

# THE OXHILL NEWS



NO. 439  
JUNE 2011

## REFUSE COLLECTION

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

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

*Editor*

## MOBILE LIBRARY

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

In June the van will visit us on Wednesdays 1st and 22nd.

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*

## WEEKDAY WALKERS

There will be just one walk in June:

### **Friday 10th June**

This is a 7.5 mile walk from Ratley to Warmington with 450 feet of ascent. Lunch will be at the Plough Inn. We will leave Oxhill at 9:45 a.m.

Due to the numbers on the walk Jim Saxton now contacts regular members to get meal decisions by Wednesday evening. Those who wish to join us are most welcome, but please contact Jim Saxton on 01295 680613 or at [saxton @ tiscali.co.uk](mailto:saxton@tiscali.co.uk) before the Tuesday evening prior to the walk.

## JULY ISSUE

**Paula and Vanessa take over from July onwards (see elsewhere in the News) and the change of Editorship and printing system forces them to bring the copy deadline forwards.**

**Please will you therefore get all copy for the July issue to them by Midnight on Wednesday 15th June.** Please continue, if possible, to submit your offering in electronic form, though paper will, of course, still be fine. Their 'official' e-mail address will still be [news-editor@oxhill.org.uk](mailto:news-editor@oxhill.org.uk) if you can send them stuff that way. Arrangements have not been finalised for those of you who need to hand over paper-based contributions so please deliver them to Karibu until further notice.

*George Adams, 680286*

## COVER PICTURE

Anne Kirk with this year's Badminton winner NZB Land Vision and his mother Stonecroft Holly, taken 12 years ago at Stonecroft House shortly after his birth. For more details see the article on page 8.

*Editor*

## VALETE AND SALVETE

As you are all aware, this is my final Oxhill News. The past eight and a bit years have always been interesting, even if sometimes frustrating, but I have felt myself growing stale for quite some time now and the News needs a new broom to sweep it clean. I would like to put on record my grateful thanks to all those who have made my tenure of the Editor's chair possible, contributors, deliverers, proofreader and the Parish Councillors for their unstinting support and assistance. Especially the proofreader, who has at times had much to put up with, especially when the printer was misbehaving.

I am leaving the News in the most capable hands of Paula Buffery and Vanessa Druce, who are returning to the Joint Editorship system that has been highly successful in the past. They will of course be making changes; I look forward to seeing them. The News needs some changing! Paula and Vanessa will be publishing their system for delivery of paper-based copy in the July issue. If you need to contact them before then please do so by telephone, Vanessa on 07972 240818 and Paula on 07812 128097.

*George Adams*

## ROAD CLOSURE – OXHILL SCARECROW EVENT

Would all villagers kindly note that permission has been granted by Stratford on Avon District Council for the closure of roads in and around the village of Oxhill on Saturday the 18th June and Sunday the 19th June 2011 between 10 a.m. and midnight on Saturday and 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Sunday.

### **Details of closure**

Main Street & Church Lane, Oxhill, for their full length. Main Street from the junction with Kineton Road and Whatcote Road at one end of the village until it becomes Church Lane and continuing to its junction with Green Lane and Tysoe Road adjacent to the Church at the other end of the village. It is expected that a large number of pedestrians will be in the village and from previous experience it is desirable to ensure the safety of all visitors by diverting through traffic away from the centre of the village. (See back cover for map.)

### **Diversionsary Route**

The alternative route during the period of closure will be via Green Lane and the Whatcote Road and represents only a minor detour.

Access will be maintained to all properties at all times.

A one way system will operate during the period of closure along Main Street in the direction of Church and residents are politely requested to observe this measure to maintain safety of all pedestrians.

Should any residents have any concerns about the road closure they are asked to contact Lilian Welsby on 680468.

# ST. LAWRENCE'S CHURCH, OXHILL

## SERVICES IN JUNE

All are warmly welcome

Sunday 5th	Ascensiontide	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion (ML)
Sunday 12th	Whitsunday	9.30 a.m.	Parish Communion (BR)
Sunday 19th	Trinity Sunday	4.00 p.m.	Songs of Praise (ML)
Sunday 26th	Trinity I	9.30 a.m.	Family Service (NM)

For other benefice services see porch notice board

## PCC MEMBERS

Did you spot the deliberate mistake? Once again I missed Lilian Welsby off the PCC list. Lilian is a most essential member. Sorry Lilian

## CHURCH FLOWERS

Our list of Flower Arrangers is becoming shorter. If anyone can help please can you contact me on 01295 680223

*Carol Fox*

## DEANERY NEWS

It was lovely to see so many of our local Churchwardens at the Archdeacon's Visitation in May, and also to be able to welcome so many from across the Diocese. It was a wonderful evening of affirmation of God's grace and calling; my grateful thanks to all those who helped, especially Sue and Rosemary who made tea and coffee for England!

