

# The Oxhill News



November 2005

## November 5

Is, of course, Guy Fawkes' Night. It is also the Feast day of Saints Elisabeth and Zachary, Galation, Bertilla of Chelles, and Episteme. Which seems to leave the field pretty clear for Guy Fawkes.

Speaking of Guy Fawkes, November 5 was the day in 1605 when the Gunpowder Plot, to blow up the House of Lords during James I's State Opening of Parliament, was discovered. So that's why we burn a guy and let off fireworks. In 1854 the combined British and French armies defeated the Russians at the Battle of Inkerman (Crimean War) and in 1872 Ulysses Grant was re-elected US president. The British Board of Film Censors was appointed in 1912 and in 1919 Rudolph Valentino, the archetypal romantic screen lover, married actor Jean Acker; the marriage lasted less than six hours. And they said it would never last! In 1927 Britain's first automatic traffic lights began functioning, in Wolverhampton. They have been malfunctioning, on and off, ever since. And then in 1968 Richard Nixon was elected 37th US president. You see, the Americans can get it wrong too. They just do it more often than we do.

James Elroy Flecker, who is one of those English poets you have never heard of, was born on 5th November in 1884, and the Scottish scientist John Haldane in 1892. Now I *have* heard of him. Vivien Leigh was born in 1913 and Lester Piggott in 1935. Elke Sommer arrived in 1940 and Art Garfunkel in 1941, which makes him exactly one week younger than me.

Maurice Utrillo died on this day in 1955, Mack Sennett in 1960, Al Capp in 1982 and Jacques Tati (who was *not* my uncle) in 1982. And then Robert Maxwell fell off the boat in 1991.

Editor

---

## December issue

Please could I have all copy for the December issue by Midnight on **Friday, 25th November**? 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](tel:680286)

---

## Cover Picture

A view of Kitzbuhel, Austria, from a gondola on its way up the Hannankahn. I have no intention of ever being so foolish as to travel in one of these monstrosities again.

Editor

## **In Memoriam**

I am sad to have to report the news that Mrs. Babs Walford has passed away. She lived at Applegrove, which she loved, before moving to Liphook in Hampshire to be near her family. She lived in her own house there until two years ago, when she had to go into a nursing home in Petersfield.

After she left Oxhill we used to ring each other every month, and local news always came into the conversation. When she went into the nursing home her sister-in-law was my contact.

Babs died peacefully at a good age on October 7th in the afternoon.

Via Doreen Neal

---

## **Lost and Found**

Mrs. Rodwell has found a bunch of three keys on a key ring whilst tidying up the tennis court at The Manor.

She knows that three boys played tennis there a little while ago, and the keys may belong to one of them. Alternatively they could be someone else's.

If you have lost a bunch of keys at The Manor, please contact Mrs. Rodwell.

Editor

---

## **OXHILL NEWS DELIVERIES**

Joy Bloxham has finally decided that, after a full twenty-five years, it is time that she handed on the task of organising the delivering of the Oxhill News to someone else.

All of us are most grateful for her sterling efforts over the last quarter of a century.

Deliveries will in future be organised by Gwyn Adams, who can be contacted in case of problems on 01295 680286.

It was from Gwyn that Joy took over the distribution duties all those years ago. Gwyn wishes it to be clearly understood that she does not intend to keep the job for the next twenty-five!

Editor

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

### **Services for November**

Sunday 6th	9.30	Holy Communion
Sunday 13th	9.30	Remembrance Day. Holy Communion
Sunday 20th	6.30	Evensong
Sunday 27th	9.30	United Service. Holy Communion

---

### **Flowers in Church**

#### **Harvest Festival**

Once again my thanks go to all those who joined in to make the Church look so good with Flowers and produce. We have had many compliments which are much appreciated by all concerned. Most of the flowers were from gardens so a big thank you goes to all who donated them and also those who kindly donated lots of green foliage (allowing me to go and raid their gardens) and also to those who provided other beautiful flowers.

