

# The Oxhill News



March 2004

## March

The historic March to the Sea was led by General Sherman, the US Federal commander in the West during the Civil War. That's the American Civil War, of course, not ours. Sherman captured Savannah in September 1864 and then moved North through the Carolinas. Presumably this is why they called the tank after him.

Julius Caesar was assassinated by republicans on the 15th March, 44.

John Philip Sousa wrote military marches, including "The Stars and Stripes Forever," "The Washington Post," and "Liberty Bell". He also invented the sousaphone.

The "Radetzky March" was composed by Johann Strauss the Elder. Nothing to do with Sousa at all.

The Long March was led by Mao Tse-tung in 1934–35. Over 100,000 people started the 10,000 km march, but only about 30,000 survived it. Do not confuse the Long March with the March to the Sea. The March to the Sea was much shorter.

Daffodils,

That come before the swallow dares, and take

The winds of March with beauty.

*William Shakespeare, The Winter's Tale*

When angry, count four; when very angry, swear.

*Mark Twain, Pudd'nhead Wilson's Calendar, March*

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## April issue

Please could I have all copy for the April issue by Noon on Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> 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. 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

Beech Road, or Barn Row, whichever you like to call it, on a sunny afternoon.

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## **Garden Club News**

Lights! Camera! Action! Except that there wasn't! No power in the Village Hall. Fortunately Mr. Clews of the R.S.P.B., who came to talk on "Garden Birds", had a sense of humour and was very patient as members, various, crawled under the sink, investigated power plugs and extension leads and finally achieved connection three quarters of an hour later. The talk was well illustrated and worth waiting for.

The next meeting, on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> March, is the A.G.M., and will be followed by the members' Wine and Cheese Part.

Why not join us on the third Thursday of each month? We have a most interesting programme set up for next year.

P.S. An urgent plea to cat owners from Mr. Clews. **Please** keep your pets indoors for one hour after sunrise and one hour before sunset, as these are the prime prowling times when they hunt feeding birds.

Myrtle Knight

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## **Oxhill Open Gardens 2004**

Spring is here at last. Now is the time to go out into the garden to lift and divide those overgrown clumps of perennials or into the greenhouse to sow your summer bedding annuals. If you have plants to spare, they will be gratefully received for sale at our plant stall.

Also would anybody like to exhibit and/or sell watercolours or other craftwork? Would anybody be willing to help to man a stall?

Finally, if there are any keen gardeners in the village who have not yet opened their gardens but would like to do so, please let me know.

Nadia MacCall, 680306

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## **Tysoe School PTA**

Tysoe School Fashion Show and Sale, in conjunction with Smartys childrens chainstore clothes, will be held at Tysoe School on Friday 12th March at 7pm.

Doors will be open from 6.30pm and you can enjoy a complimentary glass of wine before the show.

Tickets cost £3.00 each and are available from Nicola Kendall on 680458 or Ruth Mercer on 680407.

## **Church Services in March**

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

#### **Sunday Services**

Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Lent II	9.30	Holy Communion
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Lent III	9.30	Holy Communion
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Lent IV, Mothering Sunday	10.30	Family Service
N.B. There is no Evensong this week			
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup>	Lent V, Passion Sunday	9.30	Holy Communion

#### **Midweek Services**

Short (less than 30 minutes) informal services

Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup>	7.30	Celtic Worship - Confession	David Knight
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup>	7.30	Compline - Thanksgiving	David Knight
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup>	7.30	Meditation - Supplication	Alec Roberts
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup>	7.30	Compline	DK or AR

The above form part of the Lent Series, which also offers part of the preparation for Confirmation.

#### **Other Services**

Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	7.45	Deanery Lent Service in Oxhill
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup>	2.30	Women's World Day of Prayer, Tysoe Methodist Church

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### **Oxhill Church A.G.M.**

This will take place on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March at 8.15 p.m. in the Church, after evening worship.

Please note that in a break with tradition this is happening on a Thursday and not a Sunday.

Ann Heritage

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### **For Sale – Mower**

Flymo Turbo Compact 350

Only used once. It does collect the grass.

Original cost £89, will accept £70 ONO.

Doreen Neal, 680405

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## **A VILLAGE FAIR AT THE MANOR?**

Mrs Rodwell has very kindly offered her lovely home and garden for a village fair. The church social committee has run this in recent years but it is really beyond the abilities of one (already very busy group) to do this event justice. Would anybody be interested in forming a group specially to organise a village fair at the Manor? It's a perfect venue and potentially a really good village event. Profits to go to any charity or organisation the group decides on. If you are interested in helping with this please contact David Knight on 680201.

