
THE OXHILL NEWS

February 2012

No. 447



Reading Group Christmas Lunch

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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.

REFUSE COLLECTION

Recycling and green waste bins (blue and green bins) will be collected on Tuesdays 14th and 28th February.

The grey rubbish bins will be collected Tuesdays 7th and 21st February.

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 15th February.

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 February:

February 10th - A 4.5 mile circular from Shutford with 250 feet of ascent. Lunch will be at The George & Dragon Shutford - Leaving Oxhill at 10:00am.

February 24th - A 5 mile circular walk from Stretton-on-Fosse with 300 feet of ascent. Lunch will be at The Plough Inn, Stretton-on-Fosse - Leaving Oxhill at 9:45am.

Due to the numbers on the walk Jim Saxton now contacts regular members to get meal decisions by Wednesday evening. Those who wish to join us are most welcome, but please contact Jim Saxton on 01295 680613 or at saxton@tiscali.co.uk before the Tuesday evening prior to the walk.

MARCH ISSUE

The copy deadline for the March edition is midnight on the 15th February 2012, please email contributions to news-editor@oxhill.org.uk or place paper based contributions in the box labelled 'The Oxhill News' in the village Church.

OXHILL GARDEN CLUB

Recipe for a good party: interesting venue, mulled wine, fantastic food, lots of laughter, good friends, a bit of entertainment – what do you have? A Garden Club Christmas Party!

The Saxtons thank everyone for making the evening go with a swing. Special thanks to Gwyn Adams for her amazing planning and organization and to all those who helped to put the house back together.

Why not join the Garden Club? Meetings take place in the Village Hall, mostly at 7.30pm, with speaker and refreshments:

| | |
|---------------|--|
| February 16th | A Peep into the Past, Oxhill & Surrounding Villages – David Beaumont |
| March 15th | AGM @ 7pm |

Fill the time after Christmas by photographing your garden ready for the competition: one 7x5 (max size) unmounted picture of The Garden in Winter OR A Summer Flower.

Ann Saxton

NEW YEAR 2012

Early in the New Year I looked out and saw

- 1 yellow Labrador
- 2 grey squirrels AND a pair of bullfinches
- 3 cock pheasants
- 4 greenfinches
- 5 tiny iris
- 6 collared doves
- 7 fieldfares
- 8 starlings
- 9 prancing horses
- 10 polyanthus
- 11 assorted great and blue tits
- 12 people walking

Unfortunately, for me, no lords-a-leaping
BUT a whole charm of goldfinches

N.B. Grenville, the latter on a single storey roof prompted me to write the above.

Myrtle Knight

ST. LAWRENCE'S CHURCH, OXHILL

SERVICES IN FEBRUARY

All are warmly welcome

Sunday 5th Septuagesima 9.30am Parish Communion (JT)

Sunday 12th Sexagesima 9.30am Morning Worship (BR)

Sunday 19th Quinquagesima 9.30am Parish Communion (BR)

Sunday 26th Lent I 9.30am Family Service (NM)

For other services in the benefice please see porch notice board

VICARAGE NOTES

Dear friends,

Services

As you know, Martin Leaton is away for a few weeks and we are grateful to the clergy who are taking extra services this month – our own Jill Tucker and also Bill Rolfe.

Thank you both!

Social and Fundraising Committee

Lilian Welsby is having to move at some stage and regretfully she is retiring from chairing the P.C.C. SFRC after many years of stalwart work for St. Lawrence's Church. On behalf of us all – a huge vote of thanks to her for all the time and effort she has put in to organising the scarecrow weekends and other events! She was, of course, ably supported by an enthusiastic group of people, some of whom will also be retiring, so our thanks must also go to Helen, Doreen, Anne and Val for all the work they've put in over the years.

The remaining members – Diane, Kath and the 2 Carols - will keep things ticking over but we will be needing to find some new folk keen to organise the fundraisers on which the Church does rely to pay its bills. If you can help, please have a word with Lilian (680468) or me.

Lent 2011

Ash Wednesday begins Lent on February 22nd and there will be HC at Brailes (9.30am) and Tysoe (10am please check) that day. Deanery Lent services will be on Tuesdays as usual – the first on February 28th. Posters and flyers will soon be available listing the venues and speakers. All are made very welcome.

