

The Oxhill News



October 2004

October 1

Is the National day of China, Nigeria, and Cyprus. It is also the Feast day of Saints Romanus the Melodist, Melorus or Mylor, Bavo or Allowin, and Thérèse of Lisieux. You would think it ought to be quite easy to decide between Bavo and Allowin, but apparently not.

In 331 BC Alexander the Great defeated Darius III at Arbela, and in 1163 Archbishop Becket refused Henry's demand for the punishment of clergy in secular courts. It is possible that he regretted this later.

1795: Belgium became part of the French Republic.

1843: The *News of the World*, Britain's most popular Sunday newspaper, was first published on October 1 1843, and in 1908 the first Model T, produced in Detroit, Michigan, was introduced by Henry Ford. In 1938 German forces entered Sudetenland, Czechoslovakia, annexed by Hitler under the Munich Agreement. In 1971 Disneyworld opened in Florida. Isn't it horrible to think that it has been going that long without a revolution by people with taste?

1207: Henry III, King of England, was born on October 1 1207, Walter Matthau in 1920, Jimmy Carter in 1924, Richard Harris in 1933 and Julie Andrews in 1935.

Edward Landseer died on October 1 1873.

November Issue

Please could I have all copy for the November issue by Midnight on Wednesday, 27th October? 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. It is back in working order - see the article later.

George Adams, 680286

Cover Picture

I took this shot of the Tamar bridges on the way to a working holiday in Cornwall earlier this month.

Editor

Please don't blame the editor!

The problem of spam e-mail recently overwhelmed the Oxhill mailboxes including news-editor@oxhill.org.uk advertised by George for the submission of articles for the Oxhill News.

Action was taken to re-direct incoming mail through heavy weight protection filters which unfortunately resulted in some articles for the last edition of 'The News' being trapped in the system. Due to unforeseen circumstances the problem was not identified until after the News had been distributed.

Many apologies to the contributors whose articles were 'lost'. We have learnt from this incident and hopefully it won't happen again.

Oxhill Webmaster

PS - If you think Spam comes in cans then please do not be concerned with any of the above!!!!

Garden Club News

(Should have been in the September News, but went astray – Ed.)

We have had several most successful outings this summer.

The longest and furthest away was to the lovely Well Dressings at Youlgrave and another Derbyshire Village.

Several members were entertained by members of Radway Garden club in Ratley Gardens. After the initial obvious confusion between the two venues, 17 of us were entertained by 23 of them on one of those rare lovely evenings in pretty, if steep, gardens, with excellent refreshments to follow.

Finally, last Thursday saw us at the “Old Coach House” in Avon Dassett where Mr. and Mrs. Graham Rice have created a superb garden in only 7 yrs. Herbaceous borders, a scree garden, woodland area, fountains and many unusual plants made the whole a treat to see. Afterwards much refreshment being needed we repaired to the local hostelry for supper and much convivial chat.

One Sunday in July, three public spirited members volunteered to “man” the interesting “Hill Close Gardens” which a group of people in Warwick are restoring to their former glory. A quite fascinating project which is well worth a visit. It is located near the Racecourse.

Myrtle Knight

Church Services in October
Church of St. Lawrence, Oxhill

Sunday Services

Sunday 3rd	Trinity XVII	9.30	Holy Communion
Sunday 10th	Trinity XVIII	9.30	Holy Communion
Sunday 17th	Trinity XIX	6.30	Evensong
Sunday 24th	Trinity XX	9.30	Matins
Sunday 31st	Trinity XXI	10.30	Holy Communion United Benefice Service for the Com- memoration of the Departed

Thursday Evening Services

An informal service starting at 7.30 p.m. and lasting no more than 30 minutes

Thursday 7th	Holy Communion
Thursday 14th	Compline (Candlelit)
Thursday 21st	Holy Communion
Thursday 28th	Celtic Worship (Candlelit)

Jill Tucker

Bible Study

We are holding short informal Bible Studies, with members of both the Anglican and Methodist churches, on the second Thursday of each month, at Quo Vadis, the home of Margaret Gibbs in Tysoe. The first of these will be held on Thursday, October 14th at 2.30 p.m.. Everyone is very welcome. For further information, or assistance with transport if necessary, contact Jill Tucker on 680663.

