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# THE OXHILL NEWS

December 2013

No. 469



Walking on the Avon Dassett Hills  
on a beautiful Sunday in November

*Editors:*  
*Vanessa Druce & Roger Goodman*  
*[news-editor@oxhill.org.uk](mailto:news-editor@oxhill.org.uk)*

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## CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE OXHILL NEWS

The News is what we make it!!

The editors welcome any pictures, photographs, drawings, poems, puzzles, recipes, announcements or items of local news for possible inclusion in The Oxhill News. Please email [news-editor@oxhill.org.uk](mailto:news-editor@oxhill.org.uk) or place paper contributions in the box labelled 'The Oxhill News' in the village Church.

## MOBILE LIBRARY

The mobile library has books with **large print**, ordinary print, picture books, children's books, paperbacks, non-fiction, novels, sagas, crime, mysteries, adventures, westerns and romance. The van has talking books, cassettes and CDs.

The library van will continue to visit Oxhill, stopping at the Village Hall at 10 am and staying there for 20 minutes. The van will visit us on Wednesday 4th December. It calls every three weeks.

## REFUSE COLLECTION

Recycling and green waste bins (blue and green bins) will be collected on Tuesdays 3rd and 17th December.

The grey rubbish bins will be collected on Tuesdays 10th and 24th December.

## WEEKDAY WALKERS

This walking group usually walks on 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month.

If you are interested please contact Jim Saxton on 680645 or email [saxton@talktalk.net](mailto:saxton@talktalk.net)

## AT THE PEACOCK

**Quiz Night** on Sunday 1st December at 8pm.

### **Village Events**

Village Lunch on December 18th at 12:30.

The Village Coffee morning will be on Wednesday 4th December at 10.30am.



## CANDLELIT CAROL SERVICE 19th DECEMBER 7.30pm

A reminder about this very special Christmas Service in Oxhill church. Come and sing your favourite Carols and hear the Christmas Readings. Oxhill Festival choir will be gathered to sing for us.

Bring a torch or candle in a jar so that you can join in the singing. Mulled wine and mince pies will be served afterwards.

Look forward to a "full House" as usual.

## ST.LAWRENCE'S CHURCH, OXHILL SERVICES IN DECEMBER

*All are warmly welcome*

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> Advent I:** 9.30am Parish Communion (ML)

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> Advent II:** 9.30am Sunday Praise (BR)

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> Advent III:** 9.30am Parish Communion (ML)

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup>:** 7.30pm The Village Carol Service (NM/ML)

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> Advent IV:** 9.30am Christingle & Crib Service (NM)

**Christmas Day:** 9.30am Christmas Communion( ML)

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> Christmas I:** Service at Tysoe 11am

*For other services in the benefice please see porch notice board*

## VICARAGE NOTES

### Advent and Christmas

There is, of course, a warm welcome to the special services that are held at this time of the year. Advent – the season of preparation for the coming of Christ in glory and as the child of Bethlehem – prefigures the celebration of the Nativity in churches, schools and homes. We sing our carols with joy, forgetting they were once banned by the puritans of Cromwellian times and returned into hymn books only in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The great Christian themes of love, joy and peace can still, I hope, be encouraged by the proclamation of Christmas praise.

### Restoration Project

The faculty application has been approved by the Diocese, so that's moving forward, and the 2nd English Heritage application has been dispatched. We continue to trundle. The porch roof, involving police, insurance, Diocese and English Heritage is also under discussion!

HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ONE AND ALL FROM MARTIN AND MYSELF

Best wishes and God bless,

*Nicholas Morgan 01608 685230*

[braileschurch@gmail.com](mailto:braileschurch@gmail.com)

### DEANERY NEWS FOR DECEMBER/JANUARY

On **Tuesday, February 4<sup>th</sup>** we are very much looking forward to welcoming **Canon David Porter** as our guest at Deanery Synod: David is the Canon for Reconciliation at Coventry Cathedral, and also the Archbishop of Canterbury's Director for Reconciliation at Lambeth Palace. David is world recognised for his work in Reconciliation: he has a wealth of experience in reconciliation and peace-building both from his work in Northern Ireland and through the Community of the Cross of Nails in Coventry, helping us to understand how to manage conflict at whatever level. We shall be meeting at **7.30pm in St. Edmund's Church, Shipston** – there is an open invitation for anyone to come along., and we shall be very pleased to welcome you.

