

THE OXHILL NEWS

February 2023 No. 579



The Green Man painted by Grenville Moore. Read more on page 3.

Vanessa Druce, editor & Grenville Moore, consulting editor
Email: oxhill.news.editor@gmail.com Website: oxhillcommunity.co.uk

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ARTICLE	PAGE
The Green Man	3
Trip the Pantomime at the Belgrade	4
St Lawrence Church	6
St Lawrence Electoral Roll	8
18th Century Central England Temperatures	9
Church Fundraising Events: Pancake Supper	10
In the Wilds: Patchwork Leaf-Cutter Bee	11
Oxhill Village Hall	12
Wot2Grow Community Orchard	14
Oxhill Cooks: Triple Chocolate Terrine	16
50th Anniversary Oxhill News Entries	18
Samuel Hayes & a House with Lattice Windows	22
Townsend Hall	30
Tysoe Tennis Club	31
Babysitter Available	31

CLUB & GROUP CONTACT DETAILS

Carers4carers:	kcarers4carers@gmail.com or tel: 07947 893504
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	Paul & Heather Dowler Tysoe 688376
Carer Support Service	email: talkdementia@mail.com Website: talkdementia.uk Tysoe Village Hall every Friday from 10am

**If you would like to list your club or group in the Oxhill News
please send details to oxhill.news.editor@gmail.com**

THE GREEN MAN

by Grenville Moore

For our advent window at Christmas I displayed The Green Man and several people asked me why and what he symbolises. The obvious reason is that he represents nature and man returning to the earth but also the disgorging of vegetation in the rebirth of plants. He is the spirit of nature, he can also be the beast of midwinter, the spirit of solstice revels and has a strong connection with wassailing the apple trees. His image is to be found all over the world represented usually in sacred places but also on buildings and frequently in art. The earliest known example is the carving of the disgorging of vegetation on the tomb of St Abre, in St Hilaire-le-Grande, AD400, but he wasn't always known as The Green Man, there have been many names ; Foliate Head, Jack in the Green, The Wild Man, Robin Hood and Herne the Hunter. One of the first written references relates to civic pageants in Tudor and Stuart times, which were preceded by 'whifflers', whose role it was to drive back the crowds, and make space for the main procession to pass. These were costumed as what Elizabethans called Savage Men or Wild Men covered in shaggy hair or leaves..... I saw my Green Man clearing the way for that indulgent pageant called Christmas!

In 1939 in an article in Folk Lore, Lady Raglan invented a new use for the phrase, applying it to the type of ornamental church carving previously always called a foliate head... a face with leaves growing from it, or leafy twigs emerging from its mouth. She explained how a vicar had shown her one and had suggested that "it was intended as a symbol of the spirit of inspiration." She insisted that it was certainly intended to be a man and not a spirit, and moreover that it was a "Green Man." She continued, "so I named it, and the evidence that I have collected to support this title is the reason for this paper." Much of her article was pure speculation but one thing is certain Green Man is here to stay.





TRIP TO PANTOMIME AT THE BELGRADE

On Saturday 7th Jan, 80 Oxhill residents boarded a double-decker coach (oh yes we did!!) which took us to the last night of the pantomime at the Belgrade Theatre in Coventry. We met another 15 who had made their own way there. The panto was written and directed by Oxhill resident Iain Macpherson (also known as Iain Lauchlan), who starred in the show as the pantomime dame. He was joined this year by his daughter Morna, who put on a brilliant performance as Jack.



The performance of **Jack and the Beanstalk** was amazing - spectacular scenery, stupendous costumes, fantastic acting, singing & dancing, magical mayhem and a show stopping giant! The crowd were cheering, booing, clapping and shouting all the way through - I was nearly deafened by the five year olds sitting behind me! Iain was hilarious as Dame Trot from Prickly Bottom supported by Craig as Simon Trot. Daisy the cow deserves a mention as does Tony Philpott who got called up on stage to help and was covered in shaving foam (what a surprise!) We already have seats reserved for Cinderella next year - I'll keep you updated!

Ali Sayer

ST LAWRENCE CHURCH

As we come into February, we stop looking back at Christmas and begin to look ahead to Easter. The turning point is Candlemas, when an infant Jesus was presented in the Temple, and recognised as the Messiah, the Saviour. At that point we ‘turn from the cradle to the cross’.

Those of you who love to sing are invited to join us in Tysoe Church on Saturday, February 4th to mark Candlemas in song and worship. The RSCM are hosting the ‘Come and Sing’ Candlemas Eucharist, a chance to learn together and then sing some simple but beautiful choral music in an act of worship. The afternoon starts at 4.00 pm, and will finish around 7.00 pm. It will be led by Julian Harris, with Maddy Evans playing the organ for us. There is a fee of £7.50 to cover the hire of the music for the afternoon and refreshments.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper



Later in the month, **February 21st is Shrove Tuesday**, which will be marked as ever by the **Pancake Supper in The Old Chapel at 7.00pm**. Full details elsewhere in the News. The next day, Wednesday 22nd February is Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of Lent: there will be a service in Tysoe that evening.

Services and events during February, in St Lawrence Church Oxhill unless otherwise stated:

Sunday 5 th February	9.30 am	Holy Communion	George Heighton
Sunday, 12 th February	9.30 am	Morning Worship	George Heighton
Sunday, 19 th February	9.30 am	Holy Communion	George Heighton
Sunday, 26 th February	6.30 pm	Evening Worship	Heather Parbury
Tuesday, 21 st February	SHROVE TUESDAY		
	7.00 pm	Pancake Supper in The Old Chapel, Full details elsewhere in the News	
Wed, 22 nd February	ASH WEDNESDAY		
	7.30 pm	Holy Communion in Tysoe Church	

Deanery Lent Services:

This year, we are thinking about Prayer, and the services will be held on Tuesdays at 2.30 pm in the afternoon, which we hope will make them more accessible for everyone. The first one will be on Tuesday, February 28th: full details in due course.

