

# THE OXHILL NEWS



No. 402  
May 2008

# Whatcote "Bluebell Walk"

## Annual Bluebell Walk at Whatcote

‘Come for a gentle walk up to Hell Brake to see the bluebells and enjoy a cream tea in the church yard on your return’

**Date: Sunday May 11<sup>th</sup> – 2.00pm to 5.00pm**

**Strong boots or shoes are essential**

Dogs welcome if kept on a lead

The cost is £5 for adults, accompanied children free,  
and this includes the tea and scones! .

Plant & Produce stall

Proceeds to St Peter's Church

Free car parking will be sign posted in the village, as will the start of the walk.

Contact Sue Price 01295 680007 for more details

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

George,

Just in case anyone was wondering the Green Lane ducks are back again. We had a surprise this week when she appeared in our back garden with 14 ducklings.

*Regards, Jim Saxton*

## JUNE ISSUE

Please could I have all copy for the June issue by Midnight on **Sunday, 25th May**? 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

After my plea for cover pictures last month the weather took a turn for the better and I was duly inundated with excellent photos of Oxhill in that short-lived snow. This one of the lane to the Manor came from Anthony East. My apologies and thanks to all those who sent other offerings; I regret I only have space for one!

*Editor*

## CHERNOBYL'S CHILDREN

### COFFEE MORNING

at

### THE OLD CHURCH HOUSE

**Saturday 28th June**

Please put this date in your diary. The Chernobyl children will be attending the coffee morning and this year two of the children will be staying in the village.

Once again Angela and I will be asking for donations of cakes, preserves, plants and raffle prizes. If you can help in any way we would be most grateful.

Angela Emmerson, 680565

Anne Marshall, 680411

## QUIZ NIGHT

**In aid of Breast Cancer**

**Friday 30th May**

7.30 p.m. for 8 p.m. start

**Oxhill Village Hall**

Tickets £5.00 each

Available from New Looks in Tysoe or on the door on the night

Please bring your own drinks and nibbles

Jane Sanders

## SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE

You will have seen in the April issue of the News that the Oxhill Parish Council meets most of the production costs of the News. The money is found, of course, from the parish portion of the council tax. The News is delivered free of charge (except that you pay for it through your taxes!) to all houses within Oxhill parish.

Those readers who get the News and do not live in the village are requested to pay the small subscription of £2 to cover the new financial year up to February 2009. If you fall into this category please would you arrange to get the payment to me? The simplest way is in an envelope through the door at Karibu on Main Street. Please write your name and address on the envelope so that I can keep my accounting straight.

Our financial year runs from March through to February. This somewhat strange arrangement is simply because I took over as editor for a March issue and Russen made up the books before he handed over.

*Editor*

# ST. LAWRENCE'S CHURCH, OXHILL

## SERVICES IN MAY

All are warmly welcome

Sunday 4th	Ascensiontide	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 11th	Whitsunday/Pentecost	8.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 18th	Trinity	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 25th	Trinity I	9.30 a.m.	Family Service

## ST LAWRENCE'S CHURCH OXHILL ANNUAL MEETING

At the Annual meeting of the Parochial Church Council on April 13th 2008 members were elected as follows:

**Church Wardens:** Carol Fox, Charles MacCall

**PCC:** James Synge (Treasurer), Linda Synge (Minute Secretary), Diane Harper (Electoral Roll Officer), Carol Fox (Deanery Synod Representative), Janet Gardner, Bill Fox, (Clerk of Works), Linda Heritage, Anne Saxton, Gill Rodwell, Lilian Welsby

*Carol Fox*

## CURRY AND ROAST LAMB LUNCH

Firstly can we thank Mrs. Gill Rodwell for the use of the marquee; it made a lovely venue, against all the odds with the weather. And thank you, Gill, for the donation of all the cheeses and the many dozens of tulips. We do hope you had a lovely day on Saturday for your granddaughter's wedding.

Many many thanks to all those who made curries and puds, and to the potato roasters. Also thanks to Tom and Carol for the splendid roast lamb.

Over sixty people sat down to lunch; many thanks to all of you for coming along to make it such a successful occasion.

Lastly I must not forget 'The Team'; without you all it would not have taken place at all. It was hard work, but well worth the effort. Thank you.

