

THE OXHILL NEWS



NO. 438
MAY 2011

MOBILE LIBRARY

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

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

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

Editor

REFUSE COLLECTION

Recycling and green waste bins (blue and green bins) will be collected on Tuesdays 10th and 24th.

The grey rubbish bins will be collected on Tuesdays 3rd, 17th and 31st.

Editor

WEEKDAY WALKERS

The following are the walks for May:

Friday 13th May

This is a 7.5 mile walk from Long Compton to Whichford with 700 feet of ascent. Lunch will be at the Norman Knight Whichford, and it is hoped that there will be a good bluebell display in Whichford woods. Leave Oxhill at 9:30 a.m.

Friday 27th May

This is an 8 mile walk from Agdon Spinney to Upper Brailes with 130 feet of ascent. Lunch will be at the Gate Inn Brailes. Leave Oxhill at 9:45 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](mailto: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, 24th 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

David Kean has supplied this image of the recently renovated theatre in Stratford.

LAMB ROAST & CURRY LUNCH

at

The Old Chapel

Sunday May 15th

1 p.m.

Have a non-cooking day, Ladies
Bring the family along for good food
and good puds

Adults £8.00 Children £4.00

Please ring: Lilian Welsby 680 468

Val Ewens 680 215

In aid of St Lawrence's Church Fund

CHERNOBYL'S CHILDREN

COFFEE MORNING

at

THE OLD CHURCH HOUSE

OXHILL

SATURDAY 25th JUNE

10 a.m. to Noon

CAKE, PRODUCE and PLANT STALLS

RAFFLE and TOMBOLA

Any donations for the above will be most welcome

Anne Marshall, 680411

Angela Emmerson, 680565

OXHILL NEWS DELIVERIES

Dot Richards has delivered the News to a part of Main Street for many years but health problems mean she is unable to continue doing so.

Please could a volunteer step forward and take over from her. It involves delivering copies of the News each month starting at the Peacock and working along Main Street to the Old Church House opposite the Church.

Offers to me please in the first instance.

George Adams, 680286

ST. LAWRENCE'S CHURCH, OXHILL

SERVICES IN MAY

All are warmly welcome

| | | |
|-------------|------------|--|
| Sunday 1st | Easter I | 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion (ML) |
| Sunday 8th | Easter II | 6.30 p.m. Evensong (BR) |
| Sunday 15th | Easter III | 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion (ML) |
| Sunday 22nd | Easter IV | 9.30 a.m. Family Service (NM) |
| Sunday 29th | Easter V | 11.00 a.m. United Benefice Communion at Tysoe (ML) |

For other benefice services see porch notice board

CHURCH OF ST LAWRENCE

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting was held on April 10th. Elections took place and these are the results

Church Wardens Carol Fox
Charles MacCall

PCC officers and members

Electoral roll officer Diane Harper
PCC Secretary Linda Synge
Treasurer James Synge
Deanery Representatives Carol Fox
Doug Nethercleft (Ex Officio)
Hon. Emeritus Janet Gardner
Clerk of Works Jo Van Dijk
Also Nadia MacCall
Belinda Marklew
Sue Hunt
Martin Hunt
Gill Rodwell

Auditor John McKail
Sidesmen All members of the PCC plus Bill Fox
Carol Fox

KINETON OIL CONSORTIUM

The Consortium will be ordering oil again in June. Please will you give me your oil needs by 6 p.m. on Wednesday June 1st.

For your information, forward dates for oil ordering are September 14th and November 16th, both with the usual cut-off time of 6 p.m. A notice will be posted on the Village Hall notice board carrying this information.

Diane Harper, 680529

DEANERY NEWS FOR MAY

What a wonderful series of Lent Services we have had, touring all over the Deanery. My thanks to everyone involved – speakers, coffee makers, church caretakers, wardens, clergy etc. At the time of writing, the final total for Bishop Cleophas is unknown, but after three services we had collected about £500, so we should be able to send him close on £1000 to help him buy a vehicle suitable for the rugged roads of Zimbabwe. Every penny you have given, therefore, becomes part of God's ministry in that country. Thank you all so much.

Looking ahead, there is a lot happening:

Tuesday, May 10th, at 7.30 p.m. in St. Edmund's, Shipston: Archdeacon's Visitation and Licensing for all Church Wardens.

