

# The Oxhill News



April 2004

## **April 1**

Is the Feast Day of Saints Agilbert, Gilbert of Caithness, Tewdric, Walaric, Catharine of Palma, Melito, Valery, Hugh of Bonnevaux, and Hugh of Grenoble.

It is also All Fools' Day, despite which it was the day chosen for the foundation of the Territorial Army in 1908. And for the formation of the RAF in 1918. Who says British politicians have no sense of humour?

Come to that, April 1<sup>st</sup> 1947 was the day that Britain's school-leaving age was raised to 15, and when VAT was introduced. In 1948 the USSR began its blockade of Berlin, while the USA launched the world's first weather satellite, *Tiros I*, in 1960. Perhaps they don't understand All Fools' Day in America.

Prominent (?) people born on April 1 include William Harvey, the English physician who explained the circulation of the blood, in 1578, Otto von Bismarck, first chancellor of the German Empire in 1815,; Edmond Rostand, author of *Cyrano de Bergerac* in 1868 and Ali McGraw (or should that be MacGraw?) in 1938.

Deaths include Eleanor of Aquitaine in 1204, King Robert III of Scotland in 1406, Scott Joplin in 1917, Max Ernst in 1976 and Marvin Gaye in 1984.

In 1998 the US software company Knowledge Adventure waited until April 2 to introduce a product called 'JumpStart Baby', designed for nine-month-old babies to play on their parents' laps. Perhaps the Americans do understand All Fools' Day after all.

Editor

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## **May issue**

Please could I have all copy for the April issue by Midnight on Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> April? 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. If you do use electronic form, the best would be a Word file with the page size set to A5 and margins of 1.5 cm all round. The font size should in general be 10 point.

My 'official' e-mail address is [news-editor@oxhill.org.uk](mailto:news-editor@oxhill.org.uk) if you wish to send me stuff that way.

George Adams, 680286

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## **Cover Picture**

The Old Rectory, somewhat hidden, earlier this year.

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## **Oxhill Garden Club**

A better harbinger of spring than the cuckoo is the AGM of the Oxhill Garden Club. It should be used as a business example as the committee was sincerely thanked for their work and efforts in the previous year, the accounts were agreed to be in order and in profit and the committee re-elected all in the space of half an hour. This was followed by the serious part of the evening, mainly a delicious wine and cheese buffet and the examination of the events planned for the forthcoming year.

Details will be announced later but you might like to note that the next evening event on April 15<sup>th</sup> will be on the planting and maintenance of summer hanging baskets and pouches. Non-members are very welcome.

Heather Brennan, Secretary

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## **The Roman Villa in Oxhill**

As everyone knows, this Roman villa, in the field next to the sewage works, was an exceptional find by a local archaeologist. English Heritage became involved, but work on the site stopped due to a lack of funding. A minimum of £150,000 would be needed to start on the work of completely unearthing this 2-acre discovery. However, funding is not now the greatest problem. Ken Hutsby, of Thornton Manor, Ettington, who now owns the land, is currently proposing ploughing it up this summer immediately after making the hay crop that is growing on the field.

This will be a major blow for anyone who has an interest in the history of our village. The remains are likely to be broken up completely if the plough is allowed to go in. No one can stop this happening as the law states if it has been ploughed for 7 years then it can be continued to be ploughed.

What we would like the villagers to do is either telephone Ken Hutsby on 01789 740241 or write to him at the above address and implore him not to destroy this small piece of our heritage. Failing this Robin and I will be going to the press.

If you need further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards, Sue Hutsby, Nolands Farm

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## **Welcome**

We would like to welcome Gail Barker-Harland and her son Christopher, who have recently moved into Barn Row, and wish them a happy stay in our village.

Editor

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**Church Services in March**  
**Church of St. Lawrence, Oxhill**

**Sunday Services**

|                          |                 |       |                                                    |
|--------------------------|-----------------|-------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup>   | Palm Sunday     | 9.30  | Holy Communion with Choir                          |
| Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> | Maundy Thursday | 7.30  | Holy Communion in <b>TYSOE</b>                     |
| Friday 9 <sup>th</sup>   | Good Friday     | 10.00 | Service in <b>TYSOE</b><br><b>METHODIST CHURCH</b> |
| Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup>  | Easter Day      | 10.00 | Holy Communion of the<br>Resurrection              |
| Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup>  | Easter 1        | 10.30 | United Service of Matins in<br><b>WHATCOTE</b>     |
| Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup>  | Easter II       | 9.30  | Holy Communion                                     |

