

# THE OXHILL NEWS



No. 415  
June 2009

## OXHILL ART GROUP

are holding their first ever

### ART EXHIBITION

in the

### VILLAGE HALL

Tuesday 9th June

7.30 p.m.

All are welcome

£1 entrance to view the paintings, includes a glass of wine

All proceeds to the Village Hall

The art class, which has now been going for a year, meets every Tuesday between 10 a.m. & noon in the Village Hall.

All standards are represented, from beginners upwards. They cover a large range of topics and media under the guidance of Barbara Kenny.

It's fun, hard work, and always includes a cup of coffee and the odd chit-chat.

The group are now finishing their first year by holding the exhibition and, later in the month, paying a visit to Compton Verney. They will meet again in September.

## KINETON OIL CONSORTIUM

If you haven't yet given me your order for oil you should just about have time to get it to me. Please let me have your requirements before 6 p.m. on Wednesday June 3rd.

*D. Harper, 01295 680529*

## JULY ISSUE

Please could I have all copy for the July issue by Midnight on **Tuesday, 23rd 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 PHOTO

Wild Pear (*Pyrus pyraeaster*), photographed early May on the back road out of Whatcote going towards Brailes.

*"In the parish of Whatcote, Warwickshire, there are some 20 mature pear trees, not in an orchard, but spread out over several hundred acres of farmland in hedgerows. Apparently the village was once noted for its perry, made from the fruit" – Flora Britannica*

*Grenville Moore*

# SCARECROW WEEKEND

## Saturday 20th & Sunday 21st June

This is now less than a month away! The straw will be at the village hall any day now and we will have the usual meeting in the hall on Friday 12th at 7.30 to help anybody put a scarecrow together. Come along and have a coffee or glass of wine.

Will anyone who would be willing to open their garden please let me know as soon as possible so that George can mark it on the map.

Items to be sold on the stalls are very much needed, as are raffle prizes. Please could you let me have them the week before the event. If you have plants for the plant stall please see Janet's notice elsewhere in the News.

Please try to put your scarecrows out on the Friday evening, or anyway by 10 a.m. on Saturday, because we do seem to get people coming round early.

If you are good with flowers we could really do with your help decorating the Church. We will be there all day on Thursday 18th; please come along if you can help.

Gaynor Fila will be delighted to hear from you if you can help her in any way with teas and cakes. Please call her on 680472. As usual we will need a lot of cakes! I know many of you make more than one, but this year we need loads as for the first time ever we ran out on Sunday afternoon last year. All offers to help serve teas, even if only for an hour, would be great.

As this is our fifth year for scarecrows it is getting more difficult to think up new ideas, but I am sure you will all come up trumps and fill the village with scarecrows new and old. Let's have another wonderful weekend.

*Lilian, 680468*

# CHERNOBYL'S CHILDREN

## COFFEE MORNING

at

### The Old Church House

Oxhill

(in the event of wet weather in the Old Methodist Chapel)

## Saturday 27th June

10 a.m. – 12 noon

Cake, Produce and Plant Stalls

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

This year we hope to involve all the children in organised activities

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 20th & 21st June would put them out again on 27th, as I am sure the children would really love to see them.

*Angela Emmerson, 680565*

*Anne Marshall, 680411*

# ST. LAWRENCE'S CHURCH, OXHILL

## SERVICES IN JUNE

All are warmly welcome

Sunday 7th	The Holy Trinity	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion (ML)
Sunday 14th	Trinity I	6.30 p.m.	Evensong (ML)
Sunday 21st	Trinity II	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion (ML)
Sunday 28th	Trinity III	9.30 a.m.	Family Service (NM)

## OXHILL PCC ELECTION RESULT

At the AGM of the Oxhill PCC held on 29th April 2009 the Committee was elected as follows:

### Officers

Carol Fox	Churchwarden
Charles MacCall	Churchwarden
James Synge	Treasurer
Diane Harper	Electoral Roll Officer
Linda Synge	Secretary
Bill Fox	Clerk of Works
Carol Fox	Deanery Synod Representative
Douglas Nethercleft	Deanery Synod Representative (Ex Officio)

### Other Members

Janet Gardner	Linda Heritage	Gill Rodwell
Lilian Welsby	Jo Van Dyk	

### Sidesmen

All P.C.C. members were elected as Sidesmen together with Rosemary Brown.

The meeting was presided over by Canon Reverend Nicholas Morgan.