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## **Oxhill Festival Choir**

We will be singing next on Palm Sunday, which is Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> April.

The service is at 9.30 a.m. in Oxhill Church.

Rehearsals will be held on Friday March 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> and on Friday April 2<sup>nd</sup>, all at 7.30 p.m. at The Old House as usual.

Anyone who would like to sing is very welcome to join us.

Jill Tucker, 680663

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## **Stratford Operatic Society**

We have a return visit from the Society on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> April, in Oxhill Church at 7.30.

Tickets at £8 each, which will include a buffet supper, will be available from Janet Gardner (680280) or Lilian Welsby (680468) nearer the time.

All are welcome. Proceeds will go to Oxhill Church.

Lilian Welsby

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## **Advance Notice**

We will be having a Car Boot Sale on the evening of Friday 4<sup>th</sup> June, in aid of Church funds.

The Church will have a stall. If you can find anything in the attic that you don't want we would be pleased to have it for the stall. Collection is possible.

Lilian Welsby

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## **Items available**

A single pine bed frame (no mattress) and an office chair are available to anyone that is interested. Both are in good condition. Just waiting in our garage!!

Jan Luckett

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**TYSOE MARIONETTE GROUP**

**“The Little Mermaid”**

**and her friends**

invite you to  
a dramatisation of  
Hans Christian Andersen's fairy story

**Barn Theatre, Baldwins Lane, Upper Tysoe**

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30 pm**

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30 pm**

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March at 2 pm (Matinee)**

By ticket only: Adults £3 and Children £1.50

Tel: **Tysoe 680431** or Email: [Ann.Beeny@care4free.net](mailto:Ann.Beeny@care4free.net)

Tel: **Tysoe 680317** for the Sunday matinee

*Proceeds to St Mary's Church Bell Fund and  
Tysoe Children's Group, Pegasus Project*

Oxhill Parish Church  
presents ...

# Stratford-upon-Avon Operatic Society



on Saturday  
3rd April  
7.30 p.m.  
in church

Tickets : £8  
include a finger buffet  
Donations Bar & Raffle  
Ring 01295 680280  
(Oxhill is off the A422 between  
Stratford and Banbury)

## Nature Notes for March

March – the month of new life, named after Mars the Roman god of war. In Anglo-Saxon – Hrethamonarth, the month of the goddess Hretha.

I have recently had two reported sightings of snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*) one from the long rough meadow by the clay shoot, and one between Oxhill and Tysoe, and the other morning I heard them. They will certainly have been attracted by the boggy ground left from all the recent rain. Their fondness for mud stems from their fondness for worms and insects, which they obtain with their long pliable probing beaks. It has proportionately the longest beak of any European bird and its eyes are set far back in the head so that it can still see when the beak is plunged full length into the mud. The name comes from the old English “snite” and means “a long thin object”. This name is commemorated in the village of Snitterfield, which in the Domesday Book was called “Snitefield” – a field frequented by snipe. If you put up a group of snipe they explode from the ground, rising in a vertical zig-zag pattern going in all directions – a real treat to watch. The collective noun for a group on the ground is a “walk” of snipe, and in the air a “wisp” of snipe.

What I heard (and only for the second time in my life) was snipe “drumming”. This is a bit of a misnomer as the sound is more of a bleat or rattle, and another old English word for snipe is Haeferblaete or “goat bleater”. This eerie fluting sound is made with the end wing primary feathers and outer tail feathers as the bird drops in a deep descent from a high rapid flight. This is courtship behaviour and usually takes place in spring and early summer, although it has been heard throughout the year. It is one of nature’s strangest sounds and it moves me to wonder if the 17<sup>th</sup> century Polish Winged Hussars got their idea from the snipe, They had “wings” of feathers attached to the back plate of their cuirasses (chest and back armour) and when they reached a gallop at the charge the feathers gave out an eerie high-pitched whistle (or bleat) and this supposedly struck fear into the enemy. I would image several hundred snipe “drumming” would certainly scare a lot of people nowadays.

Over a period of three days last week I saw a now scarce sight, a flock of about 30 lapwings. These birds of farmland have recently seen a dramatic decline in their numbers, probably due to changes in farming practice. I remember as a lad seeing vast surging clouds of lapwings and their haunting cry was commonplace. During the early 1900s they suffered a similar decline, but this was due to the fashion of eating plovers eggs. In 1921 one Norfolk man collected and sold no less than 1,900 eggs destined for the table. The lapwing is a wonderful bird to watch, its broad-winged flight being beautifully controlled. The word lapwing comes from the old English Hleapewince which means “leap with a waver in it” which conveys so well the tremulous power of its flight. Its distinctive cry has given rise to a number of commonly used names such as Piewipe, Tewit, Tee Whip, Weep and of course Peewit. Many old folk tales mention the cry of the lapwing, which is a good or bad omen, depending on the demands of the story!



