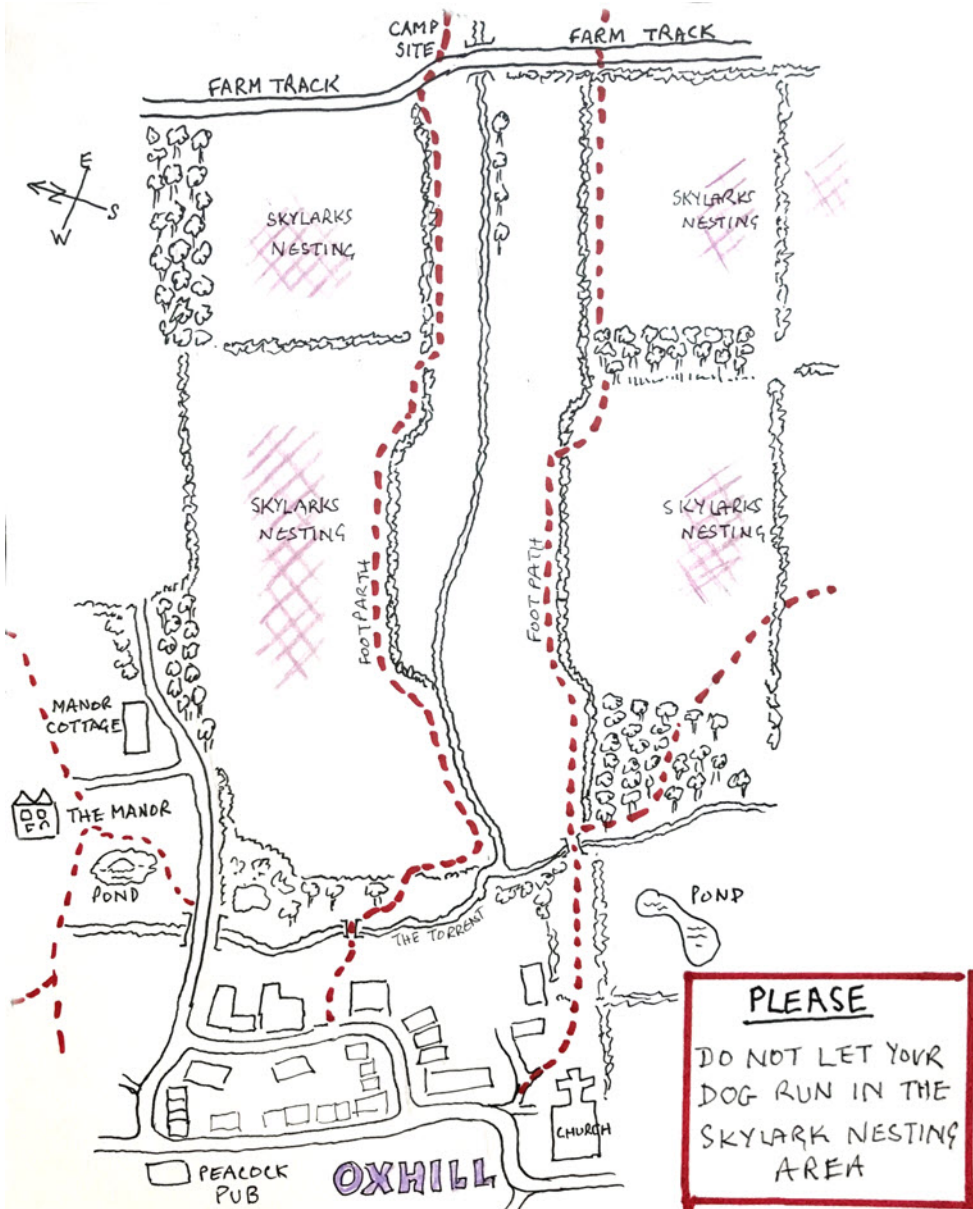


THE OXHILL NEWS

March 2023 No. 580



Vanessa Druce, editor & Grenville Moore, consulting editor

Email: oxhill.news.editor@gmail.com Website: oxhillcommunity.co.uk

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ARTICLE	PAGE
Accident	3
Nature Notes for March	4
St Lawrence Church	6
Church News	8
Oxhill Celebrates the King's Coronation	9
Oxhill Village Hall	10
A Maverick Adventure Story	12
50th Anniversary of the Oxhill News	14
Church Fundraising	16
Alternative Fuel Payment Grant	20
Townsend Hall	20
Edgehill Gliding Centre	21
KADS presents The 39 Steps	24
Fibre Broadband - Questions Answered	25
Shipston Beekeeping	29
Wot2Grow Community Orchard	30
Name the City Quiz	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**



ACCIDENT

This accident came to the attention of the editor and in the context of the recent unfortunate collision locally between a car and horse another potential serious incident happened locally in February.

The car driver escaped with minor injuries considering the circumstances and luckily there was no passenger in the car otherwise the outcome would obviously have been very different.

Perhaps the drivers of these large heavy vehicles might want to think about the damage they can do driving at speeds of up to nearly 50mph (yes really) on local narrow lanes and in excess of the speed limit through our villages.

