
THE OXHILL NEWS

May 2012

No. 450



Fun with Crafts at Knit & Natter with
(from right) Doreen, Joan, Trisha and Sue

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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 news-editor@oxhill.org.uk or place paper contributions in the box labelled 'The Oxhill News' in St Lawrence's Church.

The copy deadline for the June edition is May 15th 2012.

MOBILE LIBRARY

The library van 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 also has talking books, cassettes and CDs.

The library van will continue to visit Oxhill every 3rd Wednesday, stopping at the Village Hall at 10am and staying there for 30 minutes. The van will visit us on Wednesday 9th and 30th May.

You can renew books between van visits by calling 01926 851031 or online at www.Warwickshire.gov.uk/wild

REFUSE COLLECTION

Recycling and green waste bins (blue and green bins) will be collected on Tuesdays 8th and 22nd May.

The grey rubbish bins will be collected Tuesdays 1st, 15th and 29th May.

WEEKDAY WALKERS

The following walks are planned for May:

May 11th – A 7.5 mile walk starting at Medway, Green Lane, Oxhill via Tysoe and Whatcote with 50 feet of ascent. Lunch will be at The Royal Oak, Whatcote – Leaving Oxhill at 10:00am.

May 25th – A 5.6 mile walk from Brailes village hall car park to Cherington with 325 feet of ascent. Lunch will be at The Cherington Arms, Cherington – Leaving Oxhill at 10:00 am.

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 before the Tuesday evening prior to the walk.

DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS - MONDAY'S FUN AND FESTIVITIES!

As the wonderful Bank Holiday of celebrations gets nearer, we are in need of your help to make it a party to remember. On the Monday afternoon (June 4th), we are providing tea and cakes to all who come to join in the fun. So please can all you "cake bakers extraordinaire" dust down those cake tins and bake those wonderful cakes that Oxhill is so famous for. We will also need a posse of helpers to serve the hungry hoards!

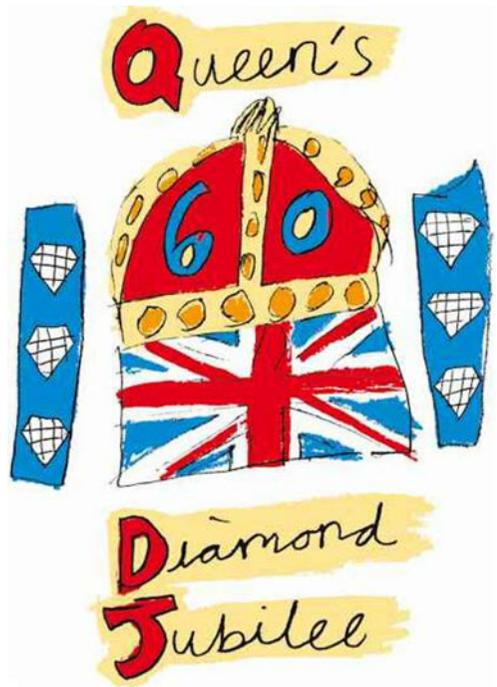
The pig roast takes place later in the day and we will need salads to accompany the delicious pork. Again, we will also need plenty of help to serve everyone!

The costs of the event are being covered by the Jubilee Celebrations ticket sales, so all ingredient expenses can be claimed back.

Let's make this a celebration to remember; it will be great fun, I'm sure. Any offers of cakes, salads or help would be gratefully received and very much appreciated! To help us cater for so many people it would be very useful if you could let one of us know what you will be able to do.

Contact Gaynor on 680473 or Ruth on 680407 or e-mail on oxhilljubilee@live.co.uk

A BIG THANK YOU in advance
Gaynor Fila and Ruth Mercer.



KINETON OIL CONSORTIUM

The Kineton Oil Consortium will be ordering oil again in May. Please let me know what you would like to order by 6pm on Tuesday May 29th 2012. Please not change of cut off date.

Thank you,

NATURE NOTES FOR MAY

“All the young men and maides, olde men and wives, run gadding overnight to the woods, groves, hills and mountains, where they spend all the night in pleasant pastimes; and in the morning, they return, bringing with them birch and branches of trees, their chiefest jewel they bring from thence is the Maie-pole, which they covered all over with flowers and herbes, bound with strings of variable colours, having two or three hundred men, women and children following it with great devotion. And thus it is dugge into the ground and then fall they go to banqueting and feasting, to leaping and dancing about it, as heathen people did at the dedication of their idols.” Philip Stubbes, 1580

And next month we have the Jubilee to look forward to!!



