

THE OXHILL NEWS



No. 410
January 2009

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 January the van will visit us on Tuesday 6th and Tuesday 27th.

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

Editor

HAPPY NEW YEAR

The News does not arrive in your house by magic; there are many people involved in the process! I am eternally grateful to all those who are kind enough to write the text for me; it would be a very thin magazine indeed were I to attempt to do it myself.

I would also like to offer my most grateful thanks to my splendid team of deliverers, who trudge (or stride, or bound) round the village each month depositing copies through letter-boxes. I have delivered to every house in the past (and Jackie does so every day, of course), but am grateful not to have to do so on a regular basis.

A Happy New Year to everyone. If you would like to take over the Editorship of the News please let me know. Please.

George Adams

FEBRUARY ISSUE

Please could I have all copy for the February issue by Midnight on **Tuesday, 27th January**? 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

As far as we could tell, everyone at the Christmas Lunch enjoyed themselves.

Editor

OXHILL VILLAGE HALL NEW YEAR'S EVE DO

Please note that this year's event will take place at the Village Hall. Doors will open at 8.30 p.m. for Dinner followed by Dancing into the New Year.

There are a few 'late-comer' tickets available at £8 each for people who want to join us after 10.30 p.m.. This price includes entertainment and a glass of Champagne at Midnight but no food or complimentary glass of wine.

Tickets and further details available from Derek Harbour on 680676.

FILMS IN THE HALL

The next film in the Village Hall will be 'The Duchess', on Wednesday 14th January. Doors will open at 7.30 p.m. for an 8 o'clock showing.

Tickets will be £3.00 for adults and £2.00 for children and are on sale at the door on the night or if you would like to pop round to Judy Badger's house to collect them, she will be happy to sell you tickets in advance.

Set at the end of the eighteenth century, The Duchess (played by Keira Knightley) is the story of the beautiful and glamorous Georgina Spencer, the most fascinating woman of the age. While her beauty and charisma made her name, her extravagant tastes and appetite for gambling and love made her infamous. Married young to the older, distant Duke of Devonshire (played by Ralph Fiennes), intimate of ministers and princes, Georgina became a fashion icon, a doting mother, a shrewd political operator and darling of the common people. But at the core of her story is a desperate search for love. From Georgina's passionate and doomed affair with Earl Grey (Dominic Cooper) to the complex ménage à trois with her husband and her best friend, Lady Bess Foster (Hayley Atwell), 'The Duchess' is a very contemporary tale of fame, notoriety and the search for love.

Don't miss it – it's a great film.

Judy Badger, 688010

COFFEE MORNING

Very many thanks to all those who helped at the recent Coffee Morning in the Village Hall, and especially to those who came and supported us.

Just over £77 was raised to help pay for the Senior Citizens' Christmas Lunch.

George Adams

ST. LAWRENCE'S CHURCH, OXHILL

SERVICES IN JANUARY

All are warmly welcome

Sunday 4th	Christmas II	9.30 a.m.	Parish Communion	M.L.
Sunday 11th	Epiphany I	8.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	M.L.
Sunday 18th	Epiphany II	9.30 a.m.	Parish Communion	M.L.
Sunday 25th	Epiphany III	9.30 a.m.	Family Service	N.M.

BURNS' NIGHT IN THE HALL

The 250th anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns will be on January 25th this year, and your committee feels that Oxhill should mark the occasion.

Unfortunately the twentyfifth is a Sunday, so we have decided to stretch a point and celebrate in advance, on Saturday 24th. Therefore we have prevailed upon the Scottish contingent in our midst to organize festivities suitable to the event.

We are not quite sure exactly what these will be as we go to press, so full details will be distributed as soon as possible by flyers through your doors. You can expect the festivities to start sometime between 7.30 and 8.30, and that you will not need to cook yourselves dinner that evening. At least, not if you join us.

The ticket price will be confirmed on the flyers but will probably be £15 per reveller. The size of the hall will limit numbers as always, so we suggest early reservation to assure admission. Brian or Judy Badger on 688010 or Gwyn or George Adams on 680286 are the people to talk to.

George Adams

ANIMAL CHARITIES

As I am not sure who all of you are, may I just say a general and heartfelt 'Thank you' to everyone who gave so generously to my animal charities.

Una Hill

NATURE NOTES FOR JANUARY

The old Celtic name for this month describes it as “the dead month”, the end of winter (in a calendar where February was the first month of spring) or simply “the beginning of the year”. The Anglo-Saxons called it Wolfmanath, perhaps because it was a time when these ravening beasts were most likely to take human preysssh! what was that howling?

