

# The Oxhill News



October 2003

## October Events

It was at Rome, on the 15th of October, 1764, as I sat musing amidst the ruins of the Capitol, while the barefoot friars were singing vespers in the Temple of Jupiter, that the idea of writing the decline and fall of the city first started to my mind.

Edward Gibbon, Autobiography

The metre, being the length of the path travelled by light in vacuum during a time interval of  $1/(2.99792458 \times 10^8)$  second, was defined thus by the General Conference on Weights and Measures in October, 1983, to replace the 1967 definition based on the krypton lamp.

The Battle of Ulm was a somewhat longwinded affair fought between 25<sup>th</sup> September and 20<sup>th</sup> October, 1805. Napoleon with 210 000 men defeated 72 000 Austrians. With that manpower advantage he should have been able to win sooner.

The space age began with the Soviet Sputnik I satellite, launched on 4<sup>th</sup> October, 1957.

The Battle of Lepanto was fought on 7<sup>th</sup> October, 1571, off Lepanto, Greece. The Holy League routed the Ottoman navy. Not a lot of people still remember it.

The Battle of Hastings was fought on 14<sup>th</sup> October, 1066 at Senlac Hill, near Hastings.

The Battle of Trafalgar was fought on 21<sup>st</sup> October, 1805.

The United Nations was founded on 24<sup>th</sup> October, 1945.

The Battle of Agincourt was fought on 25<sup>th</sup> October, 1415 at Agincourt. Now there's a surprise. The decisive English victory owed much to their outstanding archers, who were mainly Welsh.

The Battle of Balaclava was also fought on 25<sup>th</sup> October, but a few years later, in 1854. It was an indecisive battle between Russian and British-Turkish forces unless you were unfortunate enough to be the Light Brigade, which charged Russian artillery at the end of a narrow valley, losing about one sixth of the men. The problem was a misunderstanding between Lords Raglan and Lucan. No wonder the man disappeared.

The Reformation began in Wittenberg, a town in Germany, on 31<sup>st</sup> October, 1517.

Editor

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November issue

The deadline for the November issue is Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> October, which should be a nice day, it being my birthday. 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 October

October – Fruit-time and Fall-of-Leaf, the eighth month of the Roman calendar.

St Francis' Day, the 4<sup>th</sup>, is traditionally the day that the swallows start to prepare to migrate; watch for them sitting in tight formation on telegraph wires. The disappearance of swallows and other migrants in the autumn was for a long time a great mystery. Some firmly believed that they hibernated at the bottom of lakes or ponds, and others that they hid in holes and bushes and remained torpid until spring. In 1776 Gilbert White in his *Naturalist's Journal* questioned this notion "But if hirundines (swallow family) hide in rocks and caverns, how do they, while torpid, avoid being eaten by weasels and other vermin?" Well of course we now know that they make a long arduous journey to Africa. There are inns named The Swallow and there are a handful of places named for an association with swallows, apparently the most likely being Swalcliffe ('a cliff where swallows nest').

The swallows have done particularly well this year, many having up to three broods. I have just finished working in a Gothic tower just west of Stratford, and under the overhang of the castellations there were no less than twenty-one swallows nests, and up to the last week of September, three still had a brood being attended by the parents. While working here we were treated almost daily to a rarity in the Midlands. We were alerted by their deep throated hoarse croak and looking out saw three Ravens, and most days were delighted see them performing aerial acrobatics – clasp talons and tumbling while holding on to each other. These birds breed mainly in Western Scotland, Wales and the West Country and are usually seen on cliffs, quarries, moors and windswept hills. A neighbour said that this particular threesome were regular visitors from the Malverns and came to steal her Mulberries! The Raven is the largest member of the crow family and is renowned for its intelligence and is also the largest species of perching bird in the world. It was once common throughout Britain but was persecuted by man and driven into mountainous regions. It was believed to be the harbinger of death, probably because of its jet black colour and its habit of feeding on the corpses of victims on the gibbet.

I have had reports of two sightings in the village of a blackbird-sized bird, but completely honey coloured with a bright red beak? This is certainly not a native or visiting bird that I know of – has anyone out there any ideas?

Celebrate St Crispin's Day – October 25<sup>th</sup> – Anniversary of the great English victory at Agincourt, 1415.

This day is called the Feast of Crispian  
And Crispin Crispian shall ne'er go by  
From this day to the ending of the world  
But we in it shall be remembered.

