

Oving with
Pitchcott
Newsletter



MOTHERING SUNDAY SERVICE
11:00am 18TH MARCH - OVING CHURCH

March 2007

www.all-saints-oving.org.uk
www.oving.org

APRIL 2007
CONTRIBUTIONS



By 9th March
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. 14th March at 7:30 pm

Newcomers welcome.

Call Val on 640296 for info

ROTAS					
	04-Mar	11-Mar	18-Mar	25-Mar	01-Apr
11.00 am	Family Service		Mothering Sunday Family Communion		Family Service
Sidesmen	T.Baker C.Jenner	J.Brunswick R.Goss	H.Bowen K.Ryle	S.Hodges S.Berriman	N.Shields S.Larman
Readers at 6.00pm		M.Ponsford		T.Cleaver J.Brunswick	
Chancel	K.Couper	K.Couper	C.Roberts	C.Roberts	J.Brunswick
Nave	L.Watson	H.Fone	S.Berriman	D.Hilton- Jones	C.Jenner
Path and Bins	D.Goss	A.McGinn	D.Smith	P.Berriman	S.Taylor

Raising Funds for the Air Ambulance and Florence Nightingale Hospice

I am the village postman for Quainton. On the 6th May I will be cycling with a colleague, Mick Wheeler, on standard issue Royal Mail bicycles from Lands End to John O'Groats to raise funds for the Thames Valley & Chiltern Air Ambulance and The Friends of Florence Nightingale House supporting the Help the Hospices Appeal, the Royal Mail's charity partner.

We are seeking as much local publicity and sponsorship as possible and if our cause appeals to you donations can be made online via our website www.peddalingposties.co.uk through the Just Giving links we have to each of the charities. Sponsorship forms are also available on the website.

The BBC is planning a story on the good work carried out by these charities. May we thank you in advance for any help you are able to offer.

Neil Cadenhead

BIBLE STUDY

There will be a course of four bible studies on 'Christianity and Success' led by the Revd. Andy Bell at the home of Heather and Paul Bowen, 10 The Pightle, Oving. They will be on Monday evenings at 7:45 for 8:00 in March

Sunday School - March

Sunday School will be held on the
11th & 25th March
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.

Saturday 17th March

10:30 – 12:30

Flowers for Mothers Day
Refreshments and homemade
cakes for sale

Please come along to Oving
Church and join us for a
welcome coffee morning with
beautiful plants for sale.
Proceeds to Oving Church

OVING TENNIS CLUB

LADIES' COACHING
WITH LTA COACH

AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS
AND NON-MEMBERS

Thursday 19th April to
Thursday 24th May

9:30-10:30 and 10:30-11:30

If you are interested please
contact Valerie Price on 670284

LIMITED NUMBERS

CLOSING DATE 9th APRIL

THERE WILL BE A SMALL CHARGE.

OWLS

There is to be a talk with owls on their
history and conservation by Chrissie's

Owls, of Witney on 9th March
at 7:30pm in Oving Church



Refreshments to be served
including a complementary
glass of wine.

Tickets available from Tessa Baker
641301 or Janet Brunswick 641399

Prices Adults £7.50

Children 5-12 £5.50

Under 5's free of charge

The Friends of Whitchurch Surgery

The Friends of Whitchurch Surgery are having a stall in the Church Hall during Open Gardens on Sunday, 29th April. We shall be selling cakes, bric-à-brac, books, and cakes. Please do come

Ziggy Stardust Gets His Bus Pass

Aren't teenagers great? Everything-but-everything is uncool apart from looking sullen and mumbling. One of my teenage icons was on breakfast TV a couple of weeks ago, David Bowie; he's just turned 60 and I nearly chocked on my cornflakes, for it does only seem like yesterday that I was sullen myself.

And the Thin White Duke was in a ponderous mood on reaching his 3 score years and he confessed that the years had mellowed him and that he wasn't interested in himself anymore but in the well being of his fellow man. I don't remember him saying that when he was on the Old Grey Whistle test in 1974!

Looking back I wonder how I ever survived my teenage years – I placed myself in unthinking danger on so many occasions, I can remember doing a 30 mile round trip on my motorbike at night in heavy snow!

