

THE OXHILL NEWS



NO. 422
JANUARY 2010

REFUSE COLLECTIONS IN JANUARY

Let me start by apologising for the mistakes in the December issue. I hope you all managed to understand my mish-mash of dates and days and put your bins out at the right time. From what I saw going round the village none of you had any trouble at all.

Collections will be made in January as follows:

Thursday 7th	Recycling Blue and Green bins	(NOT Tues 5th)
Wednesday 13th	Landfill Grey bin	(NOT Tues 12th)
Tuesday 19th	Recycling Blue and Green bins	
Tuesday 26th	Landfill Grey bin	

Unless, of course, I've made another boo-boo.

Editor

DEAR OXHILLIANS!

Many thanks to all those who sponsored me for the Great North Run in September. I crossed the finish line a slightly dishevelled and sunburnt musketeer after 2 hours 40 minutes.

Having collected and counted all the monies, I'd like to announce that I raised £815.21 for Marie Curie Cancer Care.

Thanks again for your generosity and support,

All for one and one for all!

Eleanor Collins

FEBRUARY ISSUE

Please could I have all copy for the February issue by Midnight on **Sunday, 24th January**? 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 photograph of St Lawrence's Church was taken during the snowy period in February 2009 by Jo van Dijk.

OXHILL VILLAGE HALL

BURNS NIGHT DINNER

Saturday 30th January

A super meal with tatties, neeps and, of course, haggis, traditional music, PLUS an enchanting tale from Rabbie Burns (courtesy of Andy McDonald) will form the background to our popular Burns Night celebrations. This is indeed a special event and you should put the date in your diaries now and, most importantly, reserve your tickets by calling Tricia now! Tickets cost £15.00 each and will include a wee dram.

Tickets for the event, which will start at 7.00 p.m. for 7.30 p.m., are available from Tricia Harbour on 680676.

Derek Harbour

WEEKDAY WALKERS

There will be two walks in January, as follows:

Friday 8th January

This is a 3.75 mile circular walk from Shenington with 170 feet of ascent returning for lunch at "The Bell Inn" in Shenington. We will leave Oxhill at 10:00 a.m.

Friday 22nd January

This is a 4.5 mile circular walk from Ilmington with 570 feet of ascent affording splendid views, returning for lunch at "The Red Lion" in Ilmington. We will leave Oxhill at 9.45 a.m.

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

ST. PETER'S CHURCH WHATCOTE

CHRISTMAS PUDDING SALES, 2009

Once again many thanks to our regular and some new customers. Sales of the puddings have proved to be very popular. The total profit is £465.57. By 1st December all 168 puddings were sold. Unfortunately, I had to disappoint some would be customers who came after that date. May I thank you all for your support and at the start of a new decade, every good wish for a happy and peaceful New Year.

June Wreford

RECYCLING NEWS

Most of our readers will have spotted by now that we are allowed to put more things into our blue-top recycling bins than was once the case. For those of you have missed it, you can now include clean aluminium foil, clean yoghurt pots and margarine tubs and clean plastic food containers. Plastic food wrappings like cling film and plastic carrier bags are still excluded.

Editor

ST. LAWRENCE'S CHURCH, OXHILL

SERVICES IN JANUARY

All are warmly welcome

Sunday 3rd	Christmas II	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion (ML)
Sunday 10th	Epiphany I	3.30 p.m.	Evensong (ML)
Sunday 17th	Epiphany II	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion (ML)
Sunday 24th	Epiphany III	9.30 a.m.	Family Service (NM)
Sunday 31st	Epiphany IV	11.00 a.m.	United Benefice Communion at Tysoe

For details of other services in the Benefice please see the list in Church or telephone the clergy.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Baptisms: welcomed into God's family

December 13th Meg and Hope Regan

Weddings: congratulations and best wishes to

December 12th Alan Hedley and Sue Duckworth

VICARAGE NOTES

Thought for the month

January 6th, the Feast of the Epiphany, Twelfth Night, has long been grouped with Christmas, with the popular image of the Kings arriving to see a baby stretching poetic licence. However, the BCP title of the day is "The manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles" with the theme of Christ being revealed – a Jewish child put on the world stage! The world needs the voice of that child more and more, it seems to me. Sincere thanks go to all who shared in the special services and events over Christmas; decorators and arrangers, readers, choir and all in the Oxhill team!

After yet another heating failure last month we had a new burner unit fitted in the boiler house. Hopefully St. Lawrence's will once again be reliably warmed.

May I wish everyone a very happy New Year.

