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# THE OXHILL NEWS

March 2012

No. 448



Lillian Welsby, long time resident and active member in the village is sadly leaving Oxhill.

*Editors:*

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*news-editor@oxhill.org.uk*

## 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-editor@oxhill.org.uk](mailto:news-editor@oxhill.org.uk) or place paper contributions in the box labelled 'The Oxhill News' in St Lawrence's Church.

The copy deadline for the April edition is March 15th 2012.

## MOBILE LIBRARY

The library van has books with **large print**, ordinary print, picture books, children's books, paperbacks, non-fiction, novels, sagas, crime, mysteries, adventures, westerns and romance. The van also has talking books, cassettes and CDs.

The library van will continue to visit Oxhill every 3rd Wednesday, stopping at the Village Hall at 10am and staying there for 30 minutes. The van will visit us on Wednesday 7th and 28th March.

You can renew books between van visits by calling 01926 851031 or online at [www.Warwickshire.gov.uk/wild](http://www.Warwickshire.gov.uk/wild)

## REFUSE COLLECTION

Recycling and green waste bins (blue and green bins) will be collected on Tuesdays 13th and 27th March.

The grey rubbish bins will be collected Tuesdays 6th and 20th March.

## WEEKDAY WALKERS

The following are the planned walks for March:

March 9th – A 4.7 mile circular from North Newington with 250 feet of ascent. Lunch will be at The Blinking Owl, North Newington - Leaving Oxhill at 9:45am.

March 23rd – A 4.5 mile circular walk from Todenham with 300 feet of ascent. Lunch will be at The Farriers Arms, Todenham – 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](mailto:saxton@tiscali.co.uk) before the Tuesday evening prior to the walk.**

## FOND FAREWELL TO LILLIAN!

Lillian Welsby is leaving Oxhill! An active resident for about 60 years, Lillian has contributed an enormous amount to the village - particularly in her highly effective fund-raising activities such as the Scarcrow Weekend and many others. For years she has been responsible for the Church's fabulous flower arrangements - I am personally grateful for the beautiful flowers she did for my wedding. We wish her the best of luck in her new home in Brailles!

## WARM WELCOME

As we bid farewell to Lillian, we also extend a warm welcome to Gill & Roger Goodman who have just moved into the village on Whatcote Rd. We hope this is the beginning of a long and happy life in Oxhill!

**OMG!**

*Oxhill Music Group*

## OXHILL HAS GOT TALENT!

Jubilee Orchestra

A lovely little session was had on the 4th Feb. A few apologies were made prior to the meeting so we had to improvise slightly. But generally, a good sound is forming. The next rehearsal will have happened by the time *The Oxhill News* is out but the next one will be Saturday 10th March at 3pm and I will let you know where that will be taking place! But thank you to all – keep practising, especially the new songs I've given you!

Jubilee Choir.

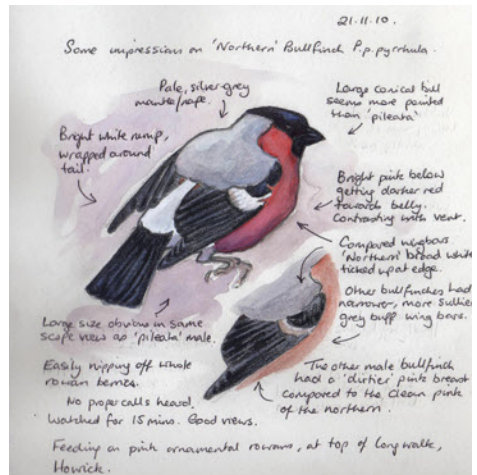
Finally!! Feb 4th meeting really was a huge turning point. What a brilliant turn out! I am now so much more confident that we can do this! A huge thank you to everyone that braved the snow, and made it round to our house. After running through a few songs, the sound was already pretty fantastic and a tea break was well deserved. We still have a lot of work to do, but now there are more people, it's going to be manageable. Nevertheless, my articles in here can't all be good news. I NEED MORE MEN. So ladies, PLEASE kick your men out of the house for an hour or so on a Saturday afternoon to come and sing. I could do with so much more male support! The next rehearsal on the 18th Feb was again, fantastic. So much more confidence and we're really starting to get familiar with the songs and the harmonies, so well done everyone! The next choir rehearsal will be Saturday 3rd March, 4pm at Struan, Whatcote Road. Don't forget, if there are any people that still would like to join, please feel free to come along!

