

THE OXHILL NEWS



NO. 426
MAY 2010

REFUSE COLLECTIONS IN MAY

Your grey (landfill rubbish) bins will be collected on Tuesdays 4th and 18th. The blue (recycling) and green (compostable waste) bins will be collected on Tuesdays 11th and 25th.

Editor

MOBILE LIBRARY

The library van will continue to visit Oxhill on Tuesdays, stopping at the Village Hall at 10 a.m. and staying there for 30 minutes.

In May the van will visit us on Tuesday 11th.

You can renew books between van visits by calling 01926 851031, or online at www.Warwickshire.gov.uk/wild.

Editor

WEEKDAY WALKERS

We have only one walk in May as follows:

Friday 21st May

This is a 5.6 mile walk from Upton House to Ratley with 300 feet of ascent; lunch will be at "The Rose & Crown" in Ratley. We will leave Oxhill at 10:00 a.m.

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

JUNE ISSUE

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

Following on from Ann Hale's Village History article last month, David Kean has provided this image of Main Street as it was long ago.

Editor

CHERNOBYL'S CHILDREN

COFFEE MORNING

at

THE OLD CHURCH HOUSE

OXHILL

SATURDAY 26th JUNE

10 am — 12 noon

CAKE, PRODUCE and PLANT STALLS

RAFFLE and TOMBOLA

Any donations for the above will be most welcome

Anne Marshall 680411

Angela Emmerson 680565



CYCLE LAND'S END TO OXHILL FOR DIFFERENT
STROKES

We are a group of 8 local people - out of shape, over aged and with more good will than sense, cycling 330 miles from Land's End to Oxhill in June this year to raise money for Different Strokes, a charity for young stroke survivors.

Stroke is the single largest cause of disability in the UK. 10,000 people under the age of 55 suffer a stroke every year - 1,000 of these are under the age of 30. Different Strokes is a registered charity providing a unique, free service to younger stroke survivors. For more information on Different Strokes please visit our website: <http://www.differentstrokes.co.uk/>.

For more information about our cycle charity ride and to donate please visit our blog at <http://cyclelandsendtooxhill.blogspot.com/>.

Mike Druce, Trustee Different Strokes

ST. LAWRENCE'S CHURCH, OXHILL

SERVICES IN MAY

All are warmly welcome

Sunday 2nd	Easter IV	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion (ML)
Sunday 9th	Easter V	6.30 p.m.	Evensong (ML)
Thursday 13th	Ascension Day	7.45 p.m.	Deanery Eucharist at Preston on Stour
Sunday 16th	Ascensiontide	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion (ML)
Sunday 23rd	Whitsunday	9.30 a.m.	Family Communion (NM)
Sunday 30th	Trinity	10.30 a.m.	United Benefice Communion (NM)

Other benefice services include Evensongs at Brailes (23rd and 30th) and Whatcote (16th)

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

At the AGM held on Sunday 11th April at 7 p.m. in the Church after Evensong elections of Churchwardens and PCC members took place. The results were:

Churchwardens	C. Fox, C. MacCall
Churchwarden Emeritus	J. Gardner
PCC	L. Synge (Secretary), J. Synge (Treasurer), D. Harper (Electoral Roll Officer) J. Van Dyke, N. MacCall, G. Rodwell

Deanery Synod Representatives C. Fox and Ex Officio member D. Nethercleft

Two former members stood down, W. Fox and L. Heritage. Both were thanked for their hard work.

This leaves a vacancy for one member.

Sidesmen were elected from the PCC plus W. Fox

This is also the time of year when we say a big thankyou to those who help keep the Church looking clean and well cared for including the cleaning of the brasses. We also thank all the ladies on the Flower Rota for their floral contribution to St. Lawrence's. We very much appreciate the time that they spare for these duties.

The next meeting of the PCC is on Monday June 7th 2010

Carol Fox

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Weddings:

April 17th. Congratulations and best wishes to Robyn McDonald and James May

LAMB ROAST & CURRY LUNCH

at

Oxbourne House

Whatcote Road

home of Graeme & Posy McDonald

Sunday May 9th

1 p.m.

