
THE OXHILL NEWS

December 2014

No. 481



Doris Roll Leaves the Village
Seen here with Vanessa at the Queen's Jubilee

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

SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS THE 15TH OF EVERY MONTH.

MOBILE LIBRARY

The mobile library has books with **large print**, ordinary print, picture books, children's books, paperbacks, non-fiction, novels, sagas, crime, mysteries, adventures, westerns and romance. The van has talking books, cassettes and CDs.

The library van will continue to visit Oxhill, stopping at the Village Hall at the new time of 14:30, staying there for 30 minutes. The van will visit us on Friday December 19th.

REFUSE COLLECTION

Recycling and green waste bins (blue and green bins) will be collected on Tuesdays 2nd, 16th and 30th December.

The grey rubbish bins will be collected on Tuesdays 9th and 23rd December.

WEEKDAY WALKERS

This walking group usually walks on 2nd and 4th Friday of the month. If you are interested in joining or to find out further information, please contact Jim Saxton on 680645 or email saxton@talktalk.net

AT THE PEACOCK

Quiz Night on Sunday 7th December at 8pm

Village Events

Village Lunch on December 17th at 12:30.

The Village Coffee morning will be on Wednesday December 3rd at 10.30am.



MOVEMBER

This Movember, I've committed my upper lip to help change the face of men's health by growing a moustache, and now I need your support at <http://mobro.co/philipcrowther>. I think some Moustache dye may need to be purchased if this wispy ginger slug doesn't get a move on.

1 in 8 men in the UK are diagnosed with a common mental disorder at any one time. Many men find the stigmas associated with mental health can lead to feelings of shame and embarrassment, which often prevents them from seeking help and taking action - we must change this.

The Movember Foundation is working tirelessly every day to rid the world of this discrimination and to ensure men and boys experiencing mental health problems know the signs and take action early.

I need your support to fund this important work. Together, we can do it.

You can donate by donating online at <http://mobro.co/philipcrowther>

You can learn more about the important work and impact Movember is having at: <http://uk.movember.com/programs>

Thanks for supporting my moustache. Together we can change the face of men's health.

Phil Crowther <http://mobro.co/philipcrowther>

ABSOLUTELY FABULOUS RECIPES FOR SHN

I invite you to send me a recipe, any recipe you like, so that I can include it in my "Absolutely Fabulous Recipes" book to be sold in aid of Shipston Home Nursing. A collection of your tried and tested favourite recipes donated by all of you. Something quick and easy that you know is a favourite with your family and friends. **Something off the cuff or scan a page from a recipe book.**

Send your recipe as soon as possible to my email tphaworth@gmail.com

In anticipation, many thanks, you will be helping this wonderful charity that looks after terminally ill patients in their own homes, free of any charge. This charity costs an enormous amount of money to run and relies solely on donations from its supporters and fund raising events so please please do send a recipe as soon as you can and help me make this book a huge success.

Many thanks, Pam Haworth

OXHILL VILLAGE HALL – UPCOMING EVENTS

Christmas Lunch – Monday, 8 December

Our traditional 3 course Christmas Lunch with wine for people 65 & over (and their partners, of any age) in the Village will be held at the Village Hall, starting at 12.30pm on Monday 8 December. We plan to have some light entertainment in addition to the meal and drinks. Gaynor van Dijk is sending out invitations but if you know of anyone who is entitled to attend but has not received an invitation, please let Pat Crowther on 680705 know. Transport to and from the Village Hall will be available if needed.

Christmas Beer, Bubbles & Canapés – Friday, 19 December

Our very successful Cocktail evening to celebrate the Christmas season, consisting of a variety of delicious Canapés which can be washed down with some Bubbly, Cocktails or a glass of Beer takes place on Friday 19 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) event.

The price will be **£12.50** per head and includes a selection of delicious canapés and 2 drinks. Additional drinks will be available and the evening will start at 8.00pm. 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, from Tricia Harbour on 680676.

Burns Night Celebration – Saturday, 24 January, 2014

We are staging another Burns Night celebration on Saturday, 24 January, 2014. The evening will be a traditional event with Haggis (Vegetarian alternative available), 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 generally entertain us.

