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# THE OXHILL NEWS

May 2015

No. 486



A beautiful sunset at St Lawrence's Church photographed by Craig Flint

*Editors: Vanessa Druce 07972 240818 & Roger Goodman  
news-editor@oxhill.org.uk*

## 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](mailto:news-editor@oxhill.org.uk) or place paper contributions in the box labelled 'The Oxhill News' in the Church.

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS THE 15TH OF EVERY MONTH.**

## MOBILE LIBRARY

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

The library van will continue to visit Oxhill every 3rd **Friday**, stopping at the Village Hall at 14:30 and staying there for 30 minutes. The van will visit us on Friday May 15th. For further info please telephone: 01926 851031

## REFUSE COLLECTION

Recycling and green waste bins (blue and green bins) will be collected on Tuesdays May 5th and 19th.

The grey rubbish bins will be collected Tuesdays May 12th and 26th.

## WEEKDAY WALKERS

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

## PEACOCK EVENTS THIS MONTH

**No more Quiz nights until further notice!!**

### **Village Events**

The village coffee morning is on Wednesday May 6th at 10:30 am and the village lunch is on Wednesday May 20th.



## NATURE NOTES FOR MAY 2015

*The young May moon is beaming, love  
The glow-worm's lamp is gleaming, love  
How sweet to rove  
Through Morna's grove  
When the drowsy world is dreaming, love!  
Then awake! ... the heavens look bright, my dear  
Tis never too late for delight, my dear,  
And the best of all ways  
To lengthen our days  
Is to steal a few hours from the night, my dear!*

(Thomas Moore, *The Young May Moon*)

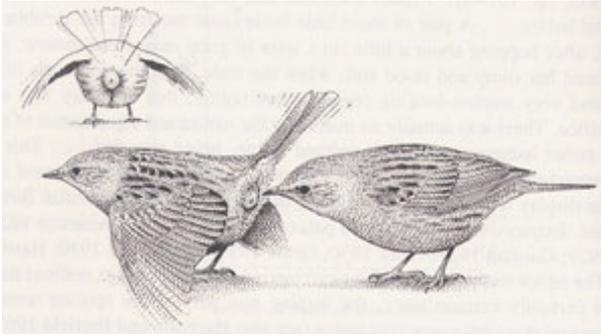


*Rogationtide*

Forty days after Easter is Ascension Day or Rogationtide, an ancient festival to invoke a blessing on fields, stock and folk, later to become known as ‘beating the bounds of the parish’. By the 8th century in England it involved parishioners ‘ganging’ (walking) after the Cross

around the edge of the parish. This helped everyone to remember the boundaries before maps had become commonplace. Along the way prominent trees – Gospel Oaks – often became the places for preaching. The locations of various landmarks – stones, streams, hedges and ponds were impressed upon children by ducking them in water, ritually beating them with sticks, and then giving them a treat! One thinks of trick or treat, but far more educational!

The other morning while walking round the village I became aware of the shrill piping notes, like a snatch from a ragtime piano, of dunnocks, or hedge sparrows. There were two males, one either side of the road, sitting in the tops of the hedges, desperately trying to out-sing each other. They were so intent on this competition that the one on my side of the road was completely oblivious of my approach. To my astonishment I was able to get within about a foot of him. We were almost eye to eye when he suddenly realised I was there and in a flurry he was gone. The Old English for hedge sparrow was hegesugge, meaning ‘flutterer in the



*Dunnocks*

hedges'. The Latin *Prunella modularis* sounds, I think, like an Italian actress, but the old Warwickshire name was Hedge Betty, Northamptonshire was Hedge Chat, and Oxfordshire, simply Billy. Other names like Creepie and Shufflinging describe its way of moving in hedgerows. It advances in a series of short, low hops.

Almost exclusively a ground feeder, it scurries around the undergrowth in a creeping attitude, keeping a sharp eye for insects, which form a major part of its diet. The Swedish botanist Linnaeus called them Accentor, literally 'the one who sings with another'. The dunnock visually is LBJ (little brown job) almost identical to a female house sparrow, but more grey plumage and with a pointy beak, not the broad beak of the house sparrow.

