

The Oxhill News



September 2004

September 1

Is the National Day of Libya and the Feast Day of Saints Fiacre Giles (or Aegidiu), Drithelm, Lupus (or Leu of Sens), Sebe, Priscus of Capua and Verena.

It is, or is reputed to be, the day in 70 when the destruction of Jerusalem under Titus took place. The world's first triangular postage stamps were issued by the Cape of Good Hope in 1853 and the Severn Tunnel was opened for goods traffic in 1886. In 1920 the state of Lebanon was created (by the French) and in 1928 Albania was declared a kingdom, with Zog I as king. In 1939 Germany invaded Poland, starting World War II and in 1969 Colonel Khaddhafi (well, it's one way to spell it) seized power in Libya after overthrowing King Idris I. In 1972 Bobby Fischer beat Boris Spassky at Reykjavik, becoming the first US world chess champion and in 1997 Wisconsin introduced the welfare program 'Wisconsin Works', eliminating automatic welfare entitlement. Gordon Brown is still working on his version.

It was the birthday of Engelbert Humperdinck in 1854, of Edgar Rice Burroughs (look him up then) in 1875 and Rocky Marciano in 1923. Do you think Engelbert looks his age?

Pope Adrian IV died on this day in 1159, Louis XIV in 1715, Siegfried Sassoon in 1967 and Viscount Rothermere of the Daily Mail in 1998. For some reason I thought both of these died during the first World War, but History was never my strong subject.

Editor

October issue

Please could I have all copy for the October issue by Midnight on Friday, 24th September? I'm afraid that this will have to be an absolute cut-off this month. 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

Characteristic Warwickshire fauna not as yet covered by our admirable Nature Notes. The rear cover shows a few Oxhillians reverting to type.

Editor

Village History – The Slave's Grave

The grave of Myrtilla, “negro slave of Mr Thomas Beauchamp of Nevis”, which lies in the churchyard on the south-east side, is our most interesting ancient memorial. She died in 1705, and is described in the Burial Register as “a negro girl of Mrs Beauchamp’s”. There was once a footstone giving her age, (now moved with other footstones to the edge of the churchyard), which was read by the Rev Harvey Bloom in 1910 as saying “aetatis suae (aged) 72”, although I feel this is unlikely to be correct, given that she was described as a girl. Neither slave nor master lived very long on Nevis, where tetanus, malaria, or yellow fever brought heavy death toll, and even in Oxhill 72 was an advanced age for the period. Harvey Bloom did extensive surveys of local churchyard inscriptions, but these were not always very accurate, and the lettering on the footstone was most probably very worn. That on the tombstone itself has since been recut.

Thomas Beauchamp’s wife Perletta was believed to be one of the twin daughters of the then Rector, Nicholas Meese. Her twin was Margareta also meaning a pearl. (Were they so named as the two pearls in an oyster?). Thomas and Perletta Beauchamp had four children while in Oxhill, and one, Margareta Perletta, named after both twins, sadly died aged 4, and lies buried in front of the altar, near the Meese family graves. However up to now we have known nothing of Thomas Beauchamp himself and his connection with the Caribbean island of Nevis, although it seemed reasonable to guess that he was a sugar planter in this newly thriving colony. The Beauchamps were a local family, and had in earlier centuries held Warwick Castle.

Most fortunately, David Knight was contacted last year through the Oxhill website by a historian from Bristol, Christine Eickelmann, who with her husband David Small has been doing research into a sugar plantation on Nevis. (There was a recent Time Team programme on television about this plantation, for which David Small was the historical consultant)

From her knowledge of Nevis documents, Christine has been able to confirm the presence on Nevis of Beauchamps in the eighteenth century, and indeed there are references in deeds to a Thomas Beauchamp and to a Thomas Beauchamp the Younger.

Family names often passed from father to son, and there could well have been a whole dynasty of Thomases. Still, it is tempting to think that one of these two could possibly be the owner of Myrtilla, and the other could be his son - another Thomas - who was born in Oxhill in 1705. If so Thomas the Younger would have died a very young man, as his widow remarried in 1730. (Fourteen years later a further deed refers to her as being a widow again. Did her husbands perhaps fall victim to Nevis’s tropical diseases?)

There is much still to know, but I am very pleased to have some evidence from the Nevis end of Myrtilla’s story. A little more light on an old mystery!

Ann Hale

Church Services in September

Church of St. Lawrence, Oxhill

Sunday Services

Sunday 5th	9.30	Holy Communion
Sunday 12th	9.30	Open Air Service at Oxbourne House, by invitation of Graeme & Posy McDonald
Sunday 19th	6.30	Evensong
Sunday 26th	6.30	Harvest of Praise

Midweek Services

Short informal services held at 7.30 p.m.

Thursday 2nd	Holy Communion
Thursday 9th	Compline
Thursday 16th	Holy Communion
Thursday 23rd	Celtic Worship
Thursday 30th	Compline

Welcome Service

The welcome service for the new Methodist Minister, Rev. John Taylor, and his wife Rosemary will take place at Kinton Methodist Chapel on Wednesday September 1st at 7.30 p.m.

