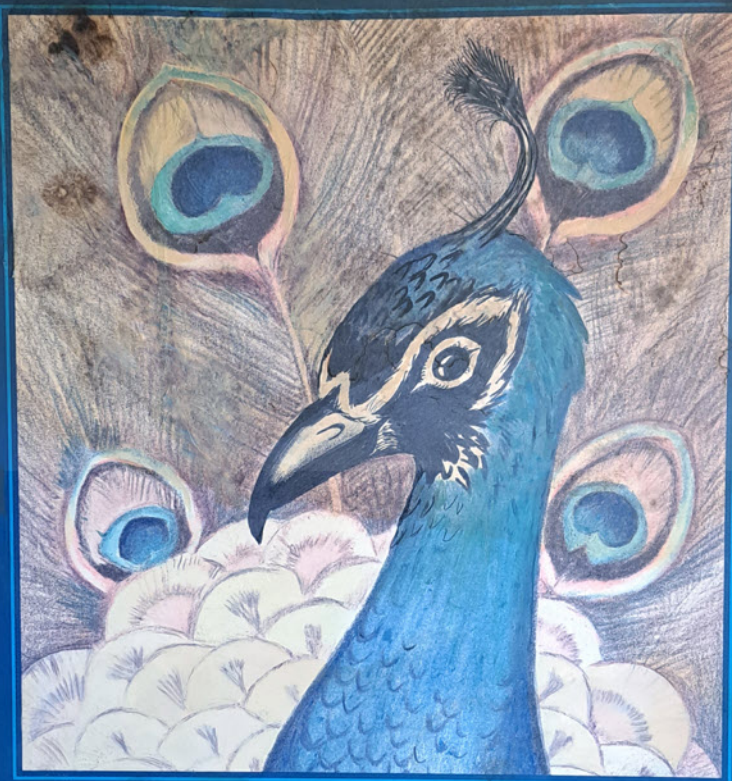


THE OXHILL NEWS

December 2023 No. 589

THE PEACOCK



FINE FOOD, WINES &
COUNTRY ALES

Read Grenville Moore's 'Memories of the Peacock' on page 22

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CLUB & GROUP CONTACT DETAILS

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Oxhill Village Hall:	Jo Collings - Chair - 01295 680215 Ali Sayer - Hall Hire - 07970 922352 email: village-hall@oxhill.org.uk
The Peacock Pub	01295 688060
Tysoe Tennis Club:	Club Secretary: Carol Spencer email: carol.spencer234@hotmail.co.uk
Warwickshire Mobile Library:	01926 851031
WOT2Grow Community Orchard:	Liz Atkinson (680045), Paul Sayer (680451), Sue & Mike Sanderson (688080) www.wot2grow.co.uk
talkdementia.uk Carer Support Service	Paul & Heather Dowler Tysoe 688376 email: talkdementia@mail.com Website: talkdementia.uk Tysoe Village Hall every Friday from 10am

ANN SOPHIA HERITAGE

13TH JUNE 1936 - 1ST NOVEMBER 2023



Ann Heritage died peacefully at Kineton Manor Nursing Home on 1st November, with her dearly loved and loving husband Tom at her side.

Ann's funeral service was held at St. Lawrence's Church, Oxhill, on Tuesday 14th November: if anyone would like to make a donation in her memory for the Alzheimer's Society, this may be done via Lockes (01608) 685274.

Tom wrote:

Ann came to love the village and church she adopted by marrying Tom, coming to live at the old farm house just next to the church.

She became a long standing member of the PCC being secretary for 10 years when Mark Gummer was church warden and David Knight was rector.

Ann did not suffer fools gladly but was also very compassionate, but she would defend her family like a lioness. Her motto was work hard, play hard and do to others as you have them do to you. She helped at nearly every village or church event until her health prevented her from doing so. She loved dogs, having had many Labs and Jack Russells. She also helped at horse events, especially pony club and dressage scoring, with Eve Whalley, and Bridge with Sue Ryles and other friends.

She had a wonderful ability to listen to other people's problems, giving what advice she could but never divulging to others, even me!



RIP Ann



Tom and Ann Heritage enjoying Barney's Barn Dance 2017.



OXHILL ADVENT WINDOW DATES

SCHEDULE ON OPPOSITE PAGE

As you can see, we have quite a few spaces remaining for the advent windows. If you would like to take part this year, please let me know which date you would prefer either on Facebook (Adrian) or by email Lis.stuart@outlook.com.

For all those who have already volunteered, thank you, I know people are really looking forward to seeing the 'windows' this year.

Hope to see you there!



It's nearly that
Beer & Bubbles
time of the year!

