

# THE OXHILL NEWS



NO. 421  
DECEMBER 2009

## WEEKDAY WALKERS

There will be only one walk in December as follows:

### Friday 11th December

This is a 5 mile circular walk from Stretton-on-Fosse with 300 feet of ascent, returning for lunch at The Plough Inn in Stretton-on-Fosse. We will leave Oxhill at 9:30 a.m.

Please contact Jim Saxton on 01295 680613 or [saxton@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:saxton@tiscali.co.uk) before the Thursday prior to the walk.

## WELCOME

We offer a warm welcome to Adrian and Belinda Marklew, who have recently moved into April Corner, and hope that their residence in Oxhill will be long and happy.

*Editor*

## FILMS IN THE HALL

**Wednesday 16th December at 7.30 p.m.**

### **JOYEUX NOEL (MERRY CHRISTMAS)**

Academy Award, Golden Globe and BAFTA nominee, JOYEUX NOEL (Merry Christmas) tells the true-life story of the spontaneous Christmas Eve truce declared by Scottish, French and German troops in the trenches of World War I. Enemies leave their weapons behind for one night as they band together in brotherhood and forget about the brutalities of war. Diane Krüger, Daniel Brühl and Benno Fürmann head a first-rate international cast in a truly powerful, must-see film.

Tickets £3.50 from Judy Badger (01295 688010) or at the door on the night.

**PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR VILLAGE HALL**

## JANUARY ISSUE

Please could I have all copy for the January issue by Midnight on **Thursday, 17th December**? 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](mailto:news-editor@oxhill.org.uk) if you wish to send me stuff that way. **NOTE THE VERY EARLY DEADLINE!**

*George Adams, 680286*

## COVER PICTURE

"Now you see, Carol, what I think is this." If Grenville can do a follow-up to the OWLS photo competition then so can I. Thanks are due to Mr. & Mrs. T for their kind permission to print.

*Editor*

## AUCTION OF PROMISES

On behalf of the Village Hall and Church committees I would like to say a very big thank you to all who gave promises. There were 55 in total.

It was just amazing how generous everybody was. It turned out to be a really good evening, lots of fun and, better still, loads of money made on the promises. All of them sold, and a big thank you goes to all who purchased promises. £3600 was made, to be split between the Hall and the Church. It was rather nice to have a joint effort.

I would like to say thank you to Gaynor van Dijk, Tricia Harbour, Helen Tompson and Val Ewens. Between us we organized the evening.

A few more thank yous are in order - to George for printing the catalogues and flyers, to my daughter Linda for printing the promises sheets, to Tom Heritage, who made an excellent auctioneer; he could sell ice to an Eskimo, to John McKail for his work as banker, Judy and Brian Badger and Derek Harbour for organising the bar and to Jill and Colin Tucker for the use of the Old Chapel.

We had a very successful evening. Hopefully we can have another joint effort sometime in the future.

Once again, thank you all.

*Lilian*

## OXHILL VILLAGE HALL

### **Saturday 28th November, 10 - 12**

Coffee Morning & Bring & Buy Sale

We are holding a Coffee Morning and Bring & Buy Sale to raise money for the Oxhill Village Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch.

### **Saturday 12th December, 7.30**

Christmas Party

A super 3 course meal and music from the 60's and 70's will provide an opportunity for getting your dancing practice in for the Christmas season at this special event. You should put the date in your diaries now! Tickets at £12.50 a head are available from Tricia Harbour (680676) and will include a glass of wine or beer to get your evening started.

### **Monday 14th December, 12.30**

Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch

If you feel you are eligible to attend but have not had an invitation, or if you need transport on the day please contact Judy Badger on 688010.

