

*Oving with*  
Pitchcott  
*Newsletter*



***January 2007***

[www.all-saints-oving.org](http://www.all-saints-oving.org)

[www.oving.org](http://www.oving.org)

**FEBRUARY 2007**  
**CONTRIBUTIONS**



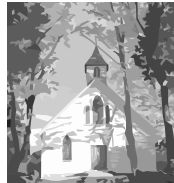
By 11th Jan  
please

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. 10th Jan at 7:30 pm  
Newcomers welcome.  
Call Val on 640296 for info

**Sunday School - January**

**Sunday School will be held on the 14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> January 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.**

**ROTAS**

	07-Jan	14-Jan	21-Jan	28-Jan	04-Feb
11.00 am	Family Service		Family Communion		Family Service
Sidesmen	S.Larman R.Firth	S.Berriman D.Midwinter	K.Ryle C.Jenner	H.Bowen S.Hodges	N.Shields J.Goss
Readers at 6.00pm		P.Corbett		T.Cleaver J.Brunswick	
Chancel	K.Couper	K.Couper	C.Roberts	C.Roberts	J.Brunswick
Nave	C.Jenner	L.Watson	J.Smith	H.Fone	S.Berriman
Path and Bins	P.Berriman	D.Smith	D.Goss	A.McGinn	J.Peeters

***If you didn't do it in 2006  
make 2007 the year you do!***

Soon the Christmas tree will have dropped its needles on the carpet, and Turkey Curry will be on the menu (again)! And are you already thinking about this years resolution and wondering how long before it's broken!

Then why not make a resolution that is **easy to stick to**, because you will enjoy doing it, meet like minded people, make loads of new friends, learn something new, have lots of fun, feel good about yourself and best of all **you will make a difference**.

Give something back to the community

***Volunteer***

For a free copy of our 'Time Givers Guide' detailing over 600 voluntary opportunities

Contact: Vale Volunteers: **01296 337456**

or look on our websites

[www.valevolunteers.org.uk](http://www.valevolunteers.org.uk)

[www.do-it.org.uk](http://www.do-it.org.uk)

***OVING VILLAGE CALENDAR FOR 2008***

The Parish Church intends to produce a village calendar for 2008. Mrs Betty Blunstone, Ashdown, Pulpit Lane; Tel: 641777 has kindly agreed to co-ordinate the project. If you have a photo or photos you think may be suitable, which have been taken within the parish please offer them, but ensure that your name and address is attached to each one if you wish them to be returned.

The last date for entries is 28<sup>th</sup> January 2007!

**THE FRIENDS OF WHITCHURCH SURGERY**

The Friends of Whitchurch Surgery will be holding their Annual General Meeting on 10th February 2007 at 10:00am at the Whitchurch Surgery. Everyone is welcome, please come along, enjoy a cup of coffee and see items bought during the past year.

We would like to thank all those who supported us on the two flu jab Saturdays. £570 was raised.

### Garden Farm: Winter

This is my last piece to write for 2006 and your first one to read for 2007 – so happy New Year!

My change in work in the summer means I am now commuting into London virtually every day. This means that I can no longer do all the maintenance work and general “odd-jobs” on a frequent basis. The inevitable result has been nettles where I don’t really appreciate them. I don’t mind nettles in their place because they are good for wildlife – especially butterflies, but in the middle of the vegetable patch and growing on my paths they are a nuisance. Worse still, nettle roots are tough – in fact nettle stems and roots make very good bindings and “string” – which makes them all the harder to clear out – so job one is to clear them whilst they are at their weakest in the winter.

Our chickens have moulted through November and December, and the brown hens all have nice new plumage. They have continued to lay regularly – big eggs with fabulous yolks as always. The Scots Dumpies, being purebred chickens have virtually stopped laying. Harris the rooster seems to have worked out when it is daybreak and crows much less during the day (so I’m told!). This morning as I left in the semi-dark to once more pay for the privilege of being crammed in a train and a tube he was letting everyone know the sun was about to rise – with slight patches of ground frost glinting in our frost pocket near the chicken enclosure.

