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# THE OXHILL NEWS

October 2011

No. 443



Eleanor & Joshua Collins after completing the Great North Run

Editors:

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news-editor@oxhill.org.uk

## CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE OXHILL NEWS

The editors welcome any pictures, photographs, drawings, poems, puzzles, recipes, announcements or items of local news for possible inclusion in The Oxhill News.

Please email [news-editors@oxhill.org.uk](mailto:news-editors@oxhill.org.uk) or place paper contributions in the box labelled 'The Oxhill News' in the village Church.

## REFUSE COLLECTION

Recycling and green waste bins (blue and green bins) will be collected on Tuesdays 11th and 25th October.

The grey rubbish bins will be collected Tuesdays 4th and 18th October.

## MOBILE LIBRARY

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

The van will visit us on Wednesday 5th and 26th October.

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

## WEEKDAY WALKERS

The following walks are planned for October:

14th October - a 6.0 mile walk from Swalcliffe to Shutford with 210 feet of ascent. Lunch will be at The George and Dragon Shutford. - Leaving Oxhill at 9:45 am.

28th October - a 6.2 mile walk from Wellesbourne to Hampton Lucy with 180 feet of ascent. Lunch at The Boars Head Hampton Lucy - Leaving Oxhill at 9:30 am.

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.

## NOVEMBER ISSUE

The copy deadline for the November edition is midnight on the 15th October 2011, please email contributions to [news-editor@oxhill.org.uk](mailto:news-editor@oxhill.org.uk) or place paper based contributions in the box labelled 'The Oxhill News' in the village Church.

## OXHILL ROADSIDE VERGES

There has been a request from Stratford District Council for communities to appraise the mowing of roadside verges and the Oxhill Parish Council has approached the OWLS group for input as this could be an ideal opportunity to create environments for local wildlife. Initial thoughts are that some verges around Oxhill need to be mown as at present, but there are areas that would be ideal if managed to encourage wildflowers. As a part of their presentation at the 'Wot2Grow' apple day in the village hall on 15th October, the OWLS will present maps detailing the verges they think would benefit from reduced cutting. Your thoughts and suggestions would be very welcome before a final plan is sent to the district council.

## MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

### Garage / Garden Sale

A sale was held on the weekend of 12th / 13th August at the home of Jackie Thompson in Lower Tysoe. As well as garden and garage items, household, clothes, jewellery and cakes were also available. Refreshments were included in the entrance fee.

Unsold items were taken to the village show and sold at the car boot sale.

### MANY THANKS TO ALL THOSE WHO SUPPORTED IN WHATEVER WAY.

It was a great success, and the grand sum of £430 is on its way to Macmillan Cancer Support.

There will be another sale, possibly in November like last year, again at my home. Please watch out for the posters and notice in the village news. Any help on the day would be greatly appreciated.

Thanks again  
*Jackie*

ST. LAWRENCE'S CHURCH, OXHILL  
SERVICES IN OCTOBER

*All are warmly welcome*

Sunday 2nd Trinity XV 9.30am Holy Communion (ML)

Sunday 9th Trinity XVI 9.30am Morning Worship (BR)

Sunday 16th Trinity XVII 9.30am Holy Communion(ML)

Sunday 23rd Trinity XVIII 9.30am Family Service (ML)

Sunday 30th Trinity XIX 9.30am United Benefice Communion

*For other benefice services see porch notice board*

## VICARAGE NOTES

Dear friends,  
**Harvest Festival**

I write before we have the service, but I am sure we will have enjoyed a lovely occasion - thanks go to all who decorated the church and brought gifts. Thank you to for your support of our chosen charity "Farm Africa".

### **Responding to your suggestions**

Please read the article written by Belinda on behalf of the PCC - and on behalf of the Rev.Bill Rolfe may I invite everyone to the first of the Morning Worship services on the 9th<sup>th</sup>.

### **Ride and Stride**

The Warwickshire lanes were humming with the spinning wheels of cyclists on a very blustery Saturday (September 10th) and our churches welcomed a variety of visitors. I was reminded of the words of one of the old Celtic Blessings:

*May the road rise up to meet you.  
May the wind be always at your back.  
May the sun shine upon your face,  
And the rains fall soft upon your fields;  
And until we meet again,  
May God hold you in the palm of his hand.*

*God bless,  
Nicholas Morgan 01608 685230*

## FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Baptisms: welcomed into God's family on August 28th  
Alfie Groves



## DEANERY NEWS

Two crucial events are happening in the next month or two, both of which involve changes to the original details, so please bear with me and take careful note.

