

The Oxhill News



March 2003

Quotations of the month

Daffodils,

That come before the swallow dares, and take
The winds of March with beauty.

William Shakespeare, The Winter's Tale

Dirty British coaster with a salt-caked smoke stack,
Butting through the Channel in the mad March days,
With a cargo of Tyne coal,
Road-rail, pig-lead,
Firewood, iron-ware, and cheap tin trays.

John Masefield, Cargoes

Beware the ides of March.

William Shakespeare, Julius Caesar

Lady Day, March 25th is the Christian feast of the Annunciation of the Virgin Mary.
It began the calendar year in England from 1155 to 1752 and is still a quarter day.

Editorial

Many many thanks to Russen for his great efforts with the News over the last five years. He stepped willingly into the breach when the previous editors felt a change was needed, and has kept us admirably informed throughout his tenure. I hope to be able to keep up his high standards.

I have no intention of making any great changes. The News is a village newsletter, and I am merely here to publish the material that the villagers provide. Please provide me with plenty of material - it will make my life so much easier. Handwritten, typed, files on disc, straight e-mails, attachments to e-mails - whatever is simplest for you.

I have had requests to keep the poetry slots, and will certainly do so. I have started things off this month with one or two that I happen to like. If you have prose or poetry, of a reasonable length, that you would like to see in the News, please let me have a copy. I cannot promise to put it in straight away, because of limitations on space, but will as soon as I can.

The cover picture this week comes from the home page of the Oxhill web site. There is more about this site later on.

April issue

The deadline for the April issue is Thursday, 27th March.

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.

Village Hall News

Many grateful thanks to all the cooks and helpers who made the Village Christmas lunch such a success. A highly amusing insight into a Vicar's relationship with the local community was provided by Myrtle and friends. Once again boys and girls of Tysoe School entertained us with their musical prowess. Again, many thanks to all. Again grateful thanks to Russen Thomas for all his work on the Oxhill Village News section. His support of the Village Hall was much appreciated by everyone.

Below is a breakdown of donations towards the Village Hall refurbishment -

Personal Donations	£10,550
Lloyds	£500
Survey Grant	£200
Events	£1,077
Jubilee Raffle	£47
Jubilee Events	£237
Total:	£12,611

Sincere thanks to everyone who helped to raise this money

After a tendering process the contract for the work has appropriately been awarded to Guy Loveridge. Work will start late February 2003 and should be complete in three weeks.

In addition, we have applied for a grant to replace all windows with double-glazing. This is not in the current specification and we will let you know if we are successful.

The first opportunity you will get to view the newly refurbished hall will be on

FRIDAY 21st MARCH 2003, when we will hold our first event this year.

..... yes it's back, our highly popular - **QUIZ NIGHT**

Questions for all. Prizes for the winners. Tables of 4 will cost £10

For tickets contact Keith Seabridge on 680654 or Lisa Roebuck on 680967

Limited places so hurry

Other dates to note

Disco - Friday 11th April 2003 - for Secondary school age only
(this event will be supervised by Adults) - further details to follow.

Progressive Dinner - Saturday 3rd May 2003. This very popular event is back, so to avoid disappointment - make a note in your diaries now. Further details to follow.

Finally, the Village Hall Committee wishes to place on record their total support for our ever-popular friend and post lady, Jackie. Her work in delivering our flyers over the years has been fantastic and because of the selfish act of one person, the village will be the poorer without this resource.

Linda Dagg

Church Services in March

Church of St. Lawrence, Oxhill

Sunday, March 2 nd	Quinquagesima	9.30	Holy Communion
Wednesday, March 5 th	Ash Wednesday	10.30	Holy Communion with imposition of ashes in Tysoe
Sunday, March 9 th	Lent I	9.30	Holy Communion
Sunday, March 16 th	Lent II	6.30	Evensong
Sunday, March 23 rd	Lent III	9.30	Holy Communion
Sunday, March 30 th	Mothering Sunday	10.30	United ecumenical service in Tysoe Methodist Church

Oxhill Methodist Church

Sunday, March 2 nd	Before Lent	3.00	Daffodil Rally
Sunday, March 9 th	Lent I	3.00	Rev. Alec Roberts, Holy Communion
Sunday, March 16 th	Lent II	3.00	Mr. W. Boneham Mr. R. Lewis
Sunday, March 23 rd	Lent III	3.00	Mrs. M. Gibbs
Sunday, March 30 th	Mothering Sunday	3.00	Pastor Issy Walton

Oxhill Festival Choir

We shall be singing next on Palm Sunday, which is Sunday, April 13th, at 9.30 a.m. in Oxhill Church.