**Midweek Services**

Short (less than 30 minutes) informal services

|                           |      |                                                                                   |
|---------------------------|------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup>  | 7.30 | Celtic Worship - The Cross                                                        |
| Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup>  | 7.30 | <b>Tysoe Church</b> - Service for Maundy Thursday                                 |
| Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> | 7.30 | <b>No Worship this week</b>                                                       |
| Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> | 7.30 | Compline, followed by the first in the 'Which way to God' series at The Old House |
| Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> | 7.30 | Holy Communion, followed by 'Which way to God'                                    |

**Advance notice:** The Thursday Worship on May 6th is cancelled in favour of the Archdeacon's Visitation.

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**Women's World Day of Prayer**

The Women's World Day of Prayer was commemorated in Tysoe with a service at the Methodist Chapel on Friday March 5<sup>th</sup>. The collection amounted to £48.00, which will be used for their Prayer Movement and for Christian Literature and Christian Education Projects.

Thanks are due to Dr. Jill Tucker for leading the service, Rev. Dorothy Hewitson for preaching and to all the willing workers who laid on a magnificent spread of tea and cakes after the service.

Janet Gardner

## **NOTES OF THE OXHILL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 9th MARCH 2004 AT 8.00 PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

**Apologies** received from David Hill.

**Meeting Chaired** by Tom Heritage and attended by Gwyneth Adams, Stephen Hackett and Brian Emmerson – Councillors

### **MATTERS DISCUSSED**

Procedure for Reporting Noise Nuisance and Anti-social Behaviour

If anyone has any concerns about the above they should first make a note of the type and level of nuisance being inflicted and its occurrence. This information should then be sent to Mike Yap, Senior Officer, Environmental Health Service at Stratford District Council with a copy to the Parish Council.

Green Garden Waste Collection

This new service commences in March with each household being provided with a wheeled bin for garden waste which will be collected on the same day as the “black box” collection.

**Planning** Permission granted for a dwelling at Willow Ley

Appeal being made against decision to extend onto agricultural land at Wixey

**Transport**

Appeal upheld for re-alignment of drive at Oxhill Hill Farm

Recent applications:

Dormer windows to front at Barnacre

Double garage to side and conversion of existing garage into ancillary living accommodation, Oxbourne House

Conservatory to rear of property – Medway

Single and two storey side/front extension – Conifers.

If you would like your views included in the Parish Council’s response to Planning Applications, please contact one of the Councillors.

### **Highways**

Poor state of the road edges at the top of Green Lane and general poor condition of the road to Whatcote would be highlighted to the Highways Department.

### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 11th May 2004 at 8.00 p.m. in the Village Hall.

### **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

This is **your** meeting and will be held on **6TH APRIL 2004 at 8.00 p.m.** in the Village Hall. Any items for the Agenda can be sent to me in advance or just come along.

Angela Kean, Clerk

## NATURE NOTES FOR APRIL

The Spring cuckoo's month and the Roman Aperilis – from aperio, to open or display: the month when the earth opens.

As I write this month's notes we have just had a stormy weekend with very high winds, and on Friday morning we were woken by the wind rattling our bedroom window at about 5.30 am, but the wind wasn't the only noise we heard. There was a continuous loud solitary bird song although there was barely a glimmer of light. It was in fact a mistle thrush. It is a noticeable feature of this bird's behaviour that, unlike most other birds who seek shelter from stormy weather, this bird seems to be stimulated by approaching storms and will sing or call lustily before and during bad weather. As a solitary singer it is particularly conspicuous and is often referred to as the stormcock or storm thrush. It has been heard singing during a driving snowstorm. Not normally an aggressive bird, it is fearless in defence of its nest and will drive off marauding jackdaws and rooks and will even attack and beat off a kestrel or sparrowhawk. It is larger than the song thrush, greyer in appearance and the breast markings are more blotched and spotted, which is nicely described in another local name – the marbled thrush. We were particularly delighted to hear this song bird because like its cousin the song thrush, numbers have dropped dramatically in recent years, thought to be related to the loss of damp ditches and field margins where the birds find much of their food.

