

The Oxhill News



January 2005

It all starts with Jan

Janus - the Roman god of all openings, including doorways and passageways, and the beginning of the day, month, and year. January was dedicated to him. He is represented as having two faces, one looking forwards and one back, (in sculpture, a **herm**), and was associated with wisdom because he knew the past and could foresee the future.

Then there are:

Jansky, a unit of flux density for electromagnetic radiation, used especially in radio astronomy to measure the strength of radio-wave emissions.

Janissary - a soldier of an elite corps of Turkish troops organized in the 14th century and abolished in 1826.

Janitor - a doorkeeper.

JANET - acronym for Joint Academic Network. In computing, JANET is a network linking academic and research institutes in the UK.

Janáček - Czech composer: strongly influenced by Czech folk music

Janam Sakhis - Collection of stories about the life of Nanak, the first guru of Sikhism.

Janata Dal or People's Party - Indian centre-left coalition.

Jandal – which apparently means a flip-flop in New Zealand.

Janeite - an uncritical over-enthusiastic admirer of the novels of Jane Austen.

Jan Mayen – the Norwegian volcanic island in the Arctic Ocean.

Janequin, Clément - French composer of chansons and psalms.

Jancsó, Miklós - Hungarian film director and screenwriter.

Jannock – which is a British adjective meaning straightforward and honest.

And, of course, Janis Joplin and Jancis Robinson.

Editor

February issue

Please could I have all copy for the February issue by Midnight on **Thursday, 27th 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

This month's cover shows a photo of a large building in a European city. The question is, of course, which city and which building? The answer will be published next month, provided I remember.

Editor

Editorial

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all my readers a very happy New Year, and to offer my thanks to all those who have helped me so much during the past year.

Thanks go in particular to Joy Bloxham and her devoted team of deliverers, without whom the News would not actually get out to the waiting world, to all the contributors of news items, reports and articles (invidious to mention any above the others, so I won't) and to Mike Collins for sorting out the mess I give him each month and publishing the News on the Web. We have an international readership! Small perhaps, but international none the less.

Could I also offer my thanks to those people who have over the past couple of years said that they like the News. I am grateful for such feedback. If, of course, you don't like the News in its current form, please let me know and I will try to provide something more pleasing.

George Adams

Cover Pictures for 2005

My intention is that the cover pictures for the News during 2005 should be of places in Europe. Obviously I have found one for this month, and February is also sorted. After that, though, my personal stock of suitable pictures starts to dry up rather rapidly, me being little of a traveller and even less of a photographer.

Therefore I shall be most grateful if anyone who has any suitable photos could let me have a copy. Action shots on the Reeperbahn will probably be deemed unsuitable.

Editor

A BIG Thank You

To my Mum and to my special friends who came to my surprise fortieth birthday party, which Steve and Sandy at The Peacock made such a fantastic spread. Out of this world, it was.

And thank you all for my wonderful pressies.

Joe Costa

Church Services in January
Church of St. Lawrence, Oxhill
Sunday Services

January 2nd	10.30	Matins	United Benefice Service
January 9th	9.30	Holy Communion	
January 16th	6.30	Evensong	
January 23rd	9.30	Holy Communion	
January 30th	10.30	Holy Communion	United Benefice Service at WHATCOTE

Thursday Worship

An informal service lasting no more than 30mins.

January 6th	7.30	Holy Communion
January 13th	7.30	Compline
January 20th	7.30	Holy Communion
January 27th	7.30	Holy Communion
February 3rd	7.30	Celtic Worship

If you wish to get in touch with the church for any reason please ring either
Revd. David Knight 680201, or
Dr. Jill Tucker 680663

Farewell from The Lucketts

By the time this message goes to print we will have re-located to Wilmslow in Cheshire. We have enjoyed living in Oxhill for the past 11 years and would like to pass on our best wishes to all those we have come in contact with. Life in Oxhill has always been a haven for us and we have been happy and enjoyed life. We sincerely hope that the new tenants at Edenderry enjoy the same thing. We would like to wish you all a happy and prosperous 2005.

