

THE OXHILL NEWS



No. 417
August 2009

CHERNOBYL'S CHILDREN COFFEE MORNING

We would like to thank everyone who supported the Chernobyl's Children Coffee Morning at The Old Church House on 27th June.

Including donations, we raised £1,092, which is a fantastic result, but we still have a long way to go in raising the money needed to fund next year's trip.

This year nine children have spent a month staying with families in the area. The Van Dijks kindly hosted Katya and, for a second year, Angelina stayed with me. I know that we are all very sad to say goodbye!

An enormous thankyou to everyone who helped at the Coffee Morning in any way. We are very lucky to have a wonderful team of helpers, and this event could not happen without them.

A special thankyou to Lilian at the Tysoe Post Office for her incredible generosity in donating a huge amount of clothes for the children to take back to Belarus with them.

P.S. The actual amount raised on the morning was £639. The bottle of Pimms was won by Diana Robinson of Hampton Lucy, who estimated £630.

Anne Marshall & Angela Emmerson

WEEKDAY WALKERS

Our walk for August will be as follows:

Friday 28th August

This walk is a 6 mile walk from Horley to Shotteswell and Hornton with 600 feet of ascent. Lunch will be at "The Dun Cow" Hornton. We will leave Oxhill at 10:00am.

Please contact Jim Saxton 01295 680613 or saxton@tiscali.co.uk **before Wednesday 26th** since we will need to order meals before we leave.

SEPTEMBER ISSUE

Please could I have all copy for the September issue by Midnight on **Tuesday, 25th August**? 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

The finalists at this year's Boules Championships.

LOCK UP YOUR DAUGHTERS!

Well, houses, garages and sheds, really. There are thieves about and they are targeting Oxhill (among most other villages in our area). The following incident reports are taken from the Shipston Safer Neighbourhood report. You can access the full report at <http://www.safer-neighbourhoods.co.uk/your-neighbourhood/stratford-district/shipston/newsletter/snt-newsletter-shipston-on-stour-24-july-2009/>

Burglary and Theft – Oxhill

Between midnight and 0630 hrs on Thursday, 23rd July 2009, a detached house in Rouse Lane, Oxhill was entered and two clocks and two lady's handbags stolen. One of the handbags contained a pink make-up purse and a quantity of cash. (Incident number 180/23.07.09)

Over a similar period of time, an insecure garage located within the grounds of a detached property in Whatcote Road, Oxhill, was entered and a Stihl petrol strimmer, Stihl leaf blower, Husqvarna petrol chainsaw and a Tenaka petrol hedge trimmer, stolen. (Incident number 107/23.07.09)

Also over the same times, the door of a garden shed situated in the rear garden of a property in The Sett, Oxhill was unscrewed from its hinges and left on the ground. Nothing is believed to have been stolen from the shed. The garden is secured by a fence and padlocked gate and it appears the offenders may have climbed over the fence to gain access to the garden. (Incident number 102/23.07.09) Two vehicles were also damaged and entered the same night. A Peugeot van parked in Green Lane, Oxhill had its offside quarter light smashed and the nearside door forced, but nothing stolen. (Incident number 81/23.07.09) and the rear windscreen of a Mitsubishi Shogun parked on Main Street, Oxhill was also broken. Again nothing was stolen from the vehicle. (Incident number 224/23.07.09)

If you have witnessed anything of a suspicious nature, or have information that may be connected to any of the above crimes, please get in touch with your local Shipston SNT on 01789-444670. If you wish to remain anonymous, please call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 quoting the relevant incident number.

It's not easy to stop these nasty people, but at least if you keep your tools in a locked building you can tell your insurance company that you did your best!

Editor

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 August the van will visit us on Tuesday 4th and Tuesday 25th.

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

Editor

ST. LAWRENCE'S CHURCH, OXHILL

SERVICES IN AUGUST

All are warmly welcome

Sunday 2nd	Trinity VIII	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion (ML)
Sunday 9th	Trinity IX	6.30 p.m.	Evensong (Bill Rolfe)
Sunday 16th	Trinity X	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion (ML)
Sunday 23rd	Trinity XI	9.30 a.m.	Family Service (NM)
Sunday 30th	Trinity XII	11.00 a.m.	United Benefice Communion (David Pym)

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Weddings

Congratulations and best wishes to

July 11th Michael Druce and Vanessa Cowell Plain

VICARAGE NOTES

Autumn Services

Looking ahead, as well as the Benefice service here at Oxhill on August 30th, the Harvest Festival will be on Sunday September 27th at 9.30 a.m. and Remembrance on November 8th at 9.30 a.m. All are welcome.