Philip Stubbes in *The Anatomie of Abuses* 1582 writes, 'their chiefest jewel they bring from thence is the Maiepole .... Their stinking idol rather, which they covered all over with flowers and herbs, bound round with strings and ribbons of variable colours, having two or three hundred men, women and children following it with great devotion. And thus is



*Dunnock*

was reared with handkerchiefs and flagges streaming on the top, they straw the ground around it, then bind green boughs about it, they set up summer balles, bowers and arbours hard by it, and then fall they to banqueting and feasting, to leaping and dauncing about it, as heathen people did at the dedication of their idols'.

What a shame we don't have a village green!

*Grenville Moore*

## BERT NORTON

It is with much sadness I have to report the death of my father, Bert Norton on 17 April. Many of you will remember my mother and father who ran the Peacock from 1966 until 1985. You may also remember his characteristic calling of 'time' – "Ain't you lot got no homes to go to, you're not on your daddy's yacht now!" After a long and happy retirement, sadly he developed dementia and spent the last year and a half in River Meadows care home in Kineton. He was a great character and will be missed.

*Grenville Moore*



## OXHILL SERVICES DIRECTORY UPDATE

We hope you've received your Oxhill Services Directory and that you find it useful. Since its publication we've had word that a few of the listings are incorrect – sorry! Errors will be corrected for the next publication of the Directory.

Also a personal apology to Carol Fieldhouse who sent us her details and I forgot to put them in!! So...

**Carol Fieldhouse, Refreshing Horizons Limited** - Holistic support for people of all ages, and animals. Inspiring natural wellness.

Email [info@refreshinghorizons.com](mailto:info@refreshinghorizons.com) or Tel: 07831 447746 / 680279.

## HORNTON MAYDAY CELEBRATIONS

Our sleepy little village comes to life from midday on Monday 4th May, from Morris and Maypole dancing to traditional and non-traditional games, as well as a variety of stalls. Donkeys, goats, dogs and humans can all be found enjoying the fantastic atmosphere on what is a very special day for our village. So come and join in the fun Monday 4th May - Hornton Village - from 1pm.



# Canaletto: Celebrating Britain

## The Non-Conformists: Photographs by Martin Parr

Saturday 14th March – Sunday 7th June 2015

The overarching theme for this season’s exhibitions at Compton Verney is “British Identity”, subtly indicated by walls painted in muted shades of red, white and blue. Two very different aspects of this identity are conveyed in these opening shows.

First we have prosperous, confident Georgian London, observed with detachment by the Venetian painter Antonio Canaletto during his nine year sojourn from 1746 to 1755. On the first wall there are views of San Giorgio Maggiore and the church of the Redentore, typical of the work he produced for English patrons on the “Grand Tour” back in Venice.

Britain at this time was benefiting from a period of peace following the 1748 Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle which resulted in French recognition of the Hanoverian succession to the British throne and the expulsion of the Jacobites from France, celebrated by a fireworks display for which Handel wrote the music. In this atmosphere of patriotic optimism Shakespeare was rediscovered and the cult of King Alfred, promoting the shared Saxon heritage of the British people and their Hanoverian royalty, was given musical expression in the masque by Thomas Arne featuring the anthem “*Rule, Britannia*”.

Economic stability led to a building boom in an eclectic mix of architectural



*The Thames from Somerset House Terrace towards Westminster*

styles from Baroque to Turkish and Gothic Revival. In Warwickshire Francis Greville made improvements to Warwick Castle (painted five times by Canaletto), employing the architect Daniel Garrett and the landscape designer Lancelot

“Capability” Brown, who would later contribute to the grounds at Compton Verney. Canaletto, who had come to England in search of new sources of income and new subjects, recorded both the buildings that were about to be demolished and the new ones that were replacing them, sometimes editing out the scaffolding. As the son of a set designer he was adept at composing views enlivened by colourful foreground figures and cleverly lit to draw attention to the intended focus of the background. He influenced many British painters from Samuel Scott and William Marlow who portrayed London as the new Venice, through to Turner. This exhibition brings together magnificent paintings and



*The Grand Walk, Vauxhall Gardens*

drawings from the Royal Collection, the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation, The Dulwich Picture Gallery, Compton Verney and private collections. From 9th May to 21st June it will be accompanied by his *Regatta on the Grand Canal*, on loan from the National Gallery.

