

Oving with
Pitchcott
Newsletter



September 2006

Web address : www.oving.org

OCTOBER 2006
CONTRIBUTIONS

Please let me have contributions
for the October newsletter
by Monday 11th September

Many thanks, Valerie Adams,
12 The Pightle, Oving 640296
Email:- valadams@waitrose.com

LADIES NIGHT

(Quilting, stitching, knitting,
whatever takes your fancy)

Or just come for a chat

The next meeting will be on

Wed. 13th Sept at 7:30 pm

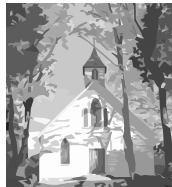
Newcomers welcome.

Call Val on 640296 for info

Sunday School - September

Sunday School will be held on the 10th & 24th September at the
Parish Church between 11.00 and 12.00.

All children between the ages of 5 – 11 are welcome.



If you would like more information then please contact
Jeremy Shields on 641020.

COFFEE MORNING

There is to be an informal coffee morning on Friday 29th Sept

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

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 1st Sept

If you're interested phone Jack or Mary on 641738 or email

j.peeters@btinternet.com

ROTAS						
	03-Sep	10-Sep	17-Sep	24-Sep	01-Oct	
11.00 am	Family Service and Picnic		Family Communion		Harvest Family Service	
Sidesmen	K.Ryel T.Baker	D.Midwinter J.Brunswick	N.Shields R.Goss	H.Bowen S.Hodges	R.Firth J.Goss	
Readers at 6.00pm		H.Bowen James 2, v1-10 or 11-17		T.Cleaver Jeremiah 11, v18-20 R.Parrott Mark 9, v30-37		
Chancel	K.Couper	C.Roberts	C.Roberts	J.Brunswick	J.Brunswick	
Nave	J.Smith	L.Watson	H.Fone	S.Berriman	D.Hilton-Jones	
Path and Bins	D.Goss	P.Berriman	D.Smith	A.McGinn	J.Peeters	

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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*



Whitchurch and Oving Youth Club

We have now been up and running for just over a year, and have enjoyed several activities such as biscuit decorating, sweet making, bowling, swimming, quizzes, orienteering, and rock climbing to name but a few. We get a regular attendance of 32 children fortnightly.

The books will be re-opening in September and we welcome all new members. We open every fortnight during term time and are open from 7 pm-9 pm for children in years 4, 5 and 6. The prices as from September will be £5.00 membership for the year and £2.00 each session you attend.

The dates for the forthcoming 06- 07 year are:

September 8 th + 22 nd	October 6 th + 20 th	November 3 rd +17 th
December 1 st + 16 th	January 12 th +26 th	February 9 th +23 rd
March 9 th + 23 rd	April 20 th	May 4 th + 18 th
June 8 th + 22 nd	July 6 th + 20 th	August closed

On a more serious note it's that age old problem again!! HELPERS We are sadly going to be loosing two helpers as from September, so we need at least two more helpers. Can YOU spare 2 hours a fortnight? Don't leave it to someone else to volunteer, or the youth club may have to close!!

For more information/inquires ring Neil 640225 or Amanda 640100



The long summer holidays are over and the children are back in school there will be many mums (dads and grannies!) who have a somewhat empty feeling- is the house just too quiet.

Vale volunteers can help you fill your spare time, with nearly 300 charities and not for profit organisation with 550 voluntary opportunities there is something for everyone, if you have one hour to a whole day to fill we can find something for you.

For a free copy of our 'Time Givers Guide' contact

Vale Volunteers

01296 337456

or look on our websites

www.valevolunteers.org.uk

www.do-it.org.uk

Do you need a Babysitter?	
Call:	
Roberta Baker	641301
Annelise Waldron	641656
Rachel Williams	641159
Hayley Parrott	641472
Rachael Watson	641796
John Watson	641796
Jonathon Roberts	640511

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

Garden Farm: Summer

During the really hot weather in July, when the lawns turned brown and the water butts ran dry, the chickens stopped laying eggs. At least, that's what the children told me. I would come home from work during the week to "No eggs today Dad".