We have another cause for celebration on June 6th, when Revd. John Horton is to be licensed by Bishop John in Alderminster Church as House-for-Duty minister in the Stourdene Benefice. The service begins at 7.30pm. You will be most welcome if you wish to come; if not please pray for John and Elizabeth as they move into Alderminster Rectory and begin their ministry in this Deanery.

Other events are happening:

Thursday, June 2nd, ASCENSION DAY, 7.30 p.m. Deanery Ascension Day Service (Eucharist) at Butlers Marston. Preacher: Simon Lloyd, Diocesan Secretary.

Tuesday, June 7th, at 7.00 for 7.30 p.m. at Ilmington Village Hall, Deanery Synod with Roger Horsley and a team from the Church Army. On this occasion we will begin with a Bring and Share Supper at 7.00 p.m., as we welcome those newly elected as Deanery Synod Representatives.

And also: 'Understanding the Bible' with Richard Cooke: Part 2 in St. Edmund's Church on Saturday June 18th between 9.30 and 3.30 p.m. Please bring a packed lunch.

And finally: Music for a Summer's Evensong: on Saturday July 9th between 2.00 p.m. and 6.00 p.m. (or so!) we are having another Evensong Workshop, this time aimed particularly at the children, and teaching them the glories of Evensong. We are going to Ilmington Church, where there is already a Children's Choir, and both the music and the timing are designed to appeal to all ages, older as well as younger. As before, everyone is very welcome. Bookings or inquiries to me please.

And very finally: The Deanery Garden Party is happening again, on Saturday, August 13th between 3.00 p.m. and 5.00 p.m., at The Old House, Oxhill. As ever, gifts of cakes would be much appreciated.

*Jill Tucker, 01295 688193, revjill.tucker@tiscali.co.uk*

**CHERNOBYL'S CHILDREN**

**COFFEE MORNING**

at

**THE OLD CHURCH HOUSE**

**OXHILL**

**SATURDAY 25th JUNE**

**10 a.m. to 12 noon**

**CAKE, PRODUCE and PLANT STALLS**

**RAFFLE and TOMBOLA**

Any donations of cakes, preserves and plants will be most welcome.

Anne Marshall 680411 Angela Emmerson 680565

**FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS**

Weddings: congratulations and best wishes to

May 20th

Stephen Betts and Zoe Hamlett

## NATURE NOTES

*The wonder of the world  
The beauty and the power  
The shape of things  
Their colours, lights and shades  
These I saw  
Look ye also while life lasts*

*From an old tombstone in the Lake District*

A week or two ago, early one morning, I was looking at our pond when we noticed a muntjac coming across Janet Gardener's field moving in the direction of our pond. We very slowly knelt down, to lessen our profile, and remained absolutely motionless. The muntjac had not noticed me and continued to head directly towards the pond; it gently passed between the rails in the fence and suddenly it was no more than 5-6 feet from me. At this point I should say muntjac are very short-sighted, but do see movement. It was coming to drink from the pond and in the early morning sunlight its eyes sparkled, its wet nose shone like patent leather and scented in every direction indicating it was starting to pick up our scent. The large ears twitched and flicked this way and that like scanners trying to locate noise, and suddenly its eyes fixed on mine (it would pick up the wet shine, many birds also detect us in this manner). We stared at each other for what seemed an age, but being a person of slightly mature years, my knees were giving way and at the slight movement it was away, but at a distance of about 10 metres it stopped, turned round and facing us, gave out the most enormous bark, as if cursing us for spoiling its early morning drink. I must say it also made us jump! The muntjac then wandered off back down the field barking like a mad dog! Every time it barked, its tail would flick up showing the white underside, a warning, of our presence, to any other muntjac in the vicinity.

*It is said butterflies and moths inhabit the same world as Fairies.  
Fairies being particularly active in the period between Midsummer  
and St. Peter's day, now is a good time to bind them to your service,  
but if you do see the fairies, be sure you never tell.*

Elias Ashmole's Manuscript, 17th century. .... a sound piece of advice I'm sure!

