

THE OXHILL NEWS



NO. 433
DECEMBER 2010

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 7th.

You can renew books between van visits by calling 01926 851031, or online at www.Warwickshire.gov.uk/wild.

Editor

REFUSE COLLECTION

Christmas and the New Year force changes to the collection service, so please pay attention because I shall only say this once.

Recycling and green waste bins (blue and green bins) will be collected on Tuesdays 7th and 21st as normal.

The grey rubbish bins will be collected on Tuesday 14th as normal. There will however be no collection on Tuesday 28th; it will be postponed a day until Wednesday 29th.

Then in January the blue and green bins will not be collected on Tuesday 4th; again this collection is postponed a day until Wednesday 5th.

There has been a rumour going round that the collection of the green bins will stop for the winter, probably at the end of November. I have been to enquire of the oracle at Elizabeth House. They told me that it is just a rumour and that collections will continue as normal. So that's all right then.

Editor

When two egotists meet, it's an I for an I.

JANUARY ISSUE

Please could I have all copy for the January issue by Midnight on **Saturday, 18th December**? I don't expect that any of you will want to worry about getting copy in over Christmas, so let's get it all in nice and early and then I can relax! So can you. 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

Finding nothing in particular, I decided to use this shot of the Anderton boat lift, taken this July. Note the canal boat being brought down from the Trent & Mersey canal to the Weaver.

Editor

AMBULANCE FIRST RESPONDER

By the time you are reading this, the 15th November 2010 has passed; some of you know it was the date when our communications centre at Leamington Spa finally closed. The Leamington control Centre was handling 90 plus calls every few minutes. The move to the high Technology Communication Centre at Stafford, which has been operating successfully there for over a year, had been in the planning for some time. The destination of the Ambulance comes from the information that the caller gives, this is then passed to the Ambulance being sent, and the very high tec satellite navigation in the Ambulance. At the same time it will be sent directly to us, the Ambulance Responders. Our location means we arrive first, starting life saving treatment, much sooner than it otherwise would have been. The long range weather forecast service, which is used by the Ambulance service for planning purposes, is predicting that it will be a very cold, with more snow than last winter. If this is correct, the elderly and vulnerable could be without their normal carers, if they could not get through the snow to them. We know how to look after one another in the country; we have been doing it a long time, so stock your freezers up and don't forget your neighbours!

*Mick and Barbara Shepard, West Midlands Ambulance Service Responders
3, The Leys, Oxhill, Warwickshire, CV350QX*

GARDEN CLUB NEWS

Gill Hawtin made multi-tasking look so easy at the November meeting as she made Christmas table decorations and gave us interesting narrative on the life and times of a florist. The table centre-pieces were simply assembled and stunning to look at and even after a week of neglect the one Jim won in the raffle is still beautiful. Gill gave us practical tips and inspired us into having a go ourselves with materials very close to hand.

The Christmas Party will be at the Saxton's on Wednesday 15th December at 7 p.m. Please ring Gwyn Adams (680286) to book places and, as this is bring-and-share, say what you will contribute.

Future meetings:

20th January - Bugs, the Good, the Bad and the Ugly with Roger Umpelby

17th February - Bats of Warwickshire with Neil Beamsley

Ann Saxton

FREE FREEZER

4 foot long chest freezer in working order, free to a good home
Peter & Sue Britton, 680062

ST. LAWRENCE'S CHURCH, OXHILL

SERVICES IN DECEMBER

All are warmly welcome

Sunday 5th	Advent II	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion (ML)
Sunday 12th	Advent III	8.30 a.m.	Holy Communion (ML)
		3.30pm	70th Anniversary Service at Whatcote (The Bombing of the Church)
Thursday 16th		7.30 p.m.	The Candlelit Carol Service (NM)
Sunday 19th	Advent IV	9.30 a.m.	Christingle and Crib Service (ML)
Christmas Day		9.30 a.m.	Christmas Communion (ML)
Sunday 26th		Christmas I 11.00 a.m.	Parish Communion at Tysoe
			For other benefice services see porch notice board

CHURCH NOTES

Harvest Festival 2010

Sorry I missed getting this note into the October Edition.

The Harvest Produce Auction which took place after the Service in September raised over £100 for Farm Africa. A big thank you to all who helped or brought produce and flowers which made the Church look so festive. Also a big thank you to Bill Fox who conducted the auction and made it a lively and humorous occasion.