While working in my workshop at Upper St Dennis I have been much amused recently by the antics of a pair of jackdaws. In a dutch barn alongside, there is an owl box set up on the roof beams. This box has a landing tray and an entrance hole measuring approximately 5” x 5”. The jackdaws had spent some time investigating the box, landing on the tray, going inside, peeping out, then both going in and popping back out again ... obviously a good next site. The following day they started to arriving carrying sticks, which naturally they carried horizontally. The sticks averaged 8” to 10” long, but the entrance was only 5” wide, so you can see the problem. Each bird in turn would stand and try and get its stick through this hole. This went on for quite some time, but to no avail – if only they had turned their heads sideways. One bird then made a concerted effort; taking several strides back he ran at it, but with so much force he fell over backwards and dropped his

stick. At this point they both flew off, not to return again. A great shame, I would have liked to see them master the art of “square peg into a round hole”.

Survivors of the shooting season, a cock pheasant and his three hens have taken up residence at the top of our garden. I suspect at least two of the hens are nesting. Every day he brings down one, two, or three of his harem to feed from under our feeders. Of course these game birds are now protected by the close season. We tend to think of game nowadays as being pheasant, partridge, woodcock and wild duck, but up until the early 1950s that wasn't so; it was quite legal to shoot cormorant, heron, jay, lapwing, golden plover (I can remember eating this in a restaurant in the seventies), corncrake, water rail, starling, swan, swift and thrush, for which there was no closed season. Even our quintessential English bird, the skylark, was up for grabs. Let me whet your appetite:

Larks a la Lucullus

Clean and bone the larks and stuff them with foie gras, braise as described for Larks in Aspic, dress in soufflé cases and fill up with rich truffle sauce.

Perhaps also on the table, Starlings a L'anglaise, (starlings with parsley and ham stuffing), and the highlight, Swan Jardiniere. All from *The Master Book of Game and Poultry* by Henry Smith. He also regales us with Badger Hams, “cooked for the Badger Feasts of Somersetshire” and Lark Pies “no longer served in restaurants, but a traditional delicacy of Hunt Ball menus”. Fortunately our Jubilee Lunch will not be so controversial.

Holy Thorn of Glastonbury, Doble's Thorn, Beggar's Bush, May Bush or Hawthorn now comes into bloom, but don't bring it indoors as it may cause illness, an accident, or bring serious bad luck.

The Cherry Trees

*The cherry trees bend over and are shedding
On the old road where all that passed are dead
Their petals, strewing the grass as for a wedding
This early May morn when there is none to wed*
Edward Thomas

Grenville Moore



ST. LAWRENCE'S CHURCH

Sunday 6th Easter IV - 9.30am Parish Communion (ML)

Sunday 13th Easter V - 9.30am Sunday Praise (BR)

Thursday 17th Ascension Day - 7.30pm Deanery Eucharist at Whitchurch in the fields

Sunday 20th Ascensiontide - 9.30am Family Service (ML)

Sunday 27th Whitsunday - 9.30am Parish Communion (NM) and 9.30am Deanery Eucharist at Tredington (Archbishop of Canterbury)

Sunday June 3rd Trinity - 12.15pm Village "Diamond Jubilee" Service

For other services in the benefice please see porch notice board

VICARAGE NOTES

Dear friends,

Appreciations

My thanks to all who decorated the church for the Easter – as ever St. Lawrence's looked lovely! As I write we are still waiting the Annual Meeting to take place – so more news later, but sincere thanks to all the team here in Oxhill.

Special Services

Please note the slightly different pattern of services this month – we recognise that Whitsun is one of the 3 days in the year when Anglicans are specifically encouraged to receive communion – with an opportunity to do so either at Tredington or the Parish Church.

Ne'er cast a clout 'til May be out!

I'll still a little hazy as to what exactly a clout is – a piece of cloth or cover seems to receive most support, but... Proverbial English is sadly disappearing along with old country customs but a good phrase is always memorable. Quite a few sayings are, of course, quotations from the Bible: "many are called but few are chosen" and "the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak" are but 2 examples.

One of my favourite quotations from St. Matthew's Gospel ch.6 is this:

Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin, and yet I say unto you, that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. We didn't have many "April showers to bring forth May flowers" but I suspect some of our views of nature may inspire our souls and, indeed, our faith.

Finally, I know that everyone is looking forward to the Lamb and Curry lunch on May 20th – may I add my voice to ask for your support!

Best wishes and God bless,

Nicholas Morgan 01608 685230

DEANERY NEWS FOR MARCH

Dear Friends,

Four things:

Firstly, the Archbishop is coming and all members of our churches are invited: on **Pentecost Sunday, May 27th, Dr. Rowan Williams will be preaching and Bishop Christopher presiding, at a special Deanery Pentecost at 9.30 am in St. Gregory's Church, Tredington.** We need everyone to help!