Have a non-cooking day, Ladies

Bring the family along for good food
and good puds

Adults £7.50 Children £3.50

Please ring: Lilian Welsby 680 468

Val Ewens 680 215

In aid of St Lawrence's Church Fund

DEANERY SYNOD

The next Synod will take place on Tuesday, June 8th, in St. Gregory's Church, Tredington, at 7.00 p.m. (Bring and Share Supper) for 7.30 p.m., when we shall be delighted to welcome Morris Rodham, the new Archdeacon Missioner, sharing with us his passion for the Gospel.

Jill Tucker

KINETON OIL CONSORTIUM

The Consortium will be ordering oil again at the beginning of June.

Please will you let me have your needs not later than 6 p.m. on Wednesday June 2nd. This is just after the Spring Bank Holiday and during the school half-term week. If you are going away please give me your order during the week before.

D. Harper, 680529

MAY AT THE PEACOCK

The Charity Quiz Night is back on the first Sunday, 2nd, starting at 8 p.m. The Village Coffee Morning will be on Wednesday 5th starting at 10.30 and the Village Lunch on Wednesday 19th at 12.30.

Editor

NATURE NOTES FOR MAY

May, which should be gathered at or before sunrise, can be any kind of flowering greenery, although hawthorn (May-blossom), birch and rowan are the favourites, while sloe or blackthorn is an ill omen. To leave a branch of hawthorn at a friend's door is a luck-bringing compliment: but 'gifts' of other kinds of trees can be insulting:

Nut for a slut; plum for the glum

Bramble if she ramble; gorse for the whores

Fiach, Marburan, Croupy Crow, Corbie and Ralph are all colloquial names for the Raven. The other morning a very large corvid flew over my fence followed by three 'cawing' crows. It was just a fleeting glance, but I knew instantly that the first bird had been a Raven. I have written on several occasions about the "Idlicote Ravens", but one almost in my garden is very unusual. To my delight later that day Janet Gardner phoned me to say she had had a rather strange, very large black crow-like bird on her bird table! Was it a Raven? And then almost on cue some of the press announced a Raven Invasion. Apparently Ravens are coming back into counties all over the country. A pair nested last summer on the white cliffs of Dover, the first in over 100 years. This is a mighty bird, the largest of all the corvids; it is also one of the most powerful beasts of mythology and antiquity. The famous ornithologist R M Lockley wrote:

When I see our Ravens I have a feeling almost, that this land is not mine, but theirs. They have been here from time immemorial. They are, so to speak, indestructible, they pair for life, and when one of the pair dies, a young bird immediately steps in to fill the gap.

Facts and myths about Raven - 'Blind people who are kind to Ravens will regain their sight' - 'Noah sent a Raven out during the flood which went forth and fro until the waters were dried up from off the earth' - 'They say the souls of the unbaptised go into Ravens and wicked priests become Ravens when they die' - 'Ravens drop stones on predators that threaten their nests or young' - 'They make distress calls that lead foxes to deal animals, the foxes break the carcasses apart, so the birds can feast' - 'If the ten Ravens kept at the Tower of London ever leave, then the Kingdom will fall'.

To see one raven is luck, 'tis true

But it's certain misfortune to light upon two

And meeting with three is the devil

So there you are Janet, your one raven will bring you good luck!

Grenville Moore

OXHILL GARDEN CLUB NEWS

Organic Pest and Disease Management; not another party political but an engaging talk by Pauline Pears from Ryton Organic Gardens. It seems that even the historic T.V. political debate held less interest than this illuminating insight into the under-world of insect life in our gardens as this meeting was so well attended.

Pauline took us through guidelines for harmony in the veggie garden and talked on the balance of friends and foes in the insect department, providing safe shelter and food for beneficial “friends” and improving the structure of soil to maintain these naturally.

I was heartened by her advice that untidiness is beneficial and she gave us advice on crop rotation and resistant varieties that could be applied to avoid diseases in the garden. The quiz was well thought out.

