

# The Oxhill News



November 2003

## November Events

Thanksgiving Day is a national holiday in the USA, celebrated on the fourth Thursday in November. First observed by the Pilgrim Fathers in 1621 to celebrate their harvest, it became a national holiday in 1863. It is celebrated in Canada on the second Monday in October. Strange how the Canadians seldom seem to really like the Americans.

The Pilgrim Fathers landed on the northern tip of Cape Cod in November 1620. Cape Cod is a sandy peninsula in SE Massachusetts, which forms a wide curve enclosing Cape Cod Bay. I think the writer means that the sandy peninsula encloses Cape Cod Bay, rather than Massachusetts as a whole, or even just SE Massachusetts.

In the coup d'état of 18 Brumaire (9–10 November, 1799) Napoleon became first consul; in 1802 he became consul for life and in 1804 had himself proclaimed emperor. I will be pleased to hear explanations of why one day in Brumaire equates to two days in November.

Martinmas, 11<sup>th</sup> November, is a Quarter Day in Scotland. The Scots take great delight in doing things differently from the English.

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## Sorry

Please accept my apologies for the late arrival of the News this month. Gwyn and I have been on holiday. I will try to arrange matters more suitably in future.

Editor

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## December issue

The deadline for the November issue is Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> November. 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

## Nature Notes for November

November is the ninth month of the Roman Calendar and in Gaelic is *An t-Samhuinn*, the month of the Samhain festival.

I reported last month the sighting in the village of a blackbird-sized honey-coloured bird with a bright red beak. Thank you Jenny Bowes for reminding me that female bird is often drab compared with the male, and she believes, and I agree, that this bird was a female Golden Oriole. A rare summer visitor, the more obvious male is a striking bright yellow with black wings and a red beak, but the female is honey green with a grey underside, still with the red beak.

With our hotter longer summers I believe we will begin to see far more “exotics” that would normally migrate to southern and central Europe pushing their journeys further north. However, although the Golden Oriole is termed “a rare summer visitor”, there is a small breeding colony in Norfolk just outside Mildenhall. I went to see them back in the early 70s and I understand they are still there.

October/November sees the arrival of the Fieldfare, a winter visitor to Britain, although a few numbers do stay and breed, mainly in Scotland. Larger than a thrush, it is distinguished by its grey head, chestnut back, black tail and spotted underparts on a tan chest. Seen through binoculars, it is a striking looking bird. As its name suggests, it is a bird of open countryside and fields. Years ago you would only see them over pastures and farmland, but like many farmland birds they now visit gardens in search of winter berries and are particularly fond of windfall apples. They fly in loose flocks and are remarkably noisy, chuckling and chattering as they go. From below they look pale in colour with flashes of white appearing beneath their beating wings. Caught in sunlight against a winter grey sky, this looks quite enchanting.

23<sup>rd</sup> November, the last Sunday before Advent, was known as stir-up Sunday when the mixture for Christmas puddings was started to allow them plenty of time to mature. They should always be stirred clockwise with a wooden spoon, and all present should take a turn in order – mother, father, children and babies by seniority and lastly visitors.

On 24<sup>th</sup> November the sun enters the House of Sagittarius. For people born under this sign - “Both man and woman shall be inconstant in deeds; but of good conscience, merciful and better to others than themselves” *Kalendar of Shepheardes* 1604.

Grenville Moore

## **Church Services in November**

### **Church of St. Lawrence, Oxhill**

Sunday, November 2 <sup>nd</sup>	All Saints	9.30	Holy Communion
Sunday, November 9 <sup>th</sup>	Remembrance Sunday	9.30	Choral Matins
	Preacher:		The Archdeacon of Warwick
Sunday, November 16 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity XXII	6.30	Evensong
Sunday, November 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Sunday next before Advent	9.30	Holy Communion
Sunday, November 30 <sup>th</sup>	Advent Sunday	10.30	United Service in <b>Tysoe</b>

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### **Midweek Reflection**

From Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November there will be an additional service offered at St. Lawrence Church. The nature of the service will vary from informal Holy Communion to the entirely unstructured form developed by the Quakers, from ancient monastic services to 'Celtic' worship. Each service will last no more than 30 minutes, every Thursday evening starting at 7.30 p.m. Further details on the notice boards in church.

