

# THE OXHILL NEWS



No. 407  
October 2008

## MOBILE LIBRARY

Frequenterers of the library van will already have noticed that it has failed to appear. This is because the new shiny all-singing all-dancing van stopped singing and dancing. We hope that the powers that be have managed to repair it, in which case it should appear again outside the Village Hall at 10 a.m. on Tuesday 7th and Tuesday 28th. Unless, of course, it breaks down again.

*Editor*

## VILLAGE HALL

Firstly the Committee's grateful thanks to Sue and Terry Robbins for keeping the garden at the Hall neat and tidy and relatively weed free. A mammoth task with all the rain we have had this year.

Many thanks also to Paul at City Electrical Factors for the supply of the new lighting at cost, to Fosseyway Hire for subsidising the cost of the scaffolding tower and to Robin for installing the lighting.

**Indian Evening** on Friday 31st October. This is one of our themed meal evenings and Indian food of every taste and temperature will be on offer. Only one of the curries will be hot, and there will be vegetarian options. Tickets are £12.50 each and judging by the fact that all these events have quickly sold out in the past please contact George Adams (680286) as soon as possible to book your tickets.

**New Year's Eve Party.** We all had a great time last year and we hope to do things even better this year. The evening will start at 8.30 p.m. with music and a hot meal. After midnight, fireworks and dancing until late. Tickets are £20 a head to include a free glass of wine and a free glass of champagne. If last year is anything to go by then tickets will go really fast. Please contact Gaynor Van Dijk (680349) or Derek Harbour (680676) as soon as possible. Last date to obtain tickets is **29th October** unless previously sold out.

*Gaynor van Dijk*

## NOVEMBER ISSUE

Please could I have all copy for the November issue by Midnight on **Friday, 24th October**? 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

Joyce McKail sent me this splendid study of Kenilworth Castle.

*Editor*

## FILMS IN THE HALL

With the arrival of darker nights the monthly programme of Films in the Hall starts again on Tuesday 28th October.

The season will start with the recent smash hit “Mamma Mia!” with Pierce Brosnan and Meryl Streep among other big name stars.

Ticket prices will be £4 adults, £3 children (under 14), and the showing will start at 8 p.m. prompt.

*George Adams p.p. Judy Badger*

## WEEKDAY WALKERS

Our walks for October are as follows:

Friday 10th October

Ilmington circular. This walk starts at “The Red Lion”. It is a 6 mile walk with 570 feet of ascent. Lunch will be at “The Red Lion”. We will leave Oxhill at 9:30 a.m.

Friday 24th October

This is a 7 mile walk from Ratley to Warmington with 420 feet of ascent. Lunch will be at “The Plough Inn” Warmington. We will leave Oxhill at 10:30 a.m.

Please contact Jim Saxton 01295 680613 or saxton@tiscali.co.uk before Thursday prior to walk.

## WARWICK HOSPITAL

We are delighted to read that the new Cancer Treatment Unit at Warwick Hospital is being opened. Over 1000 people in South Warwickshire are diagnosed with cancer each year, and the new unit will mean that those who used to have to go to Coventry and other distant hospitals for treatment can now be treated in Warwick.

The unit, which has cost £1.3 million, has its own entrance, consulting and treatment rooms, information centre and even a private garden and car park.

*Editor*

## CLASS OF '08

There is a considerably smaller number of Young Oxhillians in this year's class.

Charlotte Mercer is off to Lancaster University to read Music Technology – with an academic scholarship to boost her funds, lucky girl.

Alex van Dijk is going to Nottingham University to read Management & Spanish.

Ed Taylor, Alys Cooper and Lauren Buchanan are all taking gap years.

Our apologies to anyone we have inadvertently left out.

*Editor*

# ST. LAWRENCE'S CHURCH, OXHILL

## SERVICES IN OCTOBER

All are warmly welcome

Sunday 5th	Trinity XX	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion (ML)
Sunday 12th	Trinity XXI	8.30 a.m.	Holy Communion (ML)
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong (ML)
Sunday 19th	Trinity XXII	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion (ML)
Sunday 26th	Trinity XXIII	9.30 a.m.	Family Service (ML)

## TREASURE HUNT & PIG ROAST

On one of our lovely days on Sunday for the treasure hunt, some twenty-five people went on a very challenging hunt round Oxhill.