Firstly, on Tuesday 11th October our Deanery Synod will be meeting to discuss the legislation regarding the ordination of women to the Episcopate i.e. Women Bishops. This was due to take place in Long Compton Church, but as that is out of action for repair work, we have moved to St. Edmund's in Shipston. 7.30 pm as usual, with coffee beforehand. Anyone is welcome to come, but if there is a vote, only Synod members will be able to take part.

Secondly, during October and November Gordon Kuhrt will be giving a series of 'Talks about the Bible' in the chancel of Tredington Church, to mark the 400th anniversary of the King James Version of the English Bible. Some of the dates have changed, and the revised programme is now:

Wednesday, October 5th: How was the Bible assembled?

Wednesday, October 19th: How is the Bible to be interpreted?

Wednesday, October 26th: How is the Bible translated?

Wednesday, November 9th: How is the Bible to be used?

Starting time is 7.30 pm: drinks are provided, and everyone from across the Deanery is very welcome.

Finally, a very big thank you to everyone who came, baked, washed up and brought the sunshine to the Deanery Garden Party. Bill Rolfe kept us entertained with his clock game, and we raised £170 to send to the Tear Fund for their relief work in the Horn of Africa. Well done, everyone.

*Jill Tucker, Rural Dean*

# OXHILL FESTIVAL CHOIR

The trees are turning out in their autumn finery and there is that nip in the air as I decide whether to put a coat on when I go out and about. It's that time of the year again and Christmas will be upon us before we know it. The carol service this year, I hear, will be on Wednesday 21st December and time for the Oxhill Festival Choir's annual outing. All singers in the village are very welcome to join us so please make a note of the date now! Rehearsals will be for the 4/5 Fridays prior to 21st December plus an additional one. Details will be in next month's Oxhill News. If you are new to the village or can sing but have always hesitated to volunteer for our choir (we are a friendly bunch and only have one 'gig' per annum) please contact Gaynor Van Dijk on 680349. We are particularly short of male voices. I am sure there are some very fine tenors and basses hiding somewhere in this village. The X Factor we are not, thank goodness, so be brave and contact me now!

As you may have seen in a previous News someone had the bright idea of the Festival Choir doing something as part of the Jubilee weekend events. If any of our regular members have any thoughts on this please can you let me know so this can be discussed at a future date.

*Gaynor Van Dijk*



## **Mr and Mrs Andrew Knight**

invite you to fireworks, mulled wine and roast hog  
at Compton Scorpion Manor  
on Saturday 29th October, 6pm – 9pm.  
Fireworks at 7.30pm.

Minimum donation £15.00 adults (all inclusive), children age 5-to-15 £5.00.

**ALL TICKET MONEY WILL GO TO THE THREE CHARITIES ABOVE**

**Tickets available in advance ONLY, before 21st October. No entry without ticket.**

**We prefer ticket requests by email: [caroline@comptonscorpion.co.uk](mailto:caroline@comptonscorpion.co.uk)**

**Or SAE to:** Estate Office, Compton Scorpion, Shipston on Stour, CV36 4PJ

Tel: 01608 662567 Fax: 01608 663415

*Cheques payable to Compton Scorpion Estate*

*Bring a torch  
and  
warm clothes.*

## ST LAWRENCE CHURCH SURVEY

Thank you to everyone who responded to the St Lawrence Church survey. We received 16 replies to the survey, which is 4.5% of the village population. This might not sound like very much but it is actually a high percentage for a paper based survey.

The results provided valuable information for the PCC (Parochial Church Council). As you might expect, a wide range of views and opinions were expressed. However, it was very clear that people value the Church as an important part of village life.

Two decisions have been taken as a direct result of the survey. A new style of service not based on a service book will be introduced once a month – a modern “Morning Worship” based around a theme. It will be led by the Rev. Bill Rolfe and take place on the second Sunday of the month at 9.30 am, beginning on 9th October. The service will be followed by coffee and a chance to chat. Secondly, we will also be renewing our commitment to use the Church as a venue for concerts. If any of you have any contacts with musicians who might be willing to perform, it would be great if you could let Nicholas (01608 685230), Martin, the wardens or any other member of the PCC know.