~ Villager

NATURE NOTES FOR MARCH

by Grenville Moore

The Month of New Life and Mad March hares.....the most mysterious and sacred of British animals.....now performing their mating rituals

'The common sort of people suppose that hares are one year male and one year female...yet hunters object that there may be some which are only females and no more; but no male that is also a female, and so they make him an hermaphrodite...hares acting oddly may well be shape shifting witches or 'were-hares' and as such can only be killed with a silver bullet, or by placing rowan and vervain behind the gun stock '



History of Four-footed Beasts
1607

Towards the end of March the wonderful Skylark will begin to nest and breed. This little dull plump, streaky bird has few notable features except the spiky crest, which it raises and depresses according to mood, but it's glorious heaven-sent song is so firmly embedded in our sense of the English landscape that it surely is the quintessential sound of long summer days, it evokes a bygone pastoral golden age and the open countryside which the bird seemed once to symbolise. Think of Vaughan Williams' *The Lark Ascending* which he described as the very voice of English air and soil. It rarely fails to raise the hairs on the back of the neck. Many poets including Chaucer, Coleridge, Wordsworth, Browning and Shelley have all contributed to the bird's exalted place in our literary affections. The skylark nests on the ground in the central areas of large open spaces/fields, the male rises vertically and can reach up-to 100 -200 metres where it may just appear as a tiny dot in the sky where it circles and hovers effortlessly. The long unbroken song is a clear, bubbling warble and can last for as much as 20 minutes, when he finishes his song he will drop like a stone intermittently opening his wings like a parachute and floating down for a few metres and then dropping again.

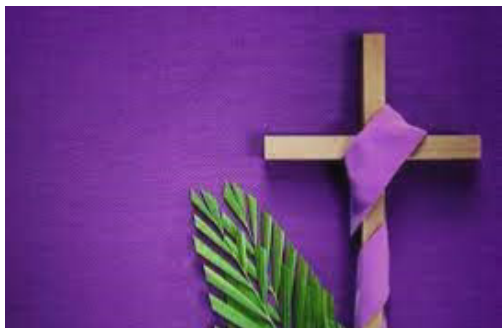
Unfortunately their numbers have declined alarmingly, by almost two thirds, over the last 20 years so much so they are now on the endangered red list but in times gone by they were plentiful. In the 1500's they were 'The cheefe foode of the Englishmanat which time a wonderful nombre of them is caughte, so that of all others they chefle garnishe menns tables.' By Mrs Beeton's day, skylarks cost one shilling and sixpence (7 1/2p) a dozen and she included a recipe for nine birds stuffed and baked with beef, bacon and shallots. Customers of the Cheshire Cheese pub in Fleet Street included Oliver Goldsmith, Samuel Johnson, William Thackeray and Charles Dickens and would have all dined on a pudding containing a mixture of larks, kidneys, oysters and steak surmounted by a surging billow of rich pastry. By the 1890's 20,000-40,000 skylarks were arriving in sackloads every day at Leadhall market in London where many were exported to Paris. Ironically it is in our own age of environmental awareness and concern that the bird has suffered its deepest losses. On farmland the numbers have reduced by three quarters. The losses coincided closely with Britain's entry to the EU, whose Common Agricultural Policy has paid subsidies to farmers that have underpinned intensification. Several rapid changes, including the increased use of pesticides and weed killers, the switch away from spring-sown cereal crops and the autumn ploughing of winter stubbles, have been key elements in the skylark's slump, depriving it of winter food and breeding habitat.

However here in Oxhill we are lucky at the moment because we still have a small breeding group on Percy Sewell's fields to the east of the village (see the map) these can be seen and heard whilst walking on the footpaths but please, a plea to DOG WALKERS do not let your dogs run around in these two fields and disturb the nesting birds. It indeed will be a sad day if the spring and summer skies are void of the heavenly song of the skylark.

[Map of Skylark Nesting Areas on cover of this month's Oxhill News. ~ ed.]



ST LAWRENCE CHURCH



We are now in Lent, and the journey that Jesus made to the cross reaches its conclusion. We are invited to share that journey with him, acknowledging his obedience to his Father, his unconditional and all embracing love for us, and his fear and distress at what lay before him. We are invited to reflect and pray about what that means for ourselves, and how it might impact our lives today – the knowledge that Jesus was prepared to go through all that for our sakes.

Sunday, 5 th March	9.30 am Holy Communion	George Heighton
Sunday, 12 th March	9.30 am Holy Communion	George Heighton
Sunday, 19 th March	MOTHERING SUNDAY 9.30 am Morning Worship for Mothering Sunday Jennie Rake	
Sunday, 26 th March	6.30 pm Shortened Evensong, followed by APCM Heather Parbury	
Sunday, 2 nd April	PALM SUNDAY 9.30 am Holy Communion	George Heighton
Monday, 3 rd April	HOLY WEEK BEGINS 9.00 pm Compline	
Thursday, 6 th April	MAUNDY THURSDAY 7.00 pm Tysoe Church Holy Communion followed by Vigil George Heighton	
Friday, 7 th April	GOOD FRIDAY 7.30 pm Tysoe Church	Tenebrae
Sunday, 8 th April	EASTER DAY 9.30 am Holy Communion	George Heighton

Throughout March and on April 5th there will be Morning Worship on Zoom at 10.00 am.