*Derek Harbour*

# ST. LAWRENCE'S CHURCH, OXHILL

## SERVICES IN DECEMBER

All are warmly welcome

Sunday 6th	Advent II	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion (ML)
Sunday 13th	Advent III	3.30 p.m.	Evensong (ML)
Thursday 17th		7.30 p.m.	Village Carol Service (NM)
Sunday 20th	Advent IV	9.30 a.m.	Crib and Christingle (ML)
Friday 25th	Christmas Day	9.30 a.m.	Christmas Communion (ML)
Sunday 27th	Christmas I	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion (NM)

## OXHILL FESTIVAL CHOIR

Just a reminder of the rehearsal dates for the Carol Service are as follows:

Friday 4th December 7.30 p.m. The Old Chapel

Friday 11th December 7.30 p.m. The Old Chapel

Tuesday 15th December 7.30 p.m. The Church

Thursday 17th December 7.00 at the church ready for Carol Service at 7.30 p.m.

Please can you bring pencils and highlighters to the rehearsals.

All are welcome – please let me know if you would like to join us.

*Gaynor Van Dijk 680349*

## VICARAGE NOTES

### Thought for the month

It is so easy to become caught up in the juggernaut of the commercial Christmas with much that is totally inappropriate for such a birthday celebration. What birthday? It is sad to think that question cannot be answered by some in our society – a reflection of the “state of the nation” or perhaps the state of the church!

May I simply wish all readers a very happy and peaceful Christmas, remembering the simplicity of the birth of Christ, so aptly expressed in the words of Christina Rossetti:

Love came down at Christmas, love all lovely, love divine;

Love was born at Christmas, stars and angels gave the sign.

All are warmly invited to the various services at St. Lawrence's - don't forget the Village Christmas Carol Service at 7.30 p.m. on Thursday December 17th.

Services in the benefice include Midnight Mass (11.30 p.m.) at Tysoe, Whatcote and Brailes and on Christmas Day at 11 a.m. at Tysoe and Brailes.

God bless,

*Nicholas Morgan 01608 685230*

## MANY THANKS

Angela and Una would like to say a big thank you to all those people who kindly sent cards, flowers, food and 'phone calls. We are very lucky to live in such a caring village!

P.S. Should you ever receive the opportunity of a medical test or check through the post then please don't disregard it as being 'not for me'. Had I not responded positively then my tumour would not have been diagnosed.

*Angela Emmerson*

[Angela is referring especially to the bowel cancer stool tests which arrived in our village earlier this year. We are one of a small number of areas to be included in this trial, and I am assured that the take-up in some places has been quite low. A great pity, especially if it resulted in the tests not being rolled out nationwide. Ed.]

## COLD CALLING

One of our fellow villagers had a 'phone call recently from a company offering to clear up the problems she was having with her computer.

It is very rarely a good idea to take up any offers from cold callers; they are normally much more interested in helping themselves than you. In the case of them offering to clear up your computer problems it is even more important - just how did they know that you had any problems anyway? Probably because they managed to load some malware onto your machine and it had done it's nasty work and reported home.

The best advice on a cold caller is to hang up immediately. And if you have a computer problem try asking a friend, or go to those people in Shipston. I have not heard ill reports of them yet.

*Editor*

## REFUSE COLLECTIONS

The normal routine of bin collection will be disrupted during the next six weeks.

In December there will be normal Tuesday collections of the grey landfill bins on Tuesday 1st and Tuesday 14th and normal green and blue composting and recycling ones on Tuesday 7th and Tuesday 21st.

However the grey landfill collection due on Tuesday 29th will NOT occur then, but will happen on THURSDAY 31st instead.

In January there will be a green and blue collection on THURSDAY 7th (not Tuesday 5th) and a grey one on WEDNESDAY 13th (instead of Tuesday 12th).

We will get back to normal with green and blue collections on Tuesday 19th.

So that's nice and clear then, isn't it.