Now is a season of prayer,
of waiting and relying,
of knowing the futures is in the Creator's hands.
Forces beyond our
control
nurture the seed, if we let them.
This is when we depend,
and are taught to depend.

From 'This is the Season', Kira Taylor, in Spring.

Jill Tucker, 01295 680663 revjill.tucker@btinternet.com



ST LAWRENCE ELECTORAL ROLL

St Lawrence's Church, with its various activities throughout the year, is central to Oxhill and the PCC feels fortunate that it is supported by so many villagers who, although not necessarily regular churchgoers, contribute in so many ways to its life: the cleaners, the brass polishers, the singers and bell ringers, the clock winder, those who maintain the churchyard (an amazing display of wild flowers later in the season), the flower arrangers (sit back in this peaceful space and enjoy the beautiful floral displays), the fundraisers (savour the mouth-watering wares of the Oxhill cooks and bakers), and so many more.

Village life in Oxhill has been enhanced by the relatively recent influx of new residents who we hope now feel part of our friendly community. Their various contributions to the community at large and their involvement in village activities is appreciated. I hope that some might consider being recorded for posterity on the St Lawrence electoral roll. This is updated in March / April of each year with a full revision taking place every six years - the next occasion being 2025.

The PCC would like to have a buoyant electoral roll, eligibility for inclusion thereon for Oxhill Parish residents is simply a matter of having been baptised and considering oneself to be CofE or that of a church in communion with it. If you haven't enrolled already, please do so and / or become a friend of Saint Lawrence's church by joining the Parish Giving Scheme. The necessary (short!) enrolment forms are at the back of the church.

The deadline for inclusion in the 2023 Electoral Roll is two weeks prior to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). All parishioners are invited to this normally brief meeting which is followed by a social gathering where friendships can be consolidated and new village contacts made.

There will be a notice in next month's Oxhill News concerning the actual dates.

Douglas Nethercleft
(Electoral Roll Officer)



*St Lawrence Church in December 2022.
Photo by Tricia Harbour*

18TH CENTURY CENTRAL ENGLAND TEMPERATURES

For the Oxhill News John Hales, an historian, has written indepth articles about historical village residents including Myrtila the slave, the Beauchamp and Meese families. Recently John sent us an interesting chart of the average temperatures in Central England in the first decade of the 1700s.



The chart is part of a very interesting document titled: **Central England Temperatures: 1659 to 1973**, by Gordon Manley

Photo of snow covered fields during of our recent cold

John Hale writes: *In a series starting in 1659, in the years 1685 1695 1709 1716 1740, 1763 1776 1784 1795 January mean temperature is negative . The year that Myrtila died with a mean January temperature of 2.8, was colder in January than some years both 1703 and 1704 were worse.*

Some of the years for negative temperatures in January are famous years for dearth and famine in European history such as 1709 or 1795.

Read the document here: www.rmets.org/sites/default/files/papers/qj74manley.pdf

Central England Average Temperatures by Month & Year

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
1701	2.8	2.5	2.8	4.7	10.9	14.2	18.3	16.1	14.7	7.5	6.4	3.6
1702	5.0	6.7	5.8	5.8	10.6	13.3	15.0	16.1	14.4	10.0	4.4	4.4
1703	2.2	3.9	5.6	8.3	11.9	13.9	16.1	16.1	10.6	7.8	7.2	5.1
1704	2.0	3.3	5.3	8.3	11.5	14.4	16.7	16.9	11.9	8.3	6.4	3.6
1705	2.8	3.9	4.4	7.8	11.2	12.2	15.6	17.5	11.9	8.9	3.9	4.4
1706	2.8	4.2	6.4	8.9	12.2	15.6	16.1	16.7	12.5	11.2	6.1	4.7
1707	3.5	3.0	5.0	8.5	11.0	16.0	17.0	16.0	14.0	8.5	6.5	3.5
1708	6.0	4.0	6.5	9.5	10.5	14.0	15.0	17.0	15.0	8.5	7.0	3.0
1709	-1.5	2.0	3.0	9.0	12.0	14.5	15.5	15.5	13.5	10.0	7.5	3.5
1710	2.5	3.5	6.0	6.5	11.5	14.5	15.0	15.5	13.5	9.5	8.0	7.5

CHURCH FUNDRAISING EVENTS

PANCAKE SUPPER ON TUESDAY 21ST FEBRUARY

Having missed the last two years due to Covid, this very popular annual village event is back on Shrove Tuesday, February 21st in the Old Chapel, starting at 7 p.m. Please join us for plenty of pancakes with savoury and sweet fillings, plus a donations bar. Tickets are £12 for adults, £6 for children, with the option of a family ticket including two adults and up to three school age children. Proceeds from the event will go to the upkeep of St. Lawrence's Church and their Lent charity.

Tickets are limited so please book yours as soon as possible by contacting me (details below). I should also welcome offers of help especially with making plain pancakes! Please call me if you can help in any way.