It's a wonderful thing to be young and to feel so invincible in the face of danger and so right in the face of life's perplexing quandaries, if only we could keep these qualities in later adulthood, life would be so much simpler! Looking back, being a teenager for me was like a scene from an old Buster Keaton movie, the scene where he was sleepwalking and he sleepwalked out of his house, across a busy road, a railway track, and onto a building site where he ends up walking between girders being lifted by a crane before somehow sleepwalking back to his bed completely unharmed.

One the biggest barriers to people believing in God is always given as the level of suffering in the world, a loving god wouldn't let this happen etc etc; But actually the vast of majority of people in this country live perfectly happy lives with very little suffering, in spite of the peril they constantly place themselves in. And like Old David Bowie its only in moments of quiet reflection that they realise they have spent so much time sleeping walking through a life in which they could have come to grief at any moment.

We don't see God quietly working in the background of our lives. To me as a Christian, its not just a miracle that most of us survived the stupid things we did as teenagers, its a miracle that we come safely to the end of each day. Because the fact is that our lives our made of millions of little everyday miracles with God in every moment of them. And what a treat to watch an aging rock star soberly reflecting that somehow he had arrived safely to his 60th birthday. And by God's grace may we be thankful for his unseen everyday miracles which undergird every moment of our lives.

Winter Blessings Revd Andy Bell

Confirmation Classes

We are running Adult Confirmation Classes one evening a week for approx 6 weeks soon after Easter. Confirmation will be early June at Whitchurch Church. If you are interested please call
Revd Andy Bell on 670298

Brownie leader wanted

1st Whitchurch Brownies are looking for a new assistant leader as unfortunately one of our leaders wishes to step down due to work and family commitments.

1. Could you be the person we are looking for?
2. Are you able to spare an hour and a half on a Monday night to help me keep our pack up and running?

Working with the Brownies is very rewarding and the girls and leaders enjoy their Monday nights! As a volunteer you can help to organise the meetings or just be there to help run them! Share any skills and talents you have with these 7 - 10 year olds. You will not have to do paperwork unless you wish to do so. Our meetings involve working on badges, doing arts and crafts, playing games and having sing songs.

If you are the person we are looking for or want to know more then please call Jo on 01296 641194 or 07720604477 or email me joanne.peasley@tiscali.co.uk we can organise for you to come down for the night to see what we do!

Many Thanks
Joanne Peasley

Vale Countryside Volunteers

VCV exists to care for and protect the wildlife and countryside of Aylesbury Vale by carrying out practical conservation work and related activities using traditional crafts and skills.

Operating in mid-week, we do all sorts of habitat restoration and creation to help endangered plants and animals such as the black poplar, barn owl and water vole.

We are also involved in wildlife surveys of various types.

If you are interested in joining in or would like to find out more about VCV, then don't hesitate to contact us.

- Tony Talbot (Chair), home 01296 426717, mobile 07941 099604
- Sue Tebbutt (Recruitment and Publicity), home 01296 330707, mobile 07952 045546
- Email: info@vcv.org.uk

The South Americans are Here!

I am sure that some of you reading this will remember those two great Argentinian Spurs footballers Osvaldo Ardiles and Ricky Villa – No don't worry this is not another piece of the evils and/or benefits of our great national game nor a diatribe on the over-exposure of football on the TV.

Well for those who are not acolytes of Tottenham Hotspur or world football, I can tell you that Ossie and Ricky have come to Oving. Not the two aforementioned giants of the 1978 World Cup but two Llamas bearing their names (blame my wife Gill, a lifelong Spurs fan).

For the past year we have had the pleasure of sharing our paddocks with two beautiful and imperious Llamas. I have seen many people walking along the footpath that borders our top paddock adjoining the recreation ground who have done a double take so I thought it time that I answered some of those questions I have been asked.

The main and oft-repeated one is WHY?

Anybody who has a small amount of land will know that if you don't let animals graze it, the result is a mess of weeds and brambles. For many years we solved this problem by turning out our horses but time has taken its toll and they have long since gone. We tried sheep, good grazers but shearing is backbreaking work and having lost an animal to fly-strike, I really don't want to repeat that experience. We had an Angora Goat, Valentine, as those who were children playing on the rec 10 years ago will remember for his penchant for sitting on the top of the slide and refusing all attempts to persuade him to either use the thing or leave! Unfortunately one severe winter took Valentine off so we were left with a couple of acres of paddock and no animals.

