

# THE OXHILL NEWS

June 2023 No. 583



Paul and Ali Sayer at the King's Coronation Celebrations.

*Vanessa Druce, editor & Grenville Moore, consulting editor*  
Email: [oxhill.news.editor@gmail.com](mailto:oxhill.news.editor@gmail.com) Website: [oxhillcommunity.co.uk](http://oxhillcommunity.co.uk)

# 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OXHILL NEWS

50 YEARS

**50 years ago this month, June 1973, the Oxhill News began.**

All this year we have been publishing extracts from 50 years of publication. This month we're revisiting an article from Ann Hale, village historian and editor of the Oxhill News for almost 25 years. In April 2011, Ann wrote the history of the magazine, and with pleasure we republish it this month.

~ ed.

**April 2011 Oxhill News**

## THE HISTORY OF THE OXHILL NEWS

The first edition of The Oxhill News came out in June 1973, after a questionnaire circulated by the Village Hall about village amenities had shown a large majority in favour of a village news sheet. The first Editorial Board consisted of Betty Smith, (a writer and local journalist from Fern Cottage) and Annette Summers, from the Old Forge, with Stephen Smith and Joan Clark representing the youth of the village. A 25 pence donation was invited to cover ink, stencils and paper. The stencils were rolled off by John Cartmell of Payn's House until 1975, when this task was taken over by - who else? - George and Gwyn Adams. Gwyn remembers battling with the old manual Church duplicator up in the roof at Amberway where they then lived, before an automatic machine was obtained. She also managed the finances of the News and its distribution. A faithful team of deliverers was built up, and has been later renewed as necessary.

Betty was Editor for the first 5½ years, combining this with a busy professional life. In January 1979 she resigned, and Ann Hale and Julia Leeson (in 1983 to become Julia Stirman) jointly took up the Editorship. Soon afterwards the subscriptions were taken over by Joy Bloxham, (who did this for many years), and the duplicator moved to Mr Brown at Harmony in the Whatcote Road. Mr Brown soon abandoned this antiquated method of production however, and in March 1981 the format changed to booklet form, and was photocopied.

When Mr Brown left the village in November 1982, stencils and A4 format were resumed for economy's sake, with only occasional brief periods of photocopying. In 1988 Julia Stirman was replaced by Gaynor Van Dijk, and in 1991 Ann Hale by Jane Moore. Gaynor's and Jane's joint Editorship lasted until February 1998. By 1996, they found that the condition of the roneo machine by then in use was getting terminal, and photocopying seemed the only option. The subscriptions had crept up first to £1, and later to £2, but collection of them was tedious, and not always rewarding, and with the increased costs looming, an application was made to the Parish Council for subsidy. For several years grants were made to make up the

shortfall in funds, and in 2005 the Parish Council took over the funding of the News completely.

In 1998 the new Editor was Father Russen Thomas, aided in succession by Debbie Harris, Sophie Jowett, and Neil and Angela Chick. The News became a booklet again, but this time with the improvement of an illustrated front cover. The content became more varied, with poetry, comment (sometimes controversial!), and – to boost funds – advertisements on the back cover. I see that Grenville began his excellent Nature Notes as far back as October, 2002!

In March 2003, George Adams began his term of office, and no-one needs to be told how professionally he has served as Editor. The layout is impressive and the content interesting, interwoven with a dry humour. The News has grown from a straightforward newsletter into a magazine with a far wider compass. George is a hard act to follow, but surely there is someone, or maybe two people, prepared to take this on? Each Editor has put their own stamp on the News, and could again. Someone once said to me years ago, when the News was previously under threat, “The Oxhill News must not die!” I agreed then and still do.

*Ann Hale*



*Ann Hale (her husband Peter behind) photographed at the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012.*

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## 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



## SINCERE THANKS TO YOU ALL

I want to thank all friends and family for their encouragement and support which helped me reach the finish line of the London Marathon on 23rd April. Also, a very BIG thank you from Parkinson's UK. Together, we have raised over £1700 for this fantastic cause. I couldn't have done it without you.

