THE OXHILL NEWS



No. 411 February 2009

COFFEE MORNING

Bring and Buy Coffee Morning

Come along and have a coffee and a chat

Saturday 28th February

10 - 12

Oxhill Village Hall

In aid of Church funds

MOBILE LIBRARY

The library van will continue to visit Oxhill on Tuesdays, stopping at the Village Hall at 10 a.m. and staying there for 30 minutes.

In February the van will visit us on Tuesday 17th.

You can renew books between van visits by calling 01926 851031, or online at www.Warwickshire.gov.uk/wild.

Editor

REFUSE COLLECTION

Driving round the village last month it appeared that there is still a little confusion about which bins will be cleared on which dates. To try and help out a little, Grey and Blue topped bins will be collected in February on Tuesday 3rd and 17th, while only grey topped bins will be collected on Tuesday 10th and 24th. The green recycling bins will not be collected at all this month.

Editor

MARCH ISSUE

Please could I have all copy for the March issue by Midnight on **Tuesday, 24th February**? 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. 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

This shot of the 'control team' at the Burns' Night Supper was taken by David Miller.

BETTE BENCH

As I am sure many of you already know, Bette Bench sadly passed away on 7th January after a short illness following a fall. Victor, Bette and their daughter Davina moved to Oxhill in 1967 from Bishops Tachbrook. Bette was born in Liverpool and came to Learnington Spa aged three. During the blitz she worked at Ryton-on-Dunsmore aircraft factory, but when Victor was sent to India with the REME she volunteered for the ATS and became a radar operator stationed in Bristol and then Hull.

In 1945 Victor and Bette obtained leave to get married at All Saints Church in Leamington Spa, after which they both returned to their regiments. They remained a devoted couple until Victor's death in 2004.

Those of us who knew Bette will remember her as elegant, smart and always well-dressed. Even after the onset of her illness, she continued to take a pride in her appearance and to get as much enjoyment out of life as possible. She will be sadly missed in the village, especially by that little group "the Saturday lunch ladies". Our sympathies go to her daughter Davina and her grandson James.

Grenville Moore

IRENE CARNELLEY

Unfortunately I have to let you know that Irene, who lived at Willow Brook on Back Lane, passed away on 30th December 2008. She was 101. The funeral has already taken place and was well attended. Irene moved from Oxhill in 1994, but regularly attended the Christmas lunches in the village hall, and kept in touch with many people in the village.

Nicola Kendall, Willow Brook (1995-2004)

ST. LAWRENCE'S CHURCH, OXHILL

SERVICES IN FEBRUARY

All are warmly welcome

Sunday 1st	Epiphany IV	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion (ML)
Sunday 8th	Septuagesima	8.30 a.m.	Holy Communion (ML)
Sunday 15th	Sexagesima	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion (Rev Bill Rolfe)
Sunday 22nd	Quinquagesima	9.30 a.m.	Family Service (NM)
Wednesday 25th	Ash Wednesday	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion at Tysoe
		(9.30 a.m.	Brailes)

CHURCH FLOWER ROTA

Lent is approaching (so no flowers in church for six weeks) and I will therefore be making a new Flower Rota for the year beginning with Easter Saturday on April 11th. I will be getting this out soon so if there is anyone new to the village who would like to do a flower duty please contact me asap. I would like to offer thanks all those who arranged flowers in Church during the last year and for all the help we received at the time of the Festivals. We would be glad of any extra help with flowers or foliage for Easter and help to decorate the church. Anybody who feels they would like to help even if they have not done it before will be made most welcome.

Carol Fox, 01295 680223

ST. LAWRENCE'S CHURCH, OXHILL

EVENTS FOR 2009

Saturday February 28th	Coffee Morning - Oxhill Village Hall
Sunday May 17th	Roast Lamb Lunch - Posy & Graeme McDonald's
Saturday 20th & Sunday 21st June	Scarecrow Weekend
Sunday September 20th	Spit Roast Lunch, Treasure and Duck Hunt
Saturday November 14th	Auction of Promises - Oxhill Village Hall

Please make notes of these dates in your diaries.