*Editor*

## NATURE NOTES FOR DECEMBER

*O Dirty December, Yet Christmas remember. This month keep thy body and head from cold; let thy kitchen be thine Apothecary, warm clothing thy Nurse, merry company thy keepers, and good hospitality thine Exercise. (Neve's Almanack, 1633)*

As I write this the country is experiencing severe winds and rain that have had devastating results on land, buildings and people. Not only does it have a physical effect on some people, but it can affect our temperament. A wind from the north-east will cut us to the bone and make us bad tempered; a warm westerly bathes us in a blanket of warm air and induces a feeling of wellbeing. Apparently in southern France when the Mistral blows down from the north, the murder rate increases. Most cultures have names for particular winds. I can remember in 1968 a southerly wind known as a 'blood rain' that brought sand from the Sahara and on 1 July people got up to find they had red cars and indeed red roofs on their houses. In Cumberland they have the feared easterly known as the Helm wind; in Cheshire it's a Whittle; in Cornwall a Waddy, and in Norfolk and Suffolk sudden winds are known as Rogers. The wind tantalises with its invisible power and in many beliefs it is the breath of God.

One group of birds that seem to relish and enjoy the wind are the Corvids or crow family. They seem to play and are like the youth of the bird world. They ride winds like surfers and work it like skateboarders, twisting, turning, jinxing, then doing abrupt stalls, dives and rolls, all the time shouting and 'laughing'. Have you ever heard a raven chuckle - it's a treat! But not everything is rosy in the world of Corvids. A week or two ago I was alerted by crows making a cacophony of noise, which had aggression and anger in it. It was coming from the field behind the Peacock car park. There were a lot of crows in the air circling and occasionally diving. When I looked over the hedge I could see a single crow pinned down on its back by several other crows and four or five other birds were lunging in, violently pecking at it - I could see feathers coming out. Had a 'Parliament' sentenced this bird to death? I have read and heard about this happening before. Anyway I interfered with nature by shouting and clapping my hands, and in a black cloud they all vanished, seemingly the victim as well. A couple of mornings later, and most mornings since then, I have noticed early in the morning a single large crow walking around the pub car park, obviously looking for morsels. I then noticed something odd about this crow - it has one white wing - was this the sentenced bird? And if so, was the white wing the reason? A mystery. I have been trying to get a photo of this bird, so far without success.

*So now is come our joyful feast  
Let every man be jolly  
Each room with ivy leaves is dressed  
And every post with holly  
Without the door, let sorrow lie,  
And if for cold, it hap to die,  
We'll bury it in a Christmas pie  
And evermore be merry*

## FOOTNOTE

I have been working at a house a couple of villages away - excellent garden for nuthatches - but the night before I was there the garden shed was emptied of mowers etc by thieves, so be extra vigilant over Christmas, and if you are going away, let your neighbours know and do not load your car up the night before you leave.

## OWLS

Thank you everyone who has now returned their survey. We have had a fantastic response from over 20% of the village, but I know there are still a few to come - you know who you are - so please just pop it through my letterbox. A précis will be published next year. Excellent news from Paul and Tom Heritage who are in the process of putting up five owl nest boxes. We will be doing similar within the village next year. By the time you read this, the OWLS calendar will be ready - very smart design, but slightly smaller than we expected, hence the new low price of £7.50. Rhian Cooper and I each have one if you would like to look before you order - but hurry before stocks run out.

*Grenville Moore*

## CHRISTMAS MUSIC

### Ratley Church

Friday December 11th 7.30 p.m.

Come and join the Shenlow Singers in an evening of Christmas music

Tickets £7 include refreshments

from Thelma, 01295 670453 or Bill, 01296 641054

## CHRISTMAS CONCERT

### St Peter's Church Kineton

Saturday 12th December

7.30 p.m.

Warwickshire Singers with Barbara Rodway (soprano) & Paul Sudlow (conductor)

A Concert of Christmas Music to include Vaughan Williams - Fantasia on Christmas Carols, Poulenc - 4 Christmas Motets and Heinrich Schütz - The Christmas Story

Refreshments mulled wine and mince pies

Tickets £7 obtainable by calling 01926 642589

## MOBILE LIBRARY

The library van will continue to visit Oxhill on Tuesdays, stopping at the Village Hall at 10 a.m. and staying there for 30 minutes.