A special thank you

A very kind and generous donation for Church Flowers has been received so to the anonymous donor a really big thankyou .

Churchwardens

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

A Christmas Concert will be given in Church on Saturday December 4th at 7.30 p.m. by the Stratford Musical Theatre Company.

Tickets at £10, which will include a glass of mulled wine and mince pies, are available from Lilian (680468) or Val (680215). Please book early as there is limited seating in the Church.

Lilian

TOOLS WITH A MISSION (TWAM)

Thanks to those who have donated to this worthwhile project. If you have old tools (hammers, chisels, drills, sewing / knitting machines etc.) please let either Jim Saxton (01295 680613) or Jo van Dijk (01295 680349) know and they will collect them. Details about TWAM can be found at www.twam.co.uk

DEANERY NEWS

On Sunday December 5th we are in St. Edmund's holding a Christmas Music Workshop for our Shipston singers - but if anyone from another church would like to come along and learn (or refresh) some music to take back to their own churches, they would be very welcome. The workshop will run from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., with tea at some stage. Contact me on 01295 688193 or revjill.tucker@tiscali.co.uk for any further information.

After Christmas we look forward to an Instant Choirs Evensong Workshop in Brailes Church, led by Julian Harris, on Sunday January 30th. This will begin at 2.30 p.m. (registration from 2.00 p.m.), running until 6.00 p.m., with tea in the middle, and Evensong will then begin at 6.30 p.m. All are welcome, either to sing with us or join us for Evensong. The cost for the workshop will be £6. Again, full details from me, contact details as above.

The next Deanery Synod will be on Tuesday February 2nd in St. Edmund's Church, Shipston, at 7.30 p.m., when we are delighted to welcome Rev. Greg Bartlem, Diocesan Youth Officer, and Matt Brown, Shipston Deanery Youth Worker, to share their vision for reaching our young people with the Gospel.

Finally, Anthony Nicholls has an Epson Stylus Photo R3000 printer and separate scanner that he no longer needs and would be happy to see freely relocated in a new home. If anyone is interested, would they contact him on antnic@webnet2000.net
Have a wonderful Christmas, as we celebrate the momentous event of God coming to live among us.

Jill Tucker, Rural Dean

ST PETER'S CHURCH, WHATCOTE

On the morning of December 12th 1940 a number of bombs were dropped on the village following a raid on Birmingham. One hit the church, causing substantial damage; another landed in a pond at Lower Farm, by the willow trees near the farmhouse, and one landed very close to Upper Farm. Fortunately, there were no human casualties; tarpaulin was put over the gaping hole in the roof of the church and remained there until it was restored in 1947. Services were held in the chapel.

We shall be remembering the bombing at a special service on Sunday December 12th, exactly 70 years later, at 3.30 p.m. and we will be particularly pleased to welcome anyone who may have witnessed the bombing or had relatives in the village at that time.

There will be time to reminisce over a cup of tea afterwards.

Sue Price & Phil Wreford (Churchwardens)

SEASON'S GREETINGS

The editorial team would like to wish all our readers and our wonderful contributors and delivery staff a very happy Christmas.

NOTES OF A MEETING OF OXHILL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 9TH NOVEMBER 2010 AT 8.00 P.M. IN THE VILLAGE HALL

An apology was received from Carol Taylor. All other Councillors were present.

MATTERS DISCUSSED

Parking

Parking on the bend in front of the Peacock pub has improved. However there is still a problem when the Old Chapel is in use. We have asked if those attending functions at the Old Chapel can be requested to park more sensibly.

Planning

Permission has been granted for the following Applications

Replacement garage at Greenfields

Change of land use to equine & stables at Hogwood Farm

Change of land use for garden and agricultural supplies at Windmill Farm.

To fell 3 willows at The Hollies.

Erection of single storey extension, closure of vehicular access and various fenestration alterations to convert 2 dwellings into 1 (Oxhill House and Little Nut Cottage)

Application to insert like for like replacement windows at Church Leaze Barn was returned with no objection.

Erection of barn for storage of straw at Church Farm did not require planning.

An application was refused for change of land use to form a domestic tennis court at Whatcote Park.

Winter Gritting

The same routes as last year will be gritted by Warwickshire County Council. This does not include the road to Kineton from the A422. See notice board.