A reminder, don't forget to get snapping, drawing and painting for the autumn competition, categories in next month's newsletter.

*Grenville Moore*

## A SONG OF THE WEATHER

June just rains and never stops  
Thirty days and spoils the crops  
*Michael Flanders*

## OWLS

A new project for 2011-2012 is to survey parish hedgerows and roadside verges with the intention to create better awareness and increase the ecological value of these important areas of our environment.

Hedgerows can support hundreds of species of plants and animals, including small mammals and they also form valuable nesting sites for a variety of birds such as song thrush, tree sparrow and yellowhammer. They are also an important winter food source. The sheltered herb-rich margins can support many butterflies and invertebrates. With the massive loss of unimproved grassland, roadside verges also provide an important habitat for plants (approximately 700 recorded nationally) birds, mammals and invertebrates. Typical flowers found on roadside verges include umbellifers like hogweed, vetches, bedstraws and knapweeds. One roadside verge has Warwickshire's largest population of rock rose and pyramidal orchids along with a good population of the regionally scarce brown argus butterfly, which feeds on the rock rose.

Hedges and verges are also very important wildlife corridors, particularly in areas of intensive agriculture, where they provide good links between conservation areas; also country gardens, which are increasingly becoming their own micro wildlife areas. OWLS has recently linked up with the Whatcote LBAP group and we want to encourage and improve the wildlife corridor between our two villages. Whatcote already have a wildflower churchyard. We are currently liaising with the District Council Highways department regarding the mowing schedule for our parishes. We are also very keen to see more verge areas within the village left 'wild'. This doesn't mean 'no mowing' it just means mowing with care and consideration for the flora and fauna....if you are in doubt go and look at the verge outside Peter and Ann Hale's house...a pure picture.

My particular passions in wildlife are, in no particular order, birds, wild orchids, reptiles/amphibians and butterflies. Of all these, butterflies are surely the most beautiful and varied with their myriad of colour combinations; they are a joy to see and for me, lift the spirits; but bad news! Butterflies are currently Britain's most threatened wildlife group. Their numbers have been declining over the last few years and this loss will reflect directly onto other groups of wildlife. At the moment no one is quite sure for the reason for the decline; the recent hard winters and climate change have not helped, but certainly loss of habitat both in the countryside and in our gardens, where over-zealous clearance removes their feeding and egg-laying plants. The majority of our flowers and vegetables are pollinated by bees, butterflies and moths, so all of us can really help in sustaining the status quo for these beautiful creatures. Please come and learn how at 'Gardening for Butterflies' on Tuesday 7th June.

OWLS is also taking part in 'The Big Butterfly Count' between 16 to 31 July (supported by M & S) and we are very keen to get the whole village involved. We will be popping ID sheets through your doors next month.

*Grenville Moore*

# SCARECROW WEEKEND

**Saturday 18th & Sunday 19th June**

## **Road closures**

Main Street will be closed as usual. Access to properties, the Peacock and the Car Parks will be available.

## **Domestic parking**

Please will those of you who normally park by the roadside park your cars in the car parks, just for these two days. If any cars get left on the road then visitors will park there instead of using the car parks and this causes problems. Many thanks and apologies for any inconvenience.

## **Pig Roast**

There will be the usual pig roast on the Saturday evening. Tickets are available from myself (680468) or Val Ewens (680215).

## **Bric-a-brac, Raffle, Stalls**

If you have any unwanted items that you could donate for any of these please let me have them - preferably before Friday 18th!

## **Plant Stall**

Please could you give any plants for the plant stall to Angela Kean. If you have problems getting them there please give them to me.

## **Teas**

Please will you let Gaynor Fila (680473) know if you can make cakes, scones etc. for the teas in the Village Hall. We will need lots! If you can help in any way over the weekend we would be very grateful. Please let me or Gaynor know.

## **Scarecrows**

Let's hope that we have lots of scarecrows again this year. The straw will be delivered to the Village Hall by Wednesday 8th; please help yourselves.

## **Gardens Open**

At the moment we only have three gardens open. If you would be willing to add yours to the open list please let me know as soon as possible.

## **Emergency cover**

Mick and Barbara Shepard will be on hand during the weekend. Thank you both.

Oxhill is getting very well known for its Scarecrow Weekend, and this is all down to the hard work put in by so many of you. Thank you very much.