*Tony Wilde*

[www.justgiving.com/tony-wilde](http://www.justgiving.com/tony-wilde)



## CORONATION LITTER PICK

Thank you to everyone who took part in the Litter Pick on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May. A surprising amount of litter was collected including a sign, lots of wire and cables, numerous bottles and cans as well as other rubbish. Litter was removed from ditches and grass verges, hopefully making them safer and cleaner for wildlife as well as much nicer to look at.

It was decided to have another litter pick in the Autumn when the summer growth has died down so watch out for the date.

*Lis Stuart*



*(Photo of Milo & Felix, young litter pickers in action.)*

# OXHILL'S

# BIG

# WEEKEND

## 10<sup>TH</sup> - 11<sup>TH</sup> JUNE

FOR OXHILL CHURCH

11AM-4PM

ADMISSION - FREE

### AT THE CHURCH:

FLORAL DISPLAYS  
WILDFLOWER MEADOW  
CHILDREN'S PAPER FLOWER MAKING  
ECO FLORISTRY DEMO  
(12:30PM BOTH DAYS)  
CHILDREN'S TREASURE HUNT....  
LEADING TO.....OPEN GARDEN

### AT THE MANOR:

CLASSIC VEHICLES  
WILDLIFE TALK  
(2:30PM BOTH DAYS)

### AT THE CHAPEL:

PRODUCE STALL  
LOCAL CRAFT STALLS  
PLOUGHMAN'S, TEA & CAKES  
MEET THE ALPACAS & DEMO  
(1:45PM BOTH DAYS)

# CHURCH FUNDRAISING OXHILL'S BIG WEEKEND

(PREVIOUSLY KNOWN AS CELEBRATE SUMMER IN OXHILL)

**JUNE 10TH - 11TH, 11AM - 4PM BOTH DAYS**



There will be plenty to see and do for everyone at Oxhill's Big Weekend, from the florally decorated Church, talks and demonstrations, the beautiful Old House garden, through to Classic Vehicles at the Manor, not forgetting Oxhill's famed homemade refreshments in the Old Chapel along with local crafts and produce! Entry is free but programmes will be on sale for £1 and there will be donation opportunities. The programme will include a treasure hunt for children which starts from the Church. Many of the plants and flowers used to decorate the Church will be available to buy by reserving, then collecting on Sunday at the end of the event.

## **We desperately need your help, please!**

- Can you bake a cake or biscuits for the refreshments? Oxhill has a worldwide reputation to uphold for the best cakes. If so, please bring it/them to the Old Chapel from 10am on Saturday 10th June.
- Could you spare an hour or two to help with serving our delicious drinks, cakes and Ploughman's? If so, please email or call Gaynor Fila (details below).
- Have you any produce (jam, cut flowers, plants, fruit, vegetables, baked goods) for the produce stall? Contact Ruth Mercer (details below).
- Do you have a classic / interesting vehicle that you would like to display at the Manor? If so, let Ruth know.
- Do you have anything you could donate for the Tombola? Tins of beans, bottles of whiskey and everything in between would be most gratefully received. Ruth is collecting these.
- Could you volunteer to run the Tombola or produce stall for an hour or two? Please contact Ruth.
- Surgical skills required! There are various body parts (all straw-based) hanging around the village. Would you help join them into something resembling a scarecrow, please? Call or email Jude MacDonald (details below).
- Do you have any interesting greenery growing in your garden that you could spare for the Church arrangements? Contact Jude to let her know!

Please contact Ruth if you are able to help in any other way.

Thank you in advance for supporting our village event and we hope it will be enjoyable for all.

Jude Macdonald [judemac07@btinternet.com](mailto:judemac07@btinternet.com) or call 07894 084058.

Gaynor Fila [gaynorfila@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:gaynorfila@hotmail.co.uk) or call 07980 868828.

Ruth Mercer [ruthc.mercer@btinternet.com](mailto:ruthc.mercer@btinternet.com) or call 07400 615999









## OXHILL CELEBRATED.....THE KING'S CORONATION

After what seemed like a month of rain, the clouds finally parted and the sun shone for our Coronation Big Picnic Lunch. Gazebos were assembled and tables decorated, then came the mountains of food and drink, flowers, plenty of bunting and a surprising number of candelabras. The field looked ready for a party and what a party we had!