Thought for the month

August is traditionally a holiday month, and to those who are travelling, particularly families with children, we bid “safe journeying and return refreshed”. Some readers will be welcoming family and friends to Oxhill and, of course, St. Lawrence’s will be open each day so that visitors can enjoy looking around.

I’m occasionally asked for the words of a Celtic blessing. There a number of short prayers that have that title, but one seems appropriate for this month:

May the road rise to meet you,

May the winds be always at your back.

May the sun shine upon your face,

And the rains fall soft upon your fields.

And, until we meet again,

May God hold you in the palm of his hand.

God bless,

Nicholas Morgan 01608 685230

GARDEN CLUB NEWS

I'm sure the members of the Garden Club would join with me in thanking Sue and Alan for the use of their beautiful garden for the annual garden party. The evening was a perfect June one – warm sunshine, delicious food, excellent company all set in a spacious, colourful, typically English garden.

A big thank you to the hard work of the Committee and partners, especially Dot who co-ordinated and shopped for the meal and for everyone for helping to clear up. Everyone enjoyed the ambience made even more interesting by the skittles tournament.

As this goes to press we are still looking forward to the visit to Rousham Gardens on July 23rd, meeting at the Red Lion at Steeple Aston at 12.30 for lunch.

Members will visit the Shrewsbury Flower Show on August 14th. Pick up times are as follows:

Oxhill Village Hall at 7.30 a.m.

Oxhill Church at 7.40 a.m.

Tysoe at 7.45 a.m.

Kington at 8.00 a.m. Be prompt please!

Watch this space for news of speakers starting in September. New members will be very welcome.

Ann Saxton

[The Rousham visit went off very well, and it didn't even rain on us. Ed.]

TENNIS IN TYSOE

Tysoe Tennis Club have been doing their bit to nurture the tennis champions of the future by holding a junior tournament and family barbeque. On Sunday 28th June nearly 20 local youngsters of all ages played against each other and put on an excellent display, despite the heat. Parents sat watching alongside the courts, creating Tysoe's own version of Henman Hill!

Prizes of tennis balls and sweatbands were awarded to players in three age groups:

Mini Red: Winner: Samantha Williams

Runner-up: Sophie Jarvis

Mini Orange: Winner: Charlie Camp

Runner-up: Jamie Maginni

Yellow: Winner: Tomos Cooper

Runner-up: Robert Thompson

Our thanks go to Ade, the junior coach, who helped on the day. The children enjoyed themselves so much that the club hopes to organise a similar event later in the year; look out for details. Photos will be posted on the club website:
www.tysoetennisclub.co.uk

Julie Smart

NATURE NOTES

A couple of days ago Jane came rushing in from our vegetable patch and said that something, she suspected a small bird of prey, had flashed over the vegetable patch and snatched something which let out shrieks, and then vanished. It was all so quick she could not identify the aggressor or the victim. I walked up the garden to see if I could spot anything, and hearing a plaintive squawk, I looked over the garden fence to see not 10 yards away a hobby (*Falco subbuteo*) with a blackbird. There was no mistaking the hobby's clear-cut face pattern "moustache and sideburns" similar to a peregrine. He or she (the sexes are alike) gave me a withering look and was up and away with its prey, which was still shrieking. It's worth noting that the blackbird was very nearly the same size as the hobby. This bird, back in the winter, was 2500 miles away in North Africa, south of the Sahara desert. I believe that there is a breeding pair somewhere in the Whatcote vale. It is one of Britain's rarer birds of prey and to see one in the centre of the village was very lucky. [Though not for the blackbird! Ed.]