*Lilian Welsby, 680468*



## BADMINTON HORSE TRIALS 2011

### THE WINNING HORSE IS LOCAL BORN AND BRED

The winner of this year's Badminton Horse Trials, which took place over 3 days of the Easter weekend and won its rider Mike Todd the first prize and possibly entry to the 2012 Olympic Games, is "NZB Land Vision".

NZB Land Vision was bred by Mrs Anne Kirk at her Stonecroft stables locally in Oxhill, and she spent many hours with initial early training with the young horse.

Anne's Equestrian Centre on the Banbury Road was very popular with many local riders and many children of all ages including disabled children. The Centre was sold on and became the Horse Rescue Centre presently owned by Redwings after Anne retired in 1997 when she decided to concentrate on breeding. Many of her old riding and horsey friends called in and would have seen the champion known now as 'NZB Land Vision' but as a youngster called 'Lanis Lad' or simply "Ben".

Anne bred three fine foals from the same mare, "Stonecroft Holly", and used the stallion "Landmark" from the local Broadstone Stud to produce "NZB Land Vision".

Mrs Kirk lived at Stonecroft House for 20 years; she has only recently moved from Oxhill to Bishops Itchington to retire to a smaller home and to take life a little easier.

At Anne's stables 'Lanis Lad' was ridden by Zara Lea. He was then sold to Daniel Henson and his name changed to 'Land Vision'. Daniel trained and rode and did extremely well with him and took him on to bring out his real potential, winning numerous classes with him.

Now named 'NZB Land Vision', he is only 10 years old and Mike Todd has made him into a star, saying recently after winning an event that he believes he is the best horse in the world!

*Terry Kirk*

## AT THE PEACOCK

### Charity Quiz Nights

The Super Quiz & Raffle will be on Sunday 5th starting at 8 p.m. It will be in aid of our First Responders, so please come along and help make it a really bumper event.

In general please try to make as many of the quiz nights as you can. They are great fun and raise funds for very worthy causes.

### Village Events

The village coffee morning will be on Wednesday 1st, starting at 10.30, and the village lunch will be on Wednesday 15th.

*Editor*

# NOTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF OXHILL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 17TH MAY 2011 AT 8.00 P.M. IN THE VILLAGE HALL

All Councillors were present

## **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

David Hill remains Chairman and Grenville Moore remains Vice Chairman

## **MATTERS DISCUSSED**

**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** (Village Meeting) held on 12th April 2011.

No items had been placed on the agenda and there were no matters arising at the meeting, which was attended by one person.

### **Bus Services**

The 573 service operated by Kimlan Coaches to Shipston on a Saturday has been withdrawn. The No.2 service (Shipston Link) running on a Wednesday has minor time changes: 0923 from the Peacock Oxhill arriving at Shipston Square at 0942. Leaving Shipston 1115 and arriving 1138 Peacock Oxhill. See new time-table on the Notice Board.

There has been no changes to the Stratford/Banbury service running through Oxhill Monday to Saturday inclusive.

### **Shipston Police Station**

From mid May the Police front office services have moved to Shipston Library, Church Street, putting a wider range of services under one roof. Reporting of crime and anti-social behaviour incidents, lost and found property enquiries will be dealt with by Council staff who have received full training from the police. The Safer Neighbourhood Team are still at Shipston Police Station until new offices are found within the town. Sergeant Bob Shaw takes over the Team, Richard Grove is Beat Manager with Hayley Ditchburn and Andrew Steventon, PCSO's remaining at Shipston.

### **Finance**

Receipts and Payment Book for the year ended 31 March 2011 was presented and signed. Audit Accounts, bank reconciliation, notes to the account, and variations to the account were presented and signed.

### **Insurance**

A more favourable insurance quote had been obtained and the sum of £225 would be paid to Zurich Insurance. The Clerk accepted an honorarium of £150 for the year including all expenses incurred.

### **Planning**

The following Applications had been granted Planning Permission:

New vehicular access at Eudon, Whatcote Road

New windows at 2,3 and 4 Beech Road

Two storey extension at Brook House, Kineton Road

The following Planning applications had been returned with no objections

Fell plum stems and Leylandii at April Corner

Fell 2 conifers, 1 pine and 2 holly trees at The Old Rectory

Application for domestic tennis court at Whatcote Park returned with no objection providing there are no flood lights

Application for erection of poultry rearing building and associated building containing store, cafe, shop, office, classroom, toilets and car parking at Edgehill Stud (on parish boundary) was returned with no objection with a request that the tree planting be native trees.