Lilian Welsby

INFORMATION PLEASE

The Church wall was damaged by a car on the night of Friday 23rd January. The damage is quite extensive and from the bits of car that have been picked up it appears to have been a Red Nissan.

If you have any information to offer about the damage please will you contact either Carol Fox on 680223 or Charles MacCall on 680306.

Shipston Deanery Lent Services 2009

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

These services will be held at 7:45pm on the following

Tuesdays in Lent:

March 3 rd	-	Alderminster
March 10 th March 17th	- -	Brailes Burmington
March 24 th	-	Honington
March 31 st	-	Preston
April 7 th	-	Shipston - Bishop John Stroyan <i>(Holy Communion)</i>
The they	ma +hia v	can is based on the Vark Counse:

The theme this year is based on the York Course:

'Christ in the Wilderness'

HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT COMMUNITY FORUMS?

The Community Forums are an advisory body, which act as a key vehicle for community engagement within the locality. Members of the public can raise issues of concern and wherever possible, together with relevant agencies, solutions to those concerns can be worked out.

The next forum meeting in your area is scheduled to take place on **Thursday 26th February 2009, 7 p.m.** at **Quinton Village Hall, Lower Quinton.**

If you have a specific concern or problem, then come along to the local surgery from 6 p.m. -7 p.m. where you will be able to speak to your local Safer Neighbourhoods Policing Team, Warwickshire County Council or Stratford-on-Avon District Council Officer.

If you would like to suggest an issue for a future Community Forum meeting, or get involved, please contact the WCC Strafford Area Office on 01789 290784 or email: stratfordoffice@awarwickshire.gov.uk.

For further information on the forums visit ww.warwickshire.gov.uklcommunityforums

Angela Kean

NATURE NOTES FOR FEBRUARY

February comes in like a sturdy country maiden with a tinge of the red, hard winter apple on her healthy cheek, and as she strives against the wind, wraps her russet coloured cloak well about her, while with bent head, she keeps throwing back the long hair that blows about her face, and though at times half blinded by the sleet and the snow, still continues her course courageously ... the mellow-voiced blackbird and the speckle-breasted thrush make music among the opening blossoms of the blackthorn, to gladden her way; and she sees faint flushing of early buds here and there, which tell her the long miles of hedgerows will soon be green. *Chambers Book of Days 1864*

During my ramblings last month I mentioned that unlike man, birds rarely if ever offer unprovoked violence to each other. How wrong could I be. Having done some research I can now reveal the dark side of our lovely feathered friends. All the following have been observed: Herring gulls and Jackdaws regularly preving on Puffin, killing and disembowelling them and swallowing the fledglings whole; Blackbacked gulls slaughtering Manx shearwaters; Water Rail drowning small passerines (House sparrows, Great tits, Blue tits, Dunnock and Chaffinch) – they have been observed beating to death (in the manner of a Thrush breaking snails) all the above birds and then eating them; Great tit killing and carrying off a Goldcrest; Great tit killing a Blue tit at nest; Robin killing Song thrush nestlings (it is worth noting here that a Robin has also been recorded feeding nestling thrushes); Robin killing Robin; Dunnock killing Dunnock; Starling killing nestling Blackbirds; and of course not forgetting the 'serial killers' of the bird world, the birds of prey – ruthless, quick and efficient, apart from Buzzards and Kites, which are predominantly scavengers. However, there have been odd records of Shelduck in unison diving and attacking Marsh Harriers, also Carrion crows will regularly harass and drive off birds of prey, and there are accounts of Crows killing Kestrels. So next time you put food out for the birds, beware, there are killers lurking in the bushes!

Talking of feeding the birds, the recent cold snap has brought a plethora of birds into our gardens, and apart from the regulars, we have had visits from Pied wagtails, Goldcrests, Great tits, Coal tits, Fieldfares, Redwings, and a chattering class of bumbarrels (Long-tailed tits). I have heard from George (Ed.) that he has had a pair of Grey wagtails in his garden. I have on occasion seen them in Janet's field next to the chapel – nice one George! He also reports in his garden a "bedraggled" Redpoll.