With Love, Jan, Phil, Dan and Kate Lockett

A Huge Thank You

To my son and family and to all my special friends who have cared and helped me through these last few months.

I am progressing slowly and hope to be fit by the Spring.

A Happy New Year to you all.

Rachel Costa

OXHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Road Repairs

This is to confirm that the Whatcote Road, between “The Little Windmill” Oxhill and “The Orchards” Whatcote is to be repaired before the end of February 2005.

Following Water Board repairs in Green Lane the Highways Dept was contacted to sweep the Lane clean and to repair damaged verges. This work will be promptly carried out. Green Lane is also scheduled for road surface repairs by the end of February 2005.

Roman Villa Site

The Parish Council has received a letter from English Heritage in which it reassures the people of Oxhill of the preservation of this important site. The scheduling as an Ancient Monument does not remove the farmers right to continue cultivation and to this end they have agreed with the Hutsby family a minimum tillage method of cultivation. This will also help in not bringing to attention the location of the site. In future years other forms of management may be more appropriate but they are sure we will agree that the ceasing of both ploughing and “sub-soiling” in the future is very welcome. English Heritage hope this will satisfy the people of Oxhill that those who are tasked with managing our heritage value this important part of their heritage and they are working closely with the Hutsby family in the future to ensure the preservation for generations to come of this rare and important archaeological site.

Angela Kean, Clerk

Village Hall News

Attendance at this year’s Senior Citizens Christmas lunch was significantly increased over last year, and everyone had a marvellous afternoon. The Committee would like to say a huge ‘thank you’ to everyone who contributed to the cooking, serving, providing food, decorations, crackers and the Tysoe school children for the entertainment.

Gangsters and Molls – The ‘Speakeasy & Casino’ night has been moved for the last time to **Saturday 26th February 2005**. This will be a themed evening with a running buffet, music and a charity casino which will include roulette and black jack tables.

Tickets are £10 per person, book early to avoid disappointment! Call Linda on 680850.

Dress up and come and join us!

Whilst the lettings of the refurbished village hall are on the increase, it is regrettable to report that the hall has been left in a totally unsatisfactory state after some events. This has resulted in some Committee members having to clean up other people’s mess. In future we shall be checking the hall after each event and any cost incurred in cleaning will be passed to those responsible.

Finally, due to health and safety reasons we shall be replacing the lock on the village hall door in the New Year.

Linda Dagg

Nature Notes for January

January 6 is Twelfth day of Christmas, or Christmas Day old style (the Julian calendar was changed in 1582 by Pope Gregory XIII to the new style or Gregorian calendar, correcting a solar error by missing ten days). This was once the most festive day of the Twelve Days, its celebrations being ruled by the King of the Bean and the Queen of the Pea – respectively the man and woman who found the concealed bean and pea in their piece of Twelfth Cake. If the woman chanced on the bean however, she could choose the King; whilst a man who got the pea could select the Queen.

I was pleased the other day to see a Jay (*Garrulus glandarius*). Although a common British bird it is the most arboreal of the crow family and the most retiring in its native habitat, but with the leaves now off the trees you are more likely to see one. In the summer months you are far more likely to hear its formidable screech, its Gaelic name Schreachag choille means “screamer of the woods”. Colloquial names include devil scritch, scold, blue jay, and in the Midlands jay pie, referring to its colouring, pink-brown with a striking white rump, black tail and eye-catching blue wings with black bars. The Jay is omnivorous and in spring will readily raid nests (as will its close relative the Magpie) for eggs or fledglings. It used to be a bird of farmland, but they now seem to favour parks and gardens and breeding Jays are now found in all the London parks. In the West Country they were known as Oak Jackdaws as they are particularly partial to acorns and to beech mast, the second part of its Latin name “*glandarius*” means precisely that – eating acorns and beech mast. It has long been thought that the Jay has played a great part in the spreading of oak forests through its habit of burying acorns for a food larder. Due to its habit of taking eggs and fledglings and particularly those of game birds it was considered “fair game” by gamekeepers and countrymen, and indeed if you considered yourself a true countryman it was almost “de rigueur” to wear the blue wing feathers in your hatband.