In December the van will visit us on Tuesday 8th.

You can renew books between van visits by calling 01926 851031, or online at [www.Warwickshire.gov.uk/wild](http://www.Warwickshire.gov.uk/wild).

*Editor*

# NOTES OF A MEETING OF OXHILL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 10TH NOVEMBER 2009 AT 8.00 P.M. IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Apologies were received from Tom Heritage. All others Councillors were present.

## **MATTERS DISCUSSED**

### **Warwickshire Fire & Rescue Authority**

Consultation documents for the proposed modernised service were discussed. From this information emergency response times to the village appear unchanged. The meeting agreed with the positive points raised and would return the questionnaire.

### **Planning**

Application for extension to the front of “Feldon House” was returned with no objection. Permission had been received from SDC to remove old hedging and replace with new at “Stonecroft”.

### **Community Emergency Plan**

This had now been updated and all Parish Councillors were in receipt of a copy.

### **Age Concern**

This organisation’s aim is to assist older people to enjoy independent living for as long as possible and to this end provides a wide range of practical, care and information service. Some services are free whilst others are fee paying, for example:

- i) Information and advice
- ii) Home maintenance (recommending or managing reliable, trustworthy contractors)
- iii) Maintaining Independence (practical assistance during recovery from illness, respite for carers and day care, friendship and counselling, and much more.

Their telephone number is 01926 458100.

### **The Care Agency**

This privately run agency sent us information about their service, which offers a live-in care service. Details on Notice Board. Their telephone number is 0845 604 4152 (local call rate).

### **Stratford District Council Leisure Services**

A wide range of activities are available across the District catering for all age groups, e.g. walks programme, short mat bowls, table tennis and badminton, swimming etc. Why not call the Active Communities Team on 01789 260650 and find out more.

### **Parking**

We have no restrictions on parking in the village and therefore it is our responsibility to park in a safe manner. It is also a traffic offence to park on a pavement. Two places of concern are, firstly in front of the “Peacock” pub where



vehicles restricts the view of oncoming traffic approaching from the Stratford direction, and secondly on the bend by the church where traffic restricts the view of traffic coming from the Tysoe direction.

### **Oxfordshire NHS Horton Hospital Update**

The Horton General Hospital will continue to deliver key acute services: paediatrics, maternity, emergency dept., general surgery and trauma, and will develop to act as a base for delivering some community services such as paediatric nursing and as a resource for NHS research. Further improvements are ongoing.

### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 12th January 2010 at 8.00 p.m. in the Village Hall.

*Angela Kean, Clerk*

## **THERE IS NO TYPICAL DAY**

**(for an Ambulance Responder)**

On Saturday 17 October 2009 we started our day at 3.15 a.m. with a 999 call. Home just after 4.00 a.m., nothing for the rest of the day. We were just about to leave for a very special evening out when we had our second 999 call of the day at 7.30 p.m.

On then to the Coach and Horses pub in Shipston for the Shipston on Stour Ladies Darts League presentation evening. Barbara and I had been chosen by the winner of the Charity Shield, Karen Lynes, to be the recipient of the money collected on that competition evening. We would like to thank Karen very much for donating this to us. We were also invited to present the winners of the Shipston Ladies Darts teams with their awards for 2009. Just after completing these very pleasurable duties we gave treatment for an injury that required Hospital treatment.

We do not normally take the casualties to Hospital but it's 9.30 p.m. on Saturday evening! Returning home at 11.00 p.m., tea made, toaster just popped, then the last 999 call of the day came in, home then about 12.15 a.m. Sunday morning.

We wish all the casualties a speedy recovery.

Some of the many winners of the evening were, Tracey Hebblethwaite who won the Ladies Singles, Karen Lynes and Lisa Hyde won the Doubles, Claire Hall and Jo Duffy won the Blind Pairs and Karen Lynes. Faith Hall and Gill Hyde were runners up in the Triples. All of these play for Tysoe Sports and Social Club so you can see that they had a very good year.

