

THE OXHILL NEWS



No. 403
June 2008

A BELATED THANK YOU

Although this is rather late, as I keep missing Oxhill News deadlines, we should like to thank everyone who contributed to Guide Dogs for the Blind when Yarna had her puppies. Thank you to all of you who came to Yarna's coffee morning, and especially those who brought cakes and raffle prizes. By the time the puppies left us, we had collected £160, which Guide Dogs were very happy to receive.

The puppies grew exceptionally quickly whilst in our care, and, when they left us at 6½ weeks of age, three out of the ten puppies weighed over 1 stone. Apparently, Guide Dogs Breeding Centre rarely sees puppies that size, and, if they do, it is normally in a litter of two or three, not ten! They have all gone to their puppy walkers now and are spread out around the country, with two in Scotland. We have heard from eight of them now, and they all seem to be thriving. Each puppy walker has remarked on their size and good nature. They are all making great progress in their basic training too. We look forward to the day when they qualify as Guide Dogs, and also to Yarna's next litter!

The Mercer Family and Yarna

HELP REQUIRED

I will soon be needing help in both the house and, if possible, the garden whilst my permanent help is away for several weeks.

If you are able to assist me, please 'phone me on 01295 680247.

Gill Rodwell

JULY ISSUE

Please could I have all copy for the July issue by Midnight on **Tuesday, 24th June**?

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

Yarna leads the troops back inside after a little exercise. Photo from Ruth Mercer.

CHERNOBYL'S CHILDREN

COFFEE MORNING

at

THE OLD CHURCH HOUSE, OXHILL

SATURDAY 28TH JUNE

10 a.m. – 12 noon

(if wet in Village Hall)

CAKE, PRODUCE and PLANT STALLS

Any donations of cakes, preserves, plants and raffle prizes will be most welcome.

The Chernobyl children will be attending the Coffee Morning and afterwards will be going for a walk round the village. It would be appreciated if anyone who made a scarecrow for the Festival on 14th & 15th June would put them out again on 28th June, as the children would really love to see them.

Angela Emmerson, 680568

Anne Marshall, 680411

SCARECROW WEEKEND

CAKES AND HELP WANTED!

It's that time of year again! Please may I ask all the cake makers to supply us with all the wonderful cakes, scones, gateaux etc. that help to make this fundraising weekend such a success. Our teas raise hundreds of pounds every year - and we really couldn't do it without you. I will be trying to speak to everyone over the next few weeks (Oh no they cry!). I will be at the Village Hall on Friday June 13th between 7 p.m. and 8 p.m. if anyone would like to drop off their cakes, and again at the Hall on Saturday from about 9.30 a.m.

We also need help serving the teas both on Saturday and Sunday, so if anyone would like to come along and help you would be very welcome. Please contact either myself or Lilian.

Thank you again for all your support. Let's hope we have a really successful weekend and raise loads of money and have lots of fun along the way!

Gaynor Fila, 680473

Lilian Welsby, 680468

ST. LAWRENCE'S CHURCH, OXHILL

SERVICES IN JUNE

All are warmly welcome

Sunday 1st	Trinity II	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion (NM)
Sunday 8th	Trinity III	8.30 a.m.	Holy Communion (ML)
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong (ML)
Sunday 15th	Trinity IV	3.30 p.m.	Scarecrow Weekend Songs of Praise (NM)
Sunday 22nd	Trinity V	9.30 a.m.	Family Service (NM)
Sunday 29th	Trinity VI / St Peter	6.00 p.m.	United Songs of Praise at Whatcote (NM/ML)

APPLICATION FOR ROAD CLOSURE

OXHILL SCARECROW EVENT

Would all villagers kindly note that an application has been granted by Stratford on Avon District Council for the closure of roads in and around the village of Oxhill on Saturday the 14th June and Sunday the 15th June 2008 between 10 a.m. and midnight on Saturday and 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Sunday.

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

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

Access will be maintained to all properties at all times.

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

Mike Collins

[I know you think that this was in last month. Look again - more closely! Ed.]

KINETON OIL CONSORTIUM

The Consortium will be ordering oil again in June.

Please telephone me with your order not later than 6 p.m. on Wednesday 4th June.

D. Harper, 680529

SCARECROW WEEKEND

There will be a meeting in the Village Hall at 7.30p.m. on Tuesday 3rd June for anyone who needs help to make a scarecrow. It would help a lot if you could bring with you either a wooden cross or pieces of wood with which to make one. The upright of the cross needs to be long enough for the full height of the body, with enough at the bottom to stick into the ground, and the crosspiece long enough to make the shoulders.

