at lightning speed shot off across the stubble field. As it reached the other side, another hare appeared and did the same thing, exactly following the line the first had taken, then another and another. None could see the other, yet they all followed the same line. The first hare when reaching the far side of the field had turned sharp left and then gone down a track, then left again, coming down the long drive to the house where we were working. On reaching the front lawn it turned sharply, went through a thick hedge and on across a field of plough, and the three hares following followed the precise path, although none could possibly see the other, but what was obvious was the fact as they reached the point on the front lawn, they would pause, and scenting the ground followed at the exact point the first hare had turned. As the last hare arrived it took a minute or two frantically sniffing the ground, at one point taking off in the wrong direction, stopping, returning, sniffing all round only metres from us, then bingo! it picked up the scent and off it went in the right direction. I know female adult hares will find their young in the scrape by scent (hares ‘nest’ above ground by just literally making a scrape in the soil), but I have never heard of or certainly seen hares scenting and playing like this.

A couple of days ago we visited some friends who live in Lighthorne and they took us to see the village red phone box, recently decommissioned and bought by the parish

council for £1.00. It has been turned into a miniature nature centre. Every month it has topical jottings, photographs, maps, bird and mammal recognition charts, and where to see what. It's extremely well done – if you are in the area do go and visit it. Next week the Oxhill Parish Biodiversity Group will be meeting for the first time and I will report back in the next issue.

*Grenville Moore*

## **OXHILL VILLAGE HALL**

### **Upcoming Events**

**Sunday July 19th from 12.30 p.m.**

**at the Village Hall**

### **French Lunch and Boules Competition**

All are welcome to participate in a sport that does not discriminate by age; last year a team of virtual pensioners, Brian and Angela Emmerson, won the prestigious Gardner Cup. They are now polishing the said cup in readiness to hand it over to the 2009 winners and that could be your team!

No prior experience necessary.

Teams can be formed on the day and full instructions will be provided.

Tickets are £6.50 for all participants of 11 years of age or over. Tickets for Children up to and including the age of 10 are now free!

The price includes a déjeuner of cheeses, pâtés, French bread, salads and French tarts. Terrific value.

Please contact Angela Emmerson (680565) for tickets. Early bookings would be greatly appreciated by the caterers and tournament organisers.

Even though we are promised a 'Barbecue Summer' we do have plans that will allow the event to proceed even if it is a 'regular' summer's day.

### **Sunday August 9th**

### **Village Walk and Barbecue**

We have organised an easy, circular, fairly flat walk of approximately 5 miles starting and ending at the Village Hall with a sumptuous BBQ to follow.

Again, it is open to everyone in the Village regardless of age and ability. You can bring your dog along to give them an exercise treat and young children are also welcome (but the committee are not volunteering to carry them).

Details regarding the start time, expected finish time and price of the BBQ will be shown in the August News but please put the date in your diary now.

*Derek Harbour*

---

# **TYSOE**

**SATURDAY 15TH AUGUST**

# **FLOWER SHOW & FETE**

---

**FROM 1.30PM**

**AT TYSOE RECREATION GROUND**

**FEATURING: JIVE PONY DISPLAY TEAM, OXFORD ENTERTAINERS,  
MORRIS MEN, BRICKHOUSE BABES DOG AGILITY, PETTICOAT  
LANE, CHILDREN'S NOVELTY RACES, BOUNCY CASTLE,  
TEAS, BARBECUE, BAR,  
DOG SHOW - INCLUDING CLASSES FOR JUNIOR HANDLERS  
VINTAGE MACHINERY DISPLAY, THE ARDEN MG CLUB  
MANY OTHER SIDE-SHOWS AND GAMES,  
CAR BOOT SALE FREE PARKING.**

**CAR BOOTS: £7 PER PITCH ADMISSION BETWEEN 10AM AND 1PM  
NO TRADE SALE OF FOOD/DRINK & RAFFLES OTHER THAN THOSE AUTHORISED  
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION & SCHEDULES CONTACT:  
SAMANTHA LITTLEWOOD ON 01295 688137**

## SHIPSTON DEANERY

You are warmly invited to a Deanery

### GARDEN PARTY

**on Saturday, August 1st**

**between 3.00 and 5.00 p.m.**

**at The Old House, Oxhill**

(In The Old Chapel if it rains)

Jill and Colin Tucker, 01295 680663

## WELCOME

Welcome to the Monteith family who have moved to Brook House, Kineton Road  
We also welcome Vicky, Maddie, Jack and Sandy Bell, who have recently moved into Stonecroft House.

They haven't yet had time to get to know anybody so Vicky would like to make contact with other parents in the village, with a view to finding playmates for her daughter Madeleine (nearly 5 yrs old, goes to the Croft School). They also want to know if anyone in the village would like some work because they are in need of someone to do some weeding, dead heading and general handyman jobs. You can contact them on 01926 642565.

*Editor*

## KADUNA WATER WELLS

At the Harvest Service at St. Lawrence church last year the auction of produce raised sufficient funds to sponsor a water well in Kaduna State, Nigeria. Ann and I visited a number of previously sponsored wells on our visit in January and February this year. The photo is of the well at Iburu that we visited this year).

We have now heard that the well we sponsored will be located at Ungwan Barde, which is about 30 miles SW of Kaduna; you can view it at:



[http://www.companionshiplinks.co.uk/well\\_map\\_kaduna.asp](http://www.companionshiplinks.co.uk/well_map_kaduna.asp)

*Jim Saxton*

## SHIPSTON HOME NURSING

### CAR WASH

Would you like to have your car washed by a group of enthusiastic teenage volunteers?

