

# THE OXHILL NEWS



**SEPTEMBER 2006**

## SEPTEMBER 2

Is the Feast day of Saints William of Roskilde, Agricola, Antoninus of Pamiers, Brocard, Castor of Apt and the Martyrs of September 1792.

In 31 BC Emperor Augustus (Octavian) defeated Antony at the Battle of Actium and in 1666 the Great Fire of London started; it destroyed 13,000 buildings in four days. September 2nd 1752 was the last day when the Julian calendar was used in Britain and the Colonies 'officially'; as in the rest of Europe, the following day became 14 September in the Gregorian calendar. In 1898 the British, led by Lord Kitchener, defeated the Sudanese at the Battle of Omdurman and re-occupied Khartoum and in 1923 the Irish Free State held its first elections. In 1987 the CD-video, combining digital sound with high-definition video, was launched by Philips.

Wilhelm Ostwald, the celebrated German chemist, was born in 1853. He devised a cunning apparatus to measure the concentration of gases in the air. Almost a hundred years later, in 1952, Jimmy Connors was born, but seemingly no-one else of much significance in between them.

Thomas Telford died in 1834, Henri Rousseau in 1910, Pierre de Coubertin (think five rings) in 1937, J R R Tolkien in 1973 (leaving *The Silmarillion* still unpublished) and Roy Castle in 1994.

*Editor*

## COVER PICTURE

This month's offering is of the Volcano near La Antigua de Guatemala and was supplied by Russen Thomas. I'm not sure which one exactly, there seem to be several in that area. Doubtless someone will tell me. Probably Russen.

*Editor*

## OCTOBER ISSUE

Please could I have all copy for the October issue by Midnight on Wednesday, 27th September. 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](mailto:news-editor@oxhill.org.uk)** if you wish to send me stuff that way.

George Adams, 680286

# A THANK YOU FROM CHERNOBYL'S CHILDREN

## OXFORDSHIRE & SOUTH WARWICKSHIRE

I would like to thank everybody in Oxhill who has given this Charity such tremendous support over the past year. Many of you were able to meet the children at the Coffee Morning in July and thereby see first hand just how important it is that they are able to come to England for recuperative care. Oxhill has held three fund raising events- two Coffee mornings and a Gourmet Dinner- and these, together with donations and gift aid, have raised a magnificent total of £3920 for which Chernobyl's Children Oxfordshire & South Warwickshire is extremely grateful.

2006 is the 20th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster that deposited over 70% of its radioactive fall-out onto the country of Belarus. Chernobyl's Children Oxfordshire & South Warwickshire exists in order to bring 7-11 year old children over to England from the Belarussian city of Mogilev for a month's recuperative care every year and meets the full cost of these visits which include optical, dental and medical check ups. Wherever possible we bring back the same children annually whilst they are at primary school. Ongoing medical research shows that these visits boost the battered immune systems of the children and increases their life expectancy by at least two years. Apart from suffering with their health, the children that the charity bring to England all live in conditions of hardship and poverty back in Belarus.

During their month in England, each child lives with a volunteer host family. The ten children (plus two interpreters/teachers) are taken out as a group by me during the weekdays and spend the evenings and weekends with their host families.

Thank you once again for helping to raise money to bring to England some of the unfortunate and innocent victims who bear the legacy of the Chernobyl disaster and thereby giving them the chance to live a longer life.

If anybody is interested in finding out more about the charity or about the possibility of hosting, then I can be contacted on 01327 361735 or e-mail [raggsd@hotmail.com](mailto:raggsd@hotmail.com)

*Christine Barnett*

# ST LAWRENCE CHURCH, OXHILL

## SERVICES FOR SEPTEMBER

Sunday 3rd	9.30	Holy Communion	Rev. Warner
Sunday 10th	9.30	Holy Communion	Rev. G. Rowston
Sunday 17th	6.30	Evensong	Rev. S. Knight
Sunday 24th	9.30	Holy Communion and Harvest Festival. There will be a sale of produce after the service, with the proceeds going to Farm Africa. This will be the first service in Oxhill for our new Associate Minister, Rev. Martin Leaton.	

