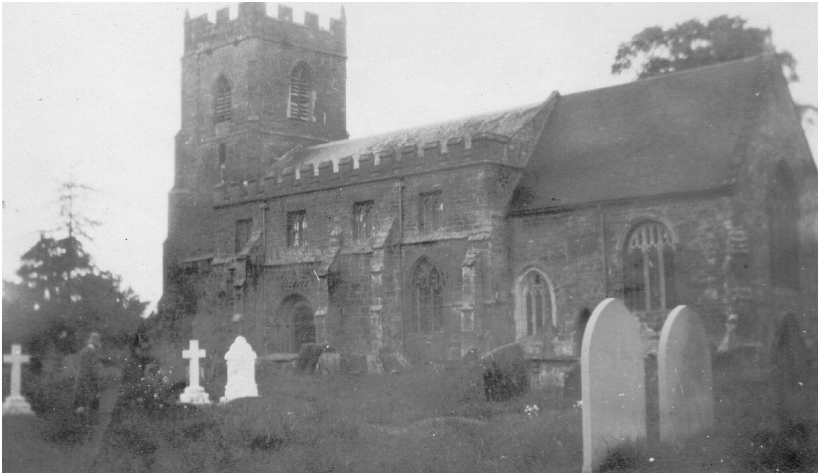


THE OXHILL NEWS



No. 419
October 2009

BAVARIAN EVENING

Oxhill Village Hall

Friday, October 23rd

There are still some tickets available for this exciting event but we urge you to hurry up and contact Tracey Hackett on 680366 for tickets.

The planning for the evening is going well and the menu for the evening has been decided upon with a selection of smoked cheeses, pickles, salami, cheese dip and pretzels to start with. This will be followed by real Bratwurst (excellent pork sausages), Kartoffel (potatoes) and Sauerkraut (pickled cabbage) and to finish there will be Apple Strudel and German Cheesecake.

This will all be washed down with German Beer and (French!) wine.

Sadly, the proposed lederhosen (fancy dress) competition has been cancelled because of a surfeit of knobbly knees and a nod to good sense.

We will have German Oompah music to accompany the food and a light-hearted quiz on all things German to follow the meal.

The cost will be £12.50 per person and a good time will be had by all!

Derek Harbour

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 October the van will visit us on Tuesday 6th and 27th.

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

Editor

NOVEMBER ISSUE

Please could I have all copy for the November issue by Midnight on **Sunday, 25th October**? 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 PICTURES

Ann Hale provided these two pictures, which illustrate her Village History article on the next page.

Editor

VILLAGE HISTORY

The Hunt family of Oxhill

The Bowers family photos taken during their visit to Oxhill in 1930 have also a subsidiary story. One photo shows the south, or far side of the churchyard where three new and startlingly white gravestones are noticeable. There is a woman walking near them, whom I believe by her distinctive hat, to be Peter Mowlam's grandmother Mrs Bertha Bowers, nee Betteridge. (I find I inaccurately referred to her last month by her maiden rather than her married name).

I have sought out the gravestones, and find that they are all dedicated to members of the Hunt family. John Gardner Hunt, the village shoemaker and cobbler, and his wife Mary Ann had a sad history. They lost a daughter and a son in infancy, and also two daughters, who died later in their teens of TB - Ellen (Nellie), in 1906, aged 15 and Laura, in 1912, a week short of her 16th birthday. The family lived originally in Meadow Cottage, at the bottom of Gilks Lane (they are listed there in the 1901 census), but later as disease took its hold on the children they had moved to higher ground at Fern Cottage, Main Street, hoping for purer air away from the brook. Evelyn Colyer has told me that their son, another John, was also affected by TB, and had to live in a "hut in the garden" but he appears to have eventually recovered. Living outside with plenty of fresh air was the only treatment available at the time. Charlie Taylor, son of the carpenter/wainwright at Fellows House, Back Lane similarly had an outside hut or outhouse to live in. He did die young, aged 29, in 1921; such treatment in our climate can hardly have helped much.

