
THE OXHILL NEWS

April 2013

No. 461



Angela Emmerson

Editors:

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REFUSE COLLECTION

Recycling and green waste bins (blue and green bins) will be collected on Tuesdays 9th and 23rd April.

The grey rubbish bins will be collected Tuesdays 2nd, 16th and 30th April.

MOBILE LIBRARY

The library van will continue to visit Oxhill every 3rd Wednesday, stopping at the Village Hall at 10 am and staying there for 30 minutes. The van will visit us on Wednesday 17th April

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

WEEKDAY WALKERS

The following walks are planned for April:

April 12th - A 6 mile walk from Swalcliffe to Shutford with 210 feet of ascent. Lunch will be at The George and Dragon Shutford - Walk starts at 10am.

April 26th - A 6.2 mile walk from Wellesbourne to Hampton Lucy with 180 feet of ascent. Lunch will be at The Boar's Head, Hampton Lucy - Walk starts at 10am. NB: limit of 27 walkers.

Due to the numbers on the walk we now will have to limit the total walkers to 28, so Jim Saxton will now take these on a first come first served basis, those booking too late being held in reserve. Unless otherwise stated meal decisions will be prior to walk. Those who wish to join us are most welcome, but please contact Jim Saxton on 01295 680613 or at [saxton @ talktalk.net](mailto:saxton@talktalk.net) before the Tuesday evening prior to the walk.

Regards, *Jim Saxton*

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE OXHILL NEWS

The editors welcome any pictures, photographs, drawings, poems, puzzles, recipes, announcements or items of local news for possible inclusion in The Oxhill News. Please email news-editors@oxhill.org.uk or place paper contributions in the box labelled 'The Oxhill News' in the village Church. Deadline for the May issue is 15th April 2013.

ANGELA EMMERSON

Sadly Angela lost her long battle with bowel cancer on February 23rd.

She was born and brought up in Ripon in North Yorkshire and met Brian whilst she was studying in Sutton Coldfield. After college she joined the P.E. department at Stratford High School because Brian was teaching in Warwick where they lived after their marriage in 1971. After Stratford she took up the post of head of P.E. at Warwick Prep School (the Squirrels as it is more commonly known).

She and Brian arrived in Oxhill in 1974, living in Porthkerry in Barn Row, and immediately entered fully into village life.

Their children Briony and Andrew soon appeared. Porthkerry became a little crowded so when Vera Clarke wished to downsize the Emmersons moved into The Poplars, soon to be renamed Blackford House because there were no poplars anywhere near.

Many people believe that Angela could easily have been a travel agent as no matter where in the world anyone was going Angela would always say "Hang on a minute" and then provide them with a guide book, a map and a newspaper cutting of places to visit. She and Brian had been to most of the places already, of course.

For many years she was a stalwart member of the village hall committee, taking a full part in all their events. She cleaned the Church for years and was instrumental in setting up the Art Group so ably taught by Barbara. She and Brian (with outsider help) won the Boules cup twice (doubtless lots of practice during French holidays helped here). And who can forget the water volleyball? She jointly organised the annual Chernobyl Children's coffee morning with Anne, ran raffles for everything with rare gusto and efficiency and was, with Brian, an early and enthusiastic member of the Oxhill Walkers.

The enormous turnout for her funeral service was a mark of the love and respect that so many people from all aspects of her life held for Angela. Our thoughts go out to Brian, Briony and Andrew.

Angela, we will miss you.

Anne & Gwyn



WILLIAM ALBERT JAMES (BERT) BLOXHAM, 1916 - 2013

Bert was born on Christmas Eve, 1916 at Home Farm Cottages, Upton, causing his Granny Hancox a long uphill walk from Tysoe in wintry conditions in order to assist his mother. He attended Tysoe School, and recalled happy times there and school outings, but also a pupil teacher who used to tap inattentive pupils on the head with the rubber tube from a bicycle pump mounted on a pencil - ("very painful", he said). The school nurse who battled with the fleas and nits then prevalent in the village's old cottages, was called Miss Hunter, and known as "Bug-Hunter" to the boys!

