

THE OXHILL NEWS



November 2007

'Signs of the Times'

by

'The Oracle'

A regular posting of confusing, misleading and wholly unnecessary signs and instructions.

Number 1

Seen at the Oxford Service Station on the M40, underneath a picture (4ft by 3ft!) of a plate of Beef Wellington:

'Photograph used for illustration only'

'The Oracle' invites readers to submit possible uses for a photograph that do not involve 'illustration'. The most original use will be published in next month's News. Entries should be submitted to 'The Oracle' through the Editor by any suitable and legal means. The Oracle's decision will be final.

Readers are invited, nay encouraged, to submit via the Editor their own sightings of 'Signs of the Times' for inclusion in future editions of The News.

WHATCOTE CHRISTMAS PUDDINGS

Reminder

If you haven't yet made or bought your Christmas Pudding – Whatcote Christmas Puddings are available again this year from June Wreford, Church Cottage, Whatcote. An order form was in last month's News - or give June a ring on 01295 680294.

Delivery can be arranged.



DECEMBER ISSUE

Please could I have all copy for the December issue by Midnight on Monday, **26th 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. 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

'Eye of newt and toe of frog'. A practitioner checks the mixture at the recent Hallowe'en celebrations in the Village Hall.

THE LEYS FIELD, OXHILL

We feel we should respond to the article published in the September newsletter and explain why we organised the public meeting in the Village Hall.

The architects prepared a plan, purposely showing a wide selection of ideas that might benefit Oxhill. What was shown was not meant to be a complete proposal in itself. We wanted feedback from the village and some of the comments from the floor were very constructive. The consensus was that Oxhill does not need additional community facilities other than a playing field and perhaps an extension to the village hall and there is clearly widespread opposition to any large-scale development. However, it was also acknowledged that neither young, first-time buyers nor elderly people can buy reasonably priced property in the village and that having all age groups represented in a village like this is its lifeblood. A number of people have said that they should like to see some retirement homes and affordable housing built.

We have no wish to cause offence to anyone as we pursue ideas for the future of this land and try to find an acceptable solution that will be of mutual benefit to us and the village. We shall continue to welcome any approaches on this subject and confirm that no proposal or application has been prepared and that we have yet to come to any conclusion as to how to proceed (if at all) for the time being.

Alyson Grimsley, Gill Hutsby, Posy McDonald, Julia Stirman, Penny Whichello
(Owners of The Leys Field, Oxhill)

VILLAGE HALL

A splendid time was had by all at the recent Hallowe'en Supper. Many thanks to Una and Carol for their hard work organising it.

Your Hall is taking part in a new venture this month with the arrival of Moving Pictures. For details please see the inside back cover. Oh, and please come and support us! Bring the children to the first house. There might even be popcorn!

Plans are going ahead well for the Senior Citizens' Christmas Lunch, and invitations will be delivered in the middle of November. Please contact us if your invitation does not arrive!

George Adams

ST. LAWRENCE'S CHURCH, OXHILL

SERVICES IN NOVEMBER

All are warmly welcome

Sunday 4th	Trinity XXII	All Saints Tide	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion (ML)
Sunday 11th	Trinity XXIII	Remembrance	9.30 a.m.	Remembrance Service (ML)
Sunday 18th	Trinity XXIV		9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion (ML)
Sunday 25th	Christ the King		9.30 a.m.	Family Service (NM)

THE OLD CHAPEL

OPEN INVITATION

Everyone in Oxhill is warmly invited
to the formal dedication of The Old Chapel
as a place of meeting and refreshment
by the Rt. Revd John Stroyan, Bishop of Warwick,
on Monday, November 26th at 7.30 p.m.

There **will** be refreshments!

There is no need to reply to this invitation; please just turn up.

Colin and Jill Tucker

SHIPSTON HOME NURSING

Shipston Home Nursing Christmas Cards are now available from all the usual outlets. Packs of 10 cards with envelopes range in price between £3 and £4.

If you have problems finding them you can also buy direct from Rebecca on 01608 674929

The Designer Sale of evening wear from Moda Rosa will be at Darlingscote Farm on Friday 9th November, noon – 9 p.m., and Saturday 10th November, 9 a.m. – noon.