## NATURE NOTES FOR MARCH

March takes its name from Mars (Martius) the god of war. This was the month when military campaigns generally began, after the end of winter. In the early Roman calendar it was the first month of the year:

*I Martius am! Once first, and now the third!  
To lead the Year was my appointed place;  
A Mortal dispossessed me by a word  
And set there Janus with the double face  
Hence I make war on all the human race.*

On a lighter note, I have been cheered over the last few weeks by watching a pair of bullfinches on one of our feeders. In Chaucer's *The Romaunt of the Rose* he refers to bullfinches as Alpes and other finches as "jolly briddes smale" and he described them filling the air of a May morning with "the sweetness of hir melodye". Other names for the bullfinch exist such as Oif, Hoop, Mawp, Blood Olp, Black Nob Monk, Budding bird and Lum Budder; these last two make reference to the birds' partiality to fruit buds. Chaucer makes reference in the *Romaunt* garden to "many hoomly trees" among them ash, apple, plum, pear, medlar and cherry, all very agreeable to this finch. They have distinct preferences as to variety, favouring James Grieve and one or two other dessert apples to cookers. It is interesting to note that amongst the cherries, only Morello buds are really appreciated; Conference, Williams and Dr Jules pears are eagerly sought, though Comice and Hardy are ignored. All types of plum seem to be relished, gages in particular. The bullfinch will feed greedily on early buds with a capacity for eating 30 buds a minute, causing immense damage to orchards and fruit bushes. This led to persecution. In Elizabethan England a statute was passed outlawing the 'bulfynch' with a bounty of a penny a head, and until relatively recently many thousands were killed every year by commercial fruit growers. Thankfully today it is illegal to kill or trap bullfinches (except under special licence) because of the disastrous downward trend in the British population.



They are truly a delight to see in the garden, especially with the sun catching the deep warm red breast of the male, which is set off by the glossy jet black cap, bib and tail. The female is more of a gentle buff-pink and they always seem to be in pairs, although I can find no reference to them pairing for life. You can attract them into your garden by putting out a feeder with a good quality finch mix containing sunflower seeds.

*In the Spring a fuller crimson comes upon the robin's breast;  
In the Spring the wanton Lapwing gets himself another crest;  
In the Spring a livelier iris changes on the burnished dove;  
In the Spring a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love*

Tennyson, 1841

Don't forget though, March is not always a pleasant month:

*"March is the month that God designed to show those who don't drink what a hangover is like".* Garrison Keillor

*Grenville Moore*

## APPLICATION FOR ROAD CLOSURE OXHILL DIAMOND JUBILEE EVENT

Would all villages kindly note that an application has been made to Stratford on Avon District Council for the closure of roads in and around the village of Oxhill on Sunday the 3rd and Monday the 4th June 2012 between 10am and midnight on both days.

Details of closure – Main Street & Church Lane, Oxhill - for their full length. Main Street from the junction with Kinton Road and Whatcote Road at one end of the village until it becomes Church Lane and continuing to it's junction with Green Lane and Tysoe Road adjacent to the Church at the other end of the village. The length of Main Street between the Pub and its junction with Back Lane will be used for a Street Party and other Diamond Jubilee event activities. This full closure is desirable to ensure the safety of all taking part in the event by diverting traffic away from the centre of the village.