When Bert's father returned from the First World War, the family moved to The Dock in Tysoe, a rough square of dilapidated cottages behind the village street, now demolished. In 1931, when he was 14, his first job was at Church Farm, Oxhill but at 16, (since he was then due a man's wage), he was replaced by another boy. He moved on to various casual jobs, finding more permanent work milking at Springfield Farm, seven days a week. Later he moved to another farm where he could get Saturdays off. In 1935 his mother had died of a heart condition following rheumatic fever, and afterwards the family moved to new housing in Epwell Road, which Bert always regretted that she had not lived to enjoy.

During and after the War he worked for Findon Bros of Pillerton, farmers and agricultural contractors. He operated a threshing machine, and also drove a crawler tractor, an International TD9. This had a starting handle which once kicked back so badly that he suffered a fractured skull and broken arm, and spent 3 weeks in Shipston Hospital.

On a day off, he was out cycling with a friend through Sibford, when he had a chance meeting with Joy Salmon, (as she then was), and the ensuing friendship blossomed into marriage in 1944. The couple made their home in Whatcote Road, their house then owned by the "War Ag", (the War Agricultural Committees which provided housing for agricultural workers). Heather, their only daughter, was born in 1945.

After Bert left Findon Bros, he worked for Warwickshire County Council in their dustbin collection service, until his retirement in 1981. He continued to work as a gardener for a great many people in the area until well into his eighties, and was often seen on his bike cycling between jobs.

In his younger days, he had played cricket for Oxhill on the field on the corner of Green Lane opposite the church, (known as "The Green"), and also football for Whatcote. Later he enjoyed following all sport - horse racing in particular - and tending his own garden. In old age, he was much hampered by deafness,

caused by a working life spent using un-silenced machinery, but he continued to be alert of mind and memory. Joy's death in 2009 was a great sorrow and further isolated him, as with her many activities she had kept him in touch with village news.

There is an African proverb that says "when an old man dies, a library burns down". Bert has taken with him a fund of memories of old ways and customs, and I am grateful that he took time to share so many of these with me over the years.

Ann Hale

ST. LAWRENCE'S CHURCH, OXHILL SERVICES IN APRIL

All are warmly welcome

Sunday 7th Easter I 9.30am Parish Communion (ML)

Sunday 14th Easter II 9.30am Sunday Praise (BR)

Sunday 21st Easter III 9.30am Parish Communion (ML)

Sunday 28th Easter IV 9.30am Family Service (NM)

For other services in the benefice please see porch notice board

St. George's Day, Tuesday 23rd 7.30pm Service at Brailes (7pm Morris men)

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Funerals: remembered with thanksgiving

February 25th Bert Bloxham (aged 96)

March 11th Angela Emmerson (aged 63)

VICARAGE NOTES

EASTER

Our thanks to all who prepared and decorated the church for Easter as we celebrated the Queen of Festivals. With the mixed March weather we've been enjoying I hope that the sense of the new life of spring will have been present as well!

IN MEMORIAM

It is so sad that we commemorate 2 residents this month. Our thoughts and prayers go to Brian and all the family of Angela Emmerson, and also to Heather and the wider family of Bert Bloxham. I know that all value Oxhill friendships and support at these times of bereavement.

I hope to bring more news of the Restoration Appeal next month, but in the meantime, all are warmly invited to St. Lawrence's "lamb and curry lunch" on April 21st, and also the church annual meeting on Tuesday April 9th at 7.30pm in church.

Best wishes and God bless,

Nicholas Morgan 01608 685230 braileschurch@gmail.com

KINETON AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY

KADS is pleased to announce that our next production will be "Local Affairs," a comedy by Richard Harris in Kineton Village Hall on 25th, 26th and 27th April 2013 at 8:00pm.

Charles is trying to find a suitable outfit for a fancy dress party while Norma, his wife, is more interested in her new house. Two other families in the new housing development are having troubles of their own. David's wife Hilary is at war with her interfering mother-in-law and across the road Susan and Keith struggle to enjoy a weekend without the kids. Keith's suicidal ex-girlfriend, Katy, does little to help!

Tickets (£6.00, concessions £5:00) will be available from "Flower Thyme", Banbury Road, Kineton from early April, or can be reserved now by calling Yve on 01926 642313.

Check out our website for further information at www.kads.org.uk.