*Belinda Marklew, on behalf of Oxhill P.C.C.*

## DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

The Candlelit Carol Service will be held on Wednesday 21st December. We hope this date is ok for everyone and won't clash with other events.

*Carol Fox*



# WOT2GROW COMMUNITY ORCHARD



Following on from last year's event the WOT2Grow Community Orchard team will be holding another **Apple Day** this **October 15th** from **1 pm to 5 pm** at the Oxhill Village Hall with a variety of activities and displays to educate and entertain. Entrance £1 for adults, children free.

Included in the day we will have:

- Apples of many types, sizes and flavours (some we'll bring, some you'll bring)
- Juicing for your own apples: bring along a bucket full of fruit, and a container for the juice
- Longest peel competition and apple bobbing for the children!
- Cakes, fruit pies, honey and other produce for sale
- Recipe swap for fruity favourites from your family
- Tasting of fruit and cider, with products for sale
- Information about bees and honey
- Local wildlife topics with the support of the OWLS

If you can help on the day or can donate goods for the produce stall or have a fruit recipe you want to share please contact one of the team – details below – as we would appreciate your support.

## Working Days

As we plan for the planting this autumn we are holding working weekends at the orchard. We need to prepare the ground for more canes and bushes and for the almost 100 trees we need to plant. There is also a need to weed and clear existing plantings so do come along and help or just see what we are doing and talk to members of the team. Further sessions are planned so look out for posters and details for the coming months.

We will be there **Sat/Sun 8th/9th October** and **Sat/Sun 22nd/23rd October**  
2:00 pm to 4:00 pm

## Plant Labels

We will also be making our own labels for plants and trees and need help to write on the wooden stakes which will show the type and variety. Details soon on these sessions which might appeal to those of you who don't want to do heavy digging etc!!!



## Tree Planting

Having reserved nearly a hundred trees we are planning on planting them early in December. Let's hope we are not frozen and snowed under! There are apples, cherries, pears, plums and lots more! Preparation will be done in October/November and then the actual planting in December with stakes, tree guards and labels. Details will be circulated closer to the time but look out for posters with dates and times as we would love to have as many people as possible joining in the establishment of your Community Orchard.

Visit the web-site!

[www.wot2grow.co.uk](http://www.wot2grow.co.uk)

If you require more information please contact one of the team

*Liz Atkinson (680045), Paul Sayer (680451), Derek Harbour (680676), Sue and Mike Sanderson (688080), Graham Collier (680127), Julia Stirman (01608 686776)*

## GREAT NORTH RUN

By the time you are reading this Eleanor & Joshua Collins will hopefully have completed the Great North Run Half Marathon from Newcastle to South Shields on Sunday 18th September.

What started off as friendly banter between brother and sister after Ella completed the course in 2009, has resulted in them both obtaining ballot places this year. They decided to use the event as a fund raising opportunity on behalf of Shipston Home Nursing.

You can still support their efforts by making a donation on-line at [www.justgiving.com/Team-Family-Collins](http://www.justgiving.com/Team-Family-Collins)

If they are able to achieve their goal of £400 Eleanor's current employer, Infineum, will match this sum pound for pound so please help them to exceed this target.

# AT THE PEACOCK

## Quiz Night

Quiz night on Sunday 2nd October at 8 pm.



## Village Events

The village coffee morning will be on Wednesday 5th October at 10:30 am and the village lunch will be on Wednesday 19th October.

## TYSOE TENNIS CLUB NEWS

Congratulations to our two ladies teams who have had an excellent summer, finishing first and second in Division 5 of the Evesham & District League. This means they are both promoted to Division 4.

Our mixed teams play in the Banbury & District League. After some hard fought matches (5 won, 7 lost), the Mixed A team have been relegated from Division 3.

The Mixed Bs stay in Division 5.

We have welcomed several new members over the past few months. The Rusty Racquets sessions, held on Wednesday evenings, have been a great success. We are very keen to encourage more local people to take up the sport, so remember you are always welcome to come and join us. The mix-in sessions on Tuesday evenings and Sunday mornings are for all abilities.

