

# THE OXHILL NEWS



October 2006

## OCTOBER 11

Is the Feast day of Saints Mary Soledad, Andronicus, Tarachus, and Probus, Agilbert, Alexander Sauli, Nectarius of Constantinople, Bruno the Great of Cologne, Canice or Kenneth and Gummarus or Gomaire – or, presumably, Gomer. See Grenville's Nature Notes later.

It was the day in 1521 when Pope Leo X conferred the title of 'Defender of the Faith' (Fidei Defensor) on Henry VIII for his book supporting Catholic principles. No comment. In 1689 Peter the Great, Tsar of Russia, assumed control of the government, and in 1923 rampant inflation in Germany caused the mark to drop to an exchange rate of 10,000,000,000 to the pound. Apollo 7 was launched from Cape Kennedy in 1968 and in 1980 Salyut 6 returned to earth after a record 185 days in orbit. In 1982 the Mary Rose, which had been the pride of Henry VIII's English fleet (until it sank in the Solent in 1545), was raised.

As to birthdays, Admiral Arthur Phillip was born in 1738 (though the Admiral bit came along later), George Williams in 1821 (he later founded the YMCA though he did not, so far as I am aware, write the song). Richard Burton was born in 1925, Bobby Charlton in 1937 and Dawn French in 1957.

James Joule (just ask a physicist – any physicist) died in 1889, Anton Bruckner in 1896 and Chico Marx in 1961.

Finally, why October 11th? Ask Grenville. He brought it up.

*Editor*

## NOVEMBER ISSUE

Please could I have all copy for the November issue by Midnight on Friday, 27th October? 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. This may, of course, change, possibly without warning.

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

George Adams, 680286

## COVER PICTURE

We offer this shot of the theatre in Stratford. David Kean took it. The view will presumably change next year, when the RSC starts messing about with the buildings. Perhaps David will provide a new version in a couple of years.

*Editor*

# THANK YOU

Can I first apologise to all who read the Oxhill News via the web site for the non-appearance of the September Edition. Late August and early September have been traumatic for me and resulted in my admission to hospital for major surgery on the 10th September. The operation went extremely well and I am now on the road to recovery.

Deb and I would like to say a big thank you to all our friends for their concern and support before the event and for the many good wishes and cards I received whilst in hospital and on my return to Oxhill.

I'm already bored of day time TV so there is a fair chance that the October News will be online soon after George delivers it to me!

*Mike Collins*

[Considering the problems Mike has had recently I don't see any need for him to apologise for anything at all. We all wish him well for a speedy recovery, and offer thanks for the splendid work he has done over the last few years with our website. Ed.]

## POLICE COMMUNICATION

The Shipston based police, under Sgt. Darren Fretwell, have now reorganised their operation with the objective of being more responsive to local calls. If you wish to call direct to Shipston, between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. weekdays, the number is 01789 444672 (this might look like a Stratford number, but isn't). Speak to Margaret, who will report your call and will treat it in the strictest confidence. If you cannot reach this number, then ring the regular police number on 01789 414111. Any emergency calls - dial 999.

The Police have established a number of objectives regarding anti-social behaviour, including driving, and continue to seek the cooperation of the community in order to achieve them.

*David Hill, Chairman, Parish Council*

# ST. LAWRENCE CHURCH, OXHILL

## SERVICES FOR OCTOBER

Sunday 1st	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	Rev. Morgan or Rev. Leaton
Sunday 8th	8.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	Rev. Leaton
Sunday 15th	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	Rev. Leaton
Sunday 22nd	9.30 a.m.	Family Service	Rev. Morgan or Rev. Leaton
Sunday 29th	11.00 a.m.	United Service	In TYSOE

With the Induction of the Rev. Canon Nicholas Morgan as Priest in Charge and of the Rev. Martin Leaton as our Associate Minister the normal pattern of services in St. Lawrence Church will change.

Nicholas and Martin have already sent round a flyer giving the normal service pattern for our three parishes. If you would like one giving all five parishes please let me know and I will provide one.

Editor

## CHURCH CLEANING

Has anyone in the village some spare time?

We have a small rota in operation for cleaning the Church. A cleaning party consists of two people covering the cleaning routine, i.e. one person vacuum cleans and the other dusts and polishes. Both occasionally brush the windows for cobweb removal. A partnership will normally clean one weekend a month, and the task takes about one hour.