Monday, May 16th, at 7.30 p.m., also at St. Edmund's: Extra-ordinary Deanery Synod to discuss Parish Share

Thursday, June 2nd, ASCENSION DAY, 7.30 p.m. Deanery Ascension Day Service (Eucharist) at Butlers Marston. Preacher: Simon Lloyd, Diocesan Secretary.

Tuesday, June 7th, at 7.00 for 7.30 p.m. at Ilmington Village Hall, Deanery Synod with Roger Horsley and a team from the Church Army. On this occasion we will begin with a Bring and Share Supper at 7.00 p.m. as we welcome those newly elected as Deanery Synod Representatives.

And also:

'Understanding the Bible' with Richard Cooke: two sessions, Part 1 and Part 2 in St. Edmund's Church on Saturday May 21st and Saturday June 18th between 9.30 and 3.30 p.m. Please bring a packed lunch.

And finally:

Music for a Summer's Evensong: on Saturday July 9th we are having another Evensong Workshop, this time aimed particularly at the children, and teaching them the glories of Evensong. We are going to Ilmington Church, where there is already a Children's Choir, and both the music and the timing are designed to appeal to all ages, older as well as younger. So we will begin at 2.00 p.m. (for 2.30) and finish no later than 6.30 p.m., possibly earlier. As before, everyone is very welcome. Details will come later, but any inquiries to me please.

Jill Tucker, 01295 688193 revjill.tucker@tiscali.co.uk

The early bird might get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.

NATURE NOTES FOR MAY

May brings with her the beauty and fragrance of hawthorn blossoms and the song of the nightingale. She is a beautiful maiden, clothed in sunshine, scattering flowers on the earth while she dances to the music of birds and brooks. She has given a rich greenness to the young corn, and the grass is now tall enough for the flowers to play at hide-and-seek among, as they are chased by the wind. The grass also gives a softness to the dazzling white of the daisies and the glittering gold of the buttercups.

Chambers Book of Days 1864

Well! I am surprised that to my knowledge no one twigged my April Fool in last month's Nature Notes; that either proves I am a good story teller or that no one ever reads my ramblings... perhaps we will leave that one unanswered! The Canada goose was not from New England and was not known as the Colonial goose, it was in fact from the Great Lakes and was called the Canada goose from the start, it did not receive its name from being canned! The Swedish inventor who invented the tin can...Rapol Foil...the answer is in the name, never existed and goose meat was, as far as I am aware, never canned, and it was not taken on the Arctic Expedition. However everything else is in fact...fact!

Those of you who sleep with your windows open will no doubt be fully aware of the wonderful dawn chorus happening at the moment and almost unbelievable in its volume and diversity, of course as the days progress this cacophony will subdue into a gentle ripple of bird song.

A couple of days ago I had taken a cup of tea out into the garden and was sitting under our lilac tree, I was aware of a starling some four or five feet above my head, he seemed totally unaware of my presence and was chattering away, he suddenly imitated, with great precision, the call of a buzzard several times, then back to chattering and next he was a lapwing, once again word perfect. He then did something very unusual, the call of mallards chattering in flight but the strange thing was that he did it very quietly, indicating, that he had only heard them at distance or flying very high. This reminded me of a blackbird, back in the winter, who sat in a very thick bush in our garden and for days sang his song very quietly, almost inaudible, you could get within a few feet of him and he was singing away, but in a whisper! Back to the starling; he did the mallard calls several times and whilst he was doing so a cock pheasant at the top of the garden called out with that familiar 'chur chuc' immediately the starling went quiet and suddenly tried several times to imitate this call, he couldn't seem to get it quite right so he gave up and just flew away, or perhaps he went off to get closer to the pheasant for a better analysis. Apparently Mozart kept a pet starling; he had bought the bird in 1784 and it was already an accomplished performer and, remarkably, could whistle part of Mozart's own Concerto in G minor, although, strangely Mozart had never performed it in public. Where had the bird heard it? One wonders if that was the reason he bought the bird. His pet lived with him for three years and when it died in 1787 he honoured it with an elaborate funeral.