Ed Bracher and family came first, so 'Well done' to them.

Many thanks to Mike Collins for setting out the treasure hunt; it must have taken him hours sorting out all the clues. One or two of us got lost on the very first clue! Thanks to all those who took part.

With the sun still shining over forty people sat down to a well-earned pig roast and puds. My thanks to Carol and Tom for an excellent pig roast, as ever.

My grateful thanks also to the committee that helped on the day, and to those who produced the salads and puds. Over £200 was raised for Church funds.

*Lilian*

## TREASURE HUNT RESULTS

Eleven groups set out to tackle the Treasure Hunt questions on a fine autumn day. The route took them from the Village Hall to the Pub, around Back Lane and on to the Church before returning via Main Street to the Pub. From there they were directed over the field to the Manor, along the far side of the brook to the bottom of White Hill and back to the Village Hall to enjoy a roast pork lunch.

37 marks were available and Ed Bracher and daughters Milly and Rosie with 35 were declared the winners and received a W.H. Smith voucher. Runners-up were Linda Heritage and family with 32; Hugh and Toni achieved 29 closely followed by Lillian's family on 28. The remainder of the field followed closely behind. Well done all who took part.

*Mike Collins*

## CHRISTMAS LUNCH

The Senior Citizens' Christmas Lunch this year will be on Monday 15th December. Invitations will be sent out in early November, but if you have recently passed your sixtyfifth birthday, or we missed you off the list last year, please contact me at Karibu.

*George Adams*

## TALGARTH MALE VOICE CHOIR

Talgarth Male Voice Choir will make a return visit to St. Lawrence's Church on Saturday 18th October at 8 p.m.

As seats in the Church are limited would you please get your tickets as soon as possible. Tickets cost £8 each.

*Val Evens, 680215*

*Lilian Welsby, 680468*

## GARDEN CLUB

This month a very interesting and informative talk was given by Hilary Twigg from Pershore College on "Easy Rules of Pruning". Doesn't everything sound easy when you really know how to do it? Ideas on what one wants to achieve determines how you go about the pruning e.g. height, shape, width etc, when you prune and by how much. How to prune soft fruits, apple and pear trees, wisteria, clematis and many others were well covered and an explanation of how canker can present itself was touched upon. I hope we all took notes and remember the salient points for the coming year.

Our next meeting is on 16th October when Adrian Thornton will be talking on National Parks - Not Ours, but Ours to Look After. He promises to be very interesting and he hopes to present the talk to a large audience, so get busy and find us a crowd to be proud of - everyone welcome - and we'll serve the tea/coffee and biscuits.

November brings us a talk on South Africa flora and fauna and the year terminates with the Christmas Party.

*Sue Duckworth*

## DRY STORAGE SPACE REQUIRED

Could anyone provide a temporary home for up to 20 boxes of children's books destined to be sent to schools in Kaduna, Nigeria early next year. The boxes are 16" x 14" x 11".

These books are being donated by various churches in Warwickshire, and we urgently need dry storage space. Help with clearance is not a problem.

Please contact Ann or Jim Saxton on 680613

## ART EXHIBITION

Kineton Art Group are holding their Members' Exhibition and Sale of Paintings in Kineton Village Hall on Saturday 11th October and Sunday 12th October from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day.

Please come and have tea and enjoy over 200 paintings.

*Grace Foot, Kineton 640910*

## NATURE NOTES FOR OCTOBER

*The woods never looked more beautiful than from the close of last month to the middle of October, for by that time it seems as if nature had exhausted all her choicest colours of foliage. We see the rich, burnished bronze of the oak, red of may hues, up to the gaudiest scarlet; every shade of yellow from the wan gold of the primrose to the deep orange of the tiger-lily .... And all so blended and softened together in parts, that like the colours on a dove's neck, we cannot tell where one begins and the other ends.* Chambers Book of Hours (1864)

As I write this we are at last enjoying some beautiful weather, an Indian Summer, a name that originated in North America where such occurrences are common and which were much celebrated by the Native Americans as they collected their wild harvests ready for winter.