At present we have seven much-appreciated volunteers (two of whom have performed this service for over 25 years [one at least for over 30 – Ed.]) so we are one short of four pairs, which covers most months at once a month though there are obvious complications when a month contains five Sundays. If we could obtain more volunteers then the less frequently the rota would come round.

Are there three volunteers (or better still more) who would be prepared to help out, sparing a little time to keep the Church looking so shiny and cared for? Either gender; no sex discrimination here.

## BRASS CLEANING

Does anyone enjoy cleaning brass? We are looking for a volunteer to replace our present helper, who has had to 'retire' from this duty.

Again, it takes about one hour a month.

If you can help, please contact one of the Churchwardens:

Andrew Buchanan	01295 688112
Carol Fox	01295 680223

## ROBIN HUTSBY

Villagers will have been saddened to hear of the untimely death of Robin Hutsby.

Rob was a larger than life character, with enormous energy. Those of us who regularly travelled the gated road will often have seen him and stopped for a quick chat, only to discover that an hour had gone by. He loved the Warwickshire countryside deeply and enjoyed watching the wildlife, but would also regularly go on safari to Africa and had many and varied tales to tell of his experiences there.

Together with Sue he built up and ran a very successful bed and breakfast business as well as continuing with his first love, farming.

Those of us who knew him well will sorely miss not only his charm, kindness and good humour, but also his occasional flashes of irascibility, which made him the person he was.

Our sympathy goes to Sue, Luke and Kerry. We have lost one of Warwickshire's true characters.

*Grenville*

## INDUCTION SERVICE

### OCTOBER 8TH AT 4.00 P.M.

### ST. MARY'S CHURCH, TYSOE

The Rev. Canon Nicholas Morgan will be inducted as Priest in Charge of the Parishes and the Rev. Martin Leaton will be inducted as Non-Stipendiary Associate Minister of Tysoe, Oxhill and Whatcote at a service in St. Mary's Church, Tysoe.

The service will be conducted by the Bishop of Coventry.

Refreshments will be served after the service.

*Diane Harper*

## EMMA AND JAMES' WEDDING

Emma and James are to be married in St. Lawrence Church on Saturday, 21st October at 3p.m. Roy Brown and I will be conducting the service. The Church will probably be fairly full, but if anyone wishes to come and join with us in celebrating their marriage and have a glass of champagne in the churchyard afterwards, they will be very welcome.

*Jill Tucker*

# NATURE NOTES FOR OCTOBER

Fruit time and Fall-of-leaf: in Anglo-Saxon Wintirfylith - the month of the Winter Moon.

*This month hot drinks and meals be good*

*To keep thy health and nourish thy blood*

*Provide warm clothes, and go foot dry*

*Thou shalt escape much danger thereby*

Neve's Almanack (1633)

Take your mind back about three weeks ago, a Saturday night, warm strong southerly winds and a clear starry night. At about 10.00 p.m. the phone rang and Janet Gardner next door called to say she had been alerted by a large moth, which was attracted by an outside light, bumping against her back door. I went to look, thinking it would be a red or yellow underwing, both quite common large moths, but it turned out to be the most enormous moth I had ever seen. Its body was thick and about two inches in length, banded in pink and black stripes, long silver grey wings reaching to a span of four to five inches. This was a *Convolvulus Hawk-moth*, once known as the "Unicorn" or "Bindweed" Hawk (one of its food plants — plenty in our garden!). This is a rare visitor from the Mediterranean and I suspect had arrived on the strong winds. It was in pristine condition. Its wingspan is the largest of any insect found in Britain and its proboscis or tongue is also very impressive at an amazing three-and-a-half inches. When not in use the proboscis is curled up like a watch spring under its large head, and in the chrysalis its tongue is housed in a separate case. This is one of the most powerful flying insects that visits Britain and is capable of flying 300 - 400 miles in a day. Mainly found along the south coast and a few eastern counties, sightings elsewhere are now rare. Food plants for this dusk flying moth include clematis, honeysuckle, evening primrose, soapwort and tobacco plants. I reported this sighting to the Butterfly and Moth Conservation Society, who said that for Warwickshire they only usually get one sighting a year. Mine was the first for this year, but this has been a very good year for butterflies and moths. The person I spoke to had been on the Dorset coast that weekend and had seen four *Convolvulus Hawk* moths. So keep your eyes open - it flies well into November and you can't miss it.