If you wish to sing in the united choir, please come to rehearsals on:

- Saturday, May 5th, 2-5 pm, Tredington Church
- Thursday, May 10th, 7.30pm, Tredington Church
- Wednesday, May 16th, 7.30pm, Tredington Church
- Friday, May 25th, 7.30pm, Tredington Church. Other members of the congregation who would like to find out about the music are invited to come to this rehearsal.

If you are able to help as a steward/car park attendant, please would you come to a run through of the service (at which Bishop Christopher will be present) on:

- Monday, May 14th at 7.30 pm, Tredington Church

If you can help with cakes/refreshments, please let me know – we are a Deanery of cake makers, and the more cakes the better!

Secondly, thank you so much to all those who have welcomed members of the Deanery to the Deanery Lent services, and those who welcomed the Bishop and other pilgrims as they made their way across the Centenary Way. It has been really good to enjoy each other's friendship and fellowship in this way.

Thirdly, the Deanery Service for Ascension Day will take place on Thursday, May 17th at 7.30 pm in Whitchurch Church –beginning outside if the weather permits. As it is Christian Aid Week, Revd. John Horton from Alderminster will be speaking about the church overseas and the sort of relief and development work that Christian Aid funds.

Finally, the date of the next Deanery Synod has had to be changed: it will now take place on Tuesday, July 17th, at 7.30 pm in Whatcote Church.

Wishing you all the joy of our risen Lord,

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

ANNUAL BLUEBELL WALK



WHATCOTE SUNDAY MAY 6

Please note change of provisional date

Due to the vagaries of the British weather we have had to change the provisionally advertised date of the Bluebell Walk this year.

Sunday *May 6th* is the new date. We hope that you will be able to enjoy the walk on the revised date. Starting from Hell Brake Paddock Whatcote CV36 5EF

Come for a gentle walk up to Hell Brake to see the Bluebells and enjoy a cream tea in the churchyard on your return.

Any time between 2:00 and 5:00 pm

The cost is £6.00 for adults, accompanied children go free - and this includes the tea and scones!

Produce & Plant stalls - Dogs welcome if kept on a lead.

Proceeds to St. Peter's Church repairs.

Strong shoes or boots are essential.

**Contact Sue Price for more details -
telephone 01295 680007 or e-mail: susan.price@ukgateway.net**

CHURCH FLOWERS

Thanks to everyone who helped with flowers and foliage for Easter Sunday. The church looked so pretty again after the bareness of Lent.

If anyone on the flower rota has not received their 2012-2013 copy, please let me know. My computer had some problems on the day that I was emailing them out, so please check and let me know.

Finally we have had two people stand down from the Church Cleaning list. Is there anyone in the Village who might be able to help once a month to clean and tidy the church?

OMG!

Oxhill Music Group

Firstly, I'd like to thank the ALL the ladies for their consistent patience, effort and the time that they are continually making to attend each session. I'd also like to thank Belinda for helping out the ladies in the Alto section, in your own time – I really have seen a huge improvement! Rehearsals are making us better and better each time and I feel that apart from the new arrangements given to you, the other pieces will now only need some fine tuning (no pun intended!) However, we have only a month left, and weekly rehearsals are upon us! These will either be on a Tuesday evening or a Saturday afternoon, with the first one being 1st May. I will keep you posted via e-mail if individuals are not able to attend certain sessions. That's a promise!



I'd like to apologise to the children's group for not having many rehearsals. Our next rehearsal will have been before this publication so I will have informed you of our next steps! Nevertheless, I can see we are making progress and we will be pitch perfect come the performance!

If there is anyone that is still keen to join either of the groups, IT'S NOT TOO LATE! Get in touch with me and I will happily give anyone a little extra tuition as well as informing you of the next rehearsal dates!

WHO ELSE WATCHED THE CORONATION ON TELEVISION IN OXHILL?

Bert Bloxham, at 95, can look back on a long life spent first as a boy in Tysoe, and then in Oxhill after his marriage in 1944. Bert has had a recent spell in hospital, but is home again now, and in going over his old memories, he has set me a challenge. He would like to find out how many people in the village were able to watch the Queen's Coronation on their own television in 1953! Bert and Joy had one of the



earliest sets in the village: it had cost £34, and had a nine inch screen. They had a roomful of people in to watch it on the great day, including, so Bert tells me, a Polish girl then working at the Manor, indicating the likelihood that there was not then a set there. Televisions were scarce at that date. My own family drove from Hertfordshire to Worcester in order to watch the Coronation on an uncle's newly acquired TV. Bert would like to enlist the help of readers of the Oxhill News to help answer his query. Can any of our older residents please help?

