
THE OXHILL NEWS

December 2011

No. 445



Adam Crowther finished 58th of 400 in Vietnam's first vertical race - the Bitexco Vertical Run. He is still raising money for the air ambulance <http://justgiving.com/adamcrowther03>

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CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE OXHILL NEWS

The editors welcome any pictures, photographs, drawings, poems, puzzles, recipes, announcements or items of local news for possible inclusion in The Oxhill News.

Please email news-editors@oxhill.org.uk or place paper contributions in the box labelled 'The Oxhill News' in the village Church.

REFUSE COLLECTION

Recycling and green waste bins (blue and green bins) will be collected on Tuesdays 6th and 20th December.

The grey rubbish bins will be collected Tuesday 13th and Wednesday 28th December.

MOBILE LIBRARY

The library van will continue to visit Oxhill every 3rd Wednesday, stopping at the Village Hall at 10 am and staying there for 30 minutes.

The van will visit us on Wednesday 7th December.

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

WEEKDAY WALKERS

The following walk is planned for December:

December 9th - A 4.5 mile circular from Todenham with 300 feet of ascent. Lunch will be at The Farriers Arms Todenham - Leaving Oxhill at 9:45am.

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](mailto:saxton@tiscali.co.uk) before the Tuesday evening prior to the walk.

JANUARY ISSUE

The copy deadline for the January edition is midnight on the 15th December 2011, please email contributions to news-editor@oxhill.org.uk or place paper based contributions in the box labelled 'The Oxhill News' in the village Church.

DOT RICHARDS 1938 - 2011

Dot Richards was born in Kings Heath, Birmingham, at a time when it was still semi-rural. Like many girls she became very fond of horses and spent much of her spare time at local riding stables.

After school she joined the Civil Service as a secretary, later moving to join IBM in the same role. In 1976 IBM relocated her job to Warwick and Dot and her mother moved into Amberway. Her work at IBM became ever more responsible, including supervising the installation of their new digital telephone exchange, and she eventually retired in 1998 in the post of telecomms supervisor.

She then became even more involved with village life in Oxhill, particularly after the death of her mother in 1999. From her earliest days in the village she went, with other villagers, to night school for sewing and knitting. These hobbies she pursued until her illness prevented her from handling the materials.

She loved gardening, was a founder member of the Oxhill Garden Club and served for many years on the committee. She was also a 'cataholic', never being without a cat in the house and always being willing to take on holiday duties looking after neighbours' cats. She was a stalwart member of the carpet bowls club in Tysoe and a regular at the village coffee mornings in the Peacock. Her contributions to scarecrow weekend were always a wonderful creation, different every year.

Dot was a true friend to many Oxhillians. We will miss her.

ST. LAWRENCE'S CHURCH, OXHILL

SERVICES IN DECEMBER

All are warmly welcome

Sunday 4th Advent II 9.30am Holy Communion (ML)

Sunday 11th Advent III 9.30am Morning Worship (BR)

Sunday 18th Advent IV 9.30am Crib and Christingle Service (ML)

Wednesday 21st 7.30pm The Village Carol Service (NM)

Sunday 25th Christmas Day 9.30am Christmas Communion (ML)

For other services in the benefice please see porch notice board

VICARAGE NOTES

Dear friends,

On behalf of Martin and Sue Leaton, Bill Rolfe, Sirpa and myself, may I wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas as we look forward to that special time. To those who are travelling we bid "safe journey", and to parishioners and visitors we extend a warm welcome to all the special services at St. Lawrence's.

Christmas 2011

Those Advent calendars, candles and wreaths remind us of things to come; the celebration of the birth of a child so long ago – and the welcome given to the Lord of love and glory. I hope the simple things can be enjoyed: family get-togethers, shared friendship, carols at home or in Church, and those familiar Bible readings that renew our focus on the infant child of Bethlehem. The first verse of Isaac Watts famous hymn is a great acclamation of praise:

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King.
Let every heart prepare him room
And heaven and nature sing.*

Talgarth Male Voice Choir November 12th

Another successful evening organised by Lilian and the Social and Fund Raising Committee! Thanks to them and to all – about 70 folk – who came along to support what was a splendid concert.

