

THE OXHILL NEWS

Scarecrow Weekend 2017
Souvenir Issue



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OXHILL SCARECROW WEEKEND

One dark damp winter’s night in a local Inn not too far from these parts, a small band of brothers got together and started to hatch a plot. As the windows steamed, wine flowed and the ideas started to bubble up, so was the Oxhill Scarecrow Weekend reborn!

After a rest of 4 years, the plan was based on the previous hugely successful runs of weekends and started to build. As the months went past and winter turned to spring and after several more meetings in the Inn, so like the flowers the plans began to blossom. Roads planned to be closed, Marshals were mustered, the press were alerted, blooms were grown, cakes planned to be baked, Campanologists put on standby, artists put brushes to canvas, florists nurtured their blooms and of course Scarecrows were planned.

As summer came, the spreadsheets got longer, the printing presses whirred, leaflets, facebook and posters spread the word, there were more meetings in the Inn.....there was the sense of celebration in the air.

And so the weekend was born!!! 113 Scarecrows, 56 hours of parking marshalling, hundreds of cakes, jars of jam, marmalade, chutney and chili sauce,

more than 30 breakfast, cake and teas staff, 6 Open Gardens, dozens of paintings and art attendants, Church attendants every hour, amazing floral displays, bell ringers, a special church service, tombola, bric-a-brac, treasure hunts, 8 shows for Children, full filming of the whole weekend, a jazz band, 2 evenings of music, market stalls, nearly every child face painted and henna tattooed (and some adults too!), press coverage and not to mention hundreds of happy visitors. This was a festival that pulled together every part of the Village, the Village Hall, the Church, the Pub, the Gardening Club, the Art Club and many many more – nearly 250 villagers were involved, whether they were ‘front of house’ or back of house counting the takings and doing the Washing Up....

Oxhill has so very much to be proud of – thank you every single one of you....

Katy Dowding



A special thank you to everyone who manned the streets and carpark from early to late throughout the weekend.





BREAKFAST AT THE VILLAGE HALL

Our Scarecrow weekend started with breakfast in the Village Hall. A big thank you to Stuart for heading into the kitchen and cooking up delicious bacon and sausage baps for early morning visitors.





TEAS AND CAKE IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Ginger loaves, fairy cakes, lavender shortbread, lemon sponge, flapjacks, chocolate cake, Victoria sponge, fruitcake, banana bread, chocolate chilli cake, orange and cardamon biscuits, coconut and lime cake, lemon slices, scones with jam and clotted cream, scarecrow cakes and strawberry cream gateaux - just a few of the cakes on offer over the Scarecrow Weekend at the Village Hall. Oxhill bakers excelled themselves, producing a splendid array of delicious and diverse cakes, biscuits and scones that was admired by the many visitors who came to devour them. A superb team of tea ladies and gentlemen worked tirelessly throughout the weekend, and it was lovely to see such a happy group of workers! A huge thank you to all the brilliant bakers and the terrific tea ladies and gentlemen who volunteered (or were coerced) so readily. You make Oxhill a great place to be.

Ruth Mercer





THANK YOU TO ALL CAKE MAKERS & HELPERS !

I would like to send a huge thank you to everyone who provided the wonderful selection of delicious gateaux, cakes, cupcakes, biscuits and sausage rolls ,etc etc.

The team of helpers also deserve a mention and a big thank you ! So many people came to help serve the cakes, pour numerous cups of tea, clear the tables and wash the dishes.

Thank you everyone, it couldn't and wouldn't happen without you!

Gaynor F.





CHURCH SERVICE

Our Scarecrow Weekend church service was adorned with beautiful flower displays and extra well-behaved straw-filled parishioners.