The evening will start at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm Dinner

Tickets, which cost £15.00 per person, need to be ordered and paid for in advance as this is always a sell-out. They are available from Tricia Harbour on 680676.

Please Note that Knit & Natter will take place on 4 & 18 December.

OXHILL FESTIVAL CHOIR

Thank you to everyone who has managed to attend the November rehearsals. As you know the Tysoe choir has joined our diminishing numbers so hopefully we will have a rousing sound at the Carol Service.

Here is a reminder of the final rehearsals and performance dates.

Monday 1st and 8th December - 7.30 at the Old Chapel

Monday 15th December - 7.30 in the church

Thursday 18th December - 6.30 in the Church - Carol Service

Sunday 21st December - 6.30 at St Mary's Tysoe for their Carol Service.

Any problems let me know.

Gaynor Van Dijk (680349)

BREAD GROUP

Joy Clarke was delighted with the many new breadmakers at the Bread Group on 11th November. There were some excellent results with the loaves. We shall be making foccacia at the meeting on 25th November (7.00 pm at the Old Chapel). Joy will bring a sponge so we only have one proving to do which will make the process very much shorter. We are hoping to make Christmas breads at our meeting on 9th December.

Joy will send emails to everyone to give details of what to bring. If anyone else wants to join us please let me know in advance so that we bring enough ingredients. There will then be a break over the busy Christmas period until mid January. Joy will email everyone with the New Year dates.

Gaynor Van Dijk (680349)

ST.LAWRENCE'S CHURCH, OXHILL

SERVICES IN DECEMBER

All are warmly welcome

Sunday 7th Advent II 9.30am Parish Communion (ML)

Sunday 14th Advent III 9.30am Parish Communion (JT)

Thursday 18th 7.30pm The Village Carol Service – all welcome

Sunday 21st Advent III 9.30am Crib & Christingle Service (ML)

Christmas Day 9.30am Christmas Communion (ML)

Sunday 28th Christmas I 11.00am Invitation to Tysoe

For other services in the benefice please see porch notice board

VICARAGE NOTES

Thought for the month

Over the next few weeks there will be numerous social occasions, concerts and church services as the long build up to Christmas begins – a far cry from the modest preparations of 100 years ago, when many felt that Christmas 1914 would be “one of the saddest Christmas Festivals ever remembered in this country owing to the terrible war”. It is also appropriate that this and every year, Christmas will give opportunities for people to think of others, and many charities are supported by people all across the country. At Carol and Crib services, collections will be taken for the Bible Lands Society, Helen House Hospice, Save the Children, Children in Distress and the Children’s Society, to name but a few.

Sometimes it’s difficult to sing some of the great carols that we treasure when we see the state of the world, but please enjoy them, as even in dark hours the Christmas spirit brings renewed hope. Some of the modern carols can also be quietly inspiring, as perhaps these verses by Shirley Murray are:

*O little love, who comes again, the Word made flesh to make God plain;
O child who shines, the Jesus light, disarm the world this Christmas night.*

*No heart so hard it may not move, no hate resists your open love;
Defenceless in our hands you come – to Herod’s power, to Mary’s home.*

*And all the wise look for you star, so I must follow where you are;
As you are light, so must I be, as you are peace, be peace in me.*

On behalf of Martin, Jill and myself, may I wish everyone a very happy Christmas!

God bless,

Nicholas Morgan 01608 685230

braileschurch@gmail.com

DEANERY NEWS FOR DECEMBER 2014

The end of November marked the beginning of Advent: depending on when you receive your magazines, there may still be time to tell you that there is to be another Advent Quiet Morning in The Old Chapel, Main Street Oxhill, on **Saturday, November 29th**, led by Revd, Cathy Davies. The morning will run from 10.00 am to 1.00 pm: coffee will be available from 9.30 am, and a light lunch will be served afterwards. (Elisabeth Ashworth would appreciate knowing numbers for lunch if possible: 01608 686391). You are welcome to come for all or part of the morning: this is a space to be still as we think anew of the enormity of God's coming to us at Christmas.

Looking ahead, the next Deanery Synod will be on **Tuesday, 3rd February**, at St. Edmund's, Shipston, when we will welcome the Dean of Coventry, John Witcombe, as our speaker.