God bless,

Nicholas Morgan 01608 685230

KINETON OIL CONSORTIUM

The Consortium will be ordering oil in January. Please may I have your requirements by 6 p.m. on Wednesday January 13th.

D. Harper, 680529

REMEMBRANCE DAY POPPY APPEAL

Despite the horrors of the recession Oxhill and the surrounding villages have really risen to the challenge this year. We even managed to beat last year's record collection with a sum of £2864.56p being raised thus far. It is hoped that this sum may be even more when late donations arrive. With our servicemen really stretched at the moment, there can be no more fitting tribute to their bravery and commitment than a successful Poppy Appeal at home. Thank you all very much.

David Sewell, Poppy Appeal Coordinator

GARDEN CLUB NEWS

At the November meeting Garden Club members experienced a range of agricultural implements, cooking pots, an array of knives, baskets and other interesting artefacts relating to Ian Mathie's time living in Burkina, West Africa. His talk gave us a glimpse into village life in 1960's and 70's and details of the type of crops the people grew then. An added dimension was seeing examples of these foods and actually tasting a staple dish of millet, okra and chillies, high on flavour, and some exotic fruits, many of which were quite unknown to us in the 60's and have become commonplace now. Ian Mathie has had a most interesting life, travelling to many African places and could have passed on multitudinous experiences through several meetings. Hopefully he will introduce us to some of these aspects in the future.

Future meetings include:

January 21st	"Bees and the Gardener"	Peter Hepworth
February 18th	"Tudor Gardens"	Roger Pringle

New members are always welcome.

Ann Saxton

EVENTS AT THE PEACOCK

In addition to the usual charity quiz night on the first Sunday in the month the Peacock will be offering a charity Big Breakfast, starting at 9 a.m., on Thursday 28th. The usual village coffee morning and lunch will be on the first and third Wednesdays and the Warwickshire Hunt will be visiting on Saturday 16th at about 10 a.m. Pam and Yvonne are also putting on a Burns Night party on Burns Night (Monday 25th) and their own second Birthday Party on Friday 22nd.

However on Monday 18th they are being really brave and offering a Guest Chef evening, so if you have always wanted to try your hand in a professional kitchen get down to the Peacock and persuade Yvonne that one of your dishes really should be on the menu that night.

Editor

NATURE NOTES

It is said that “as the days lengthen, the cold strengthens” and January is usually the coldest month of the year, even with climate change, so remember it is important to keep feeding the birds and providing water. When you buy bird food always check it is from a reliable source and natural; some seeds and nuts may come from ‘sprayed’ crops or waste piles that can contain harmful bacteria or fungi. Of course, while there are still berries on the trees and fallen fruit on the ground, the birds will have a plentiful larder.

This last week I have been working at a farm between Tysoe and Brilles and in the garden are three beautiful large holly trees. These trees are resplendent with masses of red berries and earlier in the week a flock of about 40 – 50 fieldfares discovered these trees. Now you would think that they would just descend on all three trees at once and gorge themselves – plenty of berries and room to eat them – but no, they started with one tree, about a dozen at a time would feed while the rest of the flock perched on other trees and telegraph cables waiting their turn. The other odd thing was that they started at the very top and slowly but surely worked their way round and down to the very lower branches until every single berry had vanished. Then they started on the next tree and by the end of the week they had almost cleared that one. I suspect that when I go back next week they will have nearly finished off the third tree, and that is only a small flock. Rarely these days do you see a flock of more than 100, but that wasn’t always so. In his diary of 2nd February 1831 the notorious old Hampshire sportsman Colonel Peter Hawker noted “an extraordinary influx of fieldfares, not less than 20,000”. Being an extremely keen shot he then goes on to say “and so tame that you might have kept firing from morning to night, though I found it impossible to get more than five with one shot It was quite laughable when the storm ceased this afternoon to see and hear the levy en masse of rag-tag popgunmen blazing away at the fieldfares. The whole country around was in one incessant state of siege ...” He later notes “I never ate more delicious birds in my life”. He had a theory that such large flocks only occurred every century and he is probably right.

In March 1977 there was a comparable roost of 25,000 birds recorded at Brandon just outside Coventry. (Brandon Marsh is now a Warwickshire Nature Reserve, well worth a visit). Of course up until the early 1950s it was legal to shoot and indeed eat most birds. I remember in the 1970s in a shop in Ashby de la Zouch, and indeed one in Oxford’s covered market, you could see hanging in rows outside the premises pheasant, partridge, many varieties of wild duck and geese, rooks, moorhens and golden plover. In future Notes I may regale you with some rather curious and interesting recipes!