Shakespeare, *Henry V* IV iii

Grenville Moore

## Church Services in October

### Church of St. Lawrence, Oxhill

Sunday, October 5 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity XVI	9.30	Holy Communion
Sunday, October 12 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity XVII	9.30	Holy Communion
Sunday, October 19 <sup>th</sup>	St. Luke's Day	6.30	Evensong
Sunday, October 26 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity XIX	9.30	Holy Communion

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### Oxhill Festival Choir

My thanks to everyone, congregation included, for their superb singing at the Songs of Praise for Harvest. Keep up the good work, because either the Bishop or the Archdeacon is hoping to join us in Oxhill when next we sing, which is the service for

Remembrance Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> November at 9.30.

Rehearsals for that will be held on Friday 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> October and on 7<sup>th</sup> November at the Old House. I appreciate that this straddles half term, which may cause difficulties for some (myself included), but hopefully most people can get there most of the time (myself included!).

Looking ahead to Christmas, Carols by Candlelight will take place on

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30.

Rehearsals for Carols by Candlelight will begin on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November, and will continue on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November and then on 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> December. Again, all rehearsals will be at 7.30 p.m.. at The Old House. As ever, everyone is welcome to join us.

Jill Tucker, 680663

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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

## **Harvest Festival**

Many thanks to all the people who made our Harvest Festival such a joyful event.

We are grateful to the decorators and those who brought produce to the Church. It is impossible to thank them personally as the produce just arrived when no-one was at the Church.

To the choir we should show our special appreciation – they made the service, and the singing was wonderful.

Afterwards as a result of the auction, when so many people gave so generously, the final total raised to be sent to Farm Africa was £406.

Thank you everyone.

Janet Gardner

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## **Pate and Puds**

There will be a Pate and Puds Evening on

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> November**

**7.30 p.m.** at

**Oxbourne House, Whatcote Road**

In aid of Church Funds

Tickets, price £8 each, can be obtained from:

Lilian Welsby, 01295 680468, or

Janet Gardner, 01295 680280.

## **Offer of the Month!**

Philco radiogram plus collection of (classical) records.

Yours in exchange for a suitable donation to the Parish Church or Tysoe School.

Eve Whaley, The Old Rectory, 680224

## **Annual Subscription for the News**

If you have not yet done so, please make sure that you pay your annual subscription of £2 to your deliverer as soon as possible.

The Parish Council is generous enough to provide a most welcome subsidy, but the bulk of the News' income still comes from reader's subscriptions.

Editor

## **Notes of the Oxhill Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2003 at 8.00 p.m. in the village hall**

Apologies were received from Brian Emmerson. All other Councillors were present.

### **MATTERS DISCUSSED**

#### **Recreational Facilities**

Marcus Robertson, Youth Representative, Village Hall Committee asked the Parish Council what could be done to provide recreational facilities for the youth of Oxhill.

This is being pursued by the Parish Council, but obtaining land is the main obstacle which up to the present day has not been successful. However we are continuing to try and resolve this problem and will report back.

Please report instances of speeding to the Community Beat Officer, PC Dale Packer at Shipston-on-Stour Police Station and any information received will be treated in the strictest confidence and acted upon. The Parish Council will also be asking the Police what action can be taken against persistent and dangerous driving through the village.

#### **Planning**

Permission received for single storey extension at 3 The Leys.

Planning permission refused for change of use from agricultural land to commercial use retention of hard standing and erection of new storage unit at Wixey Transport

Planning Appeal - Informal Hearing to be held on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2004 at Oxhill Hill Farm.

Planning notification returned with no objection for change of use of part of land used for storage & distribution of pallets at Field Forge Farm

**"Back and 4<sup>th</sup> Transport"** - a transport initiation by the Rural Transport Partnership offering transport with a driver for use by community groups. Membership of the scheme is £2.50 per annum. For more details ring Judith Hill on 01789 269430.

#### **Notices Posted on the Board**

Promotion of constituency surgeries held by John Maples M.P.

The Boundary Committee Public Notice of Electoral Review

### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2003 at 8.00 p.m. in the Village Hall.

Angela Kean, Clerk

## **Riding Report**

After a successful season, Katy just missed out on being selected for this year's Junior European Squad.

On Sunday 24th August we travelled to Boston, Lincolnshire for 3 days of competition at the Under 21's Championship. Katy had been selected to ride as part of the Barbour International Team as well as an Individual.

Monday and Tuesday were fairly laid back with Katy only riding once a day in 'Warm-up' classes. Wednesday was to be busy with Team and Individual Medals to be competed for. Tuesday night was party night and we got to bed at 1 am and were up again at 5am. Katy was first in at 8am. The team rode their socks off and we were rewarded with a Gold Medal.

