
THE OXHILL NEWS

November 2011

No. 444



The Help for Heroes Stagecoach
passing through Oxhill

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 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 16th November.

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

REFUSE COLLECTION

Recycling and green waste bins (blue and green bins) will be collected on Tuesdays 8th and 22nd November.

The grey rubbish bins will be collected Tuesdays 1st, 15th and 29th November.

WEEKDAY WALKERS

There is only one walk planned for November:

November 11th – A 4 mile circular walk from Cherington with 210 feet of ascent. Lunch at The Cherington Arms – Leaving Oxhill at 9:45am.

Due to the numbers on the walk Jim Saxton now contacts regular members to get meal decisions by Wednesday evening. Those who wish to join us are most welcome, but please contact Jim Saxton on 01295 680613 or at saxton@tiscali.co.uk before the Tuesday evening prior to the walk.

DECEMBER ISSUE

The copy deadline for the December edition is November 15th 2011. Please email contributions to news-editor@oxhill.org.uk or put contributions in 'The Oxhill News' box in St. Lawrence's Church.

CHILDREN'S STORY BOOKS FOR KADUNA, NIGERIA



These are the only story books in their school.

These are the only story books these children will have.

These books were given by children in Coventry Diocese.

Please donate to us your unwanted, good quality children's story books for Anglican schools in Kaduna diocese.

Please bring your unwanted books or give us a call.

Thank you.

Ann and Jim Saxton

Medway, Green Lane, Oxhill, CV35 0RB Tel: 01295 680613

THANK YOU FROM CHERNOBYL'S CHILDREN OXFORDSHIRE & SOUTH WARWICKSHIRE

On behalf of the children, I would like to thank everyone involved in the recent Oxhill to Paris Cycle Ride which raised a magnificent £674.42 (including Gift Aid). Despite some adverse weather conditions (and probably a little pain!), Vanessa, Mike, Liz, Brian, Hugh and Steve all finished in high spirits and hopefully enjoyed themselves along the way. Thanks also to Derek, their support driver and to everybody who encouraged them and donated to this charity. Most of the children have never ridden a bicycle before their visit to England and I'm sure that they will be amazed when I tell them about journey.

Christine Barnett
Charity Co-ordinator

NATURE NOTES

November 2nd is All Soul's Day or Soulmass when "Tindle" bonfires were burnt to light souls out of Purgatory. *"In many counties there was an old custom at Funerals to hire poor people who were to take upon them all the Sins of the party deceased. The manner was that when a Corpse was brought out of the house and laid on the Bier; a loaf of bread was brought out and delivered to the Sin-eater over the corpse, as also a Mazer-bowl full of beer, which he was to drink up, and sixpence in money, in consideration whereof he took upon him all the Sins of the Defunct, and freed him (or her) from walking after they were dead."*

John Aubrey, 1688

I was recently working at a large 1930s house set in large grounds with many shrubs and mature trees close to the house – but not one house sparrow – not one! The owner said he had been there six years and had never seen one. Nationally they are on the decline, but not in Oxhill. I think here in the village we host a very large population. In my garden we have a constant group of approximately 20, most of which nest in the garden and under the eaves. I know that from talking to people in the village that similar numbers are present at the majority of properties. The hard winter seemingly had little effect on their numbers and I estimate we must have several hundred in the village.



I have also noticed we have good populations of all the Tit family and this year even coal-tits. The long-tailed tits have done well this summer and the other day I noted about 15 chattering and flitting through the garden. Blackbirds in some cases had, I think, three broods, and I saw thrushes early in the year, but not so many recently; I'm not sure why. I have seen the odd bullfinch and a few chaffinches, but virtually no greenfinches – which have been severely hit by a disease similar to E-coli called Trichomonosis.