Notes for the diary:

13th May Annual plant Sale 7 p.m. Please mark pots with identifying letter, price and brief description

24th June Garden Party £3

15th July Trip to Folly Lodge and lunch at Halford Bridge Inn

18th August Outing to Kew Gardens

New members are always welcome.

Ann Saxton, 680613; e-mail ann.saxton@tiscali.co.uk

VICARAGE NOTES

Thought for the month

Breathe on me, breath of God, fill me with life anew,

That I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.

Words from the well-known hymn by Edwin Hatch remind us that May brings Whitsunday as well as Ascension. There is, of course, a warm invitation to the services both at St. Lawrence's and in the deanery. Please note that the Whitsunday service will be a Family Communion. Additionally, Christian Aid week runs from the 10th - 17th, so please look out for the ads and opportunities for direct giving.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

My thanks to all who have shared the life of the St. Lawrence's over the past year, particularly Bill Fox, retiring from his responsibility as “clerk of works”. I am very pleased to announce that Charles and Carol were re-elected churchwardens at the A.P.C.M. The whole P.C.C. looks forward to the coming year with its events and activities.

God bless,

Nicholas Morgan 01608 685230

DEANERY NEWS

It was good to welcome so many of you to the Deanery Lent Services, and to know that so many were also following the study course. I am delighted to say that the total given in the collections at the services towards the Emmaus and Betel projects has very nearly topped £1000, which is wonderful. Thank you all so very much.

The Ascension Day Service this year will be at Preston-on-Stour on Thursday, May 13th at 7.30 p.m. The preacher will be Revd. David Banbury from Holy Trinity Stratford.

Inspire your Choir - Instant Choirs II :

There will be another Deanery singing workshop with Julian Harris on Saturday, May 22nd, from 2.00 p.m. until 5.00 p.m. (with a performance to follow) in St. Edmund's Church, Shipston.

We are delighted to welcome back Julian Harris, who has again chosen music that is within the vocal range of village choirs, some that is familiar, and some that he has written or arranged specially for us. It includes:

Music for use throughout the Church's year

Music for the Eucharist

Music for Harvest

Note that we have also been invited to take part in the Shipston Prom on Wednesday, June 23rd at 7.30 p.m., in St. Edmund's, which is to be a celebration of Church Music.

The afternoon will cost £6 per head, £3 for schoolchildren, to include all the music, and tea (contributions of cake would be very welcome).

Full details will be found in the churches.

Jill Tucker

KINETON ART GROUP

The group will be holding its annual art exhibition and sale of paintings at Kineton Village Hall on Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th May. Doors will open at 10 a.m. and close at 5 p.m. each day.

Please come and enjoy the abundance of paintings by our members and other local artists. Refreshments, including tea and home-made cakes, will be available throughout each day.

Gail O'Day

GROWING BETTER FRUIT

An evening with John Edgeley

Horticultural Consultant, Writer and Lecturer

Thursday 27th May at 7.30 – 9.30 in Tysoe Village Hall

You are invited to a presentation by one of the leading fruit experts in the Midlands. In his talk, John will cover the basics of growing fruit crops including soil preparation, planting, crop husbandry and harvesting. John has many years of experience in the field, was Senior Lecturer in Crop Technology at Pershore College and a college lecturer for over 30 years. He is a member of the RHS Fruit Trials Assessment Panel, and is vice-chairman of the RHS Fruit Group (Midlands) and the West Midlands Top Fruit Discussion Group.

After a break for refreshments, the WOT2Grow Community Orchard working group will report on progress with the development of the scheme, including grant application, location of the orchard, how membership will work, and our next steps.

Tickets for the evening cost £4 (under 16s free)

For tickets please contact:

Whatcote: Liz Atkinson (01295 680045)

Oxhill: Derek Harbour (01295 680676), Paul Sayer (01295 680451)

Tysoe: Sue & Mike Sanderson (01295 688080), Graham Collier (01295 680127), Sam Littlewood (01295 688137)

ST . MARY'S CHURCH TYSOE

SUMMER CONCERT

with

Holy Trinity Stratford upon Avon

Church Choir

(including Lilly Locke)

SATURDAY 22 MAY 2010

7.30 p.m.