Aristotle wrote:

Certain species of birds above all animals, and next after man, possesses the faculty of uttering articulate sounds. During the 17th and 18th centuries bird keeping reached its zenith and there was a practise of slitting, trimming or loosening the birds tongue to increase its talking ability. Rather alarmingly this practise actually came from an older practice of dealing with tongue-tied children when the membrane under the tongue was cut to 'loosen the tongue' hence the phrase "speak up child or I'll have to loosen your tongue". It neither worked on bird or child and by the mid 18th century was deemed cruel and completely unnecessary.

Grenville Moore

A SONG OF THE WEATHER

Farmers fear unkindly May
Frost by night and hail by day
Michael Flanders

OWLS

A good talk from Bob Sherman of Ryton Organics on the 12th April, but where were all you gardeners? Nevertheless a good turnout, and certainly one thing that will remain ingrained in my brain; a single flower can play host to the following insects; leaf cutters, plant miners and borers, sap suckers, seed predators, nectar or pollen feeders and gall formers and it is estimated that, amazingly, between 200-300 of these creatures depend on one single plant!... so just give that a thought before you spray or mow your garden.

Our next talk will be on June 7th in the village hall. Mike Slater one of the county's top butterfly persons, will give us a talk on butterflies and butterfly conservation. Please don't miss this talk, it will pre-empt the National Butterfly Count taking place on one weekend in July, I hope all the village will get involved in this and OWLS will be putting info and ID sheets through your letterbox.

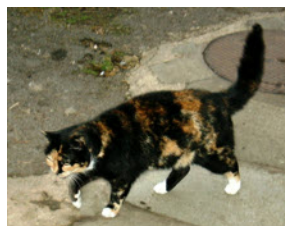
Enjoy the sunshine and the wildlife.

Grenville Moore

LOST CAT

Does anyone recognise or want this friendly and affectionate tortoiseshell cat which arrived in December at Short Meadow.

Please contact Carol Beasley on 01295 680383.



SCARECROW WEEKEND

St. Lawrence Church

&

supporting Air Ambulance

Saturday 19th & Sunday 20th June

It's that time of year again! Get out those scarecrows, dust them down and revamp!

I hope you are not getting too fed up with the scarecrows, but it is one of the most popular events we have ever had. People come from miles around, and they come back year after year as it is such a good fun weekend. You all come up with the most amazing ideas; many thanks.

We will have the usual stalls including bric-a-brac and plants. If you have any items for these we will be most grateful. Your own stall at the Old Chapel will be £5 per day.

If you are willing to open your garden that would be wonderful. Please let me know.

If you can offer your help on the weekend please tell me. I need to sort out rotas.

Many thanks to you all.

Lilian

A CALL FOR CAKES!

SCARECROW WEEKEND JUNE 18 AND 19

CAKES AND HELP URGENTLY REQUIRED!

Once again will all the cake bakers of Oxhill rise to the challenge and provide us with the wonderful array of cakes, scones and gateaux that we are famous for?

Last year the weekend raised an amazing £3000. You can imagine how many cups of tea and slices of cake were served, let alone how much washing up was done.

We have a marvellous band of helpers but this year we need even more. So if you can spare even 1 hour of time on either Saturday or Sunday to help with teas or on stalls or washing up (we provide the Marigolds - or you might be able to work the village hall's new dishwasher) we would be very grateful to hear from you! I will try to ring as many of you as is possible but if I don't manage to speak to everyone please accept my thanks for all the support we receive.

Please ring me on 680473 or Lilian on 680468.

Gaynor Fila

YOUR VILLAGE NEEDS YOUR CAKES!

LOST AND FOUND

The earring pictured here was found recently (well, fairly recently) outside Briars Meadow in Blackford Way.

If it is yours please contact the Editor.



AT THE PEACOCK

Charity Quiz Nights

The May quiz night will be on Sunday May 1st. Proceeds will be used to help Zoe Williams, who will be climbing Kilimanjaro in aid of Air Ambulance.

In June there will be a Super Quiz and Raffle. This will be in aid of our First Responders.

Please try to make as many of the quiz nights as you can. They are great fun and raise funds for very worthy causes.

Village Events

The village coffee morning will be on Wednesday 4th, starting at 10.30, and the village lunch will be on Wednesday 18th.