Best wishes and God bless, *Nicholas Morgan* 01608 685230

DEANERY NEWS

It's Shrove Tuesday, Pancake Day on February 21st, and Ash Wednesday on February 22nd, which means that the **Deanery Lent Course** will begin the following week.

This year we are following a booklet written by John Irvine, Dean of Coventry Cathedral, entitled 'A Coventry Way', looking at the commitments of the Benedictine discipline 'lived out under the particular banner of Reconciliation'. The topics to be covered are Scripture, Supplication, Silence, Study, Service, Sharing and Stewardship (although not necessarily in that order!) Copies of the booklet will be widely available, at a cost of £1 each, and we hope that once again it will form the basis of small group study during Lent.

Dates and Venues, always Tuesdays at 7.30pm, are:

February 26th, at Newbold: Gordon Kuhrt begins the series by speaking about Scripture

March 6th, at Darlingscott

March 13th, at Oxhill

March 20th, at Long Compton

March 27th, at Honington

April 3rd, Holy Week Eucharist, at Brailes.

This series of services is always a wonderful time of sharing and meeting up with friends across the Deanery, and I really hope that many of you will once again be able to join us. The collections from the services this year are going to be divided between the Katherine House Hospice and the Myton Hospice.

Wishing you all every blessing, *Jill*

COMMUNITY LINKS

'The **Community Links** transport service, has been operating across Stratford District for six years and provides a weekday service to residents who are '*stuck for transport*'. This may be because they have difficulty using public buses due to disability, age, or mobility problems, or perhaps because they live in a rural area and transport is limited. All the vehicles are easy access and can accommodate a wheelchair.

For a single journey the charge is £1.50 and £3.00 return, regardless of the distance. Carers of passengers may travel free of charge. Passengers are asked to complete a simple registration form before using the service. For more information please phone: *01789 264491, 9am to 4pm, Monday to Friday.*

Compton
Verney

**Thursday
15th March**

**Arrive at 1.30pm
tour starts at 2pm**



Compton Verney invite you to an Exclusive Private Viewing

To raise funds for

SHIPSTON HOME NURSING

**Please join us for an intimate tour
followed by afternoon tea served in
The Adam Hall**

You will have exclusive access to the gallery, prior to public opening, and be one of the first to see the Gainsborough's landscapes exhibition: Themes and variations. This is the first exhibition solely devoted to Gainsborough's landscapes.

Tickets are £40 each, and this includes full afternoon tea.
Call 01608 674929 to book a ticket (limited to 20 per group)

Visit www.shipstonhomenursing.co.uk or
www.comptonverney.org.uk for more
information.

Compton Verney, Warwickshire, CV35 9HZ



AT THE PEACOCK

Quiz Night

Quiz night on Sunday 5th February at 8pm.



Village Events

The village coffee morning will be on Wednesday 8th February at 10.30am.

The village lunch will be on Wednesday 22nd February at 12.30pm.

“A FOX SAW THE MOUSE AND THE MOUSE LOOKED GOOD!”



Come and discover what happens when the quick-thinking mouse comes face to face with a fox, an owl, a snake and a hungry **GRUFFALO!** In The Barn Theatre, Baldwins Lane, Upper Tysoe, Warwick, CV35 0TX

Tysoe Marionette Group is continuing to stage special family matinees (lasting approximately 25 minutes) for accompanied children aged from 3½ yrs upwards. Refreshments will be available after each show.

The next performances will be on Saturday 25th February at 2.30 & 4pm for the benefit of Tysoe School.

Admission by ticket (bought in advance)

Contact: Mrs Slatter on 01295 680244

Please make cheques payable to Tysoe School Admin Account

Visit: <http://TysoeMarionettes.webplus.net>

OXHILL VILLAGE HALL - UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday Night @ The Village Hall - 2nd March, 2012

One of our ever-popular Friday night events with a lamb hotpot (to celebrate St David's day on 1st March) plus a desert, all for £8 per person from 7.30 pm onwards.

Tickets will be available from *Gaynor van Dyke on 680349*

Village Hall Committee AGM & Cheese & Wine Evening - 18th April, 2012

The village hall committee AGM will take place on Wednesday, April 18th at 8.30 pm when everyone is welcome to come along and suggest events that they would like to see take place in the future. There are always 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. Please come along to give us your thoughts, even if you don't intend to serve on the committee.

Cheese & wine will be available before the meeting from 7.30 pm onwards.