## SHIPSTON DEANERY

invites you to join us for

### A Quiet Morning

#### HARVEST

Led by Sara Serpell

(Reader at St Peter's Church Wellesbourne)

on

**Saturday 30th September 2006**

at

**St Peter's Church Whatcote**

Coffee at 9.45 a.m. for a 10 a.m. start

The Quiet morning will finish at 12.30 p.m.,  
a light lunch being provided for those who wish to stay

For further information please contact

Elisabeth Ashworth (Deanery Lay Chair) 01608 686391

# A CHRISTMAS CAROL

There will be a performance of 'A Christmas Carol', by Charles Dickens, in St Lawrence Church on Tuesday 12th December.

Information on the time of the performance will follow.

*Editor*

## KINETON OIL CONSORTIUM

Oil will be ordered in September. Please place your orders not later than 6 p.m. on September 10th.

I am unable to even guess what the price will be, but be assured we will get the best price available.

*D. Harper, 01295 680529*

## WI AUGUST REPORT

On 3rd August five of us set out from 'The Gate Inn' in Brailes, through the allotments, down The 99 Steps towards St George's Church. At Upper Brailes Green some decided to continue up Gillett's Hill for the views, disturbing a young deer in the thicket. We all joined together with six other members and some friends for a relaxed lunch at The Gate.

We shall step out again, later in the year when Belinda has organised another gentle circular walk.

Future meetings:

September 6th Woodland Trust

October 4th Highland Dress

Visitors welcome

*Belinda Keep*

# NATURE NOTES FOR SEPTEMBER

Firstly let me apologise for the loss of last month's Nature Notes. I wrote a long epistle on the loss of English hay meadows, the "send" key was duly pressed, but George's magic box did not receive, so August Nature Notes are wafting about somewhere in the ether (well that's how I like to imagine it anyway!).

September is the ninth month of the year now, but was the seventh month of the Roman calendar and derived its name from the Latin septem, seven.

*Married in September's golden glow  
Smooth and serene your life will go*

September also marks the end of summer and the beginning of autumn. The word autumn comes from the Latin "autumnus" and its origin dates back to the 14th century. Many people think the term "fall" is an Americanism, but both autumn and fall are in the English language. The latter appears in 16th century texts in the longer phrase "fall of the leaf" but by the second half of the 17th century the shorter "fall" was in frequent use and would have travelled to the Americas with the Pilgrim Fathers.

A couple of days ago I entered Mrs Rodwell's lower field to cross the footpath and I thought I would just walk along the edge of the brook (ever hopeful of a water vole!). I was heartened to see several minnows because I haven't seen any fish there for several years now. Further along the reeds there was a magical "cloud" of banded demoiselle damselflies, which at a glance look black, but in fact are purple-brown with a large deep Prussian blue band on the wings. However, further on I came upon the badly decomposed remains of our resident (I presume) heron. I hear a cheer rise from all you pond owners who have lost fish, but you have to ask yourself who was here first? I could see no signs of how it had died, but the curious thing was that there were two beautiful Painted lady butterflies feeding on the rotting carcass (make mental note here not to kiss any painted ladies!).

While on the subject of butterflies, this year seems to have been very good for most species. We went for a walk along Horley old railway cutting (a nature reserve, well worth a visit) the other weekend and we counted 11 species of butterfly. They were, Large white, Small white, Common blue, Small blue, Meadow brown, Gatekeeper, Speckled wood, Small skipper, Red admiral, Peacock, and Painted lady. The Painted lady is a summer visitor; all the others breed here. We had hoped to see the Marbled white butterfly which we had spotted there previously.

The dragonflies also seem to have had quite a good year, and if there is warm autumn weather we will see them flying well into October. The term dragonfly covers two groups – dragonflies and damselflies, and within the dragonfly group there are hawkers, skimmers, chasers and darters, and with the damselflies there are damselflies and demoiselles. The larger dragonfly species will be seen darting about or hawking along a beat in search of prey, suddenly soaring up into the sky to catch a passing insect. The smaller damselflies can be seen flying in and out of the bankside vegetation or making low excursions across the water from one side of the pond to the other. The legs of dragonflies are suitable for grasping and they form a sort of basket in which flying insects can be scooped out of the air and fed upon whilst the dragonfly is in flight. We have seen eight to ten species in Oxhill and several breed in our pond. You should be able to see at least two of the largest and most impressive, the Southern Hawker, green in colour, and the Brown Hawker. The Southern Hawker is very curious and will approach you and circle round, occasionally landing on you. Contrary to popular folklore, they do not sting or bite. Their wonderful flashes of iridescent colour in an insect little changed from Prehistoric times are to be treasured.