His thought has of course been prompted by the forthcoming celebrations for the Queen's Jubilee. Thinking over the other royal celebrations he has taken part in, Bert says that the one he enjoyed best was the Jubilee of George V in 1935, when he was a young man in Tysoe. The Tysoe villages (Upper, Middle and Lower) all joined together for sports in the old football field behind the Fire Station. (Bert does not like to call it the **Old** Fire Station: to him that name belongs to the original Fire Station opposite the butchers'.) In the evening there were two bonfires – one on the top of Sunrising, and one at the Windmill, to which the villagers of Winderton were invited. Two of the Tysoe girls then walked on from the Windmill to Winderton, but later found that the homeward journey, in the dark and after midnight, was none too easy!

The Oxhill Parish Minute book for 1935 records that Oxhill's celebrations cost in total £20 6s 6½d. (The average agricultural labourer's weekly wage was then £1 11s 5½: Peter says on this basis the sum raised would equate to £2,750 - £3,000, so it was a substantial amount.) To commemorate the occasion, a copper beech tree was planted in Beech Road at a cost of 10 shillings. The Parish Meeting had agreed that if the soil were carefully prepared and the leaves stripped, the tree would have a better chance of surviving its first winter, even though not planted at the proper time of year. This plan seems to have worked, and the tree flourished.

Things did not go so well two years later in 1937, when a red chestnut was planted at the top of Rouse Lane to commemorate the Coronation of George VI. It died in the following winter, and a new tree had to replace it in 1938. Sadly ill fortune had befallen this one too, (after more than three score years and ten), and it has succumbed to disease. It is good news to hear that an oak tree commemorating the Diamond Jubilee has been proposed to take its place.

Ann Hale

THE PEACOCK

Quiz Night

Quiz night on Sunday 6th May at 8pm.

Village Events

The village coffee morning is on Wednesday 2nd May at 10:30am and the village lunch is on Wednesday 16th May.



Stour Singers follow on from their joyous Christmas performance of Handel's Messiah with three works from Haydn and Handel in their forthcoming concert on 5th May. Richard Emms, director, will be conducting the choir, the Cherwell Orchestra (leader Judy Springate), and soloists Robyn Allegra Parton (soprano), Cathy Bell (mezzo-soprano), Julian Forbes (tenor), Jon Stainsby (baritone), and Rachel Bird (organist) in Haydn's Te Deum and Creation Mass, together

with Handel's Chandos Anthem No. 11, at St. Edmund's Church, Shipston-on-Stour at 7.30.p.m.. Tickets are available in advance from R Clarke Electricals in Shipston or choir members, at a cost of £12.50 (no charge to accompanied children), or on the door on the Saturday evening.

QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE REPORT - APRIL 2012

3rd – 4th June 2012

Ticket Prices – are reduced!

After careful review of the costs and the numbers that have confirmed their attendance we are please to announce that we will be able to reduce the ticket prices from those originally proposed last year.

This is thanks to a generous donation, the Parish Council voting to support the event and local businesses that are supporting the village with gifts or sponsorship.

The reduced ticket prices are therefore as follows:

Village Adults - £17.50, Village Children £7.50 or a Village Household ticket which covers two adults and all children of school age - £40.

Guest Tickets – Adults - £20, Children £7.50, visiting Family (2 Adults & children of school age) £50.

We have received a number of enquiries about grown up children and guests who would like to come along for only one of the two days and so, provided the household have bought full price tickets for the event, additional one day tickets can be purchased for visitors at £12.50 adults and £5 for children.

We will have to limit the number of tickets available to 300. We already have firm requests for nearly 250 tickets so if you haven't made up your mind yet or you haven't confirmed arrangements with visitors please do not be disappointed – act now! Ticket sales will close either when we have reached the 300 limit or on Sunday 13th May at the latest.

As you read this we will be starting to ask for full payment for tickets already requested less any deposit paid. If we have a waiting list then it is possible that we may offer tickets not paid for before the 13th May for resale.

Please be aware that we will be issuing named badges which will need to be worn throughout the weekend. Access to the field will be restricted to badge



holders only and this will be patrolled – No badge No Entry No food! The event has not been advertised outside of the village and consequently is not open to casual visitors; it is, in effect, an invitation only, private function. Those in the village who may have Bed & Breakfast guests might like to consider how the community can continue to make those visitors welcome during the event. If you have any thoughts on this please contact Mike Collins.

What the ticket price buys – Draft Programme

All of the following is subject to confirmation.