At the weekend I decided to check this out. After all, the chickens had plenty of feed, water, shade and greenery. One of the Brown hens has been distinctly broody. She sits in the nest box most of the day. There are no eggs under her and I tend to shoe her out.

It occurred to me that if she is sitting in the nest box the other chickens will not be able to lay there. At various times in the past we have found the odd Scots Dumpy egg out in the garden – usually under a bush or behind the water butt.

So I decided to search the garden, convinced that the chickens were laying eggs just not in the usual place. After about 10 minutes I took a look in the compost heap. There at the back, shaded and partially covered, was a large clutch of 17 eggs!

The eggs had to be reasonably fresh, no more than a week old, but they were discoloured from the vegetable matter, so we decided to test them by breaking in a bowl, and only using them if they smelled OK and to cook them thoroughly in case of bacteria – I'm still here to tell my tale!

August is the traditional time to harvest onions and sure enough the leaves have fallen and started to turn yellow. I've harvest some. Basically you just need to separate the roots from the ground and leave the onions on the soil to dry (provided thee is no prospect of prolonged rain). We now have a very large crop of onions of all shapes and sizes drying nicely and by September they will be hung up in "ropes" in the shed.

With the New Potatoes long gone the remaining crop will stay in the ground a little longer. In fact we will probably just dig them up as we need them – especially as I estimate that we will have somewhere of the order of 200lb of potatoes (assuming most of the crop is in good health).

The runner beans have shot up since planting so late and now have pods growing on them, so I think we'll have a crop or two before the weather changes for Autumn.

Finally the leeks have come on nicely. They are a much later crop of course and I expect we'll be enjoying them late in the Autumn,

By the time you are reading this we will hopefully be into the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness. Already the Rowan's are ready for picking (mid-August) and it won't be long before we are picking blackberries, damsons and other autumn fruit – more on that next month.

The bees are doing OK – just OK. I am worried that they have not expanded into the "supers" that I have provided. They seem healthy and active but not making

Finally a word about apples. We are getting to the time when the trees drop their fruit and much of it goes to waste – we simply cannot use it – or even give it away. I have in the past made cider – easy to make but time consuming. I was thinking this year of having a cider making day where we gather as much fruit as possible between villagers and make a cider collective – we share the fruit, the work and the spoils!

Anyone interested please send me an email to the address below.

A.P.R.E.

August 2006

apre@oving.org

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Reporting Crime

Fortunately we live in an area with a relatively low crime rate but it is important that we all remain vigilant and report anything that is suspicious to the police. The police do their best to patrol all areas of the county but, because we live in a relatively low crime area, they cannot have officers patrolling our village all the time. It is largely up to us to keep our eyes and ears open and immediately report any criminal activity or anti-social behaviour to the police.

The police rely heavily on the public to report any crimes that are being committed and they are very keen to hear from you, even if you are only suspicious that a crime is being committed.

If you see a crime being committed, or suspect that a crime is being committed, don't hesitate to dial 999 immediately and report it. In an emergency always dial 999. An emergency is a situation where:-

- there is danger to life
- there is a risk of serious injury
- a crime is in progress or about to happen
- an offender is still at the scene or has just left.

For all other non-emergency matters, you should dial 0845 8 505 505. This is a special non-emergency number for Thames Valley Police but it is only for non-emergency matters. In this newsletter you will find a yellow card with the special non-emergency number on it, which you might like to keep near your telephone or in your telephone book.

Thames Valley Police also have a web site with a huge amount of information and answers to many frequently asked questions, which can be found at www.thamesvalley.police.uk.

KIT's TRAVELS (continued)