The Government Snow Code, issued at the end of October, states:

There is no law stopping you from clearing snow and ice on the pavement outside your property, pathways to your property or public space. If an accident did happen, it's highly unlikely that you would be sued as long as you: 1) are careful, 2) use common sense to make sure that you don't make the pavement or pathway clearly more dangerous than before. People using areas affected by snow and ice also have responsibility to be careful themselves.

Horton General Hospital – Better Healthcare Programme

Following the decision to implement the new staffing arrangements at the Horton, the Board agreed that over the next 12 months the Trust will develop a new vision for services. The aim is to make sure fewer patients from Banbury and the surrounding areas need to go to Oxford for care and treatment.

Police Stations

Representation is being made to emphasise the need to keep our local police station at Shipston open, and to stress its value to the community.

From 6th December Stratford police station is open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday to Sunday with a help point phone located outside the station outside these hours.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 11th January 2011 at 8.00 p.m. in the Village Hall.

Angela Kean, Clerk

VICARAGE NOTES

Dear friends,

As we journey through Advent to the celebration of the Nativity of our Lord, which, as the BCP states is “commonly known as Christmas Day”, my customary hope is that folk will not be caught up in the rollercoaster of rampant commercialism.

That may sound a rather parsonical platitude, but it does reflect comments that have already been made to me “Father Christmas already? We get the Christmas we deserve”. It must be common sense to focus on what is really important to us at this time of the year whether with or without a faith.

We celebrate family and above all the birth of Jesus, the child of Bethlehem, in whom Christians believe God has chosen to reveal himself to mankind. Hope, love and inspiration for the future should be our Christmas gift to the world.

There is, of course, a warm welcome to all at the special services in our churches!

On behalf of Martin and Sue, Sirpa and myself, may I wish everyone a happy and peaceful Christmas,

Nicholas Morgan 01608 685230

WEEKDAY WALKERS

We have one walk in November as follows:

Friday 10th December

This is a circular 5.5 mile walk from Brailes with 290 feet of ascent. Lunch will be at “The George” Brailes. We will leave Oxhill at 9:30 a.m.

Due to the numbers on the walk Jim Saxton now contacts regular members to get meal decisions by Wednesday evening. Those who wish to join us are most welcome, but please contact Jim Saxton on 01295 680613 or at saxton@tiscali.co.uk before the Tuesday evening prior to the walk.

Santa's helpers are subordinate clauses.

NATURE NOTES FOR DECEMBER

One Christmas was so much like another ... that I can never remember whether it snowed for six days and six nights when I was twelve or whether it snowed for twelve days and twelve nights when I was six.

Dylan Thomas (1954) A Child's Christmas in Wales

Leaving the village today along the Whatcote road, there sitting on the hedge I saw him “ his under parts are orange and white; glowing orange, like a sunset on silver scales of birch bark” a Furze Chirper, a French Linnet, a Tartan Back the Cock o’ the North.....a brambling. This little bird is known as the northern counterpart of the chaffinch and had probably just arrived from Scandinavia or perhaps northern Russia and will stay until March or April, although small numbers have now started breeding in Scotland. Bewick the famous engraver of wildlife called this bird the ‘Mountain Finch’ and remarked that it made better eating than the chaffinch, if rather bitter in taste!! The artist Turner called it a brambling suggesting a connection with brambles (it does often roost in brambles) but it is now thought that this is a derivation of the old Scottish word ‘brandling’ a name given to a young salmon, pink and white in colour, or an animal of brindled pattern. The male’s black head in the breeding season does in fact turn to a brown and white brindle pattern come the winter, and looks very similar to the female. It was unusual to only see one bird (I’m sure there were probably more about). They are generally a flocking bird and can often be seen feeding with chaffinches; the brambling’s winter food includes weed seeds, berries, grain, pine seeds and beech-mast as its main diet. In flight the bird gives a quiet, rapid chucc-chucc-chucc call note. After a good harvest flocks of several hundred or even thousands can accumulate. In 1981 on Merseyside a flock built up to an estimated 150,000 but that pales into insignificance when in 1952 in some heavy-laden beech woods near the Swiss town of Huniback a flock built up to a staggering seventy million birds! can you imagine what a sight that must have been.