An interesting observation I noticed when watching a Southern Hawker dragonfly that had been resting for some time on a leaf was that, as I watched it, one of its wings started vibrating, then another followed until all four were "firing" (rather like an old

four prop piston aircraft). Once all four were at full revs it took off. I noticed that the Convolvulus Hawk moth behaved in exactly the same manner, and we watched in amazement as its five-inch wingspan took off into the night — it could easily have been mistaken for a bat.

Ruth Gibson tells me that she saw a badger going down Back Lane the other morning, and I have also had reports of vigorous "diggings" in some back gardens. I have also noticed unusual scrapes and diggings down Back Lane. Some have suggested a young wild boar, which is not impossible. Finding the droppings or hair caught on a fence is the key to this mystery - any volunteers? Meanwhile I would be grateful for any other indications or sightings of this mysterious Oxhill beastie.

October 11th is the Feast Day of St. Gomer, patron saint of woodsmen. Vincent Holt's *"Why Not Eat Insects"* (1885) suggested alternative sources of protein to the frugal woodsmen, such as tree and ground grubs *"When the plantations are cut down, why should this delicacy be wasted — even the strong-stomached and hungry sailor will rap his sea-biscuit on the table to shake out the worms before eating it. Let him shake them out by all means, but let him collect them, fry in lard and spread the dainty on his biscuit."* Perhaps we could harvest all these Craneflies that are plaguing us!

*Grenville Moore*

## ANXIETY ALLIANCE

If you suffer from feelings of anxiety, phobias, panic attacks or obsessive compulsive disorder then you can obtain help, advice and support 10.00am - 4.00pm by telephoning 01926 851608 or contacting the volunteers by e-mail via the website

**[www.anxietyalliance.org.uk](http://www.anxietyalliance.org.uk)**

Registered Address: Anxiety Alliance, 1 Taylor Close, Kenilworth, Warks. CV8 1LW

Registered Charity No: 1115223

A member of the Telephone Helplines Association and the Mental Health Helplines Partnership

*DJN (VLO, Oxhill)*

## FOR SALE

Sharp QL 300 Electronic Typewriter

Hardly used

£20.00

McKail, 'Brambles', Back Lane, Oxhill, or 01295 680412

# NOTES OF THE OXHILL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER 2006 AT 8.00 P.M. IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Apology received from Tom Heritage.

Meeting chaired by David Hill attended by Gwyneth Adams, Carole Taylor and Hugh Rowse.

## **MATTERS DISCUSSED**

### ***Transfer of Hospital Services***

Proposals are being reviewed to move some services, in particular Accident & Emergency treatment at night and weekends, from Warwick Hospital to University Hospital Coventry. More and more services are also being moved from Horton Hospital Banbury to Oxford. We are writing to various representative bodies in the NHS and to our MP opposing these moves.

### ***Planning***

- Permission refused for single storey extension at Appletree Cottage.
- Permission granted for alterations & extension to form integral garage at Medway.
- Permission granted to replace windows at The Hollies.
- Application for outdoor riding arena for private use at priors Lea Farm was considered with no objection raised.

### ***Finance***

- External audit for 2005/2006 has been completed with an unqualified opinion given. Fee of £58.75 would be paid.
- Fee of £100 has been paid to Stratford District Council for cost of uncontested election 4th May 2006.
- Mandate from HSBC Bank completed to include new Parish Councillors.

## **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 14th November 2006 at 8.00 p.m. in the Village Hall.

*Angela Kean, Clerk*



# **“I’ll volunteer in 2006”**

## **A resolution you should keep.**

Helpers are needed by these very worthy local groups:

- **Family and Friends (Drugs helpline for users, their friends and families)** - needs Telephone Counsellors.
- **British Heart Foundation (Fights heart disease)** - needs Research co-ord -help raise profile of BHF including recruitment of more contacts and volunteers (requires research and uses local knowledge).
- **National Kidney Research Fund (raises funds for research into kidney disease, helps sufferers financially and raises awareness)** - needs fundraisers to organise or help at event, sell raffle tickets etc. Assistance is provided.
- **SOLACE (Telephone support line for people with mental health problems)** - needs understanding people to receive calls and help the callers.
- **Samaritans (Emotional support to those in distress 24 hours a day 7 days per week)** - needs volunteers to promote the Samaritan work via local press and radio; also helpline assistants (20 hours per month), & fund raisers.
- **WE URGENTLY NEED VOLUNTEER DRIVERS TO HELP US WITH OUR COMMUNITY TRANSPORT SCHEME, (40P PER MILE ALLOWANCE PAID).**

Call us if you are interested, or, if you can get on the web

**[www.stratfordvbx.org.uk](http://www.stratfordvbx.org.uk)**

check out our web site for all the latest opportunities for volunteering.