The far-left cross in the photo records the death of the two Hunt babies, Ada Mary aged 18 days in 1893, and William aged 2 days in 1897, and also of Ellen (Nellie) in 1906. The middle stone is to Laura: and the arched one on the right to their father John Gardner Hunt, who died in 1923. His inscription, reflecting his sense of loss, reads "We shall meet on that beautiful shore". His wife Mary Ann, who lived on until 1941, was also buried in Oxhill, and I imagine lies in her husband's grave, but there is no added inscription to record this. Bill Heritage remembers her in her widowhood, a somewhat aloof figure, always in black with a black bonnet - frightening to him as a little boy!

What significance, I wondered, did the Hunt graves have to Mrs Bertha Bowers, whose family, the Betteridges came from Over Norton? It had been thought important enough for a photo to be taken of her beside them. Oxhill's Marriage Register revealed that in 1871, a cousin of Bertha's father's, Noah Betteridge from Over Norton, had married Ann Hunt of Oxhill, (sister of John Gardner Hunt, the children's father). Bertha would no doubt have known the family's tragic story, and come to pay her respects.

The glaring whiteness of their marble stones initially caused some murmurings in the village, as they were not thought to be in keeping with the rest of the churchyard. Now lichen and the passing of years has made them all uniformly grey. Time heals.

Ann Hale

ST. LAWRENCE'S CHURCH, OXHILL

SERVICES IN OCTOBER

All are warmly welcome

Sunday 4th	Trinity XVII	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion (ML)
Sunday 11th	Trinity XVIII	6.30 p.m.	Evensong (ML)
Sunday 18th	Trinity XIX; St. Luke	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion (ML)
Sunday 25th	Trinity XX	9.30 a.m.	Family Service (NM)

CHURCH FLOWERS

Due to illness and retirement we have four weeks when we have no flower arrangers on the rota. Is there anyone, new or already on the rota, who would like to fill the gaps for us and maybe would like to be added to the rota on a regular basis? We are very informal and just like to have the main pedestal filled with flowers to make the church look welcoming. The dates of the gaps are from November 22nd through to December 13th. If you can help please contact me on 01295 680223.

Carol Fox, Church Warden

OXHILL FESTIVAL CHOIR

Now that the days are drawing in and there is a certain chill in the air our thoughts should turn to the Oxhill Festival Choir's annual outing, the Christmas Carol Service. The Carol Service will be held on Thursday 17th December at 7.30 p.m. We do hope that all the regular singers, and hopefully a few new ones, will join us for rehearsals, which will be taken by Joyce Hall again this year. She has chosen some really lovely but unusual pieces for us to perform so I do hope as many people as possible can attend the rehearsals. The dates are Friday 27th November, Friday 4th December and Friday 11th December together with a final rehearsal in the Church on Tuesday 15th December at 7.30 p.m. All other rehearsals will be in the Old Chapel at 7.30 p.m. If there is anyone who is new in the village and who would like to join us, male voices are particularly welcome.

Anyone who wants further details please contact Gaynor Van Dijk on 680349.

VILLAGE CAROL SERVICE

Thursday December 17th

Although it seems a long way ahead please could I make everyone aware of the date for the Candlelit Carol Service in Oxhill Church. For newcomers it is a really lovely service and is not to be missed.

We have the choir making preparations so hope the date will be noted. Everyone will be welcome. Please come and sing all the favourite carols.

Carol Fox, Church Warden

INSTANT CHOIRS FOR CHRISTMAS

Saturday November 21st, 2.00 -6.00 p.m., at St. Edmunds Church, Shipston

Please join us for a choral workshop, led by Julian Harris, for those who love to sing at Christmas but have very limited resources: an afternoon of learning together Christmas music that is (mostly) easy to sing and accompany on the piano or organ, which you can take back to sing with your choir or congregation. Wanting to sing is the only qualification!

The cost is £5 (£3 for school children) to include all music: leaflets should be in your churches, or contact Jill Tucker, 01295 688193, revjill.tucker@tiscali.co.uk.

SHIPSTON DEANERY

'Rejoice'

A Celebration of God's Treasury

Tuesday, 6th October at Ettington Church

from 7.00 p.m. onwards

Bring and share supper (finger food),

Worship and Praise

Deanery Synod with Simon Lloyd

VICARAGE NOTES

Thought for the month

We have certainly enjoyed lovely weather in September and if it continues into October - as it has for the last year or two, there will be a "St. Luke's little summer" as he is remembered on October 18th.