Ticket £5 (including refreshments)

from Locke's, Vicarage or Church

OXHILL VILLAGE HALL AGM

Our AGM was held on Thursday, April 22nd and despite the offer of free Cheese and Wine, we only had a modest attendance. However, the good news is that whilst we had a few expected retirements, we also gained 3 new committee members.

The committee would like to most sincerely thank all of the committee members who retired, for their efforts and successes over the past few years and special mention must be made of Judy and Brian Badger. Judy has been Secretary and has worked hard to ensure that we have received a number of Grants to assist in the upkeep of the Hall. Brian, as Chairman, has lead a successful team in achieving a good income and overseen many enjoyable events. Thanks also go to Cecelia Miller (for her sterling work on the Burns Night) and Ian Broderick.

The new Committee is as follows:

Derek Harbour Chairman

John McKail Treasurer

Gaynor van Dijk Secretary

Tricia Harbour Lettings Secretary

In addition to the above officers we are fortunate to have:

Una Hill, Angela Emmerson, Carol Taylor, Tracey Hackett, Katy Dowding, Pat Crowther, Adrian Marklew and Stuart Whittaker.

If anyone would like a copy of the full Minutes of the AGM, they are available from Gaynor van Dijk, please call 680349.

Derek Harbour

STOUR SINGERS

Stour Singers concert with the Orchestra of the Swan on 8th May at 7.30 p.m. in St. Edmund's Church, Shipston-on-Stour is a unique event in the town's musical history. This Shipston based choral society was established by conductor Richard Emms 34 years ago with members drawn from a wide rural area within the three shires of Gloucester, Oxford & Warwick, and it is the first time the choir has been partnered by a distinguished fully professional orchestra.

The Handel - Vivaldi programme, featuring international soloists Katharine Fuge (soprano) & Emma Selway (mezzo-soprano) is easy on the ear and a delightful antidote to any gloom!

Tickets at £12.50 for adults (accompanied children free) are available from Clarkes at 27 High Street, Shipston, choir members & at the door. For further information contact Vic Twyman on 01608 664215.

OXHILL VILLAGE HALL – EVENTS

Saturday 22nd May - Spring Progressive Supper

We are looking for hosts to provide Starter, Main and Pudding courses ranging from 4 to 10 guests. Pudding hosts should ideally be able to sit 8 guests plus the hosts, but some wine will be provided by the village hall for pudding hosts to allow for the larger number of guests.

For those unable to host a course, tickets are available at £17.50 per head (a bargain for food and wine all night!)

For those of you unsure of the format, revellers will meet at the village hall at 7.00 p.m. for aperitifs. We will then 'progress' in small groups of 6 to 10 at around 7.30 p.m. to a home within the village for Starters. Thereafter we progress in a different group to another home within the village for a Main Course. Finally we progress in another group to a third house for our desserts, cheese and biscuits and coffee.

This is a great opportunity for newcomers to the Village to meet existing residents and join in to what is always a popular event.

If you would like to participate in the progressive supper please telephone Tracey Hackett on 07813 978917 to confirm whether you would prefer to host a Starter, Main Course or Pudding, or would like tickets at £17.50 per head.

Evening of Tuesday 22nd June & Morning of Wednesday 23d June - Art Exhibition

Following a successful inaugural event last year we have the Art Exhibition taking place on the dates above. More details will follow in the next edition of the News.

Sunday 18 July - Boules Competition – to commence at 12.30 p.m.

Once again we are pleased to announce that we are holding our ever-popular Boules Competition, accompanied by French Cheeses, Pates, Wine and Beer. As usual, we will be taking precautions to ensure that the event goes ahead despite the vagaries of the English weather.

Make a note of the date in your diary and more details will be provided in future issues of the News.

