

THE OXHILL NEWS



September 2007

SO WHY GOD?

Are you between 7 and 11 years old?
What do you believe in?
Do you have lots of unanswered questions about God?
Do you want to have some fun?

If you can answer “yes” to any of the above we need you to come to a course just for you, starting in September.

More info from Ann Saxton on 680613. Call now to reserve your place.

HARVEST SUPPER

Saturday 29th September

7.30 p.m.

Village Hall

For Tickets contact

Lilian Welsby

680468

WEEKDAY WALKERS

Would you like to join our walking group? The fortnightly, usually Friday, walks are 6 to 8 miles, with a halfway picnic or pub snack. All are most welcome. If you are interested please contact Jim Saxton at Medway, Green Lane. Tel: 680613.

OCTOBER ISSUE

Please could I have all copy for the October issue by Midnight on **Wednesday, 26th 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. My ‘official’ e-mail address is **news-editor@oxhill.org.uk** if you wish to send me stuff that way.

George Adams, 680286

COVER PICTURE

Emily Sayer (and friends) at the Millenium Elephant Foundation near Kandy in Sri Lanka. One friend is Becci Cockayne. The other is the elephant Lackshmi, who is the film star in the shot. He had a major role in a recent remake of Tarzan. I’m not sure that an elephant can have a minor role.

Editor

CHARITY WORK IN SRI LANKA

I have just returned from a three week World Challenge charity work trip to Sri Lanka with ten girls from my school. The expedition was split into two parts – a project phase, then a few days visiting other parts of Sri Lanka.

We had two separate projects to complete in a small village called Yatawara, which we had researched in England before travelling out, renovating a Buddhist temple and building an extra classroom for the local school. Work at the Buddhist temple involved hard manual labour, including breaking up a concrete floor with a hammer and chisel and carrying sand bags on our backs. It was a bit of a shock for the locals to see girls getting so into the hard work! It was all worth it and by the end of the first week their temple was looking as good as new, with a newly decorated side building for Sunday school.

There were only fourteen children attending the school which was situated on top of a steep hill. Our project was to give the school the resources to educate more children by building another more accessible classroom for primary infants. We had to carry all the building materials up the hill and with the help of local labourers we built a new classroom and redecorated the main building. In our free time we enjoyed drawing with the children and playing ball games. Hard work when every time someone misses the ball it runs off down the hill!

The work we did at both the temple and the school was hard but rewarding, and clearly appreciated very much. After speaking to the teachers, monks and villagers, it was obvious that our work had a massive impact on the community, and it is programmes such as ours that provide small improvements to their impoverished lifestyle. This was demonstrated even further when local people on the bus struck up conversations with us about the work we were doing, so word clearly spread pretty quickly.

The last few days in Sri Lanka were spent travelling around different parts of the island, enjoying the varied culture, scenery and people. As Sri Lanka is such a diverse country, we have many amazing experiences, but highlights for me were riding an elephant, walking through tea plantations, climbing Little Adam's peak to see the sunrise (up at 5am.), and visiting the beautiful beaches. Driving along the coast, the effects of the tsunami of 2004 were still visible, and even though we could see a lot of repair work, it is obvious that there is still much to do in places that were badly damaged.

This experience has opened my eyes to a whole different way of living, one that those of us who live comfortably in Oxhill and hear stories on the news can only slightly understand. Seeing the absolute poverty of people dressed in rags, living in shacks, and begging on the streets is a massive culture shock. The experience that hit home the most was being told by one of the labourers that if he didn't work for just one day, his children wouldn't eat that night.

Many people in Oxhill donated towards the cost of the trip and the work that we performed, and I would like to repeat my thanks to them for helping with this valuable and rewarding experience.

Emily Sayer

ST. LAWRENCE'S CHURCH, OXHILL

SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER

All are warmly welcome

Sunday 2nd	Trinity XIII	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion (NM)
Sunday 9th	Trinity XIV	8.30 a.m.	Holy Communion (ML)
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong (ML)
Sunday 16th	Trinity XV, Flower Festival Weekend		
		9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion (ML)
Sunday 23rd	Trinity XVI	9.30 a.m.	Family Service (NM)
Sunday 30th	Harvest Festival	3.30 p.m.	Harvest Thanksgiving Service (NM) followed by tea & auction of produce in the Old Chapel

FLOWER FESTIVAL WEEKEND

15TH AND 16TH SEPTEMBER

CAKES

And

HELP

Urgently required!