There will be four practices, because I appreciate that this comes towards the end of the school Easter holidays.

These will be on Friday March 21st, Friday March 28th, Friday April 4th and Friday April 11th, at 7.30 p.m.. at the Old House as usual.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible for this, and as ever any newcomers are more than welcome to join us.

Jill Tucker, 680663

Mrs. Gibbins

We regret to announce that Mrs. Gibbins, of Beech Row, died on Saturday, 22nd February. She was our oldest resident, having lived here since 1964, when she married and moved here from Cirencester. She will be sadly missed by all her friends in Oxhill.

Nature notes for March

March, the month of new life, named after Mars, the Roman god of war (let's hope that's not significant!)

The majority of mornings while walking the dog I see a hare, or on some occasions, several, and of course this month sees mad March hares performing their mating rituals. Scan the fields as you drive in and out of the village and if you are lucky you could well see two hares standing on their hind legs and appearing to be boxing. Almost invariably one is a male and the other an unreceptive female spurning his advances. The Brown hare is the most mysterious of British mammals, and there is archaeological evidence of its presence here from the Iron Age onwards. No other animal has so much folklore connected to it. The other morning while walking along Green Lane at sunrise, I saw a single hare running round in small circles while bobbing up and down (this may have been a male trying to attract the attention of a female). Folk lore has it that hares acting oddly may well be shape-shifting witches or "were-hares", and as such can only be killed with a silver bullet, or by placing rowan and vervain behind the gun stock, but fortunately (for the hare) I did neither.

Parker Smith reports that the other day his apple trees were pruned and no sooner had they finished when no less than four Great Spotted Woodpeckers alighted on the tree and appeared to be busy "doing something". Woodpeckers' favourite diet is bees, wood wasps, and their eggs and larvae. The wood wasp is a yellow and black insect with a long tail-like ovipositor, (often wrongly assumed to be a sting), which it uses to deposit its eggs, often into the bark of fruit trees, and the larvae then hatch and then form cocoons. With the branches disturbed and cut, perhaps the woodpeckers were taking advantage of the exposed larvae or cocoons. We may watch wild creatures, but rest assured they watch us as well.

Look forward to the 21st, the Spring Equinox and the first day of spring. And remember on the 31st "it is lucky to say 'Hares Hares' aloud as you go to bed on the last day of the month, and to say 'Rabbits Rabbits' as soon as you awaken the following morning". Go on, give it a try!

Grenville Moore

The common cormorant, or shag,
Lays eggs inside a paper bag.
The reason you will see, no doubt,
It is to keep the lightning out,
But what these unobservant birds
Don't notice is that herds
Of wandering bears may come with buns
And steal the bags to hold the crumbs.

Anon

Church of St. Lawrence Flower Rota, 2003 - 2004

Now that Vera Clarke is, sadly, no longer with us, I have taken on one of her duties, namely drawing up the new Flower Rota. This will start, as usual, at Easter.

I propose to work to last year's plan, but if anyone wishes to change times (I have already had a couple of requests), or to retire (hope not), or to volunteer to be added (much appreciated), please let me know as soon as possible.

Thank you to all the stalwarts, and welcome to any new volunteers. The rota will be ready in March for the start in April.

Carol Fox 680525

Progress at St. Lawrence

The new tower screen has now been installed in the church. It should prevent the cold draught from the tower chilling the air in the nave, and will make the church far more comfortable.

