

THE OXHILL NEWS



June 2006

COVER PICTURE

This is just some of what those of you who didn't go to France with the Garden Club missed by staying at home.

EDITOR(IAL)



And here is another sight missed by the stay-at-homes.

(Portraiture by Cecilia Miller.)

JULY ISSUE

Please could I have all copy for the July issue by Midnight on Sunday, 25th June. If you normally prepare your material using a computer, it would make my life easier if you could submit your offering in electronic form, though paper is, of course, fine. If you do use electronic form, the best would be a Word file with the page size set to A5 and margins of 1.5 cm all round. The News is currently set in Garamond 10 pt, with headings in Lucida Sans Unicode 14 pt bold. This may, of course, change, possibly without warning.

My 'official' e-mail address is **news-editor@oxhill.org.uk** if you wish to send me stuff that way.

George Adams, 680286

CHERNOBYL'S CHILDREN

COFFEE MORNING

at

THE OLD CHURCH HOUSE

OXHILL

SATURDAY 1st JULY

10 a.m. – 12 noon

CAKE, PRODUCE and PLANT STALLS

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

The Chernobyl Children will be attending the Coffee Morning and afterwards will be going for a walk round the village.

It would be appreciated if anyone who made a scarecrow for the festival on 17th & 18th June would keep them and put them out again on 1st July, as I am sure the children would really love to see them.

Anne Marshall, 680411

RACE FOR LIFE

Mrs. Jackie Hatton (aka, less formally, Jackie the Post) will be doing the Race for Life this year at Warwick Racecourse, in company with the three Post Ladies who between them cover Kineton.

She is, naturally enough, seeking sponsorship to aid Cancer Research UK. Given my recent health problems I am all in favour of the idea! Please will as many of you as possible help Jackie to raise as much money as we can for this enormously worthwhile cause. Jackie has an official sponsorship form, but it is not vital that you see her and get it completed before the race – pretty well any time at all (in the reasonably near future) would be fine. If you don't often see Jackie on her rounds then you can give a donation to me at Karibu and I will see that it reaches Jackie quicksticks.

If you want to go and cheer the ladies on, the race starts at 7 p.m. on Wednesday 7th June. It's a five kilometre race, so the Post Ladies should have no problems. They must each do that much every day.

Editor

ST LAWRENCE CHURCH, OXHILL

SERVICES FOR JUNE

Sunday 4th	9.30	Holy Communion	Rev. S. Knight
Sunday 11th	9.30	Holy Communion	Canon G. Walker
Sunday 18th	3.00	Evensong	Rev. S. Knight
Sunday 25th	10.30	United Benefice	at Whatcote St. Peter

ST LAWRENCE CHURCH

NEW APPOINTMENTS

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Rev. Canon Nicholas Morgan, Vicar of Brailes, as Priest-in-charge of the Benefice of Tysoe, Oxhill and Whatcote.

Our new Associate Minister and House for Duty Priest has also been appointed. He is Rev. Martin Leaton. He will take up his position on September 24th and will be moving into the Vicarage in Tysoe at the beginning of September.

The inductions by the Bishop will probably be on Sunday 8th October at Tysoe.

Andy Buchanan & Carol Fox, Churchwardens

SHIPSTON DEANERY QUIET MORNING

Thursday June 15th

10 a.m.-2 p.m.

‘From the Tree of Knowledge to the Tree of Life’

Do join us for a time of reflection in the beautiful garden setting of

Wheelwright House, Long Compton

By kind permission of Sue and Dick Shacklock

Led by Reverend Heather Parbury

Drinks and lunch provided

Further information from Elisabeth Ashworth, 01608 686391

BILL GARDNER

Bill was Warwickshire through and through. He was born in 1919, brought up at Burlands Farm, and farmed at Gaydon, where he was a Churchwarden. When he retired from farming he worked for F.H. Burgess for 25 years, eventually retiring at 75. For the last 27 years he and Janet have been an important part of Oxhill life. They would have celebrated their diamond wedding this July.

