

THE OXHILL NEWS



MARCH 2006

MARCH 2

Is the Feast day of Saints Chad and Joavan. Why only two?

It is also the day in 1995 when two competing teams of scientists using different detectors at the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory in Batavia, Illinois, announced that they had found the top quark. Since few of us knew it had been lost, this last phrase may need a little explanation, so here goes.

Baryons and mesons are complex subatomic particles built from more elementary objects, the quarks. Six types of quark, together with their corresponding antiquarks, are necessary to account for all the known hadrons. The flavours of quark have acquired the names up, down, charm, strange, top, and bottom (Salt & Vinegar, Beef & Onion and Prawn Cracker are no longer used.) Physicists say the meaning of these somewhat unusual names is not important. Physicists always consider the most interesting things to be unimportant; it is in their nature.

The table below gives you some information about the properties of quarks.

Quark	Baryon No.	Charge	Strangeness	Charm	Bottom	Top	Mass
Down	1/3	$-(1/3)e$	0	0	0	0	5-15
Up	1/3	$+(2/3)e$	0	0	0	0	2-8
Strange	1/3	$-(1/3)e$	-1	0	0	0	100-300
Charm	1/3	$+(2/3)e$	0	1	0	0	1000-1600
Bottom	1/3	$-(1/3)e$	0	0	-1	0	4100-4500
Top	1/3	$+(2/3)e$	0	0	0	1	180000

There! That was fun, wasn't it? You must understand that antiquarks exist for all flavours of quark, and that they have opposite values for all of the numbers listed in the table. Physicists had to invent them because otherwise their sums did not add up right.

In addition to combining to form simplistic particles such as protons and neutrons, three quarks can be combined to form a larger particle in such a way that their spins do not cancel. The result is a short-lived resonance state called a delta (Nile, Mississippi, etc.). The up and down quarks can combine in four ways, up/up/up, up/up/down, up/down/down and down/down/down. There is also a fifth possibility, ignored by most physicists, of down/down/deeperanddown. This is important because it gives us the Status Quo.

I hope that makes it all clear. There was once a wise man who said "The number of particles in sub-atomic physics is an accurate measure of the ignorance of physicists about what actually happens". Another theory suggests that all the sub-atomic particles are themselves formed from just three sub-sub-atomic particles. These are called nigs, nogs and nags. Don't worry about it.

There may be a test next month. On the other hand, there just might not be.

Editor

COVER PICTURE

Myrtle Knight has provided this month's cover shot.

Editor

ST. LAWRENCE, OXHILL

Church Services for March

Sunday 5th	9.30	Holy Communion	Rev. Tony Upton
Tuesday 7th	7.30 p.m.	Deanery Lenten Service	
Sunday 12th	9.30	Holy Communion	Rev. Stephen Knight
Sunday 19th	6.30	Evensong, followed by the A.G.M.	
Sunday 26th	9.30	Mothering Sunday Service	

FLOWERS IN CHURCH

Lent begins on 1st March. I shall soon be formulating the new Flower Rota. I do hope everyone is happy to stay on as before and, on behalf of the PCC and myself, I would like to express a sincere thank you to all for helping the Church to look beautiful every Sunday.

There are still vacancies, so anyone who enjoys putting flowers together in a vase and would like to be added to the list please contact me.

We welcome any newcomers to the rota. Please contact me on 01295 680223.

Thank you.

Carol Fox

APRIL ISSUE

Please could I have all copy for the April issue by Midnight on Saturday, 25th March? If you normally prepare your material using a computer, it would make my life easier if you could submit your offering in electronic form, though paper is, of course, fine. If you do use electronic form, the best would be a Word file with the page size set to A5 and margins of 1.5 cm all round. The News is currently set in Garamond 10 pt, with headings in Lucida Sans Unicode 14 pt bold..

My 'official' e-mail address is **news-editor@oxhill.org.uk** if you wish to send me stuff that way.