January is the open gate of the year, shut until the shortest day passed, but now open to let in the lengthening daylight, which will soon fall upon dim patches of pale green, that shew where spring is still sleeping. Sometime between the hoary pillars – when the winter is mild – a few wan snowdrops will peep out and catch the faint sunlight which streams in coldly through the opening gateway, like timid messengers sent to see if spring has yet stirred from her long sleep.

Chambers Book of Days 1864

This morning, just a couple of days before Christmas, while having my breakfast, I was watching on our patio a cock pheasant, a wren and a robin, all pecking about together, completely tolerant of each other's presence. The wren when passing close to the pheasant's large scaly legs looked minute, the pheasant magnificent in his show-off dandy plumage, the little cock robin puffing his red chest out, perhaps in a vain attempt to compete with the pheasant; then in a minute they were gone. It struck me that different species of bird rarely, if ever, fight and squabble. Starlings and corvids can be a bit bolshy, but never unprovoked violence, so why can man, the so-called most intelligent of species, behave so badly to one another? Just my thought for Christmas!

Now has anyone heard the starling that has mastered the mewing call of the buzzard. He sits at the top of a tree in our garden and seems to catch me out most days, making me whirl round thinking there's a low-flying buzzard passing over our garden. Indeed there are reports of starlings making the calls of owls, geese, quail, pheasant, curlew and even chickens, and they are by no means restricted to bird imitations. Cat, goat, frog, telephones and sexy wolf whistles have all been documented. The starling's capacity to imitate human speech has long been recognised. Pliny apparently made the somewhat suspicious claim that in Rome starlings had been taught to speak Latin and Greek and that they could repeat whole sentences. Perhaps they could be taught to say “a very happy Christmas to all who read this”.

January 21st the sun enters the House of Aquarius “*The woman (born under this sign) shall be delicious and have many noises for her children; she shall be in great peril at twenty four years, and thereafter felicity. She shall have damage by beasts with four feet, and shall live seventy seven years after nature*”.

The Kalendar of Shepherds 1604

Grenville Moore

WINDSCREEN REPAIRS

As another instalment of our occasional series ‘Things you can get done in Oxhill’, may I bring Mick Shepherd’s other occupation to your attention?

You must all by now know that he is the man to call if you have an urgent medical emergency (see back page and Mick’s article elsewhere in this issue), and most of you probably know that for many years he has done volunteer work at motor sports events. Recently I discovered that he was one of the first people in the country to repair windscreen damage, and that he is still doing it. He kindly repaired the stone damage on my car, and whilst he was about it took my blood pressure and made me promise to see the doctor and get something done about it. The blood pressure, that is, not the windscreen damage.

You won’t get that sort of service from a Lithuanian native in the car park at B&Q – and Mick assures me that you won’t get as good a repair there either. You can contact him on 07976298228. Please don’t use the number on the back page; this is reserved for medical emergencies.

Editor



SHIPSTON DEANERY SYNOD MEETING

Tuesday 20th January, 7:30 p.m. for 7:45 p.m.

At The Old Chapel, Oxhill

Speaker: PC David Valente - Christian Police Association

This is an open meeting and everyone is very welcome

LOST AND FOUND?

Has anyone found a black cardigan at the Village Hall?

If you have please would you get in touch with Anne Marshall on 680411.

Una Hill

NEWS FROM THE PEACOCK

Time has certainly flown by this year and we are delighted at the support we have received from you all. We are so pleased to announce that with your help over the last 6 months we have raised a massive £1307.80 for Air Ambulance. We shall continue in 2009 to support Air Ambulance with our monthly Quiz's and other events.

We are also delighted to tell you that we have won "Country Pub of the Year 2009" from the Shires magazine, the award will officially be announced in the February issue. So 2 awards in our first year is brilliant! However it will not change the fact that we are still and will always be a local village Pub welcoming everyone including families and our four legged friends, we just happen to like serving good food as well! We have never wanted to be labelled a "Gastro" Pub!

We have some special New Years offers – including being featured in the Times dine out from £5 (vouchers from the Times news paper and downloadable; terms and conditions apply.) We have another tempting offer for evenings during January; from Monday to Thursday you can choose 2 courses from the blackboard for £12.50 per person.

January will also be our first birthday and we plan to celebrate on Friday 30th with Live Music. Watch the blackboard for announcements of band.

Our Quiz returns on Sunday 11th January with our resident quiz master Robin, or as he has been christened "General Rob Dog Bizzle Quizzle"! £5 for a team of 4 (£1 goes to Air Ambulance the rest to the prize fund). After that they will be on the first Sunday of every month i.e. Feb 1st.

So all that remains is to thank you all for helping us achieve so much in our first year and for making us so welcome.

We wish you all a very happy New Year.