Harking back to killers – I can report a curious account. We spent the New Year in Salcombe in Devon with some friends who live there who told us a strange story from back in the summer. They were spending a quiet afternoon sitting in their garden enjoying the sunshine when they were alerted by a steady buzzing drone, which they recognised as swarming bees. They looked up to see indeed a swarm of bees moving along from tree top to tree top. As they watched, as if from nowhere a large group of Dragonflies, they calculated about 30 individuals of several different species, began to fly into the swarming bees and could be seen attacking and then carrying off their victims. This behaviour carried on as the two groups flew out of view. Dragonflies of

course feed on other flying insects and are very fast and efficient in their pursuit. I have seen a Hawker take a butterfly, but never a bee. Why weren't they stung?

February 20th – the Sun enters the House of Pisces. "The man born under Pisces shall be a great goer, a fornicator, a mocker and covetous; he will say one thing and do another. He shall trust in his sapience, he shall have good fortune; he will be a defender of widows and orphans. He shall be fearful on water: he shall soon pass all adversities and live seventy-two years after Nature.

The woman shall be delicious, familiar in jests, pleasant of courage, fervent, a great drinker. She shall have sickness of her eyes and be sorrowful by shame, needlessly. Her husband shall leave her, and she shall have much trouble with strangers. She shall travel much, have pain in her stomach, and live seventy-seven years."

Kalendar of Shepheardes, 1604

Grenville Moore

VICARAGE NOTES

6.30 p.m. Saturday February 28th

I shall be marking 30 years as Incumbent of Brailes and Sutton with a choral Evensong at St. George's. All friends from the churches and villages are warmly invited – a glass of wine will replace the sermon! If any singers would like to augment the choir for the occasion (rehearsals the previous 2 Fridays), please let me know. The collection will be for the League of Friends of Shipston Hospital.

Oberammergau 2010

I shall be leading a group with McCabe Travel to the Tyrol and the world famous Passion Play on August 30th 2010. The basic cost of the 8 day half board holiday will be about \pounds 1100 including the play "package". Please contact me for further details.

Lent 2009

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and there will be the usual series of Lent Services around the churches of the Deanery on Tuesday evenings. A flyer will be available at church and there is a warm welcome to one or all of these occasions. The theme will be "Christ in the wilderness". I hope that St.Lawrence's will be using "Lent Boxes" and I am suggesting the "Water Well" project this year.

Thought for the month

The concluding words of the Ash Wednesday Gospel are "...but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through and steal; for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Thought provoking and poetic words!

God bless,

Nicholas Morgan, 01608 685230

NOTES OF A MEETING OF OXHILL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 20TH JANUARY 2009 AT 8.00 P.M. IN THE VILLAGE HALL

The meeting, chaired by David Hill, was attended by Councillors, Tom Heritage, Gwyneth Adams and Carol Taylor.

MATTERS DISCUSSED

Vacancy in the Office of Parish Councillor

Following the resignation of Hugh Rowse, the statutory notice has been posted to allow electors to request an election. If ten people do not request such an election in the time allotted then the Parish Council will be asked to co-opt a person to fill the vacancy. Therefore we would ask that anyone wishing to be considered to fill the position of Parish Councillor, please let me know, in writing, prior to the next meeting. My address is "Brookside", Back Lane.

Finance

The precept for the year 2009/2010 was discussed. Established charges (insurance, clerk's expenses, audit fees); grants towards mowing the churchyard and village hall green were taken into account. The "free penny" money for this period amounts to \pounds 1550, out of which we would again support production costs of the Oxhill News and First Responder kit insurance. The service given by Mike and Barbara Shepard is very much appreciated and has proved a very valuable service to the village in emergency first aid response. The village hall have been granted 60% of the cost of tiling the kitchen, bar and toilets by Stratford District Council. The Parish Council has agreed to fund the remaining 40%. Also the cost of 4 large tables will be provided. It was agreed to continue affiliation to the C.V.S. A precept of \pounds 2500 would be requested to cover the cost of the above. This was agreed by the meeting. A grant of \pounds 200 was paid to the Village Hall for mowing their green during the 2008 season.