Watch out for September 14th. It is the Devil's Nutting Day. It is said that those who go gathering hazelnuts on this day or on Sundays will meet the Devil engaged in the very same task. The superstition may have been an attempt to discourage young people from indulging in frivolous and amorous activities on a holy day, which would surely happen in a foray into the woods!

Footnote: The barn owls did not return to the church, but the kestrels reared a second brood.

Grenville Moore

## THANK YOU

First of all we would like to thank everyone for their congratulations and good wishes on our recent Golden Wedding Anniversary. We had a marvellous celebration.

Also thank you again for all your thoughts and prayers, flowers and cards, when Shirley had her operation. It helped us immensely and we are very grateful to all our friends in the village.

We are extremely thankful that she is now well on the way to full recovery.

*John and Shirley*

# THE SCARECROW

"That scarecrow moved!" squeaked Amelia.

"Don't be silly," said her friend Mary dismissively.

"I am telling you it moved!"

The friends had been strolling through the village of Oxhill enjoying the scarecrow festival. They had marvelled at the variety of exhibits. They had seen a witch flying on a broomstick, a ladies' tea party; a marvellous baptism in the church and Harry Potter. There had been over a hundred scarecrows, many of them drinking beer or wine looking very life like. All of them made out of straw. It had been a truly fascinating afternoon.

Amelia clutched her friend's arm. "It really did move. I tell you it winked at me."

Mary looked closely at the object of Amelia's attention. It was a scarecrow that was sitting on a deck chair reading a newspaper. It would not have looked out of place at Henley Regatta. It was wearing a white shirt and trousers. It had a red and green striped blazer and on its head was a Panama hat. Its round face had been made out of a disposable paper plate. It's true the face had been drawn with a certain amount of flair, but it still looked like a scarecrow. The eyes were very blue, wide and staring.

"How can those eyes, that have been drawn on a plate, move?"

"Well they did. You stand here and watch."

"I have no intention of standing here waiting for a paper face to move. Come on. I am getting cold and I want to go home," said Mary, walking away from the scene.

The cool summer breeze rustled the newspaper that had been fastened in the scarecrow's white-gloved hands. "Before you go," said the scarecrow, "would you please turn over this page. I am so fed up with reading about 'What's on Television Tonight'."

Amelia was stunned. She had a great desire to follow her friend, but she was drawn into doing what he had asked of her. Feeling very foolish she walked over to where he was sitting. She hoped nobody would see her. The newspaper had been pegged onto his hands.

"This is very kind of you," he said as she unpinned the paper.

"Would the sports page suit you better?"

"Yes please," he said eagerly.

She quickly rearranged the paper and was fixing it back when she was startled by a woman's voice behind her.



"Why are you doing that?"

"Well," Amelia answered lamely, "I just felt sorry for him sitting looking at the same page all day."

She did not want to admit that she had been in conversation with a scarecrow.

The elderly woman asked in a gentle voice, "He spoke to you, didn't he?"

Amelia nodded her head reluctantly.

"I thought so," said the old lady. "I thought I was going mad when he first spoke to me. You see in order to make the scarecrow look right, I dressed it up in my son Edward's old clothes. He died a year ago....."

*M.P. (via Jill Eastaugh)*

## COME AND SING!

Stour Singers, Shipston's Choral Society, extend a warm welcome to anyone who enjoys singing to join them in their 31st Season, which begins on Thursday 28th September 2006 in the Community Lounge of Shipston High School.

### **NO AUDITION – JUST ENTHUSIASM!**

There will be a get-together with a drink at 7 p.m. followed by rehearsal 7.30 – 9.00 p.m. conducted by Richard Emms, the choir's founder director.

The choir gives two concerts each year, in December & May. The programme of Christmas Music to be performed on December 9th 2006 in St. Edmund's church, Shipston, includes Charpentier's 'Midnight Mass for Christmas Eve', which was written in the early 1690s. It is a beautiful joyful piece incorporating carols of the day and full of jolly rhythms.

For further details please contact the choir manager, Vic Twyman on 01608 664215.