Christmas and the New Year are closing in upon us: some words from Donald Hinton's book, *Seasons and Celebrations*:

Lord, how costly this Christmas is!

But for all the wrong reasons:

cards and cake, tinsel and trees,

driving and drink, parties and presents.

Forgive us, Lord.

Show us the true cost of a true Christmas:

Love and listening, care and comfort.

help and healing, giving and gratitude,

denial and death.

Forgive us, Lord, so that renewed,

we may find the Christmas that leads to Easter

and this meet it with costly love.

Have a wonderful Christmas, as well celebrate that God came to live among us.

*Jill*

## MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING THANKS

Many thanks to all those who supported the Macmillan Coffee Morning and sale held in November in Lower Tysoe. It was, once again a great success and together with donations and sale of lanterns in The Tea Rooms in excess of £1,200 was raised. Which is FANTASTIC!!

A big thank you to all my friends who helped me before, on, and after the day, preparing the house and clearing up. Also to all those who came and bought and for the generous donations.

It was a lot of hard work, but well worth it and for such a wonderful cause.

THANK YOU AGAIN !!

Happy Christmas and good luck in 2014

*Jackie Thompson*

## OXHILL GARDEN CLUB

Monica Evans made a welcome return to the club this month to give a talk with samples, on the stories behind our Christmas greenery. We heard about the reasons for the use of holly, ivy, mistletoe, Christmas trees, yew, Christmas roses, yule logs and the Glastonbury thorn as well as bay and rosemary. She touched on the return of the use of kissing boughs for decoration and included extracts from literature to illustrate her talk. Fertility and drinking seemed to feature heavily in the equation!

Talking of drinking –and eating–our Christmas party is at 7 pm on December 11th in the Old Chapel and Martin [680419] is taking numbers and making a list of what you would like to donate to the food.

Our January speaker has had to disappoint us for now, but Reg has managed to book the well known sculptor, James Butler of Radway to speak and show slides of his work. This promises to be a first class evening, and to welcome in the New Year, we have decided to start at 7pm with a drink before James begins his talk. So put January 16th **7 pm** in your new diary now.

*Ruth Gibson*

# OXHILL VILLAGE HALL – UPCOMING EVENTS

## **Christmas Lunch – Monday, 9 December**

Our traditional 3 course Christmas Lunch with wine for people 65 & over (and their partners, of any age) in the Village will be held at the Village Hall, starting at 12.30pm on Monday 9 December. In addition to the meal and drinks, we have a little light entertainment. Gaynor van Dijk is sending out invitations but if you know of anyone who is entitled to attend but has not received an invitation, please let Pat Crowther on 680705 know. Transport to and from the Village Hall will be available if needed.

## **Christmas Cocktails & Canapés followed by 60's & 70's Disco – Friday, 13 Dec**

Our very successful Cocktail evening to celebrate the Christmas season, consisting of a variety of Canapés which can be washed down with some Bubbly, Cocktails or a glass of Beer takes place on Friday 13 December. The Hall will be specially decorated to reflect the season and appropriate mood music will be playing softly in the background for this special Posh Frocks & Black Tie (or suits) event.

At around 10.00pm, the mood will change, handbags will be placed on the floor to dance around and the music volume will go up as the Christmas 60's & 70's Disco starts up!

The price will be £12.50 per head and includes a selection of delicious canapés and 2 drinks. Additional drinks will be available and the evening will start at 8.00pm. This is a great way to start the Christmas season and meet up and socialise with your friends.

Tickets, which should be ordered in advance, from Tricia Harbour on 680676.

## **Burns Night Celebration – Saturday, 25 January, 2014**

Following the successes of previous years we are staging another Burns Night celebration on Saturday, 25 January, 2014. The evening will be a traditional event with Haggis (Vegetarian alternative available), Tatties and Neeps and a wee dram to keep out the cold. Our talented Scots from the Village will be on hand to recall and toast the life of Rabbie Burns, 'address' the Haggis and entertain us.

The evening will start at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm Dinner

**Tickets, which cost £12.50 per person, need to be ordered and paid for in advance** as this is always a sell-out. They are available from Tricia Harbour on 680676.

## THURSDAY AFTERNOON - KNIT & NATTER

Our November sessions have again been very well supported and in December we only have one meeting and that is on Thursday, 12 December at 2.00pm.

On this particular Thursday we will be decorating 'candle illuminated' Lanterns for the Christmas season and all are welcome.