We too start to collect our autumn cultivated and wild fruits; damsons and sloes which both make an excellent winter warmer when steeped in gin, wild mushrooms and fungi, nuts, pears, plums, and blackberries together with their perfect partner, the apple. The apple is a wonderful emblem of diversity. In Britain we have grown more than two-thousand varieties and hundreds more cider apples, The Carlisle Codlin, Worcester Pearmain, Devonshire Quarrendon and Crawley Beauty all tell of the place of origin; Peasgood Nonsuch, Ashmead's Kernel, Laxton's superb and Charles Ross tell of the people who developed and raised them. Forgotten people and forgotten stories? Not any more, for we now have Apple Day – October 21 this year – first started in 1990 by a wonderful organisation, Common Ground, to celebrate and demonstrate the importance of the apple to our culture, landscape and wildlife. This first celebration was held in Covent Garden, originally the Convent garden which included an orchard – a place that had been London's prime market for fruit and vegetables. Although in 1990 it had not served as a fruit market for 16 years, stallholders came from all over the country. All had some connection with apples and orchards; nurserymen, bee-keepers, juice makers, cider makers, and hundreds of varieties of apples for people to look at and taste. There were "apple doctors" and people were encouraged to bring apples from their gardens to be identified. These Apple Days have now multiplied and by 2000 there were well over six hundred taking part all over the country. Varieties that were thought to be extinct have turned up in the West Country. Cheshire, Gloucestershire, and Devon are all replanting orchards, and only last week I heard on the radio that Herefordshire is setting up hundreds of new orchards and creating "Mother Orchards" of all the varieties of apples. It was an offspin from the Apples Days that the farmers markets started. Local Apple Days are at Sulgrave Manor, Northamptonshire on 11 and 12 October; Cogges Manor Farm, near Witney on 11 and 12 October; Hill Close Gardens, Warwick (parking and main entrance by Warwick Racecourse) on 19 October; and Longford Park, Coventry on 25 October, or check Common Ground's excellent website.

*"Of these rivals to the grape, with the exception of John Barleycorn and his sons, there is none which may more fairly claim the contest, the palm of agreeableness and popularity than the apple and her golden-haired daughter, the bright and sparkling cider, whom some ardent admirers have even exalted to a level with the regal vintage of champagne.* Chambers Book of Days (1864)

From early September to about now all our resident swallows start congregating in readiness for their migration back to North Africa – imagine then, our surprise when on 7th September on a wet cold day, we saw a pair of swallows with a nest under the eaves of one of the buildings on Towcester Racecourse, feeding young gaping mouths still in the nest! Swallows often have two broods and occasionally (usually in hot summers) three. I hope they were finding enough insects in the cold damp weather we have been experiencing, and also that they will be mature and strong enough in time for their long flight.

You may have read my ramblings with reference to a pair of ravens at Idlicote, well I now hear there is another pair in the old school grounds at Kineton. I saw one of the Idlicote ravens the other day at very close quarters, carrying what appeared to be a small grey furry creature of some sort, and chortling away to itself with what I can only describe as glee and satisfaction.

I have been told that our house was once the premises of a cobbler, so I will celebrate October 25th – St Crispin's Day, patron saint of cobblers and shoemakers:

*The twenty-fifth of October*

*Cursed be the cobbler*

*That goes to bed sober*

(Traditional English rhyme)

*Grenville Moore*

## VICARAGE NOTES

### **Harvest 2008**

Our thanks to the “team” for organising the treasure hunt and pig roast – an enjoyable time bathed in autumn sunshine (at last!). The church was beautifully decorated for the harvest service which was a very happy occasion. News on the donation to Kaduna will be provided a.s.a.p.

### **Thought for the month**

The new Bishop of Coventry, the Rt. Rev. Christopher Cocksworth, will be installed on Saturday November 1st, All Saints Day. We pray for him as he takes up his new responsibilities in the diocese, the city and the county. Although churches are sometimes seen as marginalised, the Christian Family is still the largest voluntary group in this country, and has the opportunity to give a lead in living the gospel in a spirit of care for all.

Words from the Prayer Book Collect for Trinity XXII seem appropriate for both the bishop and our parishes:

Lord, we beseech thee to keep thy household the church in continual godliness, that through thy protection it may be free from all adversities, and devoutly given to serve thee in all good works.

Best wishes and God bless,

*Nicholas Morgan 01608 685230*

The advertisement below was sent in by A Grand Executive. Responses are anticipated, quite possibly from A N Other.