Jill Tucker

Vicarage phone

David Knight tends not to be available on Mondays. If you have a church enquiry on Mondays, please ring Jill Tucker on 680663.

Electric Blanket Testing

Warwickshire County Council's Trading standards Service is offering electric blanket testing free of charge to Warwickshire Over Sixties. Electric blanket tests will take place at several venues in October and November.

Thursday 21st October	Rugby Library
Friday 22nd October	Age Concern Pop-in Centre, United Reformed Church Stratford upon Avon
Monday 1st November	Kenilworth Library
Tuesday 2nd November	Leamington Library
Wednesday 3rd November	Henley in Arden Fire Station
Thursday 4th October	Nuneaton Fire Station

To book an appointment call freephone **0800 413332**

Tests will be conducted by appointment only and bookings will be taken on a first come first served basis. The number of appointments is limited so book early to avoid disappointment.

The free phone number will be staffed between 9.00 and 5.00 Monday to Friday and an answerphone will operate at all other times.

In past years we have found faults on up to 75% of all the blankets we have checked. Unsafe electric blankets are the cause of many house fires each year, and can often lead to death or serious injury. Elderly people are particularly at risk, making up a large percentage of reported deaths. We are determined to rid Warwickshire of dangerous and unsafe electrical blankets and we urge you to take up this opportunity.

Congratulations!

On behalf of all we would like to offer our congratulations to Pauline Brooker and Tony Wyatt on their marriage at Oxhill Church on Saturday 29th August.

The wedding was followed by a weekend of celebrations at their Whatcote Road home.

We wish them all the best.

Editor

NATURE NOTES FOR OCTOBER

Well done to Geoff Stewart for catching that wonderful shot of the male sparrowhawk in his garden (August edition) entitled “not your usual garden bird”, although I believe it is becoming a more common garden bird. In the countryside many habitats have disappeared, but around the villages we put out food all the year round for birds, we put in ponds for our own enjoyment and plant shrubs, bushes and fruit trees. Slugs, snails, insects of all shapes and sizes, frogs, newts, grass snakes, dragonflies and several types of rodent abound, some in great numbers in our gardens – in short our gardens have become the “new” countryside. For several years now the sparrowhawk has been a regular visitor to our garden, on one occasion colliding with the summerhouse door and knocking himself out! A couple of mornings ago I saw a dead blackbird by the church gate, the top of its head gone and a neat 50p piece sized hole in the breast where the flesh had been removed – a typical sparrowhawk indicator. I have noticed over the last couple of years that fieldfares, redstarts, long-tailed tits and bull finches, normally birds of farmland, have started feeding in our garden. This is of course good news as nature does have its ways of adapting, so as well as putting out food for the birds, if you can put aside a corner of the garden with an assortment of old logs, twigs etc, maybe with a pile of leaves over the top, for all those animals about to hibernate.

This summer the woodpeckers and starlings seem to have done exceptionally well. The other morning down Manor Lane I saw three green woodpeckers busily probing the mown verge for ants, and on one of the few sunny days I counted 25 young starlings sitting on our television aerial all with beaks agape waiting for parents to arrive with food. The young starlings are beautiful birds, mouse-brown in colouring with a wonderful speckled breast and pale grey head with a long jet-black bill and a line that goes round the eye and down the cheeks, looking as if they are wearing mascara. Brash, aggressive and a ruthless opportunist, it is the tearaway of the bird world, a noisy swaggerer that bullies other birds away from feeding grounds. As they group for their autumn roost they form a fluttering, pulsating mass which soars, dives, divides and rejoins, drop down to smother trees and bushes, or “rope” themselves along telegraph wires and cables. The word “starling” with the related stare and starnel are very close to the Anglo-Saxon *Stær* and *Stærline*. The name *stare* comes from the Greek and alludes to the white-flecked winter plumage which wears off gradually and by early spring the bird has a glossy, almost oily, brownish-black breeding plumage with iridescent green and purple that catches the light.

