

# THE OXHILL NEWS

June 2021 No. 559



Large Bee-Fly, *Bombylius Major*. See more in Nature Notes, pg 4

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## CLUB & GROUP CONTACT DETAILS

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The Peacock Pub	01295 688060
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WOT2Grow Community Orchard:	Liz Atkinson (680045), Paul Sayer (680451), Sue & Mike Sanderson (688080) www.wot2grow.co.uk

**If you would like to list your club or group in the Oxhill News  
please send details to [oxhill@btinternet.com](mailto:oxhill@btinternet.com)**

# GUESS WHO!



Did you guess the villagers in last month's Guess Who?

The woman in the top left photo is **Charlotte Nicholl** taken in 1999.

The man in the top right photo is our Parish Chairman, **Derek Harbour**. "The picture is of me on my 21st Birthday beside my Dad's Ford Corsair in Cookham Dean, Berkshire."

And the young girl in the bottom right photo is **Elaine Morgan**. "The photo was taken at my Auntie Jeanne's house in Molesey, we had gone to visit my Auntie for the day and she had taught me how to curtsy because I was told that I might see the Queen! My Grandfather worked in Somerset house up in London and he took my older sister and I to his office, where we saw the Lord Mayor show go by from his office window. Obviously I never saw the Queen! But I can remember how grand my Grandfather's office was. The room was huge and it had a large marble fireplace.

Do you know the villagers in this month's Guess Who?



*We are looking for more photos for Guess Who! Do you have a photo that would keep our villagers guessing? Please send it to us!*

## NATURE NOTES FOR JUNE

by Grenville Moore

Hopefully June will bring us some long-awaited hot days, but take care with barbecues as Hannah Wooley in *The Gentlewoman's Companion* 1675 warns us “Do not venture to eat Meat so hot, that tears stand in your eyes, for that thereby you betray your intolerable greediness; neither fill your mouth so full, that your cheeks shall swell like a pair of Scotch bagpipes. Gnaw no bones with your teeth, nor suck them to come to the marrow.”

We had a bit of a mystery some weeks ago, Around the edges of Manor pond we found the remains of about twenty frogs, most of which had been mauled and lost their back legs. I retrieved one or two and examined them. They appeared to have been healthy and in good condition so it definitely was not disease, they had been

attacked and some were almost skinned. Was it a heron, maybe the little egret or even a goose? None of these, I suspected an otter. The Otter finds the skin of frogs and toads quite toxic and will either attempt to skin the poor creature or just bite off the hind legs. My theory was confirmed the following day when I found otter prints in the mud at the edge of the pond and nearer the brook I found otter spraint (poo!) I think this was a single animal exploring and looking for food.

I have recently been asked several times about a curious flying insect appearing in many gardens. This tiny fluffy flying narwhal reminds me of a tiny powder puff and is in fact a Large Bee-fly (*Bombylius Major*) this is without doubt one of my favourite insects. With its hairy body and long proboscis it looks quite fearsome but is in fact absolutely harmless. It belongs to a group of insects known as robber flies in the



*Bee-fly (most likely), photo by Rachel Beesley. Rachel sent us a sweet video of the bee-fly cleaning himself, “He was on my back door a few weeks back, almost as if he wanted to come in!”*

family Bombyliidae and are parasite flies. What is particularly interesting is their method of egg dispersal, they wrap their eggs mid-air in ballast and hurl them into or close by solitary bees' nests, where the egg will hatch and the larvae feeds on the bee larvae, charming little chaps !

21 June is the Summer Solstice, and the longest day of the year (where has the past six months gone?). Seek out St John's Wort against Midsummer Eve apparitions:

*"A house, or chamber, somewhere in London was Haunted; the Curtains would be rashed at Night, and awake the Gentleman that lay there. Henry Lawes to be satisfied did lie with him, and the Curtains were rashed so then: and the Gentleman grew lean and pale with the Frights. One Doctor cured the House of this disturbance...the principal ingredient was Hypericon or St John's Wort placed under his Pillow"*

John Aubrey Miscellanies 1695

.....so you know what to do if your curtains be rashed (clawed at?) at night.