In complete contrast, Magnum photographer Martin Parr’s black and white images of the Yorkshire mill town of Hebdon Bridge in the 1970s are an affectionate and satirical portrait of an insular community suffering industrial decline, centred on the activities of its non-conformist chapels. All social strata are represented here, from Lord Savile with his gamekeepers to pigeon fanciers and factory workers. Among the photographs of cricket and football matches, New Year’s Day swimmers and Methodist foundation anniversary celebrations one picture sums up this poignant record of a traditional way of life about to be swept away by tourism and gentrification, a Silver Jubilee street party abandoned to the rain.

*Nadia MacCall*

## PARISH CLERK

Angela Kean will be standing down from her position of Clerk to the Parish Council. What a lot of you probably don't know is that Angela has held this post for 35 years and since her appointment in 1979 she has never missed one meeting. She has watched many Councillors come and go, witnessed many elections of Chair and Vice Chair, and has listened to and recorded all our discussions (sometimes quite heated – not recorded!). Her knowledge and wisdom of the running of the Parish Council has been extensive, and if any of us ever needed advice or information, Angela would give you a precise, no-nonsense reply; frills, embellishment and waffle definitely not her style! She refused any remuneration, only ever accepting a small honorarium. On behalf of the village, Parish Council and myself I would like to give a big, heart-felt thank you Angela for all your hard work and dedication over the last 35 years.



I would like to welcome Lorraine (Lis) Stuart who is going to take over as our Parish Clerk. Although at the moment Lis does not live in the village, she will be moving here soon, and as Carol and Tony Beasley's daughter, she is well acquainted with our parish.

*Grenville Moore*

An EARLY SUMMER SALE will be held in LOWER TYSOE in aid of  
MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT:

Friday 15th May      10 am - 12 30pm / 3 30 pm - 5 - 00pm  
Saturday 16th May    10am - 12- 30 pm

We will be selling a range of items "CAKES, JEWELLERY, SCARVES,  
GIFTS AND CARDS, TOYS" AS NEW" ADULTS AND CHILDREN'S  
CLOTHES, HANDBAGS AND SHOES.

ENTRY FEE £2 TO INCLUDE REFRESHMENTS

If YOU have something to sell and wish to join us on the day.

PLEASE CALL: JACKIE THOMPSON    07811794634 / 01295 680263

# NEW VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE ELECTED

There's a new Village Hall Committee for 2015/16 following the AGM held at the Village Hall on 22 April, as follows:

Chairman - Stuart Whittaker  
Secretary - Gill Stewart  
Treasurer - John McKail

Other committee members -

Derek Harbour  
Tricia Harbour  
Karen Barker  
Adrian Marklew  
Jay Roberts  
Roger Goodman  
Ken Bull  
Annette Bull  
Gaynor Van Dijk

The AGM paid a huge thanks to Derek Harbour who stood down as chairman after five years and who, with Tricia, has done a huge amount for the village hall. Pleasingly, both stay on the committee.

Your committee is looking forward to putting on a great range of events and activities over the coming year, so keep supporting the village hall or pop down if you haven't used the facility for a while. Details of regular activities and contact details will be distributed soon.



Welcome (very belatedly) to Robert and Susan who moved into the Box Garden on Green Lane in December of last year.

They, too, have had their oil stolen over Christmas. And Robert gives us a good tip - only have your tank half full at any one time. Robert also let us know that he would like to volunteer to operate the community radar equipment, especially if it is positioned in Green Lane!

## OXHILL VILLAGE HALL – UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Oxhill Race Night – Friday, 15 May, 2015**

‘The Starter’s arm is raised and they’re off!’ ‘Own’ a racehorse, be a jockey, back the Winner and see off the Bookies – all in one evening at the Village Hall! We’ll have six races with plenty of refreshments available so come along and join in the fun and make your ‘fortune’.

The evening will start at 8.00pm and tickets will cost £8 each.

Tickets from Jay Roberts on 680030

### **Oxhill Gala Weekend – 12/13/14 June, 2015**

See details elsewhere in the News!