This year in the hope of raising extra funds, we will be providing teas and cakes in The Old Chapel. So once again may I call on all the "famous cake bakers of Oxhill" to get out those mixing bowls and rustle up some delicious cakes for us to sell. (I promise not to ask again! Not until Scarecrow Weekend next year.)

We also need help serving the teas and coffees, so if anyone can spare a little time to come along on either Saturday or Sunday please give me a call.

If anyone wants to drop their cakes off I will be in The Old Chapel between 7 and 8 p.m. on Friday 14th and all day on Saturday. Lilian will be in residence on Sunday.

Many thanks to everyone; we really couldn't do these things without you. Lets hope the weather is kind and we have another successful weekend!

Gaynor Fila, 01295 680473

Lilian Welsby, 01285 689 468

AVAILABLE FOR RENT

Outdoor arena, and DIY livery stabling plus grazing.

Contact Paul Heritage on 01295-688058 or 07980-823381

VICARAGE NOTES

Thought for the month

Our best wishes go to all starting a new school or college this September, especially those leaving village primary schools where they were big fish in little ponds to become small fish in big ponds!

Young and, indeed, not-so-young need to use talents to the full, not only to achieve self fulfilment, but also in the service of others. Jesus tells us to “love our neighbour as ourselves” and our Christian faith is empty unless it is put into action.

Samuel Johnson (1709-1784), famed for his development of the first English Dictionary, used this prayer:

Look with mercy upon my studies and endeavours.

Grant me, O Lord, calmness of mind and steadiness of purpose.

That sounds appropriate for us all – but specially right for the first day back!

Harvest Festival and autumn services

All are very warmly welcome to the Harvest service this year. I hope the Oxhill choir will be singing and that folk will be able to stay awhile for the charity auction afterwards.

Please note that from October the service on the second Sunday of each month will revert to being just Evensong at the request of the P.C.C. In midwinter months it will be at 3.30 p.m. so please check the News for details.

Diocese of Coventry “Companionship Links”

The Bishop of Warwick invites all to learn more about these links at a conference at St.Peter’s, Kineton on Sept. 22nd. There will be introductions to the work in Bethlehem and Kaduna (Nigeria) and small group discussions with those directly involved in the 6 projects, including Kaduna schools and books, Jacaranda Farm and Bethlehem Syrian Orthodox School. Please contact the Bishop’s office on 024 764 412627 if you would like to attend.

God bless, **Nicholas Morgan 01608 685230**

CANTAMUS A CAPELLA IN CONCERT

This year’s annual concert by CANTAMUS entitled ‘MEMORIES and DREAMS’ will be held in St. Edmund’s Church, Shipston on Saturday November 3rd at 7.30 p.m.

The musical items will be interspersed with humorous readings by Anne Hume and Sheila Probert.

Tickets £8 Adults. Accompanied children go free. For further information please contact Brian Aspery on 01608 686927.

POLICE WARNINGS

We have been notified by Warwickshire Police that people offering to tarmac driveways are operating illegally in south Warwickshire. The police are asking us to report the following vehicles:

- 1) Orange-coloured Scania lorry, registration number V 867 HDW
- 2) Transit Van, H0 07 FJX
- 3) White car, V 835 EVJ
- 4) Car, S 941 GLG

The Police ask for an immediate 999 call in respect of the above vehicles, and have advised that drivers and passengers should not be approached. Any activity by any sort of itinerant contractors should be treated with the utmost suspicion.

David Hill

VILLAGE HALL

The Football Challenge for the Bill Gardner Memorial Cup will take place on Sunday 2nd in Janet Gardner's field, with the field being open from about noon. Barbeque lunches will be available throughout the event. Come along and join in the fun.

The Hallowe'en Supper on Friday 26th October will include a "Best Pumpkin Head in Show" competition. More details next month.

We are proposing to hold a Village Hall Coffee Morning on Saturday 17th November to raise funds to help pay for the Older Generation's Christmas Lunch. Again, more details on this next month.