## OXHILL CHURCHYARD MOWING

The Churchyard is looking lovely since regular mowing recommenced. Thank you very much to those who have already made a contribution to the cost following the article in last month's Oxhill News. If you had intended to make a donation but haven't found the time to do so yet, please follow the instructions in last month's Oxhill News which can be found at [www.oxhillcommunity.co.uk](http://www.oxhillcommunity.co.uk). It would be fantastic if we could collect enough to cover the cost of mowing this season, especially as we have missed so many fundraising events during the past 14 months due to COVID.

Oxhill PCC appreciated all the proposals and suggestions received for how the churchyard might be maintained in the future, especially the offers of help. There will be further discussions at future PCC meetings based on all the ideas that were put forward: we are always grateful to receive helpful ideas from the community.

*Thank you again.*  
*Oxhill PCC*

## VILLAGE PLANT SALE

The weather held for the plant sale & coffee morning, a joint effort by the Garden Club & the Village Hall. Lots of plants were snapped up by villagers fortified by coffee & cake! Many thanks to all those who supported the event, the proceeds will help the village hall renovation project.



*Photos by Tricia Harbour*

# OXHILL VILLAGE HALL

**A.G.M.**  
**Wednesday 23rd June**  
**7.00 p.m.**

Don't forget this year's AGM is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. with drinks & nibbles & a chance to meet the committee & discuss the approved plans for the renovation & extension of the hall. The business meeting including election of committee members will follow at 7.30 p.m.

We look forward to seeing you on 23rd June at 7 p.m.

## **Breakout From Lockdown Party**

The family BBQ party & games is on 3rd July beginning at 5.30p.m. Come along for an afternoon & evening of fun & good food! We've had good weather in the past but if wet we will keep calm & carry on anyway!

Please book in advance to assist with catering by contacting Ali Sayer on: [ali.sayer@btinternet.com](mailto:ali.sayer@btinternet.com) or tel 07970922352

The cost is £10 for adults for burger or hotdog & salads; under 5 year olds free. Older children & teens £5. Bar with wines & beers

# BBQ PARTY

3 July 2021 at 5:30pm  
Village Hall  
£10 Adult, Older Children & £5  
Under 5 yrs old Free

Come Join Us!  
Book Now  
Contact Ali Sayer: 07970922352  
[ali.sayer@btinternet.com](mailto:ali.sayer@btinternet.com)



# ST LAWRENCE CHURCH

It is absolutely wonderful to be able to worship in church again: we still, of course, have to be careful and follow whatever the current guidance is, but at we can share in worship together in God's house!

## **In late May and June, our services will be:**

Sunday, 30 <sup>th</sup> May	9:30 am	Morning Worship.	(Jennie Rake)
Sunday, 6 <sup>th</sup> June	9.30 am	Holy Communion	(George Heighton)
Sunday, 13 <sup>th</sup> June	9.30 am	Morning Worship	(Heather Parbury)
Sunday, 20 <sup>th</sup> June	9.30 am	Holy Communion	(George Heighton and Jenny Rake)
Sunday, 27 <sup>th</sup> June	6.30 pm	Evening Worship	(Jill Tucker)

*For those who prefer to worship from home, some of these will be Zoomed: details nearer the time, and are given week by week in The Grapevine. If you would like to receive this emailing, please get in touch with me or George.*

During the week, the **church is open on Wednesday afternoons** between 12.00 and 4.00 pm if you would like to enjoy the prayerful peace of the centuries old building.



**Morning Prayer and Coffee, via Zoom, Wednesday at 10.00 am, opening at 9.45 am.** Each Wednesday you are invited to join us for Morning Prayer, a simple form of worship, reflection and prayer. Come with coffee, cake or breakfast, and use this as a chance to catch up. Again, details of this are in The Grapevine.



Finally, having journeyed through Easter, the Ascension and Pentecost, a prayer that we might know God's presence in our lives as we journey forward.

Jesus  
risen to be always with us,  
you are alive  
in our hearts,  
awakening hope,  
inspiring faith,  
empowering us  
with your Spirit.

Give us the courage  
to live for you.