Yvonne and Pam

WEEKDAY WALKERS

Our walk for January will be as follows:

Friday 9th January; the walk is a 5.50 mile circular walk from Lower Brailes with 290 feet of ascent. Lunch will be at "The George" Brailes. We will leave Oxhill at 9:30a.m.

Please contact Jim Saxton on 01295680613 or saxton@tiscali.co.uk before the Thursday prior to the walk.

FOR SALE
VW Passat CL Estate
70,000 miles
Regularly serviced by Pillerton Garage
Very good condition
Owner giving up driving
Contact David Whaley on 01295 680224

2008 POPPY APPEAL

I never fail to be amazed at the generosity of people living in South Warwickshire. Even in this most financially austere year you have yet again risen to the challenge and collectively as a district we have surpassed even last year's best effort.

At the time of writing over £2300 has been raised and with the hope of additional donations still to come, it will have been another record year. Thank you all for whatever part you may have played in achieving this. It is the finest tribute we can give to our brave Servicemen and women.

If anyone would like to be involved in collecting for next year's Poppy Appeal, please make yourself known either to myself (01295-680234) or Pat Crowther (01295-680705) for Oxhill residents.

David Sewell, Poppy Appeal Coordinator

TENNIS IN TYSOE

If you want to find out more about your local tennis club, you can now do it all online. Whether you're tempted to take up tennis and want to find out where we are, are interested in coaching sessions for your children or are already a member and want to see photos of friends at club events or check out how teams are doing in the leagues, just go to:

www.tysoetennnisclub.co.uk

Rhian Cooper

AND THEY DANCED IN THE AISLE

Stour Singers, Shipston's Choral Society, shared a feast of Music for Advent with a capacity audience in St. Edmund's Church on Saturday 6 December 2008. This well-balanced choir directed by Richard Emms set the tone for the evening with the 17th century 'fanfare' carol *Omnis mundis jocundetur* of Michael Praetorius, accompanied by the strings of the Cherwell orchestra with Rachel Bird at the piano. There was the spritely Charpentier *Salve puerule* with dancing orchestral interludes between verses and, unaccompanied, Richard Rodney Bennett's haunting setting of Robert Herrick's poem 'What sweeter music can we bring but a carol'. This piece was jinxed by a false smoke alarm which interrupted the music but gave an opportunity for a worthwhile repeat performance. The audience were in good voice for the more familiar carols holding their line well against the choir's 4-part variation in *See amid the winter's snow*.

The main works, a homage to Vaughan Williams in the 50th anniversary of his death, were his *Five Mystical Songs* and *Fantasia on Christmas Carols* in which the soloist, the Australian baritone Simon Thorpe, gave a powerful yet sympathetic interpretation which galvanized the choir to a truly memorable performance. He also contributed solos from Handel's *Messiah* and joined the choir in Harold Darke's lovely setting of 'In the bleak midwinter' and 'Peter Cornelius' *The Three Kings*. The whole assembly took part in an enactment of 'Good King Wenceslas', Simon Thorpe donning a crown (courtesy of Henry IV & the RST) and, summoning his Page, Millie Gardner of Burmington in feathered cap, they danced in the aisle. The evening had bags of atmosphere; a joyful anticipation of Christmas.

The next concert, Haydn's *The Creation* on Saturday 9 May 2009 is also in St Edmund's, Shipston.

Rehearsals start on Thursday 15 January at 7.30pm in Shipston Primary School. New members welcome – no auditions. Please contact Vic Twyman (tel 01608 664215) or www.stoursingers.org.uk

YOU KNOW YOU'RE GETTING OLD WHEN

Everything hurts, and what doesn't hurt, doesn't work.

The gleam in your eye is the sun shining on your bifocals.

You feel like the morning after but you haven't been anywhere.

Your children begin to look, middle aged.

TYSOE MARIONETTE GROUP

There are some fascinating creatures assembling in the Barn Theatre in Baldwins Lane, Tysoe's very own Marionette Theatre. We have gone all the way to Africa, to find a special baby elephant, the Elephant's Child, who is forever asking questions. He wants to know what the Crocodile has for dinner! So the Kolokolo Bird (another strange creature who started life as a Coca Cola can) tells him to go to the banks of the Great Grey Green Greasy Limpopo River (on the border of the Republic of South Africa with Botswana) to find the Crocodile stretched out on a sand bank. Don't be taken in by his welcome grin, O Best Beloveds, or his accent to match! But the first thing the Elephant's Child sees is the Bi-coloured-Python-Rock-Snake coiled around a rock. He talks all-proper! and wears a scarlet top hat to match! You'll have to come to see what happens.

But before that we have been over to Latitude 50 North, Longitude 40 West to find our Mariner, sitting alone on a raft dangling his toes in the water. We are offering a prize of one free ticket for the first correct map reference showing this point and the name of the ocean. Then we had to scour the Seven Seas for the hungry Whale who had swallowed everything in the whole ocean except the cunning little 'Stute Fish!