*Editor*

**NEW EVENING CLASSES FOR MEN!!!  
ALL ARE WELCOME OPEN TO MEN ONLY**

*Note: due to the complexity and level of difficulty, each course will accept a maximum of eight participants  
The course covers two days, and topics covered in this course Include:*

**HOW TO FILL ICE CUBE TRAYS**  
Step by step guide with slide presentation

**TOILET ROLLS- DO THEY GROW ON THE HOLDERS?**  
Roundtable discussion

**DIFFERENCES BETWEEN LAUNDRY BASKET & FLOOR**  
Practising with hamper (Pictures and graphics)

**DISHES & SILVERWARE; DO THEY LEVITATE/FLY TO KITCHEN SINK OR DISHWASHER  
BY THEMSELVES?**  
Debate among a panel of experts.

**LEARNING HOW TO FIND THINGS**  
Starting with looking in the right place instead of turning the house upside down while screaming -  
Open forum

**EMPTY MILK CARTONS; DO THEY BELONG IN THE FRIDGE OR THE BIN?**  
Group discussion and role-play

**HEALTH WATCH; BRINGING HER FLOWERS IS NOT HARMFUL TO YOUR HEALTH**  
PowerPoint presentation

**REAL MEN ASK FOR DIRECTIONS WHEN LOST** Real life testimonial from the one man who did

**IS IT GENETICALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO SIT QUIETLY AS SHE PARALLEL PARKS?**  
Driving simulation

**LIVING WITH ADULTS; BASIC DIFFERENCES BETWEEN YOUR MOTHER AND YOUR  
PARTNER**  
Online class and role-playing

**HOW TO BE THE IDEAL SHOPPING COMPANION**  
Relaxation exercises, meditation and breathing techniques

**REMEMBERING IMPORTANT DATES & CALLING WHEN YOU'RE GOING TO BE LATE**  
Bring your calendar or PDA to class

**GETTING OVER IT; LEARNING HOW TO LIVE WITH BEING WRONG ALL THE TIME**  
Individual counsellors available

## VILLAGE HISTORY

### PARISH MEETING MINUTE BOOKS

Before the advent of the Parish Councils, The Annual Parish Meeting was once the only opportunity for villagers to air matters of common interest. The Minutes of these meetings which start in 1896, and are recorded in three notebooks, are held by the Parish Council. The first entries are in the copperplate hand of John Henry Summerton, a clockmaker and repairer, (although his granddaughter, Evelyn Colyer, told me that in practice “he did as little as possible”, and preferred to spend time with his books and other interests.)

A constant refrain was the matter of drainage, and various smelly ditches – the one opposite the Rectory being of particular concern to the Rector in 1931! Mains drainage did not come until 1968.

Water came from wells and from the brook, where there were “lading places” (lade = to ladle or scoop). Concrete steps were provided to the place at the bottom of Mr T. Heritage’s homestead in 1927. There was much discussion about the provision of a better water supply, and in the 1930s this was finally achieved, and standpipes set up along the village street. It was still sometime before each house was connected.

The standpipes caused different problems. In 1932 flooding was reported by the tap at the bottom end of the village; also the one by the Peacock needed repair. In 1936 a request was made to relocate the tap near Mr Heritage’s house, where it was surrounded by mud to below Mr Heritage’s yard door “so that the cows do not have to pass by it.” (From the description, I think this refers to Mr Stephen Heritage, then farming at Brooklands, rather than Mr Thomas Heritage at Church Farm). The standpipes had made the wells largely redundant, and in 1952 there was a discussion about the covering over of wells in the village.

Our village trees too have a history. In 1935 the copper beech tree at the junction of Beech Road and Blackford Way was planted in honour of George V’s Jubilee, and in 1937 a red chestnut tree was planted at the top of Rouse Lane to mark the Coronation of George VI. (This died and had to be replaced in 1938; sadly this one too is now looking none too well.)

I hope to have another browse through the Minutes in another issue.

They are full of interesting detail. For instance, does anyone know of the whereabouts of the Plaque received from the War Savings Committee in 1944?

*Ann Hale*

## LOCK UP YOUR DAUGHTERS!

Well, oil tanks, actually. At least one house in the village has been targeted by thieves who have disabled the security lights and then pumped heating oil out of the tank. When they returned for a second session a stout padlock foiled them. It’s probably wise to take what precautions we can.

