THE OXHILL NEWS



No. 413 April 2009

TRIBUTE TO EVE WHALEY FROM OXHILL PCC

Eve was a dedicated member of Oxhill church and its PCC. She was a regular member of the congregation and anyone who went along to the services was sure of a warm welcome from her. She was Secretary to the PCC for many years, also serving as Churchwarden in which capacity she watched over the church with great diligence and affection all the time that she lived at the Old Rectory. We have very fond memories of delicious Curry Lunches hosted by Eve and David at the Old Rectory. Eve also instigated the Pancake Suppers making what seemed like hundreds of pancakes. These events helped to raise a considerable amount of money for Church Funds. Eve's love of gardening led her to open her garden to the public, first of all for the Red Cross and later for the Village Open Gardens. Until quite recently she continued to propagate plants for the plant stall for this event and right up to last year she gave the stall her full support, helping to man it right through the Scarecrow weekend. There is no doubt that we will miss her help, guidance and friendship

Thank you, Eve, from Oxhill PCC.

VILLAGE HALL CLEANING ROTA

Week beginning Monday April 6th
Week beginning Monday April 13th
Week beginning Monday April 20th
Week beginning Monday April 27th
Week beginning Monday April 27th
Week beginning Monday May 3rd

Angela & Gaynor
Julie & Keith
Una & Jane
Dot & Judy
Gwyn & George

Una Hill

MOBILE LIBRARY

The library van will continue to visit Oxhill on Tuesdays, stopping at the Village Hall at 10 a.m. and staying there for 30 minutes.

In April the van will visit us on Tuesday 21st.

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

Editor

MAY ISSUE

Please could I have all copy for the May issue by Midnight on **Sunday, 26th April?** 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

This delightful photograph of Eve was kindly provided by David.

Editor

EVE ANN BETTY WHALEY

1928 - 2009

She was the adored only daughter of Ted and Betty Deacon. Raised in an old farm house in Halstead, Eve never tolerated Essex girl jokes.

Eve had a most enjoyable early adulthood with a prolonged sojourn in Kenya that she remembered for the rest of her life. Eve also enjoyed introducing her younger cousin and much loved god-daughter Finola to cultural activities in London.

It was in London that she met David, and for the next 47 years her life was defined by her loyalty and devotion to him. They started married life together with his dachshund and her Pekingese and were later to acquire their beloved border terrier, Barley. Together they had many enjoyable trips overseas, particularly enjoying their visits to the South of France. They also made a good team together, with David judging dressage and Eve taking his notes.

In 1967 they moved from London and brought the Old Rectory in Oxhill, which was to be their home for the rest of Eve's life. Together they converted the house into a family home with a lovely garden. Around that time Eve also unexpectedly acquired her two young step-children full time.

Eve became deeply involved in village life, making marmalades and jams, attending village functions, hosting fundraising lunches, involving herself with the Parish council, the PCC and latterly enjoying deep involvement with Tysoe Church of England School, serving for a time as chairman of the governors. She also found satisfaction in her work as caterer for some years at Seyfried's in Mickleton.

As she grew older she found deep enjoyment in her visits to Janet Gardener and Anne Marshall, and also in her wider circle of friends including Parker and Nancy Smith, Roy and Pam Brown, Peter and Jill Jeffrey. She was a generous grandmother to Toby and Cathryn's children, presiding over many splendid Christmas feasts. A busy woman, she always had time to stop for a chat.

She died at home in her sleep having spent her last day peacefully with her family. We will miss her.

WEEKDAY WALKERS

There will be only one walk in April as follows:

Friday 10th April

This walk is a 7 mile walk from Whatcote via Fullready and Idlicote. There are 240 feet of ascent. Lunch will be at The Royal Oak in Whatcote.

We will leave Oxhill at 10:00 a.m.

Please contact Jim Saxton 01295 680613 or saxton@tiscali.co.uk before the Thursday prior to the walk.

ST. LAWRENCE'S CHURCH. OXHILL

SERVICES IN APRIL

All are warmly welcome

Sunday 5th	Palm Sunday	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion (ML)
Friday 11th	Good Friday	10.30 a.m.	United Service (At Tysoe)
		2.00 p.m.	The Hour by the Cross (at Brailes)
Sunday 12th	EASTER DAY	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion (Rev. Bill Rolfe)
Sunday 19th	Easter I	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion (ML)
Thursday 23rd	St. George	7.00 p.m.	The Ilmington Morris (at Brailes)
		7.30 p.m.	Festival Service (at Brailes)
Sunday 26th	Easter II	9.30 a.m.	Family Service (NM)

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL A.G.M.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 29th April at 7.30 p.m. in St. Lawrence Church.