Highways

Replies have been received from both the County Council and Police Authority regarding the accidents in the vicinity of Hogwood Farm on the A422. The Police have identified this location as a collision "cluster" site and are asking the County Surveyor to inspect the road surface with a view to re-surfacing with a skid resistant surface. We will send a further letter to the County Council underlining these comments and asking for the work to be carried out.

Planning

Where planning applications impact on neighbouring parishes Stratford District Planning Department have undertaken to inform all concerned.

Planning application for alterations, changes of use, and extension at Wixey Transport was refused.

Planning application for extension to The Barn, Kineton Road had been received.

Government White Paper "Pharmacy in England:

The Parish Council along with many people in the village wrote objecting to the threat of closure of rural dispensing facilities at surgeries. We understand the Government are no longer pursuing this.

Beech Tree

Tom Heritage has agreed to safely dispose of the metal frame removed from the beech tree in Beech Road.

Refuse and Recycling

Green bin collection will recommence on 6 April on a fortnightly basis along with the recycled waste. From this time your grey bins will also be collected on a fortnightly basis. A provision has been made for kitchen waste to be collected weekly, one week in your green bin and one week in your grey bin. Further details and collection calendars will be sent out with the council tax bills at the end of March.

Freedom of Information Act

In line with the Freedom of Information Act, Oxhill Parish Council maintains an open and transparent approach to its business.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 10th March 2009 at 8.00 p.m. in the Village Hall

Angela Kean, Clerk

SHIPSTON HOME NURSING

A Complementary Therapies Day

Saturday February 21st

10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

at

Lower Farm Barn, Great Wolford.

Come and talk to Holistic Therapists to explore the benefits of Aromatherapy Massage, Energy Field Therapy, Indian Head Massage, Meditation, Nutrition and Reflexology

Enjoy a tranquil experience to improve your wellbeing!

£15 per head to include refreshments

Also included are 3 x 15 minutes sessions with 3 therapists of your choice.

Light lunch (soup and bread)

DONATIONS GRATEFULLY RECEIVED

Please call Rebecca on 01608 674929 to book your place

OXHILL GARDEN CLUB

A most interesting and nostalgic look at country life covering the period 1850-1950 was portrayed by David Smith at this month's meeting, some of which we could recall as distant memories. A dying art - hedge laying - was mentioned but we were able to point out the beauty of one recently re-layed round the corner in Oxhill. The problems of purity of water, its shortage and the inconvenience of its not being "on tap" in the home, the great use of horse power and how it was superseded with modern machinery, the very labour intensive country life, which would have been experienced so close to home in our own village, and much more made up the session and gave thought to reflection of what life was like just so short a time ago. Many thanks to Mr Smith and his collection of memorabilia in the form of slides.

The Club meets just once a month on the 3rd Thursday. We always look for new members - just a few pounds joining fee and 50p per session to include a variety of interesting, informative, amusing and useful tips from our speakers plus the obligatory cup of tea or coffee and biscuits to round off the evening. Do come and join us at the next meeting on 19th February in the Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. for "A-Z Climbers and Wall Shrubs" where you will be given a warm welcome.

Sue Duckworth, Joint Secretary

WANTED - BLACK BOXES

Now that we all have our large 'blue top' wheelie bins (I have got my name down for the smaller version hopefully available in April), it could be that the old black recycling box you used to use is taking up valuable space. If you no longer have need of it, I would be pleased to take it off your hands. The boxes are mouse-proof (I believe!) and an ideal size for storing frames of drawn combs or other beekeeping equipment.

If you can help with boxes (and/or lids) please ring 680041.

Douglas Nethercleft

VILLAGE HALL CLEANING ROTA

Week beginning Monday February 2nd Week beginning Monday February 9th Week beginning Monday February 16th Week beginning Monday February 23rd Week beginning Monday March 2nd *Una Hill* Julie & Keith Una & Jane Dot & Judy Gwyn & George Angela & Gaynor

BURNS NIGHT SUPPER

Congratulations to the movers and shakers with Caledonian connections (pictured on the front cover) who, with a little assistance behind the scenes from Sassenach committee members, put on such an excellent and memorable evening in the Village Hall.