*Editor*

## FREE ELECTRIC BLANKET TESTING

Warwickshire County Council's Trading Standards Service is offering electric blanket testing free of charge to Warwickshire residents who are 60 or over.

Unsafe electric blankets are the cause of many house fires each year, and can often lead to death or serious injury. Elderly people are particularly at risk and we would urge you to take advantage of this opportunity.

Electric blanket tests will take place at the following venues in late early October.

Wednesday 1st October      Kenilworth Library

Thursday 2nd October      Rugby Library

Friday 3rd October      Stratford Pop in Centre, United Reformed Church,  
Stratford-upon-Avon

To book an appointment call 01926 736477 or email [ebtesting@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:ebtesting@warwickshire.gov.uk)

Tests will be conducted by appointment only and bookings will be taken on a first come first served basis. The number of appointments is limited so book early to avoid disappointment. The free phone number will be staffed between 9.00 and 5.00 Monday to Friday and an answerphone will operate at all other times.

If you have difficulties getting to any of these events, please tell our staff as we may be able to arrange collection points nearer to your home, depending on demand.

## SHIPSTON HOME NURSING

### Events in October

Wednesday 1st, 10.30 to 7.30. "New to You" Clothing sale in Ettington Village Hall.

Monday 6th to Friday 10th. Armscote Lecture series at Armscote Manor. See News passim (i.e. last month's edition) for details.

For more details on either event contact the Rebecca Mawle, Fund-raising Co-ordinator, on 01608 674929

## VILLAGE HALL CLEANING ROTA

Week beginning Monday:

October 6th      Gwyn & George

October 13th      Angela & Gaynor

October 20th      Julie & Keith

October 27th      Una & Jane

November 3rd      Judy & Dot

The Village Hall Committee would like to say thank you to Dot Richards and Jane Smith, who have offered to help clean the Hall even though they are not on the Committee. We would be grateful for any other help, but I'm not holding my breath!

*Una Hill*



# A good deal more from your local law firm...

You are invited to join us at your local  
venue and meet our team of experts  
for free initial advice on

***Property matters Family Wills  
Powers of Attorney Trusts Tax issues***

From 6:30pm to 8:30pm

7:00pm - Short talk on Wills & Lasting Powers of Attorney

***The dates are:***

Thursday 18th September

Tuesday 7th October

Thursday 23rd October

Thursday 13th November

Tuesday 2nd December

Brailes Village Hall

Kineton Village Hall

Long Compton Village Hall

Tysoe Village Hall

Blockley Jubilee Hall

***For further information please contact  
Kathy Buchanan on 0845 620 9511***

  
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## WHAT'S ON IN & AROUND OXHILL

### ***OCTOBER***

Wednesday 1st		The Peacock – Village Coffee Morning
	10.30	Ettington Village Hall – Shipston Home Nursing
Saturday 4th	10.00	St. Peter's, Kineton – Coffee Morning
	7.30	Kineton Village Hall – Handbell Concert
Monday 6-Friday 10		Armscote Manor – Lecture series – details inside
Tuesday 7th	10.00	Village Hall – Mobile Library
Friday 10th	9.30	Weekday Walkers – details inside
		Armscote House – Harpsichord recital
Wednesday 15th		The Peacock – Village Lunch
Thursday 16th	7.30	Village Hall – Garden Club
Saturday 18th	8.00	Oxhill Church - Talgarth Choir
Friday 24th	9.30	Weekday Walkers – details inside
	23.59	Copy deadline for the News
Tuesday 28th	10.00	Village Hall – Mobile Library
	8.00	Village Hall – Films in the Hall – Mamma Mia!
Friday 31st	7.30	Village Hall – Non-Hallowe'en Indian Dinner

### ***NOVEMBER***

Tuesday 18th 10–10.30 Village Hall – Mobile Library

### ***DECEMBER***

Tuesday 9th 10–10.30 Village Hall – Mobile Library  
Monday 15th Village Hall – Senior Citizens' Christmas Lunch  
Tuesday 30th 10-10.30 Village Hall – Mobile Library  
Wednesday 31st Village Hall – New Year's Eve Party

## **ACCIDENT and MEDICAL EMERGENCIES**

**FIRST CALL 999**

**THEN CALL**

Ambulance Responders

**MICK & BARBARA SHEPARD**

**07977149317** Mobile / **01295680644** Home

3, The Leys, Oxhill, Warwick, CV350QX