Lent is not for the faint-hearted.
It demands that we, like Thomas,
put our hand into the side of the crucified Christ.

Lent is a journey towards the cross.
a journey of enlightenment:
from wilderness to feast,
from desert to oasis.
It is an attempt to identify with the powerless
and the suffering in the world.

Lent is a journey.
So at the end of Lent
we should expect to find ourselves
somewhere different from where we started.

Kate McIlhagga, Not for the faint-hearted.



Church News

The 2023 Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) is scheduled to take place at St. Lawrence's on **Sunday 26th March** after a brief 6.30pm Evening Service. All parishioners are invited to this meeting which is followed by a social gathering where friendships can be consolidated and new village contacts made.

The 2022 Electoral Roll is displayed on the church notice board. The deadline for new / additional entries for the 2023 Electoral Roll is 10th March. I hope that some of our newer residents, especially, might consider being recorded thereon and / or becoming 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.

*Douglas
Nethercleft*
(Electoral Roll
Officer)



United Benefice Service at St Lawrence Church.



OXHILL CELEBRATES.....THE KING'S CORONATION

TIME TO DIG OUT YOUR BUNTING AGAIN!

After a fantastic village celebration of the late Queen's Jubilee last June, I hope that Oxhill wants to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III. Nationally, the **Coronation Big Lunch** is being planned for **Sunday 7th May** and it would be great if the whole village got together for another **Oxhill Big Lunch** on that date. Those villagers who lived here in 2016 will remember the lunch organised for the Queen's 90th birthday where we all got together for a giant picnic. We brought our own tables and chairs, food for starters and main course, then added a dessert or cheeseboard to a central table for everyone to share. In spite of the weather, it was a very enjoyable event. If there is enough interest, I'd like to suggest that Oxhill's Coronation Big Lunch is run along the same lines: bring your own tables and chairs, starters and mains plus a dessert / cheeseboard for the sharing table.

We will need as many gazebos / small marquees as possible, just in case the weather is like June 2016, and a team of willing helpers. We are also looking for ideas for entertainment / games to occupy us after lunch. Please get in touch if you can help or have any ideas. In 2016, we had competitions for the best homemade crown and the best dressed table.

If you would be interested in Oxhill celebrating the King's Coronation with a Big Picnic Lunch on Sunday 7th May (venue TBC), starting around 1pm, please let me know and I will reserve a space for your table.

Ruth Mercer
07400 615999
ruthc.mercer@btinternet.com



OXHILL VILLAGE HALL

We're making good headway with the hall renovation. The new windows are in, the interior is stripped out, and the wall panels are being installed. If you're passing, feel welcome to pop your head round the door and have a look at the work in progress. Take care though - it's a building site!

If you haven't yet got around to making a contribution to help with the renovations, please look out for the donation form which will be in your letterbox soon.

Burns Night Raffle

Our thanks to all who contributed to the raffle held in January: we raised £300 towards the building fund. Thanks also to Jack & Sophie for letting us sell tickets and draw the raffle at The Peacock.

UPCOMING EVENTS

24th March:

Village Quiz & Buffet Supper

£12.50pp at 7.30pm

24th April:

St. George's Day 'Pies & Puds'

£20pp at 7.30pm

Both events to be held in the Old Chapel, please reserve your places with:

Ali Sayer on 07970922352 or
ali.sayer@btinternet.com

or Jo Collings on 07860418811 or
itsjocollings@gmail.com.



Burns Night Masters of Ceremonies Andy Buchanan



VILLAGE HALL RENOVATIONS

More photos from the on going
Village Hall renovations.



A MAVERICK ADVENTURE STORY

by Maverick (a village pooch)

For thousands of people around the world, every Saturday @ 9am. It must be time for Park Run. It started 18 years ago in London and has grown to provide a free 5km timed run / walk in over two thousand locations across six continents. We are lucky to have quite a few on our doorstep. I've run Stratford, Banbury and Warwick amongst several others.

On Saturday 18th February it was the Stratford Park Run 7th birthday. This meant more than the normal number of attendees. It gets a fair few 'tourists' every week anyway attracted by the sights of Stratford as well as the fact that the 5km course is flat and picturesque beside the River Avon.

At 9am, several hundred people all lined up for the start. Walkers, serious runners looking for a PB, mums and dads with buggies and several other dogs (with their owners).

You've probably seen me running around the village fields. Since I was born, I have loved running, so early on I got Michelle and Tony to introduce me to Park run. Initially just one



Maverick leading the Stratford Upon Avon Park Race. Photo by Sam B.

kilometre but building up. For the last year or so, every week I drag them along and I complete the full 5km run with them. For safety reasons, all dogs must be kept on a short lead. This stops people falling over us!

This week, the start was to be a little different. Five seconds before the start, my excitement and exuberance overcame me. I skilfully slipped my harness and ran towards the front. Perfectly timed, so as to have this picture taken. Exactly as the starting whistle went. I was in front.

I led the whole race for about a kilometre before I realised, I had left my anxious owners far behind. I performed a run back to Michelle, who reattached my harness – phew ... they were ok, calamity averted. Luckily, I hadn't caused any issues and I eagerly completed the 5km, running the whole way as always.