George Adams, 680286

JUNK MAIL and SALES CALLS

If you wish to reduce the amount of unsolicited mail that you receive through the post, register with the *Mailing Preference Service (MPS)*. Simply send your name and address to the *MPS* at Freepost 22, London W1E 7EZ or register on-line at www.mpsonline.org.uk

Your name remains on the *MPS* register for five years after which you will have to register again.

If you wish to reduce the number of sales and marketing calls you receive on your home or business telephone, call the Direct Marketing Association's *Telephone Preference Service (TPS)* on 0800 398893 or register on-line at www.tpsonline.org.uk

Should you telephone the TPS you are given the choice of selecting an automated registration service or speaking to a real person.

Marketing agencies use computers to dial telephone numbers held on a database or to randomly generate them. If sales staff cannot keep up with calls fed to them, this might well result in you receiving a 'silent' call. If you have been troubled by calls where the phone rings but on answering there is no one there, you may wish to register your number on the *Silent Callgard Service* on 0870 4443969.

Complaints about text messages and automated voice recordings are covered by new regulations overseen by the *Information Commissioner's Office (ICO)* - the government body responsible for enforcing the regulations. For more information see their website www.ico.gov.uk or phone their helpline on 01625 545745.

Doug Netherclef (VLO, Oxhill)

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

There will be a service for this event on Friday 3rd March at 11.30 a.m. in St. Peter's Church, Whatcote.

The service will be followed by a light lunch.

Di Harper

NATURE NOTES for MARCH

March is the month of new life – in Anglo-Saxon Hrethamonath, the month of the goddess Hretha.

In old country lore 8th March is the day to start to sow garden herbs and water them, but hope for a dry, dusty month to benefit the crops: “*In March; the moon being new, sow garlic, chervil, marjoram, white poppy, double marigolds, thyme and violets. At the full moon, chicory, fennel and apples of love. At the wane, artichokes, basil, cucumbers, spinach, gillyflowers, cabbages, lettuce, burnets, leeks, and savory.*” – Markham, *The English Housewife*, 1683.

Over the last couple of weeks while working in Cheltenham, almost daily I have been watching a nuthatch busying itself in the garden. This small attractive bird is plump and short tailed, with blue-grey upper parts, buff underparts, and reddish flanks. It has a strong pointed bill with a black stripe running down each side of its head; both male and female are alike. The old gardener working at the house tells me in Gloucestershire they call them woodjars or nuthackers. Their strong beaks are capable of dealing with food as large and hard as hazel nuts and acorns. They jam the nut into a crevice of a tree or wall and with the weight of their whole body, they bring their beak hammering down until the shell is broken. The nuthatch I have been watching spends a lot of time in a large oak tree, tapping the trunk in the manner of a woodpecker, which apparently earns it the name of woodhacker and woodcracker. The jarring sound of its hacking has also given rise to the name woodjar and jarbird. It tends to be a bird of parks, parkland, large town gardens (I have never seen one in Oxhill), and woodland. It scuttles about the tree upwards, downwards or sideways with equal agility, sometimes doing its “hacking” from an upside down position. The nuthatch is in fact the only British bird that can travel ‘down’ a tree. It was once thought that they roosted head down! but they actually choose holes in tree trunks or walls to build their nests. They make the entrance hole smaller by stopping it up with mud, until it is exactly the right size.

By 30 March badger cubs now begin to appear above ground, but beware: “*He hath very sharp teeth, and is therefore accounted a deep biting beast; his legs (as some say) are longer on the right side than the left, and therefore he runneth best when he getteth to the side of a hill*” - Edward Topsell, *The History of Four-footed Beasts*, 1607.

Grenville Moore

CALLING ALL GARDENERS!

We shall need your help to stock the plant stall at the Scarecrow Weekend in June. So **PLEASE** will you sow, dig up, divide and let us have whatever you can spare? It may only just be March, but the sun is shining to tempt you into the garden.

Janet Gardner, 680280

Eve Whaley, 680224

KINETON OIL CONSORTIUM

The next order for oil will be placed in mid-March. Please order your requirements by 19th March, at the latest by 6 p.m.

I am not able to give you a price until after the contract has been placed, but be assured that they search for the best discount.

If I have the information in time I will try to circulate the price per litre and the company that will deliver the oil.