As we move into Advent, and look ahead to the celebration of God's coming to live among us, some words written by Liz Babbs:

The Real Work of Christmas

When the last present has been opened
and the last mouth fed.

When weariness lays like a blanket over all mankind -

The real work of Christmas begins:

To seek the lost

To support the lonely

To feed the starving

To shelter the homeless

To console the broken
To love the unlovely
To
LOVE
Making room for Jesus: Liz Babbs

During Advent **The Travelling Nativity** will be making its way from home to home in Oxhill and Whatcote, helping us to think about the true meaning of Christmas, and to share with each other God's message and promise of love and hope. The journey begins in Whatcote Church on Advent Sunday, November 30th during the 9.30am service, and ends in Oxhill Church at the Christingle Service on Sunday, December 21st at 9.30am. If you would like to receive a visit from Mary and Joseph during this time, please let me know: Jill Tucker, 01295 680663 or revjill.tucker@tiscali.co.uk.

My thanks to all those who kindly gave me donations following various village events: as a result of your generosity, two pairs of goats have now been sent to villages in Africa!

Every blessing, Jill



St Lawrence Church on Remembrance Day

NOTES OF OXHILL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 11th NOVEMBER 2014 AT 8.00 PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL

The meeting, chaired by Grenville Moore, was attended by Parish Councillors Carol Taylor, Tom Heritage and Brian Badger. Apology received from David Hill.

MATTERS DISCUSSED

Highways

The road at the top of Green Lane is opening up and needs attention. More and more large heavy lorries are coming through the village directed by satellite navigation systems. We will ask if anything can be done, e.g. weight restrictions, which would impact on satnav route directions.

Planning

Planning permission has been granted for 3 Peacock cottages - single storey rear and two storey side extension; No.1 The Leys - demolition of existing side extension and erection of two storey side extension, extend canopy to front and vehicular access; The Hollies – coppice 2 goat willows.

Outline Planning granted for 3 detached dwellings and shared access Land on north side of Green Lane.

Planning has been refused for 4 dwellings at Fithers Field.

Planning application has been withdrawn to convert barns to 3 residential units at Whitehill.

A letter had been sent to Mr. Zadhawi MP expressing the Parish Councils concern at the covert selling off of social houses in the village by Orbit.

Three Parish Councillors attended the training event to help in the role of consultee in the planning process at Shipston.

Village Green/Common Lane

Clarification was sought regarding the piece of land between “Merrilees” and 4 Peacock Cottages. This piece of land is registered Village Green and the responsibility of the Parish Council. It was proposed that in view of highway safety, parking would be allowed to continue as at present. This was agreed by the meeting. The other Village Green land is on the south eastern side of Beech Road.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 13th January 2015 at 8.00 pm in the Village Hall.

Angela Kean, Clerk

OXHILL GARDEN CLUB

On our regular third Thursday of the month at 7.30pm, December saw the Oxhill Garden Club entertained by Vic Aspland with his presentation ‘The Brighter Side of Winter’. The talk started with beautiful pictures of autumn foliage and then moved on to the bright berries of trees and shrubs that had, by then, lost their leaves. November led into the month of December and we were treated not only to pictures of ‘spring’ bulbs in bloom but also, much more surprisingly, to shrubs in full flower.

We were told that although the majority of bulbs are sold in the dry state in late summer and autumn, there are many that are better bought in growth; these include snowdrops (*Galanthus*), Winter Aconites (*Eranthis*) and Cyclamen. The more hardy species of the latter can be helped in colder areas by planting in the dryer conditions at the base of trees; the flowers of *Cyclamen coum*, too, are unaffected by frost or snow! As with some other small bulbs, the tiny bean shaped seeds of the yellow flowering miniature *Narcissus cyclamineus* are taken underground by ants as a food store, part eaten but later still able to grow and develop into new plants. Given the right conditions, most bulbs will increase naturally over the years to give increasing visual value.