Tickets £15
to include canapés and
two drinks
alisayer@btinternet.com

Friday
22nd December
7:30pm

Day	Date	6.15 pm - Location
Fri	1 st	3 The Leys, Whatcote Road (Mick & Barbara) & 2 The Leys, Whatcote Road (Freya, Verity & Patrick)
Sat	2 nd	Hares Breath, Whatcote Road (Carol Beasley)
Sun	3 rd	Briar gate, Main Street (Ali & Paul)
Mon	4 th	The White House, Main Street (Giophe)
Tues	5 th	Peacock Pub
Wed	6 th	1 Orchard Close, Whatcote Road (Sue Robinson)
Thur	7 th	
Fri	8 th	Struan, Whatcote Road (Ruth & John)
Sat	9 th	1 The Sett (Kay)
Sun	10 th	
Mon	11 th	Oddcot, Main Street (Julia)
Tues	12 th	
Wed	13 th	The Stables, Rouse Lane (Stuart & Katie) & The Granary, Rouse Lane (Sarah & Ed)
Thur	14 th	
Fri	15 th	15 & 16 Leys Field (Sam & Lucy)
Sat	16 th	7, 8, 9 Leys Field (Maggie & John, Alan, Tony & Michelle)
Sun	17 th	
Mon	18 th	Fern Cottage, Main Street (Celia)
Tues	19 th	
Wed	20 th	The Church (Carol Service)
Thur	21 st	The Malt House, Back Lane (Eileen & Iain)
Fri	22 nd	Tehidy, Green Lane (Morna & Tom)
Sat	23 rd	Box Wood, Green Lane (Clare & Will)
Sun	24 th	Oak View, Green Lane (Lis & Adrian)



ST LAWRENCE CHURCH

December takes us on a journey – not just through the gift lists, Amazon and the Christmas food catalogues, but a journey that begins in hope and expectation, and ends in celebration. It begins, perhaps, in the darkness of our world, and travels through the promises God give us that he will make all things new. And it ends when we realise that God has come to us in person, to being healing and kindness to the mess and muddle of our world. God with us - the reason for an amazing celebration on Christmas Day.

Come, Lord Jesus,
into our lives,
and into the lives of all those for whom we are concerned. *Kathy Crawford, Winter.*

Wherever we are, in the world we live in,
Jesus is waiting to be born. *Ruth Burgess, Winter*



During December, we will be running a Reverse Advent Calendar in the Church: instead of opening a window every day to find a picture or a goodie of some sort, we are inviting you to make a gift on as many days as you feel able to be given to those who will struggle this Christmas. Everything will go through the Food Bank in Shipston. You will find bags marked each day of December placed around the foot of the font in Church. Each gift we can make will be an Advent Window for someone who really needs it. Thank you.

Church Services in December, in Oxhill unless otherwise stated.

Sunday, December 3rd Advent Sunday

9.30 am Holy Communion (Jill Tucker)
11.00 am Baptism of Rupert Gilmore (Jill Tucker)

Sunday, December 10th

9.30 am Morning Worship (George Heighton)

Sunday, December 17th

9.30 am Holy Communion (George Heighton)

Wednesday, December 20th

6.30 pm Carols by Candlelight

Sunday, December 24th Christmas Eve

3.00 pm in Tysoe Church, Crib Service (George Heighton)
11.30 pm in Tysoe Church, Midnight Holy Communion (George Heighton)

Monday, December 25th Christmas Day

9.30 am Holy Communion to Celebrate Christmas Day (Jill Tucker)

Sunday, December 31st

11.00 am United Service in Sutton-under-Brailes (George Heighton)

Jill Tucker

THE BIG CHURCH CLEAN

A reminder that the **Big Church Clean** is on **Saturday December 2nd at 10:00 am** at the church. We would be very grateful for all the help we could get. There will be coffee and cake to help you along your way.

Carol Fox



Bags ready for Shipston Food Bank donations this Christmas Season.





CHURCH FUNDRAISING

MADE IN OXHILL

Another successful weekend of Made In Oxhill Arts and Crafts Pop-Up Shop at the Old Chapel has just come to a close. The variety of arts, crafts and home produce created in such a small village as Oxhill is wonderful to see and much appreciated by visitors from far and wide. Even though this was our fifth annual Made in Oxhill event, we are still searching the perfect opening hours. This year, not only were we open all Saturday but we opened on Friday evening for mince pies and mulled wine. Judging by the number of people who braved the cold evening to join us, it seemed a popular idea. Thank you to everyone who supported the event. Not only do you help local artists and makers, but this year the Knit and Natter stall was raising money for Shipston Home Nursing. The money raised by the sale of refreshments goes towards the upkeep of Oxhill Church.

Thank you to everyone who baked cakes, scones and biscuits to keep our visitors well-refreshed. Without you, we would have had a lot of hungry visitors. This event (and others) just wouldn't happen without the commitment and hard work of the Church Fundraising Team and additional volunteers. Particular thanks to Gaida and Jerry Webb, Linda Synge, Carol Beasley, Lis Stuart, Carol Fox, Deborah Holroyd, Sue Robbins, Sue Robinson and Mike Druce for working tirelessly during the weekend and giving so freely of your time and enthusiasm.

Ruth Mercer

Photos by David Hawtin & Ruth Mercer







Merry Christmas

Instead of sending Christmas cards to our friends and neighbours in Oxhill this year, we are giving a donation to Target Ovarian Cancer. We would like to wish you all a very Happy and Healthy Christmas and New Year.

With love and hugs, Elaine and Ed XXXX

Carol Fox wishes all her Oxhillian friends a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year. Christmas card donations will be sent to a charity.

Carol Fox

Instead of sending Christmas cards, we will be making a donation to Great Ormond Street Hospital. We would like to wish our friends in the village Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

From Anne, Jo, Milo and Felix

Mike and Heather Bridgman would like to wish all Oxhill residents a really lovely, happy and healthy Christmas .