An old long-sleeved T-shirt and a pair of old leggings make good foundation garments to be stuffed with straw. If you are new to the game come along and we will help you – we have learned as we went along over the last few years. Or you could just come along for a glass of wine or a coffee and a natter.

The straw bales will be at the Village Hall from the weekend of May 28th for you to help yourselves for stuffing the scarecrows.

There is still room in the Old Chapel for a few more tables in the table-top sale; a chance for you to get rid of your old clutter. Tables are provided: the charge is £5 per day.

If you can give any help for an hour or so on stalls or serving teas over the weekend it would be much appreciated. Please give me a ring.

This year we hope to have a bowling competition. It will not be for a pig as in years gone by, but for a cash prize. Any of you men out there who could help with this please contact me. Your help would be wonderful.

If you can provide any prizes for the Tombola we would be grateful. Sweets or a bottle or any small items would all be most suitable. Please let me have them a week or so ahead as it does take a surprisingly long time to get them ready for the stall.

We hope that this year's show will be even better than ever. It is hard work for all of us, but it is also great fun. So come on, Oxhill – let's do it again!

Lilian Welsby, 680468

STRATFORD CYCLE CLUB

On Sunday June 1st there will be three large groups of cyclists coming from Tysoe to Oxhill and turning at the Church to go to Whatcote. They will be coming through Oxhill between 10.15 and 12 noon.

Carol Fox

NATURE NOTES FOR JUNE

Summer afternoon – summer afternoon; to me those have always been the two most beautiful words in the English language. Henry James, 1934

Well, technically June is the first month of summer. It remains to be seen if the weather corresponds. Lord Byron wrote “The English winter – ending in July, to commence in August”!

A big thank you for all those who responded to my request of a “nature watch”. I was pleasantly surprised; over 10% of the village sent me lists and numbers in various forms. I think for a first try that is brilliant and I shall do it again so we can compare numbers each year.

It seems that most gardens round the village support similar varieties and numbers. The most common bird is the House Sparrow, second the Chaffinch, third the Blue tit, fourth Greenfinch, fifth Blackbird. We all seem to have resident Robins, Wrens and Great Tits. Also rather surprisingly (or not?) Wood Pigeon, Collared Doves, and Pheasant, and with those Oxhill mallard still present. Most of us are visited frequently by Starlings, Goldfinches, Coal Tits, Long-tailed Tits and Magpies (I saw no less than 9 sitting on the Chapel roof the other morning. Most of our gardens still get visited by the resident Sparrowhawk. Only the other morning I heard a squawking and, thinking Frank (the cat) had just caught a sparrow, I sprang to the window (well, more a lurch) to shout at him, only to see a male Sparrowhawk drop on to our lawn clutching the still squawking sparrow. With a deft squeeze of its talons it silenced the bird – they usually take a bird from behind with one foot round the head and neck and with a quick movement can break the neck. It stood for a while “hooding” its prey – they hold their wings out and down rather like an umbrella in a natural instinct to hide their prey from any other predator. Then off it went carrying the sparrow to, I suspect, feed its young. They nest in the centre of the village. I was asked the other day if songbird numbers were down because of the Sparrowhawk. Although songbirds are part of their natural diet, they do not have a great impact on numbers. They are not indiscriminate killers and their predatory habits ensure only the fittest songbirds survive. They are in fact a sign of good garden health indicating that there is enough food available for them to survive. This fantastic bird is a sign that you are doing the right thing.

Back to the list. The Crow family feature on everyone’s list. We have a large group of about 30 Jackdaws in the centre of the village and I think just about every house has a pair nesting in one of the chimneys. (Be careful of chimney fires – I know from experience!). We have a colony of Rooks roosting to the south west of the village, and I saw two Rooks on a lawn the other day, which is unusual. We also have several pairs of Carrion Crows nesting in various tall trees in the village. I have mentioned before the pair of walnut-eating Crows that nest near Mrs Rodwell’s house, but I saw something else interesting the other morning in the village centre. A pair of Crows are nesting near to the Chapel and a Grey squirrel (they also feature all around the village)

was obviously making an attempt to steal either eggs or fledglings. Big mistake. One of the Crows pursued the squirrel through the trees, and what was interesting was the manner in which the Crow seemed to both fly, run, and abseil down and through the trees pursuing the squirrel through at least four trees until I lost sight of them as they neared the ground. A minute later the Crow returned, but the squirrel was never seen again!