A great morning....



50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OXHILL NEWS

50 YEARS

In this month's snapshot of 50 years of the Oxhill News, we give you an update of the 1976 story of Flash the missing tortoise. We also include a 2005 article from 'Old Muckraker' (Peter Taylor) who would fill in occasionally when Grenville Moore was unable to write his Nature Notes. We also include Grenville's reply to Old Muckraker the following month. ~ ed.

Oxhill News September 1976

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

Flash the missing tortoise, true to her name was discovered speeding up the hill out of the village towards White House Hill farm, having crossed the fields and the brook from Manor Bungalow at the bottom of Rouse Lane where we lived. She caused a traffic jam of five cars before she was caught. We were alerted to something going on by the blowing of horns and the line of cars. After crossing the fields we were handed Flash the tortoise by one of the motorists. On returning home she was reunited with her friend George and lived for many a year often producing eggs which we carefully put in the airing cupboard hoping they would hatch. It was only several years later that we found out that George was a girl too!

Lis Stuart



This is Clover, who Lis says, looks just like Flash.

Old Muckraker's Autumn Illuminations

Well fellow muck lovers, the season of mists & mellow fruitfulness is hard upon us! The leaves flutter from the trees & hedgerows, leaving only their fulsome harvest of old lager cans and empty burger boxes. Is there any better place to be than in the country in wintertime? Probably.

But seriously though, we must all adjust to the changing seasons and take care to husband nature's bounty for the long winter haul. So with these thoughts in mind, here are a few tips to help you through the gloom!

Let's talk about the environment – it's all around us these days, isn't it? With fossil fuels slated to run out in no more than a thousand years or so, we must all do our bit to save energy. Little things can make a big difference you know – don't leave all those lights on for hours at a time when you're alone in the house. Remember, a good-sized four-bar electric fire can give enough light to read by, as long as you're close enough.

And don't forget to save water wherever you can – the reservoirs are bound to be drying up after all that rain. Can you believe that the average adult uses nearly 200 gallons of water a day just flushing the lavatory? No, neither can I. They used to advise putting a brick in the tank, but a better approach is to turn the water off completely, obtain relief directly into the cistern, and flush it straight down. So much more efficient, and it helps stop the pipes freezing!

But it's not only us that suffer as the mercury drops - what about our little feathered friends outdoors? A bag of peanuts and a lump of old fat always go down well (preferably with a big mug of Bovril) and then you can get out there and stock up the bird table with all their favourites - bacon rind, old crusts and biscuits, and some small nuts and bolts for the iron. And don't forget tits like coconuts.

Talking of the outdoors, I see that Grenville's raised the thorny subject of firework night, nearly upon us as you read this. He's right you know, it's a time of misery for some of our four-legged friends. Always remember as you light the fire that hedgehogs may have burrowed inside looking for somewhere warm to hibernate. As the last embers die away, they make the perfect hot snack with a nice jacket potato and a bit of mustard. Watch the prickles though! And a final safety warning - don't let unqualified people put on firework displays. You need a flair for that sort of thing.

Well I must be getting along now, but don't forget Old Muckraker's winter tip – chop your own logs and they'll warm you twice!

Old Muckraker

December 2005 Oxhill News

Apologies for missing last month's nature notes, but thankfully Old Muckraker stood in very ably, and I wish him and all the readers a very happy and merry Yuletide.

CHURCH FUNDRAISING

Pancake Supper

It was fantastic to see the Old Chapel full of villagers old and new on Shrove Tuesday for the first Pancake Supper since 2020. After a slight panic with some oven issues at the Old Chapel, Liz Finlyson appeared at just the right moment to save the day by taking dishes of savoury pancakes to her ovens for cooking: she was definitely the hero of the evening and I can't thank her enough for rescuing the event. All the lights going off and and alarms ringing when everyone had just arrived only added to the drama!

Thanks to the expert cooks of Oxhill (and Kineton), there was so much choice of different filled savoury pancakes that many people had to go back for seconds and thirds so that they could sample all the flavours. Just when they thought they couldn't eat another pancake, out came the sweet fillings of banana, blackberry and apple, maple syrup, Nutella, fudge sauce, lemon and sugar plus Crepes Suzette. Amazingly, there wasn't a sweet pancake left.

I am unable to tell you how much money the event raised for the Church and Charity yet but thank you to everyone who came to support it. These events would be impossible without the talented cooks and I would like to thank Carol, Carol, Linda, Lis, Gaida, Anna, Celia and Liz for making such delicious pancakes. More thanks to Carol, Linda, Gaida, James, John, Jerry and Jon for all their work in variously setting up the tables, serving, running the bar, washing up, clearing up and generally working very hard. Thank you to everyone who stayed to clear away tables and chairs too.

Ruth Mercer







Flower Festival and more!

We are planning a Flower Festival in the Church over the weekend of **June 10th-11th**. There will be beautiful floral displays in the church plus refreshments served in the Old Chapel. We are hoping that there will also be some room for a few Made in Oxhill craft stalls. It would be great to run a Big Raffle so I should welcome any suitable prizes. As usual, all offers of help or suggestions would be very welcome.

