

Oving with
Pitchcott
Newsletter



May 2009

www.all-saints-oving.org.uk

www.oving.org

JUNE 2009
CONTRIBUTIONS



**By 10th
May
please**

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

LADIES NIGHT

The next meeting will be at
Val's house, 12 The Pightle
on May 13th at 7:30pm

Bring along your sewing or knitting or
whatever else you like to do
and relax with other like minded ladies.

Newcomers welcome

Call Val on 640296 for info

GLASS RECYCLING MAY

Collection date this month is Weds 27th

VILLAGE WALK

No time for a report this month, just a reminder that the village walk will
take place as usual on 1st May, everyone welcome to join us.

**Do you need a
Babysitter?
Call:**



Joshua George 641891
Roberta Baker 641301
Annelise Waldron 641656
Katie Roberts 640511
Jonathon Roberts 640511
Lucy Hughes 640821

OVING FREECYCLE
IF YOU HAVE ITEMS TO DONATE CALL VAL on 640296

Items	THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE OFFERED THIS MONTH FREE IF COLLECTED	Phone No & initials
Lawn Scarifier	Qualcast Lawnraker 32 - rotating prongs which remove moss and aerate the grass	640967 RB
Bike Rack	Thule 9107 'Clip on High'- 2 bikes stand on platform above number plate. Lockable.	
Filing cabinet	Large double drawer filing cabinet, brown metal. W100cm, D45cm, H74cm	
Book case	Traditional dark brown wooden bookcase with 2 glazed doors, 4 shelves. H51"x W30"x D14"	641694 KC

CHURCH NEWS

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Annual Vestry and Parochial Church Council Meetings

The annual meetings to elect the Churchwardens and members to the Parochial Church Council will take place, in the Church, on Sunday 10th May at 6:45 p.m. after the Evening Communion service. Everyone is welcome to attend and those on the Church electoral roll are particularly encouraged to participate.

Cream Tea Services

We will be holding sung Evensong services on 24th May, 28th June and 26th July, which will be preceded by cream teas and a chance to catch up with old friends or make some new ones. Teas will be served at 5pm with the services to follow at 6pm. We hope to see you there.

Church Fete

The annual Church fete will be held on the evening of Friday, 26th June on the recreation ground. Please make a note on your calendars or diaries. All offers of help will be most appreciated; please contact Tessa Baker or a member of the PCC.

Congratulations

To Louisa & Neil on the birth of their lovely daughter Sasha Elizabeth Kurz at Church Farm on 5th March 2009.

ROTAS						
	11:00am	Sidesmen	Readers at 6:00pm	Chancel	Nave	Path and bins
03-May	Rogation Family Service	K.Ryle R.Firth		J.Brunswick	J.Smith	R.Smith
10-May		J.Goss S.Hodges	M.Ponsford Acts 11, v1-18	N.Law	E.Conway	J.Peeters
17-May	Family Communion	C.Jenner K.Hinds		N.Law	D.Hilton-Jones	D.Smith
24-May		R.Goss D.Midwinter	R.Parrott Ezekiel 36, v24-28 P.Corbett John 17, v20-26	K.Couper	C.Jenner	A.McGinn
31-May	Deanery Service at Waddesdon			K.Couper	H.Fone	S.Taylor
07-Jun	Family Service	D.Jones J.Brunswick		L.Ponsford	L.Watson	P.Berriman

MEMORIES OF SPORT IN OVING

Following the formation of The Oving Sports Club on 23rd July 1947, subsequent Minutes indicate that a number of fund-raising activities were organised. At a meeting held on Wednesday 13th August 1947, it was agreed that:

Collections should be made among the spectators at all home football matches. The question of collections at cricket matches is to be raised before next season, meanwhile none were to be made.

It was decided to hold a dance on Friday September 5th 1947, and every fourth Friday thereafter until the end of this year, and also on December 24th and December 31st 1947. It was also decided that a whist drive should be held on September 19th and every fourth Friday thereafter until the end of the year. A rummage sale was preliminarily discussed, and it was decided to hold it during the school mid term holiday, that date to be fixed later.

At the next meeting the following week, it was recorded that:

The question of refreshments at the dance and whist drive on Sept 5th and Sept 19th was to be left to the ladies on the committee to arrange as they thought fit. The admission price to the dance was agreed on at 2/- each, the secretary to purchase tickets for this purpose. The secretary was to investigate the possibility of having a cinema show in the hall.

It was later reported by the secretary that cinema shows in the village "would not be a good proposition owing to the tax which would have to be paid". However it would appear that a number of dances and whist drives (and the rummage sale) took place as planned. There was also to be a Christmas Draw, with various residents offering prizes of "a bottle of sherry, a bottle of cocktail, a bottle of Scotch, a sack of potatoes and a chicken".