Thrush numbers are still down, with only seven sightings, as are Dunnock, Siskin, and Bullfinch. Interesting sightings were the Redpolls, a pair of Tree Sparrows, a Reed Bunting, and a Redstart. The Cuckoo has been heard several times, but nothing like it used to be. Only one toad, one frog (in my kitchen) and just a few hedgehogs. We have a family of Muntjac that live and breed in the centre of the village. I was at the top of my garden several weeks ago and I saw one coming along the hedge. I stood perfectly still and it came to within six feet of me, stood and looked at me for about a minute, suddenly through “Ooh er, a human” and scampered off.

And there is one unwelcome visitor that has been seen frequently, the rat.

Finally, at last, just before I sat down to write these notes, I was sitting out at the top of the garden and there it appeared circling quite low over the trees right in the centre of the village – a Red Kite. We watched it for quite a long time. Keep your eyes peeled.

I end these notes with the last line of one of the lists sent: “also ants worms and flies”.

And what is so rare as a day in June?

Then, if ever, come perfect days

Grenville Moore

James Russell Lowell 1848

WEEKDAY WALKERS

Our walk for June is as follows:

Friday 27th June

Oxhill to Tysoe and Whatcote, a basically flat walk of about 9 miles. Lunch will be at “The Royal Oak” in Whatcote. We will meet at St. Lawrence’s Church in Oxhill at 9:30 a.m.

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

NOTES OF THE OXHILL ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 13TH MAY 2008 AT 8.00 P.M. IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Apologies were received from Gwyneth Adams and Hugh Rowse.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

David Hill was re-elected Chairman.

Tom Heritage was re-elected Vice-Chairman.

Declaration of Acceptance of Office forms were duly signed by Councillors and letters stating no changes to their Declarations of financial and other interests. These would be sent to Stratford District Council.

PARISH MEETING

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting were read. This meeting held on 8th April was chaired by Tom Heritage and attended by three persons. There was only one matter arising, that of some rubbish bags being left out days before collection. This practice can attract vermin and we would ask that rubbish bags be put out as near as possible to the day of collection.

MATTERS DISCUSSED

Finance

The Account book of Receipts and Payments was presented for the year ended 31st March 2008 and signed by the Chairman.

The Audit Account was presented with Notes to the Account, Bank reconciliation, and Variation statement. The governance statement was completed and signed by the Chairman.

A notice is posted on the Notice Board inviting examination of the accounts. These can be viewed from 2nd June to 18th July at the clerk's home, Brookside, Back Lane.

The insurance premium of £306.04 was renewed. £150 honorarium including expenses, was accepted by the clerk for the year ended 31st March 2008. A grant of £1000 was given to the Village Hall towards the cost of repairs and improvements to the electrical system.

New Fortnightly Refuse & Re-cycling Service

This service is changing in August. Each household will have 3 bins.

BLUE bin for dry recycling (plastic, cardboard, glass, cans, paper, cartons). This replaces the black boxes.

GREY bin replacing the black plastic bags to be used for all non re-cyclables.

GREEN bin continues for all green waste.

From 2009 kitchen waste can also be put in the green bins. This will allow kitchen waste to be collected each week, one week in the Grey bin and next week in the Green bin.

Handyperson Service

Age Concern in conjunction with Stratford District Council run a Care and Repair handyperson Service for residents over 60 years of age or with a disability. The service is for homeowners or those who privately rent. The minor works carried out are charged at an hourly rate but those who receive benefits could receive free labour. Their phone number 01926 458125.

Meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 8th July 2008 at 8.00 p.m. in the Village Hall.

Angela Kean, Clerk

OXHILL GARDEN CLUB

Umbrellas and stout shoes were the order of the day on our short break to the Arras area of France in May. The trip included a visit to a chateau whose owner had taken on a renovation project of considerable proportions. Another glimpse of a chateau revealed the owner's passion for collecting porcelain and period art.

The sun shone on our visit to an inspirational garden with many contrasting "rooms". The owner/designer expounded on the symbolism of each area and showed great professional knowledge of the plants on display.

The extensive Saturday market in Arras reflected the emphasis on fresh local produce with lots of free sampling!

Thanks go to Lilian for the organising of the trip and being continually optimistic about the weather.

Good weather brought out the buyers for the plant sale at the Village Hall. Thanks to the committee and all those who supplied plants there was a great variety to choose from. Raffle prizes went to Reg Gethin, Carol Fox, Gwyn Adams and Ann Saxton. The total taken was in the region of £200.