Sunday 3rd June,

12 noon bells ring to announce the start of our celebrations and Church service starts at 12:15pm. 1pm – dedication of OWLS Church Yard commemorative planting. Those gathered at Church will then process to Main Street for the ‘Big Jubilee Lunch’. Serving commences at 1:45pm with menu currently planned to comprise of Ham, Salmon, new potatoes, salads and a pudding. Large screen projection of the Thames Diamond Jubilee Pageant (throughout), Field Games (approx 4pm) and ‘Has Oxhill Got Talent?’ home grown entertainment (approx 5pm).

Monday 4th June,

Commencing at 2pm – Hobby horse races and best dressed competitions in the parade ring, children’s field games (approx 3:30pm) and traditional family water volleyball competition (approx 4pm). Afternoon tea available from the marquee throughout the afternoon (until approx 4:30pm). Presentation of prizes to competition winners (approx 6pm). From 6:30pm we will commence serving the pig roast. From 8pm live music with Pascal’s Triangle. We will break at dusk (approximately 10:15pm) to launch 60 red, white and blue lanterns (subject to suitable weather conditions). Live music continues until midnight.

Tuesday 5th June

Clean up the site from 10am. 12:00 noon onwards - Breakdown BBQ and paella pan in the garden of the Peacock. Food available but not included in the ticket price but wear your badges!

The Peacock will be open throughout the Event and will offer a selection of specially brewed celebration real ale for sale from the barn as well as the normal bar service. You can bring your own liquid refreshments to the event on Sunday and Monday if you prefer.

Not for Profit!

We want to make it clear that the event is a not for profit venture but we must fully cover the costs. We also set out to make this a whole village event in which

everybody who wanted to take part could join in. As already mentioned we have received some generous support from the community for which we are grateful and this has enabled us to achieve our objective.

If you are assisting in anyway, by providing cakes, salads etc, and incur any expenses be sure to keep receipts and reclaim the cost of materials.

If there are any excess funds remaining in the bank when all expenses have been met then the committee have discussed and decided that the balance will be retained in the village. We have a number of ideas as to how it might be distributed. Expensive items which have been hired include the marquee, chairs, tables, staging and refrigeration units for food storage.

Risk Assessment

We are currently completing a risk assessment for the event to comply with insurance requirements. If anyone has relevant experience, specific concerns or can contribute to this exercise please contact Mick & Barbara Shepard on 680644. If anyone considers they or any member of their party have special needs please make these know to Sue Robbins on 680496.

Help Required – Get Involved!

- Grenville Moore is leading the team that will produce the Big Jubilee Lunch on Sunday. If you would like to help then Grenville can be contacted on 680664.
- Gaynor Fila & Ruth Mercer are organising afternoon teas and the food for the pig roast meal on Monday. Gaynor can be contacted on 680473 and Ruth on 680407. Please see their separate entry elsewhere in this edition of the ‘news’.
- Any Bell Ringers who would like to ‘ring in’ the event should contact Catherine Kimmins on 680452.
- Doug Nethercleft (680041) & the O’Donnell family (688443) would like to hear from parents and children about requests for races and games.
- Lucy Mercer (680407) is still trying to find out if Oxhill does have talent! There is still time to join in with the entertainment on Sunday.
- Gentlemen are warned your turn is coming as we will be asking for help with a lifting and shifting rota and clear up gang. We also will be asking for help with general security matters.

Make the event fun and successful.

The weekend celebration is organised ‘In the village, by the village, for the village’. It is now over to all those who are attending to make the event fun and successful.

Please take part and enter the following -

The Hobby Horse races, 'The Diamond Jubilee all comers Grand National', 'The Fillies and Colts Novice Handicap', 'The Veterans Dash' and Novelty Show Jumping. All races are now sponsored by Red Horse Fuels. Don't forget those not racing can take part in the 'Best Dress Owner wearing a suitable hat' competition in the parade ring. Entries to Ed Bracher on 680927 or by e-mailing hobbyhorse @ oxhill.org.uk.

Teams of 4, one for each corner of the bed sheet, for the Family Water Volley Ball Tournament please contact Andy Buchanan on 688112.

Road Closure Notice

Would all villagers kindly note that approval has been given by Stratford on Avon District Council, for the closure of roads in and around the village of Oxhill on Sunday the 3rd and Monday the 4th June 2012 between 10am and midnight on both days.

Details of closure – Main Street & Church Lane - 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. The length of Main Street between the Pub and its junction with Back Lane will be used for a Street Party and other Diamond Jubilee event activities. This full closure is desirable to ensure the safety of all taking part in the event by diverting traffic away from the centre of the village.

Diversiory 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.

Main Contact Details

Should any residents have any concerns about the road closure or the event in general then please contact Mike Collins on 680564 or by e-mail to diamond.jubilee@oxhill.org.uk.