**Volunteer Centre Stratford-on-Avon District**

**Phone: 01789 262886**

# VILLAGE HALL NEWS

The Progressive Dinner held recently was highly successful and was much enjoyed by all who took part. Our thanks go to the organisers for all their hard work.

We regret that the Casino Night intended for this autumn has had to be postponed. We hope that it will now take place in February. Further details nearer the time.

*Ray Dagg*

## W I Report

Margaret Anderson, an enthusiastic volunteer, told us about the history and work of the Woodland Trust. It was set up in 1971 to save an ancient wood in Devon. Now it welcomes the public to walk in 1100 woods. Volunteers restore woodland to encourage wildlife; preserve ancient woodland; create woodland using native species; and increase awareness of the trust's work. Using [www.woodland-trust.org.uk](http://www.woodland-trust.org.uk) you can find details of local woods and how to dedicate a tree as a gift.

We were asked to join the campaign to support dairy farmers, by sending postcards to the Prime Minister.

Committees were formed for the 90th anniversary celebrations and for next year's Spring Show.

Next month Ian Willocks is telling us about Highland dress.

*Belinda Keep*

## LOST AND FOUND

Doris Roll reports that on Monday last (September 25th) the strange noises emanating from her garden turned out to be a stray kitten.

Kindly soul that she is she took the stray in, but so far enquiries have failed to produce an owner. Not that cats have owners, of course. They simply employ staff.

However, the kitten clearly has a home somewhere, as it has obviously been well cared for. So, if you have lost yours, please contact Doris on 01295 680577 and relieve her mind.

*Editor*

# THEFT FROM GARAGE

A number of items have been stolen from our garage recently. Those items were a Flymo Lawn Mower., a Flymo Strimmer, a wicker picnic basket and a number of bags of frozen food from our freezer.

I can only hope that those responsible choke on the food.

*M T Halderthay*

[Unfortunately, even in sleepy old Oxhill it is now necessary to lock up rather more than your daughters. Please keep an eye on your neighbour's goods as well as your own, and report any suspicious events. Ed.]

## **QUIZ NIGHT VILLAGE HALL FRIDAY 13TH OCTOBER**

7.00 p.m.

Quiz starting 7.30 p.m. **PROMPT**

Questions to suit all tastes  
and levels of knowledge!

Nibbles provided

Pay bar

**£10 entry fee per team of four**

No need to book, just come along

Further details from any member of the Village Hall Committee

# BRIDGE DRIVE

## In aid of Shipston home nursing

A Bridge Drive will be held on Wednesday October 25th at Bourton on the Hill Bridge Club, starting at 2.00 p.m. and finishing at 5.00 p.m..

£5 per head to include a delicious tea.

To book a place please phone either  
Maki Sutton 01608 661539 or  
Alan Lamb 07946253203.

Do please come and join us and help our local charity.  
It is a lovely afternoon out.

## Whatcote Community Centre, St Peter's Church

in conjunction with Live & Local

on "Halloween" Tuesday 31st October at 7.30 p.m.

Cat Weatherill presents

### "Ghost whispers in the dark"

An evening of flickering candles, shadows in corners and an excellent performance storyteller who combines words with live music.

Her show is a really atmospheric evening of tales that will stay with you, and as you hold your breath waiting to hear what happens, you will be able to hear a pin drop.

If you enjoy being a tiny bit scared, this is the evening for you – it is designed for brave adults. Its six spine-tinglers rooted in traditional tales of ghosts, ghouls and strange and weird events that may or may not be true, but which have been handed down through the generations from the hearth sides of Britain and Ireland. Some you might have heard of, some will be new to you – hopefully not too many will give you nightmares, but bring a friend to cling to if you are walking home!!

Tickets £6.00 available from Angela Williams - 01295 680715 or  
Phil Wreford – 01295 680294

*Light refreshments available during the interval. Suitable for over 14s.*

Charles Dickens's  
A CHRISTMAS CAROL



Performed by **Robert MacCall**  
with **Ian Baxter** on mandolin

**Tuesday 12th December**  
**2006 7.30 pm**

St Lawrence Church, Oxhill

Tickets from Lilian Welsby; 01295  
- 680 268

**£6** Adults    **£4** Children under 16

# COMPTON VERNEY

Our local art gallery is far more than just a display of pictures, and offers a wide range of events. At regular and fairly frequent intervals the staff there send me a press handout giving their calendar for the next few weeks. The latest offering covered the months of September to December, and ran to nine pages!