Editor

GARDEN CLUB

A relaxed, enjoyable evening was experienced by us all through Janeanne Peachey's easy to follow suggestions on planting summer bedding flowers in containers. She displayed a moss lined hanging basket, a cone one, adding a base of polystyrene fragments to help drainage and a terracotta pot. Janeanne made light of tucking the flowers in quite roughly but ensuring that they all fitted close to the centre of the basket or tub. Packed with plants ready to flower I think we all would like to have seen her displays blossom in the weeks to come. However, there were plenty more flowers, all lined up, ready to buy for those keen enough to give it a go.

Reg announced the change in the July outing. It will now take place on Wednesday 20th July - a guided tour round Broughton Grange, to include tea and cakes @ £9/head. The June Garden Party will take place at the Hedley's home @ £5/head, to include a glass of wine and plenty of food.

Our next meeting will be on 26th May when we will hold our plant sale at 7 p.m. ; don't forget to label with the plant name, any relevant details, the price and your allocated letter.

Sue Hedley

BEWARE! THIEVES ARE ACTIVE IN OXHILL

From an Oxhill resident:

I am writing to advise you that I discovered an attempted break in at my house on Main Street. The would-be thieves attempted access via the rear of the property. The police attended and took the necessary forensics.

You have been warned. Again.

Editor

OXHILL VILLAGE HALL AGM

Our AGM was held on Friday, April 15th 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 2 new committee members.

The committee would like to most sincerely thank those members who have stood down; Angela Emmerson, Tracey Hackett and Katy Dowding for their efforts and successes over the past years. We would also like to thank those people who, whilst not on the Committee, also make a great contribution including Sue Robbins and Gwyn & George Adams.

The Treasurer's and the Chairman's reports both reflected on a good year in terms of income, new types of event, number of events held and the increased attendance at the various events.

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, Carol Taylor, Pat Crowther, Judy Badger, Adrian Marklew, Stuart Whittaker, Diana Cronin and Jude MacDonald.

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

Derek Harbour

VICARAGE NOTES

Dear friends,

The power of "e-bay" reaches into the Vicarage nowadays, and I was delighted to buy for £15 a fine 1901 desk size Book of Common Prayer. It was presented in that year to Daisy Barnet of St. Peter's School Worcester for coming 1st in the Diocesan R.E. exam. Sadly, it was hardly used, so I am pleased that it will have a revived life! Mind you, it's no good having beliefs if they're not put to work, and the task of the Easter people is to present a living faith to the world!

My thanks to all who have taken on a new term of responsibility as members of St. Lawrence's P.C.C. and to all who support the church through the year.

God bless,

Nicholas Morgan 01608 685230

To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.

THE OXHILL NEWS

The Big Society is alive and well in Oxhill. Two wonderful Oxhillians have volunteered to take over the Editorship from me for the July issue.

More details in June.

Editor

OXHILL VILLAGE HALL

Forthcoming Events

Friday 20th May

Friday Night is Quiz Night

We are holding one of our popular quizzes with light refreshments. It will be a similar format to before with a variety of 'rounds' so there is likely to be a subject that you know something about. Tickets cost £3 per person, including light refreshments and are available from Gaynor van Dyke on 680349.

Friday June 10th

Singer/songwriter, Boo Hewerdine

Boo (a man with a guitar) is very well known on the folk / easy listening circuit and we are very fortunate to have secured him for an evening at the Village hall. His first session will begin at 8.00 p.m. (doors will open at 7.00 p.m.) after which he will take a short break before completing his stint later in the evening.

If you do not instantly know the name Boo Hewerdine, think of the song Patience of Angels which he wrote and Eddi Reader had a hit with or find out more by going to his website www.boohewerdine.net and listen to a few of his recordings.

Before coming to Oxhill, Boo has gigs in Barbados and Bridlington! Tickets for this very special event cost £12.50 each and are available from Pat Crowther, 680705.

Sunday July 10th

Boules Day

Our ever-popular Boules Day is taking place again and as well as the Boules Competition there will be French Cheeses, Pates and liquid refreshments. More details will be available in subsequent editions of the Oxhill News but please put the date in your diaries now!

Wednesday, 20 July & Thursday, 21 July

Oxhill Artists Art Exhibition

The annual Exhibition will be open on Wednesday from 7.00 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. & Thursday for viewing and coffee from 10 a.m. to 12.00 noon. More details to follow.

Derek Harbour

When tempted to fight fire with fire, remember that the Fire Service usually uses water.