Meetings will now be held more frequently on Wednesday evenings in May on the 2nd, 16th, 23rd, 30th May.

It is not intended that everybody working on the event need turn up but it provides a regular forum to discuss any relevant matters that arise.



WOT2GROW COMMUNITY ORCHARD

As we come to end of our first year at the orchard it is time to reflect on the orchard and what it is all about.

It is YOUR Orchard – the whole reason for a group of us coming together to get funding was to enable the local people in the area to establish an orchard. The benefits of the orchard are for all, some people will learn

- ñ new skills in looking after plants and trees
- ñ how to prune and graft fruit trees
- ñ about the benefits of keeping bees and how to do it
- ñ how to plant wild flower meadows and strips

Others will

- ñ try fruits they have never tasted
- ñ get some exercise working at the orchard
- ñ just enjoy the peaceful environment and the beauty of the trees

Children will

- ñ benefit from learning about growing fruit, tasting it and understanding why it is good for them.

As a team we are only co-ordinating the activities needed to get the orchard established. Anyone can be involved as it is your orchard – the team are just helping out like many others who have worked at the orchard but things don't happen without some form of organisation!

We are lucky in having members who can help out but others support us by paying their membership fee, £25 to join and a small annual fee thereafter, which enables us to pay for the things not covered by the initial grant.

All are welcome whether they are members or not!

Join YOUR community Orchard by calling one of the team or e-mail membership@wot2grow.co.uk

Check us out at www.wot2grow.co.uk

Liz Atkinson (680045), Paul Sayer (680451), Derek Harbour (680676), Sue and Mike Sanderson (688080), Graham Collier (680127), Julia Stirman (01608 686776)



SPRING AT UPTON HOUSE & GARDENS

Spring at Upton is a wonderful time for all. The Gardens are coming into blossom as the cherries and plums burst into white and pink. The orchard lawn is glowing yellow with daffodils and the tulips are revealing their wonderful colours one by one.

The house is full of interest with new art work from Sigrid Holmwood. Sigrid is a self-styled 'performance painter' where the act of painting is part of the art. Sigrid makes her own historically

accurate costumes from the period and wears these as she paints in public.

Sigrid comments: 'This project gives me the opportunity to collaborate with the collection, heritage and conservation professionals, and of course, the public, using the practice of performative painting. I will be responding to the work of Jan Provost and Jan Steen, 16th and 17th century Flemish artists who's work is housed in Upton's outstanding collection of Old Masters.'

Sigrid's first new piece completes a series of paintings by the 17th century Dutch master Jan Steen. Upton has four paintings from a series entitled *The Five Senses*. The fifth painting is an art historical mystery as it's never been found. For the first time in over 350 years, Sigrid's work will 'complete' the series with an entirely new depiction of the sense of 'touch'.

There is a Kids Art Club on 12 May with Sigrid Holmwood. Sigrid is also holding a workshop for the more mature audience on the 18 May with a demonstration of how she prepares paints and pigments from plants and minerals.

The opening ceremony for the 'Edgehill Games 2012' will take place after entrants cycle off on 29 April to celebrate the Olympics and start a three month program of different events around Edgehill.

Bluebell tours are held on Sunday the 13 May and have to be seen to be believed. The Hedgerow Herbalist Spring Walk on 25 May marks the end of spring and the beginning of summer (booking on 01296 670266).

For further details call Upton House and Gardens on 01295 670266 or go to:

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/uptonhouse

OXHILL VILLAGE HALL ~ AGM 18 APRIL 2012

The Oxhill Village Hall AGM was held on Wednesday, April 18, 2012 and the Chairman and Treasurer tendered their reports that, in summary, recorded good support for events and a healthy financial position. The following people were elected to the Committee:

Chairman – Derek Harbour, Treasurer – John McKail, Secretary – Gaynor Van Dijk, Lettings Secretary – Tricia Harbour plus Una Hill, Jude MacDonald, Diana Cronin, Pat Crowther, Adrian Marklew, Stuart Whittaker and Ken & Annette Bull.

Judy Badger and Carol Taylor stood down from the Committee after years of making huge contributions and they will be missed. Full Minutes from the AGM are available from Gaynor Van Dijk.

OXHILL VILLAGE HALL ~ UPCOMING EVENTS

Kieran Goss Irish Singer/songwriter - Saturday 26, May 2012

We have had many requests for this event from outside of the Village because of the success of his recent tour with Fairport Convention but we have saved 36 tickets for people from the Village. At the time of going to press, we have had requests for 31 of these tickets at **£12.50** each, so if you want any of the remaining tickets please contact Tricia Harbour on 680676. The timing for the event will be 7.30pm for an 8.00pm start. In the meantime you can sample his music on www.kieranoss.com

Queen's Diamond Jubilee 3&4 June - Pictures of Oxhill Village Hall

We asked those of you who have pictures of the hall or past events to let us scan them as part of a montage to be hung in the entrance hall of the Village Hall in time for the Queen's Jubilee. The last opportunity to contribute pictures will be 12 May.