### **Boules Day – Sunday 19 July, 2015**

Another date for your diary and this popular event also includes the children. In addition to the Boules Tournament, played for the Gardner’s Cup, we provide authentic French pates, cheeses, breads, salads, dessert 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 event kicks off at 12.30 pm and tickets, which can be obtained from Tricia Harbour on 680676, are **£8** per person & Children (up to age of 12) are free. This cost covers the food & entry to the competition.



*Boules Champions (and runner ups)  
2011*

**Please Note that the last Knit & Natter of this season will take place on Thursday 14 May.**

OXHILL GALA WEEKEND  
12/13/14 JUNE  
OUTLINE PROGRAMME

**Friday 12 June**

Live music playing at  
**The Peacock** from 8.30pm

**Saturday 13 June**

Afternoon: **Rounders & Boules** on  
Mrs. Gardner's field from 3.00pm

These are family  
games & a soft ball  
will be used for  
Rounders - lots of fun  
and a chance to build  
up your appetite, for

**Afternoon Teas** in the Old Chapel from 3.00pm

Homemade cakes & sandwiches with English Tea – Yummy!

Evening: **Band & Disco** in the Grain Barn at Kirby Farm with Pig Roast  
from 7.30pm

Dance the night away or sit back & enjoy the music

Free transport available, if required, from outside of The Peacock Pub

There is space for Parking next to the Barn and Campers are  
welcome –

Both of these options are free!

**Tickets to be bought in advance (see below) £15 per person**

**Sunday 14 June**

**Salmon Salad Lunch** in the Old Chapel from 12.30pm (Veggie  
& Meat alternatives will be available - please let the person you  
buy your tickets from know of your preference) – **Tickets to be  
bought in advance @ £15 per person.**

Tickets for the Band/Disco & the Salmon Lunch will be available from Carol Fox  
(01295 680223) or Cath Pugh (01295 680958).

Proceeds to go to St. Lawrence Church and the Village Hall



# ST. LAWRENCE'S CHURCH

**Sunday 3rd Easter IV:** 9.30am Parish Communion (ML)

**Sunday 10th Easter V:** 9.30am Morning Worship (JT)

**Thursday 14th Ascension Day:** 7.30pm Deanery Eucharist at Barcheston – all welcome

**Sunday 17th Ascensiontide:** 9.30am Parish Communion (TM)

**Sunday 24th Whitsunday (Pentecost):** 9.30am Family Communion (NM)

**Sunday 31st Trinity:** 9.30am United Benefice Eucharist (ML)

*For other benefice services see porch notice board*

## VICARAGE NOTES

Dear Friends

My sincere thanks go to Martin and Jill, the churchwardens and all the P.C.C. members who have given their time and talents to St. Lawrence's over the past year. All were re-elected (with a new member - Katie Dowding) at the Church Annual Meeting and we look forward to the year ahead with all the services and events planned.



*Quinn, 4 months old. the son of Edward and Jessica Fox and grandson of a very proud grandma - Carol Fox*

Without a doubt, the best local source of information for church and village is still the Oxhill News, which continues to be a really well produced parish magazine.

On behalf of the Parish Church, may I thank all the team who work busily behind the scenes!

Our services this month include a shortened Family Communion on Whitsunday. Neglected by the secular world, it is still a “red-letter” day, celebrating the birthday of the Church and of our Lords's command to “go forth into the world”. All are especially welcome then!

God bless,

**Nicholas Morgan 01608 685230**

# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL AGM SUNDAY APRIL 12TH

Canon Reverend Nicholas Morgan chaired the meeting.

Apologies were received from Diane Harper, Janet Gardner, Gill Rodwell and Lilian Welsby.

The revised Electoral Roll was presented by Douglas Nethercleft

Reports were read on Proceedings in Council, Finance, Social and Fund Raising and Deanery Synod meetings for the last year. Work on Fabric and church ornament over the last year was mostly due to the restoration project now completed. Redecorating the interior of the church will begin in May. Deanery Synod representatives remain the same, ie, Douglas Nethercleft and Carol Fox.