VILLAGE HISTORY

Among Evelyn Colyer's writings is an article entitled BELLS, which refers both to her early childhood in Oxhill, and also later at Quinton, where she spent the greater part of her life. I have made extracts from her article that relate to the Oxhill bells of long ago, with my interlinking comments put in square brackets [] A.H.

"When I was a child living in Oxhill...., the "pancake bell" was rung at noon every Shrove Tuesday, to remind housewives to begin cooking their pancakes.

That old custom has died out, together with the "pudding bell" which was rung every Sunday morning as soon as the congregation had left the church, which was usually at about 12.30, because prayers were long and every sermon seemed interminable!

Our lives – and deaths – were dominated by bells. When anyone died, the tenor ("big") bell tolled one deep solemn note for a man; followed respectively by the same number of strokes as the sum of years of the departed.

People would stop work, listen, and say "Ah, poor so-and-so's gone".

One custom which is still observed in certain villages in the "clashing" of the bells at the finish of a wedding peal; the ringers grasp their sallies and stand ready, then when the Tower Master gives the word, they all pull together. The result was deafening!"

[The focus of Evelyn's article moves now to Quinton where her father was to be Tower Master for many years, and several other members of her family became accomplished bellringers. She writes of the years when no ringing could take place because the Quinton steeple became unsafe, but after its restoration they were able to resume the "old custom" of ringing the bells at 7 a.m. on Easter Sunday and Christmas Day before Holy Communion at 8 a.m., (to be followed by further ringing for Matins and Evensong). Was this old custom observed also at Oxhill I wonder? Returning again to her time at Oxhill, she continues as follows:]

"School bells were important during my early childhood. There was great competition to ring the bell before school opened in the morning, and again after dinner; the first child to arrive had that privilege.

The headmistress had a small dome-shaped bell, with a round knob on top which she smote sharply when she wished to restore order; she also used it to recall children to classes after play.

The bell all the children loved to hear was carried by an ancient tramp, who appeared about twice each year, pushing a wooden box mounted on old pram wheels. This box was festooned with home-made windmills constructed of stiff, brightly coloured paper nailed to wooden sticks, and when the old man sounded his hand-bell, the children would run out of their cottages with old clothes and empty bottles, clamouring to exchange them for windmills. Sometimes a child would take a rabbit-skin in exchange for 2d and a windmill. Such wealth!

When I married a marine engineer, and often stayed with him on board ship, my life was again regulated by bells, just as it was in my childhood."

[Evelyn ends her article by saying that to her "the sound of church bells is one of the sweetest things in life". She was actively involved with her church throughout her life, and it was a sound in which she must have often rejoiced.]

Ann Hale

SHIPSTON BEE-KEEPERS

I am pleased to relate that Shipston Bee-keepers' recent Introduction to Bee-keeping day was a great success and fully subscribed by 26 attendees. As a consequence we have some twelve persons looking to start keeping bees this season and hoping to catch a swarm of honey bees to populate their brand new hives.

You may know that a colony of honey bees naturally divides in two most years to perpetuate the species – the 'old' queen leaves the nest with half of the flying bees as a swarm to set up home elsewhere leaving behind a, 'ready to emerge' from its cell, 'new' queen to head the colony. Unfortunately the life expectancy of feral colonies is now materially affected by the parasitic varroa mite. There are far fewer bees in the wild and it is only with the help of bee-keepers that colonies of managed honey bees are able to survive.

I should like to enlist the help of readers in advising me of accessible swarms that I and prospective bee-keepers could collect and re-house. To this end I provide the following:

Wanted for new bee-keepers – accessible swarms of honey bees. Not round, furry bumble bees that nest in masonry or in the ground, nor the distinctive black and yellow wasp in its papier maché nest in a roof space – but rather the tennis ball (or even rugby ball!) size cluster of almost hairless honey bees on a post or hanging from the branch of a tree. Such a cluster of bees is midway from its nest and its, as yet undetermined, new home – it is docile unless disturbed and unlikely to stay put for more than a couple of hours. Please contact Douglas Nethercleft of Shipston Bee-keepers on 07850 352905 to advise the swarm's location and to arrange for its collection if practicable.

Douglas Nethercleft

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The British Red Cross are currently in need of more volunteers to help in their shop in Shipston on Stour. If you are able to give a couple of hours a week to help sort stock or serve in the shop, Ann and Marie would love to hear from you. Please either ring 01608 664250 or call in at the shop for more details.