Future dates for your diary

Autumn Quiz: Saturday 14th October

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

Ruth Mercer

ruthc.mercer@btinternet.com

07400 615999

Oxhill Celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Anyone who was in the village last June will remember the celebrations held in Oxhill. After all the bills and expenses were settled, there was a small surplus. It has been agreed that this money will be used for some Jubilee planting, as has been customary on past Oxhill Jubilees, and a new Church noticeboard is to be commissioned. Some more trees have been purchased to replace those planted as part of the Queen's Green Canopy that didn't survive the very dry period last year.

Jane Smith started Jubilee planting of bulbs within the

mown area of the churchyard in the Autumn and continues. The bulbs are coming up now, plus additional snowdrops recently planted. More small bee-friendly shrubs are to be added. We are very fortunate that Jane is willing to give so much time to care for the Churchyard and the wildlife within. Thank you, Jane, your efforts are appreciated by those who walk or sit there. As the budget is finite, Jane would welcome donations of suitable plants from village gardens for the churchyard, so if you have anything that you can spare, perhaps it has outgrown your garden or is multiplying rapidly, please get in touch with Jane on 07530 629114.



Photo of wildflowers in our churchyard by Steve MacRae

ALTERNATIVE FUEL PAYMENT GRANT

Help for
Households

**Around 2 million households
are eligible for £200**

to help with their energy bills under our Alternative Fuel
Payments scheme



I received the £200 Alternative Fuel Payment Grant via my electricity account on the 12th February. Most households in the village who use oil as the main heating fuel should receive this additional grant during February. Publicity about this grant has been sparse and hence if it is not received automatically by the end of the month via an energy supplier households are advised to investigate making a claim.

Mike Collins



CHARITY No 522997

From Fab Feb to Marvellous March

Lots of great things were on at the hall in February! Everyone that made the Treasure Island pantomime staged by the Shipston Amateur Dramatic Society had a great time; Cotswold Events abboholics was a sell out; The Lions put on the wonderful film “Emily” on their film night; and, at the time of writing, we’re doing a roaring trade in tickets for our Tenement Jazz Band booking.

In March, watch out for The Lions film night on the 10th, our Traditional Jazz event with Tom “Spats” Langham’s Hot Fingers on the 31st, and squeaking into April, Cotswold Events with their 80’s night. “Spats” was sell-out last time we had him and his band at the hall, so don’t miss out on a fabulous night of music - 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 continues with the servery and the hallway getting a lovely painting spruce up, and hopefully you caught our “Did you know...” social media post about the hall – so many different kinds of events we can support with the spaces and facilities we have available. We would love to discuss your event aspirations with you, so please Contact Us: info@townsendhall.com, 07514704057, or fill in the booking enquiry form on our website: www.townsendhall.co.uk. You can also follow us on Facebook to be kept informed of upcoming offers, events and classes.

Take a look at our website for more and get ahead of the game by checking out what’s happening in April. **Teaser for you:** we think you’re really going to want to get tickets in the bag for the event we’ve got booked in for the 21st April!



EDGEHILL GLIDING CENTRE – A NEW FACE IN THE AREA

Oxhill is a short way across the fields and beneath the ridge from the former RAF Edgehill, which as Shenington airfield has been home to a gliding club for some years. Some major changes have taken place in the past year, some obvious and some which may be less so and if you haven't been to see us, we hope after reading this you may think about visiting us.

The opening of the highly successful 'Runway Bar' by Joe and Liz Gibbs has been a very visible and successful venture. It has introduced a venue with a modern 'outdoor ambience' to the airfield and drawn in a wide mix of visitors from far and wide until its temporary winter 'hibernation' but will re-open again at Easter, on Friday and Saturday evening and Sunday mornings. We know that many of you, including whole families, have been patrons.

The bar has introduced many first-time visitors to the range of flying activities that are taking place in this hidden corner of the north eastern Cotswolds. However, they may have been unaware of a less obvious change that has been underway over the past year. A brand-new gliding club – the Edgehill Gliding Centre (EGC) – has replaced the previous club, bringing with it some new developments.

Firstly, although EGC continues to operate at weekends all year, and on selected weekdays during the spring and summer months it is now led entirely by volunteers. Many are drawn from surrounding communities. The local emphasis is important to us. The new club has



been set up as a community amateur sports club (CASC), with a strong focus on neighbouring towns and villages. The new club has a strong desire to be embedded in the local community and establish mutually beneficial local community links that help both us and our neighbours. We may also be able to help you - perhaps with a specific project or by modest sponsorship of, for example a sport or activity. If you think we can please get in touch.

That change is already paying dividends. A far greater number of people taking advantage of our introductory EGC *Welcome to Gliding* (WtG) flights are local, often taking the opportunity to see their houses from a very different viewpoint! Some have gone a little further and joined one of our one week gliding courses to get more in depth feel of what it is like to be a glider pilot.

Another of our aims is to support junior flying and over 20% of our members are under 18, attracted by the fact that you can fly solo in a glider at 14yrs. We now have families spanning three generations at EGC. Why not visit with your family and get your son or daughter or maybe grandchild involved as well as perhaps joining in yourself.

A huge advantage of trying out gliding in Shenington is that you can try out winch and aerotow launching methods in a range of wooden and glass-fibre gliders – one of the few sites in southern England where that is possible.