All are welcome. Anyone wishing to join the Church electoral roll will find application forms in the Church.

Carol Fox, Churchwarden

OXHILL SCARECROW EVENT

APPLICATION FOR ROAD CLOSURE

Would all villagers kindly note that an application has been made to Stratford on Avon District Council for the closure of roads in and around the village of Oxhill on Saturday the 20th June and Sunday the 21st June 2009 between 10 a.m. and midnight on Saturday and 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Sunday.

Details of closure: Main Street & Church Lane, Oxhill for their full length. Main Street from the junction with Kineton Road and Whatcote Road at one end of the village until it becomes Church Lane and continuing to its junction with Green Lane and Tysoe Road adjacent to the Church at the other end of the village. It is expected that a large number of pedestrians to be in the village and from previous experience it is desirable to ensure the safety of all visitors by diverting through traffic away from the centre of the village.

Diversionary Route: the alternative route during the period of closure will be via Green Lane and the Whatcote Road and represents only a minor detour.

Access will be maintained to all properties at all times.

Should any residents have any concerns about this application they are asked to contact Lilian Welsby on 680468.

VICARAGE NOTES

Holy Weeks and Easter

All are invited to the special services in Oxhill and linked churches that mark both the solemnity of Holy Week and the joy of Easter. I hope folk will be able to share our worship at this festival time.

Eve Whaley R.I.P.

On behalf of St. Lawrence's I would like to express thanks for Eve's life, and for the huge commitment over the years that she gave as PCC member, churchwarden and friend. She will be greatly missed and our thoughts and prayers go to David and the family.

30th Anniversary Appreciation

I was touched by the good wishes given by so many people as I marked my 30th anniversary at Brailes. The service and reception were memorable and it was good to welcome friends from Oxhill as well.

Thought for the month

The last verse of Charles Wesley's great hymn "Love's redeeming work is done" strikes the right note for any church at Easter:

Hail the Lord of earth and heaven, Praise to thee by both be given; Thee we greet triumphant now; Hail, the Resurrection thou!

God bless.

Nicholas Morgan, 01608 685230

KADUNA WATER WELL

Last harvest festival St. Lawrence church raised sufficient funds to sponsor a water well in Kaduna diocese, Nigeria. We are pleased to report that the village of Ungwan Barde has been selected to receive our water well. The well will be dug by hand during May and lined with concrete rings.

Ungwan Barde is a village about 30 miles South West of Kaduna. You can see the map at:

http://www.companionshiplinks.co.uk/well_map_kadu na.asp.

Please also remember our Lent well appeal to help a village where infant mortality is 25%. So please put your small change into jam jar and either bring it to Easter service at St. Lawrence or contact Ann and Jim Saxton (Tel: 01295 680613) for collection when full.





NOTES OF A MEETING OF OXHILL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 10TH MARCH 2009 AT 8.00 P.M. IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Apology was received from Tom Heritage. The meeting, chaired by David Hill, was attended by Councillors, Gwyneth Adams and Carol Taylor.

MATTERS DISCUSSED

Vacancy in the Office of Parish Councillor

Three people put their names forward to fill this vacancy. All three were excellent candidates and made the job of selection very difficult. However only one could be selected and this was Grenville Moore. We look forward to Grenville serving on the Parish Council.

Finance

A grant of £600 was paid to the Parochial Church Council towards the cost of mowing the churchyard at Oxhill.

The cost of producing the Oxhill News for the last 12 months at a cost of £257.75 was paid.

Highways

We have questioned Warwickshire County Council why the speed limit on the A422 has been reduced from 60 mph to 50 mph between Ettington to Stratford and not the section of road by Hogwood Farm, where a notable number of accidents have occurred over the years. We await their reply.

Planning

Planning application for extension to The Barn, has been refused.

Application for change of use from isolation unit to physiotherapy room at Church Farm has been withdrawn

Refuse and Recycling

To clarify: A maximum of TWO green bins will be collected from each property. Above this number a chargeable service is available at £40 per year for each additional bin. Please contact 01789 260925 if you require this service.