In May's Nature Notes I mentioned some nesting lapwings. A couple of weeks ago I noticed that there were four lapwings still on the stubble, I suspected with a second brood. My attention was drawn by a repeated very high pitch noise which I can only describe as a scream. A gardener was mowing, but the calls could be heard above the noise of the mower. I went to see what it was and on the ground were three crows and three of the four lapwings were diving at the crows and hitting them – you could hear the impact – but the crows were not moving. The fourth lapwing had flown to quite a height and was making a loud, almost continuous, un-lapwing like distress call. As I watched, over the hill about a quarter of a mile away, a flock of about 15 birds appeared. At first I thought they were more crows, but very quickly it became clear they were lapwings. In seconds they arrived and carried out what I can only describe as mass dive-bombing tactics, forcing the crows to take off, but they continued the attack and harried the crows until they were well away. The flock then returned to the four lapwings which were now on the ground, I presumed tending their young, and all settled on the stubble around the four. There then followed acts of what seemed to be mutual calming, and when everything was peaceful, the 15 took off and within minutes had disappeared back to where they came from. I have never seen anything like this before; it was literally like watching the cavalry arrive when all seemed lost.

A cautionary tale for fishermen: the same day as I watched the lapwings, I went to check on seven swallows nests in an open barn where I knew many young had been reared. Two nests contained young, obviously a second brood, but when I came to the last I was shocked to see an adult hanging by the neck from its nest. I fetched a ladder and it became obvious what had happened. When they were building their nests during the hot spell, they had been fetching mud from the river bank at Honington. In this mud must have been a 7 to 8 inch piece of fishing line which the swallow had stuck down on the rim of the nest. Somehow, I assume when feeding the young, the adult had put its head under a loose loop and had struggled to fly away, pulling part of the line loose, and tragically the poor bird hanged itself. Please, if you are a fisherman, take all pieces of line home with you and dispose of it properly.

The 16th August is St Roch's Day. Take precautions against contagious diseases. St Roch, a selfless fourteenth century plague doctor, is invoked against all infectious diseases; perhaps even Swine flu. John Aubrey, 1685, advises *'It is observed at Plague times that the opening of the South-windows bring the sickness, and shutting of the southern windows and opening the northern cures it. 'Tis said that drawing in the heat of a fire with one's breath doth much good to him that has the plague'*. So there you, it's as simple as that!

Grenville Moore

OXHILL VILLAGE HALL

Boules Competition for the Gardner Cup

Over 40 hardy souls came along to the Village Hall on Sunday July 19th to join in our French Lunch and Boules Competition to decide the winner of the prestigious Gardner Cup. We did have a few showers but they failed completely to dampen the spirits of the revellers.

The pâté, selection of cheeses and salads were eagerly consumed by the attendees and these treats were topped off with some excellent French Apple Tarts that easily outshone their Gallic equivalents, despite being made in Gilkes Lane! The Village Hall also made a little money to off-set its many bills thanks to the French Beer and Wine that were quaffed.

The Boules competition, which was overseen by our guest Referee and Bon Vivreur, George Adams, was keenly fought with no quarter asked or given. The hero and heroines of the day were Jo and Gaynor van Dijk who along with Katya and Angelina, their two young guests from Chernobyl, fought through to the final and proved excellent competitors. In the end, experience counted and Angela & Brian Emmerson (again!), assisted by Barbara and Steve Kenney, were presented with the Gardner Cup. Unfortunately, Janet Gardner was unable to be there due to ill health and we wish her a speedy recovery.

Thanks to all who came along and to the committee for their hard work.

Derek Harbour

FOR SALE

Medium oak rectangular table

With pie-crust edge and barley sugar turned legs

25½" (63 cm) high, 20½" (52 cm) wide, 16½" (42 cm) deep

£40

Tel: 01295 680412 (McKail)

NOTES OF A MEETING OF OXHILL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 21ST JULY 2009 AT 8.00 P.M. IN THE VILLAGE HALL

All Councillors were present.

MATTERS DISCUSSED

Community Supported Agricultural Scheme

Graham Collier from Tysoe came along to explain about the above scheme. This scheme offers various ways of collectively growing vegetables or keeping animals for the benefit of all those involved. Lottery money is available to get such schemes started and Graham is anxious to know of anyone interested. His telephone number is 680127.

Finance

A grant of £278.30 was paid to the Village Hall Committee towards the cost of event tables. £30 was paid for completion of the Internal Audit.

Road Safety

Warwickshire County Council is investigating if minor improvement measures to the A422 near Hogwood Farm would be of benefit and have asked Engineers to undertake further assessment of the junction.

Planning

Planning applications had been received from Gilks Cottage to fell a Eucalyptus tree and to extend existing agricultural building at Field Forge Farm. Both applications were returned with no objection.