For more details, visit [www.tysoetennisclub.co.uk](http://www.tysoetennisclub.co.uk)



**What's on at  
The Old Fire Station**

**NEW! - INTERNET CAFÉ** every Monday morning 9.15—11.45am  
Come and surf the net and enjoy a coffee with your friends!  
Help and assistance always available.  
£1 per person

**YOUTH GROUP—Tuesdays 7-9pm for 11 to 17 year olds**  
Come and meet your friends for fun, surfing the net, tuck shop,  
music and games.  
£1 per person

Registered Charity no. 1097838

## GIFTS GALORE

Gifts Galore invite you to The Old Chapel, Oxhill on Friday 28th October from 2 pm - 9 pm and Saturday 29th from 9 am - 1 pm. A gentle introduction to the festive season - enjoy a glass of mulled wine, a mince pie and browse an exciting range of gifts.

In aid of St Lawrence's Church, Oxhill and the Warwickshire Air Ambulance.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU

## SHIPSTON HOME NURSING FUNDRAISING EVENTS



Hospice at Home  
in Shipston, Wellesbourne  
and Kineton

**Feldon Valley Golf Day, Brailes**

Thursday 6th October

For more details please contact Rebecca Mawle  
01608 674929

**Armscote Manor Lecture Series**

Monday 10th October through to Thursday 13th  
October - Lectures and workshops

For more information on these interesting workshops and lectures please go to  
[www.armscotemanor.co.uk](http://www.armscotemanor.co.uk)

For tickets call 01608 682 375

**Bridge Drive, Bourton On The Hill Bridge Club**

Wednesday 19th October 2.00 pm start

Afternoon tea, bridge for any number you will be teamed up with four, £6 per head

Please call Maki Sutton 01608 661539 to reserve your place for a lovely afternoons  
bridge and delicious tea

## NATURE NOTES

*“Is it a foolish fancy or do those tufted ashes on the hilltop resemble those of Hobbema’s famed avenue of Middleharnis? There is a gate to open; the jingle of the reaping machine, the grasshopper’s chirp hardly break the stillness, and towards the green ridge of Edge Hill the road runs white and curving through the fields past a hayrick in the valley into an enchanted country. In the green and pleasant midlands one can ask for no fairer sight – the village of Oxhill in Warwickshire wild pear country.*

Mary Dormer Harris *Unknown Warwickshire*, 1924

Codge-bell, cody bell, coffin cutter, forkin robin, gowlick, twitch-bell, arrywiggle – just some of the colloquial names for the earwig. Why do I mention the earwig? Because this year we seem to be infested with the little things, not only in the garden, but in the house as well – in saucepans, in the fruit bowl, in every bag of vegetables, in a jar of unopened pickle! Everyone must know this omnivorous insect, easily recognised by the tweezer-like pincers or cerci at the rear; if they are curved then this is the male, if straight, it’s the female. Surprisingly, earwigs can fly, but seldom do, mainly due to the fact that they have difficulty unfolding their wings which are pleated, concertina-fashion, about 40 times, and they are also very thin – their latin name Dermaptera literally means “skin wings”. It is said that when the wings are unfolded they somewhat resemble a human ear. There is no known evidence that the earwig does or ever has entered an ear. There was once a somewhat more unexpected anatomical association in the north of England, where the earwig was known as a ‘twich-ballock’ “... *As if you would call it Scrotomordium ... for wherever it finds a pleated skin it will cause very great pain, either by biting with the mouth or by winding about it with its forked tail*” (Muffet, 1658). Many years ago in Oxhill an old gardener named George from Tysoe was noted never to remove his bicycle clips! – we now know why. The earwig is one of the few insects outside the colonial species that exhibits parental care; the female tends her eggs in the soil throughout the winter.

Thank you everyone who took part in the Great Butterfly Count. Apparently 15,870 counts were sent in throughout the country and the top ten butterflies seen were pretty much the same throughout the country, starting with the most seen: Small white, Large white, Gatekeeper, Meadow brown, Common blue, Peacock, Green-veined white, Red Admiral, Small tortoiseshell, Ringlet. Here in Oxhill the Comma was certainly seen more than the Common blue. The Gatekeeper for several years had declined, as had the Small tortoiseshell, but both have bounced back this year. Throughout the country, and here in Oxhill, Painted Lady sightings were almost non-existent, but a rarer butterfly for this parish, the Marbled White, was seen in several locations.