*Carol Fox, Churchwarden, 680223*

## LAMB ROAST & CURRY LUNCH

It was a lovely day on Sunday May 10th; many thanks to Graeme and Posy for giving up their house and garden for our lunch.

It was a wonderful setting, and over 40 people turned up for good food and company. My thanks go to the curry and puds makers and of course to Carol and Tom for their excellent lamb. Thanks are also due to all those who supported the function, which raised over £340 for Church funds.

*Lilian*



## VIVE LA FRANCE!

Following last year's successful event the Village Hall Committee is, by popular request, repeating its French Lunch and Boules Competition, this year on Sunday 19th July.

We hope to involve all age groups in the village. Teams will again be competing for the Gardner Cup.

### **No experience necessary!**

Tickets, £6.50 adults and £3 children, will include a *déjeuner* of cheeses, patés, French bread, salads and French tarts.

Please contact Angela Emmerson (680565) for tickets. Early bookings would be greatly appreciated by the caterers and tournament organisers.

Further details will be provided in the July News.

## WEEKDAY WALKERS

Our walks for June will this time be as follows:

### **Friday 12th June**

This walk is based on Flora Thompson's famous trilogy, 'Larkrise to Candleford'. It is a 6.80 mile walk starting at Cottisford and going via Juniper Hill and Tusmore with 100 feet of ascent. On this walk we will have a picnic lunch, leaving the food in one of the cars at an appropriate point on the walk. We will leave Oxhill at 10:00 a.m.

### **Friday 26th June**

This is a 6 mile walk from Swalcliffe to Shutford with 350 feet of ascent. Lunch will be at "The George & Dragon" in Shutford. We will leave Oxhill at 10:00 a.m.

Please contact Jim Saxton on 01295 680613 or at [saxton@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:saxton@tiscali.co.uk) before the Thursday prior to the walk.

## MUSIC IN ST PETER'S WHATCOTE

### **Saturday June 27th 2009**

(in conjunction with Shipston Proms)

played by "Hunters' Key"

'Hunters' Key' is made up of five members of one family. Between two parents and three girls, they play a wide variety of instruments; violin, guitar, recorders, keyboard, flute, oboe, cello, harp, cornet, trumpet, bodhran, tenor viol and bass viola da gamba. They perform regularly at ceilidhs, charitable events, weddings, churches and music festivals. The younger members of the family played in front of the Queen during her visit to Banbury in 2008, and they have recently performed in front of Princess Alexandra at the Savoy Chapel.

The concert is at 7.30 p.m. and will include Scottish folk music, a Baroque Trio Sonata, and classical and jazz repertoire for a variety of instruments including harp, viola da gamba, flute, violin and cornet. This promises to be a very enjoyable evening listening to a very talented local family who obviously love music making.

Tickets are £7.00, accompanied children free, available from Sue Price 01295 680007. There will be light refreshments in the interval and a raffle run by Shipston Proms.

## NATURE NOTES FOR JUNE

*This is the month of Roses, and their beauty and fragrance conjure up again many in poetical creation which memory had buried. This is the season to wander into the fields and woods, with a volume of sterling poetry for companionship, and compare the descriptive passages with the objects that lie around. We never enjoy reading portions of Spenser's Faery Queen so much as when among the great green trees in summer.*

Chambers Book of Days.

..... two buzzards are sitting on fence posts six metres apart. They have been feeding together on a rabbit carcase. They sit, preen, clean and air their feathers. Completely ignoring the buzzards is a group of four or five crows on the ground squabbling about something. A raven flies over chortling to himself in that wonderful deep throaty croak and the crows all immediately take off to “escort” him out of their territory. As this is happening my attention is caught by a sound – pee-wit pee-wit, the unmistakable call of a lapwing. No more than 100 metres away a pair of lapwings are putting on a most fantastic aerial display – climbing and climbing then suddenly changing into a twisting, rolling dive and then an upward twist and a flurry of rapid buzzing wing beats, then repeating the whole thing again, very close together as if in synchronised flying. The Anglo-Saxons used the word hleapewince which has the quite beautiful meaning of a “leap with a waver in it” which conveys so well the tremulous power of the lapwing’s flight, and this is the origin of the bird’s name. Within minutes they are on the ground, the female standing quietly, almost aloof, while the male displays by making nest scrapes, breast touching the ground, head going from side to side, and rear end tilted up to the heaven showing off his striking rust-coloured under tail, the iridescent green on his wings glistening in the morning sunlight, then standing upright and stretching his head up with a nodding motion, showing off his magnificent long head crest, then running forward and starting the whole procedure again. Meanwhile to my left a fat song thrush fledgling is in the middle of the lawn demanding food, the parents hurriedly flying backwards and forwards bringing their offspring tasty morsels. As I stand watching all this, just behind me is a old stone trough filled with plants where I have noticed a pied wagtail, beak full of grubs, patiently waiting on a nearby wall. I carefully and gently separate and look through the plants and there it is, packed tightly in amongst the leaves and the base of the plants, a nest with five baby wagtails. I quickly move away, allowing the adults to carry on their task of rearing their chicks.