Once lunch was over, there was a water balloon volleyball tournament to entertain everyone and games for children. Then we were unexpectedly treated to a Spitfire flying over doing aerobatics. As the sun set, the last gazebo was taken down and some moved on to the pub, the end of a pretty perfect day.

Thank you to everyone who came and joined in, bringing a delicious dessert or cheese for the sharing table and thank you for taking all your rubbish home. The field was left very clean! Thank you also to those that put money in the jar to cover the cost of mowing the field. We collected more than we needed so were able to donate a sum to the Village Hall building fund.

The following people deserve special thanks for helping the day to go so smoothly: Ian Fisher for lending his large gazebo to shield the desserts from the sun; Iain Macpherson for lending and setting up his PA system as well as acting as MC; Andy and Kathy Buchanan for setting up and running the water balloon volleyball; Ali Sayer and Celia Fawcus for acquiring equipment and organising the children's games; Jill and Colin Tucker for the use of the Old Chapel; Nick and Janet Gardner for the use of the field; Lynsey Cleaver for bringing the guards and gold carriage; Joe Costa for resolving the grass cutting issue and Matt for mowing at short notice; Zoe Bodycote and Celia for dealing with all the dessert crockery that was left; everyone who helped set up and put away the communal tables; and Grenville for his wise counsel. Finally, a very big thank you to Lis and Adrian Stuart who spent what seemed like hours in the field with me and two very long tape measures, working out how to fit in so many gazebos and then marking the pitches.

Everyone's help and support make village events so joyful. Thank you.

*Ruth Mercer*

*Thank you to the wonderful photographers who contributed Coronation photos, including Peter Rivers Fletcher, Gill Stewart, Grenville Moore, Steve MacRae, Carol Taylor, Mick Shepherd, Lynsey Cleaver, Elaine Morgan, Ali Sayer, Catherine Kimmins, and Ruth Mercer.*  
~ ed.









## THE CORONATION PICNIC

Once again Oxhill pulled it out of the bag, what a tremendous day we all had celebrating King Charles III. Although this was very much a DIY event none of it would have happened without Ruth Mercer who did all the publicity, Facebooking, measuring out the field for our gazebos and generally got us all organised.....a very big thank you Dame Ruth. Thanks must also go to Nick and Janet Gardener for the use of the field and to Jill and Colin Tucker for use of the Old Chapel, but not forgetting Joey Costa who arranged the mowing of the field.

Red white and blue were very much the colours of the day with beautifully decorated tables all loaded with coronation chicken, hams, salmon, pies and delicious looking salads. In the centre of the field the pudding gazebo and what puddings...scrummy, thank you everyone who contributed. Did I see wheelbarrows trugs and buckets full of wine and beer... certainly did ! What fun and games we had....thank you Oxhill.

*Grenville Moore*













# ST LAWRENCE CHURCH

## SERVICES IN JUNE & EARLY JULY

During May, of course, the gardens and wildlife exploded into new life, and now in June we are surrounded by abundance. The church's year has a similar explosion: the end of May saw Pentecost, when those first disciples were filled to overflowing with the peace and power of the Holy Spirit – the very presence of God himself in their lives. The church exploded into new life, transforming seemingly dispirited disciples with the new life of God. That same transformation is there for us today, described by the poet Louise Gough as **The Beautiful Noise of God**:

Suddenly  
the shocked silence  
of crucifixion,  
resurrection,  
shattered.

Into that  
waiting  
prayerful  
hopeful space  
the symphony  
of the Spirit  
boomed.

Formerly fearful disciples  
gifted with the power of speech  
transcending the boundaries of language:  
God is for all!

Those drawn  
by the sounds  
of the Spirit  
heard  
and understood.

Raised voices  
reverberating hearts  
lives transformed...

The beautiful noise  
of God. *Louise Gough, in Summer.*



*Ringing for the King at St. Lawrence Church, Oxhill.*

## SUNDAY SERVICES IN JUNE AND EARLY JULY ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Sunday, June 4 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity Sunday		
	9.30 am	Holy Communion	Hannah Gregory (Curate at St Edmund's, Shipston)
Sunday, June 11 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Morning Worship	Jill Tucker
Sunday, June 18 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Holy Communion	Heather Parbury
Sunday, June 25 <sup>th</sup>	6.30 pm	Evening Worship	Jill Tucker
Sunday, July 2 <sup>nd</sup>	9.30 am	Holy Communion	Heather Parbury
Sunday, July 9 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Morning Worship	George Heighton

Note that during the weekend of June 10th - 11th we are looking forward to Oxhill's Big Weekend – full details elsewhere in the News.