If you don't want to participate in the above, feel free to come along for a cup of tea and to 'Knit & Natter'. Also don't forget the BOOK EXCHANGE. If you'd like to know more, then call Tricia Harbour on 680676 or feel free to just turn up and join in.

We will start again in the New Year with our first session on Thursday, 9 January, 2014, starting at 2.00pm.

## QUARTO AT THE VILLAGE HALL

On Friday November 15<sup>th</sup> the Village Hall reverberated to the sounds of Quarto as they sang and entertained nearly 50 folk to their own special blend of singing and amusing anecdotes. Here are a few quotes from the audience:



"I thought the Quarto gig at the Village Hall was the most entertaining event I have known there. And I've been to a few!"

"Just a quickie to say how much we enjoyed Quarto and thank you for arranging it. We need more evenings like that in the village hall. They worked very hard and were great fun. Please pass on our thanks"

"We thought Quarto were excellent and great fun"

"Thank you so much for letting us know about the Quarto gig - it was such fun. We had a lovely time and even our aged neighbour was heard to chuckle out loud."

"Thank you, and Quarto, for a thoroughly entertaining evening on Friday. It was a novel experience for us both, but a most enjoyable one."

*Roger Goodman*

# NOTES OF OXHILL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 12<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2013 AT 8.00 PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL

The meeting, chaired by Grenville Moore, was attended by Parish Councillors Carol Taylor, David Hill, Tom Heritage and Brian Badger.

## **MATTERS DISCUSSED**

### **Planning**

Oxhill PC supported Tysoe's objection to the proposed 80 dwelling development on the Oxhill Road. The two concerns being extra through traffic and potential increase in flooding.

Planning permission has been granted for (i) detached garage and room over at Merrilees, (ii) retention of single storey wooden building and porch for Farm Shop at Red Horse, (iii) Sheep housing – agricultural building at Church Farm. Planning permission refused for replacement garage at The Old Church House. Planning applications withdrawn at (i) Applegrove - demolition of one dwelling and construction of two, (ii) proposed 2-storey extension and lean-to 3 Peacock Cottages.

Planning application were returned with no objection for (i) retail unit with office space and staff facilities, car parking and amended vehicular access at Windmill Farm, (ii) single storey rear extension to form kitchen and garden room at Morningside, (iii) first floor side extension and new porch at Hillox. Planning application to demolish brick/stone boundary wall at Merrilees returned that this wall be replaced with either hornton stone or matching brick.

### **Sewer Network – Whatcote Road**

Investigatons have been concluded and Severn Trent are planning to replace the public sewers along Whatcote Road. They will endeavour to minimise disruption where possible and update residents as they get closer to the proposal construction date.

### **Electoral Review- Stratford-on-Avon**

It is proposed that SDC have 36 councillors instead of the 53 at present with the presumption in favour of a single member warding pattern. A notice is posted on the notice board and if you are interested in this you can go to website, [consultation.lgbce.org.uk](http://consultation.lgbce.org.uk) and give your comments.

## **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 14th January 2014 at 8.00 pm in the Village Hall.

*Angela Kean, Clerk*



## IMPORTANT NOTICE

I would like to make everyone aware that the Parish Council has received an email from Stansgate Planning informing us that it is their intention to prepare and submit an outline planning application for the Leys Field that lies behind Main Street and Whatcote Road. They state that once the initial background surveys are complete they would welcome the opportunity to meet and discuss their proposals. We will of course keep the village up to date on any further information we receive.

*Grenville Moore*

## GREAT RESPONSE TO VILLAGE SURVEY

Just to update that we have had 112 survey forms returned in the Oxhill Village Survey, which is a fantastic achievement and is an 82 per cent response rate. In fact, there are believed to be a few more forms on their way! So, thank you for submitting your form.

As mentioned, analysing the forms is the task in hand for December with a draft report and plan to follow in January and also consultation with you all.

*Sue Hunt*  
*Chair, Oxhill Parish Plan Project Steering Group*

# AGM

**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> Jan 2014 at 7:30pm  
In Tysoe Village Hall**



## **WOT2Grow Community Orchard**

Everyone is welcome so come along and voice your comments  
and help shape the future of your community orchard.