We won't be sending any Christmas cards this year and instead making a donation to the FND Hope Charity and the Migraine Trust Charity.

Merry Christmas to you all.

Grenville and Jane wish all our friends in Oxhill a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year. We will not be posting cards this year but will be giving an equivalent donation to Melanoma UK charity.



A MESSAGE TO ALL OUR VILLAGE FRIENDS

As last year, we've decided not to send Christmas Cards to our many friends in the village, but this year there's a special reason for making a donation to the Warwickshire/Northamptonshire Air Ambulance. So the purpose of this note is to thank all of you who supported us and our family in any way during the summer, to send you Best Wishes for Christmas, and to wish you a Happy and Healthy 2024!

Roger and Gill xx



The Community Choir of
Tysoe, Oxhill & Shenington

Please join us for the
CCOTS Christmas Fair
11am—1pm
December 2nd 2023
Shenington Village Hall

Songs and carols from CCOTS choir,
teas, mince pies and cakes, craft stall,
tombola and Katherine House Hospice
Christmas cards.

**Free entry. 50% of profits
will be donated to
Katherine House Hospice.**
Your support will be
Much appreciated

YEARS
50

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OXHILL NEWS

For our last month of the Oxhill News 50th Anniversary we are revisiting an article from George Adams, editor of the Oxhill News for 10 years from 2003 - 2013.

THE OXHILL NEWS

Alert readers will have noticed the addition to the front page. Issues of the News were numbered up to February 1984 but then the practice lapsed. I have been meaning to go through and check the archives ever since I took over production, and I finally got round to it last week.

Being a man, and therefore a bean counter and list generator, I also looked at those who came before me. Betty Smith started it all off, producing the first sixty-nine issues between June 1973 and January 1979. The combination of Julia Leeson and Ann Hale took over, producing fifty-three issues (February 1979 to August 1983) before they transmuted into Ann Hale and Julia Stirman. This was not, of course, an actual change of personnel but simply one of nomenclature. They soldiered on for another fifty-four issues before Julia resigned in August 1988, to be replaced by Gaynor Van Dijk.

Gaynor and Ann then worked on to June 1991, producing thirty-one issues before Ann finally decided she had had enough (and after twenty-two years who can blame her) and was replaced by Jane Moore.

Jane and Gaynor generated seventy-two issues before handing over to Russen Thomas and Debbie Harris in March 1998, who carried on until February 2003 when I took over. Russen and Debbie produced sixty issues during their reign, and this is my sixtieth.

All the early issues were produced using wet ink and a Gestetner duplicator apart from a short run printed in a garage on the Whatcote Road on a small printing press. Computer setting came in during the time Jane and Gaynor were running things, and Russen changed the format from A4 flat sheets to the folded booklet that is used today.

Spotting that Russen did exactly five years and asked if anyone else wanted a go, I feel that I should do the same. Is there anyone out there who would like to try their hand at producing the News? The job entails typing up, setting out, printing and distributing to our wonderful delivery staff. It also means, of course, that you are more or less required to be about in the last week of every month, or eat humble pie for the late appearance of the News. If you would like to take over please let me know. If no one wants to then I will just carry on regardless.

George Adams



Oxhill Village Hall

CURRY NIGHT!

It was a brilliant night with loads of spicy starters, homemade ice cream and, of course, a choice selection of stunningly tasty curry. And one or two (ahem) glasses of beer and bubbles. A huge thanks to everyone who put in so much effort to make it such a successful evening.

Talking of **Beer & Bubbles**, don't forget to put the event into your diaries. It's the perfect chance to dress up and let your hair down this Christmas. The venue is to be confirmed but it will be on **Friday 22nd December at 7.30pm** and tickets are £15, to include two drinks and canapés. Please let Ali know if you'd like to come. You can email her at alisayer@btinternet.com or message her on 07970 922352.

Photos by David Hawtin









IMPORTANT REMINDER

Jo needs to finalise numbers for the *Seniors Christmas Lunch* on **Monday 11th December**, so please reply as soon as possible to book your place and advise of any dietary requirements you have. You can email Jo at itsjocollings@gmail.com or message her on 07860 418811.



Still plenty of jobs to finish but very nearly done! Jo Collings

PC SPEEDGUN

I am sorry to have to report that PC Speedgun has been abducted and possibly murdered whilst on duty on Whatcote Rd one early evening. Whilst there are possible suspects, Its difficult to believe that anyone in this village would do such a foul thing.

If anyone in the village has information on his capturers we would be very happy to hear from them.

*Peter Rivers Fletcher
Oxhill Parish Council*





PIED ORIENTAL HORNBILL

During our recent wonderful holiday to Thailand we were treated to a visit one morning by this wonderful bird, sat proudly on our balcony rail. Apparently a very rare sighting, which caused much excitement amongst the staff in the breakfast restaurant, when Maria showed them the picture.

One staff member wanted a copy of the picture and another said that in all their 40 years on the island they had seen the bird just 3 times.

With apologies for the picture quality, hurriedly taken through the patio doors, before it flew off a few seconds later.