The Christmas Gift Fair will be at Ettington Community Centre on Wednesday November 14th, 6 p.m. – 9 p.m., and Thursday 15th November, 9.30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Editor

COFFEE MORNING

OXHILL VILLAGE HALL

Saturday 24th November

10 – 12

Coffee, tea, bring & buy
and small-talk with your friends

Proceeds to help fund the Senior Citizens' Christmas Lunch

Further information from Gwyn Adams, 680286

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

OXHILL VILLAGE HALL

December 31st

Starting at 10 p.m.

The Oxhill Village Hall Committee invite all the village
to welcome in the year 2008

Music, a glass of bubbly with friends
and fireworks with Big Ben

£5 a head to cover the bubbly & fireworks

Please bring a platter of finger food to share

Contact Angela Emmerson on 680565 for tickets

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Thank you to all who helped with decorating the church for Harvest Festival and to those who contributed flowers, foliage and produce. The auction after the service raised approximately £120 which will go to the charity Farm Africa.

Although it is a while away we have an amendment to make to the services in December. There will be no evensong on the 9th and on Christmas Day the service will be at 9.30 a.m. not 10 a.m.

Carol Fox, Churchwarden

NATURE NOTES FOR NOVEMBER

November is the month that marks the transition of autumn into winter. The last leaves fall from our deciduous trees and many creatures will start their hibernation. Traditionally for people living close to the land, it has marked the final preparation for the cold dark months ahead. November is the month we should stock up on winter fuel and salt, and hang our meats, and store or preserve our summer fruit and vegetables. Thomas Hood in 1844 wrote:

*No warmth, no cheerfulness, no healthful ease,
No comfortable feel in any member –
No shade, no shine, no butterflies, no bees,
No fruits, no flowers, no leaves, no birds
November!*

At the end of last month's Nature Notes you may recall I mentioned seeing two ravens flying low across Mrs Rodwell's field. After a bit of investigation it seems that these two ravens have been nesting at Idlicote for the past three years, but as far as we can tell, they have had no offspring. Recently they seem to be regular visitors to Oxhill and most days now I see or hear them. They have a powerful voice with an unmistakable deep throaty quality. The note is typically described as a "croak" although ravens do have a wider vocabulary and the Romans (who revered the bird) differentiated 65 separate vocalisations and it is also renowned for its ability to mimic speech. To illustrate this, several days ago I saw two ravens flying directly overhead. One dropped its flight path slightly and seemed to take an interest either in me or more likely, I suspect, in our small black terrier, Susan, who at the time was snuffling about in small circles. Whether the Raven thought this was a corvid in distress or even under attack by me I'm not sure, but it starting circling above us and its call note changed to short rapid notes that sounded like Oi, Oi, Oi – Oi, Oi, Oi. In the meantime its mate had flown on and was out of sight, but I could still hear the familiar deep croak. Realising that Susan was in fact a dog, and moreover that its partner had disappeared, it accelerated away whilst calling in rapid high-pitched notes, which sounded exactly like wait – wait – wait, and off it sped. Like all corvids, ravens are well-known for their aerial repertoire and equally a sense of fun. I came across this passage in one of my books: *"Whilst snow bathing, (the raven) rolled on to its side and then on to its back, and being on a slope, started sliding. After sliding about three metres it stopped, righted itself and, with typical long gait, hopped back to its starting point and repeated the manoeuvre two or three times. Its mate, which had been watching from a short distance, came to the same spot, began snow bathing, and as its partner, rolled on to its back and slid at about 3 – 5 kph down the slope."*

The ravens' present scarcity – just 4300 pairs despite a steady recovery from persecution – have made it a bird to be valued and enjoyed, so keep your eyes open for "our" ravens.