### **Highways**

A pothole by the Village Hall junction needs filling in; Highways to be contacted.

### **Highway Verge Cutting**

Warwickshire County Council and Stratford District Council have reviewed their budgets for grass cutting and have reduced the number of cuts to five each year. The cutting schedule was questioned in that the late autumn cut does not give protection to wildlife for the winter and would be best used whilst the growing season is at its peak, particularly where visibility is impaired at junctions. A reply will be sent under the Biodiversity Project.

### **Parish Council Notice Board**

The notice board is in a poor state of repair. Grenville Moore agreed to look at having this refurbished.

### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 12th July 2011 at 8.00 p.m. in the Village Hall.

A reminder of who your Parish Councillors are:

David Hill, Chairman

Grenville Moore, Vice Chairman

Tom Heritage

Carol Taylor

Brian Badger

*Angela Kean, Clerk*

## OXHILL VILLAGE HALL EVENTS

### Friday, June 10th

Singer/songwriter, Boo Hewerdine is in Oxhill

Boo (a man with a guitar) is very well known on the folk / easy listening circuit and we are very fortunate to have secured him for an evening at the Village Hall on Friday, June 10th. His first session will begin at 8.00 p.m. (doors will open at 7.00 p.m.) after which he will take a short break before completing his stint later in the evening.

If you do not instantly know the name Boo Hewerdine, think of the song Patience of Angels which he wrote and Eddi Reader had a hit with or find out more by going to his website [www.boohewerdine.net](http://www.boohewerdine.net) and listening to a few of his recordings.

Before coming to Oxhill, Boo has gigs in Barbados and Bridlington! Tickets for this very special event cost £12.50 each and are available from Pat Crowther on 680705.

### Sunday, July 10th

### Family Boules Day

Our ever-popular Boules Day, an event for all of the family, is taking place on Sunday July 10 starting at 12.30pm. As well as the Boules Competition there will be French Cheeses, Pates and appropriate liquid refreshments. As usual, we will be taking precautions to ensure that the event goes ahead despite the vagaries of the English weather. In addition to the adult Boules competition there will also be one for children as well as other suitable activities. The cost will be £6 per person and Children (up to the age of 10) are free and this cost will cover food and entry to the competition. Tickets are available from Tricia Harbour (680676)

### Wednesday 20th July & Thursday 21st July

### Oxhill Artists Art Exhibition

The annual Oxhill Artists Summer Art Exhibition will take place on Wednesday, July 20th from 7.00 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. & Thursday, July 21st for viewing and coffee from 10 a.m. to 12.00 noon. More details will follow.

*Derek Harbour*

## GARDENING FOR BUTTERFLIES

and Butterfly Conservation

Warwickshire's leading butterfly expert

**MIKE SLATER**

Will give a talk at the Village Hall

**7.30 p.m. Tuesday 7 June**

£2.00 entry - refreshments

The entry fee will go towards butterfly conservation

Please come and see how we can improve our gardens to help butterflies

## VICARAGE NOTES

Dear friends,

Don't forget that on June 12th we celebrate Whitsunday, one of the few "Days of Obligation" in the C. of E., so there will be a Communion instead of Evensong.

Thomas Aquinas, in writing about God the Spirit as "Love" and Jesus as the "Word" used the phrase "love can be used either as an essential name of the divine nature or as the personal name of a divine person"

Few might delve into the philosophies of great names from the past, and indeed, even unscrambling a single sentence can be difficult. However, we are reminded as we celebrate Whitsunday (Pentecost) and the coming of the Spirit to those early disciples, that faith is rooted in experience. Those disciples felt a deep sense of the love of God in their lives, and this reinforced the teaching and fellowship of Jesus the Word.

The church has the guidelines of the historic creeds, but the reality of faith is an inward confidence that God is with us in the ordinary stuff of broken humanity and that we can be transformed.

*God bless, Nicholas Morgan 01608 685230*

P.S. We look forward to another great "Scarecrow Weekend"

'If music be the food of love...'

**Saturday 9th July 7.30 p.m.**

**St Lawrence's Church, Oxhill**

A concert by the Warwickshire Singers

**Admission by programme £10 (children free)**

**or phone 01295 680427 or 01608 661372**

*In aid of stonework restoration of the church*

*Further details in the July issue. Put the date in your diary now!*

## 'INSPIRATION FROM COVENTRY CATHEDRAL'

**A Concert for St Peter's Tide in St Peter's Church, Whatcote**

on Friday 24th June 2011 at 7.30 p.m.