A thoroughly good time was had by all. And haggis is surprisingly good, isn't it? *George Adams*

TYSOE & OXHILL WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

When Sonia Beesley auditioned to be a reporter for the BBC she was sent to interview 'Dan the saddleman' at Cheltenham racecourse. She had no experience put plenty of nerve, having phoned the producer only the day before to ask for a job!

'I didn't even know what a saddleman was,' she admitted to WI members at their January meeting, 'so I thought I'd just ask him, and let him do the talking.'

Little did she know that the lessons learned then would stand her in good stead for the future, when she went on to interview the likes of Margaret Thatcher, and worked on flagship radio programmes such as Woman's Hour and Today.

Back then, in the 1960s, if you wanted to be a journalist there was no training – you just got on with the job and either you could do it or you couldn't', explained Sonia.

Luckily, she had an instinctive feel for what questions to ask and a natural ability to get on with people and put them at ease. "Some people just want someone who will listen to them", she said.

Even Margaret Thatcher confided in her, revealing that she insisted on sorting all Denis' socks and shirts herself even though it was often a struggle to find the time!

Sonia (now Lady Hornby), had more tales to tell from the time she secretly interviewed Rosalynn Carter, then First Lady of the USA, in a room no bigger than a cupboard, to meeting Richard Burton in a pub in Oxford.

After a career made out of listening to others, luckily for WI members, at their January meeting, it was Sonia doing the talking for a change.

WI meetings are held on the first Wednesday in each month at 7.30 p.m. in Tysoe Village Hall. They are a great way to catch up with friends and meet new ones. Visitors will be given a warm welcome so if you like the sound of any of the following talks do feel free to come and join us.

Wed 4th February	'Anecdotes' by the Rev Bill Rolfe
Wed 4th March	'The life and works of Chopin' by Neville Tarratt
Wed 1st April	'Understanding the bird of prey' by Geoff Dalton
Julie Smart	

CANTAMUS IN CHERINGTON

Tuesday 10th February

There will be an opportunity to hear Shipston's a cappella choir, conducted by Richard Emms, sing the very beautiful Four-part Mass by William Byrd on Tuesday 10 February at 7.30 p.m. in St John the Baptist Church, Cherington. This will be a liturgical performance within a Communion Service taken by the Revd Richard Smith.

For lovers of unaccompanied singing this is a must! Byrd was the foremost composer during the reigns of Elizabeth I and James I and ranked as one of the most individual and inspired composers of the late Renaissance period. For more information, please contact Brian Aspery on 01608 686927.

TYSOE METHODIST CHURCH

ALPHA COURSE

10 weeks commencing Wednesday 4th March 2009 at 6.30 p.m.

The Alpha Course provides a practical introduction to the Christian Faith and an opportunity to explore the meaning of life. It is designed primarily for people who aren't churchgoers; each course is open to everyone who would like to attend. Guests attend for a wide variety of reasons; some want to investigate whether God exists; others are concerned about what happens after death. Some people have particular questions that they would like to discuss; others want to understand other peoples' beliefs or would like to explore what the purpose of life is. Many guests have never been to church, others may have attended church occasionally but feel they have never really understood the basics of the Christian faith. As one of the first disciples, Philip, said to his brother Nathanael "COME AND SEE!!"

Each session will start with a light meal. There is

NO CHARGE

NO OBLIGATION NO HARD SELL

Contacts: Rev'd John Taylor; 01926 640385 Douglas Nethercleft; 01295 680041

TYSOE MARIONETTE GROUP

If you are an ELEPHANT, you will hardly need reminding that there is soon to be something very unusual happening in the BARN THEATRE in Baldwins Lane, Upper Tysoe. Our puppet creatures, The Whale, The Camel and The Elephant are all waiting to perform.

We are giving five private performances of "JUST HOW", as follows:

Saturday 28th February	Matinee at 2:30 p.m. & Evening at 7:00 p.m.
Friday 13th March	Evening at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday 14th March	Matinee at 2:30p.m. & Evening at 7:00 p.m.

This is a family show, and runs for one hour, plus interval for liquid refreshments, so we would very much like to welcome families to a unique entertainment. This is real theatre in miniature with magical sets, wonderful characters, lively singing and uproarious humour.