Please think seriously if and how you might contribute and if you want more details or information on what is involved; please contact *Derek Harbour on 680676*.

Best of British Night - 27th April, 2012

A Friday night to remember, celebrating the 'Best of British' to commemorate St George's Day and Shakespeare's Birthday earlier in that week. An event not to be missed so put it in your diary now!

Irish Singer/Songwriter, Kieran Goss comes to Oxhill - 26th May, 2012

The celebrated singer/songwriter, Kieran Goss comes to the village hall in Oxhill on Saturday, May 26th. You can sample his music on www.kierangoss.com and then reserve this very special date in your diary. More details will be provided as we get closer to the date.

THURSDAY 'AFTERNOON DELIGHT' (or Knit & Natter) - 2.00pm to 4.00pm

Fourteen people enjoyed our first meeting back in the New Year and were able to catch-up and exchange their experiences over Christmas and the New Year.

Our next activities will be:

9th February Canal Ware Painting with Jane Smith
*Please bring along a paint brush and something to
decorate, eg clay pot, wooden box or a tin, etc*

23rd February Knitting & Crocheting

If you don't want to participate in any of the above, feel free to come along for a cup of tea and to 'Knit & Natter'. Also don't forget the **BOOK EXCHANGE**. If you'd like to know more, then call *Gwyn Adams on 680286* or just turn up and join in.

WHO KILLED CHARLOTTE?

We were distressed beyond words to discover, on Wednesday, January 11th, that our last surviving Muscovy duck had been shot dead: having been fit and well in the morning, she was found dead in her enclosure in the evening with a pellet wound in her head.

Not only are we deeply saddened to lose her, it is incredibly disturbing that someone finds it acceptable to shoot and kill a family pet in this way. If anyone can throw any light as to what happened, we should love to hear from them. In the absence of any humane explanation, folks might be advised to keep a close eye on their animals.

Jill and Colin Tucker, The Old House

THE QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE REPORT- January 2012



Thank you to all (68) who returned their questionnaires to the volunteer collectors. A big thank you to them for trudging round the village during December and a great big thank you to all those who committed to take part in the event by handing over a deposit to secure their tickets.

We have banked just under a £1000 in deposits which enables us to confirm reservations and pay over deposits that have been requested by various suppliers.

As a result of your enthusiastic support we are able to confirm the event will go ahead. At the meeting on the 4th January 2012 we produced an outline programme (which is subject to change!).

On Sunday the 3rd June at 12:15pm the event will commence at the Church with a service of Celebration and Thanks Giving. At 1:00pm there will be the dedication of the OWLS planting project in the Church Yard. We will process from there to join those gathered for the 'Big Jubilee Lunch Street Party' which will be held on Main Street from the Pub for as far as necessary towards the Church. Food is now included and will comprise of a summer cold lunch which will be served from 1:30pm. From 3:30pm fields games and sports will be organised, mainly for the children with adults welcome to join in! During the evening we are hoping that the village will provide some home grown entertainment in the marquee.

Now come on Oxhill this is where you have to come forward. Lucy Mercer is trying hard to put together a programme of entertainment and has held a couple of meetings which have not been well supported. We know Oxhill has got bags of talent - you just have to come forward to do your bit. Please support Lucy and the event. Look elsewhere in the news for details of the next gathering to plan the Sunday evening home grown entertainment.

On Monday 4th June 2012 festivities will commence at 2:00pm with the Oxhill Hobby Horse Derby. There will be competitions and prizes for the best turned out Hobby Horse, best dressed groom and, for the spectators, the best outfit to include a hat! Further details will follow in the months to come. Races might include 'a Hunter Cross Country Chase (Gentlemen), the Fillies field dash (Ladies) and a Yearling Flat Race (Children). Afternoon tea will be available from 3:00pm and a display will take place at 3:30pm. From 4:00pm until approximately 5:15pm the traditional family water volley ball event will be held followed by Tug-o-War and other field games. The pig roast meal will start serving at 6:00pm until 7:30pm

during which a loyal toast will be given. The evening's entertainment will then commence with 'hopefully', the best of Oxhill talent, rapidly followed by live music for dancing from Pascal's Triangle. We hope to take a break at 10:00pm to view local beacons being lit and our own light event. Pascal's Triangle will keep the dancing going until approximately 11:45pm.