LAMB ROAST AND CURRY LUNCH

Sunday April 21st 2013 12.30 for 1pm

At the Old Chapel Oxhill

Come and enjoy a Spit

Roast lamb alongside a

variety of home made curries

Delicious home made puddings

All for £10 adults and £5 children

Please come and support your village church

St. Lawrence Oxhill

Book now on 01295 680223 or 680958

OXHILL KNIT AND NATTER GROUP



Ladies of the group admiring two of the blankets, jumpers and hats made during these winter sessions. They are to go to the 'Green Fields for Africa' charity. There are even more blankets being made from these winter activities.



Thank you all again,
Joyce McKail.

KEEPING UP

You're a high tech Gran
And you shop and scan
You're an up beat kiddie
Not a down beat biddie
You're a real sharp shooter
On the home computer
You can swipe and Skype
You're a texting greeter
You can down load Apps
Read Google maps
You're a high tech gran
Not an "Also Ran"!

June Marvin

AT THE PEACOCK

Quiz Night

Quiz night on Sunday 7th April at 8pm.

Village Events

The village coffee morning will be on Wednesday 3rd April at 10.30am.

The village lunch will be on Wednesday 17th April at 12.30pm.



20 WALKS IN SHIPSTON COUNTRY

This new 96-page guidebook has just been published for the exclusive benefit of Shipston Home Nursing. It has been compiled by Peter Titchmarsh in memory of his wife, Janet. It is also his way of thanking all the staff of SHN for the many months of loving care that they gave her.

Centred on Shipston, this guidebook describes twenty walks in a wide swath of countryside between Stratford, Chipping Campden, Moreton-in-Marsh, Chipping Norton and Banbury. Varying in length between two and ten miles these walks each start, with one exception, from an inn, although being circular, they can be started and finished at any point.

This guide also contains an interesting forty-page section describing the towns, villages and other places of interest in our lovely 'Shipston country'. For this reason it can also be enjoyed by motorists and cyclists exploring the area.

Peter has lived in this part of the world almost all his life and his love of its countryside, and its towns and villages is revealed on almost every page. For many years this love was shared with his wife, Janet, and she appears on the cover and on a number of pages within.

Priced at £6, *Walks in Shipston Country*, with its twenty maps and ninety colourful illustrations, is available from Waterstones in Stratford -upon- Avon, all the pubs mentioned in the book and Rebecca 01608 674929. *Do visit our website for more information.*

ALL PROCEEDS WILL BE FOR THE BENEFIT OF SHIPSTON HOME NURSING.

Stour Singers

The Cherwell Orchestra

(leader Judy Springate)

Rachel Bird, organ

Vivaldi: *Gloria* Dvorak: *Mass in D*

with

**Lucy Roberts, soprano

Carris Jones, mezzo-soprano

Julian Forbes, tenor

Oliver Hunt, bass

**Lucy Roberts is a Philip & Dorothy Green Young Concert Artist 2012

Conducted by Richard Emms

Saturday, 11th May 2013 at 7.30pm

St.Edmund's Church, Shipston-on-Stour

Tickets £12.50, accompanied children free,
from choir members, R. Clarke, 27 High St. Shipston-on-Stour
and at the door

www.stoursingers.org.uk



OXHILL VILLAGE HALL - UPCOMING EVENTS

A Very English Night - Friday, 19 April

Shakespeare's Birthday & St George's Day happen in April and they are good reasons to celebrate being English with a very English supper of cottage pie and veg plus a pudding and a quiz or two; all for £9 per person. Food will be available from 7.30pm onwards and the quizzes will be held after the food has been consumed.

Wearing something red and/or white to support the event will be appreciated but not obligatory and there will be a prize for the most inspiring outfit.

Tickets available from Tricia Harbour on 680676.

Village Hall Committee AGM - Thursday, 25 April

The Village Hall Committee AGM will take place on Thursday, 25 April at 8.00pm and there are opportunities for new faces and new ideas to influence the way that the Village Hall is run and the sort of event that is available. Even if you do not want to stand for a committee post, please come along and enjoy a glass of wine and let us have your thoughts on how you would like to see the Village Hall develop.

Helen Watson in Concert - Friday, 10 May

The fabulous Helen Watson will be appearing at the Village Hall on May 10, accompanied by her Guitarist, Mark Creswell. She is a terrific singer whose style is difficult to categorise as she floats effortlessly between Jazz, Folk & Blues - to sample her music & learn more about her go to www.helenwatson.net.