We really do want to see more of our neighbours so please come up and see what it is all about. If you want to try flying, we may be able to get you flying on the same day if we are not too busy. Who knows, you may become one of the many EGC pilots who flying



hundreds of kilometres across the countryside of England and Wales – all achieved without an engine. Or flying aerobatics high above Oxhill may take your fancy. If you're tempted, please get in touch.

You can reach us via enquiries@edghillgliding.com or visit our website at www.edgehillgliding.com. We look forward to seeing you.

Come and join us at

EDGEHILL GLIDING CENTRE

'Welcome to Gliding' Experiences and Courses available!
New members welcome!



Visit www.edgehillgliding.com to book your experience, purchase a voucher or look at membership options.

Get in touch with us at enquiries@edghillgliding.com

Edgehill Gliding Centre Ltd, Shenington Airfield, Rattlecombe Road, Shenington, Banbury, Oxon, OX15 6NY
Registered in England & Wales

"The 39 Steps"

Adapted by Patrick Barlow

From the original concept by Simon Corble & Nobby Dimon

29th, 30th, 31st March & 1st April 2023

Kinton Village Hall

In "*The 39 Steps*", a man with a boring life meets a woman with a thick accent who says she's a spy. When he takes her home, she is murdered. Soon, a mysterious organization called "The 39 Steps" is hot on the man's trail in a nationwide manhunt that climaxes in a death-defying finale!

A riotous blend of characters and very inventive stagecraft, *The 39 Steps* amounts to an amusing and unforgettable evening.

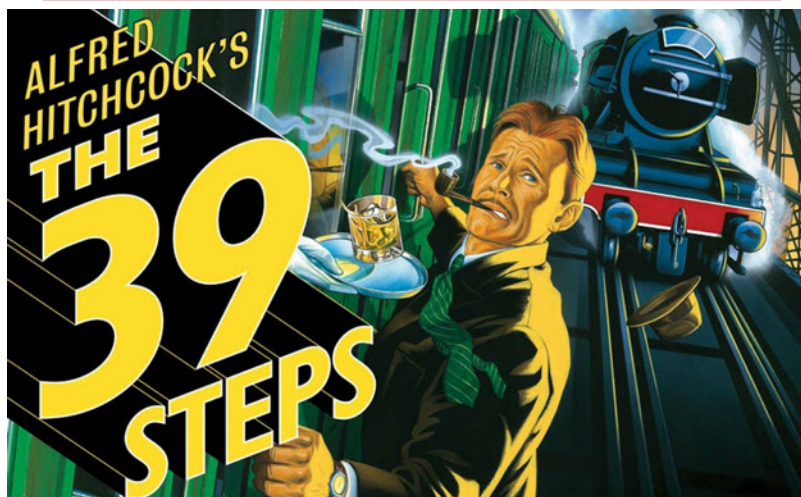
Directed by Sefton Steggalls

This amateur production of "The 39 Steps" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd. on behalf of Samuel French Ltd.

www.concordtheatricals.co.uk

Tickets are £7.50

Tickets reserved from 01295 680487



FIBRE BROADBAND – QUESTIONS ANSWERED – AS ASKED BY MIKE COLLINS

by Mike Collins

With the arrival of Voneus digging in the village and various comments (accurate or otherwise) on the village Facebook group I contacted the CSW Broadband Project (the local government project managing the funding of the broadband infrastructure development) to establish some facts and received the following reply from -

Gavin Tristram, Stakeholder Engagement & Communications Manager, CSW Broadband ICT Services, Enabling Services, Resources Directorate, Warwickshire County Council.

The build currently being carried out by Voneus is part of their own commercial deployment programme and is nothing to do with the CSW Broadband Project. However, I will try and provide answers to some of the issues that you have raised but some of the others will probably be best answered by Voneus themselves. I will therefore forward your email on to contacts at Voneus.

He only replied to one direct question about commencing works without any notice to the community -

It doesn't really surprise me that Voneus are carrying out work in Oxhill without any prior warning because it appears that they have done exactly the same in Brailes. We have challenged them about this and I will also make them aware that the same appears to be happening in Oxhill. Voneus have stated that the usual process is that someone will go around door knocking to let residents know and if no one is in, they will drop off a leaflet explaining what is going on.

I then received the following reply to my direct questions from – Paul Lees | Head of Fibre Build, Voneus Limited, The Grange, 100 High Street, Southgate, London, N14 6BN, Main Switchboard +44 (0) 333 880 4141.

I have had your email forwarded on to myself. Thank you for showing interest in the build we are progressing through in Oxhill.

We are indeed laying cables through the existing BT Openreach duct network and existing overhead routes, wherever we can under our agreement to utilise PIA (Passive Infrastructure Access). We are planning to allow access for all properties where we can, any involving Wayleave will need to be agreed with the land owner. It may appear that we are only serving one side of the road but our design, once completed, will give access to all residents in the village to the boundary we have set.