After this we drained the wet heaving ocean to make way for the dry Howling Desert, where we find a Camel gazing at his own reflection in a cool pool of water. But he's lazy! And he won't work - not even with the World so-new-and-all! And all he says is "Humph!" So the kindly Djinn of All Deserts has no alternative but to "humph" him so that he can work for three whole days without eating, by living off his Humph! Now called a hump, so as not to hurt his feelings!

Our performances of "JUST HOW" in the Spring of 2009 comprise three of Rudyard Kipling's 'Just So' stories for younger children and their families, from the age of four upwards.

We are doing six performances as follows:

Saturday 28th Feb. at 2:30pm & 7:00pm

Sunday 1st Mar. at 2:30pm (special show for British Puppet & Model Theatre Guild)

Friday 13th Mar. at 7:30pm

Saturday 14th Mar. at 2:30pm & 7:00pm

This is a family show, and runs for one hour, plus an interval for drinks, so we would very much like to welcome you to a unique entertainment. This is real theatre in miniature with magical sets, wonderful characters, lively singing and uproarious humour, as the live Story-Teller (Margot McCleary) tries to restrain two cheeky vultures from disrupting the stories!

For tickets, priced at £3:00 for Children and £5:00 for Adults contact:

Jon and Ann Beeny on Tel 01295 680 431

or Email JonandAnn@AnnBeeny.F9.co.uk; www.Warkcom.net/TysoeMarionettes

All proceeds will be donated to charity.

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

They say knowledge is power, but knowledge can also be a lifesaver. Barbara and I recently took advantage of a health screening at Kineton Village Hall.

Although Barbara's results came back clear, mine showed a possible problem. After a visit to my doctor followed by a quick appointment at Warwick Hospital for further tests the results were a benign cyst and not a cancer. The time between knowing something was possibly wrong and knowing that it was not was very short, but, at the time, it did not feel that way.

Early detection of such conditions means early treatment; knowledge is possibly the power to save your own life. This knowledge came at the comparatively small price of £140-00; my life is worth that and more, as it may have been what saved it. It was arranged by Life Line Screening, Worthing, Sussex, 01903223360, Manager Sharon Glynn, www.lifelinescreening.co.uk.

As your Ambulance Service First Responder I try more than one way to save your life. Your life, your choice.

Mick Shepard.

[I feel an Editorial Disclaimer coming on again! The Oxhill News has no knowledge of its own of Life Line Screening and so cannot comment on their value nor recommend the company. The opinions stated above are those of the author alone. Ed.]

KINETON OIL CONSORTIUM

I would like to apologise for the inconvenience many of you experienced this time. I received the information on December 6th from the main co-ordinator that other members of the consortium increased their orders when the tanker driver arrived, which completely blocked the delivery orders for that day; this escalated over the week.

We are again ordering oil in January. The last date for ordering will be Wednesday January 14th, at 6 p.m.

D. Harper

POETRY CORNER

A certain young lady named Hannah
Was caught in a flood in Montannah.
As she floated away
Her beau, so they say,
Accompanied her on the piannah.

WHAT'S ON IN & AROUND OXHILL

JANUARY

Tuesday 6th	10.00	Village Hall - Mobile Library
Wednesday 7th		The Peacock - Village Coffee Morning
	2.00	St. Peter's, Whatcote – Computing classes start
Friday 9th	9.30	Weekday Walkers
Sunday 11th	8.00	The Peacock - Charity Quiz Night
Wednesday 14th	6.00	Kineton Oil Consortium order deadline
	7.30	Village Hall - Film: The Duchess
Thursday 15th	7.30	Village Hall – Garden Club
	7.30	Shipston Primary School - Shipston Singers rehearsal
Tuesday 20th	7.30	The Old Chapel - Deanery Meeting
	8.00	Village Hall – Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday 21st		The Peacock - Village Lunch
Saturday 24th	7.30	Village Hall - Burns' Night Supper
Tuesday 27th	10.00	Village Hall - Mobile Library
	23.59	Copy deadline for the News

VICARAGE NOTES

Thought for the month

May I join the Oxhill News team in wishing everyone a very happy New Year!

Thank you for all the support given to St. Lawrence's during 2007, especially the recent Christmas services. Thank you too for the cards and greetings received - I was amused that one of them had "prosperous New Year" deleted and replaced by "break even New Year". Let's be a little more positive than that and hope for renewed appreciation of the wonderful qualities of life that money can't buy - friendship for one.

Jesus said "I am the light of the world" – may that light help to bring the peace and stability for which many desperately yearn.

God bless,

Nicholas Morgan, 01608 685230