## **Election of church wardens and PCC followed:**

Church Wardens	Carol Fox and Charles MacCall
Secretary	Linda Synge
Treasurer	James Synge
Electoral Roll officer	Douglas Nethercleft
PCC Members.	Martin Hunt
	Sue Hunt
	Lilian Welsby
	Belinda Marklew
	Katrin Dowding
	Nadia MacCall
	Gill Rodwell
	Diane Harper
Church warden Emeritus	Janet Gardner

Sidesmen PCC members were elected and also John McKail and Bill Fox.

In Any Other Business. Myrtle Knight presented the church with one of 6 poppies from the WW1 display at the Tower of London. The chairman thanked myrtle on behalf of PCC and a decision would be made as to where they should be displayed.

The date of the next meeting is June 3rd at The Manor courtesy of Gill Rodwell.

*Carol Fox*

# DEANERY NEWS

Dear Everyone,

As we rejoice in the new life all around, can I remind you of four upcoming events:

- On **Thursday, May 14th** we will be celebrating Ascension Day with a special communion service at Barcheston Church at 7.30pm. Stuart Allen will be preaching, and everyone is very welcome.
- We are entering the season for the Archdeacon's Visitations, when Church Wardens are formally welcomed to office, and we say thank you, both to those who are retiring, and those who serve faithfully in other posts. The Shipston venue this year is St. Edmunds, Shipston, on **Tuesday, 19th May at 7.30pm.**
- Finally, we are really looking forward to welcoming Linda Wainscot, the Diocesan Director of Education, to our next Deanery Synod on **Tuesday, June 2nd at 7.30pm** in Whatcote Church. Linda is passionate about Christian education, and about a shared partnership between churches, schools, communities and families along the way. There will also be a display by Revd. Sarah Edmonds and Revd. Ali Massey of the works they have been doing in schools recently. Educating our children is really important, and if you would like to know more, please do come along. All are welcome.
- Finally, on **Thursday, June 4th** there will be another Quiet Morning, this time in The Free School in Brailes, between 10.00am and 1.00pm. Coffee will be available from 9.30am, and a light lunch will be served afterwards for those who can stay. Elisabeth Ashworth will be reflecting on the down to earth teachings of Brother Lawrence: 'Pots, Pans and Prayer'. Again all are welcome, even if it is only for part of the morning – these Quiet Mornings are very low key, and simply give us an opportunity to be quiet and reflective in God's presence.



*Making an Easter garden.*

The good folk of Oxhill have done a wondrous job collecting their pennies (and pounds) during Lent as part of the Spend a Penny Challenge. To date I have counted out jam jar contents to the tune of £311.25. (some of which is also Gift Aided). When all is finally gathered in, I will be sending it off to Cord to allow them to provide cleaning running water, which all the benefits that brings,



to villages in Burundi. So thank you all very much.



Everyone is warmly invited to join us for an organ recital to be given in St. Lawrence's Church by Jon Clarke – a wonderful organist who has played for us on several significant occasions in Church. He is going to play a mixture of sacred and show time music, and suitable refreshments will be served. The Recital is on Friday, May 22nd, at 7.30pm in Church. Tickets are £10, to include summer

drinks and nibbles, from Carol Fox 01295 680223 [ceafox@aol.com](mailto:ceafox@aol.com) or Jill Tucker 01295 688193 [revjill.tucker@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:revjill.tucker@tiscali.co.uk)

Finally, a very big thank you to those who came, cut out, glued, and assembled the Easter Garden for our Good Friday Messy Church. Thank you too to the bakers; we enjoyed Hot Cross Buns straight out of the oven, and watched as the Garden was assembled in front of us: hopefully you will have been able to see it as part of the Easter Display in Church.

Blessings, Jill



## WALK 52 MILES IN 24 HOURS? IT MAKES PERFECT SENSE!

When it comes to intrepid fundraising attempts, we are not short of great examples in Oxhill.



Among the latest, and for which we sincerely hope you will be able to lend your support, is one from the so-called Oxhill Village People. Yes, seriously.

We are five determined Oxhillians who are currently in training to do The RidgeWalk for the national deafblind charity Sense.

Along the ancient Ridgeway national trail through Oxfordshire and Wiltshire, starting at 2pm on **Saturday 20 June** and (hopefully) completing the 52 mile trek by 2pm on **Sunday 21 June**, will be Stuart Whittaker, Katy Dowding, Stuart Barker, Karen Barker and Adrian Marklew with minibus support from Belinda Marklew.

