

The Oxhill News



January 2004

It happened in January

January is Janvier in French, Enero in Spanish, Gennaio in Italian, Januar in German and Jänner in the Austrian version of German. Who knows, you might find it useful one day.

New Year's Day is a Bank Holiday in both England and Scotland, but the Scots also take 2nd January as a Bank Holiday (instead of Easter Monday). You may draw your own conclusions as to why they need the extra day.

The January Birthstone is a garnet.

Charles I was beheaded on 30th January, 1649. He should not be confused with Charles the Bald, who was a different Charles I altogether and was not beheaded at all.

Louis XVI of France had his head chopped off on 21st January 1793. He was a Bourbon. I like the chocolate ones.

Christmas Day in the Old Calendar was on 7th January, so you could always start over if you really want to.

Editor

Editorial

Happy New Year, everyone.

George

February issue

Please could I have all copy for the February issue by Noon on Monday, 26th January? 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** if you wish to send me stuff that way.

George Adams, 680286

Cover Picture

The Rector took time out from his official duties to take this shot at the Carol Service last month.

Annie Messer

We are sorry to have to record the death of Mrs. Annie Messer on 20th December at the age of ninety years.

We offer sincere condolences to all her family.

Editor

Be careful!

I've received a complaint from someone in Tysoe about some rather unpleasant high-pressure sales techniques used by a company called 'Willowbrook Recliners'. The chairs they are selling seem perfectly reasonable but the methods of at least one of their sales team are unpleasant. The company contacted this lady telling her she had 'won a competition' which entitled her to a massive discount on a chair. A salesman then visited and after four hours pressured selling (!) had got a very large cheque from her.

Fortunately she cancelled it the following day. She had to pay the bank's cancellation charge of £10 - but all things considered, she had a very lucky escape. Please do be wary of any company using these techniques and, if you live alone, always have a friend with you if you invite a salesman to call.

David Knight, Vicar.

Village Hall News

The Committee would like to thank all those people who helped, served, donated and cooked for the Senior Residents Christmas Lunch. It was a great success and we have received many thanks and compliments from those who attended. All your help was much appreciated.

The music system currently in the village hall has come to the end of its life. If anybody has a music system to play tapes or cd's etc. and would like to donate it to the village hall, can you contact Linda or Ray on 01295 680850, it would be very much appreciated.

FOR SALE: We have several paving bricks and edging left over from the re-paving of the front of the hall, which are currently being stored in the hall. If anybody would be interested in them could you please contact Ray on 01295 680850.

May we wish everybody in the village a very Happy & Prosperous New Year.

Linda Dagg

Church Services in January

Church of St. Lawrence, Oxhill

Sunday, January 4 th	Christmas II	10.30	Holy Communion
Sunday, January 11 th	Epiphany I	9.30	Holy Communion
Sunday, January 18 th	Epiphany II	6.30	Evensong
Sunday, January 25 th	The Conversion of St. Paul	9.30	Holy Communion
Sunday, February 1 st	Epiphany IV	9.30	Holy Communion

AGE CONCERN WARWICKSHIRE

'The Right Move'

Age Concern Warwickshire has recently launched a pilot scheme to assist homeowners or people in private rented accommodation aged over sixty in the Stratford-upon-Avon rural district council area who may be considering moving.

We offer a comprehensive range of information on options, including possible funding/grants that may be available to repair, alter or adapt their existing property. For clients who wish to move we can assist in finding suitable accommodation either to rent or buy. We have access to a countrywide database and once we have established the client's needs we can give a list of accommodation in the chosen area. We can also provide assistance throughout the moving process, including accompanied viewing to potential properties.

For places in residential and nursing homes we can obtain information on local homes availability, together with up to date inspection reports.

'THE RIGHT MOVE' initiative offers impartial and independent advice to enable clients to reach an informed decision on whether to stay in their own homes or to move elsewhere.

For more information on this scheme or any of AGE CONCERN ARWICKSHIRE'S other services please contact us on 01926458125.

Cora Hewitt, Co-ordinator – The Right Move

Welcome

We welcome into the village Jonathan and Kirsty, who moved into The Old Bakehouse just before Christmas, and wish them a happy life in Oxhill.

It is very brave of Jonathan, moving in next to his old (in all senses) Chemistry teacher!

Editor

25 Years Ago

Issue No. 69 started by wishing everyone a Happy New Year, and followed up with pleas for a new Editor and a new Parish Clerk to step forward and take over the reins of office.

There were still tickets available (from Gwyn Adams) for the Village Supper on 13th January. The equivalent this year is 24th January, so get your tickets from Linda or Ray Dagg.

Joyce McKail was looking for recruits for her lampshade classes, and the W.I. were looking forward to a talk on local history and their fossil competition.

There was a report on the pre-Christmas Nativity Play, and thanks were offered to those who helped out at the children's Christmas Party, an event which seems to have fallen by the wayside in recent years.