Diversionary Route – the alternative route during the period of closure will be via Green Lane and the Whatcote Road and 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 Mike Collins on 680564 or by e-mail to [diamond.jubilee@oxhill.org.uk](mailto:diamond.jubilee@oxhill.org.uk)



# ST. LAWRENCE’S CHURCH

## SERVICES IN MARCH

*All are warmly welcome*

**Sunday 4th Lent II:** 9.30am Parish Communion (ML)

**Sunday 11th Lent III:** 9.30am Morning Worship (BR)

**Sunday 18th Lent IV Mothering Sunday:** 9.30am Special Family Service (ML) - all warmly invited

**Sunday 25th Lent V:** 9.30am Parish Communion (NM)

*For other services in the benefice please see porch notice board*

## **Funerals: Remembered with thanksgiving**

February 1st Steven Doe (Interment at Oxhill)

## VICARAGE NOTES

Dear friends,

### **Lent 2012**

Deanery Lent services are on Tuesdays as usual - posters and flyers listing the venues and speakers are available at the back of church. All are made very welcome. Please put March 13th in your diaries – the service will be here at St. Lawrence’s. Please note that the service on the 18th will be a special family service, so the following week will be a communion.

### **The Pilgrim Path**

I read of yet another celebrity going into “rehab” again – all very sad – and one wonders how people become caught in a downward spiral of drink and drugs. Is it a weakness in character, the pressures of life, or simply the inability to say no. There are challenges in life and along our pilgrim path there will be good times and bad. We need both to give and receive support at such times, and in the Christian faith many find extra strength. Bunyan’s old story tells how Christiania finds a moment of respite listening to the shepherd boy who sings about being content with what he has “little be it or much”, and how “he that is humble ever shall have God to be his guide”. Appropriate words for Lent, I suspect!

Best wishes and God bless,

**Nicholas Morgan 01608 685230**

# DEANERY NEWS FOR MARCH

## Lent Services:

Once again we look forward to welcoming you to our series of Deanery Lent Services. This year we are following 'The Coventry Way', written by John Irvine, Dean of Coventry Cathedral, which looks at the commitments of the Benedictine discipline in the context of Reconciliation, i.e. Scripture, Study, Silence, Supplication, Sharing, Stewardship and Service (but not necessarily in that order!) Booklets will be available at a cost of £1 each. Hopefully, people will be able to continue looking at these themes in housegroups etc – extended notes for housegroups will be sent out nearer the time.

All services are on Tuesday during Lent at 7.30pm: my thanks to all those hosting services.

Tuesday, February 28th, in Newbold: Ven. Dr. Gordon Kuhrt (Scripture)

Tuesday, March 6th, in Darlingscott: Rev. Canon David Cook (Silence)

Tuesday, March 13th, in Oxhill: Rev. Canon Paul Wignall (Study)

Tuesday, March 20th, in Long Compton: Rev. Dr. Simon Jones (Supplication)

Tuesday, March 27th, in Honington: Rev. Canon Andrew Dow (Service)

Tuesday, April 3rd, in Brailes: Holy Communion for holy Week, with Ven.

Morris Rodham (Sharing/Stewardship)

## Coventry Diocesan Pilgrimage:

At the end of March, in the week leading up to Palm Sunday, a Coventry Pilgrimage is taking place. The 50-mile route encircling the city of Coventry calls at many churches for prayer, reflection and worship. **During this week the Bishop of Coventry and the Bishop of Warwick will also be undertaking their own, complementary pilgrimages crossing through parishes in the north and south of the Diocese.**

Bishop Christopher will walk for four days, beginning on Sunday the 25th of March in Shipston, heading north and finishing in Kenilworth at St Nicholas Church: his timetable for the four days currently looks like this – timings are approximate:

Sun March 25th, 8.30 am Eucharist in St. Edmunds, Shipston

9.30 am – 4.30pm: *Shipston to Whatcote to Middle Tysoe*

Mon March 26th, 9.00am – 4.30pm: *Middle Tysoe to Ratley to Burton Dassett*

Tues March 27th, 9.00am – 4.30pm: *Burton Dassett to Harbury to Radford Semele*

Wed March 28th, 9.00am – 4.30pm: *Radford Semele to Leamington/Warwick to Kenilworth*