Obstruction of Footpaths

Patrons of the "Peacock" are asked to please use the car park provided and not park their vehicles on the pedestrian footpath across from the pub.

The Peacock has also been asked to make sure the tables at the front of the pub don't obstruct use of the footpath.

Highways

Three items were highlighted: The first house in Barn Row had been flooded following a heavy rain storm. The highways to be notified to check drains are cleared and if the height of the kerb setts added to the problem. Loose chippings washed onto the road below Church Farm entrance are causing a hazard to road users. The roadside edge falls away significantly along some sections of Green Lane and also across from the lay-by presenting a danger to cyclists, horses and vehicles particularly when passing.

NHS Oxfordshire

Additional doctors have been recruited to the Horton General Paediatric department. This is good news and will relieve some of the pressures staff have been coping with. Ideas for improvement have been submitted and 13 have been selected as having the

most potential to help. These fall into five distinct themes, collaboration, integration, service strategy and development, staffing and training, academia and research. Work is on going to implement these ideas.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 8th September 2009 at 8.00 p.m. in the Village Hall

Angela Kean, Clerk

OWLS – OXHILL WILDLIFE SURVEY

OWLS is the Oxhill Parish Biodiversity Action Plan Group. We have now had two meetings and made a beginning by outlining several projects we want to tackle: gardens, waste ground, and ponds. But first, with your help, we have to survey them. We need to find out what we've got, and just as important, what we've lost, and hopefully we can then do something about it. We want to enhance the natural features – brooks, hills, valleys, woods, hedgerows and fields. We need to welcome nature in, encourage the plants that want to grow in our locality, and bring a rich and diverse plant and animal life to our doorsteps. Access to nature greatly enriches our lives and keeps us healthy.

You will find with this month's Oxhill News an explanatory letter and a form, which I hope everyone will fill in over the next three months. So please get counting. The whole family can get involved. Don't worry if you are not sure what you are looking at – just have a guess or give a brief description which should enable us to deduce what it is. There is help to hand if you need it.

Mike Collins is very kindly setting up a linked web site for nature photographs with our parish web site. Anyone will be able to download pictures on to this site. They don't necessarily have to be taken in Oxhill, but preferably in our corner of South Warwickshire. This leads me to:

OXHILL NATURE PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

Open to all ages of Oxhill residents.

Images of anything in nature: birds, plants, insects, waterlife, a hedgerow full of wildflowers, a dark mysterious pond, a magnificent gnarled tree etc. – but please no landscapes.

Any format – digital/film, colour or black and white, taken anywhere within the UK. Think nature when on holiday, get snapping and be creative.

Closing date will the end of September. Any format up to A5 will be acceptable. There will be three age groups, 10 and under, 11 to 18 and Adult. Each entry will cost 50p with no limit on entries.

We will have an exhibition at the beginning of October with (hopefully) a celebrity judge, and prizes. OWLS needs funds to help us achieve some of our objectives, so there will be a bar and nibbles. More details of where to send entries etc. in September's Oxhill News.

Grenville Moore

OXHILL WAKE

Oxhill Wake was a small fair, and a major village event, traditionally connected with the Feast Day of St Lawrence, our church's patron saint. It was not, latterly anyway, held on the actual festival, August 10th but on the last Monday in August. (This is borne out by the splendid poster for the Wake recently discovered by Tim Groves, when the date advertised is Monday, August 25th, 1930.) It could be that over time it had been altered to fit in more easily with the work of harvest. Oxhill men all had a holiday from farmwork on Wake Day, though not, Bert Bloxham still regrets, those like himself who worked in Oxhill but lived in Tysoe!

The site of the Wake has moved around. During the First World War it was held in the blacksmith William Gilks's orchard, now the Gardners' field in Main Street. Allen Lewis, (who attended Oxhill School from Leasowes' Farm), remembers that in the 1920s it took place in a field at the lower end of Whatcote Road, where Silverdale and Northside now stand. Bill Heritage recalls it in the 1930s in the field opposite the Church, which was called the Green, (from which the name Green Lane was later coined). The marquee for the teas and later for dancing was opposite on the site of Cornerways.