Ann White

A diplomat is someone who tells you to go to hell in such a way that you look forward to the trip.

WOT2GROW COMMUNITY ORCHARD

We've Started - and we've completed the first plantings!!!

It started on a chilly April 1st morning. No, it wasn't an April fool, when we opened up the gates to the orchard field and took delivery of 15 tons of green waste compost! We then measured the actual boundaries so we could check out our plans for planting. Later we were delighted to have Thomas Fox cut a 20m x 40m area so we could mark out rows and start digging. We are extremely grateful for his contribution to the orchard.

On April 2nd we continued the digging and were joined by members and villagers so that in what seemed like no time at all we had planted an impressive number of plants, watered them in and mulched with compost. A repeat of the work was done on the Sunday afternoon when again we had more than a dozen helpers and we were joined by the horticultural expert John Edgeley who worked with us and gave us advice including how to prune post planting. We also learnt the fascinating technique of laying and securing weed suppressant material!

We were fortunate to have Myles Bremner, the CEO of Garden Organic at Ryton, join lots of members and villagers on April 6th to plant a bush and give us great photo opportunities with the local press! He was very supportive and thought we had a very good and exciting project.

The final stage of the initial planting, watering and mulching took place on April 10th with again many thanks to the members and villagers who have done the hard work.

So, we have planted summer and autumn fruiting raspberries, blackcurrants, red currants, white currants, gooseberries (red and green), tayberries, loganberries, a boysenberry, a wineberry, a jostaberry and a worcesterberry.

See the web site for photos and more; www.wot2grow.co.uk

Please contact one of the team for how to get involved:

Liz Atkinson (680045), Paul Sayer (680451), Derek Harbour (680676), Sue and Mike Sanderson (688080), Graham Collier (680127), Sam Littlewood (688137).

LIMERICK CORNER

In New Orleans dwelled a young Creole
Who, asked if her hair was all reole,
Replied with a shrug
'Just give it a tug
And decide by the way that I squeole.'

THE NATIONAL GARDENS SCHEME

Visit an NGS garden this year and help raise millions of pounds for charity.

Have you ever thought of visiting an NGS garden? There are about 3,700 gardens to choose from in England and Wales. Warwickshire offers 31 individual and group gardens, including ones nearby at Halford, Honington, Idlicote, and Radway.

Most of the gardens that open for the NGS are privately owned and open just a few times each year; others open as part of a group which gets the whole community involved. Delicious home-made teas add to the afternoon's outing.

In the last ten years the NGS has donated £25 million. Its major beneficiaries are Macmillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie Cancer Care, Help the Hospices and Cross Roads Care.

The NGS is a registered charity established in 1927 which keeps its overheads low so that most of the money raised at the garden gate goes straight to its charities. Each garden charges a small entrance fee (typically £2 - £5 per adult, children free).

Free booklets listing just Warwickshire NGS gardens are available from Garden Centres, Libraries and Tysoe Post Office and Butcher. Details of all the gardens can be seen on the NGS website - www.ngs.org.uk.

So next time you see a bright yellow NGS Garden Open arrow or poster at the roadside, why not come and enjoy a cup of tea and cake at these beautiful gardens and at the same time you will be supporting several worthwhile charities.

Since I am the County Organiser for Warwickshire I would like to get together a group from Tysoe and Oxhill to open in 2012. If you would like to be involved, either to open your garden or help with teas and parking, please get in touch with me.

Julia Sewell, 01295 680234



STOUR SINGERS

'Elijah' is coming to St Edmund's Church, Shipston on Saturday 14th May at 7.30 p.m. Mendelssohn's dramatic oratorio is presented by Stour Singers, backed by the Cherwell Orchestra with an amazing line-up of international soloists:- Irish soprano, Sarah Power, Swedish mezzo-soprano, Sofie Almroth, the English tenor, Richard Dowling, and the world renowned Welsh baritone, Jeremy Huw Williams, in the title role. The conductor is Richard Emms, who founded Stour Singers & has developed the choir over 35 years. This is a night to remember - don't miss it!

Tickets, £12.50 (accompanied children free) from choir members, R. Clarke, 27 High St Shipston & at the door.