Maria & Malcolm Robertson

On November 19th David Attenborough's new BBC nature show Plant Earth III featured a story about the Hornbill. You can watch the show on BBC Iplayer if you wish to learn more about this unusual bird.

Christmas Fayre

Sunday 3 December 2023

12.30pm -5.30pm



The Home Guard Club
Tiddington, CV37 7YA

Festive Stalls | Fabulous Raffle Prizes
Santa's Grotto and Christmas Trail for Kids
Music | Tombola
Hot and Cold Refreshments and Bar
and so much more.....



Entry £1 Children FREE
FREE PARKING
Supporting Local Charities

Enquiries to Rachael Perks

07773 222378

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VANESSA EDITOR OF THE OXHILL NEWS

Most months I am in contact with Vanessa asking her to include something in the Oxhill News, invariably after that month's deadline. In spite of this, she always meets my requests with good humour and tries her hardest to accommodate my late copy. She produces a first-class publication full of interesting articles, most of which she has to drag from people like me who fail to get things to her on time. She also makes sure that she includes dates of future events relevant to villagers. We are so very fortunate to have such an informative village magazine. Without Vanessa's dedication and devotion to producing it, Oxhill residents wouldn't be so well-informed. Vanessa, you have my most grateful thanks for the excellent work you do, year in, year out.

Ruth Mercer

Thank you Ruth, for you kind words :) I am very grateful for your great contributions to our village events and our village magazine. Myrtle called you 'Saint Ruth of Oxhill'. A perfect title for all you do.

Vanessa, editor

DO YOU KNOW CALLIGRAPHY?

Does someone in the village know calligraphy? If so, you would be a great help to village church. Please contact Carol Fox 01295680223 ceafox782@gmail.com



NEW ROYAL MAIL COLLECTION TIME

The new time for collection of mail from the box in Main Street is 9 a.m. Monday to Friday. 4.00 am or later, collection is made from the postbox at Tysoe Post Office. The last collection time on Saturday is 7.00 am.



The Peacock around 1900, with landlady Mrs Haynes (most likely).

MEMORIES OF THE PEACOCK

by Grenville Moore, interviewed by Vanessa Druce

This picture [above] is from round about 1900, maybe a little earlier or later. I think, the lady at the door is Mrs. Haynes who was the landlady. The pub was a farm then. In the photo, the front door is not where the door is now, you would have entered next to the inglenook. There was a big bread oven to the left, you can see in the photo, a large protuberance on the outside wall, that's the bread oven. We know it was there until 1947 when they had a big fire and it was taken out and the front door was moved to the centre and the two old mullion windows removed and new ones replaced in a different position. When we moved in many of the old boys remembered sitting either side of the inglenook in two large settles.

Settles?

A settle is a big wooden bench with a high back. And they're often curved. So you'd put them by the fireplace and everybody would keep warm. Mrs. Hughes would have been there then.



The Peacock in approximately 1968

She had pigs and they would run in and out of the bar. A lot of people have asked if the pub was haunted.

Is it haunted?

The pub is haunted, but we think by baby piglets. They had swine fever and all the pigs are buried under the lawn at the back which, of course, was a farmyard. But a lot of people, including my gran, my father and Jane's mum, have been sitting quietly in the bar by the fire and they've seen something rush across the floor. And it's not a rat. My mother-in-law described it as a scuttle, a little animal scuttling across the floor. We think it's probably the little pigs. Sometimes you'd hear a little tick, tick, tick on the floorboards and you'd think, what was that?

I found this. [See chart on opposite page] These are all the landlords going back to 1841. Prior to 1870, 1880, it was just known as a beer house. It would have been a house/farm serving beer. They'd have had a licence and usually just one room, which was called the tap room where they had the taps on the beer kegs and they would serve beer. In those days you had a lot of farm workers on the land. A lot of the farmers would collect big enamel jugs of beer and cider, especially during harvest. I can remember when I moved here, going and helping the farmers harvest and the farmers' wives coming out with wicker baskets full of

sandwiches and cakes, big jugs of cider, orange squash, beer. We all used to sit on the trailer and the old boys would be there telling their stories. And that's in my lifetime.

I see the word Middleton. The Middleton family had it?

Middletons are still around. There are Middletons in Tysoe and Oxhill. Middleton was a very big family. When we came here in 1966, the Rose family, Bill and Margaret and their daughter Lillian ran the pub, do you remember Lillian in the village? Lillian Welsby?

Yes.

That's Lillian and her mum, Margaret, behind the bar [*photo below*]. You see Lillian with the bouffant hairstyle. Mr. Alfred Hughes, grandfather to Lillian and great grandfather to Kevin Welsby who is now farming in Tysoe, handed the tenancy over to his daughter Margaret Rose and her husband William in 1954. Alfred Hughes had been the tenant since 1942.

Alfred was a farmer as well as a publican and an auction took place at the pub, interestingly as well as the pub contents the animals sold were; five young cattle, sow and nine pigs, six strong store pigs and about 20 head of poultry. The valuation on the fixtures and fittings that William Rose (William had to purchase these) was £104. 16. 5p. Twelve years later when my parents took the tenancy over in 1966 the fixtures and fittings amounted to £580. 15. 8d.