The other morning when returning along Main Street from an early morning walk, my dogs made excited moves towards two parked cars. I assumed there was a cat underneath, but imagine my surprise when a young hare (leveret) bolted out and ran off down the middle of the road towards the church.

While walking one lunchtime in Church Meadow I noticed quite a large bird that kept moving from tree to tree ahead of me. I eventually caught it up by the tall trees near the bridge and was surprised to see what I thought was a Short-eared owl. Although they are day flying birds, they are very rare in the Midlands and not common throughout the British Isles. The resident population is increased by summer visitors from Scandinavia. I know that they have been recorded on the Kineton Army Camp, mainly around the conifer plantations, but that was some years ago. Anyway when chatting to Tom Heritage recently he confirmed my suspicions when he told me that in the drive to his farmyard he saw an unusual owl sitting on a post, and as he was in his vehicle he was able to get quite close and noticed small “ear tufts”. He too came to the conclusion that it was a short-eared owl and so a rarity for Oxhill.

October 18 – St Luke’s Day. Fine weather, called St Luke’s Little Summer is to be expected around this date. St Luke, the Greek writer of the third Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles is the patron saint both of doctors and of painters and other artists. This day is also a lucky day to choose a husband. On going to bed repeat three times “St Luke, St Luke, be kind to me, In dreams let me my true love see” and in your dreams your future husband will appear “very plain and visible to be seen”!!

Grenville Moore

Village Hall News

Our grateful thanks to Posy McDonald and those who entered the tennis tournament for their generous donation to the village hall. Further thanks to the church for their annual donation to the village hall.

We were delighted to see so many people participate and cheer on the Dads and Lads football event. Many thanks to all the helpers, Bill and Janet Gardner for the use of the field and Marcus for his diligent work which all helped to make this a very successful event.

We were very disappointed when the bingo night on the 17th September was attended by just 8 people and therefore had to be cancelled. Please note our next two events.

The quiz night will be on **Friday 15th October at 7 p.m.** Please contact Ray on 680850 if you wish to pre-book.

The following evening sees the return of the very successful Progressive Dinner. Please contact Tracey on 680268 or Linda on 680850 if you wish to take part.

Linda Dagg

Village Hall Calendar of Events

Forthcoming Village Hall events will be

Friday 15th October at 8 p.m .

Quiz Night fun for all the family, tickets £5 each or £15 for a table of 4. Refreshments & Snacks available.

Contact Ray on 680850 to book your table.

Saturday 16th October at 7 p.m.

Progressive Dinner, back by popular demand. Guest fee £15. To find out more contact Tracey on 680268 or Linda on 680850

NEW EVENT: LIVE & LOCAL

Friday 12th November at 8 p.m.

We would like to welcome

"Fanny Craddock – The Life & Loves of a Kitchen Devil"

to the village hall.

For those who do not remember her, Fanny Craddock was an extraordinary woman. She was the first celebrity TV cook. She dominated Johnny. She adored him. She was glamorous. She invented the prawn cocktail. We all remember her (even through the memories of others!) as ferocious, frightful and fearsome. In private she proved resilient, resourceful and romantic.

Suitable for Adult/Older Children (12+)

Duration 90 minutes + interval

Tickets: £6

Refreshments available. To book your place Contact Ray on 680850

Friday 19th November at 8 p.m.

Bingo night for all the family, everyone is welcome, many prizes to be won. Refreshments available.

£2 to include 1st book, extra books at £1 each.

Contact Ray on 680850 to reserve your place.

Saturday 4th December at 8 p.m.

Casino Night, 'Las Vegas comes to Oxhill' for age group 16 +. More details to follow in the next News.