While walking down the long meadow below the church the other morning, my attention was drawn to movement in the group of Ash trees as you enter the field, and saw a grey squirrel which seemed unaware of my presence. I then noticed a second squirrel sitting on a higher branch. The first squirrel, which I presume to be a male, started an amazing "trapeze act", spinning, turning, and doing a fantastic tail waving display which was obviously his courtship tactics. Although most people look on the squirrel as an endearing creature, it is in fact an American alien and spread in the 1920s from the Zoological Gardens in Regents Park. It is now so widespread and destructive that it is often referred to as the "tree rat". It eats young shoots, buds, roots, bulbs, eggs and even fledglings, and it can also ring strip the bark on a tree, eventually killing it. I'm afraid unlike our gentle indigenous and now rare red squirrel, the grey does need controlling, and Frank, our large black cat has done his bit to make amends for the occasional bird he catches by killing (don't ask me how because he is fat and not very agile) no less than three grey squirrels.

April is the first month of spring, and with it comes the cuckoo. This migratory bird from Africa will leave the south of France on or about 21 March and since the 17<sup>th</sup> century seems to arrive on the south coast of England on 15 April, reaching the Midlands by 20 April. However, apparently global warming in the northern hemisphere over the last two years had advanced nature by two to three days, so listen out for that first cuckoo from the 15<sup>th</sup> onwards. And remember, folklore says that when you hear the first

call, turn your money over in your pocket so you won't be short of it for the rest of the year.

With April comes Easter, so here is an Easter recipe from "The Closet of Sir Kenelm Digby, opened 1669":

*To make an Eastertide Tansy take three pints of cream, fourteen new laid eggs (the whites of seven putt away), one pint of juice of Spinnach, six or seven spoonfuls of juice of Tansy, a Nutmeg (or two) grated small, half a pound of sugar, a little salt. Beat all well together, then fry it in a pan with no more Butter than is necessary. When it is enough serve it up with juice of orange or slices of lemon upon it.*

Grenville Moore

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### **100 MILE WALKIES.**

In an attempt to relive our youth we have set ourselves the challenge of walking the West Highland Way in May. This is a 95+ mile walk from Glasgow to Fort William. We will be backpacking, sleeping in Hostels and Bunkhouses.

Initially planned purely as a challenge to ourselves we have decided we could also use the opportunity to raise funds for a charity. We have chosen to support the Warwickshire and Northamptonshire Air Ambulance.

If anyone would like to sponsor us to help the important work of the Air Ambulance we would be very grateful.

For further information or if you would like to sponsor us please contact us on 688167 or drop a note in at our house.

Thank you. Ian & Sally Broderick

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### **The Long March, Take Two**

Recent research, which has only just come to my attention, suggests that the Long March quoted in last month's issue was not quite as long as was originally claimed.

Two walkers (as against the original 100,000) retraced the route through 11 provinces, 18 mountain ranges and across 24 major rivers, and found it was only about 7,500 miles. I really must stop putting any faith in OUP reference works.

Editor





Are you  
interested in  
**BEE - KEEPING ?**

You will be welcome  
at meetings of  
The Warwickshire  
Bee-Keepers' Association

Your local branch:  
**SHIPSTON**

Contact: **DAVID PECKHAM**

Telephone: **01608 663762**



# **Joy's Jumble**

**on Saturday, April 17<sup>th</sup>**

**2 p.m. - 4 p.m.**

**in Tysoe Village Hall**

**Admission 20p**

**Includes tea and biscuits**

**Stalls for cakes, jumble etc.**

**Raffle 50p per strip**

**Offers of help and / or jumble,  
also cakes,**

**will be much appreciated by**

**Joy Bloxham**

**Tel. No. 01295 680476**



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contact Suzanne Holland on 01295-688344

## **25 Years Ago**

The Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Village Hall Meeting were announced, as they are in this issue. David Whaley thanked the volunteers who had re-painted the Village Hall, and the Tote winners for January and February were announced as a job lot.

The Youth Club and Tysoe W.I. both reported. The former is, of course now unfortunately defunct, and the latter seems to have stopped communicating with the News.

The Annual Church Meeting was reported on, and the Village Supper was formally announced - tickets £1.25 per head, but bring your own cutlery. It saved a bit on the washing up, I seem to remember.

Mr. And Mrs. Booth were welcomed to Oxhill, and there were best wishes for a speedy recovery for Robin Hutsby, who had just had his appendix removed. He has a different worry this month.