Enthusiasts, keep the third Thursday evening in August (21st) free for an interesting garden visit and meal. There will be more details of this at the Garden Party at Lilian Welsby's house on June 19th.

Ann Saxton

WELCOME

A warm welcome to Jane and Mark who have moved in to Duckpool Barn.

Jill Eastaugh

OXHILL SUMMER, by ERH

(Mrs Eliza Hill, born c. 1834, wife of Rev. J.C Hill, Rector of Oxhill 1894 -1905)

An extract from The Link, A Hill family magazine/diary for 1899, now in the Warwick Record Office

Much is said in these days for and against country life, or vegetation as some choose to call it. For my part I would do as the swallow does, stay in the country during the balmy days of summer, and quit it before the winter reigns supreme. One great disadvantage is that one day is so much like another and nothing fresh happens as everyone knows exactly what you are going to do before you are fully aware of your own intentions. During the summer we spend most of our time in the garden where roses grow in abundance. We play croquet and bask in the sun on the lawn. We do occasionally wish the pigs belonging to our neighbour were a little further away, as the evening zephyrs are not of the sweetest when the wind is in a certain quarter, but that is a small matter.

Talking of croquet, it is possible at times to extract a little enjoyment out of the game, but generally it seems to have a particularly soothing almost sleepy effect on people. Usually players forget their turns, and when Green No. 1 is wanted she is discovered intently examining the back of her neighbour's dress, taking notes as to style etc. Then there is a rush and the nearest ball, and of course the wrong one, is struck and general confusion follows.

On one occasion we had a croquet party, and by some mishap our before-mentioned neighbour had not seen the guests arrive, and hearing festive sounds from the other side of the wall, could contain himself no longer, so up came a ladder, next his head appeared, and cautiously taking a good look round he satisfied his curiosity and descended to enjoy his afternoon nap in peace.

In fine weather, we always have tea on the lawn, and a looker-on might wonder at the strange conduct of some of the party caused by the wasps which arrive in large numbers at tea-time. For instance you see one waging war with a handkerchief, another gallantly defending herself with a jam spoon, etc. I sit calmly by, for not being afraid of them they do not trouble me, and it is also necessary that someone should remain calm as Nick is given to taking refuge under the tea table and leaping into the air whenever he sees a wasp to the deadly peril of the table and all upon it.

Cycling is another great pastime, and much excitement was caused in the village last summer when we were a party of five. One old lady gravely assured me afterwards that "she never saw such a sight in her life, no never!" Once, wonder of wonders, a motor cycle strayed this way, and the awe-struck inhabitants, as soon as their surprise would allow them, trotted meekly behind it as fast as they could till it disappeared.

You will doubtless have come to the conclusion by this time that life in Oxhill is not very exciting, but when you want a quiet time away from the noise of the city and the busy haunts of man, you cannot do better than visit this dreamy out-of-the-world little village.

VILLAGE HALL A.G.M.

The A.G.M. was held on Tuesday 29th April. Attendance was low, consisting of the existing committee plus three others. The Chairman reported a successful year with regular lettings and eight special events, only one of which made a loss (and that a very small one). Thanks to a grant of £5,563 from Grants for All the remaining windows had been replaced by new double-glazed ones. The accounts showed that simply to keep the Hall running requires an income in excess of £2,000 and that continual fundraising would therefore be needed. Heartfelt thanks were expressed for the continuing support of the villagers during the past year. Hopefully this will continue.

The Committee all resigned, as required by the rules, and effectively then re-elected themselves with the addition of Derek Harbor and Gaynor van Dijk.

The A.G.M. was then declared closed and the new committee met for the first time, electing Brian Badger as Chairman, John McKail as Treasurer, Judy Badger as Secretary and Gwyn Adams as Lettings Officer.

George Adams

FOR SALE

Two Wests & Elliott Dewpoint Propagator MK 1

Completely enclosed cabinet with timer controlled heating and lighting to provide separate day and night conditions. An air pump maintains humidity levels. It may be set and left for several weeks. Ideal for most plants including heathers, orchids, roses, tropicals etc. Revives sickly plants.

Stand alone frame 48" long x 23" wide.

Room for 6 standard seed trays.

Must be placed in covered place where it is cool.

Mark 2 currently costs £499.

Bargain as space required £40 or offer.

Stewart, 01295 680297

COMPTON VERNEY IN JUNE

Friday 6 June, 2.30 p.m. Grounds tour A 60 minute tour of the 'Capability' Brown parkland.