This entire episode lasted no more than ten minutes. I was working at a farmhouse a couple of miles from Oxhill. The lapwings were on a field of old stubble next to the house. The owner of the house phoned the farmer, and hopefully the field will not be ploughed until the lapwings have nested and reared their young. She was also about to replant the trough, so this also has been put on hold.

Many thanks to the four people who have provisionally volunteered to join the Parish Biodiversity Group. I will call our first meeting shortly, and if anyone else would like to join, please contact me. As things progress, I will keep the village informed via these nature notes.

*Sea travel to foreign parts reckoned to be safe after midsummer; guard against sea-sickness and outlandish food. Concerning the diet of the French, it is nothing so good or plentiful as ours, they contenting themselves many times with mean viands. As for the poor peasant, he is fain oftentimes to make up his meal with a mushroom, or his Grenoilles (in English; mere frogs)*

The Compleat Gentleman, Henry Peacham, 1634.

Grenville Moore

# NOTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 12TH MAY 2009 AT 8.00 P.M. IN THE VILLAGE HALL

All Councillors were present.

## **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

David Hill was voted to continue as Chairman, and Tom Heritage to continue as Vice Chairman.

Grenville Moore was welcomed as a member of the Parish Council and duly signed his Acceptance of Office. Declaration of Financial and other Interests documents were signed by all Councillors

## **MATTERS DISCUSSED**

Annual Parish Meeting held on 7th April

Only two people attend this meeting and there were no matter arising.

### **Finance**

Accounts and Receipts & Payments Book for year ended 31 March 2009 was signed by the Chairman. Annual Return for audit for this period was presented with Bank Reconciliation, Notes to the Account and Variation to the Accounts and signed by the Chairman and Clerk. The Annual Governance Statement was also approved and signed. Accounts can be view at the Clerk's home during June.

A £150 honorarium, (including expenses) was accepted by the Clerk for the year ended 31 March 2009. Mandatory insurance cover of £317.03 would be paid. £345.71 had been paid to the Village Hall towards the cost of tiling the kitchen. 60% of the cost had been granted by Stratford District Council.

### **Highways**

The Highways Department would be asked to fill in pot holes at the junction by the Village Hall.

### **NHS Oxfordshire**

The Better Healthcare Programme for Horton Hospital is continually being updated. Their website is: [www.oxfordshirepct.nhs.uk/news/horton-hospital](http://www.oxfordshirepct.nhs.uk/news/horton-hospital)

### **Parish Biodiversity Action Plan**

Grenville reported on the steering group meeting he had attended and will be doing a separate write-up in the Oxhill News.

### **Community Supported Agriculture Scheme**

This initiative from Tysoe was discussed. The Parish Council could support such a scheme but have asked for more information on how exactly it will work in practice.

## **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 14th July 2009 at 8.00 p.m. in the Village Hall.

*Angela Kean, Clerk*

## FROM SHIPSTON POLICE

### **Theft of Plant - Tysoe**

Sometime between 17.30 on 5th May and 8.00 on 6th May two Takeuchi Mini Excavators, grey and red in colour, were stolen from a building site on Main Street, Tysoe. It is believed a lorry or low loader would have been used to remove the two items of plant which weighed some 2-3 tons in combined weight. If you can remember seeing or hearing anything suspicious between the above times, please call your local police on 01789-444670 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111 quoting incident number 75/06.05.09.

### **Theft from Garden Sheds**

A number of shed burglaries have recently occurred in the Butlers Marston, Tysoe and Ettington areas. Garden machinery and power tools are the most common items stolen and the Shipston SNT are urging the community to reassess their garden security. Please read below for ideas on how to keep your garden safe.

Check your boundary fences, walls and gates. Keep them in good repair as they do provide a useful barrier to the would-be thief. Consider the use of plant protection such as the thorny shrubs - Pyracantha, Berberis, etc.

Ensure that your household insurance policy covers theft from your garden and outbuildings.