Day eleven

We caught the 8am plane to Baltra on Santa Cruz Island. It was a 3 hour flight out into the Pacific. We were given 2 meals, Iberia please note! The boat we are on, The Sea Man is superb, 13 passengers. Guess who got a cabin to herself; and I later found out it was one of the biggest. Evidently they thought I had a disability, God knows what they thought I had, but I'm not complaining (probably thought I was not of sound mind, well, they were right there). Kim and I met Geraldine at the airport, an Irish woman, nearer my age. She's in our Cordillera Trail group, so we are all getting acquainted. The boat is larger than the Barrier Reef one; the cabins and bunks are larger, private shower, toilet and basin. Dining room has full meal service, plus tea, coffee, hot chocolate whenever you want. We have just returned from an island trail and have been met back on board with a bowl of hot fresh popcorn each. Now the serious stuff, after lunch we went snorkling from a beach via the dinghy. I have now swum with giant turtles, shoals of big bright fish around me, and best of all a large 10ft sea-lion swam under me brushing me with its' back. The beach is full of sea-lions, bull's harems, pups. You can sit within 3 feet of them, and hear the pups suckling the milk. I sat entranced watching them playing, grunting etc. There are birds galore, blue-footed boobies, herons, cormorants (too many to name) all around. This is a wildlife paradise, absolutely marvellous. Later took the dinghy and climbed up Bartholemew Island peak. The Galapagog wildlife book has gone down a treat. It's the one they recommend and everone wants to have it. I'm using it to tick off everythig I see.

Just had dinner, food was superb and a briefing for tomorrow. We are going to Genovese. This is so good I've asked to stay on for an extra 3 days, captain is going to try. Writing my diary on the sun lounge deck, need my factor 50 suncream.

Day twelve

Good nights sleep, boat travelled overnight to Genovesa. 7am breakfast, 8am landed on a small sandy beach and took the trail. Lots of birds, this is a twitchers paradise, they come so close you could touch them but it not allowed. 10.30 back on beach for snorkling. Fish are big and bright very clear water

Again sea-lions are all over the beach. Pups 1 and 2 days old suckling and crying, the birds were eating the placentas. The big bulls were chasing the females, absolutely astounding. Bowl of meon, strawberries, pineapple, kiwis and other exotics when we returned on board, as a taster before lunch. I'm writing this diary on the sun-deck. Temp in the 80's. Lunch, soup, giant prawns, salad, planton (tastes like a fried banana) all this after a breakfast of cheese, spiced meats, omelettes, fresh baked bread, jam, coffee and freshly squeezed juice. 2p.m. back in dinghy, over to the other side of the bay. Snorkled from dinghy along the sheer cliff face, very deep clear water, seals playing around you in the water, small sharks and lots of other fish. Back to boat, showered, changed, back in dinghy did a dry landing on Prince Philip's steps (He visited in 1965 and slipped in the steep cliff steps) Went on the trail, looking for red-footed boobies and owls. The birds are so numerous and unconcerned about people that they walk up to you, and never fly away when you approach. This is the season for the young juveniles getting ready to fly. Back on board at 6.15p.m., freshly baked pizza to take the edge off before dinner at 7pm. I will be as fat as a pig, if this keeps up. But it is unlikely, once the Cordillera Trail starts, that should knock off some weight. It's awful to say this, but I'm having such a marvellous time that I've hardly thought of home. I have doubt that will change when I start the hard part. Cabins cleaned and changed 2 times a day, unbelievable. It's a luxury having air-conditioned cabin to myself. I'm going to have to delete some photos tonight or I will run out of memory, 500 not enough. You will all have to endure the photo presentation. I will supply the wine.

OVING BOOK CLUB

Date	Title	Author	Venue Host
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

Green Scene

Addendum to article on pesticides

Following my first article about pesticides I would like to clarify a point made regarding farmers' training and the use of pesticides. The law requires that those born after 31 December 1964 who apply agricultural pesticides commercially, must hold a Certificate of Competence from the National Proficiency Tests Council in England and Wales. However, rather incongruously, those born on or prior to that date currently have 'Grandfather rights' and are exempt from holding such a certificate (unless providing a commercial service). According to the Central Science Laboratory survey of spray practice, 9% of the UK arable area was sprayed under 'Grandfather rights' in 2004. The Royal Commission's report recommended that 'Grandfather rights' should be phased out by 2010 in order to eliminate this anomaly.

A418 consultation, could this become the outer M25?

Many of you will have read about the proposals to build a bypass around Wing and also around Rowsham. The consultation is currently open until 29th September and further details can be found on

www.buckscc.gov.uk/a418improvements

Those who travel regularly to Leighton Buzzard or Milton Keynes may welcome the proposal, especially the northern route option around Wing, which would be easier for residents living near the A413 to access. I do not doubt the strength of feeling and desirability of the proposal for Wing residents who have suffered the blight of ever increasing traffic levels through the centre of their village for many years. However, and of course, there is a big however, have you realised the following.....