Talking of strange things, those of you who read and digest my ramblings may recall a couple of months ago I wrote about a couple of goldcrests that kept landing on the water of our pond and walking across picking up, presumably, small insects. Well during my research I came across a similar report taken from a newspaper dated 21st September 1976, but with a rather macabre ending, to quote; “*the frog swam vigorously towards the goldcrest, it pushed forward and grasped the bird by the head and breast; with a splash, the frog dived with its victim, both remaining submerged for several minutes*”; however it does not say whether the frog swallowed the poor bird, a large frog would certainly be capable.

The old saying that a plentiful harvest of fruit and berries brings a hard winter may be true this year, so please make sure our wild birds have plenty of food and more importantly water.

Also Hutch-rabbits, or ‘rich Conies’, now in prime condition....yet they are violently hot in the act of generation, and perform it with such vigour and

excess, that they swound and lie in trances a good space after every one of your conies killed in this season is worth any five other conies, for they are of body much fatter and larger..

To gild a spit-roasted Coney. Mix one gill of cream with a little flour, parsley chopped small, two egg yolks, pepper, salt and nutmeg grated; when the Coney is almost roasted, paint it all over the this paste; and when the paste is dried on, baste it with fresh butter until it is done. This makes a rich gravy and puts away the Coney's dryness".

Markham, Cheap and Good Husbandry 1683

OWLS

Hurry, only a few calendars now remaining ... don't miss out, phone one of the OWLS right now. Apologies for not returning any of your photos, but after Christmas we will be selecting for next year's calendars. Next year the photo competition will include art and collage, so think about the seasons - get clicking, painting and drawing now. Details will follow in the Oxhill News. Next year will also see some talks in the Village Hall. You may recall that we fenced a small area of the churchyard off and in one morning we recorded 39 different species of wildflowers and suspect several more could be present. More news on this to follow. If you have taken the time to read my ramblings over the last year ... thank you and a very merry Christmas.

Grenville Moore

WEATHER FORECAST

Freezing wet December then,
Bloody January again!

Michael Flanders

AT THE PEACOCK

The village coffee morning will be on Wednesday 1st, starting at 10.30, with the charity quiz night following on Sunday 5th at 8 p.m. The village lunch will be on Wednesday 15th.

To allow everyone to recover from the New Year the charity quiz night in January will be postponed to the second Sunday, Sunday 9th. The coffee morning and village lunch will be on the first and third Wednesdays as usual.

The Dopeler Effect is the tendency of stupid ideas to seem
smarter when they come at you rapidly.

OXHILL VILLAGE HALL

Forthcoming Events

Thursday 9th

Afternoon Delights

We will be making lavender hearts and crafted Christmas tree decorations for those who wish to take part. Or if you just want to meet up with your friends and have a cup of tea you will be welcome. The village hall will be open from 2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. The cost is only £1 to cover the cost of heating and refreshments.

If you'd like to know more then call Tricia Harbour on 680676 or feel free to just turn up and join in.

Monday 13th

Senior Citizens' Christmas Lunch

Our traditional 3 course Christmas Lunch with wine for the Senior Citizens in the Village will be held at the Village Hall, starting at 12.30 p.m. on Monday 13th. In addition to the meal and drinks, we have carols from the local school children and some other entertainment. We have sent out invitations but if you know of anyone who is entitled to attend but has not received an invitation, please let Judy Badger (688010) know. Transport to and from the Village Hall will be available if needed.

Friday, 17th

Canapés & Cocktails Christmas Event

We are planning a very special event to celebrate the Christmas season. This will consist of a variety of canapés and freshly made cocktails. The Hall will be specially decorated to reflect the season, appropriate mood music will be playing softly in the background for this special 'Posh Frocks & Black Tie' (or suits) evening. Optional 'Best Bow Tie' competition with prizes for men and ladies. The price will be £12.50 per head and includes a selection of delicious canapés and 2 cocktails. Additional drinks will be available and the evening will run from 8.00 p.m. to 10.00 p.m. (or later!). This will be a great way to start the Christmas season and meet up and socialise with your friends. Tickets, which should be ordered in advance, are available from Tricia Harbour on 680676.

Saturday, 29 January Burns Night Celebration

Following the successes of previous years we have been asked to stage another Burns Night celebration. The evening will be a traditional event with haggis, tatties and neeps and a wee dram to keep out the cold. Our talented Scots from the village will be on hand to recall and toast the life of Rabbie Burns, 'address' the haggis and entertain us with tales of derring do.