Janet Gardner

Joy's Jumble

I am again holding my annual jumble sale in aid of St. Lawrence's Church, Oxhill.

The sale will be on Saturday April 5th from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. in Tysoe Village Hall.

Admission will be 20 p, to include a cup of tea and a biscuit. There will be the usual stalls offering clothing for ladies, gentlemen and children, cakes, toys, books and household goods, all at amazingly low prices representing exceptional value.

There will be a raffle.

Please bring contributions for any of the stalls to me at 1, Whatcote Road.

Offers of help running the stalls on the day will also be very welcome!

Joy Bloxham

You and I both know that the shag (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*) is **not** the common cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*), but they are both common, and they are pretty alike, so we must excuse *Anon* his mistake.

Shipston Home Nursing

Two events are planned for March:

A Coffee Morning will be held on Saturday 22nd March at Halls Close, Little Wolford (by kind invitation of Mr. And Mrs. Frank Bennison), between 10.30 a.m. and 12 noon.

There will be Stalls, Bring and Buy, Cakes and a Raffle.

On Saturday 29th March, at 7.30 p.m., the Rotary Club of Shipston on Stour will present their fourth annual Charity Music Evening.

The event will be in the Townsend Hall, Sheep Street, Shipston.

Local musicians will provide traditional, classical and modern music and song.

Tickets are £6.00, and there will be a bar.

All proceeds will go to Shipston Home Nursing.

Rebecca Mawle

Spring sale

The British Horse Society Rescue Centre is having a spring tidy up and has the following items for sale:

White plastic garden chairs	£1 each
Red plastic chairs (school type)	£1 each
Wooden trestle tables	£5 each
Heat lamps	£10 each
Fax machine (Brother 470, hardly used)	£15

If you are interested please call in or ring 01926 640373

Zarra Lea

Oxhill and the Internet

We are pleased to announce that, thanks to sterling efforts from numerous people (who tell me they wish to remain anonymous) that Oxhill is now not only on the map but also well and truly on the web.

Vast quantities of information about our village, including the entire text of this august publication, but so much more besides, are now available for the edification of the general public on the World Wide Web.

If you are 'connected', point your browser at www.oxhill.org.uk (www.oxhill.com also works, and takes just a tad less typing).

Many thanks to all those who gave up their time to make this possible.

George Adams

Speeding Traffic

There was a reference to this in the February edition of the 'News'. In the Parish Appraisal of 2000, 27% of responses said that they would like to see Speed Bumps (Sleeping Policemen) and 18% were in favour of so-called 'Village Gates'. 47% wanted a lower speed limit.

I would be happy to ask for the subject to be put on the agenda of the next Parish Council Meeting, providing there is still a significant minority, or perhaps now even a majority, which advocates further action. It would be helpful if villagers could let me have their views. Please write to me at Meadow Cottage or phone me on 680519 or via email - dahill60@aol.com.

The next Parish Council Meeting is on March 11th. It will be, as usual, open to all villagers.

David Hill. Chairman, Oxhill Parish Council.

Tysoe W. I.

On another extremely cold night a good many members braved the weather to hear our speaker, Bob Ashby, help us to appreciate paintings. We will never again just glance at a picture but will really look at its content and meanings.

After welcome refreshments provided by Lilian and Myrtle, the raffle was drawn and won by Chris Smith, who had come to join us from Whatcote. What you might call beginner's luck!

Later in February some members saw "Crazy for you" at Stratford.

A dinner at the White Hart, Newbold is being organised for March.

Philippa Robinson

25 years ago

Issue No. 59 of the Oxhill News, for March 1978, contained, among other items:
details of the District Council's new scheme for removing bulky rubbish,
a lengthy report from the Youth Club that flourished at that time,
a lugubrious poem on the perils of skateboarding,
an announcement of the naming of Blackford Way and
information about the then –flourishing Ladies Circle.

There were at least three articles, which are in essence still with us in this issue.

The village hall was actively seeking funds – an evening with the Shenlow Singers, including Ploughman's Supper, was on offer for the princely sum of 60 p.