One of the brown hens has worked out how to get out on a regular basis and now patrols the rest of the garden – the others seem to watch with envy. Given that all she does is flap with her clipped wings onto a small gate and hop down to explore, I’m surprised the others haven’t copied her. She makes her way back into the enclosure when it suits her and always at the end of the day.

All the books about chickens will tell you that the feed and eggs will attract rats. Our feeder is suspended from the roof of their run, but inevitably feed spills on the ground. I had noticed some nibbled fence and small excavations all around the base of their run – where the chicken wire is buried well into the ground. It was no surprise then to see a rat running through the run one Saturday.



He had burrowed in from the outside – which means he went a long way down, but didn't seem to be able to find a way out. Undeterred he just climbed all the way up the chicken wire to the roof of the run (which is also covered in wire) and then off into a corner where he disappeared. They say that in London you are only 6 feet from a rat at any time, and they are much more common in the country than some people realise. This one has had the odd egg and his (or her) excavations are a nuisance so I think a cage trap will be in order sooner or later.

One advantage of being in London is the plentiful fruit and veg stalls – there is a particularly good one at Liverpool Street underground station with a vast array of produce – some quite unusual. This month I did manage to get two very large containers of raspberries for £1.50 which are now sitting inside two bottles of cheap vodka with some sugar – raspberry vodka being quick and easy to make. The same recipe as I always use – a pint of spirit, a pint of berries and half a pound of sugar. Slightly less sugar for recipes actually. It is much easier to add sugar to a tart batch than take it out of a sweet one!

At the same time the damson vodka is just about ready for drinking and recent dinner parties have tempted me to open a bottle with the berries still inside – after all, why make it if we can't enjoy it! I may even have tempted to a few other Ovingites to try making their own.

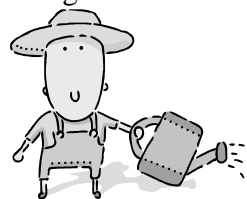
At least I will get a good break over Christmas to do some much needed digging and really bad weather days work my way through catalogues buying seeds and sets for next years produce – and not forgetting the oft promised poly tunnel.

It has also been a good year for fungi – I am not yet confident with my spotting and need to learn more, but a recent trip to Wales saw some large mushrooms which I thought were Chanterelles but didn't have the confidence to eat – something else to learn about and another source of free food for 2007.

I hope you had a good break and here's to free and "farmed" produce during the coming year – and hopefully some honey!

PS – How about a horticultural show for this year? I don't expect to win anything but it might encourage a few readers to grow a few more things...

A.P.R.E.  
December 2006  
apre@oving.org



### **Green Scene: Is road pricing a good idea?**

The subject of road pricing was a top news story last week (1<sup>st</sup> Dec) and I was asked for my views on Three Counties Radio. Though harmful politically, it has the potential to reduce urban congestion. However, I do not think it should be brought in until there are extensive and good alternatives to using your car, particularly at peak travel times. A congestion charge works well in central London where public transport is extensive (though not cheap!). In rural areas, there are often few practical alternatives to using your car, though there are many ways for each of us to reduce our car use and travel less.

No one wants to pay even more to drive their car, but did you know that since 1997 the cost of motoring (allowing for inflation) has fallen, whereas the cost of public transport continues to rise. Britain has some of the worst congestion in Europe, the longest commuter times, some of the highest train and bus fares, one of the lowest levels of light rail infrastructure and some of the poorest cycling facilities. The number of cars on the roads has risen by 25% over a decade to 25m. With thousands of new homes being built in Aylesbury and Milton Keynes, congestion is set to get worse. We have the technology for more people to work from home and many employees could set up one-fifth of their office workers to work from home on any one day.

Last Tuesday I left Whitchurch to drive to Aylesbury at 9.15am and found a 4 mile tail back all the way into town. This was due to the changed road layout at the Horse and Jockey and the sheer volume of traffic; it was not due to an accident or temporary traffic signals. Traffic jams on and around the A413 are occurring even before the 850 homes at Buckingham Park have been built.