Whatcote "Bluebell Walk"

Annual Bluebell Walk at Whatcote on Sunday May 8th

Come for a gentle walk up to Hell Brake to see the bluebells and enjoy a cream tea in St Peter's church yard on your return

You can begin your walk any time between 2.00pm to 5.00pm

Strong boots or shoes are essential

Dogs welcome if kept on a lead

The cost is £6 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

TYSOE SPORTS PAVILION

WINDMILL RUN

SATURDAY 11TH JUNE

approximately

10K CROSS COUNTRY RUN

OVER 16 YRS

ENTRY FEE £6.00 per person (£8.00 on the day)

or

3K FUN RUN or WALK

ENTRY FEE £4.00 per adult & £2.00 per child

10 A.M. START

TO BOOK RING JO 01295 680449

DOGS TO BE KEPT ON LEADS AT ALL TIMES



SHIPSTON HOME NURSING

Our Popular Annual Plant Sale

Saturday 7th May

10 am - 12 noon

Free Entry

Sheldon Bosley Hub

(formerly Norgren)

Shipston on Stour

Now is the time to be splitting up your herbaceous plants, potting up and nurturing those seedlings!!

So please think of us and enjoy being in the garden/greenhouse now we're into Spring

Any help you can offer on Friday 6th May or Saturday 7th please contact
Debbie Joss 01295 680803

QUESTION: WHEN IS A BALL NOT A BALL?

ANSWER: WHEN IT'S A CIRCUS!

Hospice-Care-at-Home charity, Shipston Home Nursing (SHN), is staging an exclusive fundraising event with Giffords Circus on the evening of Saturday 11th June at Cheltenham racecourse.

An alternative to their bi-annual Ball, it promises to be a fantastic night of stunning, and unique entertainment for grown-ups. Live comedy, amazing stunts, and music, with champagne and a hog roast supper followed by dancing to a live band!

If you have never experienced the unique event that is Giffords then you have a wonderful surprise in store and if you have, then you will know why it is such special theatre.

SHN need to raise £150,000 this year to continue to provide their unique, and completely free, hospice-care-at-home service to families in the Shipston, Wellesbourne and Kineton areas.

To order tickets call Rebecca on 01608 674929 or
email rebecca@shn-fundraising.co.uk

NEW POLICING MODEL TO DELIVER BEST SERVICE POSSIBLE

Warwickshire Police will operate a new policing model from May 9th 2011 in order to continue delivering the maximum possible protection to local communities within the resources the force has available.

The force has to reduce its spending by £22.9m by March 31st 2015 in order to continue to operate within a balanced budget.

Delivering local policing, patrol and response and investigation through county-wide teams from May will enable the force to operate a less-costly shift pattern, requiring less officers and buildings, thereby delivering significant cost reductions.

The force has already identified £13.4m of the required savings without impacting on levels of protection for local communities and is currently developing a blueprint to find the additional £9.5m with the minimum additional impact on service delivery that is possible to achieve.

However, as around 80 per cent of the force's budget is spent on employment costs, the force and Police Authority have had to take some tough decisions.

One way of doing this and to assist in reducing numbers the force has implemented Regulation 19, which requires all police officers with 30 years pensionable service to retire.

The force is unable by law to make police officers redundant and further immediate reductions in people costs must come from our police staff as the new policing model will operate with less police officer posts.

This means that we have more police officers now than we need for the new policing model. Therefore to accommodate the additional numbers of police officers we need to reduce police staff numbers.

This is a temporary measure to assist us in reducing the size of the work force to meet the needs of the new policing model.

When police officer numbers fall to the required establishment level as a result of A19 and officer retirement, we will be able to recruit police staff to these posts again.

Throughout this process staff associations and the Police Authority have been fully engaged in discussions.

The force has opened a voluntary redundancy scheme and all members of staff with more than two years continuous service have been invited to consider volunteering for redundancy.

Many of the roles delivered by people who are accepted for voluntary redundancy will still need to be delivered to protect people. The force will therefore temporarily post officers who do not have positions in the new policing model into these roles.

Chief Constable Keith Bristow said:

"We value our workforce of committed and talented people. Our police staff fulfil a wide range of crucial policing roles including public facing roles such as PCSOs, Scenes of Crime Officers and those in the Communications Centre, as well as specialist professional services in areas such as Human Resources and Finance.