Gill Hyde is the Captain of Tysoe Ladies Darts Club; they are looking to recruit new players for their winning team, and you don't have to live in Tysoe to join. If you are interested contact Tracey Hebblethwaite on 01295680161.

*Mick & Barbara Shepard, West Midlands Ambulance Service Responders*

## VILLAGE HISTORY

### The Cliftons Revisited

Since my article in the September Oxhill News showing photos of Arthur, Walter, and – as I thought – Walter’s wife Amy Clifton, I have been contacted by Mrs Pat Pick, a cousin of Bill and Tom Heritage, who tells me that the lady on the sun parlour at Payn’s House was in fact Ethel Clifton, Walter’s sister, rather than his wife Amy. Pat Pick has happy memories of childhood visits to Uncle Walter and Aunt Amy, and has now shown me several old family photos of both Ethel and Amy, (if I may call them so), to clear up the confusion. (She has some views too of Payn’s House showing Walter’s productive and immaculate vegetable garden; I understand his pea sticks stood in strict precision!).

The lady shown in the Bowers photographs is clearly Ethel, who would still have been living at home with her parents, Arthur and Jane Clifton, at Payn’s House in 1930. Mrs Pick’s photo shows her on her wedding day, September 21st 1932, when, aged 39, she married John (Jack) Gilks, smallholder, 46, moving only a field’s distance away to the house now called Laurel Cottage in Blackford Way. Jack was later to die tragically in an accident in 1962, aged 76, when, while doing some repair work to his house, he fell from his ladder. Bill Heritage tells me that he used to farm the fields across the Kinton Road from Whitehill, where there were then some farm buildings. He kept a few cows and pigs there, and he and Ethel would cycle up daily, carrying hot water in cans on their bicycles to wash the dairy utensils. People said you could set your clocks by them, even on a dark winter’s morning. It was a hard and unrelenting life – they saw little return for their labours, and had no holiday – but they were always happy and content. Their house was known as “Pickins Farm”, but the name does not seem to have been much used, nor have any historic roots. I heard it used when I first came to the village in 1975, and when Ethel died in 1983, aged 90, her address was entered as “Pickins Farm, Oxhill” in the burial register. The name occurs nowhere else in village documents, and I wonder whether perhaps it had any connection with the fields that Jack Gilks had farmed, which were across the parish boundary in Pillerton Priors. I have randomly found a number of the Pickin family listed in Birmingham in the 1901 census. Could one of them have owned land in Pillerton perhaps? (A very long shot!)

Having established the identity of Ethel, it appears that Amy Clifton is not present in any of the Bowers photos after all. She and Walter lived then in Tysoe, and their daughter Dorothy would have been at school, so Amy had presumably stayed at home that day in 1930. Dorothy was their only child, and grew up to train as a nurse and work at a nursing home near Oxford. Tragically she was killed in 1950 aged 27, when riding pillion on a friend’s motorbike, and her parents never recovered fully from their loss. The photo of Amy here shows her with Dorothy in about 1925 or 1926, when Dorothy was 3 or 4.

I met both Ethel and Amy in their later years. Ethel on one occasion, was accompanied by her neighbour in Blackford Way, Mrs Lizzie Cornes. She described

how, before marriage, they had lived across the lane from one another, she at Payn's House, and Lizzie, then Lizzie Taylor, at Fellows House. It was a pleasure to them that in old age - (Mrs Cornes having returned to Oxhill in widowhood) - they once again lived close to each other, this time not opposite but next door.