**More details nearer the time—but we hope lots of you will be able to join in.**

*Every blessing, Jill*

[revjill.tucker@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:revjill.tucker@tiscali.co.uk) 01295 688193



## OXHILL VILLAGE HALL – UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Friday Night @ The Village Hall – 2 March 2012**

One of our ever popular Friday Night events with a Lamb Hotpot (to celebrate St. David's Day on 1 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 – 18 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 – 27 April 2012**

A Friday Night celebrating the 'Best of British' of commemorate St George's Day and Shakespeare's birthday earlier that week with traditional pies and puds. Always a successful event and not to be missed, so put it in your diary now! Tickets from Gaynor van Dyke on 680349, or Trish Harbour on 680676.

### **Irish Singer/Songwriter, Kieran Goss comes to Oxhill – 26 May 2012**

The celebrated singer/songwriter Kieran Goss comes to the The Village Hall in Oxhill on Saturday May 27th. You can sample his music on [www.kierangoss.com](http://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.

## OXHILL VILLAGE HALL – PICTURES WANTED

We are refurbishing the entrance hall of the Village Hall and as part of this scheme would like to include some pictures of the hall and events from the past. Our plan is to scan the photos into a computer and then have them printed as a montage on to a large piece of vinyl.

Therefore, it would be great if you have pictures (colour or black and white) of events from the past that you would be willing to have scanned and the originals will be returned to you undamaged, as part of this project.



We would like to complete the exercise before the Queen's Jubilee on 3 & 4 June and whilst that seems a long way away, it isn't really a project of this nature. Consequently, we would like to receive your photos (or copies) before the end of March to ensure we hit our target dates.

Please deliver your photos in a self-addressed envelope, to Stuart Whittaker at The Stables, Rouse Lane, Oxhill, you can put them through the letterbox if no-one is home and once they have been scanned (please allow 4 weeks for this process) they will be returned to you. We will take very good care of your photos.

If you have images (scanned or digital) in jpeg format then they can be emailed to Stuart at [s70art@btinternet.com](mailto:s70art@btinternet.com)

*Thanks, Derek Harbour*

## AFTERNOON DELIGHT

Despite the intense cold 15 people braved the weather to tackle canal-ware art on the ninth of February. I hope it is warmer by the twenty-third!

### **Thursday March 8th**

We aim to knit Easter Chicks again so they can be used by Katherine House Hospice - they put a cream egg inside and it is a good fund raiser for them.

### **Thursday March 22nd**

This will see us (or some of us in my case) making Easter cards.

Later in the year we aim to make some of the bunting that will be used to decorate the village for the Jubilee celebrations.

Please come and join us - you do not need to tackle the 'craft of the day' if you don't want to, you can just come for a social afternoon and meet others from Oxhill and the surrounding villages.

If you have any queries please contact me on 680286.

*Gwyn Adams*

# THE QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE REPORT

## The Big Jubilee Lunch

Restaurants apparently are booming, especially in London, but the hottest food for 2012 is going to be street party food with a serious message – fun and community.

The Slow Food Movement promotes long relaxed Sunday lunches, so with all this in mind our hope is to get the whole village (or as near as possible) sitting down together on the Jubilee Sunday to enjoy a long, relaxed, fun Sunday lunch. The plan is to put tables down Main Street from the Pub along the road to Back Lane. The catering team (and we still need volunteers) will prepare whole hams, to be carved at the table, whole salmon, hot buttered and dressed new potatoes, accompanied by numerous salads. That's where the village comes in. We are asking as many households as possible to grow just two or three lettuces or some salad leaves, this way we won't have to purchase expensive salads – dig for Oxhill!