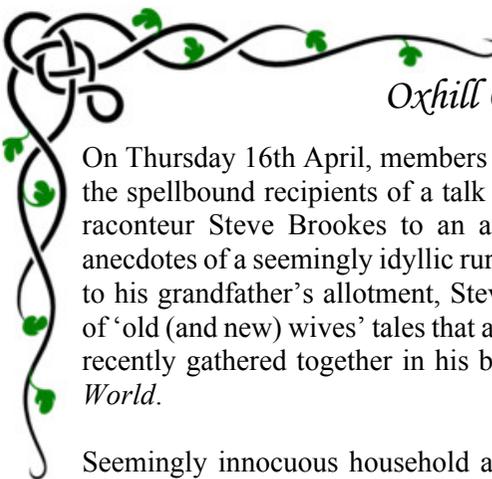
*In training on the Ridgeway near Goring.*

Just who gets to wear the Indian, cowboy, army, construction worker, motorbike cop or leathers gear from the famous 1970s has yet to be decided though!

It may not be the most sensible thing to do on what might be one of the hottest days of the year, but it makes perfect sense for us.

So, if you would like to sponsor the team from Oxhill please visit our Just Giving site to make a donation [www.justgiving.com/oxhillvillagepeople](http://www.justgiving.com/oxhillvillagepeople)

Our target is £1400, which will help Sense carry out its fantastic work in our communities. More information on the charity can be found at [www.sense.org.uk](http://www.sense.org.uk)



## Oxhill Garden Club

On Thursday 16th April, members of the Garden Club and their guests were the spellbound recipients of a talk given by local (Stratford) plantsman and raconteur Steve Brookes to an almost capacity audience. Preceded by anecdotes of a seemingly idyllic rural upbringing including inspirational trips to his grandfather's allotment, Steve's presentation comprised a succession of 'old (and new) wives' tales that actually work' collected over the years and recently gathered together in his book *The Greatest Gardening Tips in the World*.

Seemingly innocuous household articles and cupboard contents on a table display in the Village Hall provided a succession of astonishing (but proven) 'aids' to successful and productive gardening. The sympathetic securing and 'tying in' of plants and shrubs with strands of cotton from old mop heads, strips of discarded bicycle inner tube, and dabs of clear silicone sealant gives the reader an inkling of the 'flavour' of the talk.

Plants lacking in growth hormone can often be rejuvenated by soluble aspirin being incorporated into their watering; Epsom salts can rectify magnesium deficiency evidenced by the yellowing of houseplant leaves; a good liquid feed can be made from pigeon, ferret or sheep droppings contained in laddered ladies' tights suspended in a water butt; nettles incorporated into a compost heap provide useful nitrogen content; dried cowpats mixed into compost for hanging baskets keep the annual flowers looking wonderful!

Elasticated plastic shower caps make ideal propagator tops for large flowerpots; a 2" sprayed band of WD-40 around a plant container will provide a barrier to deter slugs and snails; roll-on deodorant containers can be (carefully) filled with weed killer for 'spot' applications; used dried tea bags sprayed with Ralgex area sure-fired way of keeping cats off of a newly raked seedbed; borax mixed in with sugar crystals will kill off a nest of marauding ants. And so it goes! Too many tips to recount here – if you weren't at the talk, buy the book!

**The next Garden Club event at the Village Hall is the annual Plant Sale – 7pm May 28th.**

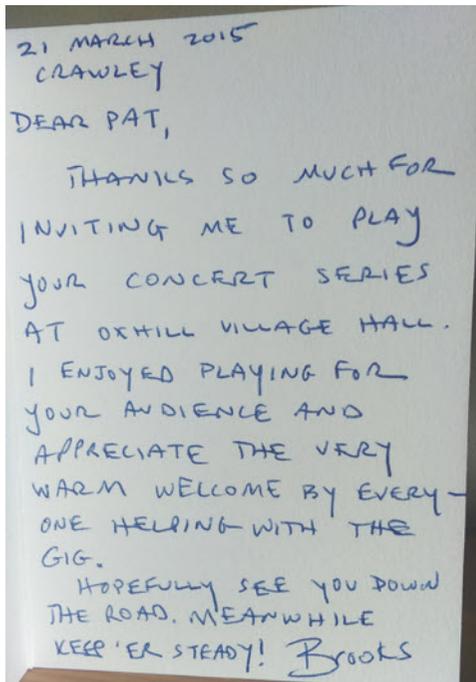


## THANKS YOU NOTES FROM MUSICIANS WHO PLAY IN OXHILL

Pat Crowther, our village impresario and music fan, shared with us a couple of notes he received from two of the wonderful musicians who have played here in our village hall - Mark Harrison and Brooks Williams.

