

Oving with
Pitchcott
Newsletter



September 2009

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OCTOBER 2009 CONTRIBUTIONS

By 10th September please
 Many thanks, Valerie Adams,
 12 The Pightle, Oving 640296
 Email:- valadams@waitrose.com

ROTAS						
	11:00am	Sidesmen	Readers at 6:00pm	Chancel	Nave	Path and Bins
06-Sep	Family Service	D.Jones C.Jenner		M.Hodges	J.Smith	D.Smith
13-Sep		R.Parrott S.Hodges	M.Ponsford James 3, v1-12	M.Hodges	C.Jenner	A.McGuire
20-Sep	Family Communion	R.Goss J.Wiggett		K.Couper	E.Conway	S.Taylor
27-Sep		M.Ponsford J.Brunswick	P.Corbett Numbers 11, v4-6, 10-16, 24-29 R.Parrott Mark 9, v38-50	K.Couper	H.Fone	P.Goss
04-Oct	Family Service	K.Hinds J.Goss		J.Brunswick	L.Watson	D.Goss

EDITOR REQUIRED

You may have read in last month's newsletter that Val intends to stand down, as our newsletter editor, later this year. Although I am being a little premature, I would like to take this opportunity to express Oving church's thanks to Val for her valuable contribution in carrying out this role over many years. If you would like to find out more about what the role involves, Val will be happy to provide all the practical details, and will perform a comprehensive handover. If you are still interested in taking on this important role, please let me know so that we can consider your appointment.

Regards

Jeremy Shields on behalf of Oving Parochial Church Council

LADIES NIGHT - 2ND WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH		
DATE	HOST	PHONE NO
September 9th	Mary	641738
October 14th	Pam	640158
November 11th	Lynn	641684

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

This is just to advise advise Oving and Pitchcott residents that the police intend setting up a speed trap on the Oving Road, Whit church sometime in the very near future. The exact date is not known. It is likely to be sited adjacent to, or near Barrettstown Stud. Evidently over 50% of people caught speeding recently in nearby villages have been local residents.

Also, please note that Pitchcott will be using the speed detection equipment in their village sometime during the next two or three weeks.

GLASS RECYCLING SEPTEMBER
Collection date this month is **Weds 16TH**

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



Adam Shields	641020
Joshua George	641891
Roberta Baker	641301
Annelise Waldron	641656
Lucy Hughes	640821

Dear Friends,

This summer saw the death of Henry Allingham at the aged of 113 and Harry Patch at the age of 111. Up until relatively recently the majority of us could have been easily forgiven for knowing little about them. They were, however, remarkable in being among our last living connections with those who had served in the battles of the First World War. They hadn't spent their lives sharing their memories – both were over a hundred before they could be persuaded to give accounts of what they had lived through in order that following generations might not forget.

That conflict which, if we are not careful, seems more distant with every passing year. Lessons surely learned – though perhaps not. Only twenty-one years passed between the end of the First and Second World Wars – twenty-one years before Ypres, the Somme and Paschendale became Normandy, Dunkirk and Monte Cassino.

And then, surely, lessons learned – or not.....

I believe that the true poignancy of this summer past was that as Allingham and Patch were laid to rest with military honour – so too were members of our armed forces many of whom hadn't made it into their twenties, let alone past their hundredth birthday.

Too often we see those who have fallen arriving back in transport aircraft at RAF Lyneham. Too many grieving families waiting to receive their loved ones. Too often the people of Wootton Bassett gathering

to honour the memory of those who pass through their town in solemn corteges.

..... that following generations might not forget.

Of course Afghanistan is a very long way away – my guess is that the majority of people would be unable with any certainty to point to its location on a map. We think we understand what we might be fighting for – but we might not be entirely sure. And, of course, it is not only those from these shores who have been lost. The other day a military commander suggested that, while our losses were high, the 'enemy' had lost forces by a factor of many times those we have lost.

But in any conflict it is a tragedy every time any individual falls. In an instant a life is snuffed out – potential lost. In an instant a whole family has to come to terms with the loss of a loved one – whether British, or Afghan, or Iraqi or of whatever nationality in whatever conflict.

It does seem to me that, if we are to honour the memory of those who fought in the bloodiest of wars then we must ensure that we are not a generation which forgets and that we are a generation which does everything it possibly can before resorting to the ultimate sanction of armed force.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David". The letter 'D' is large and loops around the first part of the name.