### **WOT A BUMPER YEAR!**

This year we have had a great harvest at the orchard! A big thank you to everyone who came and picked, enjoyed the fruits of their labours, and allowed us to distribute fruit to members and also to the local care homes and infirm residents. Without the good work of weeding, feeding and caring for the plants we would not get such a result so all the efforts throughout the year contribute to the amount of fruit harvested and many thanks to those who have been involved.

We did leave about a dozen apples on the trees just to show that they will fruit in the not too distant future! Next season should see a few more.

The autumn tasks are progressing well and we have grease bands round the older trees, all the summer canes have been pruned and the new ones tied in using a great new clip system. Of course there is the ever present job of weeding which we are getting on with, and like death and taxes, will always be with us in the coming years!

Lots to do in the New Year so do get in touch and come along and help.

See us at [www.wot2grow.co.uk](http://www.wot2grow.co.uk) for details and where you can also send us a [message](#).

## COMPTON VERNEY – EXHIBITIONS November to December

### **Curious Beasts: Animal Prints from the British Museum** 5 October – 15 December

An exhibition of the beautiful and bizarre imagery found in prints of the 15th to the early 19th centuries in the British Museum's collection, featuring prints by well-known artists including Albrecht Dürer, Francisco de Goya and George Stubbs, alongside lesser known and rarely seen treasures. The exhibition includes works created through a variety of different printmaking processes including engraving, woodcut, mezzotint, etching and drypoint. Visitors to the exhibition on Tuesdays and Saturdays will be able to find out about these processes through a demonstration by printer in residence Kate Da'Casto from Leicester Print Workshop before having a go at printmaking themselves.

*Included in exhibition, collection and grounds admission.*

### **A Fantastical Animal Alphabet** 5 October – 15 December

This exhibition accompanies Curious Beasts: Animal Prints from the British Museum and draws inspiration from Enid Marx's (Marco) Animal Alphabet creating A Fantastical Animal Alphabet of new original prints. Marco's Animal Alphabet, as it has become affectionately known, was first printed in 1979 and subsequently published as a book in 2000. A Fantastical Animal Alphabet is presented by Compton Verney in collaboration with Leicester Print Workshop.

*Included in exhibition, collection and grounds admission.*

## WHAT'S ON – Family Activities and Events November to December

### **Marco's missing letters** Until Sun 15 December

Take inspiration from the curious beasts and fantastical animals in our exhibitions and collage your own peculiar creature to complete Marco's Animal Alphabet in our special exhibition activity area. Find more of Enid Marx's fascinating creations and prints in our Marx-Lambert collection.

*Included in exhibition, collection and grounds admission.*

**Leicester Print Workshop Pop-up studio** Until Sunday 15 December  
Leicester Print Workshop, the biggest artists' print studio in the Midlands, is creating a special pop-up studio to accompany the exhibitions *Curious Beasts: Animal Prints from the British Museum* and *A Fantastical Animal Alphabet*. Situated in the exhibition spaces, artist-in-residence Kate Da'Casto will be in the studio every Tuesday and Saturday demonstrating printmaking processes on a working press and creating new work in response to the exhibitions.

*Included in exhibition, collection and grounds admission.*

There will also be workshops with Kate Da'Casto on selected dates. Find out more about our [Monoprinting](#) and [Drypoint Etching](#) workshops at [www.comptonverney.org.uk](http://www.comptonverney.org.uk)

**Winter weekends – Festive music, craft activities and storytelling**

Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 December, Saturday 14 December and Sunday 15 December, 11am-4pm

Join us for these two weekends to get you in the festive mood. Enjoy seasonal music arranged and performed by different groups each day. There will be Royal Spa Brass playing classical and modern family favourites, Holy Trinity Church Choir, baroque music and The Osney Singers performing carols. Plus, don't miss the wintery crafty activities taking place in the Studio and storytelling for the under-5s.

*Included in collection and grounds admission.*

**Open:** Tuesday to Sunday, 11am-5pm, (closed Mondays), until 15 December.

**Admission charges:** Collection and grounds: Adults £6.00, Concessions £5.00, Family £12.00, Child £2.50, Under 5s Free  
Exhibition(s), collections and grounds: Adults £13.00, Concessions £11.00, Family £26.00, Child £2.50, Under 5s Free.