It is actually a parasite and was first observed in greenfinches and chaffinches in 2005. Since 2005 the finch population has declined by 30%. The parasite causes lesions in the throat, making the bird unable to swallow, so it finds very difficult to eat and drink. It also causes it to regurgitate and other birds will then pick up this food. If you see

a finch that is fluffed up, lethargic, looking wet around the bill, and not moving about much, it is infected. If you find a sick or dead finch, please contact the BTO or RSPB. It is important, especially at this time of the year, to clean out all your feeders, give them a good wash and scrub with a vet-safe disinfectant, and follow up again in the spring.

A couple of weeks ago we were woken at sunrise by a cacophony of bird noise, a raucous shouting by jackdaws, crows and magpies in the birch trees opposite the house. We could see something lying in the road, obviously dead, and the birds were quarrelling over who was going to be first to tuck into breakfast. I went out to see what the fuss was, and saw a polecat, not a ferret, but a wild male polecat (*Mustela putorius*). It had been struck on the side of its head by a passing car – what are the odds on that in the early hours of a Sunday morning? It was a beautiful animal. It was once only found in Wales, but since the 1990s it has started to spread out into England. The scientific name alludes to the odour they give off from an anal scent gland, although I did not get a hint of a “whiff” from this chap. The name “beech martin” was often given to the polecat, but that name properly belongs to a quite distinct and non-British animal. Apparently polecats prefer to live in the proximity of farms and they feed mainly on rabbits, rodents, perching birds, frogs, carrion, insects and other small creatures. As far as I am aware, this is the first record for Oxhill. I have lived here for more than 40 years and I have never seen one; indeed I have never seen one anywhere. I would like to know if any of Oxhill’s farmers have seen one in or around their farms – if you have, could you please let me know.

The common cold seems to be rife this autumn, so remember: *“Sneezing into the left hand is held to be unlucky, but sneezing to the right is prosperous We have a custom, yet in mode, that when one sneezes, everyone pulls off his hat and bows, and cries “God bless ye Sir.”* – John Evelyn, *Remains of Gentilism*, 1688.

Grenville Moore

THE PEACOCK

Quiz Night

Quiz night on Sunday 6th November at 8pm.

Village Events

The village coffee morning is on Wednesday 2nd November at 10:30am and the village lunch is on Wednesday 16th November.



ST. LAWRENCE'S CHURCH

SERVICES IN NOVEMBER

All are warmly welcome

Sunday 6th Trinity XX: 9.30am Holy Communion (ML)

Sunday 13th Trinity XXI Remembrance: 9.30am Remembrance Service (BR)

Sunday 20th Last after Trinity: 9.30am Holy Communion (ML)

Sunday 27th Advent I: 9.30am Family Service (NM)

For your diaries: Carol Service 7.30pm Wed. Dec.21st

For other services in the benefice please see porch notice board

DEANERY NEWS FOR NOVEMBER

We were all deeply saddened to hear that Tony Adams passed to glory on October 2nd and is now, in Ele's words, 'safe in the arms of his beloved Saviour, no doubt rejoicing'!

He, with Ele alongside him, had the most wonderful ministry right up until his death: to visit him was to be truly blessed, and we thank God for the wonderful gift of Tony that Deanery enjoyed for many years. As I write, the funeral has yet to happen, but Ele describes it as both a service of thanksgiving for Tony's life, and a celebration of God's love for each one of us. We pray that Ele and the family will know the full depth of that love in the weeks and months to come.

In Tredington, in the chancel of St. Gregory's Church, Gordon Kuhrt is concluding series of Talks on the Bible with 'How is the Bible to be used?' on Wednesday, November 9th at 7.30pm.

Finally, Gordon has written and published a little book about pain and disability in children and the big questions it poses, called 'Life isn't always easy'. Gordon hopes it will be of use to families, schools, youth groups and discussion groups. Do contact him for further details:

Dr G W Kuhrt, The Rectory, Tredington, Shipston-on-Stour, Warks, CV36 4NG

Or telephone - 01608 661264

Or e-mail - omkuhrt@tiscali.co.uk

Jill

VICARAGE NOTES

Dear friends,

Pig Roast and Skittles

That was a jolly good evening and thanks go to the Lilian and the Social and Fund Raising Committee for organising the whole occasion! It was lovely to see a good crowd of folk.

