

THE OXHILL NEWS

January 2014

No. 470



The snows of Dec 2010 by Trish Harper

Editors:

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CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE OXHILL NEWS

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 or place paper contributions in the box labelled 'The Oxhill News' in the Church.

MOBILE LIBRARY

The mobile library has books with **large print**, ordinary print, picture books, children's books, paterbacks, 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 every 3rd Wednesday, stopping at the Village Hall at 10am and staying there for 30 minutes. The van will visit us on Wednesday 22nd January. For further info please telephone: 01926 851031

OXHILL OIL CONSORTIUM

We were pleased that Red Horse Fuels had our order in November and all went very successfully. The next date for ordering fuel is 7th January before 6pm.

Email: oil@oxhill.org.uk

Mick and Barbara Shepard

REFUSE COLLECTION

Recycling and green waste bins (blue and green bins) will be collected on Tuesdays 14th and 28th January. The grey rubbish bins will be collected Tuesdays 7th and 21st January.

WEEKDAY WALKERS

Weekday Walkers usually walk on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month. If you are interested in joining or to find out further information, please contact Jim Saxton on 680613 or saxton@talktalk.net

PEACOCK EVENTS THIS MONTH

Quiz Night

Quiz night on Sunday 5th January at 8pm

Village Events

The village coffee morning is on Wednesday 8th January at 10:30am and the village lunch is on Wednesday 22nd January.



POPPY APPEAL

Despite the continuing recession, our area has surpassed itself yet again. We managed to beat last year's record, raising an incredible sum of over £3k.

Although the veterans from the two World Wars are fast decreasing in numbers, the advances in medicine mean that many more soldiers are now surviving their injuries sustained in current warfare.



It is for them that The Legion exists and on behalf of them I would like to say thanks to the generosity of those that give, and thanks also to those that give up their time to collect.

David Sewell

LLOYDS BANK COMMUNITY FUND RESULT

The Village Hall bid to win £3,000 funding from Lloyds Bank for new seating was unsuccessful, unfortunately. We came fourth but were awarded £300 as a finalist.

Here's the full result for our area.

Total votes in Stratford-on-Avon: 10033

Organisation Name	Rank in Stratford-on-Avon	% of Votes Gained in Stratford-on-Avon	Amount awarded
The Shakespeare Hospice	1	37.17	£3,000
Arrhythmia Alliance	2	23.68	£3,000
STARS - Syncope Trust And Reflex Anoxic Seizures	3	20.81	£300
Oxhill Village Hall	4	18.34	£300

For a small village community to be within 5 per cent of a national charity with a base in Shipston is not that bad. And we achieved a pretty impressive 1,840 votes from a population of around 350! Thank you again for voting for our application.

OXHILL VILLAGE HALL

Oxhill Christmas Lunch – Monday, 9 December

The Christmas Lunch for the Senior Citizens from the Village was held on Monday 9 December and followed the usual, successful format of previous years. We had 42 guests to Lunch and in addition to the delicious 3 course meal with wine that was provided we also had some enjoyable entertainment.

We are grateful to Myrtle Knight, Ruth Gibson & Roz Henry who sang Christmassy songs and quoted some seasonally amusing verse.

I would like to thank the following people who, whilst not on the Village Hall Committee, always help out behind the scenes: Sue Robbins, David Hill, Anne Marshall, Hugh Rowse, Jeff Reid, Carol Taylor and Brian Hobill who donated the excellent pork & gammon. I'd also like to thank Gaynor van Dijk for her overseeing the whole event and my colleagues on the Village Hall Committee, who decorated the Hall, cooked food, waited upon tables and generally worked tirelessly to make the day the success that it clearly was.



Derek Harbour

*Christmas is coming,
The geese are getting fat -
Please put a penny in the old man's hat.
If you haven't got a penny, a ha'penny will do
If you haven't a hav'penny -
Well, God bless you!*

So a certain generation of us used to sing. Anyhow, the present senior citizens thoroughly enjoyed a wonderful lunch in the Village Hall, recently, provided by the V.H. Committee, ladies and gentlemen.

I am sure that everyone who was there will join me in saying a big thank you to Gaynor and all her helpers in the hall and behind the scenes who contributed in any way not forgetting “the Girls” who entertained us so well -

Aye! It'll soon be Christmas!