This wave of enthusiasm was, sadly, brought to a halt by what appear to be financial irregularities. On Thursday November 27th 1947:

The secretary informed the committee that unauthorized payments had been made by Mr D.Elmer to H.Showler. Mr Elmer had also purchased a bucket for 12/6 without prior authority. It was unanimously agreed that in future, no member should purchase anything, or pay any expenses, except those authorized by the committee, and that in future any item requiring a cash payment should first be brought before the committee for their consideration. It was also agreed that in future all collections made by the Sports Club be handed to the treasurer intact, less the referee's fees where applicable.

On Wednesday December 17th 1947,

It was agreed that all social events run by the club should be cancelled and the matter brought up for discussion at the February meeting.

The Christmas Draw did take place, however, but there is no record as to who won the chicken.

KIT's TRAVELS (continued)

Day One Hundred and One

Russian word of the day - Kag dee-la? How are you?

The Drake Passage crossing was not as rough as the outward journey. We had beautiful weather in the afternoon, with dolphins cruising around the ship. A group of Fin Whales spent attending lectures and enjoying the company of new friends.

Day One Hundred and Two

Russian word of the day - Haro-sho Good

This is our last full day on board, and we were given a tour of the ship, in small groups. It gave an insight into the science that has been conducted onboard and gave us a chance to meet some of the crew. The engine room was immaculate, everything polished and shiny.

We then all went on deck, to experience the rounding of Cape Horn. Unfortunately we could not get closer than twelve miles. This is because Cape Horn belongs to Chile and we are in a ship that left South America from Argentina. The Horn stands as a tribute to all, who braved the most savage seas, to open the Southern Oceans to generations to come. Today there were just light winds and an escort of albatrosses.

Final dinner and the captain joined us. Then up to the bar for a party. I was in bed by midnight, my cabin mate rolled in (literally) about 3 o'clock.

Day One Hundred and three

Russian word of the day - Ca-svee-dan-eeya Farewell

Up at 6.00a.m. for our luggage to be collected. Looked through the window to see we were back in Ushuaia. Whilst we were having breakfast, we were told there is an airline strike between Ushuaia and Buenos Aires, so things are a bit frantic to put it mildly. I was

due to fly today. Decided to book a hotel for tonight in case I don't get a flight out. I am drinking coffee in an internet café and e-mailing this to family and friends. Called in the airline office but they know as little as we do. Well I started with a strike at Madrid airport and now I am ending with one. At this rate I may never get back.

I have spent the day chasing round Ushuaia, back and forth to the airport, where there is complete chaos. Beverley caught her flight, Helen flew to The Falklands. My flight has disappeared somewhere in the Bermuda Triangle! There are forty odd passengers from the ship stranded. The cruise tour line have booked us in at a posh hotel and are keeping us informed. I am sharing with Caroline, her parents got their flight.

She broke down in the middle of the airport at being left behind. I promised them I would stay with her. We met up with Ollie and Dee from the trek, and we all went for a meal and a stiff drink.

Day One Hundred and four

Had a goods nights rest, Caroline has calmed down. The local agent arrived at 11.00a.m. with flights for thirty of our group, the rest of us are on a waiting list, again somewhere in the Bermuda Triangle. I decided to phone the tour operator in Buenos Aires who is arranging my Iguassu Falls trip, to say that I may not make it, as there is no news that flights will have resumed by Monday. He was brilliant! As it was his cell phone and he was at home, he said he would deal with it and phone me back.. Went to lunch and when I returned he had left a message to say he had got me a seat on the 9.20p.m. flight. This was amazing as the thirty who had been given tickets were on a later flight, he must have pulled some strings. I am flying with one of the tour leaders from the ship and as she is Argentinian I should be wlee looked after. I broke the news to Caroline.

Arrived at the airport at 7.30p.m. and had to pay £21 excess baggage, because the allowance is only 15kg. Scenes of chaos, but met up with other people from the trek. We retired to the bar for more stiff drinks. My flight left at 9.45p.m. leaving several hundred passengers standing. My plane was not full, there were at least 20 spare seats, nobody else in my row of three. At 11.45 we landed , goodness knows where and three-quarters of the passengers got off. So in an almost empty plane we arrived in Buenos Aires (local airport) at 1.20a.m. As I was collecting my luggage from the carrousel, Julie arrived on next plane, we shared a taxi to our hotel. We were dead on our feet and fell into bed. B.A. is the city that never sleeps it was still buzzing.

Day One Hundred and Five

Had breakfast with Beverley and Georgina, Julie is still in bed. I then struck out on my own to explore B.A. First impressions, lots of litter and dog poo. The main thoroughfares are very wide and there is a cosmopolitan feel. The traffic is worst than in London.