Ruth Mercer
07400 615999
ruthc.mercer@btinternet.com

Future dates for your diary

Autumn Quiz:
Saturday 14th
October

Made in Oxhill:
Friday 24th (evening)
and Saturday 25th
November (daytime)

PANCAKE
FEBRUARY 21ST
SHROVE TUESDAY
7PM
THE OLD CHAPEL
SUPPER

SWEET AND SAVOURY PANCAKES

£12 ADULT
£6 CHILD
£30 FAMILY
(2 ADULTS + OWN CHILDREN)

DONATIONS BAR

IN AID OF CHURCH OF ST. LAWRENCE AND LENT CHARITY

In the Wilds

*Photos by Steve MacRae
Wordsmith Karen MacRae*

On the patio, enjoying a cold drink in the summer of 2020, my eye was drawn to a speck of greenery floating with a strangely purposeful trajectory towards the arm of an unoccupied chair. Closer inspection revealed a bee carrying a finely tailored rose leaf towards a drainage hole. No amount of shoving allowed the leaf to fit inside so it was unceremoniously dropped and off the bee flew. A

small pile of discarded leaf cuttings on the ground below meant it would probably be back soon so I did my usual and ran for my camera. A rather uncomfortable hour or so lying on my back on the slabs resulted in a handful of decent photos, two of which are shown here.

A bit of research led me to the conclusion that the bee had been a female **Patchwork Leaf-Cutter Bee**, one of over 200 solitary species of bee in the UK. Nesting females load a suitable cavity with leaf cuttings, chew them to a pulp then use their saliva to glue together a cell big enough to hold one of their 20 or so eggs plus pollen for the larva to survive on. This new generation emerges from the nest in the spring.

If you'd like to help out an industrious wee bee, and maybe see it at work yourself, you could install a bug hotel in a sunny corner of your garden. That or make sure your patio furniture's drainage holes are empty!





OXHILL VILLAGE HALL

As I'm sure you've all noticed, lots of things are happening at the Village Hall! It's been a while, what with bad weather and winter bugs on top of Christmas and New Year holidays, but the hall has been emptied and contents stored (with thanks to Phil Brennan), the structural insulated panels and steel beams have been delivered, and we're installing the new French windows and getting on with demolishing the internal sections that need to make way for the extension. We've even been looking at kitchens! All in all, we're steaming full ahead.

Something that would help enormously is to know how much our final budget will be. If you're anything like one or two of the committee members(!), you've been meaning to make a contribution to the renovation fund for ages but keep forgetting. Can we please urge you to do that as soon as possible, or let Jo Collings know what you will be donating, so we can make the most of every penny in the pot?

As always, donations of any size are very welcome. It's a minimum donation of £50 to 'Buy a Brick' and have your name recorded in the new hall, but feel free to donate as much or as little as you like and not go public. Jo can be reached on 01295 680215 or send her an email at itsjocollings@gmail.com.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Until the grand reopening, events will continue in The Old Chapel. The first of 2023 will be around St George's Day so please keep your eyes peeled for patriotic posters and Facebook posts.





WOT2GROW COMMUNITY ORCHARD

Wassail is part of the Anglo-Saxon's new year celebrations. In its original form 'waes hael' means good health and was performed at old New Year (under the Julian calendar). This year's event was well attended by about 50 visitors of all ages. It was lovely to meet new people and great to hear that it helped one lady tick off 'attending a wassail' as part of her bucket list!

The event only runs due to the members and volunteers who do such a great job, special thanks this year go to Mark the new wassail master and to the new team of 'fire marshals' Rob, Ben and Ian for their perfectly formed and timed fire.

Tysoe's wassail is distinctive. We hold it on the nearest Saturday night to the old New Year (17th January) just as the nights are drawing out again!

Firstly, it's a night for kids to get out on a winter's evening, make noise with whistles and banging metal pans and throw apple juice on the trees. We have a bonfire, a torchlight procession led by a wassail master in a specially made wassail smock, followed by a singsong. It is loosely based on what the National Trust does at the Fleece at Bretforton. This is modern wassailing. It involves celebrating the apple trees by placing toast soaked in apple juice in a chosen tree and throwing more juice on the tree roots.



This is all to encourage strong fruit production in the coming year. We have a wassail bowl, which was traditionally passed around the gathering, instead it is carried ceremonially at the front of the procession, where cider is poured on to the roots of the tree.

Secondly, it's an opportunity for our local Scout Group to get involved in the community, raise some funds by providing hot food, drink, and shelters. This year the pancakes were amazing, there were no leftovers! Thank you to 1st Kineton Scouts, their leaders and parents for making it happen.

Donations from the evening will go towards building a new shelter that will provide shade for the workers, and more water butts closer to the blue berries for easier watering. The

orchard relies on its members to keep it looking great and producing fresh, locally grown fruits. Anyone interested in joining the next generation of committee to oversee the running of the orchard or joining as a member is welcome to attend the AGM on Wednesday 25th January at Tysoe village hall 7.30-9. Alternatively contact us via our website wot2grow.co.uk.



Photos by Roland Cherry

WILL OXHILL CELEBRATE THE CORONATION OF KING CHARLES?

Watch this space and keep Sunday 7th May free!



by Ruth Mercer

I had no idea what recipe to put in the Oxhill News this month until I posed the question to the drinkers at the coffee van last Thursday. Vanessa reminded me that it was Valentines Day this month and suggested something chocolate-themed for the occasion. As soon as she mentioned chocolate, I knew the exact recipe I would share. It is a recipe from a Tesco magazine from 1997 that I have made many times and with different fruit accompaniments. The mulled wine compôte is lovely in the winter but, when in season, fresh strawberries, cherries or raspberries complement the chocolate



brilliantly. My daughters favour decorating it with chocolate-dipped strawberries and those are the only photos I can find. I admit to being somewhat reluctant to share this recipe as it is so quick and simple to make but impressive to serve and delicious to eat!