Vera Clark appealed for more volunteers for the Church Flower Rota, and Ann Hale begged for recruits for the Church choir.

The issue finished with an invitation (which also still applies) to "use the News to say your piece", i.e. contribute items and articles.

Plus ca change

George Adams

Oxhill Garden Club

Did you know that Hellebores take 3 years to flower from seed, or that their expected life span is approximately 20 years? No - that is because you did not come to our February meeting when Mrs Tandy from Fibrex Nurseries came to talk to us about these interesting plants. She brought with her a selection, some with single others with double blooms ranging in colour from 'black', wine, rose, pink, yellow, cream and white - many of which were for sale.

During the evening a questionnaire about the future of the Club, was circulated.

Members are reminded to return completed forms to Myrtle by Friday 7th March.

The competition 'Flower of the month', was won by Myrtle Knight, second - Joyce McKail and third Lilian Welsby.

Our next meeting will be the AGM, 7:30 p.m. Thursday 20th March, in the Village Hall, when Wine and Cheese will be served.

New members are always welcome.

Sheila Osgood, Secretary

Lost and found

(to the tune of “There was a little man and he had a little gun”)

There was a LEGO MAN who could stand or sit or kneel,
And his arms and his head could move as well;
He was hanging on a chain which was fastened to a ring
With a high-pitched whistle on the end, I tell.

And through the ring was fixed a pretty piece of cloth,
Just like a small lead but with a knot to hold:
The LEGO MAN was lost inside the sliding gate
On his way from the field to Manor Lane; how bold!

The LEGO MAN is waiting for his family to call
And rescue him to take him to his home.
So please pick up your phone and, when you hear the tone,
That the lost be not alone, ring 680-452.

Russen Thomas

If you have lost your Lego Man, please contact Russen!

Tysoe Toddlers & Pre-School

Toddlers: Wednesday

9.30 – 11.15 £1.50

Pre-school: Monday to Friday

9.00 – 12.00 £5.00

Lunch Club: Wednesday & Friday

12.00 – 1.00 £1.00

For further information please call
680624

What's On

March

Sunday 9 th	3.00	Peacock - Lonnie Donegan Tribute singer
Tuesday 11 th	8.00	Village Hall - Parish Council meeting
Thursday 20 th	7.30	Village Hall - Garden Club AGM
	7.30	Peacock - Charity Race evening
Friday 21 st	7.30	Old House - Choir practice
	8.00	Village Hall - Quiz night
Saturday 22 nd	10.30	Halls Close, Little Wolford - Coffee morning
Friday 28 th	7.30	Old House - Choir practice
Saturday 29 th	7.30	Townsend Hall, Shipston - Musical evening

April

Friday 4 th	7.30	Old House - Choir practice
Saturday 5 th	2.00	Tysoe Village Hall - Jumble Sale
Friday 11 th		Village Hall - Disco
	7.30	Old House - Choir practice

May

Saturday 3 rd		Progressive dinner
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Guy Loveridge
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Has your chewing gum lost its
flavour?

Forgotten where the Cumber-
land Gap is?

Feel the need to put on the
style?

Sunday 9th March
3 p.m. – 6 p.m.

The Peacock
Lonnie Donegan
Tribute singer

Free entry

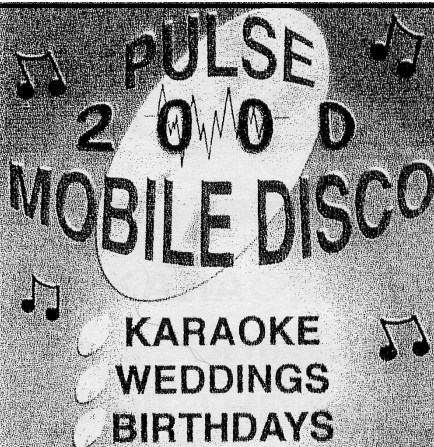
Thursday 20th March
Starting at 7.30 p.m.

Charity Race Evening

In aid of the children's charity

**"Wishes &
Dreams Trust"**

Food: £3.50 selected dishes
Further details from the Peacock



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