George Adams

SHIPSTON HOME NURSING

Shipston Home Nursing now has a new website at:

www.shipstonhomenursing.co.uk

Please look at the calendar on the home page which will keep you up to date with what is going on. In October there is the Armscote Manor Lecture Series from the 1st - 5th.

Rebecca Mawle

ANOTHER FLOWER FESTIVAL

We have been informed that Alderminster, Church of St Mary and the Holy Cross, will hold a Flower Festival with the subtitle "Food of the World" over the weekend of 29th and 30th September from 11 a.m.-5.p.m. daily. Light lunches and teas will be available in the village hall, and there will be a preview on Friday 28th at 7.30 p.m. Tickets for the preview will be £8 (to include wine and canapés).

For details please telephone Jane Jones 01789 450672.

Editor

LEYS FIELD ACTION GROUP REPORT

Thank you to everyone who has replied to the initial survey of reactions to the proposed Leys Field development. If you haven't yet replied we still want to hear your views. If you have mislaid the survey form and would like a replacement, or would like to make any further input, please get in touch with one of the group. You can leave any communications with Grenville Moore at Peacock House (next door to the pub).

We have had a good level of response to the survey, and a clear message that development of the field should be strongly resisted. There are many reasons for this, and you will be familiar with most of them: perhaps the key thing to bear in mind is that any development of this space, no matter how limited, opens the door to the destruction of the whole of the green space at the heart of the village and with it the community that we all enjoy. Those locals with long memories will recall the 1972 proposal for many hundreds of houses on these fields – anything that might allow such an initiative to be restarted must be resisted. As things stand, any significant development is completely counter to Oxhill's classification within the local structure plan.

The original group of six volunteers has been expanded to include Alan Hedley, who brings extensive experience of the planning system, and Reg Gethin, long term resident of the village and an active member of the retired community. Several more people have volunteered to become involved, but we would like to hold any further growth of the working group until we have some more specific actions to work on. In the short term, there is a limited amount we can do until a planning application (if any) is made. We will be developing a framework for formally objecting should a planning application be made, and doing some other basic data gathering that can be used to support an objection.

We will give some more feedback next month if there are further developments to report.

Paul Sayer

WELCOME

We would like to welcome Derek & Tricia Harbour who have just moved into Laurel Cottage in Blackford Way and hope that they have a long and happy stay in Oxhill.

We also welcome Simon and Elizabeth Jonsson, who are moving into the Montague's pad whilst they are in the Middle East.

Editor

THE CLASS OF '07

Paul Sayer has pointed out that there must have been something in the water in 1988-89. Certainly it has been a long time since so many Oxhill sons and daughters went off into the world together. We would like to offer our congratulations and best wishes for the future to all the following:

Emily Sayer	Oxford University to read Economics & Management
Jess Sayer	Chester University to read Psychology & Art
Sarah Wilde	Exeter University to read Psychology & Sociology
Kit Montague	Newcastle University to read Economics & Information Systems
Siri Montague	Sussex University to read Economics & International Relations
Charlotte Mercer	Taking a gap year
Sam Robertson	Taking a gap year before joining the RAF
Hana Cooper	Southampton University to read Philosophy, having returned from her gap year
Alana Buchanan	York University to read History of Art
Eleanor Collins	Durham University to read Chemistry
Katie Luckett	Birmingham University to read European Studies & Politics

If I have missed anyone out please let me know, and accept my humble apologies.

Editor

OXHILL GARDEN CLUB

Although we are still in summer time the evenings are drawing in which normally heralds the start of our new season of indoor meetings. The first one after the summer break is on the 20th September when Alan Craske will talk to us about his "A-Mazing Restoration". We are always pleased to welcome new members and although our talks tend to have a garden/plant theme there are always a few alternative ones included in the Programme Year to interest others – so why not come along to the Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month to sample our various topics and meet some old and make some new friends.

Many members of the Club, their relatives and friends had a day out in July to visit Powys Castle which is on the borders of Wales and Shropshire. It was a very successful day and although not the sunniest of days the weather did not dampen members' spirits and enabled them to enjoy the day without the necessity of umbrellas or raincoats.

Anne Nethercleft

THE REV. HEWINS DIARY FOR 1944

This is the first of a series of extracts from the 1944 diary of the Rector of Oxhill, as transcribed by Ann Hale.

Saturday, 1st January Fine day. Inclined to be cold.