24 *The Peacock mid-1960s with Lillian and her mother, Margaret Rose, behind the bar.*

Chart of Peacock Landlords courtesy of Carol Clark, our village historian.

Year	Property name (then)	Surname	Name(s)	Occupation	Source	Notes
1841		Middleton	Clark Middleton, wife Sarah, young children Sarah, Clark, Ann, Jane, Ursula	Publican	Census	
1850		Middleton	Clark	Beerhouse and Grazier	White's Directory	
1851		Middleton	Clark, Sarah, daughter Ursula	Retailer of beer	1851 Census	
1861		Middleton	Clark Middleton, wife Sarah, adult children Susannah & Clark	Beer Retailer	1861 Census	Clark Middleton died 1862
1871	Beer House	Middleton	Sarah	Beer House Keeper	1871 Census	Clark's widow
1874		Middleton	Sarah	Beerhouse	White's Directory	
1881	Public House	Middleton	Clark	Publican	1881 Census	Clark snr & Sarah's son
1888		Middleton	Mary	Beer Retailer	Kelly's Directory	Clark Jnr's widow
1891	Peacock Inn	Middleton	Mary Middleton), Joseph Gardner, son (from first marriage), farmer	Publican	1891 Census	
1892		Middleton	Mrs Mary	Farmer & Beer Retailer	Kelly's Directory	
1895	The Peacock	Middleton	Mary	Beer Retailer	Spennell's Directory	
1896		Middleton	Mary	Beer Retailer and Farmer	Kelly's Directory	Mary Middleton died 1897
1897	Peacock Inn	Gardner	Joseph (son, as in 1891 above)		Leamington Spa Courier 2 Oct 1897	"The licence of the Peacock Inn, Oxhill, was transferred from Joseph Gardner to Fortnum Herbert Haynes" Not known whether, or for how long, Joseph ran the pub. Probably only the 6 mths, between mother's death in March and the transfer in October.
1900	Peacock Inn	Haynes	Fortnam Herbert		Electorol Roll	
1900		Haynes	Fortnam Herbert	Beer retailer and grazier	White's Directory	
1901	Peacock Inn	Haynes	Fortnam H	Inn Keeper	1901 Census	
1906	The Peacock	Hedges	Alfred		Leamington Spa Courier 28 Sept 1906	"... the license of the "Peacock", Oxhill, permanently transferred from Fortnum Herbert Haynes to Alfred Hedges ..."
1908	Peacock Beerhouse	Gardner	Frank Fisher		Banbury Guardian 30 Jan 1908	"... the Peacock beehouse, Oxhill, was permanently transferred to Frank Fisher Gardner ..."
1911	The Peacock Inn	Gardner	F(Frank) Fisher)		1911 Census	
1912		Gardener	Frank Fisher	Beer Retailer	Kelly's Directory	
1925	The Peacock Inn approx	Bayliss	John		Leamington Spa Courier 14 Jan 1938	Report on death of John Bayliss, a retired police constable who became the licensee of the Peacock in about 1925, but then retired at an unknown date through ill health. He died at Evesham January 1938
1939	Peacock Inn	Brown	John J	Inn Keeper	1939 Register	
1942		Hughes	Alfred, Mary (Lilian's grandfather & aunt)		Lilian Welsby	
1953		Rose	Bill, Margaret (Lilian's parents)		Lilian Welsby	

There are a couple of other names that appear and disappear. Bayliss, we used to have a local policeman called Bayliss, but I don't think he was related. Gardner, another local family. We had Bill Gardner next door and Janet and their mother, Mrs. Hedgers. The Gardners were a local family, as were the Middletons. People didn't travel as much then, you know, so you have all these local people.

When we came in 1966 there was a little lobby in the entrance. You didn't go straight into the pub, you went right into the lounge or you went left into the bar. But the lounge was only used at weekends. It had a piano, an aspidistra, tables, rugs and sofas.

What's an aspidistra?

It's a big green plant associated with Victorian houses. That room was rarely used. It was like a sitting room. Of course, on weekends everybody dressed up. Everybody. All the men would wear suits and ties and the ladies would be in their smart frocks, drinking snowballs.

What's a snowball?

A snowball is babycham, a sort of fizzy mock champagne, and Advocaat. There were some strange drinks. Back then some of the men drank Vimto and beer, or a pint of mixed that's half a mild and half bitter.

When you stand in the bar, all the beams behind the bar had hooks in them. All the old boys had their own tankard. You had to know which tankard they had, they would never ask. They drank the same drink the whole time and when they walked through the front door, they expected their beer to be on the counter in their pewter mug. They'd have the little pile of coins and they'd put it on the counter. We used to laugh because when we first came, there were a handful of old boys, all from Tysoe, who'd fought at Ypres and had survived and they paid, I think, it was one and a penny a pint, which is about 6p for a pint of Best Bitter. And when the prices went up, which they didn't so often in those days, might go up a bit each year with the budget, they didn't expect to pay any more. So my father kept their prices all the same for the rest of their lives.

The present day dining room, was it connected to the pub?



Landlady Margaret Rose is standing beside a mounting block which riders used to get onto their horse. It was an old cider press. It had a hook in it and grooves down the side. These big stones were used to crush the apples. When the hunt would meet outside the pub, some of the riders would need a mounting stone to get onto their horses.