Recently while members of OWLS were carrying out a wild flower count in the churchyard, two of us were doing a lichen count, mainly on tombstones, but also on parts of the church walls. Our attention was drawn to a sundial scribed into the south-facing wall. These were in fact known as tide dials and mass or scratch dials. I urge you to go and look at this because unfortunately water has got behind it and the stone face is about to ‘pop’ and it will be lost for ever. The Anglo-Saxon word “tyd” from which “tide” is derived, means seasons, but in a broad sense. The Saxons divided their sundials into ‘tides’ not hours, which comprised eight tides to cover the day, and sometimes there just four segments, each three hours long. In the centre is a hole where the gnomon, a wooden peg, was inserted to cast the shadow. They were usually situated by the priest’s door into the chancel (as ours is), and the priest would then know when to ring the bell for mass and vespers. This bell would also inform workers in the surrounding area what time of day it was. I have taken some time to check the south wall and there is clear evidence of five of these scratch dials; there is quite an elaborate one on the buttress. It is interesting to note these five dials are at different heights and one theory is that the stone masons would have scribed them in as soon as the wall gained some height, so they in turn had a timed indication of their working day. Apparently these dials ceased to be used some time after the Norman conquest.



*26 October – Gather sloes for a sure remedy against diarrhoea; or to make sloe gin, wine or jelly. Sloes for keeping are best taken not quite ripe, and stoned still on the branch, but sloes for wine or jelly (wherein some mix them with apples to take away their sharpness) should be left until after they have weathered a sharp frost or two.*

Gervaise Markham *The English Housewife*, 1683

## OXHILL VILLAGE HALL - UPCOMING EVENTS

### Thursday 'Afternoon Delight' (or Knit and Natter) in October

We had our first get together after the summer break on 15th September and as it was well supported, we will continue to meet on alternate Thursdays from 2 pm to 4 pm in the Village Hall. The cost is only £1 per afternoon to cover the cost of the heating and refreshments. Our October dates are 13th and 27th when we will be learning smocking and canal painting respectively. If you wish to have a go at smocking, ideally, please bring some check material, needles, cotton and embroidery thread. Also new this year we are starting a **BOOK EXCHANGE** so even if you are not interested in art and crafts do come along for a chat and a cup of tea and browse through the books or just come and Knit and Natter.

If you'd like to know more then call Tricia Harbour on 680676 or feel free to just turn up and join in.

### Friday Night at the Village Hall - 14th October

Our popular Friday Night at the Village Hall returns on 14th October with a meal of Normandy pork and vegetables followed by an apple based desert for the bargain price of £7.50. This is an ideal lead-in to the Apple Day that takes place, courtesy of the WOT2Grow Orchard Group and the OWLs Group, on Saturday 15th October.

Food will be available from 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm and tickets are available from Tricia Harbour on 680676

### Indian Feast Night on Friday 25th November

Our ever popular Indian Feast Night is back and a selection of exotic Indian dishes will be available to tempt your taste buds on Friday 25th November from the many and diverse regions of Oxhill. There will be tasty curries from South Oxhill, exotic Chutneys from Central Oxhill and delicious vegetable accompaniments from the furthest reaches of North Oxhill. Tickets are priced at £12.50 per person.

Tickets, which always go quickly, are available from Tricia Harbour on 680676

# OWLS PHOTOGRAPHIC AND ART COMPETITION 2011

Our third competition is due to take place in just a few days!

There is still time to submit entries using any creative media you wish, such as paintings, collages, sculptures and photos. The more creative you are, the better!

A reminder of the categories:

Local nature: Oxhill wildlife, landscapes and people in their natural environment

British nature: wildlife

Open to 2 age groups (12 & under and adults).

Please submit your entries, no later than **Saturday 8th October** to Rhian, Weavers Barn, Rouse Lane (680574) or to Grenville, Peacock House (next to the pub - 680664) or any other OWLS member.

Entries cost only 50p each!

Great prizes to be won!

All entries will be exhibited and judged in the Village Hall on:

**Sunday 9th October 4.00 pm until 6.30 pm**

Cream teas will be available.