Church Repairs

Several people saw the work in action on the roof and walls. Loose and ill-fitting hoppers had been causing the damp in the upper internal walls, and these have now been correctly fixed. Other work included some re-pointing, nave roof repairs and attention to the gutters and downpipes. It will take a year for the walls to dry out so internal decoration will have to wait. Pointing to the upper east wall is next on the agenda, and the architect recommends looking at re-roofing the nave during the coming quinquennium, which would be a major project involving English Heritage!

November – the month of memories

Armistice Day (11th) and Remembrance Sunday provide the opportunity to reflect upon the past and to remember those who have given, and continue to give, their lives in the service of this country. We shall of course be praying for the peace of our world.

November 1st (All Saints) and the 2nd (All Souls) also provide time for reflection upon the past and to remember and give thanks for those special to us who have died over the years. There is a special quiet communion at 9.30am on Wed. 2nd at Brailes and if you would like the name of a loved one remembered please let me know a day or two beforehand.

God bless,

Nicholas Morgan 01608 685230

MORE DEANERY NEWS

At the Deanery Synod on 11th October, we discussed the proposed legislation which would permit the ordination of women as bishops. I am really grateful to all those who took part in the debate; this is for many a sensitive issue, and there was much graciousness and understanding of each other's views. I am particularly to Ann Gregory, who came down from Tile Hill in Coventry to take part. The measure to allow women to become bishops, with provision for those who disagree, was passed, with 26 votes for and 5 against. This is something which could easily cause division, yet I sense a powerful yearning simply to get on with the work of the Gospel. Thank you to all those who took part.

Jill

OXHILL VILLAGE HALL - UPCOMING EVENTS

Indian Feast Night on Friday 25 November

Our ever popular Indian Feast Night is back and a selection of exotic Indian dishes will be available to tempt your taste buds on Friday, November 25th from the many and diverse regions of Oxhill. There will be tasty curries from South Oxhill, exotic Chutneys from Central Oxhill and delicious vegetable accompaniments from the furthest reaches of North Oxhill. Tickets are priced at £12.50 per person.

Tickets, which always go quickly, are available from Tricia Harbour on 680676

Coffee Morning with 'Bring & Buy' on Saturday 26 November

Our annual Coffee Morning to raise money for the forthcoming Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch (see below) takes place on Saturday, 26 November from 10.00 am to 12.00 pm. Come along for a Tea or Coffee and a piece of homemade cake to support our fund raising. Also if you have any items to donate to the 'Bring & Buy' table or if you want to 'rent' a table to sell your own articles, please call Judy Badger on 688010.

Senior Citizens Lunch on Monday, 12 December

Our traditional 3 course Christmas Lunch with wine for the Senior Citizens in the Village will be held at the Village Hall, starting at 12.30pm on Monday 12 December. In addition to the meal and drinks, we have Carols from the local school children and some other entertainment. We are 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.

Canapés & Cocktails Christmas Event on Friday, 16 December

We are repeating the very successful Cocktail evening to celebrate the Christmas season, consisting of a variety of Canapés and some new, improved Cocktails on Friday 16 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) evening. The price will be £12.50 per head and includes a selection of delicious canapés and 2 cocktails. Additional drinks will be available and the evening will run from 8.00pm to 10.30pm (or later!). 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, are available from Tricia Harbour on 680676.

THURSDAY ‘AFTERNOON DELIGHT’ (OR KNIT & NATTER)

Our last two sessions have again been very well supported. On 29 September, everyone thoroughly enjoyed Ann Hales’ talk on Oxhill in the past and on 13 October; Barbara Shepherd helped people with an introduction to ‘Smocking’. However, for the first half of the afternoon, we stood out in the sunshine watching the ‘Help the Heroes’ stage coaches drive past following their excellent lunch at the Royal Oak.

Our next activities will be:

10 Nov Greetings Card Making

24 Nov Christmas Crafts

If you don’t want to participate in any of 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.