Desserts will take the form of a myriad of multi-coloured jellies – nostalgic and retro – different types, some packed with oranges, some with strawberries and raspberries, and much more, with lashings of cream, and then cheese to follow. You can't miss out on this – and it's all free! (*MC panic - See Note Following!*)

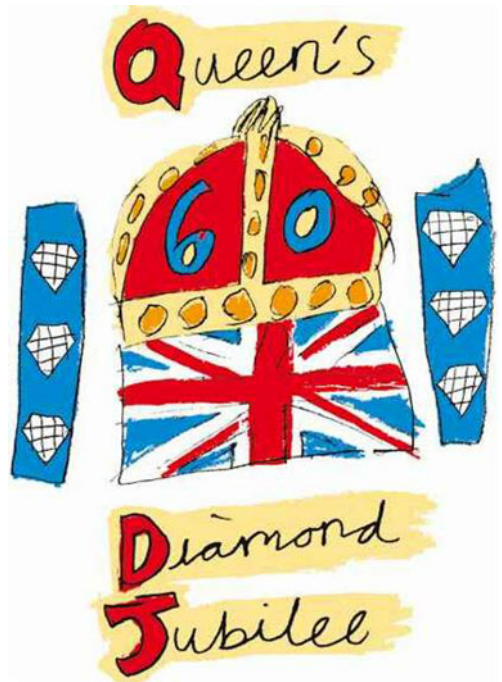
We will need extra tables and chairs, more information on that to follow.

Let's make this a weekend to remember.

Grenville and his team of Ladies

## Queen's Diamond Jubilee Report – February 2012

When Grenville says "it's all free" I'm sure he meant to say that The Big Jubilee Lunch is included in the Diamond Jubilee Event ticket price for which so many of you have already paid your deposits! We have been able to do this as a result of a generous pledge of financial support to enable us to join in with the nationwide 'Big Jubilee Lunch'. We want to ensure that all those in the village who want to, can join in!



On the subject of tickets, we have started to receive requests for family and friend's tickets, so please if you have not reserved yours please do so soon, as we are confident that numbers will have to be limited. Please don't be disappointed, let me know if you want to join in as soon as possible.

The team met at a very cold Village Hall on Wednesday the 1st February, we have now paid our deposit to secure the marquee and will shortly enter into a contract with Pascal's Triangle our Monday entertainment. An application has been made to permit the closure of Main Street on both days.

As you will see the food team have already started to meet to plan menus and last month I challenged the village to support Lucy Mercer who was trying hard to organise entertainment for Sunday evening. Look out for more on this elsewhere in the 'news'. Shortly you will see more groups meeting to organise parts of the event. Please come forward and offer your help. This is not a fund raising venture and so expenses incurred will be refunded for providing food, cake baking ingredients or whatever. Everybody can join in and help, so please do come forward as more organising teams are formed.

This month's challenge to the Village is to all those gardeners who are planting seeds around now, above are clues about Wot2Grow! Support the event by growing the produce we will consume.

As you can see, this will be a big event for the village and it will be great fun to be part of it. The next meeting will be in the Village Hall on Wednesday 7th March starting at 8pm. Please do come along and join in.

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

Any ticket requests or questions please contact Mike Collins on 680564 or e-mail [diamond.jubilee @ oxhill.org.uk](mailto:diamond.jubilee@oxhill.org.uk) or any team leader directly.

## KINETON OIL CONSORTIUM

The Kineton Oil Consortium will be ordering oil again in March. Please let me know what you would like to order by 6pm on 21 March 2012. Thank you.

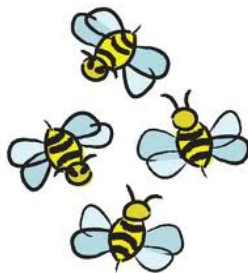
*D Harper: 01295 680529*

## NEW TO YOU SALE

Ettington Pre-School & Toddler Group are having a *New to You* sale Saturday, March 24th, Noon to 2 pm at the Ettington Community Centre, Rogers Lane, Ettington. Come see! Toys, equipment, etc! Well worth your support!

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO KEEP BEES?

