

Oving with
Pitchcott
Newsletter



August 2006

Web address : www.oving.org

SEPTEMBER 2006
CONTRIBUTIONS

Please let me have contributions
for the September newsletter
by Friday 11th August

Many thanks, Valerie Adams,
12 The Pightle, Oving 640296

Whitchurch and Oving
Parents and Toddlers
(Babies Welcome Too)
Every Wednesday
British Legion Hall
10am - 12pm,
Oving Road, Whitchurch
£2.00
Tel. Jenny on 641513
or Zantie on 640427

Do you need a Babysitter?
Call:

Annelise Waldron	641656
Rachel Williams	641159
Hayley Parrott	641472
Rachael Watson	641796
John Watson	641796
Jonathon Roberts	640511

LADIES NIGHT

Due to other commitments I
will not be holding the ladies
night at my house this month.
Normal service will resume in
September

A Good Walk in the Country

*If you fancy fresh air and healthy
exercise every now and then why not
join us on the first Friday of each
month for a good walk and a pub
lunch.*

*We'll pick a different walk of around 6
miles each month, ending at a pub, but
suggestions would always be welcome*

*The next walk will be on
Friday 4th August*

*If you're interested phone Jack or
Mary on 641738 or email
j.peeters@btinternet.com*

ROTAS						
	06-Aug	13-Aug	20-Aug	27-Aug	03-Sep	
11.00 am	Family Service		Family Communion		Family Service and Picnic	
Sidesmen	R.Firth J.Goss	D.Midwinter H.Bowen	N.Shields C.Roberts	J.Brunswick S.Hodges	K.Ryel T.Baker	
Readers at 6.00pm		J.Brunswick Eph. 4, 25-5, 2		D.Midwinter Joshua 24, 1-2 & 14-18 G.Ponsford Eph. 6, 10-20		
Chancel	J.Brunswick	M.Hodges	M.Hodges	K.Couper	K.Couper	
Nave	H.Fone	S.Berriman	D.Hilton-Jones	C.Jenner	J.Smith	
Path and Bins	A.McGinn	R.Smith	P.Goss	S.Taylor	D.Goss	

THANK YOU

A very big THANK YOU to everyone who helped with the Church Fete. We had the weather on our side this year, which made a difference.

Kind regards Tessa Baker

Green Scene: One woman's fight against pesticides – Part 2

Last month's article was about Georgina Downs who came to the conclusion that her health problems were linked to the pesticides being sprayed on the field adjacent to her home. She decided to try to change present regulations and practices. Her prime target was the mathematical model used to work out the risk such chemicals present to the public. This had been used for years by the Government's Advisory Committee on Pesticides (ACP) and by the official regulator, the Pesticides Safety Directorate (PSD).

The public are entitled to assume that such mathematical models are carefully calculated by experts before being used as a tool. However Georgina demolished the model with simple logic and exposed that it was no more than a piece of guesswork which had never been published or subjected to peer review. She says that it was based on an assumption that 'bystanders' would only receive occasional short-term exposure from the spray cloud at the time of the application and, moreover, that the exposure would be limited to one pesticide at a time. However, sometimes there is more than one pesticide used at a time and the exposure lingers on. She therefore argues that as a tool for calculating real exposures and health impacts for rural residents, this model is irrelevant.

Since July 2001 Georgina has campaigned vigorously to seek answers to penetrating questions. She had presented her views to various Government bodies with the responsibility for pesticide spraying. The media have taken a sympathetic interest in her story and her campaign. To cut a long story short the final and extraordinary outcome was that the Royal Commission for Environmental Pollution examined and researched the issues and produced a report in September 2005. This concluded that the mathematical model used by regulators was deeply flawed, that farmers should warn anyone at risk of exposure before spraying and that they should produce public records of the chemicals sprayed. The Commission also recommended a full epidemiological survey to find out if there were links between pesticides and ill health. The main shortcoming of this report was that it recommended only a 5 metre buffer zone between the areas sprayed and residential and other types of property. There are a number of reputable studies in the United States which conclude that a 5 metre buffer zone is quite inadequate. Seven American states have imposed no-spray buffer zones of up to 2.5 miles around schools. The ACP then produced a report dismissing most of the Commission's criticisms of the present regime.

So where does this leave the public? To try to resolve the present uncertain and thus unsatisfactory situation, Georgina has applied to the High Court for a Judicial Review of the Government's alleged failure to provide appropriate protection against pesticide spraying. This story has yet to be finalised.

Extracted from "Pesticide Nun" published in the April 06 edition of the Ecologist Magazine www.theecologist.org

See www.pesticidescampaign.co.uk for further information.

Rachel Gershon – Aylesbury Vale Friends of the Earth

Tel: 01296 640967 Email: info@avfoe.org.uk

RNLI thanks Oving

The Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) Winslow and Buckingham branches would like to thank Oving for their donations totalling 121.68 during the house-to-house collections earlier this year. Collections throughout the Winslow and Buckingham totalled just over 6,900. More recently, we were shaking our lifeboat boxes outside Tescos in Buckingham, and received just under 1800. The RNLI committee all volunteers would like to thank everyone who donated, and our hard-working collectors too!