VILLAGE HALL TAPAS EVENING

Around 40 Oxhillians enjoyed homely hospitality in 9 different houses in the village during the Village Hall Tapas Safari Night on Saturday, 24 September. The evening started in rue Spanish style with marvellous Margaritas’ and super Sangrias, then there were appealing appetisers, fragrant fish fantasies and mighty meaty morsels on offer plus wonderful wines and they were gratefully consumed by the travelling ‘tourists’. On return to the Village Hall for delicious deserts, the chat was all about the great night that was had by all.

Derek



KINETON OIL CONSORTIUM

The Kineton Oil Consortium will be ordering oil again in November. Please let me have your oil needs, not later than 6pm on Wednesday, November 16th 2011.

Thank you. Diane Harper 01295 680529

MACMILLAN CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING

I am holding another coffee morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support on Friday 25th November from 10 to 12:30 at Southwold Badgers Lane, Lower Tysoe. There will be a range of things on sale eg: gifts, jewellery, cakes, cards, clothes and as new bric a brac. If you have anything you wish to donate for the sale I can collect it the day before.

Also if you can help on that morning I would be very grateful. Please call me on 01295 680263 / 07811 794634

Thank you . Jackie Thompson

CHARITY VERTICAL RUN

On the 30th October this year, I will be taking part in Vietnam's first vertical race - the Bitexco Vertical Run. We will be running up Vietnam's tallest building, the Bitexco Financial Tower, ascending 1002 steps to a height of 178 metres. Athletes from across the world will be competing in the race as part of a 2011 Vertical World Circuit which has included the Empire State Building and the Taipei 101 skyscrapers.

In doing so I will be raising money for Warwickshire and Northamptonshire Air Ambulance and any donations will be very much appreciated.

Adam Crowther

To donate follow this link <http://www.justgiving.com/adamcrowther03>

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE TYSOE

We're trying to change the perception of what WI is all about! Come and see for yourself! We're having our AGM on November 2nd followed by paté tasting and fun food quiz

All meetings are held in Tysoe Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Visitors are always welcome!

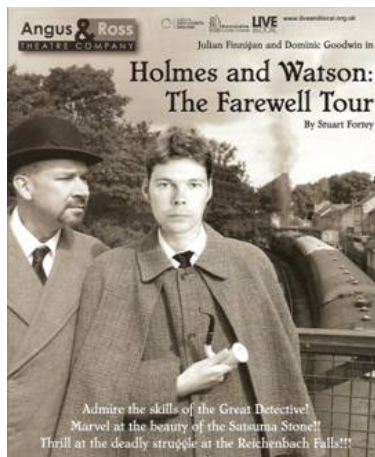
Two men perform a full cast of hilarious characters in this spoof-style Sherlock Holmes comedy. Prepare to be amazed in an evening of mystery, reminiscence and plenty of frantic fun!

**Thursday,
17th November, 7.30pm at St Peter's
Community Centre, Whatcote**

'This show is so funny it should carry a health warning'

Tickets £8.00 - available from Penny Pritchard
(01295) 680689

Doors open 7.00pm. Donation bar.



OXHILL GARDEN CLUB

Would any of us ever have believed that there are in the region of 2,700 species of mushrooms? I certainly hadn't realised we had so many different kinds. Christopher Scotter, suffering from a very recent operation to pin his leg following an accident, still kindly came along to give us a fascinating talk on his vastly researched knowledge of mushrooms and toadstools. Christopher's slides were enormously colourful and varied - tall ones, fat stubby ones, thin stemmed rounded or flat tops, spotted, plain, growing from tree barks or hiding in grassland. The scope was wide. The variety of edible and deadly fungi are the stuff of dreams, be they culinary or potential horror stories. He suggested that should we find any mushrooms in a woodland setting we would be very well advised to avoid them at all cost due to the fact that there is a highly deadly variety that an untrained eye would not recognise. There is no known antidote for this mushroom so stick to the field varieties. The Vikings ingested a variety before battle to improve their skills, some are known as magic mushrooms, others are hallucinogenic, there are varieties that are hot or have antifreeze in them, the honey fungus can kill trees, the boletus mushroom is good for soups. Some mushrooms have gills under their caps others appear solid but all are almost pure protein. It is perhaps a sad reflection on the English that our interest in the widely varied delicacies of the mushroom are remarkably similar to our ignorance in relation to seafood where, if it isn't battered, it probably isn't edible.