God bless,

Nicholas Morgan 01608 685230

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Baptisms: welcomed into God's family
November 6th Felicity Prudence May

Funerals: remembered with thanksgiving
November 11th Dorothy Mary Richards (aged 73)

DEANERY NEWS

Diocesan Synod met on 5th November: a primary part of the debate concerned the Legislation for the Ordination and Consecration of Women to the Episcopate. After an extensive and high quality debate, the measure that would permit this was carried: 71 votes in favour, 6 against and 5 abstentions.

A following motion, to '*ensure that those unable on theological grounds to accept the ministry of women bishops are able to receive Episcopal oversight from the bishop with authority conferred by the Measure rather than by delegation from a Diocesan Bishop*' was rejected: 17 votes in favour, 58 votes against, 3 abstentions.

In between these two key votes, Synod also voted to affirm that all faithful Anglicans should remain and thrive together in the Church of England, to support efforts being made by the Diocese to achieve reconciliation, and called for sufficient provision to be made for those who in conscience cannot agree with the measure. This is really important: it is crucial that we continue to focus on the task of sharing the Gospel with those around us, while continuing to acknowledge the distress that differences between us on this issue can cause. I pray that we can hold one another together in love, with a sense of God's grace, and through that grace, especially as this goes through to the General Synod next July.

An advance notice that the next Deanery Synod will be on Tuesday 31st January at 7.30pm at St. Edmund's church, Shipston.

Finally, may I wish you all a wonderful and blessed Christmas, as we celebrate once again the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ into a world that so desperately needs to know Him.

Jill

THANK YOU

Many thanks to everyone who came to Dot's funeral. She would have been pleased to see so many people held her in such high regard. We of course were not surprised at all.

Gwyn and George

OXHILL FESTIVAL CHOIR

Just a reminder of our rehearsals:

Friday 2nd December, Friday 9th December, THURSDAY 15th December (new date) all at 7.30 pm in the Old Chapel and Tuesday 20th December in the Church at 7.30 pm. Carol Service is on Wednesday 21st December. Please be at the church for 6.30 pm for a quick run through. Any problems let me know.

Gaynor Van Dijk (680349)

HARVEST

Thank you to all who came to Harvest and bought the beautiful produce and flowers.

Thanks to your generosity we made £146 for Farm Africa.

BOOKS FOR KADUNA

A big thank you to all those who have donated books, we have collected over 2000 and have decided to stop further collections. We are now busy packing for transportation to Nigeria.

You can follow progress at:

[www.companionshiplinks.co.uk/education%20 for kaduna.asp](http://www.companionshiplinks.co.uk/education%20for%20kaduna.asp)

Ann and Jim Saxton

AT THE PEACOCK

Quiz Night

Quiz night on Sunday 4th December at 8pm.



Village Events

PLEASE NOTE the amended timings of the village coffee morning and village lunch for this month:

The Village Christmas Lunch will be on Wednesday 7th December at 12.30pm.

The Village Christmas Coffee Morning will be on Wednesday 21st December at 10.30am.

Christmas Day

The Peacock will be open for drinks on Christmas day from 12 noon to 1pm.

Christmas Lunch is from 1pm to 3pm – please telephone to make a reservation 01295 688060

Boxing Day

The Peacock will be open and food will be available.

New Years Eve

Celebrate the New Year at the Peacock, please call in or telephone 01295 688060 for details of our New Years Eve dinner and celebrations.

New Years Day

The Peacock will be open and food will be available.



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.

WOT2GROW COMMUNITY ORCHARD



October has been another very busy month! This is just a snapshot of what we have done so if you want to know more do contact one of the team – details below.