The swings and roundabouts and coconut shies were provided by Herberts' funfair, a family run outfit of at least three generations, which came each year from Redditch for several weeks, setting up base at Tysoe, in a field called the Slinket. Besides operating at the Oxhill Wake, they would also open some evenings in Tysoe during their stay. All the roundabouts were driven by steam, but Bert, as a young man, didn't think much of them as the horses didn't "gallop" (i.e. go up and down). Bill Heritage remembers that the last time the Wake was held, in or near wartime, they used old converted buses to provide power instead.

Tim Groves's poster mentions "Sparks Concert Party", and "Prints Orchestra", presumably for the evening entertainment and dancing. That followed on from the Bowling for the Pig (Gentlemen), Bowling for the Goose (Ladies), Adults and Children's Sports, Tug of War, Pillow Fight, High Jump, Hat-trimming competition, Public Tea etc. Perhaps, after all that, one day's holiday wasn't enough!

Ann Hale

WOT2GROW

A small group of people from Whatcote, Oxhill & Tysoe met recently with the purpose of establishing, with some funding from the Big Lottery Fund, a Community Orchard in the local area. The group has both a number of ideas and business acumen and is now looking for some land of more than an acre.

Please contact Graham Collier on 01295 680127 or 07889 360133 for details.

SHIPSTON HOME NURSING

CAR WASH

Fundraising event to raise money for the forthcoming Junior Ball in October.

Would you like to have your car washed by a group of enthusiastic teenage volunteers?

Every Sunday through July and August from 10.00 a.m. - 12.00 noon at Pettifers Garage, Church St, Shipston on Stour. £5 per car.

For more information re booking etc please call Catie Barnes on 07976047682 or Nick Suckling on 07751556337 or just turn up and we will look after you.

FABULOUS NEARLY NEW CLOTHES WANTED

Have you any clothes in your wardrobe that you would like to give to the charity to sell in a marquee at the Car Boot Sale at Honington Estate Sunday September 6th?

If so please phone / email Rebecca on 01608 674929, rebecca@shn-fundraising.co.uk.

BRIDGE DRIVE

Maki Sutton and Alan Lamb are kindly organising another Bridge Drive for Shipston Home Nursing. It is at the North Cotswold Bridge Club at Bourton on the Hill on Wednesday October 14th 2009 at 2.00pm. £5 entrance to include a truly delicious tea. Please call Alan on 01386 701603 or Maki on 01608 661539 to book your place for this lovely afternoon. You do not need a partner to join in.

OXHILL VILLAGE HALL

Funding Boost for the Village Hall

The Village Hall has received a £2004 funding boost from SITA Trust to renew the kitchen and toilet floors.

SITA Trust provides funding through the Landfill Communities Fund. Funding is available for community and environmental groups to carry out a range of improvement projects.

The funding allocated to the Village Hall will enable the laying of new floors in both the kitchen and toilet areas.

The new floors will make the kitchen and toilets look a lot smarter and should make it easier to keep the floors clean. It is planned for the work to be carried out in the first week of August.

Judy Badger, Secretary; Oxhill Village Hall Committee

OXHILL VILLAGE HALL UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, August 9th: Village Walk and Barbecue

We have organised an easy, circular, fairly flat walk of approximately 5 miles starting and ending at the Village Hall with a sumptuous BBQ to follow.

It is open to everyone in the Village regardless of age and ability. You can bring your dog along to give them an exercise treat. Young children are also welcome (but the committee are not volunteering to carry them) but please be aware that a short part of the walk is along a road so some supervision will be necessary. Needless to say, pushchairs are not appropriate.

With the weather proving to be unpredictable, we'd suggest that you do bring some form of waterproof jacket, and wear suitable clothing like long trousers in case there is the odd thistle. Strong shoes with some ankle support are always a good idea as is a hat and sun cream just in case the sun does shine.

We will start at 9.30 a.m. from the Village Hall and expect to finish at around 12.30 back at the Village Hall in time for the BBQ. There will be a refreshment stop at around the halfway mark. The price for the BBQ is £5 for anyone over the age of 5 and it is possible to just enjoy this element of the day, if walking is not your thing.

Please contact Judy Badger on 688010 for your BBQ Tickets to enable us to cater for the right numbers.

Friday, October 23rd: Bavarian Evening

We are pleased to announce that we are importing a little bit of Munich into Oxhill with our version of the Oktoberfest. We'll have German beer and Sausages coupled with Sauerkraut and possibly some black bread – those who over-indulge might be 'Wurst' for wear. (Boom, Boom!)