The evening will start at 7.30pm and Tickets will cost £10 each for what promises to be a great night and can be obtained from Pat Crowther on 680705

Knit & Natter - Thursdays, 4 and 18 April

Knit & Natter will take place between 2.00pm and 4.00pm on the above Thursdays, please see Notice Boards for details of any special activities.'



WOT2Grow YOUR Community Orchard

Spring is trying to happen but we are all feeling the effects of a bitterly cold snowy blast in March and not least the plants at the orchard! Having been lured into growth most things are now waiting for a bit more warmth before bursting forth. The exception is the autumn raspberries which are showing strong shoots and brave little leaves.

We had another wonderful teaching session with John Edgeley on February 20th when we pruned the bushes and canes. It was a freezing day and hands were soon having difficulty, tying prickly gooseberries to a cane to fan train them was a challenge. We have captured the session on video so have a reference series building up.

Despite the cold the weeds are growing and now is the best time to get them out of the ground, the soil is just right to make it easy to remove them although some of the dandelions are a bit deep! We will also be feeding the plants and trees and adding mulch to help conserve the moisture in the soil. There's lots to be done at the orchard and we welcome all members as well as anyone else who wants to come and help.

Regular sessions at 10:00 on Wednesday and Sunday each week are now running, just get in touch with one of the team, details below, or turn up! If an evening session would be more convenient do let us now.

Entrance gates at the far end of the allotments and now off the footpath! Please park in the road as the "car park" is still very wet.

Go to www.wot2grow.co.uk

If you would like more details please contact one of the following
Liz Atkinson (680045), Paul Sayer (680451), Sue and Mike Sanderson (688080), Graham Collier (680127), Julia Stirman (01608 686776), Pam Bennett (01608 685606)



"Bluebell Walk"



On Sunday May 12th starting from Hell Brake Paddock, Whatcote. (Postcode CV36 5EF)

Come for a gentle walk up to Hell Brake to see the Bluebells and enjoy a cream tea in the churchyard on your return.

You can start the walk any time between 2.00pm and 5.00pm

The cost is £6.00 for adults, accompanied children free – and this includes the tea and scones!

The walk will start from Church Lane, Whatcote (postcode CV36 5EF) and will be well signposted in the village, as will free car parking.

Cake & produce stalls – Dogs welcome if kept on a lead.

Proceeds to St Peter's Church Repairs.

Strong shoes or boots are essential.

If you have any queries please contact Sue Price –
telephone 01295 680007 or e-mail: susan.price@ukgateway.net

DO YOU WANT TO GROW YOUR OWN VEGETABLES?

Whether you have tried to grow vegetables before or are a complete beginner, we can offer you top tips, guidance and advice, and some free seeds.

We have been trained by Garden Organic at Ryton and have many years of experience growing vegetables. The support would be available throughout the whole season to help you achieve success with growing your own vegetables.

This service is completely free of charge.

To take advantage of this offer email:
sueandmikemastergardeners@hotmail.com or phone 01295 688080

FLICKS IN THE STICKS!

Unfortunately this event in April has been postponed until the Autumn.

OXHILL GARDEN CLUB

Reverend John Collier is a self-confessed sweet-pea fanatic, growing hundreds for showing every year since 1961 and, being chairman of the Sweet-pea Society and associate of the RHS, knows his stuff.

He gave us a potted history, explained step-by-step instructions on cultivation, advice on problems and pest control, without notes and in a most entertaining manner.

Members can now explain the differences between Old-fashioned and Spencer's and know it is useless to look for yellow sweet-peas. There seems to be a variety of sweet-peas for most situations – my favourites are Pink Cupid, a bush form for pots, and Vernus, a cushion-forming perennial.

P.S. is your gardening fork a D-handle or a T-handle? There seems to be a North/South divide on this!

April 18th Down the Garden Path

Everyone welcome, but why not become a member?

Ann Saxton



Mr Rouse at the wheel of his bus - Thanks to Tony Martin

DEANERY NEWS

I hope you all had a wonderful Easter, celebrating God's gift of new life to us.