Please Note – Hiring of the Village Hall and its equipment

It is possible to hire the Hall itself and equipment like Chairs, Tables, Crockery, Cutlery and Glasses for your celebrations. Please phone Tricia Harbour for details of price and availability on 680676.

Derek Harbour

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’

Sunday May 9th

2.00 p.m. To 5.00 p.m.

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 Repairs

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

Contact Sue Price for more details

telephone 01295 680007 or e-mail susan.price@ukgateway.net

SHIPSTON HOME NURSING

Saturday May 15th

10.00 a.m. - 12 noon

Plant Sale

Norgren Social Club Shipston

Plants delivered May 14th to Norgren please

For more info please call Debbie Joss 01295 680803

Tuesday June 8th

2.00 p.m. - 8.00 p.m.

Shopping Tea Plants and Pimms

Whichford House

Whichford

By kind permission of Simon and Bridget Heritage



WOT2GROW

A Community Orchard for Whatcote, Oxhill & Tysoe

LAND SECURED!!!!

The project steering group is preparing a very detailed full application for funding from the Big Lottery. In particular, we are most grateful to Lord Northampton who has very kindly agreed to make land available for the orchard. The exact location has still to be finalised, but it is expected that the application for funding, which will include details of the land, will be submitted by mid-May.

There is tremendous interest in the project from residents and groups representing all three villages and the team encourages individuals, families and organisations who would like to get involved in the project to get in touch with them - Liz Atkinson (680045 / 07768 166483) Derek Harbour (680676), Sam Littlewood (688137), Paul Sayer (680451), Sue and Mike Sanderson (688080) or Graham Collier (680127 / 07889 360133).

Once the location of the orchard is finalised, and the application submitted, there will be a meeting for everyone interested in the scheme, probably in late May. This will be to hear about the orchard and learn about the fundamentals of fruit production from our orchard expert John Edgeley.

If anyone would like to discuss the project in more detail please get in touch with Liz, Derek, Sam, Paul, Sue, Mike or Graham. They will be delighted to talk to you about the project's progress.

Graham Collier, graham@fraseruk.co.uk

IN THE WAKE OF THE CAPTAIN

Many of you will have read in the papers or heard on the television or radio that Chris Wilde has joined the expedition to recreate Captain Bligh's voyage in an open boat from near Tonga to West Timor, about 4000 miles altogether.

We wish Chris and the crew the very best of luck. Chris's dad has agreed that, on his return, Chris will write a piece for the News on his adventure. Let's hope that Chris goes along with Dad!

Editor



SAVE SHIPSTON HOUSE

Shipston Town Management Partnership, with the support of a number of elected members of Shipston Town Council, are pressing Orbit Housing to think again about their plans to convert the historic Shipston House into seven apartments, a planning application for which is to go before Stratford District Council, shortly.

The house was built in 1830 under the Poor Law Union Act to serve as a Work House. In the past almost two hundred years it has served as a hospital, a home for the elderly, an annexe to Shipston High School and, most recently as office facilities for Renault Agriculture who were acquired by Claas. Claas have sold the whole site to Orbit Housing for a development of affordable homes, including the apartments in the house, itself.

Plans have been developed by the Management Partnership to return the building to community use.

The East Wing of the building is envisaged as being developed into a facility for young people, something that is sadly lacking in Shipston whilst the West Wing is seen as being a craft centre where local artisans can produce and sell their work.

The main house is seen as being used as a community base offering facilities for meetings, exhibitions, concerts and performances, with a number of small offices being made available to local businesses and residents on a minimal cost basis.

Speaking for the Partnership, its Chairman, Graham Williamson said "It is simply not acceptable that one of the last vestiges of Shipston's historic past should be lost to the community.

In the previous rejected planning application by Banner Homes, English Heritage, the Georgian Society and the conservation architect at Stratford District Council expressed considerable concerns that much of the historic nature and its place in 19th Century history would be lost were the building to be converted into apartments."

Within the building there are decorations and fittings that need to be restored. It is understood that Orbit's intention is simply to panel over them which means that in time, they will deteriorate.