The countryside meant everything to him, in all its aspects; growing vegetables on an immaculate plot (never mind the flower beds, that's Janet's business), following hounds in his Land Rover and always knowing which way they would run, seeing how crops were growing in the fields (in his open-top Singer in the summer) he never missed a trick. Cantankerous and stubborn on occasions he might be, with a wicked sense of humour, but he was a truly special friend to many.

Oxhill Church was overflowing for Bill's funeral on 12th May, with friends from all sides of Warwickshire life coming to say farewell, including the huntsman to blow him away, the whipper-in and a couple of hounds from Warwickshire Hunt, which he would have appreciated. Should you be in the Churchyard at some time in the future do not be surprised if you find runner beans growing on Bill's grave – some were buried with him.

We shall miss you, old friend. Our prayers and thoughts are for Janet, Christopher, Brian and Nick.

Eve Whaley

A 'THANK YOU' FOR OXHILL

Russen and Wendy Thomas moved into 'Porthkerry' in Beech Road 15 years ago but the time has come to move closer to our family in the West Country so we have elected to come to St. Peter's Cottage in the village of Langford Budville in Somerset, just 5 miles from junction 25 of the M5 - a comparatively short distance in time from the West Midlands.

If you come to where the zoyder aaples do grow you would be most welcome at our home.

So it's "Au Revoir" to Oxhill and to thank our many friends and acquaintances for a very enjoyable time in a lovely village in a beautiful part of England. 'Thank you' to Oxhill and its good folk.

Russen & Wendy Thomas

NOTES OF THE OXHILL ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 23RD MAY 2006 AT 8.00 PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Following the May elections, Parish Councillors David Hill, Tom Heritage and Gwyneth Adams remain in office. Brian Emmerson and Stephen Hackett did not stand for re-election, therefore two vacancies exist and these will be filled by co-option at the July meeting.

A vote of thanks was given to Brian Emmerson and Stephen Hackett for their services to the community as Parish Councillors.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

David Hill was re-elected Chairman

Tom Heritage was re-elected Vice Chairman

MATTERS DISCUSSED

Arising from the Parish Meeting

The question of a possible funding requirement for the adult Learning Centre and Nursery facility at Tysoe . This would be considered only if supported by all other parishes in the surrounding area and after consultation with the village.

Coventry Airport

A letter from solicitors, Messrs. Jones Day of London, acting on behalf of the West Midlands International Airport Limited (WMIAL) was sent to the Chairman of the Parish Council on 13th April, outlining plans for the development of revised Noise Preferential Routes/Standard Departure Routes (NPR/SDR) from Coventry. About 500 councils received a similar letter. It was subsequently ascertained that the new routes would pass some 6 km to the east of Oxhill at an altitude (above sea level) of no less than 6000 ft. The 6 km is subject to a possible variation of 1.5 km either side of the new NPR/SDR.

In practical terms this means that aircraft taking off from Coventry would pass over say, Ratley and would affect Oxhill minimally, if at all, concerning noise pollution. The Parish Council has responded to Jones Day to the effect that there is no comment on WMIAL's proposals at the moment, but reserves the right to do so if necessary. We can assume that many communities under the NPR/SDRs will be affected and will be making strong representation.

If any resident has a comment on the above, or would like further information, please contact a Parish Councillor.

Planning

Application for extension to form living accommodation at Moat House was returned with no objection.

Application to raise and repair roof of pig sty and change its use to stable and store was returned with no objection.

Permission had been granted for rear extension at Stablecroft.

Finance

Mandatory Insurance cover of £294.28 was paid. Honorarium of £150 was paid to the Clerk. Audit Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2006, Notes to the Account, Variation statement and Bank Reconciliation were presented to the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

Verges

A request for verges to be made good following work on the former Methodist Chapel will be made.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 11th July 2006 at 8.00 p.m. in the Village Hall.