TRIPLE CHOCOLATE TERRINE WITH MULLED WINE COMPOTE

Ingredients

For the terrine:

- 375 ml double cream
- 125g white chocolate
- 125g milk chocolate (I use Cadbury's Dairy Milk)
- 125g dark chocolate, preferably 70% cocoa solids

For the compôte:

- 300ml red wine
- 1 cinnamon stick, crumbled

- 1 whole nutmeg
- 8 whole cloves
- 50g granulated sugar
- 2 large pears, peeled, cored and quartered
- 2 large fresh figs, each cut into 8 pieces, or 4 dried figs quartered (or replace the figs with 2 extra pears)
- 2 tsp arrowroot
- 1 tbsp brandy

Serves 8

1. Line a 1lb loaf tin as neatly as you can with baking parchment or cling film.
2. Melt the white chocolate and leave it to cool so it is still runny. (I melt chocolate in a Pyrex bowl in the microwave, checking at least every 30 seconds. It usually takes between 60 and 90 seconds).
3. Lightly whip 1/3 of the cream until it just shows the trail of the whisk – it should still be quite runny as it will firm up when mixed with the chocolate. Fold the cream into the white chocolate until evenly mixed. Transfer to the prepared tin and level with a spatula. Chill until firm enough to take the next layer. (I find that it is hard enough once I've made the next layer, as long as I layer it up gently!)
4. Melt the milk chocolate, cool and fold in another 1/3 of the cream, whipped as before. Spread on top of the white chocolate layer. Chill while you make the final layer...
5. Finally, melt the dark chocolate, lightly whip the cream and fold into the chocolate. Place on top of the other two layers, cover and place in the fridge overnight, or a couple of hours is generally long enough to set.
6. For the compôte, place the wine, 150ml of water, the spices and sugar in a saucepan and heat to a simmer. Cut each pear quarter in half lengthways and add to the pan with the dried figs, if using. Cover and simmer until the pears are tender, around 20 minutes. (Fresh figs are added at the end.)
7. Strain the fruit and return the wine syrup to the saucepan. Mix the arrowroot with 2 tbsp of cold water and stir into syrup. Heat gently until thickened while stirring continuously. Stir in the brandy and return the fruit and spices to the mixture. Leave to cool, removing the nutmeg before serving. If using fresh figs, add to the compôte once cool.
8. To serve, cut the terrine into thin slices and serve with a little of the fruit compôte.

To speed up the making and reduce washing up, I tend to whisk all of the cream to start with, then remove one third at a time to add to each of the chocolates. I also use the same bowl to melt each of the chocolates.



50 YEARS

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OXHILL NEWS

The Oxhill News began in June 1973, and this year we would like to celebrate the milestone by re-publishing some fun and interesting articles from the past 50 years. In the next few pages you will read about the discovery of a WW1 artefact in a villager's shed, a lost parrot and tortoise and a sympathetic poem about getting older.

~ ed.

June 1978 Oxhill News

RELIC OF WORLD WAR I.

As you will all know, George and Gwynn Adams moved last year into what had formerly been The Stores. Recently, George found time to investigate one of the sheds at the rear of the premises, and one that had previous been so full of 'rommel' that it had been impossible to have a thorough look at it until some at least of the aforementioned 'rommel' had been cleared out.

It was then that George found that what appeared to be a shelf affixed to the wall, was in fact the wing of an aircraft, and a fairly early model at that. The R.A.F. Museum, at Hendon, were contacted, and a representative of their restoration unit, duly arrived to inspect this wing. He took many photographs, and returned again on another day to make drawings. It was then discovered that the garage doors which Gwynn had frequently said were 'disgraceful' and had insisted should be replaced, were not merely garage doors, but were constructed from part of the fabric of the aircraft.

The man from Hendon went away, did some homework, and then telephoned the Adams, getting quite excited. Apparently this aircraft was a

fairly early model of a De Havilland, used in the 1914-18 War, and of which there appears to be very little known, and very few drawings extant. Unfortunately, the fabric which had been used for the garage doors was not much use by now, but the wing the R.A.F. Museum is delighted to have. George and Gwynn have given it to them.

The question now is this? How did the wing of an aircraft.... and remember air warfare was only in its infancy, as those of you who have avidly followed the B.B.C. programme 'Wings' will know.... how did it get to Oxhill? Does anyone remember, from way way back, any tale of perhaps an incident during World War I involving an aircraft? Did someone in the village actually pilot a plane? Even, was the Vicar really Biggles in disguise?

Oxhill News July 1976

LOST

Mrs. Grasby telephoned me the other morning to say that there was a white budgerigar in the garden outside her window, and would I make enquiries to see whether anyone had lost it. I did. They had. It belongs to Lorraine Beasley, and a telephone call sent Mrs. Beasley hot foot with cage and catching net. But to no avail. The bird had flown! Therefore, anyone who may perchance happen to see it, will you please telephone the Beasleys (Tysoe 383) who are most anxious to have it back.

PINK ELEPHANTS. ?

Why is it my honour I find I must shield?

Why should my husband doubt my sobriety?

I DID see a green parrot in yonder field,

But pray, how do I proclaim my propriety?

Wendy Blunt.

A BIRD OF ANOTHER FEATHER!

'Tweet' the lost white budgie is now safely home again, thanks to the careful nursing of Mrs.D.Walton of Tysoe. Grateful thanks to the kind people of Oxhill who tried to catch him, and who reported seeing him!

C.Beasley.

Editor's Note. Sometime ago, Vivian Bird of the Sunday Mercury wrote an article about Oxhill, in which he said that it was the home of the 'albino sparrow'. I have never actually seen the albino sparrow, and should probably not recognise it if I did. But what with this, and white budgies, and green parrots, do you think we could declare ourselves a bird sanctuary and get a Government Grant, or something from the Arts Council??

LOST. Good looking tortoise named 'Flash'. If found, please confine in a strong box and telephone Tysoe 383. A suitable reward will be given!