Hung over and very tired Katy pulled out all the stops. Glamour (Our horse which did the display at the Jubilee Celebrations) was in top form and seemed to realise how important these championships were, they went on to win the individual gold, the freestyle to music gold and the Junior Championship, beating 2 of this year's Championship Squad. What a successful few days. She is now in line to compete abroad and hopefully go the European Championships in 2004.

We are still looking for a Sponsor, and have put out an appeal on The Bear. We hope for more publicity in the Stratford Herald, Central Horse News and Horse and Hound.

Hilary Simcox

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## **W.I. Report**

We met up again after our summer break and, for the first time, used the new kitchen, which was much approved of.

The President welcomed three visitors for the evening, but thought that we should all have been in London for the opening night of 'The Calendar Girls'. Perhaps we will make do with Banbury Cinema.

"Hats" were our topic for the evening, and Jan Monk, a hat maker herself, gave us a brief history of hat making and how the saying 'Mad as a hatter' came into use. It was the use of mercury, which damaged the brain and caused loss of memory. Rosemary Brown then became our willing mannequin for the evening, and every hat she wore seemed to suit her. The fun really started in our social time when most of us had a 'trying on session', but we didn't suit all of the hats.

Our next meeting, on 1<sup>st</sup> October, is Member's Night, when Oxhill members will entertain us. Visitors will, as usual, be very welcome.

Philippa Robinson

## **Macmillan Cancer Relief**

### **The Lardies Tour of The River Nile 2003**

We have all heard of Macmillan Cancer Relief but I am sure not many people in the village have heard of “Lardie Tours”.

The Lardies were formed about 6 years ago by a group of 6 middle-aged men who were playing golf one day and decided to start a card school, which they called the Lardies.

The fact is the group were rubbish at cards and hated taking money off each other as it ruined a friendly evening and gradually the card school became an excuse for a get together, eat curry, drink lager and have a laugh playing things like French cricket, Scalextric and Subuteo and any other games their kids had!

Three and half years ago while training for a Triathlon one of the Lardies, Paul Bithell (Ex-Banbury Guardian Editor) had a brain haemorrhage. It was cancer and it was terminal. Paul was told he had 6 months to live. His fellow Lardies asked him whether he had any ambitions that he had not achieved. Paul said that he had never been to Lansdowne Road to watch the Rugby, never been skiing and had never been to the coffee shops of Amsterdam.

So five grown men who should have known better took Paul to Dublin where they watched a glorious match ....USA –v- Ireland! Courcheval where Paul skied slowly down a mountain, and Amsterdam.... Where they can't remember much about that weekend at all.....however all of Paul's ambitions were satisfied and Lardie tours was born!

Sadly, Paul Bithell died Christmas Eve 2002 and the Lardies now work tirelessly to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Relief.

The Nile is an extraordinary river. The Lardies are completely ordinary middle-aged people. Inspired by the tragic loss of a friend to cancer, the ordinary will be taking on the extraordinary. The Lardies will be undertaking the cycle-ride of a lifetime, along the banks of the river Nile, in order to raise awareness and money for Macmillan Cancer Relief.

The trip will take place between 13<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> October 2003 and the participants will be travelling every inch of the way by bicycle. The tour will be 420 km long and spread over five days of cycling. That means the Lardies will be travelling an average of 84 km (52.7 miles) per day, in boiling temperatures of up to 33 degrees Celcius.

Any support that you could give would be very welcome. Should you wish to make a donation or require more information, please contact Neil Chick on 01295 688238 (evenings) or come and see me at 4 Beech Road. Should you have access to the internet, please visit the Lardies website at [www.lardietours.co.uk](http://www.lardietours.co.uk)

Your donations can be forwarded to me at 4 Beech Road, please make cheques payable to Lardie Tours. I have leaflets available to you should you require some further information on either the Lardies or Macmillan Cancer Relief.

Thank you on behalf of the Lardies.

Neil Chick, 01295 688238



## St. Peter's Church, Whatcote Fundraising - Christmas 2003

This Christmas we are again raising funds for the Restoration and Alterations to St. Peter's.

We would like you to contribute to this fund and now you're in luck. We've got something a lot tastier than a raffle ticket. **We've got the Ultimate Plum Pudding.** Christmas puddings are on most family's shopping list in December. The Ultimate Plum Pudding is probably the finest Christmas pudding you can buy. It has been endorsed by the BBC Good Food Magazine and by Chef magazine as being as good as the best home made. It is used by top chefs and sold as prestigious private labels throughout the country

The pudding is virtually hand made by a very small craft manufacturer in Cumbria. All the vine fruits are soaked in plenty of brandy and dry sherry. Fresh breadcrumbs and freshly grated carrot help give the pudding a distinctly northern style being lighter, less bitter, and having a wider variety of luxury ingredients than many other puddings. Most people have no idea that Christmas pudding can be this good.