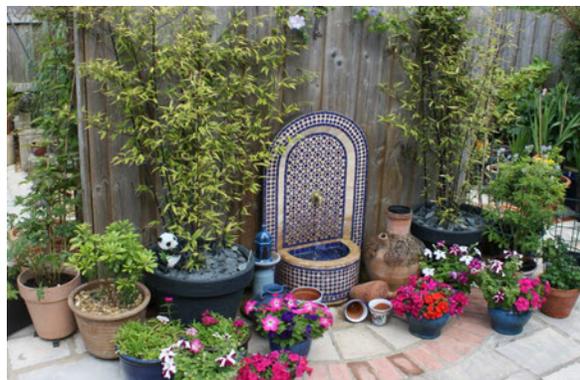


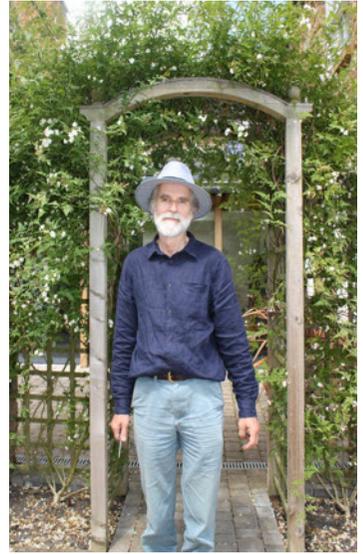


OPEN GARDENS

The Scarecrow Weekend included six open gardens, each one beautiful and different than the next - a child's paradise with trees to climb and tunnels to explore; a stepped garden brimming with veggies, fruit and flowers; a sunny peaceful garden of pastel colours; a sun-drenched Mediterranean tiled courtyard; an expansive garden with magnificent giant trees; and a secluded garden with quiet areas for contemplation. Thank you so much for sharing opening your glorious gardens with us!







THE ART EXHIBITION IN THE OLD CHAPEL

The art exhibition provided a real treat for sight and soul, for those who spent time looking at the amazing display of local talent. There were contributions from some of the youngest residents of Oxhill through to the more mature ones, and members of the Oxhill Art Group under the encouragement of Grenville Moore.



The main purpose of the exhibition was not necessarily the sale of the works. Nevertheless, the quality of the display was demonstrated by the interest from several visitors wanting to buy paintings, from as far afield as Australia. Well done everyone!

Belinda Marklew









CHEEKY CHIMPS AT THE PEACOCK

What a wonderful weekend in Oxhill! The Scarecrow festival was such a positive event for the village.

When we decided to revive the festival there were many doubts as to whether it was a wise decision.

I think everyone proved that it was the right decision and that this wonderful event brought the church, the pub and the village hall together. It also enticed many families into Oxhill to see the wonderful community spirit we have here.

This is such a friendly and open village with many people who care. The scarecrow festival highlighted the fun and creative energy which is such a part of Oxhill and encouraged young and old to work together.

Well done everyone who took part.

Iain Lauchlan







FACE-PAINTING, HENNA AND GLITTER TATTOOS!

Stationed in the garden at The Peacock for the weekend, we painted faces of all ages, created some beautiful henna designs on many hands, and got lots of glitter on lots of people! We raised £140 over the course of the weekend and we'd like to thank the butterflies, spidermen and everybody else for supporting the village and sitting still to do so! Big thank you to Freya O'Donnell for glittery-ness, and all your help. We had a great weekend! Same time next year?

Lucy and Alice Mercer









LOCAL MEDIA INTEREST

Trying to get the local media to turn out to a weekend event is never easy, especially when you are competing with Stratford's River Festival, numerous other village events plus a weekend of sport, but fair play to the Stratford Herald for sending along not just a photographer but a reporter too!

I hope you saw the story in the Herald, not to mention the excellent headline about Oxhill having 'something to crow about'. Thank you to Ed, Elaine and Mark, Sarah and the team at the Peacock for making yourselves available for photographs.



We think the Banbury Guardian were also present filming the event but I can't find anything on their website or on social media to confirm this.

Having contacted all the local papers - receiving some nice replies wishing us well even if no one could attend - I am hopeful there will be a nice spread in the August edition of Four Shires magazine after I sent the editor about a dozen photos I took. He did actually make it to The Peacock on the Saturday evening, as a visitor. Fingers crossed!

Adrian Marklew



*Thank you to everyone who helped contribute to this souvenir issue, whether your contribution was in words or photos - in front or behind the camera.
~ ed.*