At the moment my early morning dog walk is taken in the dark, and most morning will hear the “keer-it, keer-it” of the grey or English partridge and the “chick chick chickar” of the French or red-leg partridge coming from ground level. I also frequently hear the Tawny owl; the most familiar note is the long quavering hoot and often a sharp “ke-wick”. These two notes are the origin of the traditional tu-whit tu-whoo, usually done from separate birds communication, one tu-whits followed immediately by the other’s tu-whoo. The other morning I could hear no less than three Tawnies, all calling to each other. Walking home just as the first light was rising over Edgehill, I became aware of a raucous scolding which I knew was a crow, but why was this calling in the dark? Standing still this noise moved closer and closer to me until suddenly over the hedge came a Tawny owl with the said crow in hot pursuit. In the half light I watched them jinx, dive and swerve until the owl was obviously out of the crow’s patch, whereupon the crow flew back to where it had come from and arriving back in the trees behind the Old Rectory was greeted by what I can only describe as a chattering applause by its comrades!

January 21 is St Agnes’ Day, and the sun enters the House of Aquarius. In the *Kalendar of Shepheards*, 1604, women born under the sign of Aquarius are described: “The woman shall be delicious, and have many noises for her children; she shall be in great

peril at twenty-four years, and thereafter in felicity. She shall have damage by beasts with four feet; she shall live seventy-seven years after nature. “

In the *History of Four-footed Beasts* 1607, for the months of January and February it states “Keep good watchdogs about you these dark nights these dogs ought to be black-coloured and great mouthed for barking bigly, so that he may terrify the thief both night and day”.

Grenville Moore

W. I. REPORT – DECEMBER 2004

Mr Phil Lucas, part of our evening’s Entertainment, started the proceedings for tonight’s meeting by playing Jerusalem for us on his keyboard whilst our members sang.

Our new President, Ann Beeny then welcomed all members and visitors, and as this was Party Night, there were no Minutes, although there were a few pieces of business that had to be dealt with.

The new members of the Committee were introduced as follows:

Ann Beeny	President
June Wreford	Vice President and Programme Secretary
Pam McLeod	2nd Vice President and Membership Secretary/Sunshine Fund
Lyn Hicks	Secretary – please note that this is Lyn’s 6th year in this role - a huge thanks to her for all her hard work.
Chris Smith	Treasurer.
Jackie Batchelor	Press Officer
Philippa Robinson	Flower of the month/diaries/calendars/Home and Country

The Oxhill Flower of the Month Cup was won by Philippa – congratulations.

Angela Gethin has had to retire from the Committee because unfortunately she has to go into hospital at the end of December. We all thank her for the excellent job over the last five years as Treasurer and wish her all our very best and hope it goes well. We will be thinking of you Angela !

Please note that our President is also going into hospital and again our very best wishes and thoughts go with her. June Wreford will act as President in her absence.

Josie Carter, although no longer in WI, has very kindly produced the programmes on her computer again this year showing next years programme. Many thanks Josie.

Don’t forget that subscriptions are due in January.

Our entertainment was Doreen Smith, singing, with Phil Lucas on keyboard and Doreen sang us some wonderful songs and carols – very nice. Our next meeting will be on January 5th when PC Nick Stephens from Stratford Crime Prevention will give a talk. The evening was finished off with God Save The Queen.

J Batchelor

What's On in Oxhill

January

Wednesday 5th	7.30	Tysoe Village Hall - W.I.
Tuesday 11th	8.00	Village Hall - Parish Council Meeting

February

Saturday 26th		Village Hall - Gangsters & Molls Casino Night
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ADULT LEARNING
at
THE OLD FIRE STATION
TYSOE
01295 688244

OPEN DAY
Saturday 8th January
1.00 – 4.00
Refreshments Available
Children Welcome

Come and meet tutors and
staff for information & advice
on courses ... and to enrol