# HARVEST SUPPER

**Saturday 30th September**

in the

***Village Hall***

at

**7.30 p.m.**

Tickets £6 each, from Lilian Welsby, 01295 680468, or  
Rosemary Brown, 01295 680260

## VILLAGE HALL - EQUIPMENT HIRE

If anyone would be interested in hiring the hall or the contents, please note the hire prices below.

### Price List 2006

Hall Hire	£5 per hour
Trestle Tables	£2.50 each
Square Tables	£1 each
Crockery	£5 per hire of event
Glasses	£5 per hire of event
Cutlery	£2 per hire of event
Chairs	25p each
Gazebo	£5 per hire of event
BBQ	FOC hire within Oxhill
BBQ	£5 per hire outside Oxhill
Table Top Warmer	£5 per hire of event

**All breakages must be paid for**

Please contact Ray or Linda Dagg for the key or to book the hall.

Telephone: 01295 680850

# GARDEN CLUB

During July and August the garden club has taken advantage of the beautiful summer weather and in July held a very successful Garden Party. Pauline and Geoff Stewart kindly offered their garden for this event and although the weather had been a little grey during the afternoon the evening was a great success without a drop of rain.

The outing to Snowhill Lavender Farm in August had to be altered slightly due to the timing of the harvest. Members were able to visit the farm and see the lavender in all its glory as well as having an opportunity to visit the farm shop but unfortunately the talk had to be cancelled. This also meant that the Barn Restaurant was not able to accommodate us and at very short notice, alternative arrangements for 36 people to dine had to be found. Fortunately the Public House at Snowhill was able to accommodate us and for those energetic ones there was also the chance to use the skittle alley.

Our next meeting in the Village Hall will be on Thursday the 21st September when Peter Dodd will be talking on Asters and Michaelmas Daisies. He will also bring along a selection of plants - a suitable time for anyone to buy reasonably priced plants to fill in those gaps where plants may have been lost following the very hot weather in July.

Any guests or new members will be most welcome. We meet on the third Thursday of the month (unless otherwise stated) at 7.30 in the Village Hall.

*Anne Nethercleft*

## **PICK YOUR OWN FREE!**

Damsons, Victoria plums and cooking apples  
Easy to pick, but I have a ladder if necessary

Ruth Gibson  
01295 680420

# **SHIPSTON HOME NURSING**

present a

## **COTTAGE PIE DANCE**

at the

**TOWNSEND HALL, SHIPSTON**

on

**SATURDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER**

from

8 'til 1

**Tickets £15**

For tickets please contact Rebecca Mawle on 0001608 674929 or 07940 716345

Or email [rrrebecca@shn-fundraising.co.uk](mailto:rrrebecca@shn-fundraising.co.uk)

## **'Art from a Cottage Garden'**

An Exhibition

by Hazel Robinson

2<sup>nd</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> September

**Open from 10am to 4.30pm**

Morning Coffee and Cream Teas, in aid of the Ellen  
Badger Cottage Hospital, weather permitting.



Hopkin House, Lower Tysoe, Warwickshire CV35 0BN



Easy wheelchair access



# VILLAGE HALL NEWS

We will be holding our annual football tournament on the 24th September, in the field next to the old Methodist Church, Kick Off 1 p.m.

This tournament will in future be named The Bill Gardner Memorial Cup and a trophy donated by Janet will be presented to the winners. BBQ, food and drinks will be available during the day. All are welcome to come and support not only the players, but also the day. Lets all make this a very special occasion.

The Progressive Supper is due to be held on the 23rd September. If you wish to cook a course please tell Diana Cronin on 680938. If you would like to join in the event but do not want to cook, tickets are available at the very reasonable price of £15. Please contact Diana on 680938.

This event is becoming very popular, so please book early to avoid disappointment. To all the newcomers in the village who want to get to know your neighbours, a 3-course meal with drinks takes place in 3 different venues (houses), meeting new people at each course.

We are pleased to announce that we have purchased 30 new wooden chairs. These now match the new tables. Should anyone hire the hall or use these chairs, please be aware that they are not to be used outside, otherwise they will be ruined. We will be replacing some of the older grey plastic chairs with these new ones. If anyone would be interested in the old chairs, please contact Ray on 680850.

*Linda Dagg*

## 25 YEARS AGO

The super slim (three A5 pages, widely-spaced articles) Issue 100 of September 1981 started with news of the abandonment of the Harvest Supper for a Harvest Evening Party at Sunrising House. My main recollection of this event is Mr. Tillotson explaining that he moved house fairly frequently but always took his fireplace with him.