I'M FINE THANKS!

There is nothing the matter with me,
I'm as healthy as can be
I have arthritis in both my knees,
And when I talk - I talk with a wheeze,
My pulse is weak, my blood is thin,
But I'm awfully good for the shape I'm in.

Arch supports I have for my feet
Or I wouldn't be able to be on the street,
Sleep is denied me every night,
But every morning I find I'm alright,
My memory is failing, my heads in a spin,
But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.

The moral is this, as this tale I unfold,
That for you and me who are growing old,
It's better to say 'I'm fine' with a grin,
Than to let folks know the shape we are in.

How do I know that my youth is all spent?
My 'Get up and go' has got up and went,
But I don't really mind when I think, with a grin,
Of all the good places my 'Get up' has been.
Old Age is golden I have heard it said,
But sometimes I wonder as I get into bed,
With my ears in a drawer, my teeth in a cup,
My eyes on the table for when I wake up
As sleep comes to me, I say to myself
Is there anything else I should lay on the shelf?

When I was young, my slippers were red,
I could kick my heels right over my head,
When I grew older, my slippers were blue,
But still I could dance the whole night through.
Now I'm old, my slippers are black,
I walk to the store and puff my way back,
I get up each morning, and dust off my wits,
Pick up the paper, and read the 'Obits'
If my name is still missing,
I'm in the land of the living,
Not too bad for the shape I'm in,
And so starts another round with a grin!

SAMUEL HAYES & A HOUSE WITH LATTICE WINDOWS

by John Hales

My grandmother writing 20th August 1933. 'I always wish we could have found that place grandfather Hales lived and was born in. A house with lattice windows.' In 14th February 1937 she writes to her sons that 'Josiah and Samuel your grandfather and great uncle lived in a house with lattice windows.' Can it be found?



Samuel Hales, my great grandfather, was born 5th August 1815, two months after Waterloo and baptised as Samuel Eals in Combroom, Warwickshire. He left it in the 1830s or early 1840s, and emigrated in 1853. On his memorial stone in Lawrence, New Zealand it states not his achievements or how long he had been in Otago but that he was a native of Warwickshire. His widow and children visited Warwickshire in 1887 and saw his surviving sister Dinah in Leamington. In later years there was continual talk of Samuel Hales' origins.

Combroom was a small village, 'the estate village to Compton Verney, providing living accommodation for a number of the servants, of the Lords Willoughby de Broke,' according to Wikipedia. Combroom stands 'on the road to nowhere' for John Burman, historian. One hundred and sixty years before Samuel Hales' birth, Dugdale writes of Combroom 'there is very little that I find memorable in relation thereto'. It was a poor neglected village in thrall to the Lords Willoughby de Broke, whose family had been seeking to increase their wealth and power in the area for centuries, from the adjacent Compton Verney. They became Lords of the Manor of Little Kinton, Combroke/Combroom in 1825.



Samuel Hales (top). His memorial in Lawrence, the cemetery on the top of a hill with a view to other hills (below, photo by John Hales, March 2020.)

Whilst the population of England went up about 4 and a half times in the century. Combroom's population was at 247 in 1851 much as it had been in 1801 at 239. Its inhabitants did not though have small families. Samuel Hales was the seventh child to be born to his father, Josiah. There would be two more children born after him. The next child died and the last emigrated to Australia like Samuel Hales. His elder brother Josiah moved to Coventry and then Hemel Hempstead in the 1830s. His half-brother John Hales married Theodosia Hadland from Oxhill but settled in

Eatington. Many families were also large and many also left. Decade by decade Combrook baptisms exceeded deaths by at least 35 and up to 57.

Enclosure of the common land by the landlords was a factor in this emigration. A New Zealand Museum certainly thinks so. There one will find a cartoon 'The agricultural question settled.' (pictured right)

We can have a good idea of where Samuel Hales was brought up from comparing the census with maps, and conveyances at the Shakespeare birthplace trust. His father's address is given in the 1841 census, as Butcher's Row, Combrook where his neighbours were William Hallebone and William Winston. Spelling was fairly erratic then and Josiah's surname is on this occasion Heals. The enumerator lists the families Heals [Hales], Hallebone, Winter, Hurlestone, Hewitt, Oldham, and Bolter as living in Butcher's Row. Next is listed Church Street with the Castle family.



'I am very sorry my good man I can do nothing for you.', from a display in Christchurch Museum New Zealand.

Butcher's Row is a term used across the country and time. There was a Butcher's Row in the Strand in Tudor times a set of stalls ranged along the road [Miranda Kaufman Black Tudors p 221]. So, one might imagine Josiah Hales sold his meat here. It may be the enumerator's fancy to give this part of the street in Combrook the name. John Hewitt opposite, was a butcher too. Documents at the Shakespeare birthplace trust show Josiah Hales had a shop almost next door to his home.

First is a copy of court roll recording the surrender of land by Joseph Page of Birmingham and Sarah his wife and the admission thereto of Josiah Hales of Hemel Hempstead, co. Herts., pipe and pump manufacturer dated 30 October 1848. DR 98/1944/6-7 Josiah Hales, the son of Josiah Hales sells on to Lord Willoughby de Broke at the end of the year for £250, a £50 gross profit less transaction costs.

The deeds show that in 1758 Joseph Olorenshaw took an old barn and converted it into 2 messuages/ cottages with gardens. In 1820 he dies and his daughter Mary, now Mary Page, takes it. At this point Jane Moselely and Ann Hunt are said to be in occupation. In 1829 Jane Mosely's rent was £2/12/6 and paid for by Willoughby de Broke [see accounts 1829 Lord Willoughby de Broke]. She was the widow of Richard Moseley and mother of a son baptised 1785, with the same name. The rent she paid indicates what Josiah Hales might have paid when he moved in. She was buried in Combrook in June 1831 aged 75, 21st

March 1841. Joseph Page, grandson of Joseph Olorenshaw mortgages the property with in occupation Josiah Hales, William Alliband and William Winter.