Di Harper

OXHILL GARDEN CLUB

We had a wonderful state of the art slide show put on for us by Mr and Mrs Ruffe. Their joint passion is Scotland and photography and they have been taking pictures of Scottish gardens for over 40 years – the results were absolutely spectacular.

Our next meeting is the AGM on March 16th. The actual business doesn't take long and the rest of the evening is a convivial get together refreshed by cheese and wine.

Spring might be on the way and we are preparing for the May plant sale. This is a good way to bulk up your garden with locally grown plants known to thrive in our soil.

There are still a few places available for our weekend in Normandy May 19th – 21st. We are staying in an hotel on the banks of the seine in Rouen and will be visiting the gardens of Claude Monet in Giverny and Le Bois des Moutiers, reputedly the best garden in Normandy sloping down to the sea. Give Lilian Welsby a ring on 680468 for more information.

Heather Brennan, Secretary

SHIPSTON HOME NURSING

We have received news of the fundraising events already organised for this admirable local charity. Please support them if you can.

Further events will be organised during the year, and will be advertised as and when details become available.

Saturday 29th April – 7.30 p.m.

Charity Concert at St. Edmund's Church, Shipston, organised by Shipston Rotary Club. Tickets at £7 from Roger Watts, 01926 641037, or on the door.

Sunday 14th May – 9.00 a.m.

10 mile country walk followed by barbecue etc, starting from Ettington Community Centre. More details from Gilda Gardner on 01789 740083.

Tuesday 16th May – 10.30

Champagne & Shopping at Burmington Grange, by kind invitation of Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Ramsey. Entrance £5 includes champagne. Lunch available 12:00-2.30 p.m.

Saturday 20th May – 10.00

Plant Sale at the Townsend Hall, Shipston from 10 to 12. Offers of help or plants to Sonia Baker, 01608 661459 or Rebecca Mawle, 01608 674929.

Sunday 10th September

Tennis Tournament by kind invitation of Mrs. Christine Archer, Upper St. Dennis Farm. Further details from Christine on 01608 661930.

Friday 11th & Saturday 12th November

Designer clothes sale at Darlingscote Farm, Darlingscote, by kind invitation of John & Maggie Sargent. Friday 12:00-9:00 p.m., Saturday 9:00-2:00 p.m.

Thursday 16th November – 10:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.

Gift Fair at Ettington Community Centre. Entry £2.50 include coffee and biscuits. Lunch will be available.

Further details on all the above from Rebecca Mawle, 01608 674929.

Editor

W.I. REPORT – FEBRUARY 2006

Our speaker this month was Mrs Christine Cockell who gave a fascinating insight into her work as an International Observer of Elections. Mrs Cockell started her working career in Local Government as an Elections Officer, ending as a Returns Officer, the highest position in this field. She retired in 1998 from Stroud District Council, but still carried on as an International Observer.

This has involved travelling to many countries such as Uganda, Romania and former Russian states, but mostly she works within Europe. Some of the countries she has been to have never had elections before, so trying to train the local people on running a ballot station must be a terrible strain, also having to watch that things run properly. Observers are not allowed to interfere in any way although judicious advice occasionally is useful!

Refreshments were admirably served by Sue Price and Philippa Robinson.

A new initiative being started on 20th March at the Old Fire Station is the Silver Surfers Internet Café on Monday mornings between 10 a.m. and 12 p.m. This will be open to anyone who wishes to use the internet to find out information, send e-mails or just to come and see what it is all about. This would be very useful for any WI member who feels they would like to have a go at finding out what the internet is all about. There will be volunteers on hand to help with any query and to start you up. You might also be offered a cup of tea!

For any reader who is not a WI member, you will always be made welcome at any of our meetings and we look forward to seeing new faces.

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SHIPSTON DEANERY

LENTEN SERVICES

As in previous years we will be holding a series of services during Lent followed by refreshments.

These will be held at 7.45 p.m. in the following Parish Churches:

7th March at Oxhill

14th March at Honington

21st March at Brailes

28th March at Burmington

4th April at Tredington

11th April at Ettington

The Bishop of Warwick will be our preacher at Ettington and Revd Andrew de Smet at Oxhill. Our local clergy will preach at the remainder of the services.