*Jill Tucker*



*Beautiful flower displays at the church for the King's Coronation.*



## CORONATION ART

Those of you who visited the Old Chapel during the afternoon hopefully will have seen the wonderful exhibition of The Charles Portraits done by Oxhill Art Group and one member must get a special mention, that is Phil Brennan who produced the magnificent boards symbolising The Kings Beasts, the Queen's Beasts were statues made for her coronation in 1953.....we'll done Phil, a brilliant effort.

*Grenville Moore*







What do you see when you look at this picture ?

A: A young blue tit that's having to learn how to survive on its own?

B. A **newly fledged blue tit** still under the care and watchful eyes of its parents?

C: A vulnerable little blue tit in need of help?

The correct answer is B.

The key things to know about fledgings are that:

- They might happily launch themselves from the nest, but they're often poor flyers and spend a fair amount of time on the ground.
- Their parents are rarely too far away and will respond to the fledgling's frequent calls for food. This may take some time, however, as there are multiple mouths to feed and they're no longer all in one place. This means that everyone has to wait their turn.

*In the Wilds*

*Steve MacRae  
(wordsmithed by Karen MacRae)*

- Despite their apparent fragility, fledglings are remarkably strong, and their parents remarkably diligent.

Unfortunately, many well-intentioned people will attempt to help birds like this little fledging, and whilst it's wonderful that so many people care, it's almost always unnecessary. If you wait just a little longer and at a distance, you'll spot a bedraggled, overworked parent drop off a food delivery.

The same year this picture was taken, our cat came into the house late one evening with a yellowhammer fledgling. It was unharmed, but it was too dark to put it back outside so I kept it overnight in a box with a wire mesh cover. The next morning, far earlier than I would usually crawl out of bed, I took the box outside. I had only just got back inside when an adult yellowhammer landed on the mesh and tried to feed the chick. I went straight back out to remove the mesh and, within minutes, the box was empty.

So what to do if you see a lone fledgling? The following two links give far better advice than I could.

- [www.rspb.org.uk/about-the-rspb/about-us/media-centre/press-releases/baby-birds-2020/](http://www.rspb.org.uk/about-the-rspb/about-us/media-centre/press-releases/baby-birds-2020/)
- [www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/advice/how-you-can-help-birds/injured-and-baby-birds/baby-birds/](http://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/advice/how-you-can-help-birds/injured-and-baby-birds/baby-birds/)

This photograph was taken at a distance of 25m with a 500mm lens though an open window in Devon in 2018. The fledging was one of nine to leave a camera bird box in our garden that year.

## HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY FOR OXHILL PARISH

Do you want to down size, are you currently living at home with parents and want your own home? Do you need a bungalow in preference to a house/ Do you work in Oxhill and would like to live locally?



Lack of suitable housing in rural communities has been a serious problem for many years, with house prices outstripping average incomes by large margins. To assess the extent of the problem in the local area we are conducting a survey to identify the homes people need through Warwickshire Community Council.

Please only complete the form in which is in this issue of the Oxhill News if you need alternative housing and wish to live in the Parish.

Completed forms can be sent back in the FREE POST envelope or completed on line at [www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/Oxhill23](http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/Oxhill23).

*Thank you for participating in this survey  
Oxhill Parish Council.*



# OXHILL GARDEN CLUB

We raised £160 for church and village hall at the plant sale. Thanks to all who helped and brought plants too. And to the good Lord who gave us nice weather !

*Peter Rivers Fletcher*









# TYSOE HERITAGE RESEARCH GROUP (THRG)

*Launch of new website*

**The Village Hall SATURDAY JUNE 17<sup>th</sup> from 10.30 – 11.30**

Enjoy a short demonstration of the Group's work and how to find out about Tysoe's past from deepest prehistory to late 20<sup>th</sup> century - all from the comfort of your own home on a continually updated website.