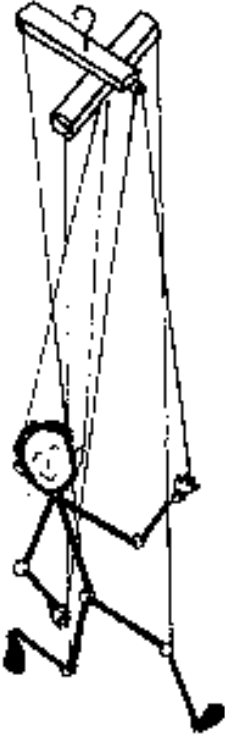
Monday 13th December at 1 p.m.

Senior Citizens' Christmas Lunch

More details to follow.

TYSOE MARIONETTE GROUP

The new season is well underway with two parallel productions.



Our Junior Team, preparing “**The Surprising Story of Alfred, Warder of the Tower**”, will resume frightening poor old Alfred with floating heads and skeletons on Thursday 7th October from 5pm to 6pm and continue rehearsing every Thursday throughout the Autumn Term. We aim to have this play ready for matinees in the Christmas season. Presently we have four volunteers, being the minimum needed to present the show, but would like to recruit two more keen youngsters, boys or girls, not less than 10 yrs old.

Our core team also meets on Thursdays from 7pm to 8:30pm, and is hard at work on our dramatisation of Paul Gallico’s “**Love of Seven Dolls**”. This exquisitely-crafted story, first published in 1954 and set in France, is particularly suited to puppetry as it explores the relationship between a Bretonnaise orphan and seven dolls in a puppet booth. This time we are using both glove puppets and stringed marionettes, totalling 14 characters, which, along with four different sets, give plenty of scope for artistic talent.

We are currently auditioning voices for recording the sound track. There are some lovely parts for people who can pronounce French words. We also need a teenage boy’s voice.

Anybody interested in participating in either of these productions is invited to contact Jon and Ann Beeny on **Tysoe 680431**, or

Email: JonandAnn@annbeeny.f9.co.uk

From Little Acorns

Age Concern West Midlands through its network of groups and organisations has started a brand new project across the West Midlands region. The OAK (Older people Advice Knowledge base) Project aims to get information and advice out to a wide range of older people who are the hardest to reach in the rural community and are often isolated and vulnerable.

To achieve this, the OAK Project is using a variety of delivery methods, such as home visits or talks in community settings, for example. In addition to this we expect to roll out good practice. For example through building on the successful Parish Links project in Shropshire we will be able to extend this to North Staffordshire. We will be trailing the use and effectiveness of written information in the form of packs.

Mary Harris, Information and Advice Officer at Age Concern Warwickshire, said, "this will be a really exciting opportunity to develop advice services on a whole range of topics for older people who usually get left out and who may be housebound or in difficult to reach locations".

This project aims to improve access to social welfare advice and information and advice for older people now as well as planning for the future by building a knowledge base to understand the needs in the longer term.

There will be some great opportunities to get involved at all levels. If you have any ideas you think may help, and the parish network is going to be vital in ensuring the success of this project, please get in touch with Mary Harris on 01925 458100.

Tilly's Return

May we thank all of those friends and neighbours who took so much interest in our request for help to find our cat, missing for five days. We are pleased to report that Tilly re-appeared at home, looking suspiciously well-fed and unfazed, just as if she had found another (more generous) home for a short spell. You never know with these cats.

Una and David Hill.

Oxhill Garden Club

This was our first formal meeting after a summer of outings and visits and it was a thoroughly good evening to start the autumn season. Mrs Suzanne Shacklock spoke of the ups and downs of creating her garden In Long Compton. The slides were stunning and she also generously provided plant lists for us. A bit depressing for those of us whose gardens constantly look like 'before' pictures!

Myrtle Knight being unavoidably absent prizes were awarded to the 2nd place winners of the container competition – Ann Hale and David Kean

Our next meeting will start at 7.30 p.m. Thursday 21st October and is entitled "Hedgerow Christmas".

Heather Brennan, Secretary

Church Registers Go On-line

The parish registers of baptism, marriage, banns and burials have survived and capture the history of people in the village going back to the middle of the 16th century. The books themselves are fragile and are kept at the Warwickshire County Records Office.