The sub-soiling was completed and 97 tree holes have been dug - a lot easier than the previous digging but showed that the soil is very dry. We made plant labels for all the bushes & canes and hammered them in and labels are ready for the trees to be planted this year. Again a big thank you to everyone who has joined in the sessions.

We now have an orchard supervisor as Alan Franklin, from Tysoe, has been appointed to work with us on a part time basis over the next two and a half years. He will be getting us organised and writing a manual on what needs to be done in the orchard throughout the year, to enable us to carry on running the orchard ourselves.

Again we had a wonderful Apple Day on October 15th - a big thank you to all who donated cakes etc, helped on the day and came along and supported us. Apple juicing was the big attraction! We don't know how much juice was produced but it was a lot as we had many buckets of apples and people brought their own apples along as well. Like last year the apple bobbing was very popular with the children. We sold all the cakes and pies that were donated and a good amount of cider was taken away all of which helped us to raise some funds. This is necessary to cover items that we did not include in the funding bid.

Tree planting is planned for December 3rd, 4th and 10th with sessions starting at 10:00am and 2:00pm on each day. We will also be planting more canes and bushes so there is plenty to do. Having dug all the holes it will be much easier to plant so come along and get involved. Please come and help!

Pruning and Grafting Sessions

John Edgeley will be running two training sessions early next year to cover pruning of the newly planted trees and then using these prunings to graft onto rootstock. The days will be January 21st for pruning and February 4th for grafting.

This is an opportunity to learn some important skills, the sessions will be free for members but a small charge will be made for non-members. If you want to have a particular apple or pear for your garden or to give a tree as a present then why not come along and learn how to do it.

We will only be grafting apples and pears and using the following rootstocks

- M9 Apple trees on M9 are very productive and come into bearing within 2-3 years of planting, the tree reaches full size of 1.8-2.5m after about 5 years. A good choice for the smaller garden.
- MM106 Produces a good sized apple tree, 2.5-4.5m, for the larger garden.
- Quince A Produces a pear tree similar in size to MM106

We need to order rootstock so please can you let us know before December 10th if you would like to come to the grafting session and if you require rootstock and how many.

The cost will be between £1.50 and £2.00 per rootstock.

Or just come along and learn about grafting!! But do let us know.

Either call one of the team or e-mail membership@wot2grow.co.uk

Visit the website www.wot2grow.co.uk

If you require more information please contact one of the team

Liz Atkinson (680045), Paul Sayer (680451), Derek Harbour (680676), Sue and Mike Sanderson (688080), Graham Collier (680127), Julia Stirman (01608 686776)



TYSOE TENNIS CLUB NEWS

This month we said a sad farewell to Rhian Cooper (Oxhill) who has been an active member of the club for a number of years. Rhian played regularly for both the ladies and mixed teams and for the past two years was club treasurer. Rhian and her husband, Josh, have moved to Aberdovey in Wales, where Rhian hopes to swap her tennis racquet for golf clubs. She was given a good send-off - everyone met up for a good game of tennis followed by a meal at the Royal Oak, Whatcote.

We are delighted that Julian Gardner (Kineton) has agreed to take on the job of treasurer. Julian was voted onto the committee at our meeting on 4th October.

The wooden hut has been given a make-over and is now worthy of the title clubhouse. Along with the smart new signage and noticeboard, this means that members really have a club to be proud of.

Match update

The Mixed A team started the month with a loss against Middleton Cheney B but went on to draw against Warwick D on 15th October. The Mixed B team have played only one match so far - the result was a draw against Hook Norton B.

The Ladies A drew against Littletons B on 8th October and lost against Leamington D on 30th October. The Ladies B beat Claverdon B 3-1.



THURSDAY ‘AFTERNOON DELIGHT’ (or Knit & Natter)

Once again, between 12 & 15 people enjoyed learning some different crafts at our Thursday afternoon sessions. On 27th October, Jane Smith showed us how to paint and decorate various items of canal ware and several people took home some lovely painted pots, having first practised on paper! Two weeks later, Sue (from Tysoe) helped everyone to make unique Christmas Cards using a paper folding technique from Ann Nethercleft’s collection of card making materials.