MEMORIES OF SPORT IN OVING – 6

One of the main reasons for the amalgamation in 1947 of the cricket, football and tennis clubs in Oving was to co-ordinate fund-raising and expenditure. From the earliest days, the Sports Club Committee arranged dances, whist drives, Grand National draws and rummage sales to pay for items such as:

Wire netting for tennis courts

New playing cards for whist drives (22/-)

New cricket kit (£16-10-8)

Employment of part-time groundsman for tennis courts

Repairs to mower

Replacement cricket bag

On 11th May 1950, a fete and rummage sale was discussed, and Mrs Elmer proposed that a special meeting be called to discuss the date and details. This was seconded by Mrs Doyle, and it was decided to call a meeting on Thursday May 25th. At that meeting:

Mrs Young proposed that we hold the fete on July 15th...that admission should be free and that the fete should open at 3p.m. Mr H Clarke and Mr Greaves agreed to take charge of the spinning jenny. Mr G Ayres, Mr J Parrott and Mr W Carter agreed to take charge of the ladies' and gents' bowling. The gents' prize would be a bottle of whisky, and the ladies' either a bottle of gin and lime or a pair of good quality nylon stockings.

Mrs Benfield agreed to take charge of the bagatelle. The charge would be 3d and the prize for exceeding a total, to be fixed later, would be cigarettes. Mrs Doyle agreed to be in charge of housey-housey. The charge would be 3d a card and the prize 2/- for a minimum of 12 cards each round. Miss R Clarke agreed to be in charge of throwing the tennis ball in a bucket.....and Miss R Clarke and Mrs C Clarke agreed to be in charge of dropping the pennies over a sixpence in a bucket of water, the prize to be the sixpence.

There would also be darts, a hidden treasure, a guess the weight of a cake competition and a grocery parcel raffle. Refreshments would be organised by the ladies.

At the meeting held on Thursday August 24th 1950, the Treasurer reported that the receipts from the fete were £48-16-0 while expenses totalled £14-13-3 giving a net profit of £34-2-9.

Events such as this enabled the Treasurer, Mr Pearson, to report at the next Annual General Meeting on Thursday May 10th 1951 that the Club had a balance in hand of £194-14-3, "a creditable performance by all those concerned".

RCB August 2009



Stewkley Singers

Friendly local choir guarantees a warm welcome to new recruits!

Have you always wanted to sing with a choir but have never had the opportunity? Did you sing in a choir at school and would like to have another go? Have you been a member of a choral society before and feel singing is a hobby you would like to resurrect?

If so, the Stewkley Singers would love to hear from you!

We are a friendly choir of approximately 45 singers aged between 11 and 86 (young people from Year 7 upwards are welcome) and we meet in Stewkley Methodist Chapel Schoolroom on Thursday evenings throughout the Autumn and Spring terms. Members come from Stewkley and outlying towns and villages, including Wing, the Brickhills, Woburn Sands, Leighton Buzzard and Milton Keynes. We are a sociable group, and, as well as our music making, we enjoy an annual choir dinner and social events throughout the year. Founded in September 2005, we are growing rapidly, both in number and ability – could you help us improve even further?

This term we are working towards our Christmas concerts on December 14th and 19th, and on the horizon is an exciting Spring where we hope to be performing Handel's Coronation Anthems in our first concert with orchestral accompaniment.

We are looking for some harmonious new recruits in any voice part, but would be especially pleased to hear from any gentlemen who would like to join our ranks. Previous singing experience is extremely welcome but not essential and although being able to read music is a great help, a number of our members joined without this skill and have found it is something they have picked up along the way.

Rehearsals start on Thursday 10th September at 8pm – so don't be shy, please get in touch!

For further details please call Jenny on 01525 242014.

OVING HOUSE GARDEN OPEN DAY AND TENNIS TOURNAMENT

For the first time in decades there was an opportunity in July for local people to see the gardens of Oving House, to take afternoon tea in a marquee on the lawn or to watch some tennis.

With the very generous provision by Harriet Cullen of the use of the grounds and of the marquee itself this attractive venue hosted the finals of the Oving House Tennis Tournament. 32 players had contested the heats during the morning at four Oving courts and the leading eight played the semi finals and finals at Oving House during the afternoon. Despite some rain interruptions the players and spectators enjoyed the tournament and all games were successfully completed. The worthy winners were John Griffiths and Emilia Keightley.

Apart from the tennis, visitors could stroll round the extensive grounds and admire not only the formal borders and “parterre” but also the newly created and successful wild flower meadows.

The atmosphere in the marquee was lively and the food excellent, ranging from sandwiches to cakes and scones with jam, cream and strawberries.

Not only was this an enjoyable community event but it made £768.00 towards the new sports pavilion and meeting room.