## CHRISTMAS QUIZ.....

1. What is the chemical formula of snow?
2. US President Franklin Pierce introduced what to White House Christmas tradition in 1856?
3. Which charity in 1949 was the first to produce a Christmas card?
4. What red-blooming Christmas plant came originally from Mexico?
5. Brandy is made from distilling what?
6. What was Girls Aloud's 2002 UK Christmas number one single?
7. Which famous comedy double-act partner made the first ever UK mobile phone call, New Year's Day, 1985?
8. White Christmas, a cake made of coconut, crisped rice and dried fruit, is popular in which country?
9. Quaid-e-Azam's Birthday is a 25th December celebration in which country?
10. Who is the narrator in the 2000 film The Grinch Who Stole Christmas?
11. What was the cyclone named that hit Darwin, Australia, in Christmas 1974?
12. Pine needles are said to be a good source of which vitamin?
13. Choirboy Peter Auty sang the film version of which song later recorded as a hit record by Aled Jones?
14. What drink invented by Francis Showering has a fawn mascot?



## CHORAL SINGING



Renowned for the pleasure it has given over centuries, choral singing is very much part of life in South Warwickshire - especially for the Stour Singers and Cantamus - two choirs based in Shipston and directed by Richard Emms.

Stour Singers presents its Christmas Concert on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2013 at St. Edmund's in Shipston, with Britten's Ceremony of Carols, Three Mendelssohn Motets, harp music with soloist Elen Hydref, and carols for all. As from January, the choir will be working on Brahms' Requiem, and Cantamus - Richard's Chamber Choir - will be rehearsing for a concert in Icomb on 29<sup>th</sup> March. The pleasure of choral music is very much in the singing, as well as in the listening. Who can fail to be moved by the choirs created by Gareth Malone? "If you can walk - you can dance, and if you can talk - you can sing" an African saying tells us. It is not only Gareth who can transform the tentative into the really rather glorious - many of Richard's choir members would testify to the encouragement and the teaching which enables them to find their voices. Stour Singers welcomes anyone who wishes to sing, and would especially love to involve some additional tenors.

Cantamus, the chamber choir, would also welcome enquiries from experienced tenor and bass singers. For this choir, singers do need to be able to read music well, be confident in their singing, learning new music quickly.

For tickets for 7<sup>th</sup> December: R Clarke, 27 High Street, Shipston.  
If you would like to sing: Richard Emms 01608 662163.  
For general enquiries: Yvonne Ridley 01789 269587.

ORCHESTRA  
OF THE  
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*'this excellent British orchestra'* Indianapolis Star

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON  
HOME OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

# Shipston Home Nursing Christmas Messiah



**Saturday 21 December, 7.30pm**

St Gregory's Church

Tredington, nr. Shipston-on-Stour

Join Orchestra of the Swan and  
their Chamber Choir for a stunning  
performance of Handel's Messiah.

All proceeds from the evening shall  
go towards Shipston Home Nursing.

**David Curtis** conductor

**Orchestra of the Swan**

**Orchestra of the Swan Chamber Choir**

**Tickets: £15.00**

To include a drink & canapé s

**Box office: 01608 674929**

Or send a cheque, made payable to to  
Shipston Home Nursing, To Rebecca Mawle,  
Lower Farm Barn, Great Wolford, CV36 5NQ

[www.orchestraoftheswan.org](http://www.orchestraoftheswan.org)



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## WHATS ON IN & AROUND OXHILL

### December

Sunday 1st	20:00	The Peacock - Quiz Night
Tuesday 3rd		Green & Blue bin collection
Wednesday 4th	10:00	Village Hall - Mobile Library
Wednesday 4th	10:30	The Peacock - Village Coffee Morning
Monday 9th	12:30	Village Hall, Christmas Lunch
Tuesday 10th		Grey bin collection
Wednesday 11th	19:00	Old Chapel, Garden Club Christmas Party
Thursday 12th	14:00	Village Hall, Knit & Natter
Friday 13th	20:00	Village Hall, Christmas Cocktails & Canapes
Sunday 15th	23:59	COPY DEADLINE FOR THE NEWS
Tuesday 17th		Green & Blue bin collection
Wednesday 18th	12:30	The Peacock - Village Lunch
Thursday 19th	19:30	Carol Service
Tuesday 24th		Grey bin collection

### January

Thursday 9th	14:00	Village Hall, Knit & Natter
Tuesday 14th	20:00	Village Hall, Oxhill Parish Council Meeting
Thursday 16th	19:00	Garden Club
Saturday 25th	19:00	Village Hall, Burns Night
Tuesday 28th	19:30	Tysoe Village Hall, WOT2Grow AGM

### February

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