There is a prize for the best 'lederhosen' or example of German national dress but Prince Harry is not expected to attend.

We are hoping to get an Oompah Band but will probably have to settle for playing a CD of German music (if that is not an oxymoron).

Put the date in your diary, practise some useful German phrases and look for more details next month.

Derek Harbour

AMBULANCE FIRST RESPONDERS

There are over 300 responders in the Coventry and Warwick area so when an opportunity came for Barbara and I to be in the first group of 16 responders to increase our skills to a higher level we took it up. Our training for this took place at Stratford on Avon Ambulance Station Training Centre. The course was over several months of weekends and evenings. The exam was taken on Sunday 6 July, starting at 8 a.m. and finishing at 5 p.m. The IHDC (the awarding body) exam consisted of a

written paper followed by 6 skill station exams. The pass mark was 70 percent so we were pleased to pass with 84 percent.

West Midlands Ambulance Service has recently been recognized as one of only three Ambulance Authorities to achieve government targets; this is of course where responders contribute, not only to achieve the target, but also to be able to start medical treatment much quicker.

West Midlands Ambulance Service is seeking authorization to become a Foundation Trust, please contact us for further information about this.

There is more than an 80% chance that a 999 call for an Ambulance would result in one of us at your door very quickly; however if the door is locked and you are unable to come and unlock it, because you are ill, we both have a problem! If you think that this may be a situation that could happen to you, contact me, as I may have the answer to this.

If you have a Medical Emergency call 999. The Ambulance Service will send us to you. You can call us as direct on 07977149317 after calling 999.

If you have a first aid problem NOT an emergency, call direct on 07977149317.

Apart from our Parish Council refunding us the cost of our equipment insurance last year we receive no other funding, consumable items such as oxygen masks etc. are replaced by the Ambulance service.

Home 'phone: 01295680644

email: viper@viperrecovery.co.uk

Mick & Barbara Shepard, 3, The Leys, Whatcote Road, Oxhill, CV350QX

WI REPORT

Stratford-upon-Avon Refuge provides a safe haven for women who walk out on violent or abusive partners but have nowhere to go. It offers much needed support - more than 7,000 incidents of domestic violence were reported in Warwickshire in 2007-08. The purpose-built accommodation consists of five small apartments.

"It can be crowded for women with families - one mother with four sons aged between three and thirteen lives in a two-bedroom flat - but they are safe and it gives them a chance to start a new life", explained Anne Ramsbottom. Anne is one of eight volunteers who raise funds for the refuge.

"Women often arrive with nothing more than a carrier bag of clothes grabbed in a hurry", said Anne. "The money we raise helps to buy simple things, such as soap and shampoo, that residents really appreciate."

WI members are invited to donate items, such as toiletries, at their September meeting.

Julie Smart

TRANSITION SHIPSTON AND SURROUNDING VILLAGES

What would happen to life in Shipston and its surrounding villages if there was no more oil?

We would struggle to get to work by car, bus or train

We would not be able to drive to the shops

We would not be able to grow our food which relies on oil to power the machinery and oil based fertilisers

We would not be able to cloth ourselves or produce many of our essentials which are shipped or flown from across the world

Without oil many parts of our community lives would not function.

Unfortunately there is only so much oil in the ground and according to leading scientists and oil companies it is starting to run out. It will become scarcer and more expensive. We will be forced to cut back on our oil usage causing huge shocks throughout communities.

Shipston and surrounding villages has recently joined the Transition Town network, a network of international towns and communities taking action to build communities resilient against oil depletion. .

Transition Shipston and Surrounding Villages believes that by acting locally in our communities we can build resilience to the shock of oil depletion. And by cutting our oil consumption we are also cutting the amount of carbon dioxide which will help tackle the threat of Climate Change.

Transition Shipston and Surrounding Villages hopes to introduce schemes promoting local shopping, cycling and public transport, local production of food and the production of renewable energy through solar and wind technology.

If you are interested in getting involved contact the group at:

transitionshipston@googlegmail.com or phone 07973 846605.

Web: <http://transitionshipston.blogspot.com/>

Liz Atkinson, 01295 680045

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Time flies like an arrow.

Fruit flies like a banana.