One of those oddities in life is that while the names Matthew, Mark and John have always been very popular, Luke has been way down the list. I hope there may be a small resurgence as I have baptised 2 Lukes recently.

Luke as a doctor and evangelist presents a picture of a learned and caring man of God. As the "beloved physician" of Paul, he writes a careful account of the early church in Acts and focuses on the healing ministry of Jesus in the Gospel. Luke, I suspect, had a real care for the underdog, those whom the rest of society marginalised.

It would be good to have a few more Lukes in our world!

Diary Dates

Please make a special note of the Remembrance Day Service at 9.30 a.m. on November 8th and the Village Christmas Carol Service at 7.30 p.m. on Thursday December 17th. All are invited and all will be most welcome.

God bless,

Nicholas Morgan, 01608 685230

NATURE NOTES FOR OCTOBER

In Anglo Saxon, Wintirfyllith – the month of the winter moon. If the October moon comes without frost, expect no frost till the full moon on November.

This month hot drinks and meals be good

To keep thy health and nourish thy blood

Provide warm clothes, and go foot-dry

Thou shalt escape much danger thereby. Neve's Almanac, 1633

If the sunny days continue into October you will still see many butterflies on the wing – brimstone, small tortoiseshell, and feeding on the fallen fruit, painted ladies, peacocks and red admirals. I missed the perfect photo opportunity a few years ago when we had a peacock, a painted lady and a red admiral all feeding on one single fallen plum, and all seemed drunk! Also watch out for the large dragonflies, especially the green southern hawker; a very inquisitive dragonfly, it will fly round and round you. I have on one occasion held my arm outstretched and one landed on my hand. Young grass snakes are still about. I came down the garden the other day to find one basking in the sun on the warm stones outside the back door. They are useful creatures as they eat slugs and snails. However, I spotted two young grass snakes (no more than 8 to 10 inches long) doing what I can only describe as “synchronised swimming” across the water and they quickly disappeared into the reeds. Shortly after a larger snake appeared slowly sliding across the top of the water. Every so often it would pause and gently push its head down under the water searching amongst the vegetation. All of a sudden its head rose up out of the water with the head and shoulders of a common newt in its jaws. It straightened its neck and slowly but surely swallowed the poor newt whole; the last thing seen was the newt's thrashing tail – then it was gone!

October sees tremendous movements of birds, both departures and arrivals. Our swallows seem to have had a very good year and some seem to have had three broods. I was at a house near Stow on the Wold the other day and there must have been at least 200 swallows diving and sweeping around the building. It was a real treat to watch. I think we have about 50 to 60 in Oxhill, but has anyone else counted them? As the swallows leave our winter guests will arrive; brambling, woodcock, snipe, redwing, and my favourite, the fieldfares.

Recently whilst visiting friends in Devon we were sitting in their small overgrown garden when we became aware of a small bird twisting and flitting in a very agile manner between the bushes surrounding us, then flying back to the fence where it would start the whole procedure again. It seemed completely unfazed by our close proximity, arm's length at times. One could only describe it as an SBJ (small brown job) apart from its whitish breast and belly. Its call note was no more than a thins squeaking small 'tweet' or 'chait', indeed in Worcestershire it is known as a chait, in Yorkshire as a wall chat, and in Devon as a wall plat. It was in fact a spotted flycatcher. Rather strangely it isn't spotted (although the young are) but it does catch flies. The bird will adopt a fencepost or tree stump as a vantage point where it waits

alert and upright watching for flies, moths, butterflies, or beetles. It will then launch itself in acrobatic pursuit, returning after a few moments to its perch. It is apparently not averse to taking wasps and bees as well as flies.

The following day over the same garden we watched two peregrine falcons giving a curious aerial display. (Interesting to note our friends' house is almost in the town centre of Salcombe). At times they were very low over our heads. It was curious because I suspect they were two males and one was trying to see the other one off by climbing high then stooping on the other bird, just pulling short of hitting it. This went on for about 15 minutes, then one decided to take itself away.