Having got fed-up with spending weekends topping the paddocks we began to look for alternatives when Gill read an article about Llamas. It seems they are the ultimate low-maintenance lawn-mowers. They don't need grooming having a self-shedding coat (although they do enjoy the occasional brush), their feet need little if any attention (gone are the farrier's bills), they live out in all weathers having a coat that is warm in the winter and cool in the summer and most of all they eat grass in prodigious quantities. Too good to be true? Well I can tell you that it's all true. On top of this we have the real pleasure of looking out of the kitchen to see two heads with their distinctive lyre ears and big brown eyes with long lashes peering over the fence politely enquiring if perhaps there is an apple of two looking for good home. As long as they have grass or hay and fresh water you can leave llamas to graze and grace the land, and simply enjoy watching them or you can halter them and take them for a walk, put a picnic on their backs and go with 20 others to Windsor Great Park in the summer (that story is for another time).

Llamas originate in the savannas of Peru where they are bred for their magnificent coats, for pack animals and their peerless ability to guard flocks of sheep against predators being possessed of two vicious-looking claws on each leg that can slash down a wolf's back whilst galloping at speed. Being a camelid and therefore related to Camels they have the most awkward-looking gait at speed but don't let that side to side sway fool you, they are genuinely fast as my late Jack Russell found to his cost one day last year when he barely escaped unscathed. And as for foxes, Llamas will see off any fox they encounter. Unfortunately that didn't stop the fox from going round another way and taking all our ducks TWICE!

Ossie and Ricky are intensely curious animals but at the same time very private ones and true to their names they love nothing better than to watch Oving FC at play (just as well as when our grey horse Frosty, who was a huge football fan, died, the crowd numbers were cut in half!). Being private they will not take tidbits from strangers but will remain just out of your reach closely observing any passers-by. If you are quiet and gentle and just stand there; you may be rewarded with a 'llama kiss' when they touch your nose with the lightest touch of their velvet muzzle. If you are particularly patient and they like you, you MIGHT be permitted to run your hands along their long snake-like necks to feel their amazing coats, believe me you will never have felt anything like it. Despite rumours to the contrary, they don't spit at humans.

Oh and one last thing, if you are walking along the path and hear a strange but melodic humming noise, it's not the latest mobile phone ringtone but the sound of a llama – that's right they don't bark, neigh or make those other animals noises we usually hear. Llamas hum, very tunefully!



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Winslow MK18 3DG
countrygarden@tiscali.co.uk

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can be tailored to your own personal needs .

4 sizes are available

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do require payment on delivery

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.Standard box is approximately enough for a family of 2 adults & 2 children

Green Scene: Something to smile about

As an environmental campaigner most news focuses on doom and gloom stories. One can become rather despondent by constantly hearing about environmental problems ranging from climate change, chemical poisoning, threatened fish stocks and loss of green fields. In this month's article I thought I would tell you about two inspiring people who have made a difference.

Wangari Maathai is a remarkable woman who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004. Her story is one of resistance to corruption and empowerment of women in Kenya. Kenya gained its independence in 1963, but the longed for democracy sank into a dictatorship. She founded the Green Belt Movement (GBM) in 1977, which created the support for women to work on environmental protection schemes through planting thousands of trees and protecting indigenous forests. As a leading member of many environmental and anti-corruption campaigns, Professor Maathai was repeatedly harassed, beaten, vilified in parliament and imprisoned on several occasions.

Trees provide wood for fires, fencing to keep animals from drifting and livestock fodder from the leaves. They give much-needed shade for humans and animals, protect the land by binding the soil and attract birds and animals. Through investing in people, the women became responsible for sustaining the projects as the solutions were in their hands. Since the GBM was founded over 600 community-based networks have been set up and over 30 million trees planted in Kenya alone. To read more see www.greenbeltmovement.org

On receiving the news of being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, 2004 Professor Matthai said: *"It is evident that many wars are fought over resources which are now becoming increasingly scarce. If we conserved our resources better, fighting over them would not then occur...so, protecting the global environment is directly related to securing peace...those of us who understand the complex concept of the environment have the burden to act. We must not tire, we must not give up, we must persist."*

In 2002 she was elected as a Member of Parliament and became the Assistant Minister for the Environment.