We made £570 for Church funds.

*Lilian*

# SCARECROW WEEKEND

**14th & 15th June**

It will soon be time for the scarecrows to come out of their hiding places in sheds and garages throughout Oxhill. You all go to such a lot of trouble to make this weekend a success, let's hope that you have wonderful ideas again this year. Especially as we may appear on television!

There will be the usual pig roast on the Saturday evening, but this year there will also be an all-day pig roast on Sunday.

We will also be having a table-top sale in the Old Chapel, so if you have a few odd items hanging around that you would like to sell, why not contact Lilian on 680468? Tables will be provided at £5 per day. Please book early.

The plant stall will operate as usual. If you have can offer any plants Janet Gardner will be pleased to have them, preferably on Friday 13th. Superstitious? Not Janet!

If you have small items that you could donate for the tombola it would be greatly appreciated. Please get them to Lilian.

Gaynor Fila will once again be organising teas and will be contacting her band of cake-makers very soon now. If you are not on her list of willing volunteers but would like to help, please contact her on 680473.

So far we have four gardens open over the weekend. If you would be willing to add yours to the list it would be wonderful. Please let Lilian know.

There will be a meeting in the village hall in early June to help anyone who would like to make a scarecrow but is not quite sure how to go about it. Look out for more details of this in the June News. The straw will be available at the village hall for all to use, as usual, although my son does not know this yet. Rest assured, he will!

We will be needing men's old white shirts and black trousers, for the Morris Men. If you can provide any please let me know.

And finally (as they say) any other help that we can get for the weekend will be great.

*Lilian, 680468*

## PLEASE NOTE

On the evening of Saturday 7th June, the Smiths and the Emersons of Green Lane, will be holding a private party on the field behind 'Stable Croft'.

There will be live music and we wish to apologise in advance for any inconvenience this may cause.

*John, Judith, Peter and Pam*

## NATURE NOTES FOR MAY

*The month of May was come, when every lusty heart beginneth to blossom, and to bring forth fruit. For, like as herbs and trees bring forth fruit and flourish in May, in like wise every lusty heart that is any manner a lover, springeth, burgeneth, buddeth, and flourisheth in lusty seeds. For it giveth unto all lovers courage, that lusty month of May.* Sir Thomas Malory, *Morte d'Arthur* 1470.

Now May is by tradition the month of merrymaking, but there are some superstitions that are not quite as merry. It is said to be a bad time to marry (“Marry in May, rue for aye”), and a bad time to give birth, but don’t worry, for ill health in May can be a good thing: “Whoever is ill in the month of May, for the rest of the year is healthy and gay!”(?) In the west country it was considered unlucky to buy a broom – you might be considered a witch! On the up side though, you ladies who spend money on those “stay younger” face creams – forget it – instead go out on the 1st of May and collect May dew, wash your face in this potent dew and it is said your complexion will be restored to beauty.

A big thank you to those of you who have sent me a note of your sightings. The ones I have received so far are very interesting, but I hope a few more will come in. There is still time, so drop me something in over the next week or two. I will report in June’s Nature Notes.

It is quite interesting the different birds you will see in slightly different surroundings. At the moment I am working in Darley Green, just north of Warwick. The area is predominantly pasture land and pony paddocks with very small fields and lots of hedgerow trees, once part of the ancient Forest of Arden. Every day in this garden we see just about all the finches and tits, a trio of Jays, and a pair of Nuthatches, which I am told breed in the garden every year. I have never seen a Nuthatch in Oxhill. This is a really pretty little bird – pinky orange breast with a blue-grey back and a jet black eye stripe with white chin. What catches your attention though is their ability to shuffle up, down and round the tree trunk, and not only in an upright position, but upside down as well. The Nuthatch is the only British bird that can travel down a tree and it used to be thought that they roosted head down. One of the pair I was watching would spend five to ten minutes motionless upside down. Their main diet is nuts which they jam into a crevice in the bark and hammer until they crack the shell. Many of their old colloquial names relate to this – Nut Topper, Nutcracker, and Nuthack. The Nuthatch will also tap tree trunks in the manner of a woodpecker, which earns it the names Woodhacker and Woodcracker. They choose holes in tree trunks or walls as places to nest, and make the entrance smaller by stopping it up with mud until it is exactly the right size – hence the names Mud Dabber and Mud Stopper.