All the corvids display wonderful characteristics if you watch them. Only yesterday my attention was caught by a crow plummeting like a peregrine “stooping” with folded wings towards the ground. There were two of them and taking turns they would repeatedly fly straight upwards for about 30 – 40 feet carrying something round in their bills and then drop it and immediately fold their wings and plummet after it to the ground. I quietly tried to approach them to see what held their attention, but every time I got close they would pick up the object and hop away from me keeping a distance of about 20 paces between us. I know crows do this with nuts to break them, and gulls also drop shellfish on to rocks. I can only assume these were nuts of some sort or perhaps snails – but very entertaining.

Grenville Moore

A Literal “Footnote”

Pavements form an integral part of the street scene; the materials – paving stones, kerbstones, cobbles and setts – traditionally came from nearby and were laid with skill – a link with all the feet that have trodden there gives significance to all our tracks and walkways. Barry Joyce writes: *“As with roofing and walling, each area had its own tradition of paving based on locally available materials – what survives is a little regarded but important part of the country’s heritage – the quality and rarity in stone pavements, and the patina achieved by decades of feet is now much sought after. We have taken our pavements for granted and poor, unattractive surfaces such as concrete slabs and tarmac are replacing good old causeways. As with nature, we must start to care for the ‘nature of things about us’; it is important or all is lost forever. Our country is a land of extraordinary variety, rich in buildings, landscapes, peoples, wildlife, customs and traditions, and even quirkiness – we must guard against creating a bland empty countryside – look to the commonplace, the local, the vernacular, and the distinctive.”*

FEEDING BIRDS

Many of us feed birds in our gardens. Martin Brant has written pointing out that several bird diseases, including Salmonellosis and trichomoniasis, are on the increase in England at present and that unclean feeding practices can make matters worse. He has noticed bird deaths due to disease in his own garden. The problem seems to be connected with attracting large numbers of birds in one place and the resulting contamination by droppings of food and water resources.

Cleaning seed feeders and water supplies regularly will help, as will removing old food and where possible moving the feeding sites about the garden.

There is useful information on the matter in a leaflet produced by the Garden Bird Health initiative. The leaflet can be downloaded from their website using the url:

http://www.ufaw.org.uk/pdf/garden_bird_feeding_leaflet_finalised.pdf

Editor

CHERNOBYL'S CHILDREN GOURMET DINNER

I would like to thank all 'The Team' that worked so hard to make the dinner on September 22nd such a success. Also a big thank you to all those who came to the dinner and all those who made donations. A total of £1,400 was raised for the charity. We are looking for people who would be happy to host a child during their stay in England during summer 2008. If you are interested in finding out more details please contact me on 680411 or Christine Barnett (co-ordinator for the charity) on 01327 361735.

Anne Marshall

OXHILL FESTIVAL CHOIR

Thank you to everyone who managed to make the meeting recently. For those of you who did not, here are the rehearsal arrangements.

Tuesday 13th November	7.30 p.m.	The Old Chapel
Tuesday 20th & 27th November	7.30 p.m.	The Old Chapel or The Fellows House
Tuesday 4th December	7.30 p.m.	The Old Chapel
Tuesday 11th December	7.30 p.m.	Church
Wednesday 19th December	6.30 p.m.	Church for run through before Service

Please could everyone note the dates in your diaries now and make every effort to attend as many rehearsals as possible, but especially Tuesday 13th as we shall be making the final decision on our 'party pieces'. Anyone unable to make the 13th please contact me as soon as possible.

Due to possible availability problems with the piano on 20th and 27th we may have to have the rehearsal at the Fellows House. Check at the Old Chapel first and if you cannot hear the sound of angels from heaven then pop round to The Fellows House for the knees-up.

Gaynor Van Dijk, 680349

KINETON OIL CONSORTIUM

The Consortium will be ordering oil in November. Please will you let me have your order by 6 p.m. on Wednesday 14th November.

D. Harper, 680529

VICARAGE NOTES

Thought for the month

With autumn days come times of remembrance – All Saints Day, All Souls Day and Remembrance Sunday (which this year is also Armistice Day). The recent dedication of the new national memorial has reminded us that many servicemen and women have died since the end of World War II and that Remembrance Sunday is for them as well. All are very welcome to the service at 9.30 a.m. that day.