We had a parcel from Auntie Katie¹ containing a Plum Pudding, a Cake, Shortbread, Chocolate, and other good things.

Received quarterly cheque from Eccl: Comms. Wrote letters in Study in aftn. E.² did some wood-cutting.

Sunday, 2nd January Fine, but Wind rather Cold.

Took M. and H.C. at Oxhill at 11. (7). Walked to Whatcote for Evensong at 3. Dinky³ & Betty Rouse cycled. We had for lunch the second of the Christmas Plum Puddings. Started to read "Kidnapped" to D.

Monday 3rd January Very Mild Day and Windy.

We were fairly busy. E got in some Red Cross money for Mrs Griffin who was ill. Wrote letters in aftn. Parcels from Auntie Katie for the boys arrived to be forwarded.

Tuesday, 4th January Lovely day.

We all came by 10 `bus to Stratford, & E. & D. accompanied me by 11/30 `bus to Birmingham. We had lunch at Woolworth's & they returned 2/15. I came on by `bus to Wolverhampton, & then at 4/26 to Kingswood, & walked to Leabank.⁵ Mother and V were interested in all news. Miss White was at tea.

¹ Auntie Katie would possibly have lived in Canada or the United States. She sends food parcels of things not available in wartime Britain.

² E was Hewins' wife, Elsie, never given her full name in the diary. She was later the author of a book of reminiscences called "Through the Years", published in 1971. She also wrote a poem, still to be seen on the wall of Whatcote Church, written after the church was damaged by a bomb in 1940.

³ Dinky was Hewins' daughter, Dorothy then aged 10, usually referred to as D. in the diary. Betty Rouse was the daughter of Reg Rouse, (who ran the village bus service), and his wife, Nellie.

⁴ This is the only reference to "the boys", which would indicate more than one son, though none now live at home. Teddy, whom I take to be a son, or at least a close relative, visits occasionally and sends presents. His 21st birthday on 21st May is recorded, with congratulations. There is no further reference to any other son.

⁵ Hewins visits his mother near Albrighton in Shropshire frequently.

FUN WALK

The recent Fun Walk and Barbeque was greatly enjoyed by all those who took part. About 25 people walked from the Village Hall to Tysoe Church (where they were met by Brian Badger with welcome sustenance and the offer of a ride home) and back again via a different route.

They were joined by another 15 or so for the barbeque lunch and natter session.

The organisers offer grateful thanks to all who took part or assisted in any way, but particularly to Hugh Rowse for organising and leading the walk and Keith Seabridge for slaving over hot charcoal for so long.

The day was intended purely as a social gathering but the Village Hall was nevertheless able to bank a totally unexpected profit of about £110. And it only rained once.

Same again next year?

George Adams

STOUR SINGERS

Enjoy Singing? A warm welcome awaits you in Stour Singers, Shipston's Choral Society. There are vacancies in all voice parts – NO AUDITIONS!

The choir draws members from a wide area of Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire and Warwickshire and gives two concerts each season, in December and May, in St. Edmund's Church, Shipston-on-Stour. The new season is particularly adventurous. On Sat 8th December 2007 at 7.30 p.m. Stour Singers combine with Caliche, the professional South American Folk Band, to present 'Christmas Music - Latin-American style.' The main works are the Navidad Nuestra (Folk Nativity) and Misa Criolla (Creole Mass) of the contemporary Argentinian composer, Ariel Ramirez. There will be plenty of more familiar carols for choir & audience too.

Then on Sat 10th May 2008 at 7.30 p.m. Stour Singers perform Mozart's well-loved Requiem and Haydn's Mariaszeller Mass with The Cherwell Orchestra, soloists and Rachel Bird (organ). Both concerts will be conducted by Richard Emms, the founder director of Stour Singers

Rehearsals are on Thursday evenings at 7.30 p.m. in the Hall of Shipston Primary School. The annual subscription is £50; music is usually hired and is free to choir members.

For further details, please contact Vic Twyman Tel: 01608 664215.

PAYMENT DEFERRED

Diligent reading of the Stratford Herald by your Editor's Better Half shows that local author Jan Vivian (he lives in the house with the clogs outside) has published a new book, this time about a stolen bequest.

The website www.authorhouse.co.uk should have more details, or you could visit www.Janvivian.com instead.