Finally, and somewhat confusingly in view of the initial plea for a new Editor to step forward, there was a request for all copy for the News to be given to the new Joint Editors, Ann Hale and Julia Leeson, who had agreed to take over in the previous November. I am not the first to confuse myself.

Editor

Broadband is (nearly) here!

BT have completed their survey of the Tysoe exchange, and have announced that Broadband will be available to us from Wednesday 28th April.

Thank you to all those who signed up to register their interest in the service. Particular thanks must go to Toby Nunneley of Sugarswell Business Park, who drove the campaign from nowhere to the finishing line quicksticks.

Editor

Cleaner required.....

for a busy family home near Oxhill

4 hours per week

(2 hours Monday, 2 hours Thursday)

starting January 2004

Hourly rate negotiable

Telephone Linda Heritage

on 01295-688058

Nature Notes for January

The Midwinter month – named after the double-faced Roman god Janus who look back towards the old year and forward to the New Year.

While walking down the side of the brook at dawn last week I had a ‘first’ for Oxhill, although I have seen many on the army camp at Kineton – a woodcock with the fabulous Latin name of Scalloped rust cola (that’s a good one to amaze friends at parties “I see that Scalloped rust cola is a bit thin on the ground this year!”). The woodcock had been probing the mud in the brook with its long beak for earthworms and insects. It silently flew into the air and dived rapidly through the trees and vanished off along the brook within seconds. The woodcock is technically a wading bird which has taken to the land, especially to woodland areas that have opened up by clearings and rides – hence its name. British woodcock are mainly residents, although the numbers are often increased by winter visitors that come in across the North Sea by night. They are rarely seen by day unless flushed out of the leaf litter where they usually roost. They fly by moonlight and at dawn and dusk, and like to feed on marshy or boggy ground. During the 17th and 18th centuries it was believed that woodcock were among the birds that went to the Moon in autumn. The bird is handsome with short legs and a plump round body, the eyes set high in the head and well to the back, which gives it all round vision. The plumage is a beautiful dappled russet, perfect camouflage on the woodland floor. The woodcock also has a unique feature in that it carries its young between its legs if startled or threatened and will return to ‘rescue’ any remaining offspring. This was thought to be fanciful folklore for many years, but has recently been proven correct. Another fascinating fact about woodcock is its ‘pin’ feathers or ‘pen’ feathers which are located at the first joint of the wings and are tight fine feathers about 10 – 15 cm long and shaped exactly like a fine paint brush. They were prized among artists and scribes and it is said that many of the medieval manuscript illuminated panels were painted using woodcock pin feathers.

Sadly for the woodcock, it is a game bird (meaning it is legal to shoot them) and is judged by many to be the finest of all birds taken to the table. Traditionally woodcock and snipe are both cooked rare complete with head, feet and entrails and served on toast or fried bread. On presentation at the table the entrails are pulled and spread on to the toast (during cooking they completely dissolve into a paste reminiscent of liver pate). The woodcock does not have the normal intestines of other birds and on springing from the ground it excretes all waste from its small stomach. If you were to order Scotch woodcock you would receive a dish of egg yolks, cream and anchovies. The name is a play on the English belief that the Scots are cautious with their money and that this offers a substitute for the choice and costly woodcock.

During the progressive supper (which I can't recommend highly enough – do come to the next one if you haven't yet tried it) someone enquired if I knew anything of the history of their breed of dog, so I thought I might each month include a small piece on dogs, and as I've been talking about woodcock ...

A pair of red and white spaniels sent to John Churchill, later Duke of Marlborough, as a present from China, were christened 'Blenheim' spaniels. These small spaniels could be used as working dogs and would be employed in low and close-growing cover to spring woodcock, hence they became known as cocker spaniels.

A happy and prosperous new year to all readers, and remember that January 13th is St Hilary's day and traditionally the coldest day of the year – wrap up well!

Grenville Moore

What's On in Oxhill

January

Tuesday 13 th	8.00	Village Hall - Parish Council Meeting
Saturday 24 th	8.00	Village Hall - Burns Night Party
Monday 26 th	12.00	Deadline for copy for the News

Poetry Corner

The Bells of Hell

The bells of hell go ting-a-ling-a-ling
For you but not for me:
And the little devils how they sing-a-ling-a-ling
For you but not for me.
O death, where is thy sting-a-ling-a-ling,
O Grave, thy victor-ee?
The bells of hell go ting-a-ling-a-ling
For you but not for me.

Anon.

TARTS & TARTAN PARTY

Saturday 24TH January 2004

Come and join us at the Village Hall for a 'Burns Night' Party.

So look in your cupboard for all that tartan gear and as the theme would suggest, dress accordingly!

8pm until late (Live Ceilidh Band & food (Haggis, neeps and tatties, with vegetarian option) to be available)

**Tickets: £12.50 each
Limited Numbers Available**

**Book your ticket through Linda or Ray on
01295 680850**

(If you are willing to help, cook a dish or decorate the hall please contact Linda or Ray)