May 19th is St Dunstan’s Day – west country legend has it that St Dunstan was a keen brewer of beer who made a pact with the Devil to ensure the destruction of the apple crop on which his rivals, the cider makers, depended. In exchange for the soul of St Dunstan, the Devil agreed to blight the apple trees with frost on the 17th, 18th and 19th May, at the height of their blossom.

Don’t forget, there is still time to send me your “sightings”.

*Grenville Moore*

# SCARECROW WEEKEND

## PLANT STALL

It is now twenty-six years since we first started opening the Oxhill gardens for charity and the church, and the past three years we have included the scarecrows as an added attraction. The weekend has always been a great success whatever the weather, but we depend on **you** to make it so. Your help is needed in so many ways.

There is going to be the usual Plant Stall in the drive at Oddcot (next door to the Old Chapel). We would welcome any plants you can spare to furnish the stall. Please deliver them on Thursday 12th or Friday 13th June if possible, labelled to make life easier for the helpers!

If for some reason you are unable to deliver the plants yourself Mrs. Whaley has kindly offered to collect them. Phone 680224 to make arrangements.

*Janet Gardner*

## APPLICATION FOR ROAD CLOSURE

### OXHILL SCARECROW EVENT

Would all villagers 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 Saturday the 14th June and Sunday the 15th June 2008 between 10am and midnight on Saturday and 10am and 7pm 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.

Diversionary 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*

## WANTED

A small garden shed to house mowers etc. Will dismantle & collect.

Peter & Carol Taylor, Grove Cottage. Phone 688025

## OXHILL GARDEN CLUB

There was a good turn out for the AGM in March with cheese, wine and raffle. Departing committee members were Rosemary Brown, Anne Nethercleft, Lilian Welsby and Secretary Heather Brennan, all of whom were thanked for their hard work. New committee members were Reg Gethin, Sue Duckworth and Ann Saxton. New members are welcomed at any time of the year.

Mrs Margaret Morris talked about her passion, Sissinghurst, at the April meeting. Margaret said that this garden figures in her top three and showed us different aspects taken throughout the year, but the glorious pictures of clematis and roses were certainly memorable.

There was also a table-top sale at this meeting.

Forthcoming events are to include a plant sale on Thursday 22nd May at 7.00 p.m. in the Village Hall.

Anyone wanting to join the trip to RHS Wisley on 15th July please contact Lilian Welsby (680468) for details.

*Ann Saxton & Sue Duckworth*

## DARLINGSCOTT CHARITY FUN RIDE

We hear that there will be a fun ride (optional jumps) on Sunday 4th May, starting at 10 a.m., across about 11 miles of South Warwickshire. It is very short notice, but if you are interested please contact Cathy Noon on 01608 682847 for further details. She will also be delighted to hear from you if you don't want to ride but would be able to help as a steward.

The ride is in aid of Darlingscott Church roof, Air Ambulance and the Council for the Protection of Rural England.

*Editor*

## GLAMOUR II

We are sad to announce the sudden death at 22 of Glamour II (Dolly)

Some of you will remember that she and Katy did a demonstration of Dressage to Music in Tom Heritages field, Green Lane, for the Jubilee Celebrations in 2002. The two of them were very successful on the British Dressage Circuit, competing at Junior level (Advanced) both here, in Ireland and in Europe. They were Junior Champions in 2003 and GB Squad members in 2004. Their wins are just too numerous to list. In 2004, we lent her to the Argentinian Champion and Katy and I spent a glorious 3 weeks competing at the Paralympics, where she came a respectable 10th in the World. She was retired from top competition in 2007 but came out of retirement to win the U21's UK Summer Freestyle Championship in September 2007 and again at Christmas 2007.

*Hilary Simcox*



## VICARAGE NOTES

### **Curry and lamb lunch**

May I thank Lilian Welsby and her team for all the hard work put into the lunch this year, which was a great success! Thanks also to Gill Rodwell and her grand-daughter Amy for the invitation to use the wedding marquee.