Transform us  
with your words and your ways,  
that the world  
might glimpse your glory  
and know the wholeness of your love. Amen.

*Louise Gough, in Summer, Ruth Burgess.*

*Every blessing, Jill*



**STOUR VALLEY LIONS (CIO)**

Charity No 1191826

**'Pop up'**  
**'Bring and Buy'**  
**Plant Sale**

Saturday June 5th  
10:00am onwards on the grass area, south  
of Scout Hut, New Street Car Park  
New Street  
Shipston on Stour  
CV36 4EV

For more information contact Stour Valley  
Lions by email at  
[stourvalleylions@gmail.com](mailto:stourvalleylions@gmail.com)



# THE PEACOCK PUB & RESTAURANT

**The Peacock is now open!**

After many months of lockdown the Peacock is back up and running. The Peacock serves cask marque beers and local home-cooked food, all freshly prepared to order.

Opening Hours: Though it is best to call as opening hours may change.

Tel: 01295 688 060

Closed Monday and Tuesday

Open Wednesday and Thursday from 3:00 pm

Open Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 12:00 pm



*Pub landlord Mark Farrell*





The Peacock is pleased to welcome **Chef Gareth Howcroft** to the village. Gareth was previously chef at the Cotswold House Hotel & Spa in Chipping Camden, in their two rosette restaurant. And before that he was chef at The Feather in Woodstock and at Anyhoe Park in Banbury. Gareth started his chef career working 12 years in the Air Force.

We wish Chef Gareth the greatest success in our beloved village pub and restaurant: The Peacock. ~ ed



*Confit Duck Leg*



*Belly Pork*

# PEACOCK

## OXHILL

### Starters

Homemade Soup of The Day with Warm Rustic Bread (G)	£7
Smoked Salmon, Keta, Sour Creme, Capers (F,M,G)	£11
Baked Cheddar to share, Red Onion Marmalade and Grilled Mixed Breads (SD,M,G)	£16
Vegetarian Antipasti Platter, Hummus, Artichoke, Tomatoes, Olives, Tepenade, Chutney (G,SD,M)	£8 / 15
Duck Liver Pate, Truffle Butter, Mixed Breads	£7
Grilled Goat's Cheese, Walnuts, Roasted Onion, Beetroot, Balsamic Glaze (SD, M, N)	£8 / 15

### Mains

8oz Rib Eye, Mushroom, Tomato, Chips, Rocket (For sauces see below) (SD, M)	£24
Steak Sauces: £3.00 Peppercorn or Aioli	
Flat Iron Chicken, Fries, Rocket, Aioli (SD, M)	£16
Battered Haddock, Chips, Mushy Peas, Tartare Sauce (SD, G, F, M, E)	£16
Belly Pork, Dauphinoise, Confi Carrots, Apple Sauce, Cider Jus (M)	£17
Pea and Mint Orzo Pasta, Parmesan Crisp (G, M)	£16
6oz Burger, Brioche Bun, Burger Sauce, Cheddar, Gem Lettuce, Tomato, Fries (M,G)	£14
Confit of Duck Leg, Fondant Potato, Pickled Red Cabbage, Red Wine Jus. (SD, G)	£18

### SIDES and SNACKS

Chips	£5
Rocket Salad	£3
Truffle Mac and Cheese (G, M)	£7
French Fries	£4
Rocket and Parmesan Salad	£4
Seasonal Greens	£14

*All of our dishes are freshly cooked to order. Please ask a member of staff for advice on allergens or any other dietary requirements*

*G - Gluten, C - Celery, E - Eggs, F - Fish, P - Peanuts, N - Nuts, S - Sesame, So - Soya, Mo - Molluscs, M - Milk,*

*CR - Crustaceans, MU - Mustard, L - Lupin, SD - Sulphur Dioxide*

*The Peacock menu is subject to change.*

## VILLAGE FLOWERY VERGES

We received the article below from Katy Dowding who wrote: "Thought this article from the Sunday Telegraph could be good for village verges...."

### FLOWERY VERGES

I received an interesting email from one of my local town councillors, Amanda Wheeler, about the maintenance of grass verges around Stamford. Amanda had put forward a proposal to cut the verges and remove the cuttings just a couple of times a year as opposed to frequently cutting the grass with a mulching mower and leaving the cuttings in place.