A lot of people keep bees because they produce honey, one of the healthiest and most natural foods and one which has been valued by man since prehistory as a sweetener. Others keep bees because they are interested in the study of bees and of their habits; bees are fascinating creatures and there is always something new to learn about them. With no means of dealing with the ubiquitous varroa mite that is now present in all UK honey bee colonies, a feral honey bee nest is unlikely to remain viable for more than a couple of seasons. With the help of beekeepers it is only managed colonies that can survive to carry out the essential pollination our food crops. Beekeeping is an enjoyable open air hobby bringing you in contact with people from all walks of life. Bees can be kept by almost everyone except a very small minority who are allergic to bee stings.



Shipston Beekeepers are holding an “Introduction to Beekeeping” day on Saturday 14th April at the Old Free School, Brailes OX15 5HT. The day will deal with the basics of beekeeping for the complete beginner or those with very limited experience of this craft.

Arrive at 09.30 for coffee prior to a prompt 10.00 start. Refreshments and a light lunch are included in the day’s price of £30. The event is scheduled to finish at 15.30 approx.

Contact Douglas Nethercleft on 01295 680041 or [djn0001@aol.com](mailto:djn0001@aol.com) to book your place. Numbers are limited.



## THE PEACOCK

### Quiz Night

Quiz night on Sunday 4th March at 8pm.

### Village Events

The village coffee morning is on Wednesday 7th March at 10:30am and the village lunch is on Wednesday 21st March.



## TENNIS NEWS

Our Ladies B team showed the spirit that has put them at the top of Division 7 in the Stratford and District League when they beat Claverdon B 4-0 in sub-zero temperatures on 4th February. Sports fixtures around the country were cancelled but the courts were frost-free in Tysoe and although the temperature was well below freezing the team – Julie Smart, Shirley Cherry, Irene Beever and Carole Spencer – turned out to win their third match in a row.

The Ladies A team match (away vs The Littletons) was cancelled. They are currently lying fourth in Division 5 having won two, drawn two and lost one.

In the Banbury Mixed League, our Mixed A team are third in Division 3 but have played two matches more than the two teams below them, so with only two matches left to play this season it's not looking good for them.

The Mixed B team are faring better in Division 4 (won 2, drawn 1, lost 3). They are second – but have played one match more than all other teams.

*Julie Smart*

## BROADBAND PRESENTATION

A broadband presentation will be given by Stratford District Council prior to the Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday 13th March at 8.00 p.m. Please come along if you would like to know about this subject.

*Angela Kean, Parish Clerk*

## KINETON LIBRARY RE-OPENS

The closure of the Kineton Library at the end of last year led to a group of volunteers getting together to keep it alive by forming The Friends of Kineton Library. They took it over from Warwickshire Library Services in January and now operate it just as any other County Library where you can take out, return (from Kineton or any other County Library) or request books, talking books, CD's and DVD's.

There is a stock of over 2000 books (many in large print), a wide range of children's books, DVD's and access to the internet – and the first 30 minutes are free!.

The Library is open in the Kineton Village Hall on Mondays 10.00-16.00 and Saturdays from 09.00-12.00. Parking is easy.

If you have any queries please contact me at [antonyeast@AOL.com](mailto:antonyeast@AOL.com)

*Tony Eastaugh*

***“An Owl 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 24th MARCH at 2.30 & 4pm for the benefit of the Friends of Bishop Carpenter School, North Newington. Admission by ticket (bought in advance)

Contact: Sarah Shaw on Tel: 01295 788017  
Visit: <http://TysoeMarionettes.webplus.net>

# THE OXHILL GARDEN CLUB

*"I know a bank where-on the wild thyme blows,  
where oxlips and the nodding violet grows..."*

Shakespeare was reputed to have been an avid gardener, sharing cuttings from New Place, his retirement home. Certainly his literary works are peppered with well-informed references to flowers, trees and herbs.



As we strolled through three gardens of the Shakespeare Trust, guided expertly by Roger Pringle at the January meeting, it was easy to imagine that these gardens are remnants of Tudor times. However, Roger showed us with a host of photographs, paintings and documents that the original spaces were far from these.

When we see the exquisite planting around Anne Hathaway's family home it is difficult to imagine the hovel that the Birthplace Trust bought and resurrected in Victorian times, and that the small arboretum surrounding it was only planted in 1988.

