

# THE OXHILL NEWS



No. 400  
March 2008

## VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Holdsworth Windows, of Shipston, have now replaced the remaining old and rusting frames with new double-glazed units – ones where the opening lights actually close again. This should reduce the draughts in the hall considerably.

Robin Teall has done a great of work recently, putting in additional electrical sockets in the main hall and updating the electrical systems generally. All the sockets are now controlled by the coin-in-the-slot meter in the lower left-hand corner of the electricity cupboard, so when you hire the hall it is a good idea to have a few £1 coins handy. They are needed for cooking and boiling the kettle as well as heating – unless, of course, there are enough units left over from the last users. We are grateful to Robin for all the extra hours he has put in on this work, and particularly for spotting the fault in the main switchbox and dealing with it before another fire broke out!

The frost protection systems have also been upgraded and a new mains water on/off control installed. This latter does away with the need to grovel on the kitchen floor to turn the water on or off; a simple click on a switch above the sink does the job. The switch is labelled to tell you how it works, but a ‘Sheet for Users’ is in preparation explaining everything you need to know about the hall.

The passage down the side and round the back of the hall has been cleared and further work will be carried out when the weather warms up a bit more. We are grateful to Basil Hillman for his assistance here.

*George Adams*

## REFUSE COLLECTION ARRANGEMENTS

Over the Easter holiday period collections will be made as follows:

Tuesday 18th March	Black bags, green bins, paper and recyclables
Wednesday 26th March	Black bags only

*Editor*

## APRIL ISSUE

Please could I have all copy for the April issue by Midnight on **Wednesday, 26th March**? If you normally prepare your material using a computer, it would make my life easier if you could submit your offering in electronic form, though paper is, of course, fine. My ‘official’ e-mail address is [news-editor@oxhill.org.uk](mailto:news-editor@oxhill.org.uk) if you wish to send me stuff that way.

*George Adams, 680286*

## COVER PICTURE

This beautiful shot of St James, Chipping Campden, was taken by David Kean during the recent frosty weather.

## MID-LIFE CRISIS?

We hear that local resident Mark Ellis (who has run his own training consultancy for the last 15 years) has quit the rat-race and been secretly studying to be a joiner / cabinet maker. So if you are looking for a hand-made kitchen, new doors or windows and want a quote from a friendly local supplier then give him a call.

You can reach Mark at home on 680303 or mobile 07976 301794.

*Editor*

## OXHILL GARDEN CLUB

If you came to the February meeting of the Garden Club expecting to see 'Flowers of the French Alps' you might have thought you would have been disappointed by an evening on compost, but not so. Our original speaker was taken ill the week before our meeting and Pauline Pears from Ryton Organic Gardens stood in at short notice to present a slightly different style of evening, which included audience participation. Members, in groups of 2, were given cards with various items of flora, fauna, animal, vegetable and mineral. A large display board was set up and divided into three sections headed 'Yes' 'No' and 'Caution'. Each group had to place their cards in what they thought to be the appropriate section as to their suitability for composting. Pauline then discussed each card and expanded on why some of the items you would have thought unsuitable could in fact be included in a compost and why others were unsuitable. Although we managed to place most of the items in the correct columns there was always an odd one that surprised. If you have the courage to put bind weed or couch grass in a bag, tie it up and leave until broken down and dead, then add it to your compost you are more courageous than I. Although most members had a thorough knowledge on the subject I think most may still have picked up a tip or two. The 20th March meeting is to be the AGM followed by Cheese and Wine. The meeting in April will be a talk by Margaret Morris on 'Sissinghurst'.

*Anne Netherclef, Programme Secretary*

## FILMS IN THE HALL

There was a disappointingly small turnout for the Oscar-winning *Ratatouille* in February. Probably many people had already seen it, and perhaps the rest thought it was a film for children. It wasn't, and they missed a treat.

The film in March, on Wednesday 26th at 8 p.m., will be 'Elizabeth – the Golden Age'. This is another Oscar-winning movie, though this time just for the costumes.

*George Adams*

# ST. LAWRENCE'S CHURCH, OXHILL

## SERVICES IN MARCH

All are warmly welcome

Sunday 2nd	Mothering Sunday	9.30 a.m.	Special Family Service (NM)
Tuesday 4th		7.45 p.m.	Deanery Lent Service at Oxhill (NM)
Sunday 9th	Lent V	6.30 p.m.	Evensong (NM)
			No morning service today
Sunday 16th	Palm Sunday	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion (ML)
6.30 p.m.	Stainer's "Crucifixion" at Brailes		
Friday 21st	Good Friday	10.30 a.m.	United Service at Tysoe Methodist Church
		2.00 p.m.	The Hour by the Cross at Brailes
Sunday 23rd	Easter Day	9.30 a.m.	Easter Communion (ML)
Sunday 30th	Easter I	11.00 a.m.	Benefice Holy Communion (ML)

## CHURCH FUNDRAISING

The Coffee Morning held recently in the Village Hall raised about £170 for Church funds. Very many thanks to everyone who supported the event in any way.