So what are you waiting for? Get those creative juices flowing!

We can't wait to see what you've got to offer!



Hosted by OWLS

# NOTES OF A MEETING OF OXHILL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 13th SEPTEMBER 2011 AT 8.00 PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Apologies were received from David Hill and Tom Heritage.

## **MATTERS DISCUSSED**

### **Winter Grit Bin**

This is now in place on Beech Road.

### **Planning**

Consent has been given for tree work at The Old Rectory and for a 2-storey extension at Brook House. Applications have been received for the formation of a dropped kerb at The Barn, Whatcote Road and for strengthening of roof at Weavers Barn, no objections were raised for these applications. Application to form a tennis court at Whatcote Park has been withdrawn.

### **Verge Mowing within the village**

A request for less mowing of verges within the village is being sought by the Biodiversity Group to enable wild flowers to be grown.

### **Parish Council Notice Board**

Quotes are still being sought to either refurbish or replace the notice board.

### **Broadband Speeds**

Stratford District Council are working together with other local authorities to put together a funding application to improve broadband speeds across the UK. We have asked to be kept informed of this.

### **Street Signs**

Stratford District Council will be asked to replace missing and damaged signs.

### **Notice Board**

Notices posted include: "Fostering - Time to Care", "Children Starting School Sept. 2012", and "Stour/Shipston Community Forum".

## **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 8th November 2011 at 8.00 pm in the Village Hall.

*Angela Kean, Clerk*



# THE QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE REPORT - September 2011



On the 7th September the group of villagers now organising the village celebrations of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee met at the Village Hall.

The programme previously discussed was confirmed. It will commence on Sunday 3rd June 2012 around midday with a Church centred celebration. We will then participate in the National Big Diamond Jubilee Lunch along Main Street. Children's field games will follow during the afternoon and the early evening will see some home grown entertainment which will be arranged by Lucy Mercer. Watch out for more details and further announcements.

Monday 4th June 2012 will see a full day of events. Starting at 2 pm with the gathering of the Oxhill Derby Hobby Horses in the parade ring for judging! Racing will follow with classes for all ages. The afternoon will continue with field games including a Tug-O-War and the now traditional Family Water Volleyball tournament. Tea and cakes will be available throughout the afternoon. Early evening food will be in the form of a pig roast with vegetarian alternatives! The evening will continue with live music and at some point in the evening a loyal toast will be given and we are still exploring how we can join in with the lighting of local beacons.

We now need the village to get behind the event and we will be asking for individuals to confirm their support. To this end we are working on a survey of all households in the parish. Every property will receive a questionnaire at the beginning of November. We then plan to visit every property to collect your completed questionnaires during the month and answer any questions you may have about the event. We will also be taking ticket requests and accepting deposits as, based on experience of the Golden Jubilee, the event will be popular and numbers will have to be limited. We would encourage you to organise your family and friends to celebrate with you in Oxhill. All events over the weekend will be available for an all inclusive price and tickets will be allocated on a first come first serve basis.

The next meeting will be held at 8 pm on Wednesday 5th October at the Village Hall. Please come along to help make the Diamond Jubilee weekend a memorable one for Oxhill.

Any questions at this stage please contact Mike Collins on 680564.

## GARDEN CLUB

The Garden Club galloped through history with Kevin Wyles, handling fossils and artefacts found by him in the Vale of the Red Horse. Having experienced the driest summer it is hard to imagine Tysoe and Oxhill under water; Kevin's marine fossils, found very locally, prove that fact.

We saw photographic evidence of Neolithic and Iron-Age settlements around Tysoe. The most interesting coins and jettons with horse insignia perhaps show inspiration for the giant horses once engraved into hills around the village.

Kevin provided us with a vivid glimpse into the lives of people living in this area in different ages. The most interesting, for me, were the accounts of looting by soldiers during the Civil War - nothing changes, then?

This speaker is a fountain of knowledge of the history of our locale and gave us a most enjoyable look into the past.

Next meeting:

20th October- Mushrooms & Toadstool. Beware! Christopher Scotter.

Members are invited to bring samples of these to the meeting.

Results of the photo competition .

17th November - Climbers & Wall shrubs - Jane Cropley.