Housing was cheap, a cottage cost two years of a labourer's wages [Laslett 92 The world we have lost further explored]. Conversions, as here, no doubt cheaper. There might have been a further conversion to make three residences from two. Laslett says the permission of the magistrate's court was needed to divide a cottage between families, or to convert a barn into a dwelling. Perhaps that happened but the deeds in 1848 only refer to two houses. Perhaps then Allebone and Winter squashed together in one of the houses.

The neighbour Hallebone was on poor law relief at times. Leamington Spa Courier 3rd November 1832, has a story about objections to voters. A voter could not be in receipt of the poor law, so a Mr William Alliband of Linen Street was anxious to prove it was not him who received it. Mr Charles Kendrick gave evidence that the William Alliband who received relief from the parish resides at Combrook and not Warwick.

Alliband was an agricultural labourer and possibly subject to seasonal unemployment. The other neighbour William Winter or Winton was also an agricultural labourer [census 1841]. By 1851 Allibone has gone but Winter remains one away and next to him Hurlestone as in the 1841 census.

An 1850 map of Combrook shows the village with numbers against properties and a terrier,, a schedule, the names of tenants and their rent against the numbers. Josiah Hales is at 10 and Winter at 12, Hurleston at 13. [Shakespeare BT DR98/1835]

There is not just the sequence remaining substantially as before. The 1863 schedule identifies the late owner of 10 as Page, so Josiah's home from some time before the 1841 census. For 11 and 12 and 15a the late owners are shown as Page and Mcpherson. As Page had owned the property comprising 10, 11, and 12 for a long time and Josiah Hales junior only a few weeks, it makes sense that Page and not Hales should be referred to.

Mcpherson refers to Jane Mcpherson the widow of Robert Mcpherson, who was admitted in 1826 as copyholder and sold to Lord Willoughby de Broke in 1826, numerous properties, including it must be 15a.

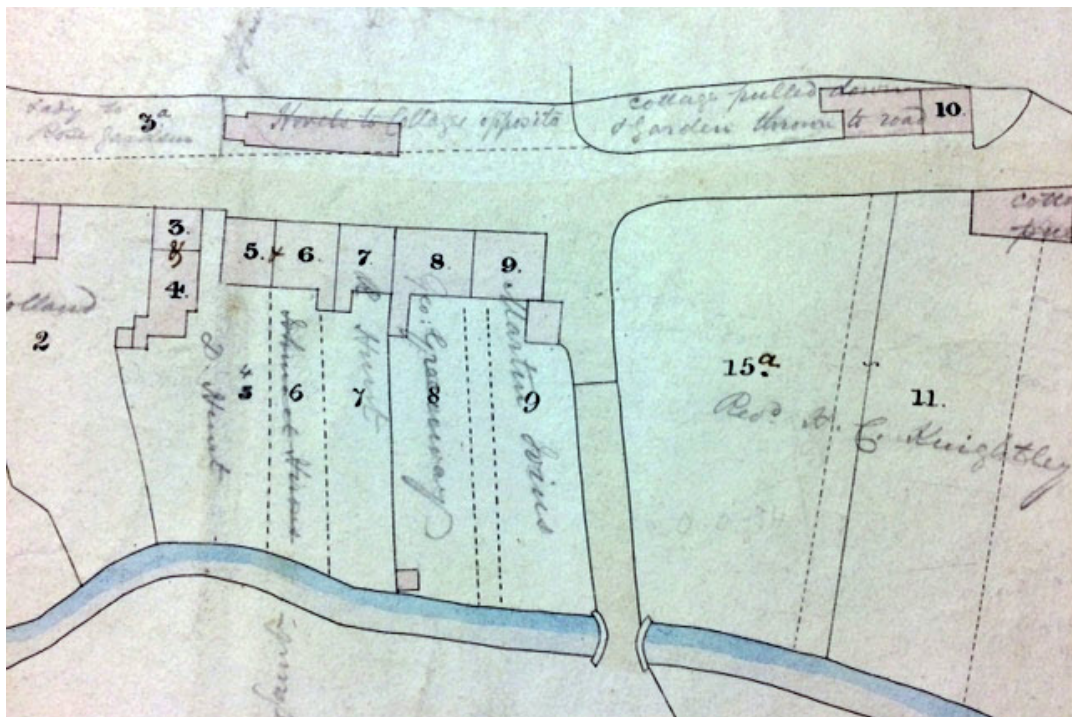
Lord Willoughby de Broke allowed Josiah to stay on. As he was about 80, this would be a humanitarian gesture but vacant possession could be anticipated in the short run. The rent was only 10/- a year. He died in December 1851 so it is almost certainly after that date that the cottage is pulled down and after that, that the pencil note is made. If they were pulled down one can imagine the cottages were not considered of great value.

At 5 is Samuel Hales, presumed to be Josiah's brother. His surname varies over time just as Josiah's. They both marry Kinglerlee girls, at more or less the same time. I suppose this

A Terrier to the Map of Combroke Village, 1850.