7 June – 14 December Portraits from Chequers: Kings, Queens and Revolutionaries

Saturday 7 June, 1 p.m. Lecture: The Myth of Cromwell by Lady Antonia Fraser

Sunday 8 June, 1 p.m. Lecture: British Portraits 1500 – 1700

Tuesday 10 June – Thursday 19 June, daily 2.30 p.m. (excluding weekends)

The Kings, Queens and Revolutionaries tour

Friday 13 - Sunday 15 June The Civil War at Compton Verney

ST PETER'S WEEKEND AT WHATCOTE

A weekend to enjoy in beautiful South Warwickshire

June 27th – 29th 2008

'With these Hands'

Flower & Craft Exhibition

Friday June 27th

Concert in Church at 7.30 p.m.

A 'Summer Serenade' - in words & music

featuring Sonia & Pamela Beesley

Tickets £8.50 (booking recommended)

Saturday June 28th & Sunday June 29th

Exhibition of Crafts & Flowers in St Peter's Church

10.00 a.m. – 6.00 p.m.

Coffee & biscuits Cream Teas

Sunday June 29th

Open Air Service for St Peter's Day

in the Church yard at 6.00 p.m.

(in Church if Wet!)

More information and Concert Tickets from

Sue Price, 01295 680007

June Wreford, 01295 680294

Maureen Raybould, 01295 680628

Audrey Caiger, 01295 680015

SHIPSTON DEANERY SYNOD MEETING



Tuesday 10th June

7:30 p.m. for 7:45 p.m.

St Peter's Church, Whatcote

Speakers: Helen McGowan and Janet Sewell

from Divine Inspiration

This is an open meeting and everyone is very welcome

VILLAGE HALL

The Italian Evening held in early May was a most enjoyable event, though there were problems with some of the hot food being uncharacteristically cool. This can be put down to delays in the start of service and the difficulties of keeping large quantities of food hot in the limited facilities in the hall kitchen. Plans are afoot to install a second oven to try and deal with this. The dinner raised over £400 towards hall funds.

The hall is taking a table at the table-top sale over Scarecrow Weekend, so if you have any spare items that could be sold for the benefit of the hall please let Gwyn know on 680286.

Mark off Sunday 13th July on your calendars. We are holding a Bastille Eve Lunch at the hall, with French wines, bread, cheese and paté. Plus a Boule competition. Or Pétanque, if you wish to go that far.

Looking further into the future the annual Progressive Dinner will be on Saturday September 27th and there will be a non-Hallowe'en Night on Friday 31st October. There will be some sort of theme for this, but as yet we have not decided what it will be. Suggestions are welcome! Further details on all these three events will appear in future issues of the News.

George Adams

CHANGES TO PENSIONS CREDIT

The Citizens' Advice Bureau (CAB) are pointing out that official estimates now show that up to four in ten pensioners who are entitled to Pension Credit to top-up their retirement incomes don't claim what they're due and as a result, an estimated £2.5 billion went unclaimed in the 2005/06 year (the latest year where figures are available).

The good news is that once eligible pensioners put in their claim they are entitled to get a whole year's worth of backdated payments as a reward. However there is a provision for the backdating of Pension Credit claims to be changed from October this year. These changes will mean that from October the amount of Pension Credit that will be backdated will reduce to just three months rather than twelve, so the CAB is urging pensioners to claim now while there are still substantial lump sum payments available to them.

I urge all Pensioners with low incomes to contact the CAB without delay and ensure that they receive all to which they are entitled.

I have received the advice printed above. I regret I have mislaid the source and hence cannot provide the correct by-line. Sorry. Editor

VICARAGE NOTES

Scarecrow Weekend June 14th / 15th

We look forward to this splendid annual occasion, support for which we are most grateful! Ongoing thanks to all involved – let's hope the weather will be kind

Diocesan Companionship Links

The diocese of Coventry has developed special links with the Diocese of Kaduna in Nigeria and the Syrian Orthodox Diocese of Jerusalem. Over the years local churches have supported the Jacaranda Farm Project in Kaduna and building of a school in Bethlehem. All are warmly invited to the Old Chapel, Oxhill for a special “cheese and wine” evening at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday June 25th. The evening will include a presentation and update about the companionship links by Ann and Jim Saxton. Do come if you can!

Thought for the month – a prayer for Trinity season (David Adam)

The sacred Three be over me with my working hands this day,
with the people on my way,
with the labour and the toil,
with the land and with the soil,
with the tools that I take,
with the things that I make,
with the thoughts of my mind,
with the sharing of mankind,
with the love of my heart,
with each one who plays a part.