From Mark: "That was a really great time at your place, really enjoyed it."

From Brooks: See note on the right -



In aid of St David's Church  
Newbold-on-Stour with Armscote



Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May  
10 am - 12.30 pm

## Newbold Plant Sale

St David's Churchyard

Great Variety! Great value!

Tombola Refreshments

Produce Stall



Plant donations greatly appreciated

Please contact Gilly Marsden 01789 459168

or deliver to Church on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 3 - 7 p.m.

## FURTHER OUR LAST MONTHS NOTE ON BROAD BAND SERVICE

from Sugarnet, Sugarswell Business  
Park.

We hope to have our installation completed by the end of the month, so a further update in next months Oxhill news.

If any would like to now more before then give us a call.

Mick & Barbara Shepard

07976298228 Mick

07976269090 Barbara

# EDGEHILL RINGERS

## SPRING ACTIVITIES EDGEHILL BELL RINGERS

The first three months of the year have seen lots of activity for the Edgehill Bell Ringers – most are reported on the Edgehill Bell Ringers Facebook page so do have a look there or on the web site <http://edgehillbellringers.org/>.

On Easter Sunday we rang at Kineton, Lighthorne, Chadshunt, Radway, Avon Dassett & Shotteswell. We followed this with a tour on the Monday, to ensure bells were heard everywhere over Easter, ringing at Ettington, Alderminster, Honington, Whatcote, Pillerton Hersey, Butlers Marston & Farnborough with some time for a convivial lunchtime visit to a pub as well!

**We have decided at Kineton to hold Open mornings on the 27th June and 12th September to display bell ringing.**

Five new ringers have been taught over the last month or two, Rachel, Francesca & Max Berger from Horley, Jonathan Foster from Pillerton Priors & Helen Sayers from Kineton. More are in progress!!

Quarter peal performances have been rung for the first time by John Tite & Macer Gifford (Horley) & Robin Hedger (Kineton). In addition Ralph Holtom (Kineton) and Nigel Dick (Lighthorne) have rung new performances.



*Some of the ringers at St. Peter's Kineton*

All the new ringers and those performing quarter peals have made progress with the 'Learning the Ropes' training scheme for ringers.

The major performance in February was the Full Peal on Horley bells for the first time ever. This included experienced ringers from outside the area and was completed in 2 hours and 53 minutes.

Over the next few months we plan to celebrate the Royal Birth and the signing of the Magna Carta. St George's day will be celebrated by ringing at St George's church Newbold Pacey.



military wives  
**Choirs**

Brize Norton  
'Big Soul Gospel Choir'

AND YOUNG SOLOIST: MOLLIE SMITH

IN CONCERT AT THE TOWNSEND HALL

**MAY 17TH 2.30PM**

DOORS OPEN 1.00PM



**Townsend Hall**  
PROMOTION

TOWNSEND HALL, SHEEP STREET, SHIPSTON-ON-STOUR, CV36 4AB

 [BUY TICKETS ONLINE AT WWW.TOWNSENDHALL.COM](http://WWW.TOWNSENDHALL.COM): ADULTS: £12.50 CHILDREN UNDER 14 £6.50  
TICKET PRICES ON THE DOOR: ADULTS: £15.00 CHILDREN UNDER 14 £9.00

 TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM IVY HEART, MARKET PLACE, SHIPSTON ON STOUR, CV36 4AG

TEL: 01608-662779 OR 01608 664065 | WINE AND LIGHT REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE  
TOWNSEND HALL CHARITY NUMBER: 522997

## FREE TO GOOD HOME

I have some aluminium staging surplus to requirements - not needed in my new greenhouse.