As well as the above activities, we have been knitting squares to make blankets for Selly Oak Hospital for Disabled Soldiers returning from Afghanistan. So far this year, we have knitted 2 blankets and will finish our 3rd in a few weeks time.

Our next activities will be:

| | |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|
| 8th December | Painting on Silk with Barbara Kenny |
| 15th December | Christmas Food & Drink |

Resume on Thursday, 12th January in the New Year

If you don’t want to participate in any of the above, feel free to come along for a cup of tea and to ‘Knit & Natter’. Also don’t forget the **BOOK EXCHANGE**. If you’d like to know more, then call Tricia Harbour on 680676 or feel free to just turn up and join in.

Homemade Baileys Recipe

- 1/2 tsp. almond extract
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 2 tsp. chocolate syrup
- 2 tsp. instant coffee granules
- 1 can sweetened condensed milk
- 1 cup good whiskey
- 1 cup whipping cream



Blend all ingredients in a blender on high speed for 30 seconds. Bottle in a tightly sealed container and store in a refrigerator. Shake before serving, and serve over a cube of ice. Keeps for 4-6 weeks.

OXHILL VILLAGE HALL - UPCOMING EVENTS

Senior Citizens Lunch on Monday, 12th December

Our traditional 3 course Christmas Lunch with wine for the Senior Citizens in the Village will be held at the Village Hall, starting at 12.30pm on Monday 12th December. In addition to the meal and drinks, we have carols from the local school children and some other entertainment. We are sending out invitations but if you know of anyone who is entitled to attend but has not received an invitation, please let Pat Crowther know on 680705. Transport to and from the Village Hall will be available if needed.

Canapés & Cocktails Christmas Event on Friday, 16th December

We are repeating the very successful cocktail evening to celebrate the Christmas season, consisting of a variety of canapés and some new, improved cocktails on Friday 16th December. The hall will be specially decorated to reflect the season and appropriate mood music will be playing softly in the background for this special Posh Frocks & Black Tie (or suits) evening. 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 8.00pm to 10.30pm (or later!). There will be an optional Christmas themed 'Button hole' or 'Corsage' competition during the evening.

This is 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.

Burns Night Celebration on Saturday, 28th January 2012

Following the successes of previous years we have been asked to stage a Burns Night celebration on Saturday, 28th January 2012. 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 Rabbin Burns, 'address' the haggis and entertain us with tales of derring do.

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

OWLS

Stratford District Council has recently written to Oxhill Parish as part of a consultation exercise to determine Oxhill Parish Council's view on the service provided regarding maintenance of all grass and vegetation on Council-owned land and the cutting of highway verges within the Parish boundaries. In the Parish Appraisal of 2000, 76% of the villagers who took part in the appraisal, wanted to see hedges, trees, footpaths and ponds protected. When asked if it was important to take special steps to preserve wildflowers, birds and wild animals, 81% said yes. 80% of botanical diversity occurs on roadside verges – many verges are often older than the road itself. They support an immense amount of different species and are a haven for plants, fungi and invertebrates that are becoming increasingly scarce in the wider countryside.

Having taken all this into consideration, the Parish Council and OWLS have made the following proposals to the Council:

- 1) All parish roads outside the 30 mph village limit, one cut per autumn to the standard 1 or 2 metre cut, with a full width cut up to hedgerow base every three years to control excessive growth, i.e. suckers, brambles etc.
- 2) Outside the 30 mph village limit, five cuts per annum only where deemed necessary on visibility areas – corners, junctions, laybys, and inside of bends, also field and footpath access.
- 3) Within the 30 mph village boundaries we would like to continue with the five cut plan with the exception of the verges marked in red on the village map. These to be done once a year in autumn (and up to hedgerow base every three years to control excessive growth i.e. brambles, suckers etc.).