If road pricing were introduced, should it be on all roads or only in congested areas. Would road pricing replace road tax and fuel duty? If that were the case, how would it stack up with encouraging people to drive greener cars? Friends of the Earth supports road pricing IF it can be shown to be part of the best solution. It has to reduce CO2 emissions. It also has to be part of a package of traffic reduction measures. It is not a magic wand, but must be combined with providing alternative to the car, using land use planning to reduce the need to travel, improve safety and tackle transport related social exclusion.

We need to see increased funding for public transport. I live in Oving, where an hourly bus service to Aylesbury and Buckingham, is hardly going to entice people away from using their car, especially if there is no evening bus service. All children need a safe route or school bus to take them to school. In Oving, the maintenance of the footways has been in decline for years, along with the cutting back of encroaching hedges. I have campaigned for some 10 years for a better footway between Oving and Whitchurch, but to no avail. Having to walk in single file along a narrow strip of cracked tarmac, abutting a busy road, is not the way you will encourage people to walk more. Other measures such as creating cycle friendly road network, building bus lanes and providing integrated transport (buses meeting trains) need to come quickly. We can't wait for road pricing to fund the investment needed, alternatives to the car must come before road pricing. And if road pricing came in, the public needs to know that there are guarantees about the use of the money raised. It mustn't just disappear into the Government coffers.

So whilst you may be hostile to the idea, everyone realises that congestion is getting worse and doing nothing is not an option. I have just been invited on to Bucks CC's Policy Advisory Group for Transportation as an external panel member; I'm hoping to influence thinking a little! If you were able to make policy decisions, what measure would you introduce to ease congestion and what would you be prepared to do to reduce your car use? All ideas welcome.

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

BOOK CLUB		
DATE	HOST	PHONE NO
4 <sup>th</sup> January	Ann	641314
1 <sup>st</sup> February	Trina	641188
1 <sup>st</sup> March	Pam	640360
5 <sup>th</sup> April	Jo	641644
3 <sup>rd</sup> May	Kit	641694
New book lovers welcome. Reading list details available from anyone in the above list.		

KIT's TRAVELS (continued)

Day twenty six

Good nights sleep, up at 5.45am to help Kim and Vera prepare breakfast, no time for a shower. Long days travelling ahead of us. Stopped at a busy market to shop for food, I'm cooking tomorrow. Given 100sols Katherine and I decided on sausages and mash, but South American sausages are not like Walls. The meat market smells were horrendous but I had a great time haggling with the stall holders. Stopped for picnic lunch. Finished off the tuna. Peru has a long coast line, sandy desert, scrub land and this part looks a very poor region. Houses made with matting, look more like little outhouses, that a puff of wind would blow away. They have lots of tut tuts in Peru, none in Ecuador. Less agriculture, land more barren a few animals, donkeys and goats. Arrived Lambequile at nice hotel, helped Kim cook spaghetti bolognese. Went to bed early, these early mornings warrant it.

Day twenty seven

Up early 6.00am my turn to make breakfast. Then we went to Chan Chan, the mud city in the desert. Hot temps in the high 80's Fascinating place, Sun and Moon cities, decorated walls and squares. After lunch, we headed south through barren mountainous desert. My first rough camp, that means no toilets or showers. Just me under the stars, on a headland spit. My turn to cook the evening meal. Cooked sausage, mash and sweetcorn, sausages were bloody awful, spicy and gristly, with any luck they will sack me as cook.

Day twenty eight

Due south to Lima. We spend a lot of time travelling in the truck. Arrived in Lima, good central hotel, fantastic city, would like 3 or 4 days here. Went to the national museum. There are traffic crossing people to help you cross the roads. Their uniforms are brown and yellow and their faces are painted white with red lipstick, and eye make-up. Mostly they are between 18 and 30, they look like Punchenella from the Commedia Del Arte. Went round the the cathedral, crypt with bones in it. Collected lots of lovely clean laundry; I know it's sad, but clean clothes become the highlight of the day on a trek like this. My truck job is making sure the truck bar is stocked, (no comments please) so we headed off to the supermarket to restock and make sure there is booze for New Years Eve