- These bypasses will form a regional strategic route, which is likely to eventually link the M1 to the A41 and hence create an outer M25. This would form an alternative route for freight traffic via Aylesbury (avoiding the already congested M1 around Milton Keynes and Luton)
- New research by consultants for CPRE, the Campaign to Protect Rural England, and the Government's Countryside Agency assessed the impact on traffic levels, the landscape and subsequent development of three big road schemes from the 1990's (Newbury, M65 and Polegate Bypass in Sussex). The report showed that the road schemes generated far more traffic than was predicted. Traffic flows in all three case studies were near or higher than those predicted for the road in 2010 by 2004. In Newbury itself, levels of traffic are now back to their pre bypass levels, so it has not solved the problems of congestion and air quality within the town.
- All routes will have a major visual, noise and environmental/wildlife impact which will grow as traffic levels increase

- Many villages surrounding the bypass will be used even more as rat runs to and from the bypass e.g. Wingrave and Stewkley
- Depending on which route around Wing is thought preferable, the villages of Burcott or Ledburn could have a major trunk road passing through or near to many dwellings
- New roads result in greater traffic and carbon dioxide emission and transport is the fastest growing contributor to climate change
- Road building is not the answer to easing congestion – it frequently moves the problem to the end of the bypass. Often traffic levels rise so much that tail backs result and alternative routes are sought once more

It is for the above reasons (and many others) that AVFOE is taking steps to see whether alternative approaches to road building have been seriously investigated, these would include improvements to public transport and facilities for walking and cycling. You have this month to have your say and if you watch the press, I am sure you will see some press releases from AVFOE.

Rachel Gershon – Aylesbury Vale Friends of the Earth
Tel: 640967 Email: info@avfoe.org.uk

Are you a dab hand with a roller and brush?



Older people in Aylesbury Vale need you! ! !

Volunteer Decorators needed to help with a brand new project!

The Vale Volunteers Decorating Project aims to provide a basic interior decorating service to older and disabled people across Aylesbury Vale.

A fresh lick of paint can really lift someone's spirits. If you have time to spare one day a week or a fortnight we would like to hear from you!

Contact:

The Project Co-ordinator Vale
Volunteers Tel: 01296337456
Email:
gardening@valevolunteers.org.uk



My Favourite Nut Roast Recipe

Many years ago when I decided not to eat meat and fish, I had never eaten the ubiquitous nut roast – the butt of many vegetarian jokes. I found to my surprise that it was very tasty, an excellent savoury alternative to roast meat and also wonderful served cold or as a sandwich filling with (or without) pickle.

I even invented a Christmas dinner sandwich with four layers; nut roast, stuffing, bread sauce and cranberry sauce. Not to everyone's taste but I love them!

Ingredients (serves 8 people)

2 tbsps of Olive oil
2 medium onions, finely chopped
2 cloves of garlic, finely chopped
450g/1lb of ground peanuts or cashew nuts
225g/8oz of wholemeal breadcrumbs
100g/4oz of cheddar cheese, grated (optional)
2 beaten eggs or 4tbsps of Soya flour mixed with a little water
1 heaped tsp of mixed herbs
2 tsp of marmite or yeast extract
280 ml/ ½ pt of boiling water
Salt and pepper

* * *

1. Heat the oil and fry the onion and garlic until slightly browned.
2. Put the onions and garlic in a large bowl then add all the other ingredients and mix very well,
3. Grease or line a 2lb loaf tin and put in the mixture.
4. Cover with a double thickness of foil and cook in the oven at 180°C/350°/Gas Mk 4 for about 1 hour 20 minutes (Lower to 160°C in a fan assisted oven).
5. Check with a skewer to make sure it is cooked through then allow it to cool for about 10 minutes in the tin before turning out.

Slice and enjoy!!

Recipe kindly provided by Elaine Conway. If you have a favourite recipe you would like to share then please email it to me for inclusion in the newsletter whenever there is space to do so.