Install outside security lighting, preferably from dusk until dawn. With sheds and other small buildings fit at least one heavy duty hasp and close shackle padlock plus strong hinges all with coach bolts bolted through the door and frame for extra strength.

Where possible, secure all the machinery/tools inside with a chain and padlock. Smaller items are not only often stolen, but regularly used to break into your house, or a neighbour's home or shed.

Fit any windows with a grille inside the shed.

A shed alarm can be obtained at a reasonable price.

Property mark all valuables such as lawnmowers, hedge trimmers and garden furniture. Post coding can be done with ultra violent marking pens, engraving, stamping or even paint. A SmartWater property marking kit is another product that can be used to act as a deterrent to theft/burglary offences - [www.smartwater.com](http://www.smartwater.com) for details.

## SCARECROW WEEKEND PLANT STALL

Friday 19th June, between 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., is when we are hoping you will remember to bring you surplus plants to Oddcot (next to the Old Chapel) to be sold in aid of Air Ambulance and St. Lawrence church.

We hope you have remembered! See you there!

*Janet Gardner, 680280*

## VILLAGE HALL AGM

The Village Hall AGM was held on 28th April.

John McKail, the Treasurer reported to the meeting that the year had been very profitable. The functions held throughout the year had all been well attended and have raised in excess of two and a half thousand pounds. The Village Hall has also received grants of over £10,000.

Brian Badger, the Chairman, then gave his report to the meeting. He said that the profits made from the functions together with the grants that were awarded to the hall have made it possible to carry out several necessary maintenance jobs. The beam in the main hall has been repaired and the hall has been completely redecorated. Some major improvements have also been made to the hall. A new front and back door have been fitted and soft lighting installed. Stratford District Council and Oxhill Parish Council have together funded the fitting of wall tiles in the kitchen and toilets which now look very smart and with a £5,000 grant from the Heart of England Foundation a new damp proofing system has been installed. The new drinks cooler in the bar and new fridge in the kitchen have put an end to warm beer and white wine!

Brian thanked the Committee and their families for all the hard work they have put in throughout the year. He said he wanted to give a special thank you to those villagers who are not on the Committee but who have also worked hard to make this year so successful. He specifically named Sue Robbins who continues to look after the garden and Dot Richards who helps to clean the village hall.

A new Committee was elected and the officers are:

Chairman	Brian Badger	688010
Treasurer	John McKail	680412
Lettings	Tricia Harbour	680676
Secretary	Judy Badger	688010

*Judy Badger, Secretary*

## SHIPSTON HOME NURSING

invite you to

CHAMPAGNE & SHOP

TUESDAY JUNE 2nd 2009, 10.00 a.m.-5.00 p.m.

by kind invitation of Patrick and Fudge Ramsay

BURMINGTON GRANGE

BURMINGTON

CV36 5HZ

Entrance £5 to include coffee, homemade biscuits and a glass of Champagne

We have lots and lots of beautiful new stalls coming along, for you to enjoy a Spring day in the Ramsay's truly stunning garden with the roses bursting open!

Stratford Police Station,  
Rother Street,  
Stratford upon Avon.  
Warwickshire.  
CV37 6RD  
Tel no. (01789) 414111  
Fax no. (01926) 415653

13th May, 2009

**Open letter to the Residents of the Shipston area concerning the temporary closure of Shipston Police Station**

Dear Resident

The Chief Constable and the Police authority remain committed to neighbourhood policing and to retaining a modern and fit for purpose police station in Shipston on Stour. As you may be aware a major refurbishment of the existing police station is due to take place this year and we are hopeful that it will be completed within a three-month time scale. We anticipate that the work will start no later than July 2009. The police station will be closed to the public for the duration of the building work and your Safer Neighbourhood team will temporarily be based at Wellesbourne. The option of a time-staged refurbishment was considered but was discounted due to operational reasons and the significant additional use of public funds this would incur.

I am aware that this temporary closure may cause some concerns within the community and because of this I wish to reassure you that the policing cover across the area will not be compromised.

I am grateful to Shipston Town Council for the offer of alternative police accommodation within the town for the duration of the building work but we have had to decline this kind offer due to the prohibitive costs of providing secure computer links and ensuring the required level of security to protect sensitive information.

A plan has been put in place to ensure that the protection we offer and police cover provided is not compromised by this temporary closure. I have provided an extra regular Safer Neighbourhood team officer to Shipston, have sourced a mobile police station to be deployed locally and will be personally monitoring the temporary closure and any negative effects it may have locally.