Our next big festival is of course Christmas. Anyone who would like to help to decorate the tree, which will be in Church for the Christingle service on the Sunday before Christmas, would be most welcome. There will be a reminder in the December issue.

Carol Fox, 680223

---

### **TALGARTH MALE VOICE CHOIR**

The Talgarth Male Voice Choir visited the Church again on Saturday 15th October. A packed audience enjoyed a marvellous musical programme, joining in whenever the opportunity was given.

Afterwards a light supper was enjoyed by everyone, with John Baines dispensing liquid refreshments with gusto and aplomb.

Thanks are due to Bill Fox and Charles McCall for transporting chairs, to Eve and David Whaley for making their small room available once more, and of course to Lilian and her band of helpers.

Di Harper

***Stour Singers***

***The 30th Anniversary Concert***

***on***

***Saturday 10th December 2005 at 7.30 p.m.***

***at***

***St. Edmund's Church, Shipston-on-Stour***

***Handel's 'Messiah'***

**with**

**Barbara Rodway (soprano)**

**Ruth Peel (contralto)**

**Thomas Walker (tenor)**

**Peter Taylor (bass)**

**The Cherwell Sinfonia**

**(Leader – Judy Springate)**

**Rachel Bird (organ)**

**Conducted by – Richard Emms**

**Tickets: £7.50 (accompanied children of school age  
admitted free)**

**From Clarke's Electrical, 27, High Street, Shipston-on-Stour,  
Choir Members & at the door**

St. Thomas à Becket , Sutton - under - Brailes

26th November - 4th December 2005

10.30am - 5pm



# THE LIFE OF JESUS

A FESTIVAL OF DECORATED  
CHRISTMAS TREES



FREE ADMISSION & PROGRAMME

Light refreshments all day

Concert by The Shenlow Singers  
Saturday 3rd December @ 7.30pm



Special Services

9.30am Sunday 27th December  
& 6pm Sunday 4th December

*We suspect that the first Special Service may be on Sunday 27th **November** rather than December, as that date exists and the latter does not. Ed.*

## **GREAT TRUTHS ABOUT GROWING OLD**

Growing old is mandatory. Growing up is optional.

Forget the health food. I need all the preservatives I can get.

When you fall down, you wonder what else you can do while you're down there.

You're getting old when you get the same sensation from a rocking chair that you once got from a roller coaster.

It's frustrating when you know all the answers but nobody bothers to ask you the questions.

Time may be a great healer, but it's a lousy beautician.

Wisdom often comes with age, but sometimes age comes alone.

## **BERT BLOXHAM**

We were very sorry to hear that Bert was taken ill suddenly whilst on holiday with Joy in Scotland. The distance involved made it very difficult for Joy to visit him in hospital, and made the time so much the worse for both of them.

The latest news is that Bert is back home and making a good recovery. Long may it continue.

Editor

---

## **KINETON GREENACRES OIL CONSORTIUM**

The next order for heating oil will be placed later this month.

If you would like to be included in this delivery, please telephone your requirements on Saturday 19th or Sunday 20th November, not later than 6 p.m., to 01295 680529.

Di Harper

---

## **Wedding Bells**

For those of you not in the know Thomas Rowse who used to reside at Fern Cottage for many years is getting married to Louise Hayward on Saturday 5th November. Jonathan and I both have parts to play, as Best Man and Bridesmaid.

I hope you will join us in wishing them a long and happy life together and wish them all the best as they are emigrating to New Zealand in January 2006.

Kirsty Cox & Jonathan Simpson

---

## **HARVEST SUPPER**

On Saturday 1st October the Annual Harvest Supper was enjoyed by over forty villagers.

The tables and hall were beautifully decorated and the supper was delicious. Our talented younger villagers entertained us with musical performances, which were much appreciated.

Thanks are due to Lilian and her band of merry helpers, and to John Baines for manning the bar.

The sum of £150 was raised for Church funds.