Please don't forget the Oxhill Wildlife Survey (OWLS) finishes at the end of October. Did you know the rarest animal in Warwickshire is the common wood mouse! Well, it isn't really, it's just that no-one has ever entered it on a survey. So please write down everything you have seen and post your lists through my letterbox (next door to the Pub) at the end of the month or you can give them to other members of OWLS.

A final note for gardeners and farmers:

*In October, dung your field
And all your land its wealth will yield*

Grenville Moore

NOTES OF A MEETING OF OXHILL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER 2009 AT 8.00 P.M. IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Apologies were received from Tom Heritage. All others Councillors were present.

MATTERS DISCUSSED

Finance

Audit for year ended 31st March 2009 had been completed and an unqualified audit opinion given.

Planning

Planning permission had been given for erection of conservatory at "Hamara". Permission had also been given to fell trees at "Blackford House" and at "Gilks Cottage". Extension to existing agricultural buildings at Field Forge Farm had been granted. Application to crown lift and shorten lower branches of oak tree at "Brambles" had been returned with no objection.

Community Emergency Plan

This would be brought up to date.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 10th November 2009 at 8.00 p.m. in the Village Hall.

Angela Kean, Clerk

BAT WALK

Thank you to everyone who came to our Bat Walk – it was a great turnout with over 25 people attending, and I apologise to others who phoned and I was unable to fit you in. What a response from such a small village.

Neil Beamsley, the ecologist and bat expert, gave us a short illustrated talk and then we set off with the bat detector. We headed for the southern section of the village, mainly round the church and surrounding gardens. A big thank you to all those of you who let us trudge through your gardens, especially Phil and Heather Brennan. I have to say it was very exciting when the bat detector picked up the high pitch bat clicking noises (most adults can't hear them) and transforming them into audible sounds. Once you hear the sound, you then know where the bat is, which usually enables you to see them as well. Every bat 'clicks' at a different frequency so you can identify them by the call. There are 17 species of bat in England and many can be found in the Stour valley area. We were quite lucky in our hour and a half walk to find five species. First was the common pipistrelle, so tiny it would easily fit into a match box. Despite this it can still eat about 3,000 midges in a night. We also found the soprano pipistrelle (recently identified as a separate species by a higher call note and different face markings). We saw a long-eared bat and found its 'feeding post'. This is located by a pile of moth wings on the ground; interestingly they are predominantly the yellow underwing moth – obviously its meal of choice. Spotted flying high above the trees was a noctule bat. This is one of the largest bats and often flies among swifts and martins after insects. On the continent they regularly migrate hundreds of miles. The bat detector picked up the call, although we didn't see it, of the daubenton's bat. It skims low over ponds or lakes at night using shallow, fluttering wing beats that enable it to get very close to the water. With its large feet, it can occasionally even catch small fish. I have often seen this species flying low over our garden pond, but not catching fish!

We also located a pipistrelle roost inside the church porch (along with a nest of swallows). A strange fact; bats don't roost in belfries – too many cobwebs and noise from the bells. Bats hibernate during the winter, slowing their breathing and heart rate and dropping their body temperature to match their surroundings. Typical hibernation spots include caves, tunnels and lofts, but some bats are partial to wall cavities. Their hibernation and 'maternity colonies' are not always the same place as their summer roosts.

In the UK all bat hibernation spots and roosts are protected by law and must not be disturbed without consultation with the necessary authorities. We can all do our bit to help these fascinating animals by creating suitable habitat and installing bat boxes. OWLS will be able to help you do this in the very near future.

Grenville Moore

This page has been left blank
So that you can tear it out
And cut off the reply slip on the other side
Without losing any of The News!

AUCTION OF PROMISES

Oxhill Village Hall

Saturday 14th November

7.30 p.m.

£2.50 entrance (includes glass of wine)

We are looking for lots of promises. They do not need to be large, perhaps an hour or two of gardening, a car ride to Birmingham airport, a car ride to town, doing the ironing for an hour, cooking cakes or pies for the freezer, baby-sitting, sewing or washing the car.

It would be good if anyone has a holiday home that they could let for a few days. Perhaps you could bake a Christmas cake or pudding.