Recently they have been transferred to microfilm and Anne Hale has spent many hours creating copies for reference. As part of my Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award I have to complete a community service project and with the sponsorship of David Knight I have scanned the copies onto my computer, formatted images and created web pages so that the registers can be viewed on the village web site.

I am pleased to announce that the first phase of the project is finished and images of the register of baptisms from 1564 to 1840 can now be viewed on-line. You can reach the registers from the Church section of the village web site at www.oxhill.org.uk.

Eleanor Collins

More Diamond Geezers

For the second time in three months your News proves to be behind the Times. We would like to offer our belated best wishes and congratulations to Nancy and Parker Smith, who celebrated their Diamond Wedding early in September.

Editor

Our Wedding

Our wedding took place at St. Lawrence Church, Oxhill on the 28th August at 1.00 p.m. witnessed by our family and friends. It was a very relaxed and special day for both of us and the sun shone just as Rev David Knight had told us it would.

Through the pages of the Oxhill News we would like to thank so many people for their generosity in making it such a special occasion.

Mike Collins for agreeing to video the day on our behalf and for setting up 3 camcorders to record everything extremely comprehensively.

Rod and Shirley Talboys for the still photographs, which are truly superb.

Elizabeth Beaumont for doing the first of our readings, lovely it was.

Reg Gethin for the second reading and also for helping with setting up the marquee.

Angela Gethin who provided our bouquet and buttonhole.

Angela, Dot & Doreen for providing extra floral decorations in the church.

David Beaumont & Chris Freeman for doing a wonderful job as our ushers.

Les Gammon for supplying his 1937 Austin 7 as our wedding car and playing the part of chauffeur to perfection.

Ruth Gibson for decorating the car with balloons, tins etc.

The Shenlow Singers led by Cyril Cowen who were as usual magnificent.

Rita Pardoe, also a Shenlow Singer, for playing the organ perfectly.

Janet Gardner the verger for allowing confetti to be thrown, sorry about the mess!

Rev. David Knight for marrying us and Dr Jill Tucker who assisted in the service. Between them they ensured the day was very relaxed, put us both at ease and in our opinion couldn't be surpassed. The story about Rapunzel was wonderful and you could sense the congregation really enjoyed the whole occasion.

Josh Collins for his very valued help in putting out what seemed like dozens of chairs, tables and parasol's in the garden, ready for the reception.

The many friends who donated the said tables, chairs, and parasols.

Our respective children, Harvey, Max, Jeni, Caz & Liz because without their love and acceptance the day might not have happened.

We hope we haven't missed anyone out who should have been mentioned and apologise profusely if we have.

We would also like to announce that thanks to the generosity of our guests, we have raised the sum of £1050.00 towards our nominated charities and have sent two equal payments of £525.00 to Diabetes UK & Different Strokes.

Again, many, many thanks to everyone.

Tony & Pauline Wyatt

25 Years Ago

Issue No. 77 for October 1979 was the first to include a brief report of a meeting of the Parish Council. Brief was the operative word – the report has expanded considerably since those days. Unfortunately this issue does not carry one at all, as the September 2004 meeting had to be cancelled at very short notice.

The Church announced its second Harvest Supper of the year, the first one having been held in April. Ann Hale made a plea for supplies of eggs, butter and tomatoes, and asked for no beetroot or pickled cabbage to be offered as the messy eaters of Oxhill spilled it and stained the tablecloths.

A Coffee Morning was announced to raise funds for the Children's Christmas Party and another one later in the month for the International Year of the Child. Meanwhile an earlier Coffee Evening had raised £18 for Village Hall funds, and another Coffee Morning £28.50 for the Ladies Circle. Oxhill must have been awash with coffee.

The Village Hall Committee announced its Old Time Evening for later in the month, and the Play Group reported on its opening weeks. The Youth Club had held a Gymkhana and was about to start on both its football and netball seasons.

Bill and Janet Gardner were welcomed to Oddcot and the Stirrings to The Laurels. Gwyn Adams warned the village that she was about to descend on them collecting for the deep-sea fishermen, and superior grade exceptionally well-reared collie puppies were offered for sale by Jean Evans.