Janet Cardner

(Thank you Janet for your contribution received before Xmas! *Vanessa ed.*)



Myrtle, Ruth and Roz - the Spice Girls 2014!

What a treat the annual lunch party for the Ancient Britons of Oxhill was.

A venerable assemblage of Sex., Sept., Octo: and Nonogenerians were feted right royally in the Village Hall on Monday Dec 9th

Thank you to all those on the committee who cooked, served, and washed up, along with several of Santa's little (and not so little!) helpers.

I hope by now that all in the village will have had a Merry Christmas and are looking forward to a Happy New Year. Wishing everyone all the best for 2014.

Myrtle

ST. LAWRENCE'S CHURCH

Sunday 5th Christmas II: 9.30am Parish Communion (ML)

Sunday 12th Epiphany I: 9.30am Sunday Praise (BR)

Sunday 19th Epiphany II: 9.30am Parish Communion (ML)

Sunday 26th Epiphany III: 9.30am Family Service (NM)

For other benefice services see porch notice board

VICARAGE NOTES

New Year 2014

Tempus fugit and all that - I'm not quite sure if there any inscriptions in Oxhill church tower, but on the old pendulum of Brailes clock, the slightly worrying words "Time is fleeting, death is nigh" are inscribed. Mind you, children seem to relish the phrase! We all have our hopes and dreams for the coming year; they range from personal goals to concerns about the state of the world. In past days much has been said about the ideals expressed by Nelson Mandela – will they be upheld ... or lost in the race for personal gain by corrupt politicians? Our prayer is that the best of Christian teaching will be a lasting foundation for the future.

Restoration Project

As I write, we're still waiting for the final response from English Heritage. I am, however, pleased to report that the porch repairs have been put in hand. The work will be undertaken by Messrs Norman and Underwood, but for security reasons terne coated stainless steel is to be used in place of lead.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Best wishes and God bless,

Nicholas Morgan 01608 685230
braileschurch@gmail.com



Christmas Carol Service 19 Dec



OXHILL FESTIVAL CHOIR

What a lovely Carol Service we had on the 19th. Magical by candlelight, the lovely nativity stories, lusty singing from the packed church and the wonderful choir, a great start to the Christmas celebrations. A big thank you to all the people who sang in the choir, everyone is so busy these days, you all made such an effort to attend the rehearsals, it was really great. Special thanks to Sue Wightman for leading the choir, she worked very hard to make us all achieve new heights. Thank you to Jill and Colin Tucker for allowing us to rehearse in the Chapel and borrow the organ, so important to us. Do hope everyone else enjoyed it as much as we did.

Gaynor Van Dijk

DEANERY NEWS

Deanery Synod

We are really looking forward to welcoming Canon David Porter to our Synod on February 4th, 7.30 pm at St. Edmunds, Shipston. David is an amazing force for reconciliation, both in this Diocese and now, increasingly, at Lambeth for the Archbishop. He will, of course, be speaking about reconciliation generally, but he has also played a key role facilitating conversations about women bishops with members of General Synod. We are also delighted that he will be joined by Kay Dyer, a member of General Synod, to update us on the rapidly moving events at General Synod with regard to women bishops. It promises to be a fascinating evening, and anyone who would like to hear them is very welcome.

Instant Choirs is back!

If you enjoy singing, please earmark the date of Saturday, May 17th in your diary. Julian Harris is once again going to lead a choir workshop in Tredington Church, to be followed by an act of worship using the music: his starting point will be some of the music we used when Rowan Williams came to Tredington. This is for everyone who enjoys singing in their church: we hope that whatever facilities may or may not exist in your village church, you will go away with music that you can use. Further details soon!

As we enter a New Year:

Another year is dawning;
Dear God, in all I do, in working or in resting,
I'll live this year in you.
Another year of progress,
Another year for praise, another year of knowing
Your presence in all my days.
Another year of blessing,
Another year to prove in every sphere of living
The wonders of your love.

Based on Frances Ridley Havergal, 1836-1879

Blessings, Jill



Barbara's flowers by Mick Shepard.

ART CLUB

For various reasons Barbara Kenney has decided to cease teaching the art classes in Oxhill. We were all saddened by this news as Barbara has been a wonderful teacher over several years and her talent in many mediums has been an inspiration to us all. We have all had great fun and improved our sketching, water colours, acrylics, collages and silk screen paintings. Our grateful thanks to Barbara and our best wishes for her new venture.