Please note that as a result of a pledge of financial support we are able to include food on both days in the cost of the ticket.

Although we haven't yet counted the number of tickets that the deposits represent it is estimated to be approximately 150. Previous experience dictates that the number that we will be able to cater for will be 300 and hence already we are halfway to that total. Please don't leave your decision to the last minute expecting that tickets will be available. We will close sales early in May due to the complexity of the catering arrangements and to enable name badges to be prepared. Most of the event will be held on private land and entry will be monitored and controlled if necessary. You will only be able to take part in the event if you are wearing your name badge! It is expected that the 300 limit will be reached and booking closed before May. So if you have not reserved your tickets or ordered tickets for visiting family and friends please do so as soon as you can so as not to be disappointed.

From now on sub-groups will take on the organisation of each part of the event. Rev Nicholas Morgan will lead the Church service. Grenville Moore will be co-ordinating the team preparing for the 'Big Jubilee Lunch'. Di Cronin will be organising the family and children's games. Lucy Mercer will be coordinating the entertainment for the Sunday evening. On Monday Ed Bratcher is organising the Hobby Horse Derby. Doug Nethercleft will be organising a display and field games. Andy Buchanan will organise and referee the Water Volley Ball. Food on Monday will be co-ordinated by Gaynor Fila and Graeme McDonald hopes to be available to give the loyal toast. Tom and Carol Fox will be providing the pig roast.

These are the main events over the weekend and we are grateful to those named for agreeing to co-ordinate these sections of the programme. They will all be looking to build a team of helpers so please give them your support and please don't wait to be asked, if you want to join in let somebody know.

In addition to those named Mick and Barbara Shepard will provide essential first aid cover, Ruth Mercer will handle ticketing and badges. Peter Pugh will help with logistics and Ian Broderick hopes to be able to help with site services. Una Hill will be passing on her experience of making decorations and bunting. Jane Smith has been receiving and recording the survey forms from the collectors. Derek Harbour and the Village Hall committee are providing facilities and support. Janet Gardner is allowing the use of her field and Jill Tucker is making the Old Chapel available.

As you can see this will be a big event for the village and it will be great fun to be part of it. If you feel you want to get involved it is not too late. The next meeting will

be in the Village Hall on Wednesday 1st February starting at 8pm. Please come along and join in the fun.

Celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in the Village, by the Village, for the Village!

Congratulations everybody and thank you all for your support and making it happen. Any questions please contact any of the above, or *Mike Collins on 680564*.

OMG (Oxhill Music Group)

Following the meeting on the 7th January, I would firstly like to thank the people that did attend. We're well on our way to forming a youngsters band, and music was even sent away to practise.

However, I **STILL** need many more people to join the Jubilee choir. There are no auditions for anything so absolutely anyone can join, whether you think you are tone deaf or not. It doesn't matter, if there are enough people, individual voices won't be recognisable. But a big sound is definitely needed. I'm really trying here, but lack of support is making it so much more difficult. I know there's a good few months before the celebrations, but I won't be in the country for at least a month from the beginning of April, so when I return, there will only be a few weeks to perfect everything. And I want this to be a performance that everyone is proud of, and that will be remembered!

So please please **PLEASE** come along to the next rehearsal on Saturday 4th February, children from 3.30pm (with your instruments), adults from 4pm, in the village hall.

I will have music, I will have the tracks to listen to and hopefully, I will have more people to sing it! After this rehearsal, I hope to start weekly rehearsals. Thank you!

Lucy Mercer 01295 680407



NATURE NOTES

The Regimen for Winter: December, January and February

In winter be clothed in thick gowns of rough cloth, high shorn, well furred with fox, for it is the warmest furring that is, and cats, conies, lambs and divers other thick furs that be good and wholesome. In winter eat beef, and brawn of harts, hinds and all manner of venison, partridges, pheasants, hares, fowls of the river and other meats. In this time also drink oft strong wines after your complexion, bastard wine or osey. Two or three times in the week use good spices in the meats. For this is the most wholesome time of all the year, in which cometh no sickness, but by great excess and outrages done to nature, or by evil government."