Angela Kean, Clerk

TYSOE MARIONETTE GROUP

Our final performance of Paul Gallico's "**Love of Seven Dolls**" raised a one-night record of £235 in aid of Marie Curie Cancer Care.

It takes months to write, prepare and rehearse a new show, and as we have sadly lost Jane, one of our key puppeteers, to the demands of the teaching profession we are fast approaching the lower limits of an effective team, so we urgently need new recruits to assist with our forthcoming production of "**The Cat That Walked by Himself**".

Those interested in joining in this fascinating venture are welcome to contact:

Jon & Ann Beeny 01295 680431

Visit: www.PuppeteersUK.com & www.warkcom.net

POISONING CATS AND DOGS?

I have just paid a hefty bill to the Vet for saving the life of our cat which he is certain was affected by a Warfarin- based poison which was probably passed to the cat by a dead or dying rat or mouse. Apparently, these rodents travel quite a distance after consuming the poison. I would like to speak to any non-farmer who is using it for the purposes of pest control. My number is 07889 516141. I hope also that anyone with a cat, or a dog, which is exercised on or off a leash, will take note of the risk.

David Hill

BILL GARDNER, OXHILL

Janet and her family would like to thank you all for your many kindnesses, support, letters and cards in our sad loss.

Thank you for attending Bill's country 'farewell'. The Church was certainly bulging at the seams and the singing was fantastic. Bill would have approved.

Please excuse me for not writing to you all, but at the last count we have received over 100 cards and letters.

Janet Gardner

OXHILL GARDEN CLUB

Our next few events take on our summer outdoor activities as opposed to our usual talks. At the end of May many members travelled to France to view Monet's Garden at Giverny and the delightful Bois des Moutiers near Dieppe.

We held a most enjoyable plant sale last week despite the inclement weather. The village hall was full to bursting with home raised plants - it might not have been Chelsea but it was certainly cheaper and drier!

The annual Garden Party this year is to be held on 6th July at 7.00 p.m. Jeff and Pauline Stewart have kindly offered their garden at Turnstone, Whatcote Road for this event.

There is to be an outing to Snowhill Lavender Farm, Near Broadway on 3rd August at 6.00 p.m. starting with a talk and tour of the lavender farm finishing with a meal in their restaurant. The cost for the tour is £2.00 and a main course supper would start from £6.95. Lilian Welsby (680468) is collecting names for those interested in this trip.

Anne Nethercleft & Heather Brennan

SCARECROW FESTIVAL

17th & 18th JUNE

We hope you have all got good ideas for your scarecrows.

The straw will be at the Village Hall from June 1st.

Please let me know if you are making a scarecrow so that I can produce a suitable map to guide visitors round the village and tell them where to look.

If you want a space at the Car Boot Sale, please give me a ring.

We will need a lot of help with the running of the teas and stalls over the weekend. If you could help, even if only for an hour or so, please let me know.

Items for the plant stall, bric-a-brac and tombola will be much appreciated. When you are giving your cupboards a good spring clean, please think of us.

A meeting has been arranged for Tuesday 6th June at 7.30 in the Village Hall for anyone who needs help, or who could offer help to a first-timer. Do come along and have a glass of wine or a coffee and a chat.

Steve and Sandra will be doing a BBQ at lunchtime each day at the Peacock.

There will be a pig roast on Saturday evening at the Village Hall. Tickets will be £4.50.

As there was no jumble sale earlier this year clothing items suitable for the production of scarecrows are urgently needed. There is a specific need for men's jackets, a witch's hat and cloak and a number of long-sleeved T-shirts.

If you can help with the above, or in any other way, please let me know.

Lilian Welsby, 680468

WELCOME

We offer a warm welcome and a long and happy life to Isaac George, the newly arrived son of Clare and Dean Checkly of Silverdale on the Whatcote Road.

Editor

BOOK LAUNCH

We hear that *The Story of a Warwickshire Parish*, a history of Ratley by John Ashby & Dan Batchelor, will be launched in Ratley Village Hall on Saturday 3rd June from 4 to 8 p.m. You can meet the authors, see Ratley memorabilia and buy a copy of the book for £11.99.