We were shown photographs of a wide variety of shrubs (often in Vic’s neighbours’ front gardens!) that naturally flower in winter – a period technically from 21st December to 20th March the following year. Many plants can actually survive ‘experiences’ that books tell you they can’t. A story was told of a *Daphne mesereum*, burned by a bonfire and

‘retrieved’ from a garden next door by Vic’s dad, surviving for many years thereafter. Fatsia, often regarded as an ‘indoor’ plant, is in fact quite hardy and can be put outside at the back of a border where it will flower. Varieties of Berberis are nearly always colourful in flower, leaf and berry; certain of them can be pruned hard whilst others can be allowed to spread and are valuable for their spines that deter wildlife of the human variety. Dutch commercial nurseries are likely to grow shrubs in a peat based compost; we were advised to tease out roots (an old kitchen fork is good) when planting to improve their chance of survival in subsequent drought conditions. Hellebores are very much part and parcel of gardens in Oxhill, and many in the audience were pleased to see slides of a variety of these with their different colourings and forms - often enhanced by the judicious removal of tired foliage.

Vic Aspland gave a talk that truly entertained and brought to our attention many flowering plants that can brighten up our gardens and our lives. Keep your eyes open during the next few months for that surprising splash of colour in a neighbour’s garden. Plan a visit to a good nursery during 2015 and plant something that will give you a lift on a dark winter’s day.

The next event on the Garden Club’s calendar is the members’ Christmas Party at 7pm on Wednesday 10th December at the Old Chapel. Names, in good time please, to Sue Hunt Tel.680419.

Douglas Netherclef

SHIPSTON HOME NURSING

Hospice at Home in Shipston Wellesbourne & Kineton.

I would like to thank all of you, who kindly voted for SHN a few weeks ago, after a plea from me as a result of which Lloyds Bank Community Fund 2014 has donated £2,000 to the Charity!

Without you, this wonderful local Charity would not function and be the success it is. The Trustees and I are extremely grateful for your continual support. Thank you so much.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and Peaceful Healthy New Year.

Very best wishes, Rebecca

DORIS ROLL LEAVES THE VILLAGE

Doris Roll, who lived in our village for over 35 years, has recently moved into a care home in Somerset close to her son, grandchildren and great-grandchild. I'm glad she'll be closer to her family, but I will miss her. I first met her at one of Diana and Martin's brilliant parties when she was 90 years old. We bonded over champagne and schnapps. Once a week, on a Monday afternoon, we would go out for tea and cake – and each time we left her house she would tell me that “It's been months since I've been out.” I loved her smile, her honesty, how I could tell her anything and she was always interested and gave me succinct and useful advice. But over the past couple of years, her memory faded and she no longer remembered me. The last time I saw her, I arrived at her door with a plate of homemade chocolate chip cookies – Doris likes chocolate and biscuits more than anything, so though she didn't know who I was, she welcomed me into her kitchen with a beaming smile. I wish only the best for her and her family.

Love, Vanessa

ST. LAWRENCE CHURCH

Harvest Festival

Apologies for missing this entry in last month's News. The day after the successful Barn Dance we celebrated Harvest with a lovely service led by Canon Reverend Nicholas Morgan . The church was beautifully decorated thanks to all the "flower ladies". Gifts from harvest were brought to ornament the Church and were later auctioned while we enjoyed a glass of wine and light refreshments. We also received packet and tinned foods which were sent off to the local food bank via St Mary's in Tysoe. The money raised from the auction, £120, was donated to Farm Africa.

Village Carol Service

Our festive candle lit Carol Service is on 18th of December at 7.30 pm. Everyone is welcome to come along and sing Carols and listen to the readers of the Christmas story. Oxhill Festival Choir will be performing

some Christmas anthems. Mulled wine and mince pies will be served after the service. Looking forward to seeing lots of you there. It is advisable to bring a torch to light up the Carol book.

Carol Fox

WOT2GROW COMMUNITY ORCHARD

Things are still looking good at the orchard and most of the trees have shed their leaves which means we can see the outlines and assess what pruning, if any, needs to be done this winter. The other tasks are under way and we are well ahead of schedule at present due to the weather conditions – the mowing team are still looking at the grass which is continuing to grow rather rapidly!

Instead of regular sessions we are scheduling days when everyone can tackle as many tasks as possible and try to complete them in just a few sessions, but it will be weather dependant! One of the first tasks is to plant more willow “fedge” (a fence/hedge) to protect the nectarines and peaches. These living willow structures can be kept at an appropriate height to deflect the wind which blows strongly across the orchard.