The RNLI saves lives at sea and is supported entirely by voluntary contributions and legacies. It is the oldest national lifeboat service in the world. The lifeboat men and women who risk their lives for others are mostly volunteers and respond to distress calls in some of the most atrocious conditions Mother Nature can throw at them.

We would like to collect in Pitchcott next year. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Ingram Murray on 01525 240350

COFFEE MORNING

There is to be an informal coffee morning on Friday 25th August

In aid of The Association for Young People with ME (AYME)

Venue: No 17 The Pightle from 10:30-12:00am

Hostess: Pam Heeley Tel:- 01296 640158

All proceeds to be donated to AYME

Garden Farm: Summer

Well summer is definitely here!

In mid-June we had quite the hottest weather of the year, and in the process I discovered something “interesting” about oak barrel water butts. If you let them run dry they shrink. And when it rains again the water comes out through the gaps in the staves – until the wood has expanded again with the water when everything is fine again. Just when you think a welcome rain shower will re-supply the water, you watch it all leave out like something from Tom & Jerry!

The recent storm early in the morning also zapped one of my cars – completely wiping out the electrics!

My new hives are doing well, although I suspect I will have a relatively small honey crop this year. Each hive is modular, comprising a base board and entrance – where the bees come & go, a brood box which is quite deep and contains 10 brood frames, one or more “supers” which are shallower than the brood box and also contain 10 frames and a lid. There are some special “boards” between some of the sections, but in essence that is it.

The frames are simple open wooden frames which hang in their respective box side by side. Each frame has a piece of flat wax reinforced with wire which has hexagons stamped into the wax to help the bees build up their home.

Hive 1 was by far the more established – when I got the bees 6 of the 10 frames in the brood box were “occupied” – basically with chambers for new bees, pollen and honey for stores. This has now expanded to 9 ½ frames and they have an almost full “super” above them which contains honey. This year I will be leaving this for the bees to eat over the winter. I have added a new super above this and hope the bees fill that with honey – for me!

Hive 2 was the captured swarm and that started with just 4 frames occupied and no super. It has grown to 8 frames and I have added a super in the hope that they will soon start filling that with honey – albeit for their own use over winter. With a bit of luck I will get to add another super on top for me.

Each week I expect the hives, which involves donning wellies, a bee jacket with a veil and some leather gauntlets. I light up the smoker on a Sunday evening and basically take everything out of the hives to check how the colony is expanding, look for disease and make sure that the bees are not making a new queen with the intention of moving on.

So far so good!

From the Rectory

Dear Friends,

Wimbledon and the World Cup are over - for some that will mark a change for the good and for others there will be the struggle of know how to fill time before whatever it is that comes next.

It seems to me that August always represents rather a quiet month in the life of the Church. We are heavily into the Sundays after Trinity what we now call ordinary time - and there is little in the calendar since many will be going away this month.

So, perhaps this can be a time for reflection - a time to take stock of what God has done for us and what we do for him. It is fair to say that in pretty well every parish in the Team finances are tight. They take up time at every PCC meeting. And, because we are small parishes, the loss of even a single donor can make the difference between breaking even and not being able to meet all of our commitments.

So, as part of this summer's reflection may I invite everybody to look at what they give to the church. Does what we give represent a little loose change or does it need a place in our household budgeting? Have we considered giving by monthly direct debit and have all UK taxpayers made sure that their giving is maximised through the use of the Gift Aid scheme?

I hope that you may feel able to raise your level of giving, even if by a small amount. If you would then do please do have a word either with me or with your parish treasurer.

I have to say that I was looking forward to the world Cup - not with the expectation of England winning (they were bound to be involved in an unsuccessful penalty shoot-out at some stage).

Now that it is over I have to say that the sense of expectation I feel about an event in a couple of months is even higher. On October 28th Durufle's Requiem Mass will be performed in a liturgical setting featuring musicians from the Royal Academy of Music and the Collegiate Singers (a deputising choir at Westminster Abbey who some will have heard sing at our visit last year). The Archdeacon of Buckingham will be our preacher at what should be a stupendous event.

The service is taking place around the time of All Soul's Day when we commemorate those who we love but see no longer and so we will have a chance to give thanks for those who have shaped our lives. We are looking for people to sponsor the musicians - perhaps in memory of a loved one. Those who would like to consider such sponsorship should have a word with me either in church or on the phone (641606).

It is very rare that I talk about an unmissable event - please put the date in your diary today because it will be a stupendous occasion.