David Knight

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### **Advent Sunday**

The Service on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November will be a United Benefice Advent Carol Service in St. Mary's Church, Tysoe, at 10.30 a.m.

Jill Tucker, 680663

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### **Oxhill Festival Choir**

**Carols by Candlelight**

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December**

**7.30 p.m., St. Lawrence Church**

Rehearsals for the above service will begin on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November, and will continue on 28<sup>th</sup> November, 5<sup>th</sup> December and 12<sup>th</sup> December.

All rehearsals, except possibly the last one, will be at The Old House at 7.30 p.m.

As ever, anyone is very welcome to join us.

Immediately following the service there will, of course, be a choir party back at The Old House.

Jill Tucker, 680663

## Who moved my leaflet???!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Dear Editor

My name is Lucy Conn and I am 9 years old and live in number 4 Beech Road.

I recently (Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October) placed an advert on the notice board outside the village hall. This notice was advertising a dog walking service that my friend and I (plus parents supervision) are looking to introduce.

I noticed this morning that my notice has been removed and I do not know who has done it and where it has gone and am very upset. It took my friend and I a long time to design the notice and it is a serious advert to try and help those with busy lives who also have dogs.

Please could you include in this months news, my plea for the return of my advert. I would also be grateful whether you know of any charge that is required for advertising on the notice boards.

Thank you very much for your help,

Very upset!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Lucy Conn

It seems a very mean thing for someone to have done. Could the perpetrator please right the wrong.

Editor

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## Garden Club Report

Our best news this month was the unexpected marriage of our most esteemed and efficient Secretary, Sheila Osgood, to 'Norman of Stratford'. This **has** to be Oxhill's best-kept secret of 2003, if not for all time! We all wish them every happiness in their new life together, and will surely miss Sheila in the Club and in Oxhill.

We had a very colourful talk on the four star performing perennials to grow in our gardens for flower arranging. The hall platform was bedecked as in summer and the beautiful set piece made by Gillian Hawtin, from Kinton Flower Shop and won in the raffle by Ann Hale, was a treat to see as we enter autumn.

The date for the Christmas party for members and friends is confirmed as Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December at the New Inn, Clifford Chambers, where last year we had a most excellent carvery followed by a spirited skittles match.

The cost will be £17 inclusive. Why not join us there? Prior booking is essential. Phone Lilian Welsby on 680485 **today**.

Myrtle Knight

## CRABBIT OLD WOMAN

What do you see nurses, what do you see,  
What are you thinking when you look at me?  
A crabbit old woman, not very wise,  
Uncertain of habit, with far-away eyes,  
Who dribbles her food and makes not reply  
When you say in a loud voice, 'I do wish you'd try',  
Who seems not to notice the things that you do,  
And forever is losing a stocking or shoe,  
Who, unresisting or not, let's you do as you will,  
With bathing and feeding, the long day to fill.  
Is that what you're thinking, is that what you see?  
Then open your eyes, you're not looking at me.  
I'll tell you who I am as I sit here so still,  
As I move at your bidding, as I eat at your will.  
I'm a small child of ten with a father and mother,  
Brothers and sisters who love one another.  
A young girl at sixteen with wings on her feet,  
Dreaming that soon now a lover she'll meet.  
A bride soon at twenty - my heart gives a leap  
Remembering the vows that I promised to keep.  
At twenty-five now I have young of my own,  
Who need me to build a secure happy home.  
A woman of thirty my young grow fast,  
Bound to each other with ties that should last.  
At forty my young now soon will be gone,  
But my man stays beside me to see I don't mourn.  
At fifty once more babies play round my knee,  
Again we know children, my loved one and me.  
Dark days are upon me, my husband is dead.  
I look at the future, I shudder with dread,  
For my young are all busy rearing young of their own,  
And I think of the years and the love I have known.  
I'm an old woman now and nature is cruel,  
'Tis her jest to make old age look like a fool.  
The body it crumbles, grace and vigour depart  
And now there's a stone where I once had a heart.  
But inside this old carcass a young girl still dwells,  
And now and again my battered heart swells,  
I remember the joys, I remember the pain,

And I'm loving and living life over again.  
I think of the years all too few - gone so fast,  
And accept the stark fact that nothing can last.  
So open your eyes, Nurses, open and see,  
Not a crabbit old woman, look closer - see me.