So, please, anything that you can think of that would make a little money. We will be very grateful.

All proceeds go to the Village Hall and Church funds.

Please fill in the form below and let Tricia (Laurel Cottage, 680676) or Lilian (Binswood Cottage, 680468) have them as soon as possible.

I promise to give

Name

Phone No.



St. Peter's Church Whatcote Christmas Puddings 2009

We are again selling the Ultimate Plum Pudding that you've all enjoyed in previous years and at the **same price as the last three years.**

For our new customers here is your chance to taste these virtually hand made puddings, made by a very small craft manufacturer in Cumbria. The Ultimate Plum Pudding is endorsed by the BBC Food and Chef magazines as well as receiving the Great Taste Award.

All the vine fruits are soaked in plenty of brandy and dry sherry. Fresh breadcrumbs and freshly grated carrot help give the pudding a distinctly northern style being lighter, less bitter, and having a wider variety of luxury ingredients than many other puddings. Most people have no idea that a Christmas pudding can be this good.

A 454g pudding (serves 4) costs £5.00 and a 908g pudding (serves 8) costs £8.50

It's a great pudding. Makes an excellent Christmas gift for family and friends. Order from us simply by filling in the order form below and sending it back now. Last date for orders is **December 12th** and the puddings can be collected from:- **June Wreford, Church Cottage, Whatcote. Telephone 01295 680294**

Ingredients: vine fruits (raisins, sultanas, currants), fresh breadcrumbs, free range eggs, dark sugar, grated carrot, apple, flour, mixed peel, chopped dates, whole cherries, stem ginger, brandy, sherry, vegetable suet, all vegetable margarine, flaked almonds, nibbed walnuts, apricots, golden syrup, spices, salt. (Please note puddings contain nuts).

PUDDING ORDER FORM

Name _____ Address _____

Tel.No. _____

Would like to order _____ 454g @ £5.00: _____ 908g @ £8.50

I enclose a cheque for £ _____ made payable to St Peter's Church, Whatcote.

Please return to:-

June Wreford, Church Cottage, Whatcote, Shipston-on-Stour. CV36 5EF

Note: Order your pudding in good time as we sold out last year well before Christmas!

And so has this one!

GARDEN CLUB NEWS

The evening was distinctly autumnal but the first talk of the season transported us to the clear skies and sunshine of the French Alps. Dr. David Arthey, accompanied by his wife Jenny, showed us a vast variety of alpine plants. The colours were spectacular as was David's memory at remembering all the Latin names. The qualities of the photographs, which were collected personally by the speaker and his wife on hikes in the Alps, which they obviously know well, were superb.

I found it amazing that such beauty can be found in such barren ground right on the snowline.

Reminder of future dates:

October 15th	Eddie Asbery	Gardening for Wildlife
November 19th	Ian Mathie	Africa, Water and Life
December		Christmas party

Ann Saxton

AFRICAN VISITORS

People will be interested to know that we will be entertaining two ladies from Kaduna, Nigeria at the end of the month. They are coming to see best practice in Primary and Pre-school education as part of Companionship Links, a Coventry Diocese initiative set up by Bishop Colin in 2000. Jim and I have worked as lay volunteers for this since 2005 and the Well Project that people have supported is part of it too. I currently co-ordinate education within the Links.

Mrs Agnes Awogbami is Head Teacher of St Michael's Primary School which is attached to the Anglican cathedral, with about 400+ pupils, and Mrs Rahila Mallam is a nursery teacher at Our Saviour Primary School. They will be going into Shipston Primary, Kineton Primary, Tysoe Primary and Finham Pre-school in Coventry and will be out and about during the three weeks that they are here.

We hope to bring them to the coffee morning.

Ann Saxton

WEEKDAY WALKERS

We will only have one walk this month.

Friday 23rd October

This walk is a 7 mile walk from Brailes to Cherington with 325 feet of ascent. Lunch will be at "The Cherington Arms". We will leave Oxhill at 10:00 a.m.

Please contact Jim Saxton on 01295 680613 or at saxton@tiscali.co.uk before the Thursday prior to the walk.