Kalendar of Shepheards, 1858

If you read last month's nature notes you will recall my piece on the short-eared owl seen outside Radway. Since writing that I have had reports of a second owl joining the first. Apparently this winter has seen a huge influx of these migrating owls from continental Europe with sightings now coming in from South Warwickshire. Eleven have been seen at Priors Hardwick and an amazing twelve outside Shipston on Stour. The short-eared owl's principal diet is small mammals, particularly voles, and the bird numbers have long been observed to fluctuate with the supply of prey. In 1893 one eye witness in Scotland reported travelling mile after mile with at least a dozen short-eared owls visible at any one time, while in Dumfriesshire alone it was estimated there were at least 500 pairs of breeding birds. No similar concentration has since been recorded, but it is encouraging to have so many birds outside their normal breeding areas here in South Warwickshire.

At the moment almost every time I glance out at our feeders there is that familiar black-and-white bird the great-spotted woodpecker. In the last seven years the numbers have risen from about 27,000 pairs to between 34,000 to 44,000 - one of nature's success stories. The greater-spotted's success is partly down to adaptation to the man-made environment and especially visiting our bird tables where they will be quite aggressive in defence of what they consider "their" food. The bird's dietary versatility even extends to raiding other nests and stealing young chicks. Some years ago one pair was known to systematically work through a house martin colony of 40 nests, hammering holes through the mud sides and seizing about 100 eggs and young to feed their chicks. It's easy to tell the sexes apart as only the male has the scarlet patch at the back of the neck and an interesting fact is that none breed in Northern Ireland.

It seems all my younger friends are playing on-line Scrabble. You can play with many

people at the same time and more or less anything goes – so if any Scrabble enthusiasts are reading this, here are some nature crackers! OUABAIO – an African tree, ZYXMYIA – a type of fly, PNYXIA – and another, XYZZORS – a nematode, O-O – a bird, COCCACEAE – a bacterium, and DIXID – yet another fly.

Birdsong in February

*The birds sing again. They sing
not of cold brown earth
nor wind whistling through branches
not of mist low on the hills bringing rain
nor woodsmoke from fires lit early.*

*In their song I hear the summer,
hawthorn in bloom, hay making,
drinks on the lawn, a far blue sky.
They sing a song almost forgotten
to bring the Spring a little sooner.*

Felicity Manning Long Held Notes

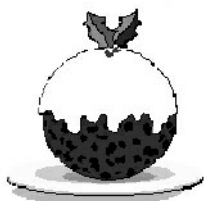
Grenville Moore

Footnote: since starting these notes, the Radway owls have now increased to four and I have seen three just outside Whatcote. Short-eared owls – ten a penny!!

CHRISTMAS PUDDINGS 2011 – St. Peter's Church Whatcote

Again I am able to report that the sales of puddings have realised a good profit for St. Peters, which is £499.99. Thank you to all our customers both regular and new ones for your support.

They do travel far and wide not just in the local area. One went to America and two to Canada.



In the eight years of having the puddings, this is the first time that there are a few remaining unsold both 454g and 908g. They do make a nice dessert at any time of the year. So, if you would like to have one do please contact me, *June Wreford Tel. 01295/680294.*

May I wish all our customers a happy and peaceful New Year.

NOTES OF A MEETING OF OXHILL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 10th JANUARY 2012 AT 8.00 PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL

All Councillors were present.

MATTERS DISCUSSED

Finance

The precept for the year 2012/2013 was discussed and balance sheet presented. The Parish Council agreed to continue to support mowing of the churchyard and village hall grass. Support would continue for production of The Oxhill News. Insurance, internal and external audit fees and clerks expenses were taken into consideration and First Responder kit insurance. A grant towards the village Diamond Jubilee Celebrations in the form of marquee hire was agreed with one abstention. As a result of the above a precept of £2700 would be requested.

A cheque was signed for £111.43 set up costs to the new Oxhill News Editors and £384 covering photocopying costs from July to Dec 2011. £30 for Internal Audit fee and £200 grant towards mowing Village Hall grass were also approved.

Planning

Outline planning application for development to the rear of “Stablecroft” had been refused. Application for extension to rear of “Fern Cottage” had been approved.

Retrospective application for temporary change of use of annex at “Short Meadow”, and change of use from agricultural land to domestic garden to rear of Whatcote Road had both been returned with no objections. Application to fell Scots Pine at The Hollies was discussed at the meeting and no objection raised.

Broadband speeds

Grenville Moore and Mike Collins will attend an event run by Stratford District Council regarding the above.