January 20th is the Eve of St Agnes' Day – a time for lovers' divinations:

Fair St Agnes play thy part

And sent to me my own sweetheart

Not in his best or worst array

But in the clothes he wears every day

A very happy New Year to all of you and thank you for reading my ramblings!

Grenville Moore

OWLS

We have very exciting news for you!

The OWLS website is now up & running. To view it simply log on to

www.oxhill-owls.org.uk

You will see that we have started with a photographic page featuring just some of the entries we received for our inaugural photographic competition, which was held in the village hall in October. You can view the photos either individually or as a slideshow.

In due course, we will add all sorts of useful information to the website including:

- the results & analysis of our garden survey (completed by you)
- a guide explaining how to create a wildlife area in your garden
- instructions showing how to make owl, bat & bird boxes
- photographs of species to look out for in the parish
- links to other useful nature websites
- blogs where you can discuss sightings of rare & not so rare species & hopefully we can answer any questions you may have (think 'Autumnwatch'!)

If you have any other ideas about the future development of the website, please feel free to phone me on 680574 and share your thoughts. Likewise, if you have information or material you would like to feature on the website, please do let me know.

Rhian Cooper

WOTtoGROW

A Community Orchard for Whatcote, Oxhill & Tysoe

During the summer over 50 village households said they were interested in joining a Community Orchard Scheme and a small group of people came together to prepare a submission for funding support to help kick start the scheme. The Local Food First Stage Application, part of the Big Lottery Fund, was successful and we have been invited to develop the proposal into a full application. This is what we said to Local Food as we asked for £43,000 to pump prime the project over its first four years, after which it will become self-sustaining:

Community Orchard & Food Production for Whatcote, Oxhill and Tysoe WOTtoGROW

Villagers from Whatcote, Oxhill and Tysoe are forming a Trust or Co-operative to share in the production of food for themselves, their families and the community. Climate change, the carbon footprint offset and food security issues are encouraging the villagers to produce as much food as possible for themselves.

The initial plan is to establish an orchard (top fruit, stone fruit, cane fruit and nuts) then develop small scale salad, vegetable and soft fruit production. Bee-hives will be introduced for pollination whilst the bees provide honey and beeswax to add more environmental and sustainability dimensions to the project.

The harvest will be shared between members, the infirm and Care Homes in the community and the local Cottage Hospital. Surplus production will be sold to local pub restaurants, shops and directly to non-participating villagers.

Local school children and Warwickshire College students who are from urban backgrounds will be encouraged to use the orchard and related areas for educational and amenity purposes. It will enable them to connect food to its production, undertake environmental activities and understand sustainability as it relates to them and their futures. The orchard will also be an amenity for local residents, the WI and other groups who can observe and enjoy the wildlife it will attract.

The initiative is supported by Tysoe and Oxhill Parish Councils, Whatcote Parish Meeting and Transition Town Shipston and its citizens.

Now we have to prepare a detailed business plan and we need your help please.

We would like someone to represent the interests of Oxhill and Upper Tysoe to join Liz Atkinson (Whatcote), Derek Harbour (Oxhill), Sam Littlewood (Middle Tysoe) and Graham Collier (Lower Tysoe) to help prepare the Business Plan, communicate with the village people and recruit interested parties.

Land (1 to 2 acres with access to water) is needed and once offered a Community Interest Company or something similar will have to be formed.

To generate income quickly it is proposed to harvest, press, and bottle and sell pasteurised apple and pear juice made from fruit that is surplus to the requirements of households who have apple and pear trees in their gardens. If this is of interest to

you please let Liz Atkinson (680045 / 07768 166483) Derek Harbour (680676 / 07768 775584), Sam Littlewood (688137) or Graham Collier (680127 / 07889 360133) know.

Next Steps

Once land is offered, a meeting will be arranged for everyone who is interested in the scheme to hear, discuss and agree the Business Plan and the proposed Community Business Structure.

The Full Application will be finalised and submitted.

Further information

If anyone would like to discuss the project in more detail please get in touch with Liz, Derek, Sam or Graham. They will be delighted to tell you about it.

Graham Collier; E-mail: graham@fraseruk.co.uk

I WISH I KNEW WHAT TO DO NEXT

We are planning to have a very informal First Aid Training meeting in January / February. My thanks to Lilian and the Village Hall Committee who have agreed to allow the use of the hall. The evening will consist of first aid on a non-breathing casualty and an unconscious casualty. This could be very useful to know following a 999 call and before the arrival of us or the ambulance.