The Theme is 'Our Lenten Journey'

Elizabeth Ashworth

MEMORIAL CONCERT FOR JOHN HUGHES

A concert has been arranged to celebrate the life of John Hughes, who was for so many years our Church Organist at St. Lawrence.

The Concert will be held at St. Mary's Church, Pillerton Hersey, on Thursday 16th March at 7.30 p.m., and will be given by the Armonico Consort.

There are four sources of tickets for the event. These are:

Spa Centre Box Office, 01926 334418

Jennifer Lewthwaite, 01789 740688

Janet Titchmarsh, 01789 740852

Brenda Hughes, 01789 740231

Ros Henry

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT 6th – 19th MARCH

There are now over 1,300 fairtrade products on the market from food to clothes to flowers to footballs!

Please make a special effort this fortnight to buy and try fairly traded goods. Help to make a positive difference to farmers and workers worldwide.

Make fair-trade products an everyday habit not an occasional purchase.

For more information go to www.fairtrade.org.uk, or phone 020 7405 5942.

Elisabeth Ashworth

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Good news! All the repair work has now been completed and the Village Hall is now open again.

Would all Councils and societies be kind enough to forward this year's requirements to me i.e. dates you wish to hold events in the hall – Many thanks.

The committee will be meeting again soon to organise some events this year. We will keep you posted.

Linda Dagg

MISSING BINS!

Would the person who removed my recycling bins from the front of Peacock House please return them!

Jane Moore

TO DAFFODILS

Fair Daffodils, we weep to see
You haste away so soon;
As yet the early-rising sun
Has not attain'd his noon.
Stay, stay,
Until the hasting day
Has run
But to the even-song;
And, having pray'd together, we
Will go with you along.

We have short time to stay, as you,
We have as short a spring;
As quick a growth to meet decay,
As you, or anything.
We die
As your hours do, and dry
Away,
Like to the summer's rain;
Or as the pearls of morning's dew,
Ne'er to be found again.

Robert Herrick

It's March, and I offer this as an alternative to that overworked effort
from Mr. Wordsworth.

Editor

WHAT'S ON IN OXHILL

March

Wednesday 1st	7.00 p.m.	Tysoe Village Hall – W.I.
Friday 3rd	11.30 a.m.	St. Peter's, Whatcote - Women's World Day of Prayer Service
Tuesday 14th	8.00 p.m.	Parish Council Meeting
Thursday 16th	7.30 p.m.	St. Mary's, Pillerton Hersey – Memorial Concert for John Hughes
	7.30 p.m.	Village Hall - Garden Club A.G.M.
Saturday 25th	Midnight	Copy deadline for the News

April

Wednesday 5th	7.30 p.m.	Tysoe Village Hall – W.I. – Finland, Canon Nick Morgan
Saturday 29th	7.00 p.m.	St. Edmund's, Shipston – Charity Concert, Shipston Home Nursing. Call 01926 641037 for more details

May

Wednesday 3rd	7.30 p.m.	Tysoe Methodist Hall – W.I. – Spring Show & Resolution Meeting
Sunday 14th	10.00	Ettington Community Centre – Spring Into Action. Contact Gilda Gardner on 01789 740083 for details
Tuesday 16th	10.30	Burmington Grange – Champagne & Shop, Shipston Home Nursing
Friday 19th – Sunday 31st		Garden Club Trip to Normandy
Saturday 20th	10.00-12.00	Townsend Hall, Shipston on Stour – Plant Sale, Shipston Home Nursing
Sunday 28th		Rectory Garden – Curry Lunch

June

7 June	7.30 p.m.	Oxhill Village Hall – W.I. - Save the Children, Mrs Mitchell
Saturday 17th & Sunday 18th		Scarecrow Festival

July

Saturday 1st		Old Church House – Coffee Morning for Chernobyl's Children
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September

Sunday 10th		Upper St. Dennis Farm – Tennis Tournament, Shipston Home Nursing
Saturday 30th		Harvest Supper