The photographic competition was won by Pauline Wyatt.

Next Meetings:-

17 November - Climbers & Wall Shrubs - Janet Cropley.

14th December - Christmas Party at the Saxton's at 7pm.

ST. PETER'S CHURCH WHATCOTE FUNDRAISING CHRISTMAS 2011



I am sure you will need no reminder that Christmas is not far away!

The Whatcote Christmas Puddings have been delivered and are awaiting customers both regular and, I hope, some new ones.

They are great puddings and make excellent Christmas gifts for family and friends.

For several years the prices have been without any increase to our customers, although prices have been gradually increased by our suppliers, the Ultimate Plum Pudding Company. Unfortunately, this year, the prices to our customers have had to rise in line. The 454g pudding price will be £6.00 and the 908g price £9.50.

As you know all profit goes to St. Peter's Church here at Whatcote, so I hope to receive your order using the form below or by telephoning me on 01295 680294. Alternatively you can e-mail me at wreford@onetel.com

June Wreford

PS: Order your pudding in good time as we sold out last year well before Christmas!

PUDDING ORDER FORM

Name _____ Address _____

_____ Tel.No. _____

Would like to order _____ 454g @ £6.00: _____ 908g @ £9.50

I enclose a cheque for £ _____ made payable to St Peter's Church, Whatcote.

Please return to:-

June Wreford, Church Cottage, Whatcote, Shipston-on-Stour. CV36 5EF

OXHILL FESTIVAL CHOIR

I am delighted to say that Joyce Hall will be leading us again for the Carol service on 21st December.

Rehearsals are as follows:

Friday 25th November, Friday 2nd December, Friday 9th December and Friday 16th December all at 7.30 p.m. in the Old Chapel. Provisionally there will be a rehearsal in the Church on Tuesday 20th December at 7.30 p.m. We will be singing three pieces and the usual carols. If anyone has any suggestions of what they might like us to sing please let me know by 9th November. If you are new to the village and would like to join us do come along.

Gaynor Van Dijk (680439)

SHIPSTON HOME NURSING FUNDRAISING EVENTS

ONE DAY DESIGNER SALE

Annual Sale for SHN of fabulous designer clothes and accessories.

Friday 4th November 9.00am – 7.30pm

Unbelievable Prices!

at Darlingscott Farm, Darlingscott, Shipston on Stour, CV36 4PN

10% of your purchases will be donated to the charity.

CHRISTMAS GIFT FAIR.....60 STALLS MORE NEW STALLS THIS YEAR!

Ettington Community Centre, Rogers Lane Ettington

Wednesday 9th November 6.00pm – 9.00pm

Thursday 10th November 9.30am – 4.00pm

Entry £3.50 to include tea/coffee and biscuit

On sale Mulled Wine, Mincepies on Wednesday

Lunches Thursday

All food generously donated by our supporters.



WOT2GROW COMMUNITY ORCHARD

September was a busy month so thanks to members and friends for much hard work over several weekends.

We completed the turf lifting and digging for the new bushes and canes. The soil was very dry and

hard so a fork/pick axe combination was needed to loosen the soil and break up the pan followed by a rotivator to break up the soil to a fine tilth ready for planting.

Much weeding was done - never completed! - especially an attack on the dandelions by one of our members.... The tree positions have been marked out in anticipation of getting a sub-soiler in to break up the pan prior to planting in December.

We had a fascinating training session with John Edgeley , a great teacher, who took us through every step demonstrating then letting us try for ourselves. Holes were dug for posts at either end of the raspberry rows and intermediate poles at 10m intervals, hard work even with the help of a "post slammer" or bonker as John called it! Wires were then threaded through staples and finished off with gripples for tensioning. John then explained the methods and timing of pruning all the canes and bushes.