Should there be interest, then we are willing to do further evenings.

A date has not yet been fixed, I will try to come up with a date that is agreeable to all. If you are interested please contact us on our home number 01295680644.

Mick & Barbara Shepard, West Midlands Ambulance Responders

LOST

Grey Tabby with white chest, female, small and pretty. May be very scared and cold somewhere; please check your garages and sheds.

If found please ring Hilary Simcox on 07891 838 314.

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 January the van will visit us on Tuesday 5th and Tuesday 26th.

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

Editor

SENIOR CITIZENS CHRISTMAS LUNCH

The Christmas Lunch for the Senior Citizens from the Village was held on Monday 14th December and followed the usual successful format of previous years. We had over 30 guests to lunch and in addition to the delicious three course meal with wine that was provided we also had some great entertainment.

We are grateful to the following who freely gave of their time to provide the entertainment: Children from Tysoe School who sang Carols and accompanied themselves on a variety of instruments, Graham Colledge who told the Tale of Albert and the Lion and Vanessa who recited her own poems to the delight of our guests.

Thank you to Brian Hobill for his generous gift of the gammon served at the lunch.

We would also like to thank David Hill, Steve Hackett, George & Gwyn Adams, Anne Marshall, Sue Robbins, Hugh Rowse, Mrs Pat and Ruth Mercer who all helped out, in addition to our colleagues on the Village Hall Committee who cooked, waited upon and generally worked tirelessly to make the day a success.

Derek Harbour

EMAIL PROBLEMS

During December a considerable number of emails intended for the Editor failed to reach him. Our Webmaster is looking into the matter and we hope it will not occur again. If I have failed to include in this News an item that you have sent to me then please accept my apologies and send it in again. I always respond to any email sent to me so if you do send me anything and get no reply within a reasonable time (unless I am away from Oxhill I normally check the post-box every day) then please try to contact me by other means. A note through the door is usually pretty good.

Editor

YET ANOTHER WARNING!

A new way of high-jacking cars is to stick a piece of paper across the rear window of a car parked in a car park. The idea is that the owner returns to the car, starts the engine, then notices the paper and gets out of the car to remove the paper. At this point the thieves jump in and drive off.

Advice from the police is to drive off yourself and take the paper off after you get home.

Editor

FROM THE EDITOR

Gwyn and I offer all our readers our very best wishes for a Happy New Year.

I would also like to take this opportunity to offer my heartfelt thanks to all those amongst you who do so much to make the News available in the village. I have no intention of naming names, I would only miss someone out and that would be unfair. Just grateful thanks to everyone who provides copy; without it the News would be much thinner. And also to the delivery staff; without them you would probably not get your copies at all. And to the proofreader; the mistakes you notice are mine, but you don't get to see most of them because they are picked up before printing. And of course to the Parish Council for continuing to fund us. Thank you, all of you.

George



The Village Carrier

Photograph provided by Ann Hale

WHAT'S ON IN & AROUND OXHILL

January

Sunday 3rd	8.00	The Peacock - Charity Quiz Night
Tuesday 5th	10.00	Village Hall - Mobile Library
Wednesday 6th	10.30	The Peacock - Village Coffee Morning
Thursday 7th		Green & blue recycling bin collection
Friday 8th	10.00	Weekday Walkers
Tuesday 12th	8.00	Village Hall - Parish Council meeting
Wednesday 13th		Grey landfill bin collection
	6.00	Kineton Oil Consortium - order deadline
Saturday 16th	10.30	The Peacock - Warwickshire Hunt meeting
Monday 18th		The Peacock - Guest Chef Night
Tuesday 19th		Green & blue recycling bin collection
Wednesday 20th	12.30	The Peacock - Village Lunch
Thursday 21st	8.30	Village Hall - Garden Club
Friday 22nd	9.45	Weekday Walkers
		The Peacock - 2nd Birthday Party
Sunday 24th	23.59	Copy deadline for the News
Monday 25th		The Peacock - Burns Night
Tuesday 26th		Grey landfill bin collection
	10.00	Village Hall - Mobile Library
Thursday 28th	09.00	The Peacock - Charity Big Breakfast
Saturday 30th	7.00	Village Hall - Burns Night Celebration

February

Thursday 18th	7.30	Village Hall - Garden Club
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ACCIDENT and MEDICAL EMERGENCIES

FIRST CALL 999

THEN CALL

Ambulance Responders

MICK & BARBARA SHEPARD

07977149317 Mobile / 01295680644 Home

3, The Leys, Oxhill, Warwick, CV350QX