December Christmas Party by popular request at the Saxton's - date to be announced.

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

# CYCLE OXHILL TO PARIS CHARITY RIDE

We did it! We cycled Oxhill to Paris and raised a few hundred pounds for one of Oxhill's favourite charities - Chernobyl's Children Oxfordshire and South Warwickshire. A big thank you to Derek for his great driving and the way he helped us in each of our destinations! And a big thank you to all who donated and encouraged us. It was great fun - as well as a challenge. Once we forget the pain I'm sure we'll start looking forward to doing it again next year!



*Vanessa Druce*



## SKITTLES AND PIG ROAST

Come along and have a fun night, good food and a game of skittles in Oxhill Village Hall, **Saturday 1st October.**

Tickets £7.50 from Lilian (680468) or Val (680215).

Start 7.30 pm

For Church Funds

*Lilian*

## TALGARTH MALE VOICE CHOIR

Talgarth Male Voice Choir concert to be held in St. Lawrence's Church on **Saturday 12th November.**

Tickets £10.00 to include a glass of wine.

This will be the 6th visit of Talgarth, we are so lucky to have managed to get them to come again. They are excellent, do come along.

Tickets from Lilian (680468) or Val (680215)

*Lilian*



**Looking for a children's party venue?**

The Old Fire Station is now available to hire for children's parties.

Reasonable rates, secure outside area, child friendly facilities.

Call 01295 680624 for further details



## NOTICEBOARD

Please can you help?

Dot Richards is now not able to look after her cat Mac, so if anyone is interested in taking him on she would be very pleased.

He is an adult male, neutered, and is fully house trained, friendly and an excellent companion.

In the first instance please contact Gwyn Adams on 680286 for any further information needed.

Very good sale for toys etc

The next 'New To You' sale organised by Ettington Pre-school and Toddler Group will be held on Saturday 8th October 2011 12 noon -2 pm at Ettington Community Centre, Rogers Lane, Ettington.

*Joyce McKail*

**Twiglet**

Our cat Twiglet was very pleased to see his photo in last month's 'Noticeboard', but wishes to point out that, far from being a stray, he has been a permanent resident of Gilkes Lane for the last 17 years. As he is now getting a bit deaf, he miaows **VERY** loudly, but this does not indicate that he's unhappy or hungry. He eats well, is very fit, and can still easily outpace any dog we set on him. We apologise if he's come into your house uninvited, but he's just being neighbourly. It's probably best not to feed him, as he eats quite happily at home (Grove Cottage), although he sometimes gets confused as to where home is.

*Many thanks for your concern, Peter & Carol Taylor, pp Twiglet*

## Loft Ladder

I have recently had a loft ladder fitted and can thoroughly recommend the fitter and his mate. You are welcome to come and view it, just give me a ring first. The fitter is Stu 01527 850295 [Studley] Mobile 07712327889

*Ruth Gibson 01295 680420*

## Bouncy Castle

If you are thinking of having a children's party and want to hire a bouncy castle I can highly recommend **BOUNCY CASTLE HIRE (WARWICK)** 01926 641389 / 07748497873

This is a local firm (Chadshunt) and I found them extremely helpful and efficient and their rate very competitive. They also hire out a portable skittle alley.

*Anne Marshall*

Oxhill residents have recommended the following services this month

Painter & Decorator - David Simms 01789 740141 / 07872203186 email [d.simms746@btinternet.com](mailto:d.simms746@btinternet.com)

DNW Plumbing & heating engineer - Darren Whitehouse 01926 640797 / 07973270856

KPW Building - Karl Whitehouse 01926 640622 / 07970773641

Carpenter, builder - Michael Morby 01295 780446

Plasterer - Martin Hedges 01295 251568 / 07932254218

Chimney Sweep - Paul Braggins 01295 268428 / 07849105085

# HALLOWEEN QUIZ

1. On what date do we celebrate Halloween?

- A 5th November
- B 1st October
- C 31st October

2. Who first celebrated what we've come to know as Halloween?

- A The Druids
- B The Romans
- C The Christians

3. The tradition of dressing up started because:

- A We try to scare away evil spirits
- B It is a way to honour the dead
- C When the evil spirits came, they wouldn't recognize you

4. Halloween falls on the night before:

- A All Soul's Day
- B All Saint's Day
- C The Harvest Moon

5. True or False - El dÃa de los muertos(Day of the Dead), a fiesta observed in Mexico and other Spanish-speaking cultures on 1st November shares some of its history and roots with Halloween.