NHS Oxfordshire

We have requested to be kept informed about the Healthcare Programme for Banbury and surrounding areas. At the present time Oxfordshire Primary Care Trust is looking to set out the arrangements and investment necessary to retain and develop services at the Horton Hospital

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 12th May 2009 at 8.00 p.m. in the Village Hall

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – Tuesday 7th April 8.00 p.m. in the Village Hall.

This is your meeting. Come along and have your say, or have an item for discussion placed on the Agenda by contacting me on 680441.

Angela Kean, Clerk

OXHILL VILLAGE HALL

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting will be held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 28th April starting at 8 p.m. All Villagers are welcome at the meeting.

As required by the Hall's constitution the entire Management Committee will retire at the A.G.M. This means that a new Management Committee has to be elected to serve for the year 2009-2010. Several members of the current Committee have indicated that they will be unable to accept nomination to the new Committee. New blood and fresh ideas are therefore required! Please come to the meeting. Please consider whether you would be willing to serve on the Committee for a year or two. Could you suggest uses for or activities in the Hall that are not being followed up at present? The Committee would be delighted to hear from you.

Hoping to see you at the meeting,

George Adams

SHIPSTON HOME NURSING

Italian Supper and Dance

Friday May 1st at 7.45 p.m.

£20 per head
to include a 2 course hot meal (lasagne, salad and tiramisu)
and dancing to DJ Gavin Townsend
To be held at Townsend Hall, Shipston-on-Stour
For tickets please contact Rebecca on 01608 674 929

STOUR SINGERS SPRING CONCERT

Saturday 9th May 2009 St. Edmund's Church, Shipston Saturday 9th May 7.30 p.m.

Haydn's 'Creation'

(soloists Jenny Bacon, soprano, Nicholas Mulroy, tenor, Aidan Smith, bass Tickets £10 (accompanied children free) from R. Clarke, 27, High Street, Shipston, choir members, (whose contact details may be found on local posters) and at the door. For further details of Stour Singers please contact Vic Twyman on 01608 664215 or visit www.stoursingers.org.uk.

NATURE NOTES FOR APRIL

April is the first month of spring (the word alone lifts the heart and puts a 'spring' into our step). Deciduous trees produce new leaves and blossoms, daisies, cowslips, violets and bluebells appear on verges, fields and woodland. Birds build their nests and fill the air with song, especially at dawn in April, when the dawn chorus starts, rising to a crescendo in May. But why a dawn chorus, why not a lunchtime chorus or an evening chorus. Many theories abound. Song or lack of it may reveal a vacant territory after a night death (nights can still be extremely cold). Apart from the joy of singing, it has also been observed that male birds are probably establishing their territory and vying with each other males to attract a mate (some birds stop singing after pairing). Some areas resound with more song than others, river birds singing less than birds of the woodland edge. Mature gardens emulate woodland edges so we all here in Oxhill will be privileged to have an early morning symphony, so open the windows, switch off the alarm clock and let the birds rouse you from your slumber. The chiffchaff calls out its name with hardly a break, the wren hammers out 56 notes in 5.2 seconds, the chaffinch sings more than four hundred songs in an hour, the song thrush hones its song by repeating each phrase three times over. While you count these phrases you will hear the rest of the orchestra; greenfinch, goldfinch, dunnock, linnet, blackcap, willow warbler, blackbird, robin, pheasant, wood pigeon, collared dove, supported by the tit family and not forgetting the fly past of the honking Canada geese.

Some of those of you of more mature years, like myself, may be thinking "I'm sure the dawn chorus was much louder years ago". Well, you are correct. About ten years ago the RSPB reported that 27 million birds have simply vanished in a quarter of a century. We have four million fewer blackbirds, half the song thrushes and two-thirds of mistle thrushes; linnets are down by one-third, house sparrows by seventy-five percent, and yellow hammers by half. 19 species of farmland birds are now on the endangered list. The reasons are mainly loss of habitat, changing farming methods, the use of pesticide and herbicides in gardens and on the farm. Soon we could have bird tables with no birds. Isn't it time we addressed this problem?

Talking of nesting birds, please take care as we all get back in our gardens, to be vigilant when moving "stuff". A couple of weeks ago we had taken an opened bag of compost up to our veg patch and had lent it against the fence. A few days ago we went to get some compost out, only to find a wren's nest in the top. It would have been easy just to remove it, it may not have been in use, but we left it, and sure enough a couple of days later an egg appeared, and as each day passed another egg. Up until now, as I write this, there are five eggs. Wrens, robins and blue tits are all prone to building nests in unusual places. I recall reading an account of a robin that built a nest in a Spitfire engine during the Second World War – and reared its young!