Her main reasons for proposing cut and collect are environmental, with aesthetics and economics being secondary benefits. Local paper the *Rutland & Stamford Mercury* is covering the debate and encouraging residents to engage.

Phil Sterling from Butterfly Conservation, aka "Verge Man", has done trials on wild flower verges for Dorset Council which involved reducing the cuts to two times or three times a year using a machine that is capable of cutting and collecting long grass, the Grillo FD2200.

Less frequent mowing is

far better for wild flowers and insects and is becoming more appreciated by the public. Dorset Council, having adopted this regime, now reckons it has halved the time staff spend cutting verges in summer, from five or six times a year (sometimes seven) before 2014 to two or sometimes three times a year now.

That is a huge saving in staff time and fuel, and the

verges look neat and tidy (once mown) and wild flowers can bloom between the much less-frequent mowing rounds.

The mowings are secreted away in small piles in hedgerow bottoms, the litter having been removed. There are 50,000 hectares of verges in the UK, so Phil's study could make a massive environmental change for the better.



▲ Less mowing means more pyramidal orchids on verges in Dorset

## TYSOE W.I.



We are thrilled that we still have over 50 members, and are hoping it won't be too long before we can meet up in a group again. Committee have enjoyed seeing our ladies each month for a doorstep chat when delivering their “meeting in a bag”

We are currently operating a waiting list for any ladies wishing to join our “happy band” as until we start up meetings again, which may come with number/space restrictions, we feel we can't accept new members just yet. If you would like to be added to list please email [tysoew.i.1917@icloud.com](mailto:tysoew.i.1917@icloud.com)

The W.I. Craft and Laugh group would like to thank everyone for their support and lovely messages regarding the window displays in Tysoe tearoom windows. Wonder what they will do next!?

Let's hope the weather improves and we can all enjoy sunshine and look forward to meetings and resuming trips and events in 2022.

Follow us on Facebook and [www.tysoewi.com](http://www.tysoewi.com)



### WARWICKSHIRE OPEN STUDIOS



#### Art Exhibition

**Grenville Moore – Painting**  
**Geoffrey Smith – Photography**

will be exhibiting in The Old Chapel, Oxhill  
26 June – 4 July 2021  
10.30-5.30 (Sun 11.00 – 4.00)

**Lynsey Cleaver – Paintings**

will open her studio at Binswood Cottage, Oxhill  
27 – 29 June and 1 – 4 July 2021  
10.00 – 2.30 (Sat/Sun 11.00 – 4.00)



# OXHILL COOKS

## RHUBARB AND ORANGE PILE-IT-HIGH MERINGUE PIE

*by Ruth Mercer*

I love this dessert. The combination of the tart rhubarb and the sweet meringue is a treat for your taste buds! Our rhubarb is not very impressive this year, but a gift of rhubarb from Joe Costa meant I could make one of my favourite desserts last weekend. In a good rhubarb year, I aim to make this for Mothering Sunday. The recipe comes from Delia Smith's Summer Collection which was a very popular book with Oxhill Toddler Group Mums when it was first published in 1994. I believe Rhian Cooper introduced me to this particular recipe: I shall be forever grateful to her!

There are a number of elements to this recipe, but you could always simplify it by using packet shortcrust pastry or even a readymade pastry case. Personally, I use the same pastry recipe I use for mince pies rather than Delia's, so that is the one I am including.

The pile-it-high applies if you have any spare egg whites to use up or want to make the meringue nice and thick. I like to use meringue made with 5 egg whites and that is what is shown in the photos.



### **For the pastry:**

- 8 oz plain flour
- 6 oz cold butter
- 2 oz caster sugar
- 1 egg yolk
- 1 tbsp water

**For the filling:**

1 ½ lb rhubarb  
Grated zest and juice of 3 large oranges  
3 oz caster sugar  
3 tbsp cornflour  
3 egg yolks

**For the meringue:**

3 egg whites (minimum)  
6 oz caster sugar  
Or 4 egg whites and 8 oz caster sugar  
Or 5 egg whites and 10 oz caster sugar etc...