Grateful thanks are due to Mrs Cullen and her hardworking staff and to all the enthusiastic volunteers who made the event possible

FIRST FRIDAY WALKS

Lost, somewhere west of Haddenham

The August walk, from Haddenham, would have been a circular one had our guide not forgotten a vital map and missed a turning! Even with the help of a sat-nav we did not find the planned route and decided to return the way we came. It was however enjoyable as usual and even more so for seeing 12 species of butterflies as well as very close encounters with Red Kites.

The Green Man turned out to be an excellent lunch venue. Good food, good beer and friendly service.

Our walks take place on the first Friday of the month and everyone is welcome. Meet outside 5, The Pightle at 9.30 am. Further details 01296 641738.

Garden Farm – Summer

It is truly a time of plenty, a time of abundance and bored children saying “What, courgettes again?”!

This has been an especially good year for fruit, although some of our apple trees have grown “leggy” and need a really good prune when the weather gets colder. The plum tree is so heavy with fruit I’ve had to prop it up to bear the weight. They are just coming ripe now at the start of August and by and large we will have plenty of apples despite the odd under-pruned tree. Our mulberries have started falling – they rot incredibly quickly once you pick them so you have to be ready to go as soon as you do. A few years ago I picked a large bowl full and just a few hours later they had grown a heavy white beard! I like to make mulberry vodka, a lovely, distinctive taste. I think you can make jam/jelly from them and I wonder what mulberry and apple pie tastes like? I have seen people out picking blackberries – I think they are early this year and they do seem plentiful.

Most things vegetable have been coming along nicely. In the raised beds the big failure has been the brassicas – they have not done well at all. But by and large everything else has been fantastic. We have bags of peas in the freezer, but I took them out rather than keep them going. The runner beans have come in well, despite my canes been blown over several times (note to self: next year put them in a more sheltered spot). We have had some nice carrots although my samurai carrots (Japanese red carrot) have flowered. Nice flowers mind you, but not what I intended. The sweet corn is now very tall and the tassels have started to appear.

Top of the list are beetroot – so easy and prolific; the lettuce which are going strong; but top of the vegetable pops are the French beans. Three different dwarf varieties, one fat, one thin and one black (with lovely purple flowers – they go green when boiled). All of the plants have been heavily covered in beans and they just keep coming – lots for the freezer after blanching. Although we have not yet harvested the leeks and onions are doing very well. The garlic was sat on by a rabbit and the stems snapped – so no garlic! And just to round off the list for the raised beds – some nice parsnips and swede developing and the horseradish quietly developing away (and invading if I let it go too far).

The raised beds have been easy because of all the rain – otherwise they would have need regular watering. The soil is light and free draining with some compost, and I have crowded the beds a little so I have been relieved of that duty thanks to the weather.

I do feed with pelleted feed every few weeks which breaks down and releases slowly into the soil – with so much growing in such a small space the soil will be bare of nutrients relatively quickly.

In the greenhouse we have had a bumper crop of cucumber's with many more on the way, they have been very large in some cases (the ones hidden round the back) but by and large very easy to grow and nice delicate taste. These plants were "all female" as I understand the male flowers make for bitter cucumbers. The various varieties of tomatoes have been splendid – and have ripened off nicely in recent weeks. Even the out doors dwarf bush has produced a good load of small red tomatoes! I am very pleased to say that the aubergines have started – there are now 3 "egg plants" visible, one of them quite large and plenty more flowers. I am regularly told that these are very easy to grow – it seemed that way to me and very rewarding (but mind the spines on the flowers!). Whilst I have a few other things on the go in the greenhouse, the only other plenty worthy of mention is the melon – with two fruit ripening now and more on the way.

Finally in the "main" vegetable plot, where there are 10 rows of potatoes, the plants have fallen over and started to wither. I started digging up a row and found some truly massive potatoes – the rain has been very good for them. In one row I estimate approx. 40lbs of potatoes so we should have plenty to keep us going through winter. As expected the courgettes have come up to full production – which like everyone else we have a surplus – courgette wine anyone? And the pumpkins/squash/marrows have gone crazy (the rain again) and spread out over a very wide area – I've even trained them up string onto the roof of the chicken run!

The chickens have suffered from mites again (as have I – they seem very attracted to me and very irritating). After some searching we found the mite powder and gave the chickens a dusting (and most other things in the vicinity).

So, the freezer is filling and there's plenty more on the way. I'm looking forward to a bumper crop of plums – definitely some wine/jam in the offing. And before we know it, it's September, autumn will beckon and we'll be out in the hedgerows harvesting all that lovely free fruit...

A.P.R.E
August 2009
apre@oving.org

SCHORNE TEAM OF CHURCHES - SERVICES FOR SEPTEMBER 2009

	Granboro'	N Marston	Oving	Dunton	Hoggeston	Hardwick	Whitchurch	Quainton	Waddesdon	Westcott	Winchendon																																																																																																
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