Annual Boules Tournament – Sunday, 15 July 2012

Another date for your diary and this popular event includes the children. In addition to the Boules Tournament, played for the Gardner's Cup, we provide authentic French pates, cheeses, breads, salads, desert and beverages. If you haven't tried this before come and join us; we shall make you feel most welcome. We take precautions to ensure it can take place whatever the weather and you don't have to come in teams we can do that for you. Put the date in your diary NOW!

The cost will be **£6** per person & Children (up to age of 12) are free. This cost covers the food & entry to the competition. Please call Gaynor Van Dijk (680349) for tickets.

Talk on Restoration of Chedham's Yard in Wellesbourne – Friday, 20 July 2012

There will be a talk by David Close who is closely involved with the Chedham's Yard project. Since winning the BBC's £1million Restoration competition in 2006, work on restoring Chedham's Yard has been underway with the restored Yard due to open to the public this Spring. Five generations of Chedham family were connected with the yard before it closed in 1965. The restored Blacksmith's and Wheelwright's 'shops' give an insight into the crafts of a bygone era and are an intriguing 'time capsule'.

Doors will open at 7.30pm, Tickets will only cost **£2** each & refreshments (not included in the ticket price) will be available.



AFTERNOON DELIGHT (KNIT & NATTER)

As mentioned last month, we have decided to continue meeting during May, on the following dates: 3rd, 17th & 31st.

We will continue to make Queen's Jubilee decorations but you can just do your own knitting or craft or just chat to friends whilst enjoying a cup of tea and biscuits. Also, don't forget our Book Exchange.

Any questions, please phone Tricia on 680676

THANK YOU!

In the last two winters at our craft group [Knit & Natter] in the Village Hall, we have made ten lap blankets for these disabled soldiers coming back wounded from Afghanistan. I would like to thank all the ladies who have donated wool and knitted hundreds of squares and those who have coordinated and sewn these up. The blankets are sent to Hedley Court Rehabilitation Centre in Surrey, and are still needed.

Joyce McKail

FROM MAD HATTERS TO BIRDS AND BEES

Cantamus, Shipston's a cappella choir led by Richard Emms held a wonderful tea party in the Townsend Hall in March, on behalf of the Mad Hatter. With an appreciative audience, yummy cakes and bakes to go with the tea, a proliferation of hats and teddy bears, a musical programme which ranged from the purity of Palestrina to the wit of Tom Lehrer, some belly-laugh inducing readings from Anne Hume, and stately renaissance dance performances – there really was something to appeal to everyone.



In June, Cantamus will be presenting a programme with Three's Company, entitled "The Birds And The Bees", as part of Shipston Proms. The concert will be in St. Edmund's Church at 7.30.p.m. on Monday June 18th, and tickets (at £8.00) will be available later in May from Clarke's Electrical Shop in Shipston, from choir members, and on the door.

Cantamus expects its members to be experienced and confident sight-singers, and offers a really broad repertoire of music across different centuries and styles, and presents regular concerts in South Warwickshire and the North Cotswolds. If you would like an opportunity to explore the possibility of a concert, please do get in touch with Yvonne Ridley, Cantamus' concert manager, on 01789 269587. Currently the choir has a vacancy for tenors, and any interested tenors should contact Richard Emms, the director, at 01608 662163.

SHIPSTON HOME NURSING
PLANT SALE
SATURDAY MAY 12th
10 am- 12 noon
SHELDON BOSLEY HUB
SHIPSTON ON STOUR



Plant donations are always welcome as ever and can be brought to the venue between 10am and 2pm on Friday 11th for inclusion in the sale

Hospice at Home
in Shipston, Wellesbourne
and Kineton

OXHILL GARDEN CLUB NEWS

Oxhill Garden club AGM was well attended. The evening saw the re-instating of Reg Gethin as chairman after a vote to amend the constitution. Reg will, I know, continue to work hard for the club.

Gwyn Adams stepped down from the committee and will be greatly missed – a big thank you for all your work, Gwyn, recently and in the past. The existing committee were voted in again and Martin was welcomed.

May I take the opportunity to thank spouses who work alongside the committee and do so generally unsung. The evening continued with wine and cheese.

Prize winners were announced:

Photographic competition – “Winter in the Garden” winner was Tricia Harbour. Runners-up were Ruth Gibson and John McKail.