I also replenished my own private stock, 2 bottellas of vino tinto, a bottle of gin, 12 tonics and some fresh limes and nibbles. Kim is sharing this with me. Went for a meal with Kim and Bev to a local café/restaurant which probably never had a tourist in before, good meal, large fish, rice veg and beer for 10sols, roughly £3.50. In the main square, which was floodlight, they were changing the guard at the presidential palace, very fancy footwork. High steps, kick the arse in front of you and then stand on one leg for 2mins. I thought I could get arrested if I laughed out loud. Run out of time, I'm now in Arequilla, and we are leaving at 4.00am tomorrow to go the cola canyon, that's where you can see the condors

Day twenty nine

Hi amigos I am in Lima but without my diary at the moment. We have just arrived, and are staying 2 nights in a hotel, time to get my washing done, and spend a night in a bed. We rough camped last night on a beach, that means no toilets, showers or anything. 2 a.m. going to the loo in the wild. This is a short communication as I will update my diary tomorrow.

Day thirty

Hi everyone, still here in Lima. Had a cultural day museums and churches. Lima is fantastic! Beautiful buildings and piazzas, people are great and I'm really getting into the city thing. The traffic, it's like being in a dodgem car, taxi drivers see a space ahead, and 6 of them go for it, lots of squealing brakes, expletives and fun! I'm still writing my diary, but not having enough time to sit and type it out on e-mail, but I have a week when I get to Cusco and I'll catch up with it then. We are spending New Years Eve at Nasco in a hotel, and are flying over the Nasco Lines. These are the ancient drawings by the Incas that can only be seen from the air. Happy New Year to everyone, remember me when you toast in the New Year, because I'll certainly be toasting 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. So something for your science files. On Friday night there is a music and dance festival at the Town Hall and we are trying to get tickets.

To be continued

**SCHORNE TEAM OF CHURCHES**

**SERVICES FOR JANUARY 2007**

	Granboro'	N Marston	Oving	Dunton	Hoggeston	Hardwick	Whitchurch	Quainton	Waddesdon	Westcott	Winchendon
<b>7 Jan</b>	8.00 AB HC/PB									9.30 LW HC/PB	
Baptism of Christ		10.00 FS DH	11.00 FS JB		9.30 AB HC/PB	9.30 HC/PB DM	11.00 HC LW		11.00 UM		
White								6.30 HC PM			
<b>14 Jan</b>									8.00 HC/PB LW		
Epiphany 2		9.30 HC AB				11.00 MS JB	11.00 FC PM	9.30 FS PM			9.30 FS LW
White	11.00 HC AB		6.00 HC AB					6.30 ES JB			
<b>21 Jan</b>								8.00 PM HC/PB			
Epiphany 3		9.30 FS JB	11.00 FC AB		11.00 MS JB	9.30 HC AB	11.00 HC PM		11.00 LW Christingle	9.30 FC LW	
White	6.00 HC AB							6.30 ES PM			
<b>28 Jan</b>											
Epiphany 4	11.00 FS AB	9.30 HC AB				9.30 FS At Weedon	8.00 DM HC/PB	9.30 FC PM	11.00 FS LW		9.30 MS LW
White			6.00 ES AB					6.30 ES PM			
		10.00 FS DH	11.00 FS JB		9.30 DM HC/PB	9.30 HC/PB SD	11.00 HC DM		11.00 FS SD		
	6.00 AB 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday							6.30 HC PM			
<p><b>Holy Communion at Weedon Schoolroom Thursdays at 10.00am</b></p> <p>4 Jan DM 11 Jan AB 18 Jan LW 25 Jan PM</p>											
<p>Rev David Meakin 641606 Rev Andy Bell 670298 Rev Liz Welters 655069 Rev Philip Mears 655237 Rev Simon Dickinson 658038 Janet Bayly 670245 Rev Ann Varner 423363 David Hefner 670273</p>											
<p>HC Holy Communion FC Family Communion FS Family Service UA United Service at Parish Church UM United Service at Methodist Church +B With Baptism</p> <p>PB Prayer Book MS Mattins ES Evensong</p>											