Thank you so much to all those churches who hosted our Deanery Services – for their hospitality and provision of organists, readers, heating etc. As ever, the challenges of both running and attending these services, especially in winter, can be considerable: it was a wonderful series, and a very goodly Lenten Discipline!

May sees Ascension Day, which we traditionally celebrate at one of our churches with the Eucharist for Ascension Day, beginning outside when weather permits. This year we are going to Tidmington, just south of Shipston (at least it will be daylight when you try to find it!), and we are delighted that Anthony Wells will be the speaker. The date: Thursday, May 9th, 7.30pm at Tidmington Church.

The evening before, Wednesday May 8th at 7.30pm, Carol Clarke, who in the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer, will be leading a 2 hour session about Safeguarding at St. Edmund's. This is for any in our churches who work with children or vulnerable adults, and anyone from across the Deanery would be most welcome. If you wish to come, it would be helpful if you could either email or ring me.

Looking ahead, our next Deanery Synod will be on Tuesday, June 11th at 7.30 pm in Alderminster. Alyson Spence, who works for the Alzheimer Society, is going to speak about caring for those with dementia, and we hope too that Kay Dyer will be with us to talk about the discussions taking place at General Synod.

Every blessing,
Jill Tucker

01295 688193 revjill.tucker@tiscali.co.uk

OXHILL ARTISTS

We meet every Wednesday in the Village Hall under the direction of Barbara Kenny.

10am to 12pm (break for coffee and cake!)

We would welcome more members of all standards to join us. You may not have ever picked up a paint brush but have always wanted to try! It is enjoyable and friendly.

If interested or need to chat about the art class please phone
Barbara 01926 852413

TWAM (Tools WithA Mission)

Last year with the generous donations from throughout the UK, TWAM shipped 17 containers of tools made up into trade packs (Carpenter, Car Mechanic, Tailor etc.) to third world countries. This has enabled many men and women to learn a trade and then support their families. I wish to thank all those that allowed me to despatch two van loads of tools to the Coventry workshop.

Please give this charity your consideration as you spring clean your garage, garden shed etc. We take all types of tools, sewing and knitting machines, garden spades, forks and also computers.

Contact Jim Saxton 01295 680613

WANTED

House, dog and cat sitter for 7-10 days in May or June so that I can have a much needed holiday.

One Border Collie, one young cat and one very old cat..all easy to do and well behaved.

Sky, Broadband etc.....

Please call and see me at 3 Peacock Cottages or ring 07891 838 314

Thanks, *Hilary Simcox*

NOTES OF THE OXHILL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 12th MARCH 2013 AT 8.00 PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL

The meeting, chaired by Grenville Moore, was attended by Parish Councillors Carol Taylor, David Hill and Brian Badger. Apology received from Tom Heritage.

MATTERS DISCUSSED

Draft Core Strategy

Following a Public Meeting on 19th February a Steering Committee of residents has been set up to produce a Neighbourhood or Parish Plan. Sarah Brooke-Taylor, Warwickshire Rural Community Council attended the meeting and went through the options open to the village. This Steering Committee at a meeting on 26th February have sent a letter via the parish Council revealing an error in the criteria required to meet the status of Local Service Villages. Oxhill only meets one of the three criteria used.

Planning

Permission was granted for the erection of a poultry rearing building and associated buildings at Edgehill Stud, Stratford Road.

Application to remove the Legal Agreement S106 restriction that no new dwelling shall in future be erected on land by the church, Church Lane, was approved.

Finance

A grant of £600 was paid to St. Lawrence church for mowing the churchyard 2012 season. A grant of £100 was paid to the First Ambulance Responders towards the cost of insuring medical equipment. £256 was paid for printing the Oxhill News Dec - March inclusive.

Highways

Resurfacing work is planned for the end of May/June on the Shipston Road at Honington. The cattle grid Nolands Road will be repaired when a new contractor is in place. The "Bend" sign on the Tysoe Road is being investigated the post has been put back in place. During March patching road work will be carried out.

Street Signs

New street signs have finally replaced damaged ones in the village.

Electoral Review – Stratford District Council

This is being carried out by the Local Government Boundary Commission and asks local people whether, in the future the District Council should be represented by 36 Councillors, 17 fewer than at present. The outcome of this review will be published 2014. See Notice Board.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 7th May 2013 at 8.00 pm in the Village Hall.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Tuesday 7th May 2013 at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall (prior to the PC Meeting).