A team of Oxhillians had won It's a Knockout at the Tysoe Flower Show, and Joyce McKail was touting for entrants to her lampshade evening class.

Keith and Julia Seabridge thanked the villagers for welcoming them, and the News in turn welcomed Derek and Ruth Clarke to Stonecroft.

Ruth Gibson, who this month offers fruit for free, was then asking £2 for a set of vacuum cleaner tools, and Joyce McKail had a child's bicycle on offer.

Dates for the diary were as thin as the rest; just the Shenlow Singers on September 23rd and, on October 16th, the Harvest evening part at Sunrising. So much more difficult to correct a typo in those days of wax stencils!

*Editor*

Shipston Home Nursing present a

## **COUNTRY CAR BOOT SALE**

### ***Sunday 3rd September 2006***

Gates Open for booters at 8.00 a.m. and public at 10.00 a.m.

Set in the idyllic parkland of the Honington Estate

Booters = £15 per car or £25 per van

Public entry fee £2 per head or £5 per car

Please call Rebecca Mawle on 01608 674929 or 07940 716345

for further details and application form

Events - Food - Refreshments - Bar

## **2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY**

There will be an outdoor screening of Stanley Kubrick's epic film at Compton Verney on Saturday 2nd September, starting at 8 p.m.

The screening is to complement the current exhibition there, *The Starry Messenger: Visions of the Universe*.

The galleries at Compton Verney will remain open until 7 p.m. offering an opportunity to see the current exhibition before viewing the film. The café will also remain open until 8 p.m., with last orders at 7 p.m.

Ticket prices for *2001: A Space Odyssey* are £5, concessions £3.50 and can be purchased in advance by calling 01926 645500.

*Editor*

## **THE OLD FIRE STATION, TYSOE**

Since the Old Fire Station first opened its doors as a Pre-School and Community Centre, some 500 different individuals from Tysoe and surrounding villages have attended over 100 adult learning and recreational classes. These have ranged from *Computing for Beginners*, through *EBay*, *Sign language* and *Salsa*, to *Pottery*, *Cookery* and *Golf*. Keep your eye open for the Autumn 2006 programme.

Any enquiries, suggestions or requests to 01295 688244.

*DJN (VLO, Oxhill)*

# **Notorious Villains**

## ***BALL***

**Saturday 23rd September, 2006**

8.30pm – 12.30am

Townsend Hall, Shipston on  
Stour, Warwickshire

**In aid of Shipston Home Nursing**

**Guest D Js**  
**Rich T and Woody**

### **COMMITTEE**

Venetia Adamson Harry Cox Edward Coyte Hattie Crockett Mary Edwards  
William Godfrey Zoe Goddard Jenny Haighton Emma Kilvington Georgina Mawle  
Tara Osborne Holly Rance Annie Sargent Charlie Williams Henry Williams

For more information about the Ball please log on to our website:-

**[www.notoriousvillains.co.uk](http://www.notoriousvillains.co.uk)**

**For tickets please telephone Deborah Williams:- 01608 682 007**

## WHAT'S ON IN OXHILL

### September

Monday 4th	7.00	Armscote Manor - Lectures on Gardening
to		
Thursday 7th		Sponsored Cycle Ride
Saturday 9th		Upper St. Dennis Farm & Oxbourne House – Tennis
Sunday 10th		Tournament
		Last ordering date for Kineton Oil Consortium
Tuesday 12th	8.00	Village Hall - Parish Council meeting
Thursday 21st	7.30	Village Hall – Garden Club
Saturday 23rd		Progressive Supper
	8.30	Townsend Hall, Shipston - Notorious Villains Ball
Sunday 24th	9.30	St. Lawrence Church – Harvest Festival
	1.00	Gardner's Field – The Bill Gardner Memorial Cup Tournament
Wednesday 27th	23.59	Copy deadline for October News
Thursday 28th	7.00	Shipston High School - Stour Singers
Saturday 30th	10.00	St. Peter's Church, Whatcote – Deanery Quiet Morning
	7.30	Village Hall - Harvest Supper
	7.30	Townsend Hall, Shipston – Cottage Pie Dance

### October

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

### November

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

### December

Monday 11th		Village Hall - Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch
Tuesday 12th		St. Lawrence Church – 'A Christmas Carol'