OXHILL PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

IT'S TIME FOR ALL OXHILL PHOTOGRAPHERS TO GET CLICKING!

About the photographer



There are two categories, **Nature & wildlife** and **Oxhill - a wonderful place to live**

Open to 3 age groups, 10 & under, 11-18 and adults).

Entries, which cost 50p each, should be submitted as prints (no larger than A5) to Rhian Cooper, Weavers Barn, Rouse Lane, Oxhill (01295 680574).

The closing date is 9th October and entries will be exhibited and judged in the Village Hall on Sunday 18th October, 3pm till 7 p.m.

See the September issue of the Oxhill News for further details.



Hosted by the Oxhill 'OWLS'

THE ANCIENT TREE HUNT

Are you interested in old trees? If so, maybe you would like to get involved in the Ancient Tree Hunt. This has involved thousands of people since it began in 2004 and is joint venture between the Tree Register of the British Isles and the Ancient Tree Forum. To date, 25,000 trees across the UK have been recorded. These will form a part of a living database of ancient trees which will help to care for and preserve them. With our help and the assistance of many partner organisations, the aim is to record at least 100,000 ancient trees throughout the UK by 2011.

To take part in the Ancient Tree Hunt, look for these old monsters then measure and record them on the website - <http://www.ancient-tree-hunt.org.uk/project/>.

Good hunting!

OWLS

THANK YOU SO MUCH

Thank you so much to our Parish Council who have this year again contributed to our medical equipment insurance costs.

Thank you for the very kind invitation to attend the prize giving of the end of year darts tournament in Shipston.

We shall be very honoured to attend, as we have recently had to comply with the upgrading of our uniforms we are obliged to wear when duty calls. This award will be very welcome.

We have also had to replace one of our two blood pressure kits; it's a piece of kit that gets used on every call out.

Some one asked me recently why we did this work if we did not get paid. It's because we can be at the patient very quickly, and begin immediate treatment; this also helps the family and friends of the casualty. So after handing over the casualty to the Ambulance crew, we come away knowing that in some way we have helped.

Mick & Barbara Shepard, First Responders, West Midlands Ambulance Service

NOTORIOUS VILLAINS BHANGRA BALL

Saturday October 3rd

7 p.m. - 12 midnight

Admington Hall

For 15 - 17 year olds

£30 per head to include Indian food, soft drinks bar, band, DJ, Dodgems

Black Tie

If anyone would like to buy a ticket please contact me as detailed below

Rebecca Mawle, 01608 674929

NEWS DELIVERIES

NEW DELIVERER

I would like to offer my heartfelt thanks to all those who responded to my plea last month and offered to take over deliveries from Keith and Julia.

Cath Pugh, who got in first, will be taking over deliveries for The Green from now on. I have made a little list of everyone else who offered and will knocking on their doors the next time I am in need.

Editor

ITALY COMES TO SHIPSTON

There will be an unusual and exciting event in Shipston on Stour on Friday 2nd October – an Italian speciality produce market!

'Italia in Piazza' is a traditional Italian Food Market, run by entrepreneur Simon Faro, comprising 18 gazebos decorated with the smart "Tricolore" Italian flag. There will be a wide variety of foods on sale, imported directly from Italy, including a vast array of cheeses and cured meats, a wonderful selection of the classic Cremona Torrone (nougat), cakes, sweets and a variety of biscuits. The market will also feature a range of eclectic olive oils and balsamic vinegars and a selection of olives, as well as different shapes and sizes of pasta and speciality breads.

Simon (born in England of Italian parents, and steeped in the Italian qualities of taste and tradition) says, "Our market is unique because it's wholly owned and staffed by my partners and me. This not only gives it an appealing 'branded' look, but also guarantees consistent quality of produce that is sold with professional tips and advice to make sure you are happy with your choices."

Shipston Town Council and 'Italia in Piazza' look forward to welcoming residents from surrounding villages to this interesting market.

Please don't hesitate to contact me for any further information you require.

Cllr. Alison Henderson, 01608 661911 or 07828 996568

CONGRATULATIONS

We would like to offer Kirsty and Jonathan at The Old Bakehouse our congratulations on their recent marriage and to wish them all the best for their future together.