“Summer Flowers” winner was Jim Saxton. Runners up were Tricia Harbour and Peter Rivers-Fletcher.

Flower of the Month was Ruth Gibson.

The Club is grateful to Grenville Moore who gave his time to judge the photos and made complementary comments.

Future dates:

- 17th May Plant sale 7pm
- 21st June Garden party at a venue yet to be decided
- 12th July afternoon visit to Janet Cropley’s garden, Evenly
- 22nd August full day visit to Wells, including Bishop’s Palace and Cathedral

Ann Saxton

FREE NINTENDO !!

Free to anyone who wants to collect 'Nintendo Wii' with 2 controllers, balance board & 5 games. Contact Katy Dowding at The Stables 688194

BOOKSHELF AVAILABLE

90w x 205h x 25d. Teak and very solid, with adjustable shelves. This is the sort of bookshelf used in school libraries although this has never seen the inside of a school. It is in good, used condition. Yours for a donation to the church. Can be delivered. Call Phil or Terry Bunyan on 01295 680093.

COFFEE MORNING
IN AID OF CHERNOBYL'S CHILDREN
SATURDAY 23rd JUNE 2012
10am--12noon
at
THE OLD CHURCH HOUSE

SHIPSTON SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM

Dear All

Please be aware that the villages of Long Compton, Stourton and Brailes suffered vehicle crime over night last night [19 April 2012].

Items which were stolen were power tools, sat navs and a digital camera!

Please ensure that all valuables are not left on display and removed from vehicles.

Regards , Richard

PC 396 Richard Grove BSC (Hons),
Warwickshire Police

Team Direct Dial: 01789 444670

Email: richard.grove@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk

Hook Norton Charitable Association presents

MUSIC AT THE CROSSROADS

SATURDAY
7th July 2012
1.00 - 11.30pm

10 hours of Live Music on 2 stages

KAST OFF KINKS

Tickets from

Hook Norton:

The Pear Tree

The Sun

The Gate Hangs High

The Bell

Village Shop

Post Office

Banbury:

One Man Band

Bloxham:

Elephant & Castle

Chipping Norton:

Jaffe & Neale

and www.hookymusic.co.uk

Live Music - Entertainment - Beer Tent - Food - Camping - Grand Raffle & Fantastic Prizes

Rebecca and The Roses

Freewheelin'

The Duckworths

Strobocircus

Nick Ward

Man Make Fire

The Linda Watkins Band

The Mini Band

Palmerston

The FUSS

Rachel Gittus

Flotsam Jets

Vulnerable Adults

Adults: £20 or £16 in advance * Youths: (11-17) £10 or £8 in advance *
Children: (10 or under) FREE
*if bought before 1st July

Ferris Hill Farm, OX15 5DF
behind the Gate Hangs High, Hook Norton

Proceeds of the day will be distributed to
national and local charities / causes including



WHAT'S ON IN & AROUND OXHILL

MAY

Tuesday 1st		Grey landfill bin collection
Wednesday 2nd	10:30	The Peacock - Coffee Morning
Thursday 3rd		Village Hall - Knit & Natter
Saturday 5th	19:30	Stour Singers, St. Edmund's Church
Sunday 6th	14:00	Bluebell Walk Whatcote
Sunday 6th	20:00	The Peacock - Quiz Night
Tuesday 8th		Blue & green bin collection
Wednesday 9th	10:00	Mobile Library - Village Hall
Friday 11th	9:30	Weekday Walkers - see page 2 for details
Tuesday 15th		Grey landfill bin collection
Tuesday 15th		COPY DEADLINE FOR THE NEWS
Wednesday 16th	12:30	The Peacock - Village Lunch
Thursday 17th		Village Hall - Knit & Natter
Thursday 17th	19:00	Plant Sale Village Hall
Sunday 20th		Lamb and Curry Lunch
Tuesday 22nd		Blue & green bin collection
Friday 25th	9:30	Weekday Walkers - see page 2 for details
Saturday 27th		Irish singer Kieran Goss - Village Hall
Tuesday 29th		Grey landfill bin collection
Tuesday 29th	18:00	Kinton Oil Consortium order deadline
Wednesday 30th	10:00	Mobile Library - Village Hall
Thursday 31st		Village Hall - Knit & Natter

JUNE

Monday 18th	19:30	Cantamus 'The Birds & the Bees' Shipston
Saturday 23rd	10 - 12:00	Chernobyl's Children Coffee Morning
30 June - 8 July		Art Exhibition in The Old Chapel, Oxhill: Jill Jeffrey, Grenville Moore and Linda Rasa. More information in next month's Oxhill News.