Dimensions are 3 metres long by 1 metre deep and roughly waist high, divided into three bays each with upper and lower removable trays. Good useable condition and light and easy to move, even the frame in one piece.

Help with walking it through the village to a new home would be available.

*Gwyn Adams, Karibu, Main Street, 01295680286*



**Thanks to an award of £2,000 from the Newsome Vaughan Fund and the Heart of England Community Foundation Fund Tysoe Village Hall will soon be the proud possessors of a new stage as part of its £75,000 modernisation programme.**

The new stage will enable more exciting drama and musical performances to take place and will be used for talks, lectures, meetings, exhibitions, music and dramatic productions, wedding speeches etc. New stage lighting, tracks and drapes are planned to bring the venue up to 21st century standards, together with new energy efficient heating and lighting, soundproofing and new disabled facilities.



## LOOKING AFTER A LOVED ONE, OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW IS?

Have you heard the Government's information adverts on the radio about the new Care Act which comes into effect on April 1st? It provides essential extra rights and support to those who look after a loved one or a friend. Many of those who do this don't recognise themselves as carers and so they miss out on vital information, services and benefits.

Carers4Carers is a self-support group of carers offering a friendly, relaxing opportunity to meet with others in a similar situation over refreshments. At some meetings we have a speaker while at others we have time for talking, exchange of ideas and information or enjoy a much needed TLC session with our lovely therapist Anita. We can look after your loved one in our Companionship Group, which meets at the same time, bookable in advance.

Time of meeting? Fourth Friday of the month 10.30 – 12 noon at Kineton Village Hall. Phone 01926 640203 email [kcarers4carers@gmail.com](mailto:kcarers4carers@gmail.com) for more information or help with transport.

We have a monthly informative newsletter to keep you up-to-date, especially useful if you can't come to the meetings. Please ask to go on our mailing list.



*Gillian Grason Smith*



## WOT2Grow Community Orchard

A busy time has seen the orchard spring to life with blossom on the apricots, quince, peaches and nectarines. The cold snap meant the apples, pears and plums all stopped in their tracks but are not far from flowering. We have been checking for pests and diseases, so far it all looks good however we are being very vigilant!

The wild flowers are growing well despite the moles and badgers digging holes in the strips. The cowslips have been beautiful this year, not many plants but definitely producing more seedlings each year. We are looking to establish more wild flower plantings as they provide such a good habitat for insects as well as feeding the bees. Our bees are active as well as a lot of bumbles bees and solitary bees.

Just before Easter we had a wonderful visit from years 2 and 4 at Tysoe School. Some of the children had visited last summer so they knew, and remembered, a lot about the orchard! It was such a pleasure to see them running around having a great time looking for various



*Blossoms from Greengage  
Deniston's Superb*



*Cowslips*

things in the orchard and comparing the trees to their last visit. We look forward to more visits in the coming months – it is a great way to see how the trees change through the seasons and there will be some fruit for them to sample, apricots seem to be a favourite!

We have finally tackled the fan trained gooseberries, a good way to grow them in a small space and makes harvesting easier but the pruning is challenging in the early stages. Lots of sore fingers but they are looking very smart.

Come along and see for yourself – the orchard is open 24 x 7!

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

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## WHAT'S ON IN & AROUND OXHILL

### May

Monday 4th	13:00	Hornton Mayday Celebrations
Tuesday 5th		Green & Blue bin collection
Wednesday 6th	10:30	The Peacock - Village Coffee Morning
Friday 8th	9:30	Weekday Walkers
Tuesday 12th		Grey landfill bin collection
Thursday 14th	14:00	Knit and Natter - Village Hall
Friday 15th		<b>OXHILL NEWS SUBMISSION DEADLINE</b>
Friday 15th-16th		MacMillan Cancer Support Summer Sale
Friday 15th	14:30	Village Hall - Mobile Library
Friuday 15th	20:00	Oxhill Race Night, Village Hall
Tuesday 19th		Green & Blue bin collection
Wednesday 20th	12:30	The Peacock - Village Lunch
Friday 22nd	9:30	Weekday Walkers
Tuesday 26th		Grey landfill bin collection
Thursday 28th	19:00	Garden Club Plant Sale

### June

Friday 12th- 14th		Oxhill Gala Weekend
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