About two weeks ago while driving I followed what I was pretty certain was a Whooper swan. It was flying low and following the river Stour towards Stratford. Eventually I turned off and lost sight of it. A few days later a friend reported seeing a pair of Whoopers in one of the water meadows at Alderminster. For the timing and area this was a rare sighting.

At Easter let you clothes be new

Or else be sure you will it rue

"If you do not wear some article of completely new clothing on Easter Day, you will be unlucky all the year; and at the very least 'the birds will make a mess on you'. New Easter bonnets are particularly popular, but any new clothing worn for the first time to church on Easter Sunday will thereafter bring you good fortune whenever you put them on." Fairfax Household Book, 1710

Grenville Moore

REFUSE COLLECTIONS

By now you should all have received your Council Tax demands. The refuse and recycling calendar should have been in the same envelope. Ours wasn't, so in case any of you are in the same boat we will continue putting the monthly collections in the News. In April the collections will be:

Tuesday 7th and Tuesday 21st Grey bins only – for landfill refuse

Tuesday 14th and Tuesday 28th Blue Recycling and Green Composting bins As Angela reminds you in her Parish Council notes, each household is entitled to have two green composting bins collected every fortnight. If you want three or more bins then each extra bin will cost you £40 per annum. Contact the Council on 01789 260925 if you need this extra service.

Editor

SHIPSTON HOME NURSING

CALLING THOSE WITH GREEN FINGERS!

SHN PLANT SALE SATURDAY MAY 16th NORGREN SOCIAL CLUB

(off Pittway Avenue)

SHIPSTON ON STOUR

10 a.m. - 12.00 noon

If you feel you can grow or donate any type of plants we would be more than grateful. We will be receiving them at the Norgren Social Club from midday onwards on Friday 15th May.

If you would like to be involved in any other way with the Plant Sale there is always something to do and we would be delighted to hear from you. Please contact Debbie Joss (01295 680803) or Rebecca (01608 674435).

WHATCOTE BLUEBELL WALK

If you enjoy a walk through lovely countryside the parishioners of Whatcote, near Shipston-on-Stour, are holding their Annual Bluebell Walk on **Sunday May 10th**. Started in 1990 the walk has become an annual event enjoyed by visitors from far and wide.

The walk is about two miles long through farmland to Hell Brake and Oak Tree Coppice, where bluebells carpet the ground under the trees. With wonderful views across the Vale of the Red Horse from Oak Tree Coppice, and tea & homemade scones when you return to St Peter's Churchyard, it is a very enjoyable way to spend a Sunday afternoon.

Dogs are welcome if kept on a lead. Strong shoes or boots are essential.

The walk will start from Church Lane, Whatcote and will be well signposted in the village, as will free car parking.

Time: - 2.00pm to 5.00pm. The cost is £5.00 for adults, accompanied children free, and this includes the tea and scones!

Plant & Produce Stalls.

Proceeds for St. Peter's Church.

Contact Sue Price (01295 680007) for more details

TYSOE & DISTRICT RECORD

For the thirty or so Oxhill residents who already take the Tysoe equivalent of the Oxhill News, I shall be collecting the £2.50 annual subscription when I deliver the April copy in a few days time.

Should others be interested in viewing a copy of the Record with the thought that they might like to receive this publication each month, please let me know and I will drop a 'sample' copy through your letterbox.

Doug Nethercleft, 01295 680041

KINETON ART GROUP

Kineton Art Group will be holding their Annual Open Art Exhibition and Sale of Paintings at Kineton Village Hall on Saturday and Sunday, the 9th and 10th May 2009. Doors will be open from 10.00 a.m. until 5.00 p.m. each day. Please come and enjoy the abundance of paintings by our members and many other local artists. Refreshments including tea and homemade cakes will be available throughout each day.