Every Sunday through July and August from 10.00 a.m. - 12.00 noon at Pettifers Garage, Church St, Shipston on Stour £5 per car

Fundraising event to raise money for the forthcoming Junior Ball in October

For more information re booking etc please call Catie Barnes 07976047682 or Nick Suckling 07751556337 or just turn up and we will look after you

### COUNTRY CAR BOOT SALE

#### HONINGTON ESTATE

#### SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 6th

from 9.00 a.m.

By very kind permission of Bengy Wiggin

Public Entry fee £2 per head, max £5 per car

To book your pitch and for more information please call Rebecca on 01608 674 929

### SHIPSTON FUN RUN AND CHALLENGE RIDE

#### SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 27th

Starting from Shipston Leisure Centre

For Fun Run Details contact Gilda Gardner on 07970 177951

For Challenge Ride contact Bill Joss on 01295 68080

## CANTAMUS

### “LET US SING”

Are you an experienced singer who enjoys unaccompanied music from across the centuries and continents, both secular and sacred, singing in anything from 4 to 10 parts, be it in serious, sentimental, humorous or whimsical mood?

If your voice is alto, tenor, or bass, if you can read music well, and if you would enjoy the challenge of a very varied repertoire, you might wish to consider joining CANTAMUS, which is the Shipston-on-Stour-based a cappella group, directed by local musician and composer Richard Emms.

The choir meets on Tuesday evenings in Shipston, and undertakes concerts and liturgical performances across south Warwickshire and the North Cotswolds. Currently Cantamus is collaborating with South American folk band Caliche, has recently sung the Byrd Mass for 4 voices in a number of local churches, and continues to work closely with Three's Company – professional actors – to bring music and words together in enjoyable performances.

To find out more, look at Cantamus' website – [www.cantamus.org.uk](http://www.cantamus.org.uk) - and get in touch with Richard Emms on 01608 662163.

## RURAL POLICE BLOG

Welcome to our Rural Police Blog, in this months Blog we will look at Community Forum meetings and how they can be of use to the public and we will also give you the opportunity to find out more about one of our teams members. This months Blog will cover Police Community Support Officer, Andrew Steventon.

Community Forum meetings are an initiative set up by Warwickshire County Council, which are also supported by Warwickshire Police. They give the general public the opportunity to express community concerns and they also offer an opportunity to the public, for them to hear a little bit about the sort of work, that both the council and the Police are getting involved in.

The meetings consist of a one-hour Police surgery, followed by a presentation by the Shipston Safer Neighbourhood team. At the end of the presentation, members of the public agree to three community priorities. The Police then use these priorities as areas of focus, to satisfy community need. Examples of these priorities include speeding, anti-social behaviour, etc.

The next Community Forum meeting is on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2009, from 1800 to 2000 hrs at Pillerton Priors village hall. For details of future meetings, you can log on to [www.safer-neighbourhoods.co.uk](http://www.safer-neighbourhoods.co.uk).

### Meet the team

This months meet the team article introduces Police Community Support Officer, Andrew Steventon.



Andrew is the newest member of our team and is coming from a customer focused retail environment, with over 5 years experience at meeting the needs of the public. Previous job roles also include metal fabricator and welder. Andrew is looking forward to performing the role of a Police Community Support Officer.

**Please keep reading our Blog to find out more about our Rural Police SNT and to find out about what we are doing to prevent crime and to protect your community from harm.**

*Russell Brian*

## WHAT'S ON IN & AROUND OXHILL

### *July*

Thursday 2nd	18.00	Pillerton Priors Village Hall – Police Community Forum
Friday 10th	9.45	Weekday Walkers
Tuesday 14th	10.00	Village Hall – Mobile Library
Sunday 19th	12.30	Village Hall – Lunch & Boules Tournament
Tuesday 21st	8.00	Village Hall - Parish Council meeting
Thursday 23rd		Garden Club visit to Rousham Gardens
Saturday 25th	23.59	Copy deadline for the News

### *August*

Saturday 1st	3-5	The Old House – Shipston Deanery Garden Party
Sunday 9th		Village Walk & Barbeque
Friday 14th		Garden Club visit to Royal Shrewsbury Show
Saturday 15th	1.30	Tysoe Show Ground – Tysoe Flower Show

### *September*

Sunday 6th	9.00	Honington Hall – Shipston Home Nursing Car Boot Sale
Tuesday 8th		Village Hall – Art Group reconvenes
Sunday 20th		Spit-roast lunch, treasure & duck hunt
Sunday 27th		Shipston Leisure Centre – Shipston Home Nursing Fun Run & Ride

## INFORMATION WORTH KNOWING

Something women need to be aware of

It has been reported to us that bottled water which has been kept in a warm car has been identified as a possible cause of breast cancer. The heat causes toxins from the plastic bottle to leach into the water and those toxins have been found in breast tissue. Use a stainless steel or a glass bottle when you can and do not drink water that has been left in the car in a plastic bottle.

[Your Editor cannot see why this advice should be restricted to women; men get breast cancer too.]

### **ACCIDENT and MEDICAL EMERGENCIES**

**FIRST CALL 999**

**THEN CALL**

Ambulance Responders

**MICK & BARBARA SHEPARD**

**07977149317 Mobile / 01295680644 Home**

**3, The Leys, Oxhill, Warwick, CV350QX**