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## **Current themes on the new website include**

Which Tysoe buildings are listed and why

Recording the church tower from scaffolding

Interviews by the Rev David Knight in 1999

560 Tysoe field names and what they might mean

Guides to the geology of churchyard memorials and the lichen that grows there

A guide to stone sculpture in the church

What the Churchwardens said about the Vicars in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries

How the Village Hall was promoted in 1925 and who paid for it

Prehistoric, Iron Age and Roman settlements along the Straight Mile

Scale plans of the graveyards and a detailed index of some 750 memorials

Scanned images of old photographs of Tysoe

Digitised books about Tysoe

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The website will only go live on the day

**Admission free, any donations gratefully accepted**





# The Way We Were



## **BLACKFORD HOUSE (AKA THE POPLARS)**

*by Carol Clark*

As a child growing up in Blackford House (known as The Poplars for about 90 years from 1891), I loved being told the story of how our home was "built in 1812, on the foundations of an older house", and how those foundations could, and can still, be seen running down the side of the house adjoining Back Lane. We also knew that there was a third storey which had to be taken down at some point because it was unsafe - this was long before the old picture of it surfaced.

Thanks to the sterling work of Ann Hale and researcher Charlie Ivins, we now know that the earliest record of a property on the site dates from 1742, when one Anthony Blackford owned the original house. By the time of the Enclosure Award in 1797, the property was in the hands of one Robert Wheeler whose holding included the site now occupied by Amberway, which was not then fenced off as a separate property.



In 1813, a William Court leased the property from Wheeler. At this point, the house was reported as "old and decayed" so Court erected the brick-built house we see today, although he, or at least his builders, must have considered the existing foundations solid enough to support the new building.

Over the next few decades, the property changed hands several times and in 1840, a second house was built on the site - this would have been on the site of Amberway, but adjacent to the footpath. My article published in the Oxhill News in April 2021 gives more background to this property.

In 1863 Charles Williams bought the property from John Parker, and on his death just two years later, his daughter Ann Williams inherited it. She married John Taylor, a carpenter, in 1867, but he was widowed not long afterwards in 1875. In the 1881 and 1891 censuses, John Taylor is to be found in Warkworth, the other side of Banbury (and in 1891 he is reported as being blind in one eye). John does come back to Blackford House in the 1901 census and stays there until his death in 1935, occupied variously as farmer, dealer, grazier and corn merchant. I do wonder whether he his partial blindness could have been caused by a carpentry accident, and was such that he was unable to continue his trade, so he turned to the agricultural professions instead.

Interestingly, the only official historic reference I can find to a specific name for the property is in the 1891 census, when it is actually called "The Poplars". My parents never knew why it was so named, but I can't imagine there would be enough room to grow any full-sized poplar trees anywhere in the near vicinity.

While living at Blackford House, John Taylor employed a housekeeper by the name of Charlotte Prestidge. She bought the property for herself on his death, but fenced off and sold the adjoining plot (Amberway). She lived in Blackford House until her death in 1953.

My parents married in April 1953, and lived with my maternal great aunt in Pillerton Priors while they house-hunted. Eventually towards the end of 1953 they bought Blackford House, but at the same time my paternal grandfather was approaching the end of his life in Cherington, so Dad volunteered (or was volunteered by his siblings, I never found out which) to spend nights with granddad to keep an eye on him. This meant that my mother, by now pregnant, had to spend her own nights unhappily alone at cold, dilapidated, dingy, and quite frankly scary, Blackford House.

Eventually when I was about eleven, Mum and Dad had saved up enough to have the property "modernised". As part of these works, a single small radiator was installed in my and my sister's bedroom above the living room, meaning the one side of the building complete with a new kitchen and bathroom above, plus the living room with open fire and back boiler, was relatively warm in winter. The other side, with Mum and Dad's bedroom above the unused front room remained as perishing cold and damp as before. In the new

kitchen the stove (a Baby Belling of course!) now sat on a level floor rather than on uneven flagstones on chocks of wood - a perpetual worry with two energetic children around.

Dad was a gardener par excellence, and the large plot at Blackford House was always full to bursting with flowers, vegetables and fruit. The photo dates from about 1960, and the cabbages appear to be as tall as my 4 year-old sister!