A useful hint from *Arbeau-Orchesographic* of 1588 for the month of March – “Exercise and divert yourself with dancing. Dancing or saltation is both a pleasant and a profitable art, which confers and preserves health: it is proper to youth, agreeable to the old, and suitable to all, provided fitness of time and place are observed ..... And it is a useful device for ascertaining whether a person be deformed by the gout ..... or if they emit an unpleasant odour, as of bad meat.”!!

Grenville Moore

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### **Church Flower Rota**

Thank you to all flower arrangers for your help in keeping the Church looking pretty throughout the year, and particularly to Sue Robbins, Joyce McKail and Lilian Welsby for help with the festivals.

I hope this can continue for the coming year. If there is anyone in the village who would like to be added into the rota, please telephone me on 01295 680223

Carol Fox

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### **25 Years Ago**

The Church packed it all into one evening that year, holding a meeting of the Parochial Church Council, the Annual Parochial Meeting and a concert by the Shenlow Singers all on a single Wednesday.

Vera Clark asked for volunteers for the Church Flower Rota, much as Carol Fox is doing elsewhere in this issue. There was also a shortage of Church Cleaners.

Les Carter had instructed the W.I. on how to joint their lambs, and Mary Badger was looking for children's Wellingtons.

The Warwickshire Structure Plan was reviewed at some length, and the Village Hall Committee announced the dates for its decorating working parties.

Editor

**Know Your Rights!**  
**Advice from Trading Standards**  
**Buying In the Sales**

When you shop in the sales you have exactly the same rights as the rest of the year and therefore traders commit an offence if they display signs saying “no refunds on sale items”. To keep within the law, goods in a sale must have been available at a higher price for 28 days during the last six months. If less than this, the shop should display a disclaimer e.g. the higher price applied for less than 28 days or only in certain branches if in a chain of shops.

Comparisons with another shop’s price must be clearly identified and comparisons should be with the very same product or very similar products sold by that shop.

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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**Joy's Jumble**

We have advance notice that Joy's Jumble this year will be on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> April, in Tysoe Village Hall as usual.

Therefore please, if during your spring cleaning (which, of course, all of you will soon be doing) you find suitable saleable items of jumble, please drop them in at Joy Bloxham's house on Whatcote Road, or give her a call on 680476 and she will arrange collection.

More details will emerge next month.

Editor

## **Stella's Birthday, March 13, 1719**

Stella this day is thirty-four,  
(We shan't dispute a year or more:)  
However, Stella, be not troubled,  
Although thy size and years are doubled,  
Since first I saw thee at sixteen,  
The brightest virgin on the green;  
So little is thy form declin'd;  
Made up so largely in thy mind.

Oh, would it please the gods to split  
Thy beauty, size, and years, and wit;  
No age could furnish out a pair  
Of nymphs so graceful, wise, and fair;  
With half the lustre of your eyes,  
With half your wit, your years, and size.  
And then, before it grew too late,  
How should I beg of gentle Fate,  
(That either nymph might have her swain,)  
To split my worship too in twain.

Jonathan Swift

## **What's On in Oxhill**

### **March**

Wednesday 3rd	7.30	Tysoe Village Hall - W.I. - Flower Arranging (Kineton Flower Shop)
Tuesday 9th	8.00	Village Hall - Parish Council Meeting
Thursday 11th	8.15	Oxhill Church - A.G.M.
Friday 12th	7.00	Tysoe School - Fashion Show
	7.30	Barn Theatre, Tysoe - "The Little Mermaid"
	8.00	Village Hall - Bingo
Saturday 13th	7.30	Barn Theatre, Tysoe - "The Little Mermaid"
Sunday 14th	2.00	Barn Theatre, Tysoe - "The Little Mermaid"
Thursday 18th	7.30	Village Hall - Garden Club
Saturday 27th	12.00	Deadline for "News" material

### **April**

Saturday 3rd	7.30	Oxhill Church - Stratford Operatic Society
Wednesday 7th	7.30	Tysoe Village Hall - W.I. - Keeping Active
Saturday 17th		Tysoe Village Hall - Joy's Jumble

### **June**

Friday 4th		Car Boot Sale
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