6. True or False: Bram Stoker's novel, Dracula, published in 1897, was based loosely on the real-life Vlad Dracula (1431-1476). He was a prince who actually did live in Transylvania in the Carpathian Mountains of Romania

7. True or False: trick-or-treating developed during the 1930s as a means to control young people's Halloween night pranks.



## PUMPKIN SOUP RECIPE

- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 2 onions, finely chopped
- 1 kg pumpkins (or squash), peeled, deseeded and chopped into chunks
- 700 ml vegetable or chicken stock
- 142 ml pot double cream

Heat the olive oil in a large saucepan, then gently cook the onions for 5 minutes, until soft but not coloured. Add the pumpkin to the pan, carry on cooking for 8 - 10 minutes, stirring occasionally until it starts to soften and turn golden.

Pour the stock into the pan, then season with salt and pepper. Bring to the boil, then simmer for 10 minutes until the pumpkin is very soft. Pour the cream into the pan, bring back to the boil, then purée with a hand blender. For an extra-velvety consistency you can also push the soup through a fine sieve into another pan.

Quiz Answers:

1 - C - 31st October; 2 - A - The Druids; 3 - A - We try to scare away evil spirits; 4 - B - All Saint's Day; 5 - True; 6 - True; 7 - True

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## WHAT'S ON IN & AROUND OXHILL

### October

Saturday 1st	19:30	Village Hall - Skittles and Pig Roast
Sunday 2nd	20:00	The Peacock - Quiz night
Tuesday 4th		Grey landfill bin collection
Wednesday 5th	10:00	Village Hall - Mobile Library
Wednesday 5th	10:30	The Peacock - Village Coffee Morning
Wednesday 5th	19:30	Tredington Church - Gordon Kuhrt talk
Wednesday 5th	20:00	Village Hall - Diamond Jubilee Meeting
Thursday 6th		Feldon Valley Golf Day, Brailes
Saturday 8th - 9th		Kinton Village Hall - Group Art Exhibition
Sunday 9th	16:00 - 18:30	OWLS Photographic and Art Exhibition
Monday 10th-13th		Armscote Manor Lecture Series
Tuesday 11th		Green & Blue bin collection
Tuesday 11th	19:30	St. Edmund's Church, Shipston - meeting regarding ordination of women to the Episcopate
Thursday 13th	14:00	Village Hall - Afternoon Delights
Friday 14th		Weekday Walkers - see page 2 for details
Friday 14th		Village Hall - Friday Night at the Village Hall
Saturday 15th		Village Hall - WOT2Grow Apple Day
Saturday 15th	23:59	<b>COPY DEADLINE FOR THE NEWS</b>
Tuesday 18th		Grey landfill bin collection
Wednesday 19th	12:30	The Peacock - Village Lunch
Wednesday 19th	14:00	Bourton on the Hill Bridge Club - Bridge Drive
Wednesday 19th	19:30	Tredington Church - Gordon Kuhrt talk
Thursday 20th		Gardening Club - Mushrooms & Toadstool. Beware! Christopher Scotter.
Tuesday 25th		Green & Blue bin collection
Wednesday 26th	10:00	Village Hall - Mobile Library
Wednesday 26th	19:30	Tredington Church - Gordon Kuhrt talk
Thursday 27th	14:00	Village Hall - Afternoon Delights
Friday 28th		Weekday Walkers - see page 2 for details
Friday 28th	14:00 - 21:00	Old Chapel - Gifts Galore!
Saturday 29th	09:00 - 13:00	Old Chapel - Gifts Galore!
Saturday 29th	18:00 - 21:00	Compton Scorpion Manor - Fireworks

### November

Wednesday 9th	19:30	Tredington Church - Gordon Kuhrt talk
Saturday 12th		St Lawrence's Church - Talgarth Male Voice Choir
Thursday 17th		Gardening Club - Climbers & Wall shrubs - Jane Cropley
Friday 25th		Village Hall - Indian Feast Night

### December

Wednesday 21st		St Lawrence's Church - Candlelight Carol Service
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