J.H. Marx, 1890-1977

YOUNG MUSICIANS OF YESTERYEAR

Saturday 12th September, 7.30 p.m.

at St Edmund's Church, Shipston on Stour

The Feldon Quartet and others return to celebrate a decade of music making with Shipston Proms

Tickets £8 (accompanied children free)

from Clarke Electrical, Shipston or phone 01608 661372

Interval refreshments

Proceeds towards

DASH (Drug Action in Shipston) & Shipston Proms

LIKE TO SING?

Come and join us in Stour Singers!

Visitors to Stour Singers concerts in St. Edmund's Church, Shipston often say they are amazed to find a 60-voice choral society of such high standard in the heart of rural England. Richard Emms, our conductor, founded the choir 34 years ago and his infectious enthusiasm and skill in voice training continually attracts singers from a wide area of Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire and Warwickshire. There is a camaraderie in the choir which makes learning fun. Practice CDs produced by Richard enable everyone to get to know the music at their own pace.

Over the years the repertoire has expanded to cover many well-known choral masterpieces, e.g. Haydn's 'The Creation' last May and less familiar pieces. Two concerts are performed each year, in May and December. For this 34th season the choral content of the Advent concert on 5 December 2009 comprises Mozart's Regina coeli & CPE Bach's Magnificat with Christmas Music focussing upon Mary involving a fine quartet of soloists, choir & audience all partnered by the Cherwell Orchestra. (Nearer Christmas we also take carols to the Ellen Badger Hospital & Rainbow Fields Home.) Then on 8 May 2010, as a special treat, the distinguished Orchestra of the Swan will be joining us in a Vivaldi-Handel programme.

The annual subscription is £55 but newcomers are welcome for a month on a free trial basis. Music is usually hired and free to members. We welcome school students as singing members and accompanied children to concerts without charge. This outward-looking approach extends to other community projects and Stour Singers is proud to be the first voluntary organisation to join the newly formed Shipston Town Management Partnership.

Rehearsals are on Thursday evenings at 7.30 p.m. in the Hall of Shipston Primary School. At the first rehearsal of each session, 10 September 2009 & 14 January 2010, there will be a short time to meet fellow singers. There are vacancies in all voice parts – no auditions! So, if you like to sing, do come and join us on 10 September.

For further details, please contact Vic Twyman on 01608 664215

WHAT'S ON IN & AROUND OXHILL

August

Saturday 1st	3-5	The Old House – Shipston Deanery Garden Party
Tuesday 4th		Green and Blue recycling bin collection
	10.00	Village Hall – Mobile Library
Sunday 9th	9.30	Village Hall - Village Walk & Barbeque
Tuesday 11th		Grey landfill bin collection
Friday 14th	7.30	Village Hall - Garden Club visit to Royal Shrewsbury Show
Saturday 15th	1.30	Tysoe Show Ground – Tysoe Flower Show
Tuesday 18th		Green and Blue recycling bin collection
Tuesday 25th		Grey landfill bin collection
	10.00	Village Hall – Mobile Library
	23.59	Copy deadline for the News
Friday 28th	10.00	Weekday Walkers

September

Wednesday 2nd	7.30	Tysoe Village Hall – WI meeting ‘Corsica’, Nicholas Clark
Sunday 6th	9.00	Honington Hall – Shipston Home Nursing Car Boot Sale
Tuesday 8th		Village Hall – Art Group reconvenes
	8.00	Village Hall – Parish Council meeting
Saturday 12th	7.30	St. Edmund’s Church, Shipston - Concert
Sunday 20th		Spit-roast lunch, treasure & duck hunt
Sunday 27th		Shipston Leisure Centre – Shipston Home Nursing Fun Run & Ride
Wednesday 30th		Closing date for Nature Photographic Competition

October

Wednesday 7th	7.30	Tysoe Village Hall – WI meeting ‘The story of chocolate’, Mervie Moyaert
Wednesday 14th	2.00	Bourton on the Hill – Shipston Home Nursing Bridge Drive
Friday 23rd		Village Hall – Bavarian Evening

November

Saturday 14th		Village Hall – Auction of Promises
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ACCIDENT and MEDICAL EMERGENCIES

FIRST CALL 999

THEN CALL

Ambulance Responders

MICK & BARBARA SHEPARD

07977149317 Mobile / 01295680644 Home

3, The Leys, Oxhill, Warwick, CV350QX