Grenville Moore

Art Classes in Oxhill, however, will continue as we are delighted to inform you that Grenville Moore has kindly agreed to take over. As many of you know Grenville is a very talented artist and has had many exhibitions with the Warwickshire Open Studios displaying his beautiful art furniture and wonderful paintings. The next 6 session block starts with Grenville on Wednesday 15th January 2014, 10.00 am - 12 noon in the Village Hall,

and for the next 5 Wednesdays.

We have a couple of spaces in the class so if you would like to join us please contact Tricia Harbour (680676) for further details.

OXHILL GARDEN CLUB

A good time was had by all at the Christmas Party. The Chapel looked colourful and Christmassy thanks to the committee; the food was fantastic thanks to the member's contributions and the genius of Sue and Martin; the entertainment was lively thanks to the Shenlow Singers and even the little grey cells had an airing thanks to Peter's quiz. It was a party to remember and not just for the 3 Kings in their bin-bags!

If any non Garden Club members would like to come to our January meeting on the 16th to hear James Butler, please let a committee member know as we need to keep tabs on numbers. Also, a reminder that this will be in the Old Chapel at 7pm

A Happy New Year to you all.

Ruth Gibson



*Doreen at the
Oxhill Art Show July 2013*

OXHILL VILLAGE HALL – UPCOMING EVENTS

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 Soup, Haggis (Vegetarian alternative available), Tatties and Neeps, Desert 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 Rabbin Burns, ‘address’ the Haggis and generally 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.



Cocktails & Canapes Dec 2013

Riding for the Disabled – A Talk from Ed Bracher – Friday, 28 February, 2014

As many of you will know, Ed is the Chief Executive of the Charity ‘Riding for the Disabled Association’ and he is also an excellent and interesting speaker. His talk on the 28th is entitled ‘Therapy & Achievement with the Riding for the Disabled Association’ and this promises to be a fascinating evening.

Doors will open at 7.30pm and a range of refreshments will be available to purchase. Tickets will cost £4 each and a share of the proceeds will be donated to the RDA Charity.

Please call Gaynor van Dijk on 680349 for tickets.

Friday Night @ The Village Hall – 14 March, 2014

A welcome return for one of our casual Friday Night events with a Main Course and Desert, all for £8.50 per person and doors will open from 7.30 pm onwards.

Tickets will be available from Tricia Harbour on 680676

We plan to hold various events later in the Spring of 2014 and we have some ideas but we are entirely open to any thoughts or suggestions that you may have for these months. If there is something that you would like to see featured, please call Derek Harbour on 680676 and we'll try to incorporate it in the programme.



KNIT & NATTER

The first Knit & Natter afternoon of the New Year is on Thursday, 9th January, 2014 from 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm and then the next one is on January 23rd.

Joyce McKail will be delivering the next parcel of knitted items for the Greenfields for Africa Charity on January 10 so could anyone with items for the Charity please either take them to Joyce or bring them to Knit & Natter on the 9th.



FLICKS IN THE STICKS

In aid of Chernobyl's Children

I'd like to thank those who came and supported us on 23rd November – I hope you enjoyed the evening.

A BIG thank you to all the helpers and a very special mention to Grenville who created such a delicious supper!

Thank you also to Jill and Colin Tucker for allowing us to use The Old Chapel. I'm thrilled to announce that we raised over £500.

Here's to the next one!

Jo Sweby



Grenville and Little Jane prepared the most delicious treats.





*Jo Sweby - organiser & cigarette girl
(oops ice cream, yes, ice cream girl.
Girl? Hmm... yes why not!)*

It seems appropriate at this end of the year to record our appreciation of the sterling work that is put in by the Village Hall Committee to produce a varied and highly enjoyable programme of events. A great deal of unseen work goes on behind the scenes to keep the Hall in good shape, produce lots of lovely food, and clear up after everyone has gone home. Thank you all very much! Special thanks should go to Derek and Tricia who always work selflessly during events to ensure that everyone has a good time.

A regular attendee



A huge thank you to all of the wonderful people who have contributed to the Oxhill News throughout 2013 - the writers, photographers, couriers and of course, the readers. The News is what we make it!!

Oxhill News editors.