Editor

GOURMET DINNER

IN AID OF CHERNOBYL'S CHILDREN

I am delighted to report that the whole event was an outstanding success.

Thank you to the fantastic team of helpers who worked very hard to make the evening run so smoothly.

Thank you also to all the guests who supported the evening.

We were very touched by the generosity of the suppliers of foods and wine and the many donations we received.

The dinner raised the wonderful, if astonishing, total of £1,286. Thank you all so much.

We hope to make the dinner an annual event.

Anne Marshall

SCARECROW WEEKEND

17th and 18th JUNE

CAKES AND HELP NEEDED!!

Once again, may I call on all of you who supply us with delicious cakes, to roll up your sleeves and get busy once more!

We need cakes for the teas and the cake stall - and if any of you are able to help on Saturday or Sunday, please ring Lilian or myself.

Come and join in the fun and let's hope we are as successful as last year!

Gaynor Fila 680473

Lilian Welsby 680468

PLANT STALL

17th & 18th June

Are your plants growing well?

The stall will be in Janet Gardner's drive over the weekend. If at all possible can you please deliver them (hopefully named) on Friday 16th, but if you would like us to collect please contact Eve.

Let's hope we have a fine weekend and lots of plant-buying visitors.

Janet Gardner, 680280

Eve Wbaley, 680224

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

SPEEDING IN OXHILL

Hi George,

It has been some months since the above “hot” topic raised its head, once again, but nevertheless timely.

As a relative newcomer to the village (7 years) I made a conscious decision not to join the fierce debate this subject causes until I felt a little more established.

However, I feel it is now time to make a contribution.

Over the years I have read and been amused by the comments made at ways of tackling this on-going problem, anything from a “quiet word” in the ear of the miscreants (very difficult at 60mph), to do nothing at all – what was it, the fear of “urbanisation” as I recall!

Fact 1, this problem is not going to go away – in fact it will probably worsen.

Fact 2, should anything untoward happen, i.e. a serious accident, then it probably won't be someone from the village who causes it – they will either be passing through, e.g. the blue Audi estate from Tysoe (the blue is now black by the way he's got a new motor) or visiting us.

I live on the Main Street “drag” from Oxhill House to the White House and witness the buses, agricultural contractors, cars and motorbikes seeing how fast they can accelerate from one end to the other. A similar problem exists on the Whatcote Road/Kineton Road stretch where on many occasions I am sure a speeding limit does not exist!

And I would add that it is a whole cross section of drivers – young, old, male and female who revel in the challenge – nothing stereotypical.

It is inevitable and only a matter of time before someone is injured, possibly fatally. We will then have the inevitable wringing of hands and mutterings of what should have been done, rather than what we did to prevent it.

Many examples exist, both in the UK and particularly in France where “urbanisation”, and here I mean the introduction of traffic calming measures, have been successfully introduced into many stunningly beautiful villages like our own without taking away their uniqueness. So there are solutions to the problem.

Am I alone in my concern or will the subject of speeding in Oxhill continue for another two years? Time for action methinks!

Alan Beavis, Meadow View

ORDINATION

After a year's mutual survival between myself and the Queen's Foundation, I anticipate being ordained on Sunday, July 2nd at 10.30 a.m. in Coventry Cathedral. Anyone who would like to come is very warmly invited.

Back in Oxhill, there will be a buffet lunch at The Old House from about 1.30 p.m. onward, both for those who made it to the Cathedral and for anyone who would just like to come along and join in the celebration.

This is very much a village event. Gaynor van Dijk is very kindly coordinating lunch, so any queries or (especially) offers of help please contact her on 680349.