I imagine tourists visiting the Birthplace would be fascinated to see those pictures of the place's re-invention in recent times because the gardens seem to be an integral part of the whole. The garden at New Place was also reconstructed in the 1920's.

Using many species of plants mentioned by Shakespeare the gardens are masterpieces, veritable works of art which evoke real Englishness.

Keeping the Tudor garden alive is easy, just use some of these – rosemary, pansies, fennel, columbine, violets, roses, daisies, willow, daffodils, oxlips, lilies, poppies, lady-smocks... .. Google the entire list... and if anyone has a spare root or two of Eglantine I would be very interested!

February 16th A Peep into the Past, Oxhill and surrounding villages – David Beaumont

March 15th AGM @ 7pm

*Ann Saxton*





## Oxhill Grand Raffle and Morning Event in aid of Cruse Bereavement Care

We are holding a fund raising event on the morning of April 28th in the chapel, Oxhill to support our local branch of Cruse Bereavement Care which is threatened with closure due to lack of funds. People come to Cruse, often referred by GPs and other care services, when they cannot come to terms with their grief after the death of someone close and many say that the experience was invaluable. Although Cruse volunteers give their time for free, they are paid expenses and there are other costs involved e.g. room hire and heating, administration, supervision, training, etc. Clients give donations according to their financial abilities but for many their loss has negatively affected their financial situation and Cruse never turns away clients because they cannot afford to pay.

The morning event will include coffee, a cake stall, bring and buy (donations gratefully received) and local traders with arts and crafts. The Oxhill craft afternoon group is going to run a stall so if you have any craft items you are happy to donate, they would be very welcome. We will also be very grateful to anyone willing to help for an hour or so.

We are also running a grand raffle with wonderful prizes such as a day at Warwick races including champagne lunch for 2, balloon, light aircraft and glider flights, an ASUS EeePC 901 notebook, a digital photo frame and lunch for two at the Oxhill Peacock to mention just a few and the winners will be drawn during the morning event.

If you want any more info please get in touch with either Sue (01926 640309) or Jane (01295 688364).

## DO YOU WANT TO GROW YOUR OWN VEGETABLES?

Whether you have grown vegetables before or are a complete beginner we can help.

Master Gardeners are here to help with advice and guidance to help you get the best from growing your own. The service is completely free and you even get some free seeds to start you off.

Gardening charity, Garden Organic, and Warwickshire County Council are running the project to train people in the art of growing their own, funded by the Big Lottery Fund's Local Food scheme.

The Master Gardener programme is a volunteer network supporting local people and communities to grow fruit and vegetables in their gardens and on communal land.

Master Gardeners encourage and advise people who would like to “grow their own” in whatever space they have, from a pot on a windowsill to a new allotment, and anything in between. Drawing on their own experiences and a wealth of resources Master Gardeners offer advice on what to grow and where, as well as sowing, planting and growing techniques. You can sign up to receive support from your local Master Gardener, and it’s free!

You are fortunate in having two local master gardeners who cover the area including Tysoe, Oxhill, Whatcote, Brailes, Epwell, Radway and others.

If you would like to have to visit your plot and discuss what, where, when and how to grow your own vegetables, please email [sueandmikemastergardeners@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sueandmikemastergardeners@hotmail.co.uk) and we will arrange a time to come and help you.

## SHIPSTON HOME NURSING FUND RAISING EVENTS

Second Hand & Vintage Clothes Sale  
**Saturday March 3rd, 10am-1pm**  
Sheldon Bosley HUB, Shipston-on-Stour  
Free entry – refreshments available

Exclusive Private Viewing  
at Compton Verney:  
Gainsborough’s Landscapes  
**The first exhibition solely devoted  
to his landscape paintings  
(Gallery closed to general public).**

**Thursday 15th March, arrive at 1.30pm, tour commences at 2pm.**

Tickets cost £40 for an intimate hour long tour followed by full afternoon tea in The Adam Hall. Limited numbers available as only 20 per group. Call Di Yeoman on 01608 674929 or 07775 630012 for more information and to book your ticket.