On leaving it really looked like a proper orchard with the initial management of the canes installed and a wonderful fence that defines the area that is The Orchard. Mike Smith did the stock proof fencing along with the pipes to get mains water onto the site after Severn Trent complete their bit.

Do visit the orchard and see how much we have progressed but be careful about the training wires stretched between the posts.

Visit the website! www.wot2grow.co.uk

If you require more information please contact one of the team

Liz Atkinson (680045), Paul Sayer (680451), Derek Harbour (680676), Sue and Mike Sanderson (688080), Graham Collier (680127), Julia Stirman (01608 686776)





OWLS Oxhill Wildlife Society

Parish Group

Biodiversity Action Plan

Thursday 24th November, 8.00pm in Oxhill village hall.

Matt Willmott from Natural England will be talking on the Environmental Stewardship Scheme with emphasis on the effect on farmland birds.

Entry fee £2.00

Wine and soft drinks will be available on the night

The Environmental Stewardship scheme encourages farmers to create conditions suitable for wildlife on small areas of their land. More information can be found on the Natural England web-site

<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk>

OWLS PHOTOGRAPHIC AND ART COMPETITION

The 2011 OWL's photographic competition was a great success with everyone who came also enjoying cream teas and a chat. The standard of photographs seems to improve year on year and Suzanna McKail again said how difficult it was to judge the winners. Josh Cooper won the Oxhill category with a snowy scene taken of the track leading past Sylvia's house (featured in this year's calendar) while Ed Bracher's beagles won the British section. Rosie and Millie Bracher won the children's sections – well done that family. Several photos won a second or third place and many earned a 'highly commended' so there will be no shortage of material for the 2013 calendar.

This year there was an art/craft section for which there were several lovely children's entries and Ailie MacDonald won that with her blue feathered owl. Grenville's painted trio of fieldfares won the adult section. Hopefully we'll get more entries for this next year (come on all you artists!).

Have a look at more pictures on the OWLS website (www.oxhill-owls.org.uk).

WHAT'S ON IN & AROUND OXHILL

November

Tuesday 1st		Grey landfill bin collection
Wednesday 2nd	10:30	The Peacock - Coffee Morning
Wednesday 2nd	19:30	WI Tysoe AGM
Friday 4th	19:30	SHN One Day Designer Sale
Sunday 6th	20:00	The Peacock - Quiz Night
Tuesday 8th		Green & Blue bin collection
Wednesday 9th/10th		Christmas Gift Fair - Ettington
Wednesday 9th	19:30	Tredington Church - Gordon Kuhrt talk
Thursday 10th		Village Hall - Afternoon Delight
Friday 11th	09:30	Weekday Walkers - see page 2 for details
Saturday 12th		St. Lawrence's Church - Talgarth Male Voice Choir
Tuesday 15th		Grey landfill bin collection
Tuesday 15th		COPY DEADLINE FOR THE NEWS
Wednesday 16th	10:00	Village Hall - Mobile Library
Wednesday 16th		Kinton Oil Consortium Deadline
Wednesday 16th	12:30	The Peacock - Village Lunch
Thursday 17th	19:30	Holmes & Watson - The Farewell Tour
Thursday 17th		Gardening Club - Climbers & Wall Shrubs - Jane Cropley
Tuesday 22nd		Green & Blue bin collection
Thursday 24th		Village Hall - Afternoon Delight
Thursday 24th	20:00	Village Hall - OWLS - Matt Willcott Talk
Friday 25th	10:00	Macmillan Christmas Coffee Morning
Friday 25th		Village Hall - Indian Feast Night
Saturday 26th	10:00	Village Hall Coffee Morning
Tuesday 29th		Grey landfill bin collection

December

Monday 12th	12:00	Village Hall Senior Citizen Lunch
Wednesday 14th	19:00	Garden Club Christmas Party at Saxton's
Friday 16th	20:00	Village Hall Canapés & Cocktails Christmas Event
Wednesday 21st		St. Lawrence's Church - Candlelight Carol Service