There are many fine poems that take up the theme of remembrance. One I read recently is nearly 700 years old and was transcribed by Helen Waddell in Poetry from the Dark Ages under the heading 'Requiem for the Abbess of Gandesheim':

Thou hast come safe to port,
I still at sea,
The light is on thy head,
Darkness in me.
Pluck thou in heaven's field,
Violet and rose,
While strew flowers that will thy vigil keep
Where thou dost sleep,
Love, in thy last repose.

*Best wishes and God bless,
Nicholas Morgan, 01608 685230*

WI REPORT

October 2007

Our speaker was Kim Little. She has spent her working life as a baker and is involved in research to provide bread that meets the changing requirements of consumers.

She gave a brief history of the Campden and Chorleywood Food Research Centre and told us about the work carried out there. As well as baking, this includes study of the genetics and growth of wheat; microbiology; chemistry; engineering; and knowledge of the legislation covering all aspects of this work. She was a real enthusiast and gave some very useful tips on making successful bread. We all came away with a better understanding of the production of our daily bread.

Ruth Fothergill and Kath Silman served refreshments.

The flower of the month: 1st Kath Silman, 2nd Myrtle Knight

B. Keep

NEWS FROM THE PEACOCK

Well as I'm sure most of you are aware our time at the Peacock is drawing to an end and it's time for a new chapter to begin. Our time here has been great and the village has been very welcoming and supportive; I'm sure you'll extend that to the new owners who are hoping to be in by mid November.

However, before we go we still intend to enjoy the last few weeks and I'd like to see you all at one or many of these events.

So for the next few weeks here is the schedule of events:

Friday 2nd – First Folk Friday – usual entertainment from the fiddlers and squeezeboxers

Sunday 4th – Halloween Fancy Dress and Fireworks Party from 6 p.m. – we'll have hotdogs and soup to keep you warm. If anyone has any wood they would like to donate then please feel free to stack it by the bonfire over the next week.

Wednesday 7th – Coffee morning from 10.15.

Sunday 11th – Chris's Curry Night – Choice of Curry with homemade Naan and extras.

Wednesday 14th – Lunch Club – pick up your menus on Coffee Morning.

Saturday 17th – provisional leaving party – to be confirmed once I have confirmed completion date.

On the music front we hope to have Wired in to play for the leaving party, but this may be another date, so I'll let you know once I can confirm.

On the kitchen front, we have just updated our lunch and dinner menu, with some tasty treats for you to enjoy before we go.

Finally we thank you for all your support over the last year and look forward to seeing you all before we go.

Chris

CHANGES AT THE PEACOCK

No doubt over the last few months you have been wondering what is happening at the Peacock. Well, hopefully by the middle of November the sale will be signed and sealed and we shall be ensconced in our new village life, new home and new business.

Not wanting to tempt fate we will leave our introductions until the deal is finalised, but we would like to share our aspirations with you all. It has taken us over a year to find our ideal village and pub. Agents have been tearing their hair out with our ever growing list of requirements. The Peacock ticked most of the boxes on our wish list

and those that it didn't were things we can live with or without or change! We think we have found our ideal village and pub and we hope you will find us your ideal friendly local.

Having been in the catering, hospitality and customer services industries for more years than we like to admit to, we have pooled our experience and resources to create a life style we want and to bring our idea of hospitality to you. We love food, we have a passion for fresh local ingredients simply prepared and cooked; unpretentious, fresh and vibrant. Choose from great steaks, locally sourced meat and game, fresh fish and lots of seasonal vegetables. We aim to offer you great value for money. We're not a "Gastro Pub". We aim to be a Pub where you can come and relax and enjoy great beer, ales and wines in tip top condition, accompanied by food, in the bar, in the restaurant, or outside (weather permitting) snacks, meals or banquets the choice is yours. Being a Pub the most important thing is to offer you a great choice of drinks. We have decided to continue to have Ciders, Beers and Lagers from the Carlsberg stable, as we can offer you great choice especially real ales, we will still have guest ales from local breweries and we would like to know your opinions on what you want. Our wine list will be revised with a tempting selection of house wines selling at under £10 a bottle. As well as a range of non alcoholic drinks we shall be serving bean to cup freshly brewed coffees, Lattes, Cappuccinos, espresso, a selection of blended teas and infusions etc all to be enjoyed with a slice of home made cake or pastries.