Delia says you need a 9" round quiche tin, 1 ¼" deep, but I use a 10" or 11" tin as that's what I have.

1. Start by making the pastry. Rub the butter into the flour until like breadcrumbs. Stir in the sugar, then add the egg yolk and enough water to bring the dough together. Wrap and refrigerate for at least 30 minutes.
2. Meanwhile, wash and trim the rhubarb and cut into 1" chunks. Place in a shallow ovenproof dish and sprinkle with the orange zest and 3 oz caster sugar.
3. Turn oven on to 190°C and arrange a middle shelf for the pastry and a lower shelf for the rhubarb. Take the pastry from the fridge and roll it out until it forms a circle large enough to line your tin with a bit hanging over the edge. Don't trim the excess until it has baked! (Tip: I usually keep a bit of pastry so that I can patch any holes that develop when baking blind – very useful when making a quiche as you don't want leakage).
4. Prick the pastry base all over with a fork. Using some of the egg yolk for the filling, paint the pastry base and sides to provide a seal. Place on the middle shelf in the oven and place the rhubarb on the lower shelf. Bake the pastry for 20-25 minutes until light brown and crisp. The rhubarb should take 25-30 minutes to become soft, but not mushy. Trim the cooked pastry case if you want it to look tidy.
5. While the rhubarb and pastry are cooking, start to make the filling. I make mine in the microwave but you can do it in a saucepan on the hob. Squeeze the oranges and use a little of the juice to blend the cornflour to a smooth paste. Add the rest of the juice and heat to simmering point, mixing with a whisk until it becomes very thick indeed.
6. Strain the cooked rhubarb through a sieve over a bowl and add the juices to the cornflour mixture, stirring well, then whisk in the egg yolks. Bring to the boil, whisking all the time. Remove from heat and stir in the rhubarb.

7. Now make the meringue: whisk the egg whites until stiff enough that they stay in the bowl if it is inverted (an electric whisk is the easiest way). Add the sugar, 1 tablespoon at a time, whisking well after each addition. The meringue should be stiff and glossy when whisked enough.

8. Pour the rhubarb mixture into the pastry case and then spoon the meringue on top, starting with the edge and working into the middle. Use the back of a spoon to make peaks in the meringue.

9. Place the pie back in the middle of the oven, still at 190°C, and bake for 25 minutes, or until the meringue is golden. Leave to cool for about 2 hours before serving. If you don't eat it all, it will keep for a few days.

**Please send photos of any of the Oxhill Cooks recipes that you make. It was so lovely to see Jasmine and Arthur Fawcus' Easter cake in last month's Oxhill News.**



## SHIPSTON FOOD BANK



Shipston Food Bank would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for all of their kind donations of food and money. Over the past twelve months the Food Bank has been able to help over 115 households, some of which are in our village. Shipston Food Bank is an independent Food Bank and relies solely on the kind donations people give, they do not receive any other funding. There are a team of volunteers who turn up weekly to receive and sort out the food which has been donated, as well as distribute the same to those in need of help. We do not turn anyone away.

If you would like to donate any items of food, there is a box in the porch of St. Lawrence's Church, if you are able to put just one extra item of food on your shopping list each week to donate to the Food Bank it would be greatly appreciated. There is a list of food items posted on the village Facebook page each week but any food items are greatly welcomed. However we do ask that any items donated have a long use by date on them as we are unable to give out food with expired best before or use by dates.

For information about our current needs please check on our Facebook page or our website:

[www.facebook.com/ShipstonFoodBank](http://www.facebook.com/ShipstonFoodBank)

[www.shipstonfoodbank.org.uk](http://www.shipstonfoodbank.org.uk)



## Carers4Carers

Finding support through supporting each other

Carers4Carers is a self-help support group for unpaid carers living in Kineton, its surrounding villages and rural areas. Our first indoor meeting is tentatively planned for September and we're excited to be planning a couple of outdoor meetings before then at Compton Verney. We offer a monthly newsletter and friendly telephone support. Joining instructions for our monthly virtual coffee morning can be found in our monthly email or contact the number below.