This poem was found among the possessions of an old Irish lady who had died in a geriatric hospital. The poem so impressed Batha Rainey, a young nurse on the hospital staff, that she sent the copy to the Editor of Beacon House News, the magazine of the Northern Ireland Association for Mental Health. The old lady, Kate, was unable to speak but was often seen writing.

Supplied by Nancy Parker-Smith.

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### **Talgarth Male Voice Choir**

On October 18<sup>th</sup> the Talgarth Choir provided us with another lovely evening of music. Their concert mixed hymns with songs from the shows. They certainly raised the rafters! To finish the evening we all had a glass of wine and some good food.

Many thanks to the men who moved the furniture around, and to the Committee for producing the refreshments.

We did have another treat as the choir's coach simply cannot drive straight past our local, so there was more singing, this time with a little more gusto after a pint or so. Thanks, Steve, it made a good finish to the evening.

We are very lucky to get this Choir as they only charge us for the cost of the coach. They themselves do not get home until 2.30 the following morning. Thank you very much, Talgarth. The evening made a profit of over £300 for Church funds.

Lilian Welsby

## **FIRST RESPONDER UPDATE**

We have now obtained our certificates from Warwickshire Ambulance Service and our able to offer a First Responder service for the local area at night and in the evenings. Warwickshire Ambulance Service has asked us to act as coordinators for trying to set up a Responder Service to cover daytime as well. We will be able to give further information on this after we have attended a coordinators meeting arranged for a date in November.

As you are aware, living in the country means that it can take quite a long time for an ambulance to reach us. This is much too long if someone has had a heart attack and needs to be resuscitated. We, as First Responders, will be called by the ambulance service and will be able to attend the patient in a much shorter time and give assistance until the ambulance arrives. There is evidence that since First Responders have been used the number of patients being revived after suffering a heart attack has improved from 2% to 22%.

We need to provide all our own equipment including a defibrillator, which will cost about £3000. We would be grateful if anyone would like to contribute towards this personal expense.

If you would like any further information about this please contact Mick on 07976298228 or Email: [viper@viperrecovery.co.uk](mailto:viper@viperrecovery.co.uk)

Mick Shepard and Barbara Peach

3 The Leys, OXHILL, Warwick CV35 0QX

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### **Cover Picture**

Only two weeks late, we bring you this proof that Oxhill is indeed on the map.

Mrs. Dorothy Simmonds suffered a fall at her home on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October and an ambulance was summoned. A few minutes later the ambulance service rang back to say “The air ambulance just happens to be flying overhead, so it will call in”. Neither the doctor nor the paramedic on board was able to perform a full diagnosis so Mrs. Simmonds was whisked to hospital in Warwick, reportedly in 4 minutes.

Fortunately her injuries were slight, and she was able to return home later that evening – by road, and somewhat slower.

Just goes to show the value of having such things as air ambulances about. And a defibrillator could come in handy in the village one day, too. We all need to keep supporting such services.

Editor



## **Village Hall News**

The Committee would like to say a special thank you to Sue Robbins for keeping all the plants around the Village Hall looking so splendid.

Forthcoming events:

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November:        Progressive Dinner

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December:        Senior Citizen Christmas Lunch

Linda Dagg, 680850

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## **Notorious Villains**

I have set up a website containing information about Notorious Villains, the event run in aid of Shipston Home Nursing. Guests at the Notorious Villains event can buy photographs of themselves. The site address is:

[www.armscotemanor.co.uk/notoriousvillains](http://www.armscotemanor.co.uk/notoriousvillains)

Deborah Williams

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## **W.I. Report**

Members who attended the Group meeting at Pillerton were entertained by Richard Westmacote in his role as pantomime dame. He showed how to put on make-up and displayed and modelled dresses that he had made himself. He said that his wife was no dressmaker, and had his audience in fits of laughter.