With best wishes

David

Oving Parish Council meeting 11th July 2006

Full minutes will be available on the web site www.oving.org

Highlights include:

1. Vandalism. We have had another outbreak of wanton vandalism involving the children's playground. Police are involved and the damage will be remedied quickly. It is important that all residents who see something suspicious report it immediately to the police. Only persistent and vigilant follow up will get the necessary level of attention from the authorities. Additionally groups of youths have been leaving bottles strewn across the Rec ground. They are local and know who they are! If you see people misusing and abusing the facilities then please report it to the police.
2. It was agreed to take forward a Parish Plan under the guidance of Stuart Nicholls. More information will become available in due course for all to participate in this initiative to plan exactly what we want the future of the village to be across all aspects of community life. This will also assist in supporting any planned development of the pavilion. The next phase in the development of the Pavilion, a questionnaire to all living in the village, is planned to take place in the late summer after school holidays.
3. The money has been raised for the cricket nets and additional funding is being investigated from local grant bodies. It is hoped to have the net up and running for the school holidays.
4. The council considered RoSPA risk report of the Children's playground which revealed no high risk areas.
5. Council reviewed its finances for the year to date and noted the deposit of the commuted payment from Church farm.
6. A number of road sign 'snagging ' jobs are due to be finished by BCC over the coming weeks after installation of the new speed limit.
7. Roger Ball reported on his attendance at the local 'Cluster Meeting' of parishes and the highlights of the discussion. Traffic and road safety road quality remain high on the agenda for many local villages.
8. The next meeting of the Sub Committee for the Rec ground will be at 7.00pm on the 19th September. The next full Parish Council meeting will be at 8.00pm on the same evening.

Ambrose McGinn Chairman Oving Parish Council

Tel: 641026 e: ambrose_mcginn@oving.org www.oving.org

KIT's TRAVELS (continued)

Day seven

Had a lie in 6.45am! It's a lovely hot sunny day. Main market day, I've just wandered around, very busy, live animals and bloody carcasses. There are now 6 students at the house. Bev a lovely young Scottish lass, Tim a psychologist, Gillian a doctor, Kim and Kevin, a Texan American who arrived last night. Evidently you need 2 weeks to make any significant progress in speaking Spanish. Oh well I'm continuing to use I.B.L. International Body Language, one of the perks of being a mature person, everybody is willing to help you. It turns out that Kim is going to the Galapagos Islands on Sunday too, so we may be together. Bev, Kim and I are the Cordillera trail and Kevin is joining us to do the 4 week condor bit. On Saturday we are all going to a famous science museum, situated on the Equator where you can do hands on experiments, i.e. balance an egg on a pin, due to gravity between the poles. On Friday night there is a music and dance festival at the Town Hall and we are trying to get tickets.

It is time for the next installment.

Day eight

Last night we all went to a pizza restaurant, because it was Maria Gloria's birthday. Everybody drinking cocktails {I had 3 Tom Collins} After we went to a bar, I had the lovely thick hot chocolate drink. Today was my last day at Spanish school, thank goodness. Stayed in and watched a film, then bed. Gillian the doctor asked me to give her, her last Rabies injection, in her arm. Knew I could have been a medic, I had to sign the administering form, so it's official, anybody needs a jab, I can do it.

Day nine

Lie in up at 8 a.m caught 4 buses to Media Mundi (The Middle of the Earth) 1hr outside Quito. It is the official Equator line. It is a brilliant museum. I got a certificate for balancing an egg on a nail, gravitational pull, only possible at the Equator. (Only one other person and I did it.) We did experiments with water. On the Equator water drops straight down the plughole, 2 metres to the north anti clockwise flow, 2 metres to the south clockwise flow.

Evidently you are 2 kilos lighter at the Equator, so for all you who want instant weight loss, come here. There were lots of interesting facts. Got back to Sangolqui at 5 p.m. then went to a folk dance and ballet festival at the town hall. It was excellent.

Day ten

Went to Cotopaxi, it's the highest active volcano in the world, 4820 metres high. From the car park you have to climb to the refuge which is 300 metres higher, altitude wise. It was a killer, 50 steps (I counted) and stop, gasping for breath. But I made it in one hour with no altitude sickness. I am very proud of myself. Oving walking group please note. We had a picnic lunch by a lake. We said our farewells to Marie Gloria and Santiago and the rest then went with Kim to the Alston Inn Hotel for one night, she is on the same Galapagos trip. We went for dinner, \$3 including 2 beers. I left my jacket in 'Santiago's' car.

FRIENDS OF WHITCHURCH SURGERY

are holding a CREAM TEA afternoon
(with raffle and bric-à-brac stall)
on Saturday, 2nd September at 2.30 pm.
It will be held, by kind permission of
Mr. and Mrs. T. Bowman-Shaw,
at Hardwick Place, Hardwick.



Come and join us for this mouth-watering event!

OVING BOOK CLUB

Date	Title	Author	Venue Host
Aug 17	A Short History of Tractors in Ukranian	Marina Lewycka	Ann 641314 (Barbecue)
Sep 14	Gentleman and Players	Joanne Harris	Trina 641188
Oct 12	Until I Find You	John Irving	Kit 641694
Nov 9	State of the Union	Douglas Kennedy	Rada 641191