A much more local environmental champion is Victoria Harvey, the co-ordinator of South Beds FOE. We are currently working together to find alternatives to the so-called 'A418 Improvements' (the Wing and Rowsham bypasses). She has been pivotal in forming a consortium of councils, bus companies and builders together to create a £2m sustainable transport plan for the new Sandhills estate on the edge of Leighton Buzzard. This plan includes a bus service that would run every 12-15 minutes into the town centre and railway station. The exceptional part is that each house on the estate would be fitted with a screen telling residents where the bus is and when it is due at their nearest stop. The aim is to make it easier for people to catch the bus than to get in their cars. With more people on buses congestion and parking is tackled and the town centre benefits from trade. We are waiting to see if the Government will give Sandhills the go-ahead.

Never forget that individuals can and do make a difference

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

BOOK CLUB		
DATE	HOST	PHONE NO
1 st March	Pam	640360
5 th April	Jo	641644
3 rd May	Kit	641694
New book lovers welcome. Reading list details available from anyone in the above list.		

COFFEE MORNING IN AID OF TYMES TRUST

Please do try to call in if only for half an hour, usually the last Friday each month. The next date is 23rd March at 17 The Pightle 10:30-12:00am

Many thanks, Pam Heeley Tel: 640158

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 2nd March

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

Garden Farm: Winter

As I write almost half way through February I have just come in from another session digging over the vegetable plot. I've been doing an hour or so each weekend day. Last week the ground was frozen solid and digging was out of the question (at least without a pick axe). Two days ago the garden was buried in snow, by this morning it had virtually all gone. Where the sun hadn't been able to touch the ground it was still frozen down for more than an inch. This is perfect for the ground where it has been dug already – helping to kill off weeds and breaking up the soil.

For the first time this year we had a white egg from one of the Scots Dumpies. Unlike the brown layers they are sensitive to the daylight and this is a welcome sign that the days are getting longer. Whilst digging I was working out the economics of keeping the chickens now that we've had them for just over a year. I think the brown layers had pretty much laid one egg every day almost from when we got them. That would make 1095 eggs in a year. They didn't get going straight away so lets say 1000. The dumpies have laid about one a day on average through the summer and autumn since we got them in May so lets say another 200. That many free range organic eggs would cost (at about £2 a dozen) £200. The costs have been the hen-house which will last for many years (say £180 divided by 10) and feed at £9 a bag every month (£108), plus some bedding & straw (about £20) so about £150.

Of course, we didn't do it for the saving – we did it for the fabulous eggs we get regularly, for fun and education and to actually know something about the food we eat.

One advantage of the snow was being able to see who had been visiting the garden. We even had a badger up by the house searching for food and their tracks were visible across the lower part of the garden which isn't fenced. The snow also made it harder for the birds to find food and we had a rush of visitors to the bird table and feed block. The beech tree was full of great tits. We even had part of a flock of fieldfares out on the parts of the lawn where the snow had been worn away by the boys.

I've also measured up for my first polytunnel which I will order this coming week. That will give me the extra spur to finish the digging. It has been hard to decide where to place it but in the end I decided to put it up near the hives. As it will have a door at each end I can close the one by the hives when I want to and leave it open to allow the bees in to pollinate.

Talking of bees, when I was out last weekend, the first in February, it was warm enough for the bees to be out doing cleaning flights (basically going to the toilet) and general buzzing around (even though the ground was frozen). It was very pleasing to see and my thoughts will have to turn to feeding them.

Many hives die off at this time of year due to lack of food. There is precious little for the bees to eat naturally and their supplies of honey I left them will not last them through until April so they have to be fed sugar. When I got the bees they were fed with sugar syrup but at this time of year condensation can be an issue so they will get “candy”- sugar in a solid form. Here’s hoping the colonies survive through to the spring when they can start to feed themselves.

The seed catalogues have been piling up over recent weeks, and now is the time to place my orders, more on that next month but whilst I will be buying mostly seeds there are several companies offering selected vegetables as “plugs” ready started with healthy plants to be planted straight outside or in the polytunnel. Last year I found that many of my attempts didn’t work almost certainly because the seed was too old, some seed only stays viable for 1 or 2 years (some stay viable almost forever!) so I need to clear out my old seed stocks.