George Adams

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## **Poetry Corner**

### **Loveliest of Trees**

Loveliest of trees, the cherry now  
Is hung with bloom along the bough,  
And stands about the woodland ride  
Wearing white for Eastertide.  
Now, of my threescore years and ten,  
Twenty will not come again,  
And take from seventy springs a score,  
It only leaves me fifty more.  
And since to look at things in bloom  
Fifty springs are little room,  
About the woodlands I will go  
To see the cherry hung with snow.

*A.E. Housman*

## **Shipston Home Nursing Fundraising Events for 2004**

**Saturday May 15<sup>th</sup>** - PLANT SALE - at The Townsend Hall, Shipston on Stour. If anyone would like to help Sonia Baker or Rebecca get plants, label the day before or help on the day please ring Rebecca on 01608 674929.

**Tuesday May 25<sup>th</sup>** - CHAMPAGNE AND SHOP - by kind invitation of Mr and Mrs Robert Loades, Park House, Newbold Pacey, Wellesbourne. We are having more Stalls this year, with lots of lovely clothes, gifts and food.

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> June** - SUMMER BALL - organised by John Blann, The Castle Inn, Edgehill. We will benefit from this event along with Radway village hall. Venue: Grounds Farm, Radway. Marquee, band - £30 per ticket, black tie, tables of 8 or 10. If anyone would like to reserve a table please phone John Blann on 01295 670255.

**Sunday June 20<sup>th</sup>** ETTINGTON AND ADMINGTON HORSE SHOW - at Admington Hall by kind permission of Mr and Mrs Mark Davies. Anyone who would like to help Lee Hobday and Debbie Morton on the day or with the setting up, please phone 01789 740146.

**Sunday July 4<sup>th</sup>** - LOXLEY HALL - Marquee offered to SHN for an event by kind invitation of Mr and Mrs P. Gregory Hood. We are having a luncheon and Jazz Band. Drinks at 12 onwards. Invitations to follow.

**Friday, Saturday and Sunday July 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>** - Idlicote Art Exhibition, Idlicote House, Idlicote, Shipston on Stour. Preview night Friday 2nd invitation only.

**Friday and Saturday November 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>** - Designer Sale - Moda Rosa by kind invitation of Mr and Mrs John Sargent, Darlingscott.

**Thursday November 18<sup>th</sup>** - Shipston Home Nursing Gift Fayre, Townsend Hall, Shipston on Stour.

Rebecca Mawle, Fund Raising Co-ordinator.

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## **BROADBAND**

I recently attended the meeting concerning the introduction of Broadband locally. Anyone who would like a copy of the small and easily digestible conference pack, please contact David Knight on 680201.

David Knight

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## **YOUR COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTRE**

The beautifully and sympathetically refurbished Old Fire Station, Tysoe is due to open its doors to the public for the first time on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2004.

One of the major objectives of the new Centre is to promote learning in the community. From Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April we are looking for local speakers / lecturers (call them what you will) to lead sessions for adults. So if you have an interest that you would like to share, or knowledge or a skill to pass on to others – please let us know. It would be ideal if you had a teaching qualification or were qualified in a particular field of study, but enthusiasm for your subject and a willingness to prepare for one or a series of two hour teaching sessions would certainly carry you a long way! We are, of course, looking for volunteers to do all sorts of jobs too.

The Centre already plans to run Computer, Cookery and First Aid classes and is open to receive suggestions as to what would be likely to interest you, your family and your friends. Family learning in the life skills of reading, writing, maths and computers is a possibility – so if you want to stay ahead of the children (or grandchildren) please ask! Whatever the subject, for the first six months of the Centre's operation, learning is free – subject to a maximum of two free classes per person. In order to cater for different family circumstances, sessions are likely to run 10.00 – 12.00, 1.00 – 3.00 and 7.00 – 9.00 most days of the week.

We have links to Warwickshire Community Education Service who can call upon a whole range of tutors to run sessions on topics as diverse as singing, painting, languages, history, lace making etc. If this teaching expertise can be found locally, so much the better. A fixed hourly rate is payable for teaching, and mileage reimbursed where appropriate.

Whether you are a potential volunteer helper, teacher or learner, please get in touch. "Learning is for Life" – and can be fun too!

Douglas Netherclef, 680041

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## **Thank You**

To the kind person who found my dog lead and left it on the gate on the footpath -

THANK YOU.

I had been on a long meandering walk through numerous fields the previous day and was nearly home when I realised I had lost the lead. I had no idea where it could be and was faced with a long, tedious and, I thought, ultimately fruitless search of a green lead in all that grass. So I was delighted to see it swinging on the gate. There are some very kind people living in Oxhill.