George Adams

TYSOE COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTRE

Two dozen Autumn term courses involving 16 different local tutors have attracted over 150 student enrolments so far. A postal marketing exercise to villages within a ten mile radius of Tysoe has resulted in the adult learning answer phone taking over a dozen enquiries each day. To avoid disappointment keep your eye on the Village notice boards for new courses being set up all the time. There are still one or two vacancies on the 'Sorted!' (getting things done) course, 'New Testament Greek for All', and the Saturday Music workshop. The 'Christmas Door Wreaths' practical instruction sessions are likely to fill very quickly. Book your place now! Drop-in Internet Café sessions at The Old Fire Station start Saturday 2nd October.

Doug Nethercleft

Harvest Festival

Very many thanks to all those who made such generous donations of produce or helped to decorate the Church and make it look so splendid for the service.

An equal measure of thanks is due to those who made such outstandingly generous bids at the produce sale held afterwards. The sale raised the magnificent sum of £194, who will be forwarded to Farm Africa.

Carol Fox

Summer Competitions

Children's "Open Gardens" Quiz

This was checked, rechecked and checked again taking some considerable time when I was very involved in preparations for my son's wedding 220 miles away, but I was happy to do it to help when asked.

Its intention was to entertain children, not in any way to stir up a Welsh hornet's nest. The question re. "Ty Hapus" was to discover if it were known if this was in the Welsh language - no more.

There are indeed only 2 thatched cottages—Porthkerry and Bilton—not 3. Southview was a mistake

Sadly, only 5 children entered, 4 village grandchildren, 1 outsider, and only Stacey Knight from the village (sorry to say you didn't win, Stacey), so it will not be repeated or cause any problems next year. George Parris, (Roz Henry's grandson won a Token prize. Well done George, and thank you all for entering

Pot, Tub or Container Competition.

This competition was more successful, with a bumper crop of 21 entries. The 2 Judges, from Brailles Garden Club, awarded points for Colour, Content, Hygiene (i.e. General care, deadheading etc.), Originality and Balance

The winners were Ruth Gibson, Ann Hale, David Kean, Angela Kean and Myrtle Knight.

Myrtle Knight

What's On in Oxhill

October

Friday 15th	8.00	Village Hall - Quiz Night
Saturday 16th	7.00	Progressive Dinner
Saturday 30th	7.30	Alcester Male Voice Choir

November

Friday 5th & Saturday 6th		Darlingscott - Shipston Home Nursing, Designer Sale
Friday 12th	8.00	Village Hall - "Fanny Craddock"
Thursday 18th		Townsend Hall, Shipston - Shipston Home Nursing, Gift Fayre
Friday 19th	8.00	Village Hall - Bingo Night
Saturday 27th	7.30	Paté and Puds

December

Saturday 4th	8.00	Village Hall - Casino Night
Monday 13th	1.00	Village Hall - Senior Citizens' Christmas Lunch
Wednesday 22nd	7.30	Oxhill Church - Carol Service

Boscastle

Several people in the village have been concerned about John and Wendy Blunt, who moved from Oxhill to Boscastle a few years ago. We are pleased to say that contact has been resumed with the Blunties, who have sent us the following letter on September 3rd:

Thank you so much for your phone call asking after us. I'm sorry we were so hard to track down.

The devastation is hard to believe, and it is even harder to believe that no lives were lost. We have been incredibly lucky as we have suffered no damage at all. Houses above us, as well as below us, have had terrible things happen, and many have not yet been able to return home.

There is tremendous community spirit amongst the villagers – it makes you very proud to live here. Gradually things are improving and we all know we will get things back to normal in the end.

We've heard from many people from "Oxhill days" and realise that our time living there was precious too as we made so many friends that have endured the test of time and distance.

Please give our love to them all and say we hope they'll visit to see the NEW Boscastle in the future.

John & Wendy

Editor

September Scenes from Old Oxhill



Dads & Lads played footie

The Hounds came to celebrate Bill's Birthday



Pauline Brooker married Tony Wyatt