Our network is funded and owned by ourselves, and we have our own ISP status allowing us to sell our services over our network, there is no requirement to

*wholesale our network unless this is something we want to do to increase sales which currently we don't. There is no legislation enforcing wholesale capabilities unless you are the incumbent across the whole of the UK ie. Openreach. Openreach are the only infrastructure provider that is required to open up their network to other ISP's, the multitude of Alternative Networks, both large and small, currently are not **forced** to share their infrastructure although they may choose to increase take up and sales.*

*The properties in Oxhill are classified as Rural and do enjoy the benefit of BDUK vouchers for Gigabit capable services (fibre or some wireless solutions), this voucher is claimable on **Connection only** to the property when the service is purchased and installed. We fund the network build ourselves and claim the voucher money on completion of a successful installation for a service provided. We cannot take a voucher for anything other than a successful installation providing gigabit capable service.*

I then asked the following detailed questions –

Is the fibre installed by Voneus owned by them and are they able to control access as is being suggested – effectively creating a monopoly supplier?

Yes the network we build is owned and operated by us and is there to provide a Voneus service over it for our customers. If anyone chooses not to take our service, there is always the option to continue taking the slower and more unreliable copper service from anyone else that has the wholesale option through Openreach whilst it's still available. There is nothing to stop any other fibre company investing the vast sum of money required to provide their own fibre network including Openreach, but with the extra cost and associated complexity of building in the rural areas (and the lower number of Homes Passed available) the number of fibre businesses interested in serving these areas is minimal.

Are there exclusivity rights granted to Voneus for a period after installation before they are required to make the infrastructure available to other providers via a wholesale arrangement if in fact they are required to open up the connections to the wholesale market?

The network and infrastructure we build is owned by us and it is up to us as a business if we want to open it up to Wholesalers, interesting most of the large ISP (talk talk, BT, Sky etc) are not interested in dealing with the small network operators due to numerous reasons but mainly down to the costs associated in having all the interfaces and systems in place for what would be a very small number of connections. As an example Openreach and Virgin will only put their service over their network and don't wholesale over other networks at all, Sky will only deal with networks who have access to over 500,000 available customers (we don't have that many), Talktalk have agreements in place with O/R and a legacy network that they built in collaboration with City Fibre.

If a property has had a connection point installed on the highway outside of the property will that property be forced to accept a connection via that access point? The existing copper based connections are via cable strung from poles.

This is a more difficult question to answer without seeing the specifics, but we will always use an existing usable route to get to the property, this maybe an existing pole as long as it isn't a pole shared by Openreach and a power company (joint User Poles) as we will not provide service on a pole involving power for H&S reasons. If there is an existing Openreach lead-in duct we will use that. If the existing Openreach copper cable is directly buried in the ground (affects about 45% of underground connections) we need to have a different solution, this maybe a Toby box in the footway supplied by us and then we find a route to the property from that or a new pole (last choice).

If there is any other information that can be made available for publication to help clarify this apparent unusual situation then please make details available?

We have an Open session at Tysoe village hall on Wednesday 8th Feb, this will be staffed by our Voneus Community Engagement Team and I will be there with some of my team to take any questions and explain our physical build. If you have time I would highly recommend dropping in and having a chat as the current Telecoms marketplace is complex and the near future throws up a lot of challenges for the industry which a lot of consumers do not yet appreciate.

I was not able to attend the session and would offer the following observations on the above.

Voneus admit they are a monopoly supplier. They state there is no intention to make their fibre cable and connection infrastructure available to the wholesale market. They are offering competitive prices for two year fixed price deals at the moment and will receive a government subsidy soon to be £4500 for each connection they achieve. They provide a connection only service and I am advised by the Community Engagement Team on the ground, do not provide any other services you might expect to receive from an Internet Service Provider (ISP) e.g. email addresses and supporting mail server infrastructure.

The implications of the above are that at the end of the two year period prices will be set by a monopoly supplier who may choose not to offer competitive prices compared to other open market ISP's. To obtain a competitively priced service it may be necessary to drop back onto the copper network as in effect the fibre connection to the property will be locked out of access to the open network unless Openreach complete the installation of their fibre network to properties around the village. If you use 'value add services' from your current ISP which are included in your existing broadband package, such as email addresses e.g. name@bopenworld.com then these will be lost and you will need to register new free service addresses such as name@gmail.com. Some providers may offer the option to keep email addresses and other services by payment of a subscription.

In short understand the service levels that you are buying and as always carefully read and understand the contract terms and conditions that you accept by opting to take the service on offer from Voneus.

As a result of the above I asked the CSW Broadband project if their plans would deliver of full fibre services to the village and received the following from Gavin Tristram –

By our reckoning there are circa 140 properties either in or on the edge of the village of Oxhill. The vast majority of these were upgraded via an FTTC solution in Contract 2 of the CSW Broadband Project as a result of the work we carried out to upgrade cabinet 2 off the Tysoe exchange which serves the village. Following this work, the vast majority of these properties could achieve superfast broadband speeds of 30Mbps (megabits per second) or above, which the UK government defines as superfast speeds. This work was completed around September 2016.

Obviously things have moved on and the government is now aiming to upgrade at least 85% of UK properties to gigabit capable connections by the end of 2025, rising to at least 99% by 2030.

To this end, we are already deploying FTTP (Fibre to the Premise broadband) in Contract 3 - the current phase of the CSW Broadband Project. However, due to budgetary restrictions, we are not planning further upgrades to properties in Oxhill to gigabit-capable speeds as part of our works in Contract 3. This is because we are technically still a superfast project and we are spending our finite financial resources on upgrading as many properties as we can who haven't benefited from any upgrade in speeds.