The Ultimate Plum Pudding is not available in supermarkets, (the company is too small for that), but it is available through us. We have had the pudding attractively labelled especially for us. Our label incorporates a picture of our church and also states that the sale of the pudding supports the church. Our suppliers costs have risen slightly this year. **Each order for a 1lb. pudding (serves 4) now costs £5.00 and raises at least £2.13 for us. A 2lb. (serves 8) costs £8.30 and raises at least £3.29.** (We get bigger discounts the more you order). Pudding prices are comparable with the best puddings available from retail shops. Our ordering direct from the manufacturer allows there to be a good profit for us within a very competitive retail price.

It's a great pudding. You'll love it. Your friends will love it. It's so easy to order from us and it raises money for St. Peter's. It has to be worthwhile. Copy and fill in the order form and send it back now. Last date for orders is **5<sup>th</sup> December** and the puddings can be collected from:

June Wreford, Church Cottage, Whatcote. 01295 680294

Ingredients: vine fruits (raisins, sultanas, currants), fresh breadcrumbs, free range eggs, dark sugar, grated carrot, apple, flour, mixed peel, chopped dates, whole cherries, stem ginger, brandy, sherry, vegetable suet, all vegetable margarine, flaked almonds, nibbed walnuts, apricots, golden syrup, spices, salt. (Please note puddings contain nuts).

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### pudding Order Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Tel. No. \_\_\_\_\_

Would like to order \_\_\_\_\_ 1 lb. @ £5.00 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 lb. @ £8.30

I enclose a cheque for £ \_\_\_\_\_ made payable to Whatcote PCC Special Projects Fund.

Please return to **June Wreford, Church Cottage, Whatcote, Shipston-on-Stour, CV36 5EF**

## **Garden Club**

The first meeting of the Club since May was held on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September.

Mr. Walker, from Fosseway Nurseries, demonstrated wonderful ways of filling hanging baskets and pots for the winter. He put four layers of bulbs in the pot and top planted it with herbs and a small conifer, with pansies in between. He even put small daffodils with pansies and trailing plants in the basket. We came away with inspirational ideas.

The next meeting will be in the Village Hall on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30, when Gillian Hawtin will talk about 'Flowers for cutting'.

Rosemary Brown

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# **The Talgarth Choir**

This magnificent Welsh Male Voice Choir is back by popular demand in

**St. Lawrence Church, Oxhill**

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October**

**7.30 p.m.**

Tickets, including refreshments, are available from:

Lilian Welsby, 01295 680469 or

Janet Gardner, 01295 680280

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# **Bingo Night**

## **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October**

### **7.30 p.m.**

## **The Village Hall**

£2 for your first book. This will include wine at the halfway break.

Further books will be priced at £1 each.

Ray Dagg

## Village Hall News

The Committee would like to say a special thank you to all the hard work by Una, David, Terry and Hugh for their sterling efforts in finishing the painting of the Village Hall.

### Forthcoming events:

Live and Local is back at the Village Hall on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October at 8 p.m: Tickets £5

Running Time: 45 minutes – interval – 45 minutes

Suitable for: Adults and age 9+

Who will enjoy it? – Anyone who doesn't take their classical music too seriously

**The Classic Buskers**

Classical music  
without the  
boring bits

A entertaining and fun  
evening of musical cabaret  
given with a mix of instruments  
and two cheeky grins!

The Classic Buskers are really good fun, non-stop show full of clever new versions of popular classics. It's packed with jokes and moments to make your jaw drop – you'll never hear Beethoven played like this again!

So come along and join in the fun – reserve your place by calling Keith on 680654 or Ray on 680850

The *Progressive Dinner* has been organised for Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November – make a note in your diary to avoid disappointment. If you would like to participate in cooking a course or to book your place for £15 for non-participants please contact Tracy 680268 or Linda on 680850.

Linda Dagg, 680850

## What's On in Oxhill

### October

Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup>	7.30	Tysoe Village Hall - W.I.
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	7.30	Village Hall - Bingo Night
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup>	8.00	Village Hall - The Classic Buskers
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup>	7.30	Village Hall - Garden Club
Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup>	7.30	St. Lawrence Church - The Talgarth Choir

### 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
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	7.30	St. Lawrence's Church – Carol Service

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## The Perils of Philosophy

René Descartes (cogito ergo sum) was sitting in a bar one evening when he was asked if he would like a drink.

"I think not," he said.

And disappeared.

Anon