The sacred Three be over me, the blessing of the Trinity.

Best wishes and God bless,

Nicholas Morgan, 01608 685230



STOUR SINGERS

Stour Singers, conducted by their founder-director Richard Emms, gave a very powerful performance of Mozart's 'Requiem' in St Edmund's Church, Shipston-on-Stour on 10th May 2008. The choir was partnered by the Cherwell Orchestra and a splendid quartet of soloists, Lesley-Jane Rogers (soprano), Daniela Lehner (mezzo soprano), Mark Chaundy (tenor) and Aidan Smith (bass). In contrast the Haydn 'Mariazeller Mass' was most joyous work and the choir coped well with the high setting the composer had chosen for the expert musicians at the famous pilgrimage church at Mariazell some 50 miles from Vienna

Stour Singers next concert in St Edmund's is on Saturday 6th December 2008 when the programme will include Vaughan Williams' 'Five Mystical Songs' and 'Fantasia on Christmas Carols' with Christmas Carols for choir and audience.

Rehearsals start on Thursday 18th September at 7.30 p.m. at Shipston Primary School. New members are welcome in all voice parts (no auditions). For more details please contact Vic Twyman on 01608 664215 or visit our website at www.stoursingers.org.uk.

TYSOE MARIONETTE GROUP

Another production has come and gone. "Ali Baba - The Puppet Panto" was put to bed after its sixth and last performance in April 2008, having raised £675 shared between Marie Curie Cancer Care, Mind in Leamington Spa and the Radway Church Bell Fund.

This show was a major effort for our team of 12 involved directly in the performance. Twelve characters were seen on stage, sometimes eight at the same time! Our two stage managers struck and set 7 scenes comprised of 29 pieces of scenery and 12 stage props. During the amazingly short time this took, our audiences were humorously diverted out front by a life-sized Snake Charmer and his basketed Snake (made from a pink sock wearing a large yellow bow, so not to scare away the faint-hearted!) Our techie handled some 70 lighting cues and drove the pre-recorded sound track. One of the stars of the show was a mono-syllabic camel. It is amazing how "Hrrrmph" can be interpreted in so many different ways. The camel also had the job of carting away the bodies generated by the original Arabian story! This involved risk of entanglements, which mercifully were few. The TMG have earned full marks for bravery this year!

Our thanks go to all who participated, including puppeteers, dialogue and singing voices. Especial thanks go to Lisa Curtlin, our musical director and to Margot McCleary who spent many hours on the panto script.

Peter Charlton, Chairman of the British Puppet and Model Theatre Guild (of which our group is a member) wrote in his report on the show - "The scenery and puppets are beautifully made and well handled and the whole company must be congratulated in producing such an enjoyable and accomplished show".

Volunteers are sought for next year's production.

Jon and Ann Beeny, 01295 680431, jonandann@annbeeny.f9.co.uk

WHAT'S ON IN & AROUND OXHILL

June

Tuesday 3rd	10-4.30	Burmington Grange – Shipston Home Nursing Champagne & Shop
	7.30	Village Hall – Scarecrow construction meeting
Wednesday 4th	18.00	Order deadline for Kineton Oil Consortium
Wednesday 11th	7.30	Tysoe Vicarage - Benefice Fellowship
Saturday 14th & Sunday 15th		Scarecrow Weekend
Tuesday 17th	6.00	Whichford House – Opera – see April issue for details
Thursday 19th	7.30	Binswood Cottage – Garden Club Summer Party
Tuesday 24th	23.59	Copy deadline for the News
Wednesday 25th	7.30	Old Chapel - Companionship Links Cheese and Wine
Friday 27th	9.30	St. Lawrence's Church – Weekday Walkers
	7.30	St Peter's Church, Whatcote - Concert
Saturday 28th	10-12	The Old Church House – Chernobyl's Children Coffee Morning
	10-6	St. Peter's, Whatcote – Craft & Flower Show
	6.30	Ilmington Hill – Hog Roast & Country Dance
Sunday 29th	10-6	St. Peter's, Whatcote – Craft & Flower Show

JULY

Tuesday 8th	8.00	Village Hall – Parish Council meeting
Sunday 13th	12.00	Village Hall – Bastille Eve Lunch

SEPTEMBER

Saturday 27th		Progressive Dinner
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OCTOBER

Friday 10th		Armscote House – Harpsichord recital
Friday 31st		Village Hall – Non-Hallowe'en Dinner