At our own meeting we were entertained by Oxhill, this being members night. Rosemary Brown gave us a delightful insight into her childhood, and Lillian made our brains work with a tricky quiz, all rolled up in a story line.

We were reminded that our A.G.M. takes place at our November meeting together with a talk, very appropriately on 'The Gunpowder Plot'.

Philippa Robinson

## **Shipston Home Nursing**

**Friday November 7<sup>th</sup> (9 a.m. – 7 p.m.) and**

**Saturday November 8<sup>th</sup> (9 a.m. – midday)**

Designer sale from Moda Rosa, Alresford at Darlingscott Farm, Darlingscott, by kind invitation of Mr & Mrs John Sargent.

Day and evening wear, with prices from £10 to £175.

Designer labels include Ralph Lauren, Nicole Farhi and Christian La Croix.

10% of all purchases donated to Shipston Home Nursing – Hospice at Home.

### **Christmas Gift Fayre**

**Thursday November 20<sup>th</sup>**

**10.30 a.m. - 7.00 p.m.**

#### **The Townsend Hall, Sheep Street, Shipston-on-Stour**

As last year there will be 40+ stalls from all over the country selling unusual gifts, clothes, toys, and food. There will also be stalls for local charities and St. Edmunds Church.

The £2.50 entrance fee will include a cup of coffee.

Coffee, lunch, tea, mulled wine and mince pies served all day.

**Xmas cards** are on sale now. Packs of ten cost £2.95 per pack and are available from The Medical Centre Shipston, the Natural Health Clinic, Wellesbourne Hairdressers or Rebecca Mawle on 01608 674929.

The "**Great Wolford uncovered 2004**" calendar is on sale at £5.00 per copy.

All proceeds will go to Shipston Home Nursing and Moreton Hospital.

All will be revealed!

To order your copy phone Rebecca on 01608 674929.

### **Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2004**

The Townsend Hall, Shipston-on-Stour

6.00 p.m. for 6.30 p.m.

There will be a public meeting to give an account of our activities over the last six years. Wine and nibbles will be available. Questions will be answered by the nursing coordinator, treasurer, trustee, and the fund raising coordinator.

There will also be talks on the charity. The meeting will be a non-fundraising meeting.

Rebecca, 01608 674929

**Progressive Dinner  
Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2003**

**What is required? Basically you!  
Whether you participate in preparing a starter, main  
course or dessert at your home ... we will do the  
rest!**

**If you would like to join in all the fun, but you are  
fed up with cooking, for £15 per person you can  
enjoy a memorable evening of eating and drinking.**

**This is a great way of getting to know Oxhill Village  
and the fantastic people who make up this  
community**

**Interested???**

**Contact Tracy on 01295 680268 or Linda on 01295  
680850**

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**SENIOR CITIZEN CHRISTMAS LUNCH  
AT THE VILLAGE HALL  
ON**

**Monday 15th December 2003**

**12.30pm pre lunch drinks**

**1pm lunch to be served**

**If you are willing to help out at this event please contact  
Keith on 01295 680654 or  
Ray on 01295 680850**

# What's On in Oxhill

## November

Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup>	7.30	Oxbourne House - Pate & Puds
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup>	7.30	St. Lawrence Church - Midweek Reflection
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup>	9.30	St. Lawrence Church - Remembrance Service
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup>	10.00	Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa - SWOOP 2003
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup>	8.00	Village Hall - Parish Council Meeting
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup>	7.30	The Old House - Choir Rehearsal
Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup>		Progressive Dinner
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup>	7.30	The Old House - Choir Rehearsal
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup>	10.30	St. Mary's Church, Tysoe - Advent Carol Service

## December

Friday 5 <sup>th</sup>	7.30	The Old House - Choir Rehearsal
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup>	7.30	The Old House - Choir Rehearsal
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup>	12.30	Village Hall - Senior Citizens' Lunch
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	7.30	St. Lawrence's Church – Carol Service