Mum and Dad eventually moved to "Windrush" in 1981 when Mum felt she could no longer cope with Dad's deteriorating health as well as with the large house and garden. Meanwhile Blackford House moved on to a new era with Brian and Angela Emmerson and their young family.



Frank Clark circa 1961. Dad was a competent carpenter - in fact he could turn his hand to most things. It's quite likely there's still some of his stonework in the wall holding up the garden in Back Lane. That wall used to fall down at times too and we children were forbidden from ever playing too close to it on the garden side lest we caused a landslide! *[Photo & caption originally published April 2021]*



# Oxhill Village Hall

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



### PAELLA NIGHT

#### **SATURDAY 15TH JULY: PAELLA NIGHT**

Last year, Derek and Jo's amazing Spanish-themed meal was teamed up with wonderful weather and great company. We can't control the weather, but the rest will be every bit as good this year so please join us if you can.

#### **SATURDAY 7TH OCTOBER: PROGRESSIVE SUPPER**

The date's TBC at time of writing, but the fun to be had by all is definitely not in doubt! For newbies to Oxhill, the Progressive Supper is when some of our wonderful local cooks invite us into their homes for a starter or main course. Once we've enjoyed the first two courses (in two different houses), we all meet back at the Village Hall for dessert. It's a fabulously fun foodie experience.

#### **ONE SATURDAY MORNING THIS SUMMER: FREE BACON BUTTIES AT THE VILLAGE HALL**

This will be your chance to have a good look around the soon-to-be completed Village Hall. Please keep a look out for the date - we'll be advertising it soon.

#### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Many thanks to those who were able to join us for the AGM. In case you missed it, here's a brief précis of the Chair's report:

Last year's big grant wins allowed us to get renovations underway in June, however, the building boom and astronomically rising costs meant it was impossible to find a main contractor so Jo and Richard Collings took on the job themselves. Coordinating people, materials and dates has been difficult, especially with the dreadful winter weather, however a huge amount has been achieved with the help of Stuart Whittaker, John Bicknell, Lee Robinson and Derek Harbour, and the hall will soon be ready for the internal stage of the project. Events, donations, and the 'buy a brick' scheme added much-needed funds throughout the year: to all who have contributed, helped and supported us we give sincere thanks.

#### **PIES & PUDS**

We were treated to a veritable feast for St George's Day with the committee and Friends of the Village Hall doing us proud, as always, with a delicious and plentiful array of pies, accompaniments, puddings, and cheese. The standard of fare in Oxhill never ceases to amaze!

*[Photos right: Pie & Puds by Steve MacRae]*





# **PRECIS FROM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 14th MARCH 2023**

## **To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 17th January 2023**

The minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed as a true and accurate record.

## **To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on this agenda**

Broken road sign on Whatcote Road – It has not been fixed. The Parish Clerk to report to Highways.

## **Sarah Brooke-Taylor, Housing Needs Survey**

Sarah Brooke-Taylor (SBT) is a Rural Housing Enabler for WRCC which is a charity. She works with Stratford District Council and rural villages. The last survey was carried out in 2016 and there was a request for four homes for local people. There are currently three households on the SDC waiting list. Up until last November, six households with a local address were on the housing waiting list. The form is the same as before but there is the option to complete online. An up to date evidence of need can help question new planning applications that come through. It is a good starting point. SBT confirmed a local address is one within Oxhill. The complete pack will be supplied by SDC and can be distributed with the newsletter. It was agreed to do this in June, after the May elections.

## **Voneus – To discuss recent works in the village and hear concerns**

Cllr Rivers Fletcher spoke about many complaints that have been made. Voneus have dug up roads and served some properties overhead if they are unable to deliver via poles. The work has been very inconvenient and disruptive. Verges have been disturbed. Some have been relaid but not with grass seed. On Whatcote Road, the excavation length was excessive and prevented normal use of the road. Traffic management was lacking. Car drivers were directed by the Voneus workforce to drive on verges. It was unsafe and not properly managed. A lot of kerbstones were damaged, this was put on the village Facebook page. A villager sent a complaint email to the PC about Rouse Lane. This was passed to Voneus at the meeting.

A villager asked if Voneus would be digging up Green Lane. The answer was no and they would be using Open Reach poles.