This is your meeting. If you have any items you would like to be placed on the Agenda, please let me know, or just come along and have your say.

Angela Kean, Clerk

KINETON ART GROUP

Kineton Art Group will be holding their Open Art Exhibition and Sale of Paintings at Kineton Village Hall on Saturday and Sunday, the 11th and 12th May 2013.

Doors will be open from 10-00 am until 5-00 pm each day.

Adults, 50p: Children, free.

Please come and enjoy the abundance of paintings by our members and many other local artists. Refreshments including tea and home-made cakes will be available throughout each day. We are pleased to say that we will be sponsoring PAINTING FOR PLEASURE, a not for profit organisation for disabled people and those living with or recovering from illness including carers needing some respite.

If you need any other information please let me know. You can telephone me on 01295 788890 or send an e.mail to gail@kinetonartgroup.co.uk.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT: www.kinetonartgroup.co.uk

OXHILL PARISH PLAN PROJECT SET UP

Following the Public Meeting in the Village Hall on 19th February on planning and potential development in Oxhill, a number of people volunteered to further investigate how to produce, firstly, a Parish Plan and, potentially, a Neighbourhood Plan.

After two meetings of this group, it was agreed that Terms of Reference would be drafted for the formation of a Steering Group to oversee this work. This has now happened and a number of initiatives are planned, that will come together to form the Parish Plan, hopefully later this year.

This will be an exciting project that will involve the whole village in describing the needs and shaping the aspirations for Oxhill into the future. Details of the methods to be used, to listen to views and develop the plan, will be published in The Oxhill News. Village meetings will be held regularly, so that everyone can have their say and contribute.

So Watch This Space!

The first task will be to describe Oxhill – not just in terms of bricks and mortar, but in what it means to be a resident of Oxhill and member of this community, and, importantly, what we all value about our village.

If you have any thoughts on this, please email parish-planning@oxhill.org.uk, or contact the Steering Group Co-ordinator, Sue Hunt at Eudon, Whatcote Road.

WHAT'S YOUR VIEW OF WARWICKSHIRE?

A local charity is looking for people with a love of photography to share their work with a wider audience. WRCC is looking for people to submit original photographs which depict both rural Warwickshire and its communities to brighten and illustrate their website, which is currently undergoing a makeover.

Those submitting photographs will be credited when their work appears on the website. Anyone interested in submitting a photograph can find more details at <http://www.ruralwarwickshire.org.uk/whats-your-view-warwickshire>



Hospice at Home
in Shipston, Wellesbourne
and Kineton

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Spring Walk, Jog or Run

Sunday 21st April

Walton Hall Wellesbourne CV35 9HU

Taking place in the 65 acres of grounds

10.30am £5 adults £3 children

For more info call

Gilda Gardner 01789 740083/ 07970 177951

Rebecca 01608 674929/07932 043111

To alert all keen gardeners - When you are sowing your seeds for vegetables and sweet peas, please think of SHN and the Plant sale and plant a few more seeds, THANK YOU!

Plant Sale

Saturday 11th May. Sheldon Bosley HUB

Shipston on Stour CV36 4DQ

10.00am-12noon

Delivery of plants from 12.00 noon onwards Friday 10th May

For more info call Fudge 07979 904719 / Caroline 07939 368373

FREE ENTRY



FREE TO COLLECT

4 drawer Ikea oak effect 'Billy' bookcase.

Call Katy & Stuart 688194

LIVE AND LOCAL IN WHATCOTE - 5th April at 7:30pm

Whatcote has managed to get the amazing Devil's Violin Company to come and perform their "A Love like Salt" on Friday 5th April at 7:30pm in the Community Centre (St Peter's Church).

As story tellers they unlock folk tales that have inspired some great works of literature including Shakespeare's King Lear and tales from Chaucer and takes them on a new voyage of discovery!

The evening is full of words and music about magic, morals, villains, lovers, desire and disguise – story telling doesn't get any better than this!

Suitable for Adults and Children 12+

Donation bar and nibbles – Doors open 7:00pm

Tickets £8.00 available from Penny Pritchard (01295 680689) or on the door.

Do come and support a wonderful initiative that brings live music and theatre to rural communities.