*Ann Hale*

## FROM SHIPSTON POLICE

### Credit Card scam

Lancashire Police have advised us of a scam which is being worked well in their area at present. A person rings up purporting to be from a security section of a banking institute and is looking at unusual spending on your account. The caller already has your card details and name and address, but he is after your 3 digit security coded on the back of the card. He identifies himself and gives a badge ID number and a 6 digit reference number for you to quote and is quite willing to repeat the information. He gives details of an alleged transaction which is under £500 and a possible threshold limit. You deny any knowledge of this transaction and he states that he will authorise a credit of this amount to your card but needs certain information to check you are still in possession of the card and this includes the three digit number on the rear of the card. Armed with this information the caller then makes a transaction using your card details for the amount just specified and you later may receive a genuine call from your bank asking you about that transaction! Very complex, but it seems to work. Banks will not ask you for your 3 digit PIN code on the rear of the card. They know what it is as they issued you with the card in the first place. BEWARE.

### Burglary in Oxhill

Between the hours of 19:30 and 21:30 on the 4.11.09, offenders unknown have gained entry to an Oxhill flat by smashing the first floor window. Two oil paintings depicting the countryside dating from the 17th to 18th century were taken. The offenders then proceeded to disconnect the water pipes and block the drains with cushions, causing water to run throughout the flat and leak into the garage below. Should anyone have any information with regards to this incident, or if you saw someone suspicious in the area at the time, please call your local SNT on 01789444670 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111, quoting incident number 397/22.10.09 or crime number S/09/13858.

### Temporary closure of Shipston Police station

As you may be aware a refurbishment of Shipston police station is due to take place this year and we are hopeful that it will be completed within a three-month time scale. We anticipate that the work will start on the 29.11.2009. The police station will be closed to the public for the duration of the building work and your Safer Neighbourhood team will temporarily be based at Wellesbourne. However we wish to reassure you that the policing cover across the area will not be compromised and that the Shipston SNT will still be operating within the area.

## FAREWELL

We bid a sorrowful farewell to Keith and Julie Seabridge and wish them all happiness and prosperity in their new home in the New Forest.

*Editor*

## WHAT'S ON IN & AROUND OXHILL

### ***December***

Tuesday 1st		Grey landfill bin collection
Wednesday 2nd	10.30	The Peacock - Village Coffee Morning
Friday 4th	7.30	The Old Chapel - Festival Choir rehearsal
Saturday 5th	7.30	St Edmund's, Shipston-on-Stour - Stour Singers 'Christmas Music'
Sunday 6th	8.00	The Peacock - Charity Quiz night
Tuesday 8th		Green & blue recycling bin collection
	10.00	Village Hall - Mobile Library
Friday 11th		Weekday Walkers
	7.30	The Old Chapel - Festival Choir rehearsal
	7.30	Ratley Church - Christmas Music
Saturday 12th	7.30	St. Peter's, Kineton - Christmas Concert
	7.30	Village Hall - Christmas Party
Monday 14th	12.30	Village Hall - Senior Citizens' Christmas Lunch
Tuesday 15th		Grey landfill bin collection
	7.30	St. Lawrence's Church - Festival Choir rehearsal
Wednesday 16th	12.30	The Peacock - Village Lunch
	7.30	Village Hall - Films in the Hall
Thursday 17th	7.30	St. Lawrence's Church - Carol Service
	23.59	Copy deadline for the News
Tuesday 22nd		Green & blue recycling bin collection
Thursday 31st		Grey landfill bin collection

### ***January***

Thursday 7th		Green & blue recycling bin collection
Tuesday 12th	8.00	Village Hall - Parish Council meeting
Wednesday 13th		Grey landfill bin collection
Tuesday 19th		Green & blue recycling bin collection

## STOUR SINGERS CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The concert will take place in St Edmund's Church, Shipston-on Stour, on Saturday 5th December at 7.30 p.m. The singers will be accompanied by the Cherwell Orchestra and conducted by Richard Emms. The programme will include works by Mozart, J.S. and C.P.E. Bach.

Tickets, £10 from R. Clarke, 27, High St. Shipston, choir members & at the door.

### **ACCIDENT and MEDICAL EMERGENCIES**

**FIRST CALL 999**

**THEN CALL**

Ambulance Responders

**MICK & BARBARA SHEPARD**

**07977149317 Mobile / 01295680644 Home**

**3, The Leys, Oxhill, Warwick, CV350QX**