Gail O'Dell, Kineton Art Group

HOLIDAY HOME IN SW FRANCE

Restored stone house in quiet hamlet near St. Antonin-Noble-Val, Tarn et Garonne 3 bedrooms (sleeps 7) 2 bathrooms, fully furnished and equipped Families welcome

Extensive 2 acre garden, with 12 metre pool, terrace and BBQ area From £550 per week

Please contact: Kerrie Crowley, mob: 07974 197 784

email: kerrielbcrowley@hotmail.com

KINETON AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY

KADS will be performing 'A Warwickshire Testimony' by April de Angelis at Kineton Village Hall on 23rd, 24th and 25th April at 8pm.

The play is funny and compassionate, and powerfully illustrates a rapidly changing way of life in a Warwickshire village during the last century. By focusing on the loves, traumas and disputes of one family, it tells the story of a village very like yours.

Tickets (£5/£3.50) from Flower Thyme Kineton, or call 01926 642313, or on the door. Tea, coffee and licensed bar on Friday and Saturday; tea and coffee only on Thursday.

HATS OFF TO CHOPIN!

'Hats off, gentlemen, a genius!' Schumann once said about Frederic Chopin, and WI members at their meeting in March understood why as they heard of his achievements and listened to his music, including well-known pieces such as the Minute Waltz and Tristesse. Speaker Neville Tarratt painted a picture of a gifted musician, who started writing music for the piano at the age of seven and performed for the Tsar of Russia when only fifteen.

Chopin was born in Poland, in 1810, and loved his homeland. Many of his compositions were inspired by traditional folk dances. When he left home, aged nineteen, to perform around Europe, he took with him a small box of Polish soil.

Chopin settled in Paris where he made a name for himself among the aristocracy, giving private recitals. He earned a living by teaching piano to the children of wealthy families. While there he fell in love with the controversial female writer, George Sand, and they lived together for ten years. One winter they made the journey to Majorca – no mean feat in the 1830s – and stayed in an old monastery in Valdemosa. The weather was cold and wet and Chopin, who had suffered from poor health throughout his life, fell seriously ill. Sand nursed him but they eventually parted in 1847. Chopin never recovered and he died of tuberculosis in 1849, aged 39.

He was buried in Paris, where the Polish soil from the box he kept was scattered on his grave. His heart was returned to his beloved Poland and is kept in an urn in the Church of the Holy Cross, Warsaw.

Julie Smart

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 3rd June: 'Dowsing for health' with Fay Palmer

When most people hear of dowsing they think of water divining but did you know that it can also be used to detect the underlying causes of poor health? Come and find out how in **Oxhill Village Hall**. Visitor's welcome (Fee £3)

WHAT'S ON IN & AROUND OXHILL

April

Wednesday 1st	10.30	The Peacock – Village Coffee Morning		
	7.30	Tysoe Village Hall – W.I.		
Tuesday 7th		Grey bin collection		
	8.00	Village Hall – Parish Meeting		
Friday 10th	10.00	Weekday Walkers - see inside for details		
Tuesday 14th		Green and Blue bin collection		
Wednesday 15th 12.30		The Peacock – Village Lunch		
Tuesday 21st		Grey bin collection		
	10.00	Village Hall – Mobile Library		
Wednesday 23rd, Thursday 24th & Friday 25th				
	8.00	Kineton Village Hall – KADS production 'A Warwickshire Testimony'		
Sunday 26th	23.59	Copy deadline for the News		
Tuesday 28th		Green and blue bin collection		
	8.00	Village Hall – Village Hall A.G.M.		
Wednesday 29th	7.30	St. Lawrence Church – P.C.C. A.G.M.		
<i>May</i>				
Friday 1st	7.45	Townsend Hall, Shipston – Shipston Home Nursing Dance		
Saturday 9th 10	0 – 5	Kineton Village Hall – Art Exhibition		
	7.30	St. Edmund's Church, Shipston – Stour Singers Concert		
Sunday 10th		Oxbourne House - Church roast lamb & curry lunch		
10 – 5		Kineton Village Hall – Art Exhibition		
2 – 5		Church Lane, Whatcote – Bluebell Walk		
Saturday 16th 10 – 12		Norgren Social Club – Shipston Home Nursing Plant Sale		
June				
Wednesday 3rd		Village Hall – W.I. – 'Dowsing for Health'		

ACCIDENT and MEDICAL EMERGENCIES FIRST CALL 999 THEN CALL

Saturday 20th & Sunday 21st Scarecrow Weekend

Ambulance Responders

MICK & BARBARA SHEPARD

07977149317 Mobile / **01295680644** Home 3, The Leys, Oxhill, Warwick, CV350QX