My tickets and papers for the Iguassu Falls have been left at my hotel. I have bought a holdhall case for the trip, and leave my big case at the hotel. Had lunch at a pavement café, fresh orange juice and a salad, (I'm trying to wean myself off steak) Two young policewomen have just sauntered past, very glamorous and strutting their guns.

Managed to find my way back to the hotel and had a siesta until Beverley rang to go for dinner, at a restaurant in the theatre district.

VILLAGE PUBS

Last month we had some good objective comments and constructive suggestions from some of our villagers with regard to the question of support for village pubs.

I believe we all wish to keep our own village pub hence the interest it attracted. Also I firmly believe we all have the right to our own opinion and the right to have our say using the newsletter as our medium.

However, in response to the articles I have received some input which I have decided not to include for the following reasons: -

1. The writers' comments are subjective
2. The writer is not from the village
3. The writer wishes to remain anonymous

Whereas I have no objection to anonymous input in principle I feel that if someone wishes to be subjective they should have enough courage with their convictions to give their name.

The idea was to discuss ways of saving our village pubs, not to provoke an argument about it.

QUIZ NIGHT

On Thursday 19th March nearly 60 people in oddly named teams gathered in the Black boy for a village quiz night. An excellent evening was had by all participants and many thanks are due to Graham Parker, our fiendishly clever quiz master and entertainer, to David and Sally and their team at the Black Boy for hosting and the excellent Tapas food and to everyone for coming and entering into the spirit of the evening. £400 was raised for the Recreation and Pavilion Fund.

David Smith

OVING PHOTO COMPETITION

We would like to thank everyone that entered our photo competition for the new Oving Rights of Way panel. The competition raised an amazing total of £335.

We now have the challenging task of selecting the best photo's for the panel and the results will appear in the next few months once we have sat down with the graphic designer to decide the layout.

Watch this space!

Rachel & David Barnett

Garden Farm – Spring

All of a sudden the days seem to get longer, the clocks go forward and everything starts to grow. Spring is such a phenomenal time of year and most importantly a time to get busy! I have to admit that the frosts of January and the snows of February did leave me wondering if I would be able to get a march (no pun intended) on the many projects I wanted to tackle this year.

Thankfully most of March was actually quite reasonable and for the first time I managed to get most of my seed orders placed in reasonable time. This year I decided to go all seeds – no plug plants. It is a bit riskier as some things can be hard to get going, but the cost savings are enormous and there is a great deal of satisfaction to be gained from starting your own vegetables from seeds (and in the case of lettuce, seeds so small you can hardly see them!)

Naturally I went a little nuts. I've ordered 32 different vegetables so far and I haven't placed orders for tomatoes (always the church plant sale is a good source of plants), chillies and I got my seed potatoes from Buckingham Garden Centre. I find they are reliable, a great selection, and you can buy just a few – in fact I bought six varieties this year (but see below).

Now we've had some odd things with potatoes in the last month. Firstly I found a sack from last year with about 30 spuds in it which had been forgotten and buried under the detritus we seem to accumulate (I've heard tell some people keep a car or two in their garage – where do they put all the stuff?) So a sack of 30 spuds left to their own devices right into Spring naturally grow. And because this is a hessian sack they have put great big shoots out of the sack itself. In fact I rescued virtually all of them intact and the fattest shoots were on the smallest potatoes. They will go in the ground this week.

Not long after that we found a cardboard box (good for keeping spuds dark) with about a dozen potatoes from the year before last. You may wonder how I know this. Well the potatoes had grown last year – shoots and roots and grown their own potatoes. They were all about the size of a grape or a pea, but these spuds had been in the relatively dark, with no water for the best part of 18 months and had still grown!

So here's a thing. Seed potatoes are sold by weight. You might think that the biggest are the best because there is more energy for the new plant, but based on the two examples above I'm not so sure – you get a lot more if you chose smaller ones. And my father taught me to cut big seed potatoes in half or even quarters if there are enough eyes on them. He reckoned that the plant needs enough energy to get to the daylight and then the leaves provide all the energy it needs. So we always planted our spuds quite shallow and earthed up once the plant broke cover.

My big activity for this month was to build some new raised beds – converting what was a fairly useless piece of lawn with very poor grass into productive vegetable growing space. This means we don't need the washtub garden because we now have 3 (soon to be 4) raised beds each 8' by 4' – so that will be 128 sq feet. There was a slight compromise to get agreement to some fairly major earthworks on the sloping lawn outside the kitchen window – there have to be some colourful flowers to make them look a bit nicer (although I think vegetables look nice!)

If you've ever seen those adverts in the Saturday & Sunday papers for raised bed kits I expect like me you thought they were expensive (but look convenient) – in fact the kit I saw yesterday was for 1 metre square beds and I worked out the kit was £64 including materials and shipping – and that's before you installed them and no soil.