Shipston Town Management Partnership are now seeking to gather the support of Shipston residents by organising a petition which will be sent to Orbit and to the District Council when comments on the planning application are considered and have started the considerable task of identifying how the funds for saving the building might be raised.

For further information please contact:

Shipston Town Management Partnership

Tel: 01608 664690

E-mail: info@working-for-shipston.com

CAR PARKING

As an Oxhill resident living within a few yards of the Village Hall, I read with some disquiet the reminder that “the Car Park adjoining the Village Hall is intended solely for the use of persons attending Village Hall events”. In the ten years of my residency in Rouse Lane directly opposite the car park I have never been aware of any abuse of what I had always regarded as a very useful facility for the community at large. I have seldom, if ever, seen more than two ‘non Village Hall event’ vehicles left in the car park at any one time, day or night, and to say that “On occasions, people who are attending Village Hall events are unable to park close to the Hall for loading and unloading because of vehicles that have been left overnight” just cannot be true!

We are lucky in Oxhill that very few residents need to leave their cars on the road because their property is lacking parking space for the family’s motor vehicles. When I and my near neighbours have had visitors arrive in cars that we cannot accommodate on our driveways, rather than litter the roadway we have always used the sensible option of temporarily parking our own vehicle or, rarely, vehicles in the village car park – if necessary, but seldom, overnight. Our cars are known; in the unlikely event that they are a problem, let us know – face to face.

Without even thinking of it as a quid pro quo, and because the Village Hall is an integral and important part of our immediate community, we accept with good grace the occasional disturbance from functions and late night revellers, pick up litter, put up with event attendees parking on Main Street and causing traffic congestion, put out/return the dustbins if necessary, clear the notice board of out of date event flyers etc. etc. I would urge the Village Hall Committee to accept the very local goodwill that ensues from their continuing to allow the level of ‘casual’ usage of the car park that there has always been and which is never knowingly abused.

Douglas Netherclef

WHAT'S ON IN & AROUND OXHILL

May

Saturday 1st	7.30	St. Edmund's Church, Shipston - Stour Singers Concert
Sunday 2nd	8.00	The Peacock - Charity Quiz Night
Tuesday 4th		Grey landfill rubbish bin collection
Wednesday 5th	10.30	The Peacock - Village Coffee Morning
	7.30	Tysoe Village Hall - W.I. Meeting; Temari balls
Friday 7th	7.30	Kineton Village Hall - memorial supper
Sunday 9th	1.00	Oxbourne House - Lamb Roast & Curry Lunch
	2 - 5	Whatcote - Bluebell Walk
Tuesday 11th		Blue & Green bin collection
	10.00	Village Hall - Mobile Library
	8.00	Village Hall - Parish Council Meeting
Thursday 13th	7.00	Village Hall - Garden Club Plant Sale
Tuesday 18th		Grey landfill rubbish bin collection
Wednesday 19th	12.30	The Peacock - Village Lunch
Friday 21st	10.00	Weekday Walkers - see inside front cover
Saturday 22nd	2 - 5	St. Edmund's Church, Shipston - Deanery Singing Workshop
	7.30	Village Hall - Progressive Supper
	7.30	Tysoe Village Hall - Lecture; "Growing better fruit"
Tuesday 25th		Blue & Green bin collection
	23.59	Copy deadline for the News
Wednesday 26th	10-12	Old Church House - Chernobyl's Children Coffee Morning
Saturday 29th & Sunday 30th	10 - 5	Kineton Village Hall - Art Exhibition & Sale

June

Wednesday 3rd	7.30	Whatcote Community Centre - W.I. Meeting
Saturday 19th & Sunday 20th		Scarecrow weekend
Tuesday 22nd & Wednesday 23rd Thursday 24th		Village Hall - Art Exhibition - see inside Garden Club Garden Party

ACCIDENT and MEDICAL EMERGENCIES

FIRST CALL 999

THEN CALL

Ambulance Responders

MICK & BARBARA SHEPARD

07977149317 Mobile / 01295680644 Home

3, The Leys, Oxhill, Warwick, CV350QX