Can I remind you all of the Curry and Roast Lamb Lunch on Sunday 20th April. There will be more details in next month's News, but please put the date in your diary.

*Lilian*

## KINETON OIL CONSORTIUM

We are ordering oil in March. The last date for ordering will be Wednesday 26th at 6 p.m.

Due to the oil situation the suppliers are no longer willing to accept 'Top Up' orders. All orders will need to be 500 litres or more with a specific amount ordered.

Thank you,

*Di Harper, 01295 680529*

## KITCHEN UNITS

I will shortly have some redundant pine kitchen units. Can anyone make use of them either in a kitchen or maybe as useful garage storage?

They will be coming out in about a month.

*Ruth Gibson, 01295 680420*

# WI REPORT

February 2008

We were delighted to welcome Penny Varley, who made the 90th Anniversary dishes each member received last year. We handled clay and passed round examples of Penny's work as she demonstrated. She told us about several interesting commissions. Several of us are looking forward to joining her workshops later in the year. We know we shall have fun and come away with pots to be proud of. When the Art Week signs appear I expect we'll encourage our friends and families along too.

Christine Chapman and Ann Beeny served refreshments.

The flower of the month: 1st Myrtle Knight (hellebore), 2nd Kath Silman (leucojum)

*B. Keep*

## WEEKDAY WALKERS

On our walk from Idlicote to Halford last month we happened upon three camels; what will come across this month? Our walks for March are as follows:

### Friday 14th March

Ebrington to Ilmington, a 6.25 mile walk with 550 feet of ascent. Lunch will be at "The Red Lion". We will leave Oxhill at 10:00 a.m.

### Friday 28th March

Shipston-on-Stour via Barcheston and Burmington to Stretton-on-Fosse, an 8 mile walk with 60 feet of ascent. Lunch will be at "The Plough". We will leave Oxhill at 9.45 a.m.

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

## TYSOE MARIONETTE GROUP

We will be presenting ALI BABA, THE PUPPET PANTO, with performances on Saturday 12th April at 2:30 & 7:30, Sunday 13th April at 2:30, Friday 25th April at 7:30 and Saturday 26th April at 2:30 & 7:30.

Performances will be in The Barn Theatre, Baldwins Lane, Upper Tysoe.

Admission by ticket only, Adults £5 Children £3.  
All proceeds donated to charity

For Tickets contact Jon and Ann Beeny on 01295 680431 or by email at [jonandann@annbeeny.f9.co.uk](mailto:jonandann@annbeeny.f9.co.uk).



# VILLAGE HISTORY

## A Miller's Tale from New Zealand

In the mid and latter half of the nineteenth century, there was a wave of emigration to the colonies, particularly by those whose work depended on agriculture. Farming went through very hard times; wages were low, cottages cramped, and families often large. Children were commonly set to such work as bird-scaring from crops from the age of nine, to help eke out the family income.

It has always been intriguing to me to know the next chapter in the lives of these emigrants, and how they fared. In the summer of last year, I was fortunate to meet Barbara Hann from New Zealand, a Summerton descendant visiting Oxhill, and she has kindly since sent me details of the outward voyage made by her ancestor Thomas Summerton, 1827 -1903, and his subsequent history.

Thomas was born in Southam, but by the time of the 1841 census it seems he was living with his parents in Oxhill where his father William was a carpenter. By 1851 he was married, and working as a miller in Birmingham, then a much smaller place. In March 1859 he emigrated with his family to New Zealand, settling in the South Island.

Summerton was once a common name in Oxhill, and by the nineteenth century there were (at least) two distinct Summerton families here, who did not consider themselves related. The family with more ancient roots (the name goes back for centuries in the church registers) were by the end of the century, working as clockmakers and repairers. The other family worked mainly as millers and bakers, and an oral memory has it that they had arrived here - comparatively speaking - "later on". In 1841 the miller at the Oxhill Windmill was a John Summerton, and while family research by Barbara's family does not indicate any relationship with Thomas, it is interesting to note that Thomas later took up this occupation himself. (Maybe he had had some work experience as a lad here?)