Finally, I had a very enthusiastic response from one family and the Parish Council has said that they will support an initiative. This won’t be a huge formal affair – just a bit of fun for all the family, especially children to have a go at growing some vegetables and maybe winning a (small!) prize. Any more takers?

A.P.R.E. apre@oving.org February 2007

KIT's TRAVELS (continued)

Day thirty four

Early start 7.00am. A long days travel ahead of us, 11hrs in the truck, heading for Areuipa, along the coast road. Still in desert, mixture of sand and rock, no trees or agriculture. Settlements very poor, woven mat shacks. How do the people live? No crops, no animals, possibly fishermen?

Day thirty five

Lovely colonial hotel at Arequipa. Very nice town, lots of squares, similar to Lima, but much smaller. We went to the town centre, cathedral, sights etc. Saw Juanita the frozen Inca princess, fascinating. Wandered round the shops, got clean laundry, early meal and bed

Day thirty six

Left hotel at 4.00am, heading to Colca Canyon, to see the condors. Passed through the high Andes 5900 metres, snow covered, the light is pure and bright. Several on the truck had altitude sickness. I was ok, descended to Colca Canyon, twice the depth of the Grand Canyon and surrounded by volcanoes. Unfortunately, as we got to the place where the condors are, the mist descended and we only saw 2. With any luck we will see some in Patagonia. It took us 5 hrs to get there, and we had 5 hrs hard driving to get back on to the Pan-American Highway.

Day thirty seven

Set off from Juliaic at for Cusco. Picnic lunch with tethered pigs by the roadside. The scenery is amazing, going through Andean settlements. Farms, animals, llamas, vicunas, sheep, lots of local folk in traditional costume. Stopped for a photo shoot at the Inca gateway some miles outside Cusco. Arrived 2.30pm, walked round the main square, lots of young tourists, mostly backpackers, here to walk the Inca Trail. Cusco really is an exciting place and I'm looking forward to spending a few days here. Got more cd's burnt from my camera. Lovely hotel, built on the original Incan walls. Everybody went out for dinner together at a place called the Fallen Angel. I ended up stretched out on a bed like seat. The steak was terrific. The temperatures are much colder here; there is a heater in the bedroom and 3 blankets on the bed.

Day thirty eight

Had a good nights sleep. We caught the 11.00am flight to the jungle/rainforest from Cusco airport. Landing was spectacular, after flying over the Andes capped with snow, suddenly there were hundreds of miles of rainforest canopy, only broken by the river meandering through the greenery. Then a clearing in the jungle our landing strip. Very small airport, even smaller than the Galapagos. We were met by a mini-bus and taken to the local market, for a tour, and we all had to buy wellies. It's the wet season here and the rainforest can be swampy. But today it is dry and very hot in the 90's with high humidity. Then we went down to the river to catch our canoe.

We had a Chinese takeaway rice dish on the boat. Two and a half hours on the river to the lodge we are staying in. Stopped along the banks and saw Capuchin and Spider monkeys, and parrots. The lodge is great. Net and wooden dwellings, there are 6 of them and a large main dining room and relaxation area. The cabins are very large, 2 beds, shower, basin and flushing loo. I got a little man to put up mosquito nets over our beds. The rainforest is swarming with insects and spiders. We then waited for nightfall and went for a walk in the forest looking for bugs and other creatures, you spot them by their eyes, we didn't see many, we were all wearing our head torches, and trying to dodge the mosquitoes, the mosquitoes won, but I wasn't bitten. I think it's got something to do with the Larium malaria tablets I've been taking; they either cause mental disorders and depression or give out a chemical reaction which puts them off. But the sounds of the jungle are amazing. Back to the lodge for a 3 course dinner. I am writing this sitting inside my mossie net and it's only 9.30pm. Hard to believe, but yesterday we were having a snowball fight in the Andes and feeling the cold, and had a heater in our room, tonight it's 90°c plus I've had a cold shower, and I am still sweating like a pig. I am sharing with Geraldine, unfortunately she has lost her money and her credit card, so she has had to go back down river in the canoe with Nick our guide to report it to the police and stop the card, it's a 5 hour round trip, goodness knows what time they will get back.

To be continued