The Voneus representatives confirmed that most work is done. The fibre is not live yet. They would normally send a permit to the Council. Letter drops would be sent out to the village. Voneus would sit with Highways and advise what is going to be done. This did not happen and the village did not know they were planning to work in the village.

Voneus advised they have a complaints team although villagers have found them very hard to get hold of. Mr Page agreed to forward an email address. Overall it has not been a happy experience for the village.

Cllr Stuart referred to footpaths with barricades at the end. All paths should have access.

Mr Page spoke about a free connection being offered by Voneus to a community building for 2 years. Mrs Collings has received phone calls on behalf of the VHC but would like a written email.

### **To receive a report from the County and District Councillor**

The report from Cllr Chris Mills had been circulated. The main points included:

New fund launched to give Warwickshire Economy a £40M boost, Businesses looking to grow or relocate now have access to £40M of financial support, Council Tax/Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner/Parish Councils – SDC increase of 3.24%, WCC increase of 3.94%, WPC increase of 5.33% and Town and Parish Councils increase of 4.81%. Voter ID – Legislation has changed and everyone wishing to vote at a polling station from 4th May 2023 must show an accepted form of ID. Household Support Scheme – The Government has recently announced details of the Household Support Scheme for 2023-24. Warwickshire will receive £6.9M. Residents struggling to pay utility bills – Warwickshire residents can look to the County Council for support, UK Says No More to Domestic Abuse 2023 – this is part of a national campaign, Women’s Tour 2023 – Warwickshire will welcome back the Women’s Tour, Warwickshire welcomes extension to £2 bus fare cap – Bus fares will continue to be capped at £2 for a further 3 months. The full report is on the village website.

Cllr John Feilding announced this would be his last meeting as his ward will not exist. He has helped the village including the flooding on Leys Field.

### **To receive an update on Orchard Field**

This matter is on hold at the moment.

### **To receive an update on planning**

#### New

23/00576/TREE, Tree work at Little Barn, Church Lane. It was agreed to support the application.

#### Older

23/00354/TREE, T1 – conifer or leylandii – Fell at The Old Rectory, Main Street. No objection by PC.

23/00364/TREE, T1 cypress – Fell at The Old Rectory, Main Street. No objection by PC.

22/03642/FUL, Conversion of detached garage to 1 bed holiday let at Stablecroft, Green Lane. Granted by SDC.

23/00051/TREE, Fell 1 Horse Chestnut at the Village Hall. No objection by SDC.

### **Financial Report**

*The following payments were approved under statutory powers:*

£92.40 to P Rivers-Fletcher (Cardboard PC Speedy)

£593.04 To Parish Clerk (hours)



£148.20 To HMRC

£35.10 to Parish Clerk (mileage)

*To agree the CIL payment of £3899.00 to the VHC*

The window work to the village hall has now been completed and it was agreed to pay the outstanding CIL payment to the village hall.

*To consider a donation for Shipston Home Nursing*

A donation was given last year and this home has helped residents from the village in the past. It was agreed to give another donation of £500.00.



*Tysoe Tennis Club*  
www.tysoetennisclub.co.uk

## RECENT RESULTS

A fantastic start to the season from the mixed doubles team in the Banbury league -Tysoe are top after two great performances - a **7-3** victory over Banbury B was followed up by another strong result away at Deddington, winning **6-3**. The Deddington result was particularly pleasing after having been beaten there **9-0** 12 months ago!!

The men's team have made a solid start in the South Warwickshire Summer League, currently sitting 4th after 2 draws, a win and a defeat. The defeat by Warwickshire County Council was no disgrace given they had barely lost a single set so far this season!

The fixtures come thick and fast now and a report on the ladies' progress will be in the next edition

## JUNIOR MEMBERS -ANNUAL TOURNAMENT

The Annual Tournament for Junior members will take place on Sunday afternoon, the **16th July**.

This is a great opportunity for our younger members to show off their skills- with junior membership priced at £21 for the year, it's not too late for those interested in taking up tennis to join at a well priced fee.

Website: [www.tysoetennisclub.co.uk](http://www.tysoetennisclub.co.uk) Email: [Carol.spencer234@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Carol.spencer234@hotmail.co.uk)



## WOT2GROW COMMUNITY ORCHARD

The main apple blossom is over so quickly but the later varieties and the cider apples are still flowering well with masses of blossom! The set appears to be excellent this year with all but the damsons and a few other prunus varieties suffering from aphid damage which has reduced their crop.