So that they do not take over the News completely, I have produced a potted version of what is happening at Compton Verney during the month of October. Only the very barest of detail is provided below, and still it runs to close to a page. The press office original included beautifully crafted descriptions of what you could expect at each event. Unfortunately I have had to cut them all out. If you want further details, please contact Compton Verney direct.

*Editor*

## EVENTS IN COMPTON VERNEY IN OCTOBER

Open: Tuesday – Sunday 10am - 5pm. Closed Monday

Admission: Adults £6, concs. £4, child £2, family (2 adults & up to 4 children) £14

For further information and bookings contact 01926 645500

Collection Highlights Tours Every Wednesday, 2.30pm

A 45 minute tour of selected works from the collection.

Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 October, 10am–1pm and 2–5pm, National Poetry Day

Saturday 7 October, 10am–4pm, Life Drawing for Beginners

Sunday 8 October, 10am–4pm, Portrait Masterclass, £40, includes all materials, light lunch, tea, coffee and gallery admission.

Thursday 12 October, 7pm, Richard Billingham, £5, concessions £3.50

Saturday 14 October, 10am–4pm, Animals and Landscapes, £40, includes all materials, light lunch, tea, coffee and gallery admission.

Saturday 14 October and Saturday 18 November, 11am–4pm, Junk Animals, £10

Friday 20 October, 3pm, *Vive la Parisienne* Exhibition Tour

Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 October, 11am–4pm, My Impression

Saturday 21 October, 3pm, The Importance of Ancient Chinese Bronzes, £5, concessions £3.50

Monday 23 – Friday 27 October, 10am–5pm, The Big Draw

Thursday 26 October, 11am–4pm, Animal Habitat Hunt, £10

Thursday 26 October, 7pm, Zoo Architecture, £5, concessions £3.50

Thursday 26 and Friday 27 October, 11am– 5pm, Repeat and Rewind, £25,

Friday 27 October, 3pm, Zoo Exhibition Tour

Saturday 28 October, 11am–4pm, Print me a Picture, £10

# ELECTRIC BLANKET TESTING

Warwickshire County Council's Trading Standards Service is offering electric blanket testing free of charge to Warwickshire Over 60s. Electric blanket tests will take place at several venues in October.

Monday 16th October	Kenilworth Library
Tuesday 17th October	Nuneaton Fire Station
Wednesday 18th October	Stratford Fire Station
Thursday 19th October	Leamington Town Hall
Friday 20th October	The Grange Hall, Southam
Monday 23rd October	Rugby Library

To book an appointment call **01926 736477**

Tests will be conducted by appointment only and bookings will be taken on a first come first served basis. The number of appointments is limited so book early to avoid disappointment.

The free phone number will be staffed between 9.00 and 5.00 Monday to Friday and an answerphone will operate at all other times.

In past years we have found faults on up to 75% of all the blankets we have checked. Unsafe electric blankets are the cause of many house fires each year, and can often lead to death or serious injury. Elderly people are particularly at risk, making up a large percentage of reported deaths. We are determined to rid Warwickshire of dangerous and unsafe electrical blankets and we urge you to take up this opportunity.

**FREE!**

**Bramley Cooking Apples**

Free to anyone who would like to come and pick them

Contact Joyce McKail on 01295 680412 or call at 'Brambles', Back Lane

## WHAT'S ON IN OXHILL

### October

Sunday 8th	4.00	St. Mary's Church, Tysoe - Induction Service
Friday 13th	7.00	Village Hall - Quiz Night
Wednesday 25th	2.00	Bourton on the Hill Village Hall - Bridge Drive for Shipston Home Nursing
Friday 27th	23.59	Copy deadline for the News
Tuesday 31st	7.30	St. Peter's Church, Whatcote - Ghost stories

### November

Friday 10th &	12.00	Darlingscott Farm – Designer Sale, Shipston Home Nursing
Saturday 11th	9.00	
Tuesday 14th	8.00	Village Hall - Parish Council Meeting
Thursday 16th	10.00	Ettington Community Centre – Gift Fair

### December

Monday 11th		Village Hall - Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch
Tuesday 12th	7.30	St. Lawrence Church – ‘A Christmas Carol’



The Convulvulus Hawk Moth