It is also worth noting that it can be an offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 – Section 1, to trim or cut a hedge, even in your garden, from March until the end of August. This protects nesting birds and other species such as bats and dormice, and then they should only be cut if deemed necessary. Defra recommends hedges should only be cut every three years and never trimmed in the Autumn when they still hold a plentiful food supply of berries for wildlife.

Apologies for no Nature Notes this month – but I did see a flock of over 200 lapwings near Halford ... fantastic!

Grenville Moore

THE QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE REPORT - November 2011

On the 2nd November the group of villagers now organising the village celebrations of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee met at the Village Hall.

This meeting was brief as we had little to discuss other than the plans to collect the questionnaires that were included in the News last month. By the time you are reading this hopefully you will have had a visit from one of us and handed back your completed questionnaire. If not be prepared as we will be knocking on your door very soon. Keep your completed questionnaire close at hand.



It is worth noting that the purpose of the questionnaire and the visit is to collect the views of the village on how to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee. If the general response is - 'Not Really Interested!' then we may decide not to proceed. If you want us to go ahead then we are clear that it must be a whole village event and efforts will be made to ensure that everybody in the village, young or old, will be able to take part.

Lucy Mercer has undertaken the difficult task of bringing together home grown entertainment for the Sunday evening so please take time to read her appeal elsewhere in the News and support her efforts.

The next meeting will be held at 8pm on Wednesday 7th December at the Village Hall. Please come along to help make the Diamond Jubilee weekend a memorable one for Oxhill.

Any questions at this stage please contact Mike Collins on 680564.

OXHILL TALENT SCOUTING

As part of the Oxhill Diamond Jubilee Celebrations next year, I have been asked to provide some entertainment for the Sunday evening's events. After racking my brains thinking about whom I could get together to help me out with this, a brilliant idea popped into my head: *make* a band/choir and create a performance that no one will forget! So, in order for me to be able to follow this through, I'm going to need some willing volunteers.

Whether you used to be an old rocker, a Beethoven in your youth, or just like singing in the shower, I **NEED YOU!**

Any age (children included!) and ability, male or female – I would just love to get this together. If you're interested in being part of this, please don't hesitate to call me, catch me behind the bar at The Peacock or just turn up at the first meeting of the Oxhill Music Group (OMG!) on Sunday 11th December at 4pm in the Village Hall.

Lucy Mercer - 01295 680407



NOTES OF A MEETING OF OXHILL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 8th NOVEMBER 2011 AT 8.00 PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL

All Councillors were present.

MATTERS DISCUSSED

Finance

The audit for year ended 31 March 2011 had been completed satisfactorily by the Audit Commission and the fee of £60 had been paid.

Planning

Application to demolish outbuildings and form a new two storey rear extension at “Fern Cottage” was returned with no objection. Tree work at “Willow Brook” was also returned with no objection.

Permission had been granted to form dropped kerb at “The Barn” and permission granted for tree work at “Meadow Cottage”.

Erection of steel framed agricultural barn at “Springfield Farm” had been granted. Change of use of land to provide temporary accommodation at Field Forge Farm had been withdrawn.

Verge Mowing within the village

The parish biodiversity group have been addressing the subject of roadside verges and hedgerows within the 30 mph village boundary and surrounding area. In conjunction with cutbacks by Stratford District Council an action plan has been drawn up which will encourage botanical diversity on roadside verges.

Broadband speeds

We are consulting Stratford District Council on any possible changes in the speed of this services and how it affects Oxhill.

Annual Parish Meeting

It has been agreed to hold this meeting on the same day as the Annual Parish Council Meeting. This meeting will still remain an entirely separate meeting from the Council Meeting and will commence at 7.30pm with the Council Meeting following.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 10th January 2012 at 8.00pm in the Village Hall.

Angela Kean, Clerk

BEWARE!! THE “GRUFFALO” IS COMING: to the Barn Theatre, Upper Tysoe!



TYSOE MARIONETTE GROUP has been granted performing rights to stage an authentic Marionette production of “THE GRUFFALO”, Julia Donaldson’s delightful children’s story book, brilliantly illustrated by Axel Scheffler, which has sold 10 million copies.