There was plenty to show the Year 1 children from Tysoe School on their visit!! As always, a wonderful session with them and a privilege to be able to show them another stage in the growing of fruit. Many people do not have time to grow their own so the orchard provides a wonderful resource for education for all ages but especially for the little ones.

The maintenance of the canes bushes and bushes carries on and it will only be a matter of six weeks or so to the first soft fruits are harvested!! Always good to have those delicious organic berries that are freshly picked when ripe!

The grass as always is growing fast but the mowers are keeping the dandelions under control which is appreciated by the allotment holders! The hedgerows and windbreaks are really helping to shelter the orchard from the cold winds which still seem to blow off the surrounding hills and also make it a pleasant place just to sit and observe the wonderful surroundings and wildlife.

If you would like to help out, perhaps learn new skills or help with events and get some great organic fruit why not contact us!

Find out more – contacts below or message us via the web site:

[www.wot2grow.co.uk](http://www.wot2grow.co.uk)

The Orchard is behind the allotments on the Shenington Road in Tysoe.

Liz Atkinson (680045),  
Paul Sayer (680451), Sue  
and Mike Sanderson  
(688080)



*Cider Apple Tom Putt blossom*





# LAURA'S TRACTOR RUN

Wow!!!! Just wow, what a massive turnout!!

124 tractors in total!!

This event is about raising what we can for charity and having a bloody good time while we do it!

So many thank yous to be made, too many to list, the biggest thank you of all is to all you guys that bring your tractors out, all we do as organisers is really supply a venue and a route for you to drive round you guys do the rest, your the ones that make the kids smile and excited, the ones that put a smile on nearly everyone's face that you pass on your way round!

Please give your self's a massive pat on the back as with out you and your tractors Laura's tractor run wouldn't be such a great event!!!

And a big thank you to everyone that were out waving and supporting us in the villages we passed through, your continued support is very much appreciated.

Keep your eyes out for our grand total of what we raised today which will be posted later in the week!!! Think it's going to be the best yet!!!

Bring on 2024.

*Gareth Atwell (posted on Facebook)*







CHARITY No 522997

## It's a Hattrick!

The last three of our Traditional Jazz events have been sell-outs. With the proceeds, the stage lift is now on order – a serious piece of kit that will provide ‘access for all’ to the stage. It doesn't stop there; the hall is like the Forth Road bridge, always something to chip away at on the list, with us recently getting repairs sorted out to the roof and arranging the replacement of one of the gas heaters. Thanks for your support and our Traditional Jazz events will continue through this year with the proceeds going towards the many other items on the list. The full schedule of events can be found at: [www.townsendhall.co.uk](http://www.townsendhall.co.uk).

Next up is the ever popular ‘Baby’ Jools and the Jazzaholics on Friday June 16th - a lovely warm up to The Proms fortnight. Tickets are £10, available from [www.ticketsource.co.uk/townsend-hall](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/townsend-hall), where you can bag your own table and seating, or for general availability seating from Clarke Electrical Services in town.

For more, take a look at our website (address above) and follow us on FaceBook and Twitter.

*Haydn Ward*

A decorative border made of a light brown branch with various colorful flowers (red, purple, yellow, pink) and green leaves, framing the central text.

**Shipston Flower Club**  
presents  
**A Touch of Summer**  
a demonstration by Bev Short

**Tuesday, 13th June**  
**Doors open at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start**  
Shipston on Stour Primary School,  
Station Road, CV36 4BT.

Visitor Entry £5.00

There will also be a raffle of demonstrated arrangements



# WHAT'S ON IN & AROUND OXHILL

## JUNE

Thurs 8th	14:00-14:30	Mobile Library, outside Village Hall
Sat 10th-Sun 11th	11:00-16:00	Oxhill's Big Weekend, 3 locations in Oxhill
Tues 13th	19:00	Shipston Flower Club Talk
Sat 17th	10:30-11:30	Tysoe Heritage Research Group, Tysoe Village Hall
Thurs 29th	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, 11 July, 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](mailto: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](mailto: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

June 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
				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	