Non emergency telephone Number 101

Just a further reminder of this new service which should be used to report if a car is stolen or property damaged or vandalised, to report minor traffic collision and to provide information about crime to the local police.

Highways

A number of repairs needed highlighting to the Highways on verges, kerbs and pot holes around the village.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 13th March 2012 at 8.00 pm in the Village Hall.

Angela Kean, Clerk

TEA WITH THE MAD HATTER (AND CANTAMUS)!

Shipston and district's a cappella choir, Cantamus, directed by Richard Emms, would love you to come to a Mad Hatter's Tea Party on Sunday afternoon 4th March 2012. There will be a diversity of music, readings, and dance to entertain you, and tables groaning with home-made cakes and tea to sustain you.

Hats and teddy bears are optional – and you might just have a clue as to at least one of the songs featured in the programme!

The Townsend Hall in Shipston is the venue, tickets cost £10 – and will be available from choir members and Clarke Electricals in Shipston by the end of January. The Mad Hatter's Tea Party starts at 3.p.m., and will be a lovely way to spend an afternoon, welcoming the spring.

If you would like to know more, please get in touch with *Yvonne Ridley on 01789 269587.*

Cantamus

VALENTINE'S DAY FABLE

During the Middle Ages, people in England and France held a belief that birds started to look for their mate from February 14th. This popular notion further helped to link Valentine's Day – celebrated in the middle of the February, with love and romance.

Over the period of time, St Valentine became the patron saint of lovers and they began to celebrate Valentine's Day as a day of romance by exchanging love notes and simple gifts such as flowers.

OXHILL FESTIVAL CHOIR

As the Carol Service was after the deadline for the January News I was unable to file the report until now. I just wanted to say thank you to all the choiristers who attended the Carol Service for their tremendous performance. I know it has been a tremendous struggle this year to attend the rehearsals and nobody attended every one and some only managed one rehearsal, so well done! Our thanks must also go to Joyce Hall who led us through these difficult times and showed great patience while everyone caught up. Her efforts in coming so far each week are very much appreciated. Also our thanks should go to Colin and Jill Tucker who kindly lent us the use of the Chapel for our rehearsals and also for letting us borrow the electric piano for the service. It made a lot of difference to us in keeping together having the piano so close. Several people commented that they could hear us a lot better at the back and as the church was full to overflowing this year there were a lot 'at the back'. Thank you all. Things may be a little different next year - so watch this space.

Our next 'gig' will be at the Jubilee celebrations on 3rd June. Please can all members of the choir contact me and let me know if they are available on that day and I will arrange for our rehearsals through April and May.

Gaynor Van Dijk (680349)

FOR SALE

Fire canopy and wrought-iron fire basket. Also wrought-iron fireguard 27" wide x 28" high

All in good condition-willing to haggle!

Ruth Gibson 01295 680420



UPTON HOUSE AND GARDENS 2012



Upton House launches its 2012 calendar with a wonderful array of special events for all the family.

This magnificent local property is taking you back to the 1930's when Lord Bearstead, chairman of Shell, owned the house and you can discover more about the family and immerse yourself in 1930s living, and a millionaire's country house party. You can read the papers, pick up the phone and listen to family stories and view his renowned art collection of internationally renowned artists. The property caters for all the family, with children's activities going on all through the year and wonderful gardens hidden below the Ha Ha!

So whether it's the kid's art club or Easter egg trail, a jazz evening, a herbal workshop, the tulip weekend or taking part in the 'millionaire's mansion murder' there is always a reason to visit and enjoy the different aspects of Upton House and gardens....your local treasure!

Next three months events:

| | |
|------------------|--|
| 11-13th February | Sugar & Spice and all things nice – children's cooking - booking essential. |
| 17th February | Kids Art Club 11.30 – 3pm ...only £2 for children |
| 23rd February | Herbal workshop 10am – 12 noon - booking essential. |
| 10th March | Spring Art Focus |
| 24th March | The History Papers – Come and explore the archives & help in the conservation of the Library. |
| 6-9th April | Easter Egg Trails with Ricky Rabbit 12-4pm. Great fun for all the family and only £2 for Children |
| 13th April | Kids Art Club 11.30 -3pm - booking essential. |
| 13-15th April | Amazing Tulip Weekend and wonderful arrangements in the house – a great way to celebrate the beginning of spring |
| 23rd April | Body Beautiful Herbal Workshop. - booking essential. |
| 29th April | Opening Ceremony of the Local Olympics. |

For more events later in the year check the website
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/uptonhouse

Don't just drive by ... Drive in!