Editor

THE PEACOCK INN NEWS

Thank you all again for another great month at The Peacock. Well done to the Ozarks for finally beating the Wild Ones in the Peacock quiz! As I write this we are preparing for the Beach Party our most elaborate event yet with 5 tons of sand being delivered to create the Peacocks very own beach and the weather forecast is good! Also the landlord nights on the Sunday evening are proving popular with a different food flavour each week and selected beers at £2 a pint.

Now before I go any further I must tell you our news. We are looking to move out of the pub business and are currently marketing The Peacock for sale. This has been a very hard decision for us to reach, as we love the village of Oxhill and we have made many friends here. I'm sure there will be various rumours as to our reasons why but its very simple- We don't get to spend any quality time together. We must iterate that we love the pub, the village and the friends we have made and this was never our plan to leave so soon. It is a matter of the time and effort that the pub consumes and we feel that our time together is more important to us.

Anyway, we don't know how long it is likely to take to sell the pub and we have no intention of winding down; in fact we want to have as much fun as possible, so we plan to continue with our recent spate of promotions and events.

So for September here is the schedule of events.....

Sunday 2nd	Landlords Pasta Night and £2 a pint
Wednesday 5th	Coffee morning from 10.15
Friday 7th	First Folk Friday
Sunday 9th	Byron's Night (he still hasn't decided what he's doing, but its sure to be special!) and £2 a pint
Wednesday 19th	Lunch Club
Sunday 16th	Quiz night and £2 a pint
Sunday 23rd	Landlords Pizza Night and £2 a pint
Sunday 30th	TBA £2 a pint

Plus we will continue with our Happy Hour on Saturday nights 6-7 p.m.

On the music front we hope to have Wired in to play at some point but I need to confirm the dates and we will advertise once we have done.

On the kitchen front, we have a new chef Ron, who is turning out some fantastic dishes and he is keen to update the menus over the next 2 weeks, so please come in and try some of his new dishes.

On the beer front, we have been taking a great Guest beer Ubu (Oo-boo) from Purity brewery, and it has been very popular.

Finally we hope you all understand our move and thank you again for your continued support. We look forward to seeing you all during September.

Chris and Ellen Joel

WHAT'S ON IN OXHILL

September

Sunday 2nd	12.30	Bill Gardner Football Challenge and Barbeque – see inside
Wednesday 5th	10.15	The Peacock - Village Coffee Morning
	7.30	Tysoe Village Hall – WI meeting - Nuclear energy. Also the judging of 3 lettuces for the Oxhill Cup
Friday 7th		Kinton Oil Consortium – order placement
Tuesday 11th	8.00	Village Hall – Parish Council meeting
Saturday 15th & Sunday 16th		Flower Festival
Wednesday 19th		The Peacock - Lunch Club
Thursday 20th	7.30	Village Hall - Garden Club
	7.30	Shipston Primary School – Stour Singers Rehearsal
Wednesday 26th	23.59	Copy deadline for The News
Saturday 29th	7.30	Village Hall - Harvest Supper

October

Monday 1st to Friday 5th		Shipston Home Nursing – Armscote Manor Lectures – see inside
Wednesday 3rd		Tysoe Village Hall – WI meeting. Bread, Miss K. Little
Friday 26th	7.30	Village Hall – Hallowe'en Supper with the best of food from around the British Isles

November

Saturday 17th		Village Hall - Coffee Morning
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COMPTON VERNEY IN SEPTEMBER

Every Wednesday, 12 noon & 2.30 - Collection highlights tours

Fridays 14 September, 21 September & 28 September -Grounds tour, all at 2.30pm

Thursday 27 September, 7.30–9.30 - Bat Night

Saturday 29 and Sunday 30 September, 10–4 - Stone Carving, a 2 day workshop

Compton Verney is also presenting a special screening at All Saints Church in Leamington Spa on Saturday 8 September at 8 p.m. of Robert Wiene's 1919 silent masterpiece, *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari* (PG), with accompaniment by Neil Brand.

For further information and bookings contact 01926 645500.

BLANKET TESTING

Warwickshire County Council is offering free testing of electric blankets at the Stratford Pop-in Centre, United Reformed Church, on Friday 5th October.

To book an appointment 'phone 01926 736477 between 9.00 and 5.00 Monday to Friday.

Editor