Tickets, which will cost £15 per person, should be ordered in advance and will be available from Tricia Harbour on 680676.

Derek Harbour

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

Advice from Warwickshire Trading Standards Service

Be Careful Who You Borrow Money From

Warwickshire Trading Standards Service is working with Birmingham's Illegal Money lending Team to assist people who may be getting into debt over the Christmas period. It is estimated that over Christmas 2009, up to 100,000 households may have turned to illegal money lenders known as loan sharks. They are criminals who are often also involved in gun and knife crime, counterfeiting and drug dealing. Loan sharks prey on vulnerable people such as single parents, the elderly or people on benefits who do not have access to traditional forms of credit e.g. bank loans, and as a result can suffer harassment, threats and spiralling financial difficulties.

Loan sharks usually:

- Offer you a cash loan but do not give you any paperwork
- Take your benefit or bank card as security on the loan
- Don't tell you when you will finish paying
- Charge extortionate high rates of interest
- Increase the amount you owe even if you are making regular payments
- Threaten or use violence to get money from you.

The problem can often more widespread than is imagined as people do not like to reveal financial problems and are afraid of reprisal.

If you owe money to a loan shark or want to help someone else who is in trouble with one, call the National Loan Shark Hotline, 0300 555 2222

email reportaloanshark@stoploansharks.gov.uk

text loan shark and the details you want to pass on to 60003

All calls and messages will be dealt with confidentially.

STOUR SINGERS

On Saturday 11 December 2010 at 7.30 pm the Orchestra of the Swan is returning to Shipston to join Stour Singers in St Edmund's Church in a delightful programme of Christmas Music for All conducted by Richard Emms. Benjamin Britten's Saint Nicolas is the main work - it dates from 1948 & is one of several pieces he wrote to involve the community. The audience part is not difficult but very exciting so do come along and join in. The part of Nicolas is taken by Richard Dowling, a brilliant young tenor who broadcasts frequently as soloist with the BBC Singers.

Tickets £12.50 (accompanied children free) from choir members, R. Clarke, 27 High St Shipston and at the door.

Vic Twyman

WHAT'S ON IN & AROUND OXHILL

December

Wednesday 1st	10.30	The Peacock - Village Coffee Morning
	19.30	Tysoe Village Hall - W.I., see inside
Friday 3rd	19.30	Old Chapel - Choir rehearsal
Saturday 4th	19.30	St. Lawrence Church - Christmas Concert
Sunday 5th	15.00	St. Edmund's, Shipston - Christmas music workshop
	20.00	The Peacock - Charity quiz night
Tuesday 7th		Blue & green recycling bin collection
	10.00	Village Hall - Mobile library
Thursday 9th	14.00	Village Hall - Afternoon Delights
Friday 10th	9.30	Weekday Walkers - see inside
	19.30	Old Chapel - Choir rehearsal
Monday 13th	12.30	Village Hall - Senior Citizens' Lunch
Tuesday 14th		Grey landfill bin collection
	19.30	St. Lawrence Church - Choir rehearsal
Wednesday 15th	12.30	The Peacock - Village Lunch
	19.30	Garden Club Christmas party
Thursday 16th	19.30	St. Lawrence Church - Carol Service
Friday 17th	20.00	Village Hall - Cocktails & Canapés
Saturday 18th	23.59	Copy deadline for the News
Tuesday 21st		Blue and green recycling bin collection
Wednesday 29th		Grey landfill bin collection

January

Wednesday 5th		Blue & green recycling bin collection
Sunday 9th	20.00	The Peacock - Charity quiz night
Tuesday 11th	20.00	Village Hall - Parish Council meeting
Thursday 20th	19.30	Village Hall - Garden Club

TYSOE SOCIAL CLUB

December Dates

Sat 4th December	The Riffomers
Sat 11th December	Out Of The Blue
Sat 18th December	Audio Pirates
Friday 31st December	New Years Eve Disco in the Village Hall (All of these events have free entry)

Linda Hillman, Secretary

ACCIDENT and MEDICAL EMERGENCIES

FIRST CALL 999

THEN CALL

Ambulance Responders

MICK & BARBARA SHEPARD

07977149317 Mobile / 01295680644 Home

3, The Leys, Oxhill, Warwick, CV350QX