See more at www.liveandlocal.org.uk

QUOTATIONS FOR APRIL FOOL'S DAY

April 1. This is the day upon which we are reminded of what we are on the other three hundred and sixty-four. Mark Twain

Fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice, shame on me. Chinese Proverb

He who is born a fool is never cured. Proverb

A common mistake that people make when trying to design something completely foolproof is to underestimate the ingenuity of complete fools. Douglas Adams

Don't give cherries to pigs or advice to fools. Irish Proverb

I have great faith in fools - self-confidence, my friends call it. Edgar Allan Poe

MAD MARCH HARES

Whether two years old or eighty-two years old, there was something to entertain all at Cantamus' "Mad March Hares" afternoon tea party in Shipston's Townsend Hall at the beginning of March.

Richard Emms, Cantamus' Director, brought a great sense of fun and energy to the programme (even sporting a rather fine pair of hare's ears befitting the occasion), and Anne Hume beguiled the audience with perfectly-timed humorous stories. The audience too took part in the programme, singing classical and more contemporary rounds – lustily and tunefully.

The music flowed – part-songs, folk songs, humorous ditties, melodic musings, and madrigals – as did the tea and plentiful rather delicious home-made cakes. Look out for next year's March tea party – as this has become a firm favourite for choir and audience alike.

Cantamus loves to share music locally, and would be very pleased to hear from anyone who would like to present a concert (local festivals or seasonal events for example), or a church mass. Currently, too, there are vacancies in the choir for tenors and a first bass, so – if you fit the bill and are an experienced singer, who reads music well, and enjoys singing a wide repertoire, do get in touch with Richard Emms, Director, at 01608 662163. If you'd like to think about presenting a concert, then contact Yvonne Ridley at 01789 269587. Cantamus' website is www.cantamus.org.uk

APRIL RAIN

The wild sweet rain of April spills
On golden - throated daffodils,
On garden wall and new green bough,
On earth fresh - turned before the plough.
It scrubs the pansy's small shy face
And shines each blade of grass in place
To leave the springtime world aglow,
And lift my heart to walk tiptoe.



As has been requested please find attached a "No cold callers" sign that you can print off and placed in your front door or window to deter cold callers.

Andrew Stevento, Shipston-on-Stour Police Station



WHATS ON IN & AROUND OXHILL

April

Tuesday 2nd		Grey landfill bin collection
Wednesday 3rd	10:30	The Peacock - Village Coffee Morning
Thursday 4th	14:00	Village Hall - Knit & Natter
Friday 5th	19:30	Whatcote Community Centre - Devil's Violin Company
Sunday 7th	20:00	The Peacock - Quiz Night
Tuesday 9th		Green & blue bin collection
Friday 12th		Weekday Walkers - see page 2 for details
Monday 15th	23:59	COPY DEADLINE FOR THE NEWS
Tuesday 16th		Grey landfill bin collection
Wednesday 17th	10:00	Village Hall - Mobile Library
Wednesday 17th	12:30	The Peacock - Village Lunch
Thursday 18th	14:00	Village Hall - Knit & Natter
Thursday 18th	20:00	Village Hall - Garden Club, Down the Garden Path
Friday 19th	19:30	Village Hall - A Very English Night
Sunday 21st	10:30	Walton Hall - Spring Walk, Jog or Run
Sunday 21st	12:30	Old Chapel - Lamb Roast & Curry Lunch
Tuesday 23rd		Green & blue bin collection
Thursday 25th	20:00	Village Hall - Village Hall Committee AGM
Thursday 25th - 27th	20:00	Kinton Village Hall - KADS 'Local Affairs'
Friday 26th		Weekday Walkers - see page 2 for details
Tuesday 30th		Grey landfill bin collection

May

Tuesday 7th	19:30	Village Hall - Annual Parish Meeting
Friday 10th	19:30	Village Hall - Helen Watson in Concert
Saturday 11th	10:00 - 12:00	Sheldon Bosley - Plant Sale
Saturday 11th - 12th	10:00 - 17:00	Kinton Village Hall - Open Art Sale & Exhibition
Saturday 11th	19:30	St. Edmund's Church, Shipson on Stour - Stour Singers
Sunday 12th	14:00	Whatcote - Bluebell Walk