**Hospice at Home**  
in Shipston, Wellesbourne  
and Kineton

## ROGUE TRADERS

Shipston SNT would like to make you aware of the following.

Please can we ask you to be on the lookout for rogue traders operating from a white Ford Transit van with the registration number NG54 OPA. These traders are offering to replace guttering and claddings in the Stratford and Bidford areas but intelligence suggests that this may well be more widespread.

Trading Standards have been alerted but please could we remind you to take the following steps when using a contractor or trader in order to protect your property and yourself:

- Always ask for identification and check the authenticity of it by checking the number given, either in the phone book or on the internet. Do not ring the number on the card given as this may be bogus and another member of the rogue trading team could be on the end of the phone waiting for your call.
- This may take a few minutes but a genuine caller/ trader will understand and will not mind waiting.
- Always use a trusted company. Use someone who has been recommended to you or someone that you have found through the telephone book or a trade directory.
- Always get a minimum of three quotes to make a comparison and to ensure that you are not being overcharged. Ensure that you get a copy of the estimate in writing before work commences.
- Do not be intimidated by callers at your door. You are allowed to say NO. You are even allowed and encouraged not to answer the door to anyone you do not know or are not expecting.

If in doubt always ask the visitor to call back when you have a neighbour or relative with you. Legitimate traders will be happy to do this and anyone calling from the utility companies will have made an appointment with you before attending your home.

Call Police on 101 if you have concerns or call Crimestoppers on 0800 555111

Of course, in an emergency, always call 999

If any one has any information relating to any of the above or would like to forward any intelligence to your local Policing team please do say by replying to this e-mail or contacting one of us on the below numbers (mobile best).

Kind Regards

**PCSO 6234 Hayley Ditchburn BA (Hons)**  
**Shipston Safer Neighbourhood Team**  
**Warwickshire Police**

Winchcombe Farm



DAY NURSERY

Presents its...

# EASTER FAYRE

Sat 3<sup>1</sup><sup>st</sup> March / 10 30 am - 1pm / FREE entry!



Egg Hunt in Easter  
Forest Pets' Corner  
Tree-top Lunches  
Craft Workshops

Shenington Rd, Upper Tysoe CV35 0TH

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## WHAT'S ON IN & AROUND OXHILL

### MARCH

Friday 2nd	19:30	Friday Night @ The Village Hall
Saturday 3rd	16:00	OMG! Oxhill Music Group - Struan House
Wednesday 7th	10:00	Mobile Library - Village Hall
Wednesday 7th	10:30	The Peacock - Coffee Morning
Saturday 10th		Jubilee Orchestra rehearsal
Sunday 4th	20:00	The Peacock - Quiz Night
Tuesday 6th		Grey landfill bin collection
Tuesday 13th	20:00	Broadband presentation - Stratford District Council
Wednesday 21st	18:00	Kineton Oil Consortium order deadline
Thursday 8th		Village Hall - Afternoon Delight
Friday 9th	9:30	Weekday Walkers - see page 2 for details
Saturday 14th	9:30	Introduction to Bees, Old Free School Brailles
Thursday 15th		COPY DEADLINE FOR THE NEWS
Tuesday 13th		Blue & green bin collection
Wednesday 21st	12:30	The Peacock - Village Lunch
Tuesday 20th		Grey landfill bin collection
Friday 23rd	9:30	Weekday Walkers - see page 2 for details
Saturday 24th	12:00	Ettington Pre-School New to You Sale
Wednesday 28th	10:00	Mobile Library - Village Hall
Thursday 22nd		Village Hall - Afternoon Delight
Tuesday 27th		Blue & green bin collection

### APRIL

Wednesday 18th	19:30	Village Hall Committee AGM & Cheese and Wine Evening
Friday 27th		Best of British - Village Hall
Saturday 28th		Cruse Bereavement Care - Oxhill Chapel

### MAY

Saturday 27th		Irish singer Kieran Goss - Village Hall
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