The Lyttleton Times of 13th July 1859 gives a detailed account of the voyage that took Thomas to New Zealand. Together with his wife and five children, aged from 13 to 1 he sailed on the ship *Cameo*, 785 tons, which left London on 1st March and arrived at Lyttleton, the port for Christchurch on 11th July. The "government immigrants" listed among the passengers included over 70 various farm workers, and over 40 tradesmen and craftsmen. Among the 28 single women, 21 were domestic servants.

The voyage had a slow start, as after leaving port the ship could not get clear away from land for two days. After this they had a tedious voyage to the Equator, where the ship was becalmed for nearly three weeks. However when they finally reached New Zealand, it was reported that there had been no illness on board, and that "the passengers affirm that it has been comparatively agreeable throughout", and were said to be "in excellent spirits". The voyage had not been entirely uneventful however. During its 112 days, there had been three births, and two deaths, one of a newborn baby, and the other a man of consumption, (TB).

Thomas and his family settled in the Christchurch area, and after hard work, he was able in time to build and run his own Steam Flour Mill. He then suffered an unlucky period when he became bankrupt, whereupon he tried his hand in the Thames gold field for two years, before returning to work near Christchurch. Fortune was kinder this time, and he went on to build and run a series of Flour Mills, remaining in business until his death in 1903, aged 76. By this time he had 40 grandchildren, and 5 great grandchildren.

*Ann Hale*

## VICARAGE NOTES

### **Holy Week and Easter**

There are various special service at this time of the year, starting with a Mothering Sunday service on the 2nd – all, of course, are invited! If you would like to travel around the benefice, I have included some services at Tysoe and Brailes.

### **February Coffee Morning**

My thanks to Lilian and the social and fund-raising committee for organising the very enjoyable coffee morning last month. It was good to see everyone! Thank you for your support. The next event is the Curry and Roast Lamb lunch planned for April 20th – please put that date in your diaries.

### **A.P.C.M.**

The Annual Church meeting will take place on April 13th at 6.30 p.m. in Church - all are welcome

### **Thought for the month**

The beautiful Passsiontide hymn “When I survey the wondrous cross” reminds us that God’s love for the world was made effective in Jesus - therein lies the uniqueness of the Christian faith. The traditional Easter hymn “Jesus Christ is risen today” proclaims that Christ was revealed in his body of glory as the eternal Son of God - changing the disciples lives dramatically as they began to share the gospel message. The hymn “Take my life and let it be consecrated Lord to thee” reminds us that a living faith is a foundation for all life – Sunday must be lived out from Monday to Saturday!

May I wish everyone a happy Easter! Best wishes and God bless,

*Nicholas Morgan, 01608 685230*

## WHAT'S ON IN OXHILL

### March

Saturday 1st		The Peacock – Taste of Wales Special Dinners
Wednesday 5th	7.30	Tysoe Village Hall – W.I. - Mr P Warrilow; 'The RNLI'
Friday 14th	10.00	Weekday Walkers
Tuesday 18th	8.00	Village Hall – Parish Council Meeting
Thursday 20th	7.30	Village Hall - Garden Club A.G.M.
Wednesday 26th	6.00	Kineton Oil Consortium order deadline
	8.00	Village Hall - Films in the Hall; 'Elizabeth, the Golden Age'
	23.59	Copy deadline for The News
Friday 28th	9.45	Weekday Walkers

### April

Wednesday 2nd	7.30	Tysoe Village Hall – W.I. – Mr. M. Lynn; 'The Crown Prosecution Service'
Sunday 13th	6.30	St. Lawrence's Church - Annual Church Meeting
Sunday 20th	12.30	The Manor – Curries & Roast Lamb Lunch
Saturday 26th	7.45	Ettington Community Centre – Shipston Home Nursing, Cottage Pie Dance
Tuesday 29th	8.00	Village Hall – Annual General Meeting

### May

Wednesday 7th		W.I. – Lunch at Clifford Chambers
Friday 9th	8.00	Village Hall – Italian Dinner
Saturday 17th	10-noon	Norgren Social Club, Shipston – Shipston Home Nursing Plant Sale
Sunday 18th		Willington – Shipston Home Nursing Family Day

### June

Tuesday 3rd	10-4.30	Burmington Grange – Shipston Home Nursing Champagne & Shop
Saturday 14th & Sunday 15th		Scarecrow Weekend

## THE AUTHOR AS CRITIC

In the last century a certain Richard Wagner, a sort of messiah who has been insufficiently crucified, invented the Music of the Future, and we're still enduring it; in his day, melody was already being suppressed and he decided it was appropriate to get rid of harmony as well – and the house has remained empty ever since.

*Jules Verne, Paris in the Twentieth Century*