No. It wasn't connected like it is now. We turned it into a dining room and when the table was ready, the people had to come out of the main pub door and then back in to the door dining room door. If it was raining, we'd give them an umbrella. But from the back of the bar, it went into the kitchen and then there was a door, which was the old back door, which went into this room.

So the service staff didn't have to come out and around.

No, they didn't have to. My parents, during their stay, knocked a door through into the dining room, which is now there, and they knocked the wall down, separating the two bars. That was quite a structural job. They talked the brewery into doing it, because the pub was brewery-owned. It was a very quiet little village in 1966. And I worked with my parents for two years to get it established, and we started doing food.

Tell us about that. How old were you when they came here?

Nineteen. I was a young buck. Oh, I thought I was dead cool. A bit rock and roll. I had a Porsche, believe it or not, when I was 19. I'd worked for my uncle and he'd gone off to Australia.

What were you doing?

He had a haulage company and a big garage and we stored cars for what was then Roots Group, Humber, Hillman, Sunbeam, and I was in charge of all that. And he promised me a director's job by the time I was 21. He had all these companies, but what he didn't do was pay his taxes. So he had to skedaddle and he went to the farthest place he could get, which was Australia. And I sort of found myself out on my ear, really. The new people that took the business over didn't want a relative, especially with the same name. My uncle was Grenville Braithwaite, and I'm Grenville Moore.

My parents previously ran the Butcher's Arms in Priors Hardwick, which belonged to my uncle. My uncle played at being in the pub. He was 6'4", ex-cavalry officer, and he would be behind the bar with a glass in his top pocket. He always wore his cavalry twill jacket where he would suck his whisky out of his top pocket with a straw, because it used to amuse people. They said "Will you have a drink, Gren?" And he'd say "Yes, I'll just top the glass up", and he'd top it up and put it back in his pocket. He was quite a character.

But because he did a bunk to Australia, we had to get out of there. So we found a pub, or my parents did, and they said to me, "Will you help us run it for a couple of years?" I did a lot of the interior design, all the back of the bar I designed, and we got a local carpenter, and him and I built the back of the bar. When we had it, you could see all the barrels. There was a concrete plinth behind the bar, and all the barrels were there. Because in the hot weather, it was a bugger keeping them cool my father would throw wet towels over the beer barrels. And we had rough cider, which was delivered from... Well, I think it came from the brewery, but we couldn't have it on show. It had to be kept under the counter.

Why's that?

Because it was so lethal. You could strip paint with it. But again, the old farm workers were used to it. The police actually came to check where the cider was kept, and they said, "You're not to sell this to young people." Not meaning underage, because you could drink at 18, but young 20-year-olds.

So not to destroy their young liver.

Well, liver and their brain. They used to say it would addle your brain. It was fierce stuff. It tasted quite nice, to my recollection. But it was cloudy, it wasn't refined like modern-day cider. It used to come in little wooden barrels and we kept it under the counter. If somebody said "Have you got cider?" You'd say, "Who told you we do rough cider?" "Old Bob." "Yeah. OK, you can have one." But otherwise, it was no. We had bottle cider.

So we came here in 1966. We started doing food in the bars first, which was... I don't know if you'd remember, it was very popular, it's what every pub did - chicken in the basket. It was a wicker basket, and you put some greaseproof paper in, a quarter of deep-fried chicken and a pile of chips. You could have sausage, scampi or chicken in the basket. We sold tons of it, it was nothing to do 60, 80, 100 portions on a Saturday night. Very quick and easy to do. No washing up. And the price was kept down. Then gradually Health and Safety said, you can't use wicker baskets, because the grease gets in and you've got to have something you can wash out. And then you can't use the greaseproof paper, you have to have a special paper. It became a bit of a nightmare. People ate it with their fingers. Oh, no, you've got to serve cutlery with it. So my mother said, "Why don't we just do food, proper food?"

We specialised in steaks. I think it was Bausors in Kenilworth, they used to come here to eat and drink. And my father said, "We're going to start doing steaks." And they said, "Buy the steak from us and we'll hang it for you." So we would order the beef a whole sirloin and they would hang it for us until we were ready for it. Then I used to cut and portion all the steaks up. We also used to do ham and I would portion the ham until I nearly cut my thumb off. We turned what was their sort of big living room into a restaurant.

Your parents were using the room as a living room?

It was just the downstairs room, it was part of their accommodation. But we thought, we've got bedrooms and a TV room upstairs with a couple of big sofas, so we thought it's wasted space let's make a restaurant. I designed the restaurant and it just took off and became very successful.

Your parents made a success out of the pub?

Oh yes, very good. They made a very good living. My mother, she was a bit like a film star in many ways. She was quite big, platinum blonde. Loved her gold, she was decked in gold, lots of rings, she loved bracelets, the thin bangles. She always wore a long dress, even though



Bert and Eileen Norton.