"Losing staff is not something we want to do, but something we have to do in order to make the budget cuts required of us.

Notes to Editors

1. Warwickshire Police currently employs 920 civilian staff (856 full time equivalent). This includes a mixture of public facing roles such as PCSOs and Communications Centre, as well as specialist professional services in areas such as Human Resources and Finance.
2. Only staff with two years continuous service, of which there are 794, are eligible to apply for voluntary redundancy.
3. This relates to police staff, and NOT police officers.

BURGLARY CRIME PREVENTION

Burglary Crime Prevention Shipston SNT would like to remind householders of the following crime prevention dos and don'ts advice to help protect your property against burglary.

Do

Remember to keep windows locked. Remove the keys and keep them out of sight in a safe place.

Keep your doors locked even when you are at home.

Keep your purse/keys, including car keys, out of sight.

Use thorny plants and bushes to deter access at vulnerable positions.

Ensure your property looks occupied when you are out.

Lock away ladders, garden tools, spades and forks that otherwise might be used by burglars.

Property mark your possessions.

Ask a friend or neighbour to look after your home if you are going away and cancel any milk, newspapers or regular house deliveries.

Trim back any plants or hedges that a burglar could hide behind.

Don't

Keep large amounts of cash in the home.

Attach your house key to a piece of string through the letterbox or leave keys in the lock (on the inside of the door) especially if you have a cat flap.

Leave your back door open when you are out in the garden.

Position your dustbins or wheelie bins near gates or fences where they can be used to climb over.

Leave car keys on hall tables or stairs and thereby accessible to burglars through the letterbox with a hook or magnet device.

Leave a spare key in a convenient hiding place such as under the doormat or in a flowerpot.

Leave boxes from replacement electrical items outside for refuse collection. Either break them up and hide them in your bin or take them to a rubbish tip.

Do not use barbed or razor wire or broken glass on the top of garden walls or fences. You can be held legally responsible for any injuries caused and there are safer alternatives.

Leave unlocked a garage, shed or outbuildings that might contain expensive tools or tools that are ideal for breaking into the rest of the house.

Leave your curtains closed during the daytime.

Please contact Shipston SNT for further advice.

WHAT'S ON IN & AROUND OXHILL

May

| | | |
|----------------|--------------|--|
| Sunday 1st | 20.00 | The Peacock - Charity quiz night |
| Tuesday 3rd | | Grey landfill bin collection |
| Wednesday 4th | 10.30 | The Peacock - Village Coffee Morning |
| Saturday 7th | 10 - 12 | Sheldon Bosley Hub, Shipston - SHN plant sale |
| Sunday 8th | | Whatcote Bluebell Walk - see p. 15 for details |
| Tuesday 10th | | Green & blue bin collection |
| Wednesday 11th | 10.00 | Village Hall - Mobile Library |
| Friday 13th | 9.30 | Weekday Walkers |
| Sunday 15th | 13.00 | The Old Chapel - Lamb roast & Curry lunch |
| Tuesday 17th | | Grey landfill bin collection |
| | 20.00 | Village Hall - Parish Council meeting |
| Wednesday 18th | 12.30 | The Peacock - Village Lunch |
| Friday 20th | | Village Hall - Quiz night |
| Tuesday 24th | | Green & blue bin collection |
| | 23.59 | Copy deadline for the News |
| Thursday 26th | 19.00 | Village Hall - Garden Club Plant Sale - Note 4th Thursday not 3rd |
| Friday 27th | 9.45 | Weekday Walkers |
| Tuesday 31st | | Grey landfill bin collection |

June

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| Wednesday 1st | 18.00 | Order deadline for Kineton Oil Consortium |
| Tuesday 7th | | Village Hall - OWLS meeting |
| Friday 10th | 19.00 | Village Hall - Boo Hewerdine |
| Saturday 11th | 10.00 | Tysoe Sports Pavilion - Fun Run |
| | | Cheltenham racecourse - SHN party at Gifford's circus |
| Thursday 23rd | | Garden Club Garden Party - Note 4th Thursday not 3rd |
| Saturday 18th & Sunday 19th | | Scarecrow weekend |
| Saturday 25th | 10 - 12 | The Old Church House - Chernobyl's Children Coffee Morning |

July

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|----------------|--|--|
| Wednesday 20th | | Garden Club outing to Broughton Grange |
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