No	Name of Tenant.	Annual Rent			No	Name of Tenant.	Annual Rent		
		£	s.	d.			£	s.	d.
1	Joseph Enoch	.	.	.	25	Joseph Brandis	2	12	0
2	John King	3	0	0	26	Richard Garrett	2	12	0
3	Henry Webb	1	6	0	27	Thomas Tanner	3	0	0
4	Daniel Hunt	3	0	0	28	Charles Oldhams	3	0	0
5	Samuel Hales	.	.	.	29	Ishmael Hiron	2	12	0
6	Thomas Stinton	2	12	0	30	David Brown	6	0	0
7	Thomas King	3	0	0	31	Joseph Castle	8	0	0
8	Daniel Garrett	2	12	0	32	William Padbury	2	12	0
9	David Rouse	2	12	0	33	John Grimes			
10	Josiah Hales	0	10	0	34	John Powell	2	12	0
11	William Hunt	2	12	0	35	William Lamb	2	12	0
12	William Winters	2	12	0	36	Richard Greenway	2	12	0
13	Edward Hurlestone	5	10	0	37	John Padbury	1	6	0
14	George Ainge	5	0	0	38	Thomas Lamb	1	10	0
15	William	2	12	0	39	Obediah Sydiatt	2	12	0
16	Richard Hunt	1	6	0	40	Roger Pierce	2	12	0
17	John Birch	5	4	0	41	Richard Powell	2	12	0
18	Edward Olorenshaw	5	0	0	42	George Lamb	2	12	0
19	William Gibbs				43	Joseph	6	0	0
20	Richard Tanner				44	John Bywater	2	12	0
21	Thomas Green				45	Thomas Fandy	2	12	0
22	John Keyle	1	6	0	46	John allcock	5	0	0
23	William Hunt	2	12	0	47	Revd H. C. Knightley			
24	Edward Freeman	5	0	0					

Samuel is the source for my great grandfather's name, which continues in the family to this day.



This detail from the 1850 map shows 3a-10. Numbers 2-9 are opposite 10.

John Hewitt's mother Elizabeth was a witness to Josiah Hales' 1807 wedding, so that there was possibly some connection such that Josiah apprenticed John Hewitt. Whatever happened, John Hewitt did not carry on as butcher in Combrook, but sold up in December 1848. In 1851 Josiah is described as a former butcher - he was 80. There is no butcher left and none was recorded in 1861. This suggests there were no prospects as a butcher once the hovel and shop were surrendered or that the business was not very profitable. The name Butcher's Row would no longer make sense

We can say Josiah had a hovel and shop, for in DR 98/1944/6-7 Shakespeare Trust, though not listed in the catalogue, is a document surrendering possession of a hovel and shop. The location of the hovel and shop is almost certainly the so-called rose garden on Lord Willoughby de Broke's list. Opposite 2 and 3 is 3a 'lady to rose garden' whose late owner is recorded as Hales, in 1863 document. Next is 'hovels to cottages opposite and the cottage pulled down and garden laid to road, late owner Page.' The number 10 is to the right just off the photo. I know of no other Hales property in the village.

1848 October 2nd - Received from the Right Honorable Lord Willoughby de Broome the sum of Twenty pounds, it being an Allowance made me for outlay upon a Hovel, and shop, originally built upon the Waste at Combroome - which said tenement I have this day given up entire possession of to His Lordship's Agent.

8
Signed Josiah Hales Junr for
Josiah Hales Senr

There is a peculiarity in Josiah Hales setting up a hovel and on the waste. The waste would have been enclosed in 1773 following the 1772 Enclosure Act. Josiah was only living at property 10 sometime after the demise of Moseley in 1831 and before 1841. 3a is convenient if living at 10, less so if not. So perhaps the hovel was put up on unused land next to 10 after Josiah moved in. There is no grant of copyhold. It seems to be adjacent to hovels belonging to cottages opposite.

Laslett 'The world we have lost further explored' writes 'a persistent if probably baseless tradition of the village community was that if a poor man could build himself a cottage on the 'waste', the common grazing land of a manor overnight, he could occupy it undisturbed.' Josiah may have acted on this belief. In the handwritten document a tenement is surrendered. Whatever the title it does not seem to have required a formal award of the Manorial court.

There is an archaic meaning to hovel 'an open shed or outhouse, used for sheltering cattle or storing grain or tools'. Oxford languages 2022-12-09 Josiah's hovel could then be a shed for sheltering cattle which are then slaughtered and the meat sold in his shop.

LATTICE WINDOWS

Glass was too expensive in the Middle Ages for ordinary houses, but by the 17th century started being used for them. The lattice window was the most common window until the beginning of the 20th century. Cast iron lattice windows were used widely for estate cottages in the mid 19th-century.

Joseph Ashby in his late 19th century eulogy of Combrook writes 'Many of the cottages were built, I have been informed, during the lifetime of the late Lord Willoughby. They are commodious substantial and exceptionally well designed. Nowhere, they built without regard to picturesque effect. As one wanders through the only street of the village on the

path by which it is entered from Butlers Marston to that by which one proceeds to Compton Verney, one cannot fail to be struck by the harmony of the whole scene.' So, Josiah's old home, pulled down, made way for new cottages.

The lake of Compton Verney, as seen from Combroom. The picturesque is there for the village's inhabitants. Would it matter to them then that the lake was the Lord of the Manor's?

'Our Warwickshire' shows a number of cottages in Combroom. One suspects they are all more recent than the circa 1800 cottage Josiah Hales lived in. They show windows made up of small lattice panes. One photograph shows a group of women and children, standing in front of cottages in Combroom. 1910. They are from the Tarver family. Richard and Hannah Tarver were in Combroom in 1850. They died of typhus in 1873. The cottages look in good condition and were probably ones put up by a Lord Willoughby de Broke, after the new church in 1866.



A group of women and children, standing in front of cottages in Combroom. 1910s. Notice the cast iron lattice windows.

IMAGE LOCATION: (Warwickshire County Record Office)

My grandfather left an account of his travels in 1887-8. He saw descendants of his father's brother in Hemel Hempstead, Watford and Chichester. His son also Samuel recorded his father saw his aunt Dinah, born 1812-13 in Leamington. Combrook is not mentioned.