Hospice at Home
in Shipston, Wellesbourne
and Kineton

Exciting events for February and March:

Family Matters by Ginny Davis

Saturday 25th February 7.30pm

Preston on Stour Village Hall, CV37 8NG

Tickets £15 to include glass of wine & nibbles

Call Rebecca for tickets 01608 674929

Secondhand & Vintage Clothes Sale

Saturday March 3rd 10 am - 1pm

Sheldon Bosley Hub, Shipston on Stour

Free Entry- Refreshments Available

Armscote Manor Workshop & Lecture

Wednesday 21st March:

10am - 4pm - Gwyn Perry head gardener Armscote, training & pruning day

7.30pm - Chris Brown, Quirky & The Unusual

For Tickets Please Call Deborah Williams 01608 682375

VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY TRANSPORT SCHEME

Volunteer Services (VASA) has been organising the above scheme for over 30 years and have an office in Shipston, Alcester, Southam and Stratford.

We are able to help people with, a genuine need for transport, to attend their appointments at hospitals, doctors and health related clinics. We do need at least three days notice and the mileage rate is 45p per mile to cover the volunteer drivers' fuel costs.

We have an excellent Volunteer Office Team at the Shipston office which is open 10 am to 12.30 pm Monday to Friday - 01608 663122.

Should you require any further information or would be interested in being a Volunteer Driver please do give us a ring.

Clarissa Roberts MBE - Volunteer Services Manager 01789 262886

WHATS ON IN & AROUND OXHILL

FEBRUARY

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------|--|
| Wednesday 1st | 20:00 | Village Hall - Diamond Jubilee Meeting |
| Saturday 4th | 15:30 | Village Hall - OMG! Oxhill Music Group |
| Sunday 5th | 20:00 | The Peacock - Quiz night |
| Tuesday 7th | | Grey landfill bin collection |
| Wednesday 8th | 10:30 | The Peacock - Village Coffee Morning |
| Thursday 9th | 14:00 | Village Hall - Afternoon Delights |
| Friday 10th | | Weekday Walkers - see page 2 for details |
| Saturday 11th - Monday 13th | | Upton House - See page 18 for details |
| Tuesday 14th | | Green & blue bin collection |
| Wednesday 15th | 10:00 | Village Hall - Mobile Library |
| Wednesday 15th | 23:59 | COPY DEADLINE FOR THE NEWS |
| Thursday 16th | 19:30 | Village Hall - Garden Club |
| Friday 17th | | Upton House - See page 18 for details |
| Tuesday 21st | | Grey landfill bin collection |
| Wednesday 22nd | 12:30 | The Peacock - Village Lunch |
| Thursday 23rd | 14:00 | Village Hall - Afternoon Delights |
| Thursday 23rd | | Upton House - See page 18 for details |
| Friday 24th | | Weekday Walkers - see page 2 for details |
| Saturday 25th | 14:30 & 16:00 | Barn Theatre - The Gruffalo! |
| Tuesday 28th | | Green & blue bin collection |

MARCH

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| Friday 2nd | 19:30 | Village Hall - Friday Night @ The Village Hall |
| Sunday 4th | 15:00 | Townsend Hall, Shipston - Mad Hatter's Tea Party |
| Saturday 10th | | Upton House - See page 18 for details |
| Thursday 15th | 13:30 | Compton Verney - Private Viewing |
| Thursday 15th | 19:00 | Village Hall - Garden Club AGM |
| Saturday 24th | | Upton House - See page 18 for details |

APRIL

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|---------------------------|-------|--|
| Friday 6th - Monday 9th | | Upton House - See page 18 for details |
| Friday 13th - Sunday 15th | | Upton House - See page 18 for details |
| Wednesday 18th | 19:30 | Village Hall - AGM and Cheese & Wine Evening |
| Monday 23rd | | Upton House - See page 18 for details |
| Friday 27th | | Village Hall - Best of British Night |
| Sunday 29th | | Upton House - See page 18 for details |

MAY

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| Saturday 26th | Village Hall - Kieran Goss |
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JUNE

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| Sunday 3rd - Monday 4th | The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations |
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