Grenville's parents Bert and Eileen.

she was cooking in the kitchen. She was a tremendous cook, she would never appear behind the bar without full makeup on, her hair beautiful, and all her gold, even if she was in the kitchen. She was like a military leader. Although my father was ex-Royal Navy, and he was quite tough when he wanted to be, she ruled the roost. If there was any trouble, and in those days there were a few families who were a bit aggressive, they liked to have a row. And my father would say "Eileen, fight", and she'd come zooming out of the kitchen. There used to be a hatch on part of the bar and she'd lift it up and she'd storm through and say "You and you, right, cut it out. You're out of here if you do that again." And they'd go all meek like little boys and go, "Sorry Eileen." She was a tremendous peacekeeper.

She became rather like the agony aunt for the village. She was a wonderful person to talk to. People loved talking to her and she had a deep understanding of the world and people and their relationships. When new people came to the village and came into the pub, she would introduce them to other people in the pub she liked. Jane says I am my mother's son because if I see somebody go past, I go "Who's that? Jane, I don't know them. Who are they?" My mother was exactly the same. If we were in a restaurant or a cafe, she'd be listening to all the

conversations and she didn't think it odd to lean across and say "I heard what you said. Do you know ..." and she'd join in. She'd make friends and everybody liked her.

How long were you there?

Well, I came with them in '66 and I lived there. I worked with them for two years, then I found it got a little bit much working with my parents. They didn't pay me, but if I said, "I'm going away with a couple of friends", my mother would say, "How much do you want? Do you want a couple of hundred?" And she would just give me money. But I thought it's time for me to go off and earn my own living. However, I carried on living there, it was convenient. I started as a trainee rep, so I was away traveling all over the country. I used to drive a thousand miles a week. There wasn't the traffic, but still it was... I mean I'd be away from home for a week and stay in hotels because I'd be too far away. Then I'd come home and I'd have steak and eggs and mum would do all my washing. This was quite a good life!

They had bought the pub at that point?

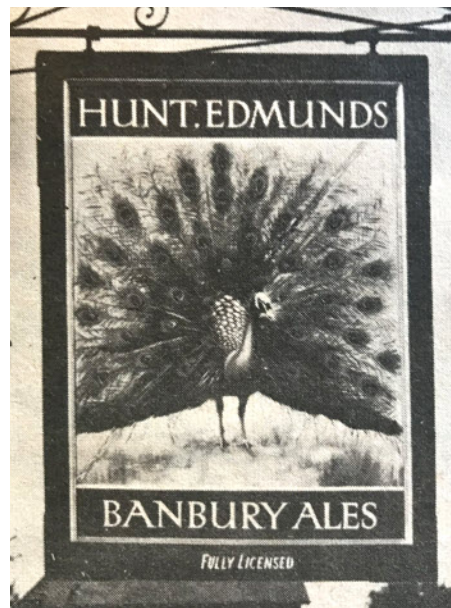
Yes, when they first came here it belonged to a brewery called Hunt Edmonds, which was a Banbury brewery and made very good beer. I still think one of the nicest beers I've ever drunk. They were based right in the town centre of Banbury, but they closed down and sold their businesses to M&B pub. Then the brewery M&B had a big reshuffle and I think that's when Bass Charrington took over control. They wanted to get rid of a lot of the country pubs that were too far, I mean, they used to come from Birmingham to deliver the beer. So they said let's get rid of quite a few country pubs and my parents had the opportunity to purchase the pub and our cottage from the brewery, M&B. It became a free house. They continued running it through until 1984 and then took a well earned retirement selling the pub to the McCrickards. We had bought the cottage off them several years earlier. The McCrickards were only there for a couple of years and since then we have watched the owners/landlords come and go and we are now on number 8. Good luck to Jack and his fabulous team.

So you have been in the village since 1966?

Yes, since 1966, take off a few years when Jane and I got married and lived in Wellesbourne, but basically I've lived here for that length.

You must have seen changes in the village?

A lot of changes. When we came to the pub back then, there were a lot of these lovely old boys who'd been in the First World War and a lot of Second World War veterans, but they were still quite young men. The



The Peacock sign in the 1950s.

stories of the trenches were just awful. The Old House in the village was let out to Stratford Theatre, so lot of actors used to come. At one point there was Richard Burton, Richard Harris, and who played Lawrence of Arabia? Peter O'Toole. Those three hell raisers were living in Oxhill.

Oh my.

And over here [*Gateways*] we had Ronnie and Murray. They were gay. Murray worked as an actor and a barman in the pub when he was 'resting'. Ronnie was the older man and, I always loved this, he travelled in ladies' underwear. Because reps were called travellers. Back then, if you travelled around selling the wares, whatever you represented, they were called travellers. So Ronnie was a traveller in ladies' underwear - corsetry and that sort of thing. They had lots of theatrical friends and musicians.

I can still see the bar on a Saturday night or a Sunday lunchtime - you'd have all these old boys in their flat caps with their pewter mugs from the First World War and you'd have long-haired gay people, somebody strumming a guitar, but everybody just getting on so well.



The Peacock in the 1950's. The sign on the stone frontage reads 'Banbury Ales' with the Hunt Edmunds sign as pictured left.



WOT2 GROW COMMUNITY ORCHARD

Did you know that the community orchard has a small nut grove? It includes hazel and walnuts – some of which were used in our cakes sold at Apple Day. The collecting of the nuts has to be just right though – too early and they are not ripe, but too late and it *is* too late as the squirrels will have beaten us to it!