Admission, by pre-paid ticket only: Children (must be aged 4+) ± 3 & Adults ± 5 Contact: Jon and Ann Beeny on 01295 680 431 or JonandAnn@annbeeny.f9.co.uk. For more detail visit www.Warkcom.net/TysoeMarionettes

All proceeds will be donated to Tysoe Primary School PTA.

YOUR VILLAGE HALL NEEDS YOU!

This coming April a number of the Village Hall Committee members have indicated that they wish to step down having made a tremendous contribution over the past few years. Therefore there will be a number of vacancies on the Committee that will need to be filled and the Committee is now looking for enthusiastic volunteers to join us.

The commitment is not huge because the Committee should have around 12 members and so tasks can be shared around. However, we do need people who feel that they have the time to be able to contribute. The out-going members have done a great job in stabilising the finances, improving and maintaining the building and have arranged many great events. There is every possibility that these events will decline in number if we cannot find replacement committee members.

Please think about whether you could find the time to take up the baton and make a contribution to our Village life. The AGM is scheduled for April 28th and that is when the retiring members will step down and the new members will be elected so please put this date in your Diary and come along to see how you can help.

Derek Harbour

[I feel it should be made clear that, by rule, all members of the committee stand down at the A.G.M. Providing they are willing to serve again there is of course no problem with them being re-appointed. Ed.]

WOULD YOU LIKE TO KEEP BEES?

A lot of people keep bees because they produce honey, one of the healthiest and most natural foods and one which has been valued by man since prehistory as a sweetener. Others keep bees because they are interested in the study of bees and of their habits; bees are fascinating creatures and there is always something new to learn about them. Beekeeping is an enjoyable open air hobby bringing you in contact with people from all walks of life. Bees can be kept by almost everyone except a very small minority who are allergic to bee stings.

If you would like to learn more, contact me on 680041.

Douglas Nethercleft

WEEKDAY WALKERS

Our walk for February will be as follows:

Friday 13th February

The walk is a 4.00 mile circular walk from Hornton with 160 feet of ascent. Lunch will be at "The Dun Cow" Hornton. We will leave Oxhill at 10:00 a.m.

Friday 27th February

The walk is a 5.00 mile circular walk from Shutford with 210 feet of ascent. Lunch will be at "The George & Dragon" Shutford. We will leave Oxhill at 9:45a.m.

Please contact Jim Saxton on 01295 680613 or at saxton@tiscali.co.uk before the Thursday prior to the walk.

LIMERICK CORNER

There was a young man of Oporta, Who daily got shorter and shorter. The reason, he said, Was the hod on his head, Which was filled with the heaviest mortar. *Rev. Charles Lutwidge Dodgson (1832-98)*

WHAT'S ON IN & AROUND OXHILL

February

Wednesday 4th	11.00	The Peacock – Village Coffee Morning
	7.30	Tysoe Village Hall – W.I.
Tuesday 10th	7.30	St. John's Church, Cherington – Cantamus Concert
Tuesday 17th	10.00	Village Hall – Mobile Library
Wednesday 18th		The Peacock – Village Lunch
Thursday 19th	7.30	Village Hall – Garden Club
Saturday 21st 1	.0-3	Lower Farm Barn, Great Wolford – Shipston Home Nursing; see inside for details
Tuesday 24th	23.59	Copy deadline for the News
Thursday 26th	7.00	Lower Quinton Village Hall – Community Forum
Saturday 28th	2.30 &	7 Barn Theatre, Tysoe – Marionette Show
	6.30	St. George's, Brailes - special evensong; see inside for details

March

Wednesday 4th	6.30	Tysoe Methodist Church – Alpha Course
	7.30	Tysoe Village Hall – W.I.
Tuesday 10th	8.00	Village Hall – Parish Council Meeting
Friday 13th	7.30	Barn Theatre, Tysoe – Marionette Show
Saturday 14th	2.30 &	7 Barn Theatre, Tysoe – Marionette Show

April

Wednesday 1st	7.30	Tysoe Village Hall – W.I.
Tuesday 28th	8.00	Village Hall – Village Hall A.G.M.

'What's On In Oxhill' is on the inside back cover this month



Oxhillians past and present welcome in 2009 in style in the Village Hall