Editor

POLICE 0.5

An important police message has been received concerning Joseph Gomez, a Spaniard, last heard of living in Tooting. His mother was at one time in a convent on the Costa Brava. A one-time flautist with a symphony orchestra, he is wanted by the Israeli police for looting in Haifa, where he worked on a farm.

You are urged to keep an eye out for a Haifa looting fluting Tooting son of a nun from Barcelona, part-time ploughboy Joe.

[Both the copyright and brilliance of Ian Davidson & Peter Vincent are acknowledged]

SHIPSTON SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM

DRINK DRIVING - THE FACTS

If you drive at twice the legal alcohol limit you are at least 30 times more likely to cause a road crash, than a driver who hasn't been drinking.

Any amount of alcohol affects your ability to drive. There is no foolproof way of drinking and staying under the limit, or of knowing how much an individual person can drink and still drive safely.

Each person's tolerance to alcohol depends on a range of factors: weight, gender, age, metabolism, current stress levels, whether they have eaten recently and the strength of alcoholic drink.

So the only safe option is not to drink alcohol if you plan to drive, and never offer an alcoholic drink to someone else who is intending to drive.

THINK!

Don't drink and drive. Get caught drink driving and you'll be processed like any other criminal. Take a different way home. If you've been drinking, it's better not to drive. There are plenty of alternative ways to get home. You could book a taxi, use public transport, stay overnight or arrange a lift with someone who isn't drinking.

SOBERING-UP TRICKS DO NOT WORK

Coffee and cold showers the morning after a night out don't help you sober up. Time is the only way to get the alcohol out of your system and you could still be over the legal limit many hours after drinking.

DRINK DRIVING AND THE LAW

The legal consequences of a drink driving conviction are severe and long-lasting. Causing death by careless driving when under the influence of drink or drugs means 14 years imprisonment, together with an unlimited fine, disqualification from driving for at least 2 years and a mandatory extended driving test. Driving or attempting to drive while above the legal limit or unfit through drink means 6 months imprisonment, together with a fine of up to £5,000 and disqualification from driving for at least 12 months (3 years if convicted twice in 10 years). Being in charge of a vehicle whilst above the legal limit or unfit through drink means 3 months imprisonment, a fine of up to £2,500 and discretionary disqualification from driving. Refusing to provide a specimen of breath, blood or urine for analysis means 6 months imprisonment, together with a fine of up to £5,000 and disqualification from driving for at least 12 months.

BEWARE! PHONE AND POST SCAMS!

I recently received the following e-mail from a friend.

I received a call from a 'representative' of BT, informing me that he was disconnecting me because of an unpaid bill. He demanded payment immediately of £31.00, or it would be £ 118.00 to re-connect at a later date. The guy wasn't even fazed when I told him I was with Virgin Media; allegedly you have to pay BT a percentage for line rental!

I asked the guy's name - the very 'English' John Peacock with a very 'African' accent - & phone number - 0800 0800 152. Obviously the fella realized I didn't believe his story, so offered to demonstrate that he was from BT. I asked how & he told me to hang up & try phoning someone - he would disconnect my phone to prevent this. AND HE DID!! My phone was dead - no engaged tone, nothing - until he phoned me again. Very pleased with himself, he asked if that was enough proof that he was with BT. I asked how the payment was to be made; he said credit card, there & then. I said that I didn't know how he'd done it, but I had absolutely no intention of paying him, I didn't believe his name or that he worked for BT.

He hung up. Did 1471 & phoned his fictitious 0800 number - not recognised. I phoned the police to let them know; I wasn't the first! It's only just started apparently but it is escalating. Their advice was to let as many people know by word of mouth of this scam. The fact that the phone does go off would probably convince some people it's real, so please let as many friends & family aware of this.

Comment from Crawley Police Station NPT Department

And not only would you lose £31 if you fell for this scam but these people use your credit card details to order goods from legitimate companies and then have them delivered to their address. The first you would know about it is a hefty debit on your credit card statement from a company you had never heard of.