An evening of stunning projected images of Coventry Cathedral  
set to the very best in choral music performed by Amici  
and conducted by Kerry Beaumont, Cathedral Director of Music

The programme includes music by Byrd, Purcell, Gabrieli, Wood, Walton, Bairstow and Stanford.

This concert is in association with Shipston Proms

Tickets are £10.00, available from Sue Price tel: 01295 680007 or e-mail  
susan.price@ukgateway.net

## WOT2GROW COMMUNITY ORCHARD

April was a very hot month and having planted all the bushes and canes we needed to water to ensure that our efforts were not in vain! Over two days we managed to pour around 1500 litres of water onto our parched plants. Many thanks to all who helped out.

The main varieties we have planted are

Autumn raspberries	Joan J
Summer raspberries	Glen Ample, Tulameen and Octavia
Black currants	Ben Lomond and Ben Connan
Red currants	Rovado
White currants	White Grape
Gooseberry	Invicta (green) and Martlett (red)

We are also very grateful to our mowers who have reduced the grass around the plantings and kept it to a manageable level; David Sewell and Graham Collier have done a fantastic job.

The grass on the rest of the orchard is growing well and should give a good hay crop in the coming weeks.

In order to get the fruit trees we want for planting in the autumn we are finalising the list and placing the orders. There will be lots to do when we get the trees and we look forward to getting everyone involved in the planting.

See the web site for photos and more - [www.wot2grow.co.uk](http://www.wot2grow.co.uk)

Please contact one of the team for how to get involved:

Liz Atkinson (680045), Paul Sayer (680451), Derek Harbour (680676), Sue and Mike Sanderson (688080), Graham Collier (680127), Sam Littlewood (688137).



## HAMPTON COURT FLOWER SHOW

Brailes Gardening Club is running a coach trip to the show on Thursday 7th July and seats are still available. We will be leaving Brailes Village Hall probably at 8.30 a.m. (to be confirmed) and expect to be back by about 7 p.m. The inclusive cost of coach and entry to the show is £37.

Please contact Julia Stirman after 6 p.m. on 01608 686776.

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE NEXT?

### 3 DOWN, 120 TO GO?

#### An update on my attempted break in

I read my own article in last month's newsletter, then saw the list of home security do's and don'ts at the back of the newsletter. I only wish I had followed some simple rules. Lock my gates, install exterior lighting, don't leave valuables on show. The usual stuff which no-one really pays attention to. Obviously thinking it wouldn't happen to them!

I am sure I speak for the other two properties who were recently burgled – make your property secure. You do not want to go through the emotional process which we've been through. The inconvenience of installing new doors, alarms and so on is insignificant compared to the emotional impact.

Our home is now secure, and the sad truth is that I half-hope that me securing my property will make the scum who prowl at night look elsewhere for their drug money. Elsewhere could be YOU.

Please don't become a victim. Follow the guidelines, lock every door and window, don't leave keys in doors, move valuables from view. Simple stuff.

Finally, I did a lot of research on alarms which I will share. I approached 3 alarm companies (one national and two local). The national one had a one cap fits all strategy. Good kit but I worried about their customer service.

After extensive research of the companies and their technology I selected P&R Alarms (01905 799949); they listened to my needs, prepared a genuine bespoke solution (which is pet friendly!) and have installed it with the minimum of fuss, not a wire in sight! If you do choose an alarm please do consider an NSI NACOSS Gold installer – they have to fulfil certain police level accreditation.

So, I am now fully secure, or at least as secure as I can manage. Believe me you don't want to be victim number 4, act now!

*Oxhill resident.*

## WINDOW CLEANING

Not sure who you use but we have found Alistair Eden reliable and realistically priced. He can be contacted on 01789 266504 or 07985 707890.

I assume everyone else in the village has access to tradesmen and I am therefore the only person who seems to have so much difficulty finding reliable, local and trustworthy folks to do jobs that I can't do.

Perhaps others can share though the newsletter news of good local trades people? Maybe the new Editors would consider an on-going list in the back page?

*Paul Roebuck*

[The old Editor has considered it in the past and thought it a great idea. He has just never quite got round to implementing it!]

## FREE TO GOOD HOME

Various books on typography and graphic design, surplus to requirements.