Di Harper

## **Old Muckraker's Autumn Illuminations**

Well fellow muck lovers, the season of mists & mellow fruitfulness is hard upon us! The leaves flutter from the trees & hedgerows, leaving only their fulsome harvest of old lager cans and empty burger boxes. Is there any better place to be than in the country in wintertime? Probably.

But seriously though, we must all adjust to the changing seasons and take care to husband nature's bounty for the long winter haul. So with these thoughts in mind, here are a few tips to help you through the gloom!

Let's talk about the environment – it's all around us these days, isn't it? With fossil fuels slated to run out in no more than a thousand years or so, we must all do our bit to save energy. Little things can make a big difference you know – don't leave all those lights on for hours at a time when you're alone in the house. Remember, a good-sized four-bar electric fire can give enough light to read by, as long as you're close enough.

And don't forget to save water wherever you can – the reservoirs are bound to be drying up after all that rain. Can you believe that the average adult uses nearly 200 gallons of water a day just flushing the lavatory? No, neither can I. They used to advise putting a brick in the tank, but a better approach is to turn the water off completely, obtain relief directly into the cistern, and flush it straight down. So much more efficient, and it helps stop the pipes freezing!

But it's not only us that suffer as the mercury drops - what about our little feathered friends outdoors? A bag of peanuts and a lump of old fat always go down well (preferably with a big mug of Bovril) and then you can get out there and stock up the bird table with all their favourites - bacon rind, old crusts and biscuits, and some small nuts and bolts for the iron. And don't forget tits like coconuts.

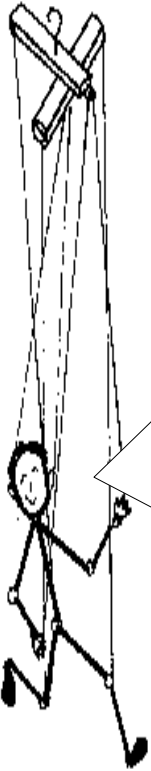
Talking of the outdoors, I see that Grenville's raised the thorny subject of firework night, nearly upon us as you read this. He's right you know, it's a time of misery for some of our four-legged friends. Always remember as you light the fire that hedgehogs may have burrowed inside looking for somewhere warm to hibernate. As the last embers die away, they make the perfect hot snack with a nice jacket potato and a bit of mustard. Watch the prickles though! And a final safety warning - don't let unqualified people put on firework displays. You need a flair for that sort of thing.

Well I must be getting along now, but don't forget Old Muckraker's winter tip – chop your own logs and they'll warm you twice!

Old Muckraker



# **TYSOE MARIONETTE GROUP**



**Calling all Oxhill Residents !!!**

**Please buy a ticket for our show**

**“LOVE OF SEVEN DOLLS”**

**to help us support these charities**

**Tysoe Village Hall  
St Mary's Church Tysoe Bell Fund  
St George's Brailes Restoration Fund  
MIND “Nature's Way” allotment**

**11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> November  
7:30 pm**

**Barn Theatre, Baldwins Lane, Tysoe**

**Adults £4 Children (8+) £2**

**Tel: Jon Beeny 01295 680431**

## 25 YEARS AGO

In Issue No. 90 for November 1980 Eve Whaley reported that at long last the much-needed repairs to the tower of St. Lawrence had started. Thanks were given to the organisers of the two Harvest Festivals, and the Methodist Church promised to repeat its highly popular evening of music on 78 rpm records.

The Village Hall announced its 1920s Evening, with tickets priced at £2.50 per head. Angela Emmerson thanked those who had supported the Playgroup, and Roy Markham begged for more members for the village Bridge Club. Bert and Eileen Norton were organising a bonfire, officially for the children, on Guy Fawkes Night, and Gwyn Adams thanked villagers for their support for her collection in aid of Deep Sea Fisherman.

Mary Badger was selling a Goblin Teasmade, and Lorraine and Andrew Beasley their collection of Mr. Men books, whilst William Hale offered to clean cars at 30p a go. Try getting him to do that now.