There was also a postal scam highlighted on Watchdog recently whereby you find a card from a supposed private parcel delivery service saying they had been unable to deliver a parcel and to phone a number. When you phone they ask for a £2.50 redelivery fee and of course you can pay by giving them your credit card details. They subsequently use the details given to order lots of items under £500 from different companies. This is because the credit card companies are on the lookout for unusual high value transactions on your account and will possibly pick it up and contact you to see if it is legit. Police reckon the perpetrators of this particular scam have netted millions over the last couple of years.

To quote Hill Street Blues - Be VERY careful out there!!

Gaynor Van Dijk

[The 'demonstration' that the scammer was at BT is easy to reproduce. Try ringing someone up, tell them you will cut them off, and suggest that they hang up and try calling out themselves. Then keep very very quiet. As long as you do not hang up yourself their line will remain connected to yours and they will be unable to make any calls. Notice that when the scammer did hang up the informant was able to make calls as normal.

However, the spam is not restricted to Crawley. Our local bobby Brian Russell gives further information about it in his Rural Blog, summarised in edited form below. Ed.]

RURAL POLICE BLOG

Credit/Debit Card Scams

Police are warning members of the public to make sure that they don't give their credit or debit card details out over the phone.

This follows two recent reports of scams in which people have been phoned by a man purporting to be from British Telecom. The man claimed that there was a problem with the direct debit payments of their account and asked for credit or debit card details to prevent their phone being cut off.

The caller has then claimed that there was a problem with the card details given and requested details for another card.

In each instance, checks made by the members of the public, one from Lower Quinton and one from Wellesbourne, with BT have revealed that there had been no problems with the customer's direct debit payments and that the calls had been made fraudulently.

Brian Russell

POETRY(?) CORNER

A thrifty young fellow of Shoreham
Made brown paper trousers and woreham;
He looked nice and neat
Till he bent in the street
To pick up a pin; then he toreham.

Anon.

WHAT'S ON IN & AROUND OXHILL

October

Friday 2nd		Shipston on Stour – Italian Market
Saturday 3rd	9.30	Whatcote Church – Deanery Quiet Morning
Sunday 4th	8.00	The Peacock – Charity Quiz Night
Tuesday 6th		Grey landfill bin collection
	10.00	Village Hall – Mobile Library
	7.00	Ettington Church – Deanery Celebration
Wednesday 7th	10.30	The Peacock – Village Coffee Morning
	6.30	Shipston Library – Quakers Meeting
	7.30	Tysoe Village Hall – WI meeting ‘The story of chocolate’, Mervie Moyaert
Friday 9th		Closing date for photographic competition
Tuesday 13th		Green & blue recycling bin collection
Wednesday 14th	2.00	Bourton on the Hill – Shipston Home Nursing Bridge Drive
Thursday 15th	7.30	Village Hall – Garden Club
Sunday 18th	3-7	Village Hall – Photographic competition judging
Tuesday 20th		Grey landfill bin collection
Wednesday 21st	12.30	The Peacock – Village Lunch
Friday 23rd	10.00	Weekday Walkers – see inside for details
		Village Hall – Bavarian Evening
Sunday 25th	23.59	Copy deadline for The News
Tuesday 27th		Green & blue recycling bin collection
	10.00	Village Hall – Mobile Library

November

Sunday 8th	9.30	St. Lawrence's Church – Remembrance Day service
Tuesday 10th	8.00	Village Hall – Parish Council meeting
Saturday 14th	7.30	Village Hall – Auction of Promises
Thursday 19th	7.30	Village Hall – Garden Club
Sunday 21st	2.00	St. Edmund's Church, Shipston – Choral workshop
Friday 27th	7.30	The Old Chapel – Festival Choir rehearsal

December

Friday 4th	7.30	The Old Chapel – Festival Choir rehearsal
Friday 11th	7.30	The Old Chapel – Festival Choir rehearsal
Tuesday 15th	7.30	St. Lawrence's Church - Festival Choir rehearsal
Thursday 17th	7.30	St. Lawrence's Church – Carol Service

ACCIDENT and MEDICAL EMERGENCIES

FIRST CALL 999

THEN CALL

Ambulance Responders

MICK & BARBARA SHEPARD

07977149317 Mobile / 01295680644 Home

3, The Leys, Oxhill, Warwick, CV350QX