Having seen the plans for the new Police station I am personally convinced that the short term loss of your Police Station is the right thing as it will provide a modern and fit for purpose Police Station in Shipston for the future and will ultimately allow us to provide better protection and a better service locally.

*Patrick Devereux, Inspector (Safer Neighbourhoods Teams)*  
*Stratford upon Avon District*

## VICARAGE NOTES

### Spring Lunch

I know the lunch on May 10th was really well supported and thanks must go to all who worked hard that day. I was away that weekend helping my mother celebrate her 85th birthday. She has enjoyed coming to the village on a number of occasions and, like many of Oxhill's octogenarians, is very active.

### Thought for the month

I showed some young confirmation candidates a medieval carving at Brailes a few weeks ago. It is of a head with 3 faces – 3 noses and mouths but only 4 eyes as there's some sharing going on. It is an old craftsman's interpretation of God as Trinity. Complex debates have raged over the definition of Christian belief in God – the "Quicunque Vult" in the Book of Common Prayer may well give you a headache!

Debate arises because belief stems from experience. People have sensed that the world is divinely ordered, that in Jesus God was truly revealed, and that through us the Spirit of God may breathe. I like the carving, though – it's simple!

Trinity Sunday begins the long teaching season of the church and the liturgical colour of green is a symbol of life itself, a life that should be full of blessings that we long the whole world to share – remember the eyes.

*God bless, Nicholas Morgan 01608 685230*

## TYSOE TENNIS CLUB

The tennis courts are looking very smart with their new fencing – all ready for the summer season!

Summer league matches are underway. Both A and B mixed teams were promoted last year so face some challenging matches (i.e. are hoping for a win soon!). We're planning to hold more friendly matches against other clubs this season to give new players some match experience - and the chance to sample a wider selection of cakes! For those who enjoy social tennis, our regular club mix-ins take place on Tuesday evenings and Sunday mornings. New players of any standard are welcome to come and play before they join. Junior coaching for all ages is every Friday evening.

A reminder that students home over the summer can join for as little as £20 for the year. Members can bring a guest for £3. For more details of what is probably the cheapest tennis in Warwickshire, call Carol Spencer on 01295 680659 or visit our website: [www.tysoetennisclub.co.uk](http://www.tysoetennisclub.co.uk)

## STOUR SINGERS

The recent concert in St. Edmund's Church, featuring Haydn's 'Creation' was a great success. The next concert will include Bach's Magnificat and Mozart's Regina coeli, with Christmas Music for choir and audience, on Sat. 5th December in St Edmund's. Rehearsals will start on Thurs. 10th Sept at 7.30 p.m. in Shipston Primary School. New members are welcome; please contact Victor Twyman on 01608 664215.

## WHAT'S ON IN & AROUND OXHILL

### ***June***

Tuesday 2nd	10.00	Village Hall – Mobile Library
	10-5	Burmington Grange – Shipston Home Nursing
		Grey bin refuse collection
Wednesday 3rd	10.30	The Peacock – Village Coffee Morning
	6.00	Kineton Oil Consortium Order Deadline
		Village Hall – W.I. – ‘Dowsing for Health’
Tuesday 9th		Blue & Green bin collection
	7.30-9	Village Hall – Art Exhibition
Friday 12th	10.00	Weekday Walkers
Tuesday 16th		Grey bin refuse collection
Wednesday 17th	12.00	The Peacock – Village Lunch
Friday 19th	p.m.	Oddcot – Plants for Plant Stall delivery
Saturday 20th & Sunday 21st		Scarecrow Weekend
Tuesday 23rd	10.00	Village Hall – Mobile Library
		Blue & Green bin collection
	23.59	Copy deadline for the News
Thursday 25th		Garden Club Garden Party
Friday 26th	10.00	Weekday Walkers
Saturday 27th	10-12	The Old Church House – Chernobyl’s Children Coffee Morning
	7.30	St. Peter’s, Whatcote – ‘Hunters’ Key’ Concert
Tuesday 30th		Grey bin refuse collection

### ***July***

Tuesday 14th	8.00	Village Hall – Parish Council Meeting
Sunday 19th	12.00	Village Hall – Lunch & Boules Tournament
Thursday 23rd		Garden Club visit to Rousham Gardens

### ***August***

Friday 14th		Garden Club visit to Royal Shrewsbury Show
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### ***September***

Sunday 20th		Spit-roast lunch, treasure & duck hunt
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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**