Some as new.

Fax machine, takes plain paper, plus spare cartridge.

Can also be used as a photocopier.

*Grenville Moore, 680664*



Do you want to make a difference?

Does your society have a worldwide voice?

Does your society nurture family life and marriage?

Does your society help protect children?

Does your society maintain Christian fellowship?

Does your society actually change lives?

Mother's Union does all of the above and more -

You do NOT need to be a mother to join...

... or even female!

Mother's Union is not just tea and cake...

Mother's Union is a body that works practically locally and around the world.

Come and help shape the world.

Everyone is welcome -

Ring Ann Saxton on 01295 680613 or e-mail [ann.saxton@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:ann.saxton@tiscali.co.uk)

for details of Mother's Union meetings

## ROAST LAMB AND CURRY LUNCH

We had a very successful lunch with well over sixty people attending plus a large number of children. Thank you very much all of you for your support.

Many thanks are also due to those who made the curries, all of which were excellent.

And also to the makers of the large selection of outstanding puddings. Thank you

to Elizabeth for providing the lamb, to Carol and Tom for roasting it and to Bill

who carved most of it. It was excellent. Thank you to James and Linda for manning the bar so well, to all the committee who worked so hard to make the event a success and to Jill for allowing the use of the Old Chapel.

Between us we raised over £500 for Church funds, so once again thank you.

*Lilian*



## CHERNOBYL'S CHILDREN

### OXFORDSHIRE AND SOUTH WARWICKSHIRE

Chernobyl's Children, Oxfordshire and South Warwickshire is a small local charity that brings children aged between 7 and 11 years old over from Belarus for a month each summer. The children stay with host families in the area and this month away, from the poor living conditions and contaminated air and food, gives them much needed respite and their immune systems an enormous boost. Although the Chernobyl disaster happened 25 years ago, the effects are still being felt and the children are also given full medical, dental and eye tests and any necessary treatment whilst here.

To give you an idea of the living conditions of the children; some of them live in wooden dachas and these have only a wood-burning stove to heat the building and to cook on. The water has to be collected from standpipes in the dirt track lanes or sometimes a family has rigged up their own standpipe in the garden. The sanitation is usually a hole in the ground in an outside shed as the dachas are not provided with sewerage facilities by the state. Others live in dormitories which are really crumbling apartment blocks. Each floor houses 8-10 families who all share one kitchen, one lavatory and one shower - a rubber hose attached to a cold tap. The dormitories are either state owned or factory owned.

The children come from the city of Mogilev and surrounding area where in the summer the water supply can be cut off for as long as a month. The electricity and gas supply is also frequently off for hours at a time. Although the charity cannot improve their conditions at home, we can help ensure these children receive a well deserved break.

Here in the UK, the children stay with host families and during the weekdays, Christine the charity co-ordinator organizes wonderful activities that they would probably never experience back home. They visit the Cotswold Wildlife Park, RAF Brize Norton, make pizza at Pizza Express, go swimming and horse-riding and last year they spent a day in London.

If you would like to know more about the charity or would be interested in hosting a child, please get in touch with me on 01295 680411.

Any donations for our Coffee Morning on Saturday 25th June are most welcome. Please come along and join us and you will have the opportunity to meet the children who will all be attending the Coffee Morning.

*Anne Marshall*

## RUSTY RACQUETS

New Wednesday evening sessions at Tysoe Tennis Club

Do you like the idea of playing tennis but haven't picked up a racquet since you were at school? Would you like the chance to meet and play like-minded people?

Tysoe Tennis Club is holding a series of Wednesday evening sessions for anyone who would like to play tennis but doesn't feel confident enough to come along to club mix-ins or have anyone of similar ability to play against.

No need to book

No need to be a member

No excuses!

The sessions are FREE. Racquets and balls will be provided.

All you need is suitable footwear.

There will be six sessions on Wednesdays 25th May and 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th June. All will run from 7 to 8 p.m.

The tennis courts in Tysoe are in the playing fields behind the Old Fire Station.

For more information, call the club secretary Carol Spencer on 01295 680659.

## SHIPSTON POLICE

### Front Office Opening Times

As part of the restructure of Warwickshire Police, Shipston's front office has now moved to Shipston Library on Church Street, Shipston.