For those who would like to come to the Cathedral, we have laid on a coach, which will leave from outside the Peacock (in Oxhill) no later than 8.45. This may seem early, but the Cathedral will be full to capacity, and you are advised to be in your seats by 10.00 a.m. Steve has very kindly allowed people to use the pub car park that day. There will be no charge for the coach. If you wish to use the coach please would you get in touch with Mike Collins (680564), leaving him your name and telephone number, so that we know numbers. The coach should be back in Oxhill by 1.30 p.m.

If you prefer to take your own car, we suggest you use the Cox's Street Car Park in Coventry, opposite the sports centre, but again be early.

It would be lovely to see as many of you as possible then.

Jill Tucker

BUS TO SHIPSTON

An enthusiastic team of volunteers drives the Shipston Link bus each **Wednesday** from Upper Tysoe to Shipston via Oxhill and back..

Peacock Oxhill depart 09.35

Shipston Market Square arrive 09.55

The bus calls at the Shipston Medical Centre and gives you about an hour for shopping before it sets off back to Oxhill.

Fares:

ADULTS	CHILDREN 14-5YRS	UNDER 5 YRS
Single	£1.00	£0.50
Return	£1.50	£0.75

FREE

FREE

Holders of Warwickshire Bus Passes travel free

This is convenient way of getting into Shipston or the Medical Centre without the hassle of parking. Give the drivers your support by using it!

Tony Eastaugh

POLICE LIAISON

I met Sergeant Darren Fretwell who has taken over from Warren Ayres at Shipston. The prime objective of the meeting was to exchange information on local matters, specifically regarding this Parish.

Darren appears to have been well briefed by his predecessor and is aware of all recently reported incidents. He is, however, concerned that things which could and should be reported to the police are not being reported with enough detail for the Police to take action. The Police are often criticised for being virtually invisible when in fact they can only act on information passed, unless of course they just happen to be passing when something is happening - a very long shot. Any incident which a member of the Parish considers to be suspicious, illegal or anti-social must be reported to the Police directly before they can do anything about it. Unless an individual or the wider community is prepared to report, nothing can be done. Can I say yet again that I am not the person to whom an incident should be reported, although I would be very interested to hear of it subsequently. Sergeant Fretwell can be contacted via the Stratford number: 01789 414111, Extension 4588, Voicemail 11740, or in the case of non-urgency, by email: darren.fretwell@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk.

The 999 option remains the primary option for extreme urgency where a threat to life and limb is thought to exist. Regarding suspicious activity, I have been informed that there are a number of teams active in the south of our County which are in the business of either distraction burglary or surveying properties with a view to a follow-up burglary. These people often pose as officials of a known organisation or as contractors seeking new business. Whatever details can be obtained on these visitors, physical descriptions, mannerisms, car details, time, date, place etc., are useful to record or, in the case of serious suspicion, to report. I am personally quite critical of the Police, and have misgivings about their operational priorities, staffing levels, communication skills and so on, all of which I have expressed to Darren and others. Notwithstanding this, I think that the Police are trying to do a good job round here and deserve, and need, our help and support.

David Hill

OPEN GARDENS

RATLEY, EDGEHILL AND UPTON

SUNDAY 4th JUNE

Teas in the Village Hall

Scarecrow Competition

Admission £4.50

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

The Village Hall Annual General Meeting was held on Thursday 25th May.

We would like to apologise for not notifying the village regarding the AGM. If anybody would like to discuss the minutes, as published, discuss the accounts or become a member of the Committee, the next meeting will be held at 8 p.m. on Thursday 6th July 2006 at 2 The Sett.

MINUTES OF THE OXHILL VILLAGE HALL MEETING held at 8.00 p.m. on Thursday 25th May 2006 at 2 The Sett.

PRESENT	Ray Dagg, Linda Dagg, Ian Brodnerick, Julie Seabridge, Keith Seabridge, Jill Tucker, Marcus Robertson, Diana Cronin
APOLOGIES	Tracey Hackett, Sarah Hobill, Tony Eastaugh
NEXT MEETING	6th July 2006 at the Dagg's residence

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

After a welcome by the Chairman, the minutes of the last AGM held on 11th August 2005 were read and agreed by all.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Diana Cronin was elected Secretary. All other officers were re-elected.