In January we will be holding a Wassail on Saturday January 17th starting at 4:30pm. This is a tradition in the orchards of England to bring health and a good harvest in the coming year. We will begin with Kinton Scouts cooking sausages and burgers, as part their fund raising activities, and then we will follow the Master of Ceremonies round the orchard, banging drums and pans and singing verses including special Tysoe verses written for the orchard. Following this there will be hot mulled drinks of cider and apple juice.

We are creating our own tradition which we hope will become part of the orchard's regular events. Do come along and join us – bring torches and something to bang to make a noise!

For information about the orchard or the Wassail contact one of the team.

Liz Atkinson (680045), Paul Sayer (680451), Sue and Mike Sanderson (688080) Julia Stirman (01608 686776)

Oxhills Chilli

Christmas Foodie Gifts

Gourmet Chilli Jams, Infused Oils and more

- ✧ Chilli and Cranberry Jam – Classical seasonal flavour with the added zing of chilli.
- ✧ Chilli, Ginger and Lime, and Chipotle Chilli Jams too!
- ✧ Chilli Oil made with Sicilian Extra Virgin Olive Oil and dried Kashmiri chillies – simply fabulous.
- ✧ Infused Extra Virgin Olive Oil with Lemon – perfect for dressings and drizzling.
- ✧ New! Chilli and Garlic Sea Salt in mini Kilner style jars
- ✧ Beetroot & Orange Chutney and Onion Marmalade – divine with cold meats, cheese and pates.
- ✧ Lovely handcrafted Beeswax Candles and Lip Balm

Create the perfect foodie gift with our jute window pane bags with cane handles – ask Jay or John for details.

Orders being taken for delivery between 15th and 19th December.

Final date for orders: Friday 5th December please.

Contact Jay Roberts 07980 117508 or John Baker 07870 167890

MICK AND BARBARA SHEPARD - OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



On 6th November 2014 Mick and Barbara went to Walsall Football Club where they were presented with an Outstanding Achievement Award for the 11 years that they served their community as Ambulance Service First Responders.

The Award was presented by Dr Anthony Marsh who is Chief Executive Officer of West Midlands Ambulance Service and Dr Tim Watts the High Sheriff of the West Midlands.

Mick and Barbara continue their work in the community having just completed their first 12 months working for The Office of The Police and Crime Commissioner as Safety Ambassadors. This role is a link between members of the public and the Police and Crime Commissioner.

WHAT'S ON IN & AROUND OXHILL

December

| | | | |
|-----------|------|-------|--------------------------------------|
| Monday | 1st | 19:30 | Festival Choir Rehearsal Old Chapel |
| Tuesday | 2nd | | Green and Blue bin collection |
| Wednesday | 3rd | 10:30 | The Peacock - Village Coffee Morning |
| Thursday | 4th | 14:00 | Knit and Natter |
| Sunday | 7th | 20:00 | The Peacock - Quiz Night |
| Monday | 8th | 12:30 | OVH Christmas Lunch |
| Monday | 8th | 19:30 | Festival Choir Rehearsal Old Chapel |
| Tuesday | 9th | | Grey bin collection |
| Wednesday | 10th | | Garden Club Xmas Party Old Chapel |
| Monday | 15th | 19:30 | Festival Choir Rehearsal St Lawrence |
| Monday | 15th | 23:59 | COPY DEADLINE FOR THE NEWS |
| Tuesday | 16th | | Green and Blue bin collection |
| Wednesday | 17th | 12:30 | The Peacock - Village Lunch |
| Thursday | 18th | 14:00 | Knit and Natter |
| Thursday | 18th | 18:30 | Carol Service St Lawrence |
| Friday | 19th | 14:30 | Mobile Library |
| Friday | 19th | 20:00 | OVH, Xmas Beer, Bubbles & Canapes |
| Sunday | 21st | 18:30 | Carol Service St Mary's Tysoe |
| Tuesday | 23rd | | Grey bin collection |
| Tuesday | 30th | | Green and Blue bin collection |

January

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|----------|------|-------|-----------------------------|
| Tuesday | 13th | 20:00 | Oxhill PC Meeting, OVH |
| Saturday | 17th | 16:30 | Wassail at WOT2Grow Orchard |
| Saturday | 24th | 19:00 | Burns Night, OVH |