Come along and enjoy real theatre in miniature with colourful scenery, full lighting and lively sound in our unique heated marionette theatre in Upper Tysoe, South Warwickshire. We warm up singing the “Gruffalo Song”!

We are staging special family matinees for performances lasting approximately 25 minutes plus time for optional refreshments for accompanied children aged from 3½ yrs upwards. Better than the Christmas Panto! - and designed to fit in with your Christmas shopping.

Admission by ticket (bought in advance) for just £2 Children and £3 Adults on Saturday 10th December at 2:30 & 4 pm and again on Sunday 18th at 2:30 & 4 pm.

Contact: Ann & Jon Beeny on Tel: 01295 680431
<http://TysoeMarionettes.webplus.net>

OXHILL GARDEN CLUB NEWS

A true gardener talks with passion, but also offers understanding of the practicalities of everyday gardening. Janet Cropley offered our November meeting her wide knowledge of climbing plants and wall shrubs, and her down to earth, realistic approach interjected with acerbic witticisms made for an entertaining evening. Janet's passion for plants was very evident, but her unsentimental maxim of "if it needs pruning, prune it. If it needs to be got rid of – get rid, and if it's doing OK leave it alone" was pragmatic. Her slides were beautiful and showed familiar and more exotic examples to inspire and her confident attitude was catching.

It is now clear why my *Ceanothus* succumbed last winter and why the *Fatsia* in the front border is under-sized – they were not placed by a wall! Without this protection some of the more tender specimens in Janet's collection would not thrive in our Midlands climate.

Now I wonder how many of us will be growing Morning Glory next season?

Get snapping now for our new photo competition:

- entries to be in by 16th February meeting.
- two categories "Winter in the Garden" and "Summer Flowers" (previous summer flower pictures can be submitted this time).
- only one picture per person per category
- Size – 7 x 5 max

14th December Christmas Party at the Saxton's

2012 dates for the diary:

- 19th January The Shakespeare Gardens – Roger Pringle
- 16th February A Peep into the Past, Oxhill and Surrounding Villages – David Beaumont
- 15th March AGM at 7pm

Ann Saxton



WHATS ON IN & AROUND OXHILL

DECEMBER



| | | |
|----------------|---------------|--|
| Sunday 4th | 20:00 | The Peacock - Quiz night |
| Tuesday 6th | | Green & Blue bin collection |
| Wednesday 7th | 10:00 | Village Hall - Mobile Library |
| Wednesday 7th | 12:30 | The Peacock - Village Christmas Lunch |
| Wednesday 7th | 20:00 | Village Hall - Diamond Jubilee Meeting |
| Thursday 8th | 14:00 | Village Hall - Afternoon Delights |
| Friday 9th | | Weekday Walkers - see page 2 for details |
| Saturday 10th | 14:30 & 16:00 | Barn Theatre - The Gruffalo |
| Sunday 11th | 16:00 | Village Hall - Oxhill Music Group (OMG!) |
| Monday 12th | 12:30 | Village Hall - Senior Citizen's Lunch |
| Tuesday 13th | | Grey landfill bin collection |
| Thursday 15th | 14:00 | Village Hall - Afternoon Delights |
| Thursday 15th | 23:59 | COPY DEADLINE FOR THE NEWS |
| Friday 16th | 20:00 | Village Hall - Canapes & Cocktails Christmas Event |
| Sunday 18th | 14:30 & 16:00 | Barn Theatre - The Gruffalo |
| Tuesday 20th | | Green & Blue bin collection |
| Wednesday 21st | 10:30 | The Peacock - Village Christmas Coffee Morning |
| Wednesday 21st | 19:30 | St Lawrence's Church - Candlelight Carol Service |
| Wednesday 28th | | Grey landfill bin collection |

JANUARY

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| Saturday 28th | Village Hall - Burns Night Celebration |
|---------------|--|