Some changes will be implemented immediately, we shall be open 7 days a week, last orders for food will be extended to 9.30 p.m. Monday to Saturday, later by arrangement. We are introducing a "Roast of the day" freshly cooked and carved at the table. Sunday lunch will be available from 12 noon to 8 p.m. comprising a delicious cold starter table or home made soup, followed by a choice of freshly cooked roast meats, fish dish of the day or vegetarian choices. Sweets are all home made and included favourites such as Zesty Lemon Bread and Butter Pudding, Treacle Tart, Chocolate Fondant, Crème Brûlée, Tarte Citron, sticky toffee pudding with Bushmill's toffee sauce. And so the list goes on. From the Bar Menu you can choose home made pork pie served with chutneys and pickles, club sandwiches, traditional steamed steak and kidney pudding and great steaks, T Bones, Sirloins, Ribs, Mixed grills and all day breakfasts.

We hope to be moving in by mid November and look forward to meeting you all; pop in for coffee or a drink. We will be taking bookings for Christmas, including a tempting Christmas Day Menu, Boxing Day Lunch, New Years Eve Party and New Years Day Lunch. Look out for leaflets with our special opening offers and our official opening party to meet you all and for you to meet us and sample our style of hospitality.

Cheers!

Your prospective Land Ladies

TYSOE MARIONETTE GROUP

The group has started work on its next production, being:

“ALI BABA

THE PUPPET PANTO”



This is a humorous and ambitious musical version of the original Arabic story drawn from the “1001 Tales of the Arabian Nights”

Dialogue recording for the four ruthless robbers (amongst others) is completed and singing recordings in progress. Meanwhile out in the Barn Theatre, marionette manipulation rehearsals have just started.

Great fun is being had by all involved, but, in the new year we will need a few more volunteers to assist us with scenery changing and technical support.

Performances are scheduled for: **April 2008** on:

Sat 12th (matinee & evening) **and Sun 13th** (matinee);

Fri 25th (evening) **and Sat 26th** (matinee & evening)

The Group has been awarded the British Puppet and Model Theatre Guild's '**President's Plate**' for services to Puppetry 2007/2008 and has recently hosted the Guild's Annual Summer Garden Party and staged a special evening for the Midlands Puppet Forum. “A funny thing happened on the way to the Forum!”

Jon and Ann Beeny Tel: 01295 680431

Email: JonandAnn@annbeeny.f9.co.uk

Visit: www.Warkcom.net/TysoeMarionettes

HALLOWE'EN SUPPER

This is going to sound like a speech from the Oscars; so many people to thank:

The tart makers Sue, Margaret, Gwyn and Pat, the peelers and mashers Judy & Angela, the bar staff Brian, Peter and David, George for the desktop publishing, Jan and Mike Rumke (our resident ghoul), Gwyn for organising and looking after me and Jonathan at the Cotswold Cheese Company, Moreton-in-Marsh, for all the delicious cheeses.

But the biggest thank you goes to Carol Taylor, who shared all the planning, shopping, cooking and decorating.

Finally it was great to see everyone joining in the spirit of the evening; dressing up and making pumpkin lanterns. Well done, Reg.

Una Hill

Kineton Amateur Dramatic Society

www.kads.org.uk

present

The Old Country

by

Alan Bennett

22nd, 23rd & 24th November 2007

8 p.m. at

Kineton Village Hall

Alan Bennett's plays are famous for their humour and poignancy. "The Old Country" is no exception. It is both entertaining and uncomfortable in its study of irony and some of the worst attributes of Britishness. Six characters each with their own agenda tread the boards together and expose themselves to the audience as a dysfunctional group of people with various skeletons in their cupboards. The result is an excellent play, intelligently crafted and full of wit that we come to expect from the pen of Alan Bennett.

Tickets can be bought on the door, from Country Pursuits in Kineton, or by contacting us on 01926 642313.