10th Anniversary Year *Moore Rodin* at Compton Verney Saturday 15 February - Sunday 31 August 2014

True to its mission to share its passion for art with as many people as possible Compton Verney will be celebrating its 10th anniversary season with an exhibition of two giants of modern sculpture Henry Moore and Auguste Rodin. Their sculpture will be on display in the stunning 'Capability' Brown landscaped parkland at Compton Verney with accompanying exhibition of works inside the galleries. To mark this special occasion Compton Verney will open its 2014 season early - on Saturday 15 February.

This awe-inspiring exhibition includes important loans from Musée Rodin, Paris, the Henry Moore Foundation, Hertfordshire and public collections throughout the UK. Amongst the works on display are Rodin's magnificent bronze sculpture *Monument to the Burghers of Calais* (1889), on loan from the Royal Parks, a coup as it is rarely removed from its usual location outside the Houses of Parliament in London. Magnificent works by Moore include the monumental *Three Piece*

Sculpture: Vertebrae (1968) and stunning *The Arch* (1969). The works will be sighted within Compton Verney's parkland complementing, challenging and creating new perspectives to vistas 'Capability' Brown formed in the 1760s.

As well as key sculptures, the exhibition inside displays an extensive range of drawings by both artists and a set of photographs taken by Moore of his cast of Rodin's *Walking Man* at his home in Perry Green. From both there is no doubt that Moore's debt to Rodin was profound *'I began to realize that a lot of thing one might be using and being influenced by are, compared with Rodin, altogether too easy. So that as time has gone on, my admiration for Rodin has grown and grown.'*

Running alongside the exhibition are a series of related events and activities. Please check the website for more information: www.comptonverney.org.uk



Auguste Rodin, Monument to the Burghers of Calais (1889) and Henry Moore, Three Piece Sculpture: Vertebrae (1968-69). Reproduced by permission of The Henry Moore Foundation / Musée Rodin, Paris / The Royal Park. Photo: Jonty Wilde

WHATCOTE ROAD SEWER REPLACEMENT

A village meeting chaired by Grenville Moore, Chairman Oxhill PC was held on Tuesday 3rd December at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall reference the above.

Representatives from Severn Trent and North Midlands Construction Nomenca came along to explain what would be happening when the Whatcote Road sewer is replaced and to answer any questions.

The sewer had been found to be beyond repair and needed to be replaced from The Sett to the pumping station. The road would be closed in 75-100 meter sections as this work progressed and then each house along the Whatcote Road would be connected to the main new sewer. The bus service would be suspended whilst this work was carried out and a shuttle bus provided, possibly to Tysoe. We will be kept informed of transport details and of diversions to be put in place. Emergency services are informed through Warwickshire County Council and gritting routes will be co-ordinated.

Angela Kean, Clerk Oxhill PC

JUST A QUICK REMINDER ...

Stratford District Council's Community Grants Scheme - "New Homes Bonus."
The deadline for receipt of applications is 31st January 2014.

For further information about the New Homes Bonus Grant Scheme and how to apply, please go to www.stratford.gov.uk/NHBGS where you can download the grant application paperwork.

Examples of some eligible community projects are:

- Access to services
- Enhancement of Open Spaces
- Scout Hut kitchen refurbishment
- New chairs in a community building
- Tree Planting/Sensory Gardens
- Blackout blinds/insulated curtains in a village hall
- Summer Playscheme equipment
- Electric screen / hearing loop in a village hall
- Play equipment and storage for a playgroup
- Kitchen equipment (cooker, fridge, etc.) & utensils for a community café
- Local Business Directory

If you need assistance completing the grant application form please contact:
Stratford-on-Avon Voluntary Action (VASA) - VASA provides a range of services to support and grow voluntary and community organisations. This includes help with completing funding applications. If you require help with completing this form please contact VASA direct on: Phone: 01789 298102
Email: info@vasa.org.uk

Lana Long

***Business, Enterprise & Tourism Officer and Rural Cinema Facilitator
Business, Housing & Revenues***

Background:

Stratford-on-Avon District Council has today, Friday 25 October, launched a New Homes Bonus Grants Scheme to support projects across the District that aim to enhance existing, or create new community facilities and activities.

A total budget of £119,400 has been made available by the District Council through the Government's New Homes Bonus Scheme

Applications from organisations across the District including Town and Parish Councils, voluntary community groups that are constituted are invited to apply for grants between £500 and up to £10,000 (including vat) per project.

The District Council is particularly keen to hear from applicants whose projects can demonstrate that they will improve the sustainability and economic benefit of communities.