Lots of apples and pears have been picked in the last month, although if you have walked through the orchard recently you may have noticed a lot of them are still on the trees. Part of the reason for this is there are too many to pick and not enough pickers. The insects have enjoyed the rotting fruit though!

If you would like to pick/receive lots of fresh organic fruit through the summer and autumn, please join us.

To find out more contact one of the following:
Liz Atkinson (680045), Paul Sayer (680451), Sue and Mike Sanderson (688080), or message us via the website: www.wot2grow.co.uk



Allison Aves



Autumn at the orchard.

SHIPSTON FLOWER CLUB

presents

A WREATH MAKING WORKSHOP

by
ELAINE STONER

on
Tuesday 5th December, 2023

7.00pm for 7.30pm

at

Shipston on Stour Primary School,
Station Road, CV36 4BT

Members £25

Non-members £30 + visitor entry

Price includes all materials

Visitor entry
£6
(includes
refreshments)

BOOKING
REQUIRED

To book please email Sue Watts at
susanwatts50@yahoo.co.uk

CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR

Friday 8th December 10.30am - 5pm

Brailes Village Hall



This is our first ever festive craft fair! We are delighted to be welcoming creative stall holders selling a wonderful range of gift ideas for Christmas. We will also be serving mulled wine, tea, coffee and cake throughout the day.



Proceeds to Shipston Home Nursing

**FREE HOME NURSING AND EMOTIONAL SUPPORT
FOR TERMINALLY ILL PEOPLE AND THEIR FAMILIES**

in Shipston, Wellesbourne, Kineton and surrounding villages

Registered Charity no 1162586

JOINING NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH IS AS EASY AS 1,2,3!

1

Visit ourwatch.org.uk/join

Join as a member

2



3

Login to join, or apply to start, a group

For over 40 years we have been creating better places to live.

Active groups reduce the **fear of and opportunities for crime and loneliness**, and connect neighbours who celebrate the good times and support each other through the tough times.

We remain the **largest voluntary crime prevention movement** in England and Wales. Our charity has stood the test of time and is here to stay.

77% Of members think that people who live in their area trust each other

67% Of members hardly ever or never feel isolated or lonely

54% Of members think that local people will challenge people's behaviour

Data from Crime and Community Survey 2022, +25,000 responses

Your local Neighbourhood Watch group contact details:

MEMBERSHIP OF OUR CHARITY IS FREE



SHIPSTON HOME NURSING

Strictly Come Caroling
Saturday 2nd December, 7.30pm
Holy Trinity Church
Stratford upon Avon

We're delighted to be hosting a charity carol concert at Holy Trinity Church in Stratford upon Avon, with all proceeds raised coming to Shipston Home Nursing and The Royal Orthopaedic Charity. Join us for a night of fun, joyful cheer and audience participation with musical director Julian Harris at the helm. We will be joined by actor Anton Lesser, soprano Mollie Smith and organist Adrian Moore as we welcome the festive season with well-loved carols and readings.

Shipston Home
Nursing Christmas
Craft Fair
Friday 8th
December (10.30am
- 5pm)
Brailes Village Hall

A new event for Shipston Home Nursing, our Christmas Craft Fair showcases the talents of local artisan businesses. We'll have a wide range of stalls selling wonderful gifts for Christmas, alongside mulled wine, tea, coffee, mince pies and cake throughout the day!

For further information, visit
www.shipstonhomenursing.co.uk

Strictly Come Caroling

VOTE FOR YOUR FAVOURITE CAROL TO BE SUNG

Charity carol concert in aid of Shipston Home Nursing and Royal Orthopaedic Charity.
Join us for a night of fun and joyful cheer with audience participation

SATURDAY 2ND DECEMBER
HOLY TRINITY CHURCH
STRATFORD UPON AVON
7.30PM

Soprano Mollie Smith
Conductor Julian Harris
Reader Anton Lesser
Organist Adrian Moore

ADULTS £20 | UNDER 16's £5 | CHOIR £10
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT
www.shipstonhomenursing.co.uk
If you are unable to book online please contact
fundraising@shipstonhomenursing.co.uk
who will be able to assist you.

Proudly supporting:

WHAT'S ON IN & AROUND OXHILL

DECEMBER

Saturday 2nd	10:00	Big Church Clean, St Lawrence Church
Saturday 2nd	11:00-13:00	CCOTS Christmas Fair, Shenington Village Hall
Saturday 2nd	19:30	Carolling, Holy Trinity Church, Stratford-upn-Avon
Sunday 3rd	12:30-17:30	Christmas Fayre, Home Guard Club, Tiddington
Tuesday 5th	19:00	Wreath Making Workshop, Shipston Flower Club
Friday 8th	10:30-17:00	Christmas Craft Fair, Brailes Village Hall
Monday 11th		Seniors Christmas Lunch
Wednesday 20th	18:30	Carols by Candlelight, St Lawrence Church
Friday 22nd	19:30	Beer & Bubbles
Every Thursday	11:45	Coffee Morning, Peacock Pub

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. Submissions must be received by the 15th of each month for publication in the following month.



DECEMBER 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

BIN COLLECTION CALENDAR

Check the date on the calendar to identify which bins go out for collection.

Food waste Recycling

General refuse Garden waste