TREASURER'S REPORT

A written report was provided. Despite the fire, the finances remain stable. Auditing of the accounts to take place. The Chairman confirmed that a sum of money had been donated by the Parish Council for capital purchases. The Parish Council will continue to provide finances for the grass cutting of the village green. The Chairman wished to thank Ian for his continued vigilance over the finances and the Parish Council for their continued support.

AOB

The Committee would like to thank everyone who contributed to the events and the upkeep of the surrounds of the Village Hall. The AGM adjourned to the Committee Meeting.

MEETING CLOSED

VILLAGE HALL FUNCTIONS

The committee are pleased to announce the following functions at the village hall

Saturday 23rd September	The Progressive Supper Please contact Diana Cronin on 01295 680938
Friday 13th October	Family Quiz Night Details to follow
Saturday 21st October	Casino Night Theme – ‘Oxhill Oscars’. Dress to impress! Details to follow
Monday 11th December	Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch Details to follow

JOHNSON’S 270 WHITE KNUCKLE RIDE

(With grateful acknowledgement to Warwickshire & Oxfordshire County Councils)

	Mondays to Fridays				School Days	School Hols & Sats
Stratford (Wood Street)	605	900	1115	1335	1620	1620
Oxhill (Village Hall)	630	925	1140	1400	1700	1700
Banbury (Bus Station)	700	1000	1210	1430	1740	1740
	School Days	School Hols & Sats	Mondays to Fridays			
Banbury (Bus Station)	710	710	1010	1220	1440	1750
Oxhill (Village Hall)	750	750	1040	1255	1510	1820
Stratford (Wood Street)	826	831	1105	1325	1535	1845

As well as to/from scheduled stops, this very valuable service operates as ‘Hail & Ride’ from any safe pick-up point en route.

(Note: A single adult full fare Banbury to Oxhill is currently £2.70 – and a great way to travel!)

Doug Netherclef (VLO, Oxhill)

WHAT'S ON IN OXHILL

June

Saturday 3rd	4.00	Ratley Village Hall - Book Launch
Sunday 4th		Ratley & Edgehill - Open Gardens
Wednesday 7	7.30	Oxhill Village Hall – W.I. - Save the Children, Mrs Mitchell
Saturday 17th & Sunday 18th		Scarecrow Festival
Thursday 15th	10.00	Shipston Deanery Quiet Morning
Sunday 25th	24.00	Copy deadline for the News

July

Saturday 1st	10.00	Old Church House – Coffee Morning for Chernobyl's Children
Saturday 8th	7.30	St. Peter's, Whatcote - Summer Concert
Tuesday 11th	8.00	Village Hall - Parish Council Meeting

September

Sunday 10th		Upper St. Dennis Farm – Tennis Tournament
Saturday 23rd		Progressive Supper
Saturday 30th		Harvest Supper

October

Friday 13th		Village Hall - Quiz Night
Saturday 21st		Village Hall - Casino Night

November

Friday 10th & Saturday 11th	12.00 9.00	Darlingstons Farm – Designer Sale, Shipston Home Nursing
Thursday 16th	10.00	Ettington Community Centre – Gift Fair

December

Monday 11th		Village Hall - Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch
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SMARTWATER

Warwickshire Police were amazed and delighted at the take-up of the Smartwater offer in Oxhill. 33 packs were ordered, and the Stratford Nick had to requisition extra supplies from less public-spirited districts.

George Adams

‘CANTAMUS’ CONCERT AT WHATCOTE

The Summer Concert at Whatcote will be on Saturday July 8th at 7.30 p.m. in the Community Centre, St Peter's Church. 'Cantamus', from Shipston, will provide a programme of music suitable for all tastes interspersed with readings by Ann Hume and Sheila Probert.

Further details and tickets (£8.00, concessions £6.00), are available from Sue Price, (01295 680007) or Phil Wreford, (01295 680294).