Jill Tucker

Garden Party

Many thanks to all those who joined us on a glorious summer afternoon. We raised £120, which has been sent to TearFund's emergency appeal for Sudan.

Jill Tucker

Church Events

On Saturday 30 October the Alcester Male Voice Choir will be singing at 7.30.

The Paté and Puds evening will be on Saturday 27 November, starting at 7.30.

Lilian Welsby

Shipston Home Nursing

May I remind you of the following events, which will all support the work done by Shipston Home Nursing:

You are invited to

Dance!

In aid of Shipston Home Nursing

To the Dylan Kay Band

Featuring John Sargent, plus Special Guests

Disco

Saturday September 25

7.45 – 12.30

£15.00 including supper

BAR

At the Townsend Hall, Shipston on Stour

Tickets available from Rebecca Mawle, 01608 674929

Designer Sale

Moda Rosa

Friday November 5 and Saturday November 6

By kind invitation of Mr. & Mrs. John Sargent, Darlingscott

Gift Fayre

Thursday November 18

10.00 a.m. – 7.00 p.m.

the Townsend Hall, Shipston on Stour

Entrance £2.50 to include coffee and home-made biscuits

Lunch served 12.00 – 2.00

Mulled Wine & Mince Pies 5.30 – 7.00

Christmas Cards will be available from mid September at the usual outlets.

If you have problems obtaining them please phone Rebecca Mawle on 01608 687929

Dolls House

Do any of you remember the Dolls House that was made by a gentleman in Newbold on Stour about four years ago? He very kindly donated it to be raffled off for Shipston Home Nursing.

The lady who won it has now sadly died and her sister has given it back to us. We are going to accept silent bids for it, so please be aware of this. Further details will follow.

Rebecca Mawle, 01608 687929

Know Your Rights!

Advice from Trading Standards

How to deal with doorstep sellers

Doorstep selling is when someone sells you goods or services in your home or on your doorstep. It can be convenient to buy on the doorstep - but you can be pressured into buying something you do not want or that is not good value for money by a salesperson using clever selling tactics. If this happens you are not always protected by the law.

The Office of Fair Trading has produced a new leaflet called **Your doorstep, your decision**, which describes some of these psychological tactics and gives advice on how to deal with them. It also tells you your legal rights. If you would like a copy of this booklet please contact Trading Standards at the address below. Alternatively, it can be viewed on the OFT website:

<http://www.oft.gov.uk/Consumer/Doorstep+selling>.

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

Harvest Supper

The Oxhill Church Harvest Supper will be held on Saturday 18 September at 7.30. Tickets are available from Janet Gardner, 680280, or Lilian Welsby, 680468.

Central Heating Oil

With the ever-increasing price of fuel, I have contacted several oil companies about starting a consortium. They are prepared to listen to us, and there is a very successful consortium in Kineton.

If there is anyone interested in forming one with me so that we can try for a bulk delivery into the village at a reduced rate please contact me on 01295 680529 after 6.00 p.m.

Diane Harper

Boscastle

People who have lived in Oxhill for a number of years will remember John & Wendy Blunt, who moved to Boscastle. So far we have not been able to make contact with them, but we hope that they are as well as can be expected under the circumstances.

Editor

It's Great When You Get In

They told me the water was lovely,
That I ought to go for a swim,
The air was maybe a trifle cool,
"You won't mind it when you get in"
So I journeyed cheerfully beach-ward,
And nobody put me wise,
But everyone boosted my courage
With an earful of jovial lies.

The Sound looked cold and clammy,
The water seemed chilly and gray,
But I hastened into my bathing suit
And floundered into the spray.
Believe me, the moment I touched it
I realized then and there,
That the fretful sea was not meant for me
But fixed for a polar bear.

I didn't swim for distance
I didn't do the crawl,
(They asked why I failed to reach the raft,
And I told them to hire a hall.)
But I girded my icy garments
Round my quaking limbs so blue,
And I beat it back to the bath house
To warm up for an age or two.

I felt like a frozen mummy
In an icy winding-sheet.
It took me over an hour
To calm my chattering teeth.
And I sympathized with Peary,
I wept for Amundsen's woes,
As I tried to awaken some life in
My still unconscious toes.

So be warned by my example
And shun the flowing sea,
When the chill winds of September
Blow sad and drearily.
Heed not the tempters' chatter
Pass them the skeptics' grin
For the greatest bull that a boob can pull
Is "It's great when you get in."

Eugene O'Neill

What's On in Oxhill

September

Saturday 4th -	10.30 -	Hopkin House, Tysoe - Art Exhibition
Sunday 12th	4.30	
Sunday 5th	10.00	Oxbourne House - Oxhill Village Tennis Tournament
Saturday 18th	7.30	Harvest Supper
Saturday 25th	7.45	Townsend Hall, Shipston- Supper Dance in aid of Shipston Home Nursing

October

Saturday 2nd	7.00	Progressive Dinner
Friday 15th	8.00	Village Hall - Quiz Night
Saturday 30th	7.30	Alcester Male Voice Choir

November

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

December

Saturday 4th	8.00	Village Hall - Casino Night
Wednesday 22nd	7.30	Oxhill Church - Carol Service