Editor

---

### Poetry Corner

#### Marmion

#### Canto 1

NOVEMBER'S sky is chill and drear,  
November's leaf is red and sear:  
Late, gazing down the steepy linn  
That hems our little garden in,  
Low in its dark and narrow glen,  
You scarce the rivulet might ken,  
So thick the tangled greenwood grew,  
So feeble trilled the streamlet through;  
Now, murmuring hoarse, and frequent seen  
Through bush and brier, no longer green,  
An angry brook, it sweeps the glade,  
Brawls over rock and wild cascade,  
And, foaming brown with double speed,  
Hurries its waters to the Tweed.

*Sir Walter Scott*

## **Winter weekends at Compton Verney**

**Admission:** Adults £6, concs. £4. Special offer for winter weekends only – children up to 16 go FREE.

**For further information contact 01926 645500.**

**Saturday 3 & Sunday 4 December & Saturday 10 & Sunday 11 December,**  
12noon-5pm

### **Christmas at Compton Verney**

Get into the festive spirit as Compton Verney celebrates Christmas in style with a sparkling array of events and activities for families and children of all ages. Come and join the Wizard of Winter in his silver grotto and pick a magical prize from the festive cauldron, enjoy Christmas carol concerts by the St Mary's Warwick Boys and Girls choir, make a special present or card in our 'Top Secret' workshop or be a Wizard's apprentice and learn magic tricks to impress your friends and family. Also, enjoy winter storytelling with Clive Cole, mince pies and mulled wine, plus the chance to shop for unique gifts and enjoy a special Christmas menu in our café.

**Saturday 4 & Sunday 5 February & Saturday 11 & Sunday 12 February,** 12noon-5pm

### **Folk Art Weekends**

Come and experience folk traditions both old and new and explore our Folk art collection through workshops, tours, demonstrations and live performances. Children can create their own whirligig with toymaker Cyril Hobbins, make their own shop sign with artist Anthony James, and help make a giant wool picture or their own mini-quilting collage. Storyteller Clive Cole will also be bringing British Folk stories to life. Other events include a Morris Dance Off, live Folk music from The English Acoustic Collective and folk and ballads from John Kirkpatrick, hassock and decoy making demonstrations and much more.

**For Press inquiries please contact Ina Cole: 01926 645540**

# What's On in Oxhill

## November

Wednesday 2nd	7.30	Tysoe Village Hall – WI Members night and annual meeting
Wednesday 9th	12.00-9.30	Shipston Home Nursing Designer Sale at
Thursday 10th	9.00-3.00	Darlingscote
Friday 11th & Saturday 12th	7.30	Barn Theatre, Tysoe – Love of Seven Dolls
Saturday 12th		Progressive Dinner
Thursday 17th	10-7	Shipston Home Nursing Gift Fair at the Ettington Community Centre, Rogers Lane, Ettington.
Friday 25th & Saturday 26th	7.30	Barn Theatre, Tysoe – Love of Seven Dolls
Saturday 26th	8.00	Shipston Home Nursing Jazz Night at Ilmington Village Hall. Vocals by Jordan and Perry. Tickets (inc. anti-pasti) £25 per head from Rebecca Mawle on 01608 674929

## December

Fri 9th	6.00	The Square, Shipston – Tree of Light
Sunday 11th	3.30	Holycombe, Whichford – Children's Show "Growing, Growing, Gone". Contact Sally Birtwell on 01608 684239
Monday 12th		Village Hall - Senior Citizen's Christmas Lunch
Saturday 17th	7.30	Shipston Senior School – Christmas Concert. Tickets at £10 per head from David Squires on 01608 664065

## May (2006)

Sunday 14th	10.00	Ettington Community Centre – Spring Into Action. A guided walk followed by a barbeque. In aid of Shipston Home Nursing. Contact Gilda Gardner on 01789 740083 for details
Saturday 20th	10.00-12.00	Townsend Hall, Shipston on Stour – Shipston Home Nursing Plant Sale