### **A.P.C.M.**

The Annual Church meeting took place on April 13th and included the reports and the annual elections. Thanks were expressed to our retiring warden Andrew Buchanan, whose work often takes him away. Charles Macall was elected churchwarden along with Carol Fox to serve for this coming year, and my thanks go to them both and all who represent the church and parish both on the P.C.C. and also in all the various activities that take place through the year!

### **Thought for the month**

May 11th is Whitsunday (Pentecost), a day seen as the birthday of the church – the disciples, strengthened by the Holy Spirit, begin their ministry of preaching the gospel and living their new faith openly. The Victorian poet, Christine Rossetti, famed for “In the bleak mid-winter” also wrote verse for Whitsunday, including the following:

As the wind is thy symbol, so forward our goings,  
As the dove, so launch us heavenwards,  
As water, so purify our spirits,  
As a cloud, so abate our temptations,  
As dew, so revive our languor,  
As fire, so purge our dross.

It is the prayer of every age that we will be inspired in this way to bring hope to a world that is crying out for healing.

Best wishes and God bless,

*Nicholas Morgan 01608 685230*

## WEEKDAY WALKERS

Our walks for May are as follows:

Friday 9th May

Tysoe to Shenington, a 5.7 mile walk with 341 feet of ascent. Lunch will be at “The Bell”. We will leave Oxhill at 10:00 a.m.

Friday 23rd May

Brailes to Whichford, a 6.9 mile walk with 390 feet of ascent. Lunch will be at “The Norman Knight”. We will leave Oxhill at 9.45 a.m.

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

## THOMAS SUMMERTON -A KNOT IN THE MILLER'S TALE

Feedback from descendants of Thomas Summerton, the miller, who emigrated to new Zealand in March 1859, has revealed a blip in my account of the story. Thomas was indeed born in Southam (in 1828 not 1827 it now appears), but it was not correct that by the time of the 1841 census his family were living in Oxhill, his father's occupation being given as carpenter. There prove to have been two Thomas Summertons, both aged 12 at the time of the census, one the miller's son from Southam, and the other the carpenter's son in Oxhill. In 1841, Thomas, the miller's son and future emigrant, was in fact with his family already in Birmingham, where I had located him correctly in the 1851 census records. I apologise for getting my younger Thomases twisted!

Although Thomas the emigrant was never resident in Oxhill, the family do believe that they have some connections with the village through other members of his family. At any event, on a broader Warwickshire view he remains a "local boy done good."

*Ann Hale*

## THE NATIONAL TRUST

### **Upton House and Gardens**

The restoration of the squash court, a new winter walk, the restoration of 1 Home Drive to a 1930s-inspired holiday cottage are just some of the projects underway at Upton House at the moment. During the next 12 months visitors will see many changes take place as the property is one of just four National Trust properties nationally who have been selected to take part in the 'Step Change' project, a national project that is forging the way forward for National Trust properties.

A newsletter from the property that outlines the work is now being distributed; however if you have not yet received your please call on 01295 670266 or email [uptonhouse@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:uptonhouse@nationaltrust.org.uk) and one will be sent to you.

## THE 'GOLDEN YEARS' OF MUSIC

Stour Singers will be performing Mozart's Requiem and Haydn's Mariaszellermesse in St. Edmund's Church, Shipston, at 7.30 p.m. on Saturday 10th May.

They will be joined by the Cherwell Orchestra, Rachel Bird (organ), Lesley-Jane Rogers (soprano), Daniela Lehner (mezzo soprano), Mark Chaundy (tenor) and Aidan Smith (bass). The conductor will be Richard Emms.

Tickets £10.00 from choir members, R. Clarke, 27, High St. Shipston and at the door (accompanied children free).

*Vic Tnyman, Choir Manager, Stour Singers*

# TYSOE TENNIS CLUB

Keep fit - and have fun - at Tysoe Tennis Club!

Why go to a gym to keep fit when you have everything you need on your doorstep?  
Come and play tennis – it's much more fun! (AND cheaper)

And if you need a partner, don't be shy – just come along and mix in at the social sessions. You'll find we're a friendly bunch! All you need is a pair of trainers and a tennis racquet. If you're new to the area, it's a great way to get to know people.