Cllr Chris Saint, Leader of Stratford-on-Avon District Council says: "The new homes bonus will ensure that those communities that go for growth reap the benefits of development, not just the costs. By investing some of the New Homes Bonus in areas where new development has taken place, we hope to build even stronger communities across Stratford-on-Avon District. By creating this new grants scheme we are giving Town and Parish Councils a role in coming forward with spending proposals for the benefit of their own community."

For further information about the New Homes Bonus Grant scheme and how to apply, contact Lana Long on 01789 260609 or email: lane.long@stratford-dc.gov.uk Details are also available on the District Council's website at www.stratford.gov.uk/NHBGS



WOT2Grow YOUR ORCHARD THE COMING MONTHS!

As things quiet down at the orchard over the winter period we are planning what we have to do in the coming year!

All the trees are looking good after pruning so hopefully we will have good blossom in the spring followed by some fruit next summer. The canes etc will be pruned in February, and we will be laying matting under the gooseberries to combat sawfly infestation.

The autumn raspberries will be cut down in February and a framework put in place to hold next year's canes in place. This will make it so much easier to harvest and keep the grass cut between the rows.

Lots of checking for overwintering pests needs to be done with an organic spray applied to remove any lingering pests. Also the protection for the cherries needs to be put in place so the birds don't get all the fruit.

We will be planting seeds of the annuals that are part of the sensory/nectar garden and taking cuttings of some of the perennials.

Maintenance jobs are always there and the weeding will not stop around all the trees and canes! And of course the grass cutting regime to keep on top of the dandelions!

Lots to do so come along and help if you can.

We are very happy that everyone can come to the orchard and walk around therefore we ask that people with dogs do clear up after them. It is a community orchard for people, and especially children, to enjoy without the hazard of dog mess.

A reminder that the AGM is on Jan 28th at 7:30 in Tysoe Village Hall so come and voice your ideas for your orchard.

See us at www.wot2grow.co.uk for details and where you can also send us a message.

SHIPSTON RURAL WATCH

Please be aware that we have identified a trend of Landrover Defenders being stolen, so far mainly in the south of the county.

Since 1st October 2013, 5 vehicles have been stolen, without keys, from outside homes in Studley, Lapworth, Wellesbourne and Stratford with mainly older models being targeted.



Thieves appear to be able to bypass the security and ignition systems to enter and drive away the vehicles and, we are asking owners to take simple additional precautions to protect their property.

If you have a garage, please store your vehicle in it whenever possible. Use a steering lock overnight or when leaving the vehicle unattended. Consider fitting a Tracker system

Please spread this message to friends and relatives who own Landrover vehicles. Finally, please be actively on the lookout for suspicious persons or activity around Landrover Defender vehicles and report anything that you consider to be of concern to the SNT or ring 101.

Kind Regards

PCSO 6234 Hayley Ditchburn BA (Hons)

Shipston Safer Neighbourhood Team

Warwickshire Police

Shipston Police Station

Tel: 01789 444 670



On Tuesday 10th December a dark blue transit van pulled into our driveway on Green Lane. I was home and assumed it was a courier delivering Christmas parcels. I went out front to find him peering into my car. As soon as he saw me he jumped in his van and drove off. I have reported this to the police. Please be mindful of opportunists out there at the moment and don't leave anything valuable in your cars.

A resident of Green Lane

WHAT'S ON IN & AROUND OXHILL

January

Wednesday 1st	10:30	The Peacock - Village Coffee Morning
Sunday 5th	20:00	The Peacock - Quiz Night
Tuesday 7th		Grey landfill bin collection
Tuesday 7th		Oxhill Oil Consortium order deadline
Friday 10th	9:30	Weekday Walkers
Tuesday 14th		Green & Blue bin collection
Tuesday 14th		Village Hall, Oxhill Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday 15th		Oxhill News submission deadline
Wednesday 15th	12:30	The Peacock - Village Lunch
Thursday 16th	19:00	Garden Club talk from James Butler - Old Chapel
Tuesday 21st		Grey landfill bin collection
Wednesday 22nd	10:00	Village Hall - Mobile Library
Friday 24th	9:30	Weekday Walkers
Tuesday 28th		Green & Blue bin collection
Tuesday 28th	19:30	WOT2Grow Orchard - AGM Tysoe Village Hall