With regards to Project Gigabit, we conducted what is called an Open Market Review whereby we ask all suppliers where they are intending to upgrade within Warwickshire during the next three years. Under State Aid rules, we are not allowed to intervene in areas where another supplier has stated their intention to upgrade. Having looked at that data for Oxhill, we have found the following:

There are 140 properties in the Oxhill area. Of these:

1 - already has a gigabit capable FTTP connection that was installed commercially by Openreach.

132 - are due to be upgraded by another supplier who have stated their intention to upgrade these within the next three years. I am afraid that I can't give you specific details of who this supplier is because all the data was submitted in commercial confidence but you probably know who I am talking about.

There are six properties that are potentially in scope for Project Gigabit.

1 final property wasn't consulted on for some reason but they are already getting 40Mbps.

So, due to the State Aid constraints, we do not have any plans to upgrade the village (as a whole) to full fibre because another supplier is intending on doing this. As for Openreach's own commercial deployment plans, I am not aware of them announcing any plans to upgrade the village to full fibre. They certainly haven't announced anything yet but that may change in the forthcoming months.

I am not certain that the above data includes new build properties where I understand a full FTTP service is already available. Maybe a resident can clarify what the position actually is with their broadband service and provide an update in the next edition.



SHIPSTON BEEKEEPERS

Shipston Beekeepers are hosting an **Introduction to Beekeeping Course** over the weekend of **22nd & 23rd April** at Brailes Village Hall and Plum Tree Farm apiary.

Visit www.sbka.org.uk to find out more and to book a place.

Douglas Nethercleft
secretary.shipston@wbka.org.uk

Booking for our 2023 Introduction to Beekeeping course is now open

A 2 day Practical course led by a Master Beekeeper as a first step into the world of the apiarist, including the chance to inspect a colony of honey bees.
Beesuits & equipment provided





WOT2GROW COMMUNITY ORCHARD

Our good harvest of apples has stored well and seen us through the winter and now is the time to continue pruning and tidying up the trees. The autumn raspberries have been cut down and are now being weeded and fed.

Our latest project is water harvesting!! The blueberries require lots of water as they are bog plants and ferrying cans from the waterbutts by the shed was hard work and time consuming. So we have built a shelter with four water butts and a couple of benches close to the blueberry cage. We do not use mains water so harvesting rain water is very important for the orchard.

The AGM was held at the end of January and it was agreed by all that the orchard needs to attract a younger membership and involve more children. This will be mainly by doing more events like a teddy bears picnic for all children and their families and promoting the orchard around the villages!

So 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.

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

Liz Atkinson (680045), Paul Sayer (680451), Sue and Mike Sanderson (688080)
website www.wot2grow.co.uk



Name the City

The following clues provide names of towns and cities in the UK.

1.	Tub full of water		
2.	Spread before morning		
3.	Has a letter to spare		
4.	Crank Miss Rantzen		
5.	Half a score is alongside		
6.	Cranium stuck in rabbit hole		
7.	Professor of rollers		
8.	A chocolate bar without for instance		
9.	Nearly the colonel's twelve inches		
10.	A person who is leaving		
11.	People's rock		
12.	A complete bacon		
13.	Calligraphy with an "H"		
14.	Home of Sale of the Century		
15.	Shipsmen		
16.	Tying meat		
17.	Latest fortified wine		
18.	Religious skull		
19.	Tend fire		
20.	Is this Piggott's town?		
21.	There are no ends to a hairdryer		
22.	Pushed down heavyweight		
23.	Where the steer(of the bovine family) crossed the river		
24.	One of the three R's		
25.	Almost speechless in front of the French chips		
26.	Mother's garden entrance		
27.	Witches attempt to meet		
28.	Sounds like a vehicle is followed by a Scottish golfer		
29.	A male,part of the torso with some hesitation		
30.	Arran or Holy in the middle of one's wages		
		TOTAL	

WHAT'S ON IN & AROUND OXHILL

MARCH



Thurs 16th	14:00-14:30	Mobile Library, outside Village Hall
Fri 24th	19:30	Village Quiz & Buffet Supper
Sun 26th	18:30	Annual Parochial Church Meeting St Lawrence Church
29th April -1st March		KADS 'The 39 Steps'
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.

March 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	31	

 Food waste  Recycling

 General refuse  Garden waste

Name the City Answers

1.	BATH
2.	MARGAM
3.	DOVER
4.	WINCHESTER
5.	TENBY
6.	EDINBURGH
7.	DONCASTER
8.	YORK
9.	SAUNDERSFOOT
10.	EXETER
11.	FOLKESTONE
12.	FULHAM
13.	PENARTH
14.	NORWICH
15.	CREWE
16.	NOTTINGHAM
17.	NEWPORT
18.	HOLYHEAD
19.	STOKE
20.	LEICESTER
21.	AIRDRIE
22.	PRESTON
23.	OXFORD
24.	READING
25.	DUMFRIES
26.	MARGATE
27.	COVENTRY
28.	CARLISLE
29.	MANCHESTER
30.	PAISLEY