OXHILL GARDEN CLUB

The October Garden Club meeting talk took a different direction when former Town Crier and Tour Guide, Graham Sutherland, gave a talk on ‘Inn Signs and their Meanings’.

Graham began by explaining how drinking in public began, through Roman times, to modern day.

I don’t think many of us realised how often Inn signs changed in style to move with the times and on occasion are completely renamed. For instance when hostelrys change from older style inns to wine bars, what was ‘The Coach and Horses’ could become ‘Twelfth’ with no obvious meaning, and also sadly will probably be lost for ever.

Meanings of many inn signs derived from the trades that used to go on around them and others seem obvious from their name and picture, although on occasion investigation showed some have hidden meanings. Today others retain their names but are being produced in more modern or humorous styles. There has also been one named ‘The Office’ – which could be useful when confirming your whereabouts on occasion!

With Christmas around the corner Lillian and Anne will be showing some ideas for door wreaths, garlands, etc at the November 15th Meeting.

Please note that the meeting in December will be a week earlier than usual, on Thursday 13th, and will be our Christmas Party.

Anne Nethercleft

WEEKDAY WALKERS

For those who interested in walking and pub lunches, then our November walks might be for you.

Friday 9th November – Brailes to the “Cherington Arms” at Cherington and return, a walk of 6 ½ miles with 350 feet of ascent. We will leave Oxhill at 10:00 a.m.

Friday 23rd November – Long Compton to “The Norman Knight” at Whichford and return, a walk of 7 ½ miles with 700 feet of ascent. We will leave Oxhill at 9:30 a.m.

If you wish to come please contact Jim Saxton 01295 680613 so shared transport can be arranged.

Moving Pictures

Oxhill Village Hall

In association with Warwickshire County Council
and
The Rural Cinema Trust

Presents



Shrek The Third

Cert. U

Wednesday 28th November

Screenings at

5 p.m. & 8 p.m.

Running time approx 90 minutes

Admission £4 Adults, £2 Children

WHAT'S ON IN OXHILL

November

Wednesday 7th		Tysoe Village Hall – WI meeting. A.G.M. & Quiz (1917 – 2007)
Friday 9th	9.00	Darlingscote Farm- Shipston Home Nursing designer clothes sale
	10.00	Weekday Walkers - Brailes to Cherington
Saturday 10th	12.00	Darlingscote Farm- Shipston Home Nursing designer clothes sale
Wednesday 14th	6.00	Oil Consortium order deadline
Thursday 15th	7.30	Village Hall – Garden Club – Wreaths & Garlands
Tuesday 20th	8.00	Village Hall – Parish Council meeting
Thursday 22nd	8.00	Kineton Village Hall – KADS present ‘The Old Country’
Friday 23rd	9.30	Weekday Walkers – Long Compton to Whichford
Friday 23rd	8.00	Kineton Village Hall – KADS present ‘The Old Country’
Saturday 24th	10.00	Village Hall – Coffee Morning
Saturday 24th	8.00	Kineton Village Hall – KADS present ‘The Old Country’
Monday 26th	7.30	The Old Chapel – Dedication
	23.59	Copy deadline for the News
Wednesday 28th	5.00	Village Hall – Moving Pictures – Shrek The Third
	8.00	Village Hall – Moving Pictures – Shrek The Third

December

Wednesday 5th	7.30	Tysoe Village Hall – WI meeting. Sue Price – Antarctica
Monday 10th	12.30	Village Hall – Senior Citizens’ Christmas Lunch WI Group Carol Service at Ratley Church
Thursday 13th	7.30	Village Hall – Garden Club – Christmas Party
Monday 31st	10.00	Village Hall – New Year’s Eve Party

ST. LAWRENCE INTERNET SHOP

Not only can you buy those Christmas presents from major retailers at the St. Lawrence Church internet shop (www.buy.at/oxhill), but you can make some big savings such as 28% on car insurance (and the Church gets £75!), electricity, printer inks and much more.

Better still St. Lawrence will get between 2% and 10% of your purchase price, and you pay exactly the same internet price!

Please give it a try and you might get a pleasant surprise.

Jim Saxton, 01295 680613