Gaynor Van Dijk

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## **Know Your Rights! .... Advice from Trading Standards Car Servicing**

A recent undercover operation by Trading Standards revealed that four out of the seven garages tested performed poorly. So how can you make sure you're getting a good service? Here are some tips:

- Compare garages beforehand or get recommendations
- Make sure you know exactly what the service includes and costs
- Get a written quote
- Agree a firm date and time when the work will be completed
- If any remedial work is required, make sure the garage agrees it with you first and in writing
- Make sure the garage explains why replacement parts are needed and Inspect any replaced parts

For more advice on problems with shopping or buying services, contact  
Trading Standards Advice Line, Old Budbrooke Road, Warwick CV35 7DP  
Tel: 01926 414000 or email [ts-advice@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:ts-advice@warwickshire.gov.uk)

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## **Village Hall News**

The committee would like to say a belated 'thank you' to Mr & Mrs Charlton-Smith for donating the music centre to the village hall.

The Bingo was again a great success. The Committee have decided that bingo should become a regular event at the Village Hall..... hope you will all be able to support this popular evening. Dates will follow next month.

### **Events**

Cheese & Wine evening at the AGM, everyone is welcome - Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm

Linda Dagg



## **‘VICKY’S BUS’ ST. MARY’S CHURCH MINIBUS ADVERTISING**

Tysoe parish church has just acquired a seventeen seater minibus. It will be used by the school, other organisations in the valley and other churches in the Shipston and Kineton areas. It also offers a unique opportunity for advertising local businesses and services. As well as being highly visible in the Shipston and Kineton areas, your advert will also be associated with the local church and other trusted groups. You will also know that through your advert you will be helping to keep this important community resource on the road.

There are spaces for eight adverts on the two main side panels, which we suggest should be renewable every twelve months. Each space is available for £200.

If you’d like to find out a little more or see the bus, please call me, David Knight, on 01295 680201.

David Knight

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### **Parochial Church Council Officers**

The current Officers of the PCC are:

|                                       |                                |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Vice Chairmen and the Church Wardens: | Mark Gummer and Janet Gardner. |
| Treasurer and Gift Aid Secretary:     | John Baines                    |
| Secretary:                            | Ann Heritage                   |
| Electoral Roll Secretary:             | Rosemary Brown                 |
| Social Committee Chairwoman:          | Lilian Welsby                  |
| Clerk of Works:                       | Bill Fox                       |
| Ann Heritage                          |                                |

## What's On in Oxhill

### April

|               |       |                                            |
|---------------|-------|--------------------------------------------|
| Saturday 3rd  | 7.30  | Oxhill Church - Stratford Operatic Society |
| Tuesday 6th   | 8.00  | Village Hall - Annual Parish Meeting       |
| Wednesday 7th | 7.30  | Tysoe Village Hall - W.I. - Keeping Active |
| Thursday 15th | 7.30  | Village Hall - Garden Club                 |
| Saturday 17th |       | Tysoe Village Hall - Joy's Jumble          |
| Sunday 25th   | 24.00 | Deadline for material for the News         |

### May

|               |      |                                                                                                  |
|---------------|------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tuesday 13th  | 8.00 | Village Hall - Parish Council Meeting                                                            |
| Saturday 15th |      | Townsend Hall, Shipston - Shipston Home Nursing Plant Sale                                       |
| Thursday 27th | 7.00 | Village Hall - AGM, Cheese and Wine<br>Newbald Pacey - Shipston Home Nursing, Champagne and Shop |

### June

|               |  |                                                             |
|---------------|--|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| Friday 4th    |  | Car Boot Sale                                               |
| Saturday 15th |  | Townsend Hall, Shipston - Shipston Home Nursing, Plant Sale |
| Sunday 20th   |  | Admington Hall - Shipston Home Nursing, Horse Show          |

### July

|                          |       |                                                        |
|--------------------------|-------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| Sunday 4th               | 12.00 | Loxley Hall - Shipston Home Nursing, Jazz Luncheon     |
| Friday 2nd to Sunday 4th |       | Idlicote House - Shipston Home Nursing, Art Exhibition |

### November

|                           |  |                                                             |
|---------------------------|--|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| Friday 5th & Saturday 6th |  | Darlingscott - Shipston Home Nursing, Designer Sale         |
| Thursday 18th             |  | Townsend Hall, Shipston - Shipston Home Nursing, Gift Fayre |