The Tuesday evening sessions start at 7 p.m. and you'll also find us there every Sunday morning from 10.30.

We welcome new members of all ages and abilities. Just come along and say hello, then if you want to join, pick up a form from the clubhouse next to the courts or ring club secretary Carol Spencer on 01295 680659. It's great value – £48 a year for adults (over 18), £15 for juniors or £96 for the whole family (2 adults and 2 children under 16).

We run junior coaching sessions in partnership with Shipston Tennis Academy - very popular with children of all ages, from as young as four. Why not join as a family and stay active together?

If you are interested in playing matches, we have a ladies team and two mixed teams who play both summer and winter league tennis.

If you don't know where we are, park in the car park next to the Old Fire Station on Main Street and you'll see the courts at the far end of the playing fields. It has to be one of the most picturesque settings for a tennis club in the county!

*Rhian Cooper*

## A MIDSUMMER HOG ROAST

**With Live Celtic Music**

**On Saturday, 28 June At 6.30 p.m.**

On Ilmington Hill by kind permission of Mrs Jane Brabyn

Lifts available from car park (you may like to bring a deckchair and/or rugs)

Country Dancing with Caller

Licensed Bar

Tickets £15 in advance by 21 June (u10s £5) or £22.50 on day (u10s £7.50)

to include hog roast, salads and puddings galore!

For tickets and directions please ring Jane Lloyd on 01608 682623 ([janeequinn@hotmail.com](mailto:janeequinn@hotmail.com))  
or Jeanenne on 01608 682240 ([jitchener@btconnect.com](mailto:jitchener@btconnect.com))

or write to Jane Lloyd at Ivy Cliffe, Darlingscott, Shipston on Stour CV36 4PN.

Please make cheques payable to 'Friends of Darlingscott Church'

Proceeds will be donated to the restoration of Darlingscott Church roof and porch  
with a donation to Air Ambulance

Please help us save our beautiful village church

## WHAT'S ON IN & AROUND OXHILL

### ***May***

Thursday 1st	7.45	Sutton-under-Brailes Church – Ascension Day service
Friday May 2nd	10.30–12.30	Gabriel Cottage, Pasture Lane, Blockley – SHN Coffee Morning. Phone 01386 700313 for further details
Wednesday 7th	10.30	The Peacock – Village Coffee Morning W.I. – Lunch at Clifford Chambers
Friday 9th	10.00	Weekday Walkers – Tysoe to Shennington
	8.00	Village Hall – Italian Dinner
Saturday 10th	10 – 5	Kinton Village Hall – Art exhibition & sale
	7.30	St. Edmund's Church, Shipston – Stour Singers
Sunday 11th	10 – 5	As above
	2 – 5	Hell Brake, Whatcote – Bluebell Walk
Tuesday 13th	8.00	Village Hall – Parish Council meeting
Saturday 17th	10-noon	Norgren Social Club, Shipston – Shipston Home Nursing Plant Sale
Sunday 18th	1 – 5	Marquee at Green End Farm, Willington – Shipston Home Nursing Picnic & Play – take your own picnic, entertainment provided. £5 per adult, children free. Call Rebecca on 01608 674929 for further information
Thursday 22nd	7.00	Village Hall – Garden Club Plant Sale
Wednesday 21st		The Peacock – Village Lunch
Friday 23rd	9.45	Weekday Walkers – Brailes to Whichford
Sunday 25th	23.59	Copy deadline for the News
Friday 30th	7.30	Village Hall – Quiz Night in aid of breast cancer

### ***June***

Tuesday 3rd	10-4.30	Burmington Grange – Shipston Home Nursing Champagne & Shop
Saturday 14th & Sunday 15th		Scarecrow Weekend
Tuesday 17th	6.00	Whichford House – Opera – see April issue for details
Saturday 28th		The Old Church House – Chernobyl's Children Coffee Morning
	6.30	Ilmington Hill – Hog Roast & Country Dance

## LOOKING FOR TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION?

We hear that en suite rooms in a shared farmhouse are available at Barn Farm in Tysoe. There are also recently converted cottages available from £150 per week. Contact can be made on 07950574680 or by emailing [canning21@yahoo.com](mailto:canning21@yahoo.com).

*Editor*