I'd like to share with you how I made mine – it might inspire you, and you will almost certainly say you could have done it cheaper still! I like to keep things as simple as possible, so for each bed I went to Wickes and bought 3 planks of sawn, untreated timber of 2x6 (so that's about 50mm by 150mm – although I think they show it as 47mm by 150mm) – these are 2.4m long or approx. 8ft. These are £6.80 each (or at least they were a couple of weeks ago). I buy untreated because its cheaper, the timber without any treatment takes many years to rot away (it is thick) and I paint it green with a combination of preservative and paint (at £7 a tub which goes a long way). I also use the timber screws with a bolt head – no. 7 100mm long (that's 4 inches in old money). So the cost so far is £20.40 on timber, approx £1 on preservative and you will need 8 screws and they come in packs of 25 at £4.50 including the driver bit, so cost for the screws is £1.50. Construction is very simple – cut one plank in half and treat all sides of all planks (you should now have two long ones and two short ones). Drill no. 7 size holes one inch from the end of each long plank at approx 1 to 1.5 inches from the top and bottom both ends. By drilling the holes this size the screws pass through the long planks and screw easily in the end grain of the short planks. So basically you are building a rectangular frame which is 2.4m long, just over 1.2m wide and 150mm high. So 2 screws per end per long section is 4 per plank or 8 in total. I think it took 30 minutes to cut the wood and treat it, then a 1 hour wait to dry (made the others!), then about 10 minutes to screw together.

The end result is a very strong and sturdy frame which does not need pegging to the ground. As I was building on a slope I had to dig out to ensure the frames were level – and that did take a lot of time! If you are placing on grass it is important to dig up the grass – don't bury it in soil or it will rot and prevent roots sinking. So after digging out the grass and a hole in the slope I rotivated the bottom of the pit.

Continued overleaf

You may recall last month I said I was ordering topsoil and spent mushroom compost – well it arrived (it is ready mixed by the supplier, Dandy's of Norfolk). It takes about half a tonne per frame when you make them this size, so once the frames were installed and tested for level we barrowed half a tonne into each raised bed tamped it down and raked the surface. Now the soil cost me £43 per bed including delivery – I could have saved on some of that (probably half) by using my own compost. If I had then the total cost (would, screws, paint, soil) would have been £41.90 and these beds are 2.88 sq metres! That works out at £22.29 per sq. metre. The kit mentioned about, including soil at the same rate, works out at just over £71 per sq. metre. And because they are made from planks they can be any size – or even any shape you like. I might even take commissions!

My other major job was to put the rotivator over what was last years main vegetable plot and this year will be dedicated to the bigger stuff – potatoes, onions, marrows, courgettes, pumpkins and squash. You may recall that it is approximately 7 by 15 meters – quite a big space. It is now all rotivated down to a depth of about 8 inches and I've already added the contents of one of my compost bays, with another to go on. Within a few days the spuds will be in! Finally the greenhouse has been tidied up and my first seeds sown – in fact I already have lettuce, broccoli, marrows and squash coming up and will be planting much, much more in the coming weeks. I didn't get some more bees. I decided to wait and see if there is a swarm to collect this year, the chickens are doing fine and I planted two cherry trees (Aldi special offer - £4.95 each), one of which is romping away and the other seems to have died!

A.P.R.E April 2009

apre@oving.org

BOOK CLUB – 1 st THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH		
DATE	HOST	PHONE NO
May 7th	Elaine	641516
June 4th	Polly	641721
July 2nd	Teresa	641770
August 3rd	TBA	
September 3rd	Tessa	641301
New book lovers welcome.		
Reading list details available from anyone in the above list.		

a) Tennis Tournament on 11.07.09

Jack Peeters has arranged a meeting of interested parties this coming Thursday 09.04.09 to discuss arrangements for this event. It seems that Harriet Cullen is keen to be involved, and she is considering the installation of tiered seating in the limited space around her court. She has also suggested the sale of afternoon teas. Entry to Oving House grounds would be by ticket only.

4. Funding up-date

a. Roger B reported that he had received a response to his Expression of Interest Form from the LEADER Programme. While our project qualifies for assistance, there are a number of criteria to be met, including having planning permission and other funding in place. It is not therefore appropriate to submit a full application at present.

b. He also reported that he has been advised that Sport England (part of the National Lottery) is launching a new £10m fund to create sporting opportunities for people in rural areas. Full details are awaited.

5. Any other business

a. Susie suggested that it may be possible to combine a scarecrow competition with the Great Oving Run in September.

b. She is also going to investigate the possibility of a Scottish Country Dancing evening during the winter.

6. Date of next meeting:

Monday 11th May 2009 at 7.00pm in The Reading Room.
RCB 07.04.09

Springtime Ball



Sold Out. Sorry for any
disappointment.

Saturday, 16th May 2009
Church Farm, Oving

Raising Money for the Oving Recreation & Pavilion Project