The opening times for the library and front office are:

Monday	09.30-13.00 & 14.00-17.00
Tuesday	09.30-13.00 & 14.00-19.00
Wednesday	Closed
Thursday	09.30-13.00 & 14.00-19.00
Friday	09.30-13.00
Saturday	09.30-12.30
Sunday	Closed

Front office clerk, Brigitte Bishop, is currently training and assisting the staff at the library for between 1-3 months. The library staff are happy to deal with any enquires you may have.

Some people cause happiness wherever they go, others whenever they go.

## SHIPSTON HOME NURSING EVENTS

Saturday 11th June            Giffords Circus   Cheltenham Racecourse

Tickets for this are still available

Saturday 18th June            Midsummer Party Dorsington Arboretum

Tuesday 28th June            Midsummer Shopping    Whichford House

Wednesday 29th June        Whichford House Opera

For more details on any of the events please contact Rebecca on 01608 674929 or  
email [rebecca@shn-fundraising.co.uk](mailto:rebecca@shn-fundraising.co.uk)

## TEN DAYS THAT SHOOK THE KITCHEN

"Ten Days .. that shook the kitchen!" charts ten days in the life of Ruth Rich, a middle-aged, misfit, modern mum. With an embarrassing husband and three whingeing kids, Ruth's days are filled with the activities that are immediately familiar to mothers everywhere: children's swimming lessons, run-ins with the school secretary, parents' evenings, visits from the in-laws and an unforgettable visit to a public lavatory.

The bane of Ruth's life is her 34DD cupped friend, Timmy's Mum. Ruth's role in the relationship is to make Timmy's Mum feel better about herself. Timmy's Mum's is to make Ruth feel worse. Things look up when Ruth prangs the car into dangerously good-looking Millie's Dad's BMW. They meet again at the PTA event..... Will her honour/marriage survive?

So, if you fancy an evening of light-hearted entertainment then this is the one for you! Tickets are £15.00 each and include a Fish & Chip supper after the performance. If you would like a ticket/s then please do let me know - Verity O'Donnell, T. 688443. Tickets are also on sale in the Tysoe shop.

## LIMERICK CORNER

There was a young lady of Kent  
Who said that she knew what it meant  
When men asked her to dine,  
Gave her cocktails and wine:  
She knew what it meant, but she went.

## WHAT'S ON IN & AROUND OXHILL

### June

Wednesday 1st	10.00	Village Hall - Mobile Library
	10.30	The Peacock - Village Coffee Morning
	18.00	Order deadline for Kineton Oil Consortium
Sunday 5th	20.00	The Peacock - Charity Quiz & Raffle in aid of our First Responders
Tuesday 7th		Green & blue bin collection
	19.30	Village Hall - OWLS meeting
Friday 10th	9.45	Weekday Walkers - see inside front cover
	19.00	Village Hall - Boo Hewardine
Saturday 11th	10.00	Tysoe Sports Pavilion - Fun Run
		Cheltenham racecourse - SHN party at Gifford's circus
Tuesday 14th		Grey landfill bin collection
Wednesday 15th	12.30	The Peacock - Village Lunch
<b>Wednesday 15th</b>	<b>23.59</b>	<b>COPY DEADLINE FOR THE NEWS</b>
Thursday 23rd	19.00	Garden Club Garden Party - <b>Note 4th Thursday not 3rd</b>
Saturday 18th & Sunday 19th		Scarecrow weekend
Tuesday 21st		Green & blue recycling bin collection
Wednesday 22nd	10.00	Village Hall - Mobile Library
Friday 24th	19.30	St. Peter's, Whatcote - 'Inspiration from Coventry Cathedral' concert
Saturday 25th	10 - 12	The Old Church House - Chernobyl's Children Coffee Morning
Tuesday 28th		Grey landfill bin collection

### July

Saturday 9th	19.30	St. Lawrence's Church - Concert by the Warwickshire Singers
Sunday 10th	12.30	Village Hall - Boules Day
Tuesday 12th	20.00	Village Hall - Parish Council meeting
Wednesday 20th	1900 - 2130	Village Hall - Art Exhibition
		Garden Club outing to Broughton Grange
Thursday 21st	10 - noon	Village Hall - Art Exhibition



#### Could you foster a child?

We need people of all ages and backgrounds to become foster carers

Foster Carers are particularly needed for -  
Teenagers

Brothers and sisters  
Permanent care for young people  
Children from different backgrounds

Interested?  
Call Freephone  
0800 408 1556

[www.warwickshire.gov.uk/fostering](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/fostering)