There is a little more. Amongst his early papers is this note and a feather and a piece of lavender. The feather was pulled by me out of one of the white peacocks at Warwick castle on Wednesday 15th August and the lavender comes from Aunt Dinah's at Wellesbourne Warwickshire. The 15th August was a Wednesday in 1888.

In later years, my grandfather's sister Rinah wrote a memoir of the family in NZ based on the lives of Diana, John and Rhona standing for Emily Maud, who died in 1883, my grandfather and Rinah. Rhona is obviously her name lightly disguised. The use of Diana – the name that Aunt Dinah is often known as in official documents suggests strongly that Rinah is using her aunt Dinah's name in her story. One might think that Rinah was on the trip to Wellesbourne for the name to stick.

Dinah had married William Rogers. In the 1881 census her address is Dame School, Wellesbourne Mountford, Stratford on Avon, Warwickshire, England. In 1891 the census shows her in Wellesbourne 1891 111, Church Walk, She was 78, a schoolmistress, born in Combrook Warwickshire. Family accounts say she had her own school. Going by the 1881 census one might think it was a dame school something between an infant's school and a creche.

The visit to Dinah gives an opportunity to discuss the past and it is hard to believe that Combrook would not then be mentioned. If it was mentioned then surely a visit to it must have been considered. Wellesbourne is just over 3 and a half miles from Wellesbourne. My grandfather would be in England for another 2 months so there was ample time.



I think nevertheless, he must have gone to Combrook, for in his papers one finds an old photo of Combrook church. I think he could not have this photo without having been to Combrook. It shows a cross at the apse end, said to be the medieval cross by Our Warwickshire. Visiting Combrook my grandfather would have seen lattice windows. Perhaps simply remembering the lattice windows he saw; he told his wife his father was born or lived in a house with lattice windows.

Back in the Swing

After a busy run up to Christmas, with some great events, including our own Carl Sinclair Quartet booking that was a lot of fun, we took a breather from our Traditional Jazz events in January, but we're now back in the swing of things. Get your tickets sorted for the **Tenement Jazz Band on Friday February 24th**. This promises to be another good one – they won the Best Band, Scottish Jazz Awards, 2022 and quote: “The passion with which these young musicians approach the music is unmistakable...a most welcome addition to the ranks of young traditional jazz bands...the future of traditional jazz is in good hands” – Bert Thompson, Just Jazz Magazine, April 2019 (Review of New Orleans Wiggle EP).

Tickets are £10, available from www.ticketsource.co.uk/townsend-hall, where you can bag your own table and seating, or from Clarke Electrical Services in town.

In other news, maintenance of the hall, totally managed by volunteer trustees, never stops and we've now fitted new doors to the ramp area and progressed, successfully, our vacancies for a cleaner and hall bookings administrator – thank you to all the candidates that put themselves forward. Don't forget that we're a charity, we receive no direct grants from any source and maintenance is totally funded through hall booking fees, kind donations, and the proceeds from events we put on in our Traditional Jazz programme – if you think traditional jazz isn't your thing, you might be surprised - give it a go, we're confident you'll enjoy the evening and the high level of musicianship.

There's plenty of other great things going on – this may not hit the presses before the Treasure Island pantomime staged by the Shipston Amateur Dramatic Society, but we're sure you'll have had a lot of fun. You may also still be in time to attend another one of the great events that Cotswold Events book into the hall – this time **Abbaholics on Saturday 11th February**.

Take a look at www.townsendhall.co.uk for more. From here you can see everything else going on at the hall including clubs and sports.



Tysoe Tennis Club

www.tysoetennisclub.co.uk

On return to matches after Christmas, the Mixed A were in fine form against Byfield despite the rain. Pete Stubbs and Pat Crowther were too strong for the away team, winning all theirs. The ladies Lou Kramer and Shirley Cherry lost a hard-fought set but proved too powerful in the following game, resulting in an overall 7-1 win for the team.

As matches start again, we are pleased to say that we have 3 new ladies available to play and the ladies A team are looking forward to the return of Oxhill's Liz Finlyson and her bionic hip.

If anyone is thinking of playing, please come along on a Sunday morning at 10.30. If you have interested children, please contact Elaine Thorne on 07842 185701

Website: tysoetennisclub.co.uk

Email: Carol.spencer234@hotmail.co.uk

Babysitter Available!

**I am available evenings and
weekends.**

**I live in Oxhill so I am local. please
email me if you're interested!**

freyaod5@gmail.com

Freya O'Donnell

WHAT'S ON IN & AROUND OXHILL

FEBRUARY

Thurs 2nd	14:00-14:30	Mobile Library, outside Village Hall
Tues 21st	19:00	Pancake Supper, Old Chapel
Thurs 23rd	14:00-14:30	Mobile Library, outside Village Hall
Thurs	11:45-12:00ish	Awesome Coffee Van, outside Peacock Pub

PC MEETINGS

The date of the next PC Meeting is **Tuesday, 14 March, 2023 at 7.30pm**. This meeting will be held in the Old Chapel. The Agenda for the meeting will be shown on the PC Website or a physical copy will be displayed on the village Notice Board, on the wall of the Peacock, a few days before the meeting.

If you want any request to be included for consideration at the above meeting please send details to the Clerk (oxhillpc@btinternet.com) at least 10 days prior to the meeting to ensure that it is included on the publicly visible Agenda.


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.

Please email: oxhill.news.editor@gmail.com

BIN COLLECTION CALENDAR

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

 Food waste  Recycling

 General refuse  Garden waste

February 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
					10	11
					17	18
					24	25
26	27	28				