New members always welcome. More details can be found on our website [www.carers4carersonthefosse.org.uk](http://www.carers4carersonthefosse.org.uk), email us at [kcarers4carers@gmail.com](mailto:kcarers4carers@gmail.com) or phone Gillian on 07947 893504.

*Best wishes*

*Lisa Barnett – Assistant Coordinator*

# THE BARTLETT FAMILY HISTORY IN OXHILL

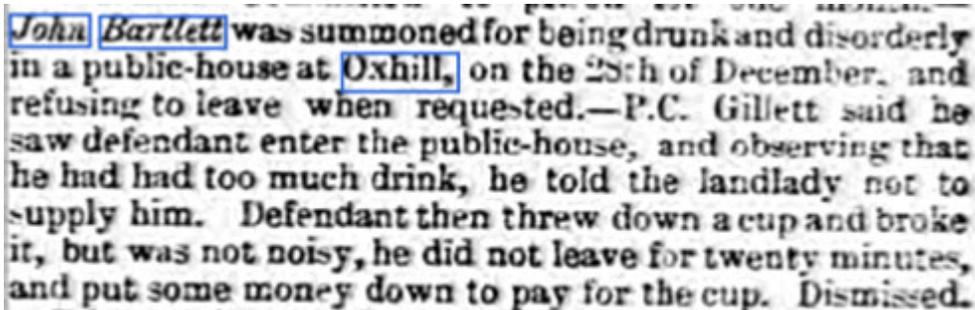
*by Rachel Beesley*

I had been researching my family history for over 25 years and when we moved to Oxhill in October 2019, I had a vague recollection that I had relatives from here. You can imagine my surprise then, when having a little more time to research during lockdown, I discovered that I had hundreds of ancestors from here, the Bartlett, Blackford and Savage families. Even more surprising given the small size of Oxhill. To date, I have traced them back to the 1500s and discovered a connection to Daniel Blackford, our prominent Royalist buried in the nave of the church.

The records online on [www.oxhill.org.uk](http://www.oxhill.org.uk) were a most helpful resource in tracing my Oxhill ancestors - I am very grateful to those who created these records. The listings of those buried in the church and churchyard, recorded by Rev. Thomas Ward around 1830 and Rev. Harvey Bloom in 1910 were also particularly helpful as sadly many of the graves are now illegible due to the soft nature of the stone used.

I believe the last surviving Bartlett, lived in Back Lane until 1939 according to the census. His name was James, he was born here in 1871. James's father John Bartlett was born in Oxhill in 1836, he was married to Elizabeth from Barford and they had 9 children including James. By 1891, only James was still living with them at the Manor where they farmed.

When Alistair and Deborah moved into the Manor last spring, I searched online family history sites for them looking for articles about the Manor's history. I found many interesting newspaper articles - we are brilliant in this country at record keeping! The majority of the articles were concerning the hunt, as the Manor was a meet for the hunt for many years. You can imagine my surprise when I came across this article from the Leamington Courier, dated 1 February 1873, a commentary on the proceedings of the assizes.



**John Bartlett** was summoned for being drunk and disorderly in a public-house at **Oxhill**, on the 28th of December, and refusing to leave when requested.—P.C. Gillett said he saw defendant enter the public-house, and observing that he had had too much drink, he told the landlady not to supply him. Defendant then threw down a cup and broke it, but was not noisy, he did not leave for twenty minutes, and put some money down to pay for the cup. Dismissed.

*Leamington Courier, 1 February 1873*

I wonder if he'd had too much Christmas spirit, or if he'd had his in-laws staying over the Christmas period and it all got too much for him! I have promised Sarah and Mark not to follow in my Great Great Great Uncle's footsteps!

With the help of Murray Duke from Canada who wrote the wonderful article about the Blackford family in last month's Oxhill News, I am continuing to investigate the many Blackfords who lived here and in the surrounding villages of Tysoe and Halford. To date we have got back to John Blackford 1545-1604. Parish records began in the 1500s so we probably won't get back much further unfortunately. If anyone has any information they would like to share with me I would love to hear from them, you can contact me at: [rachel.b@zen.co.uk](mailto:rachel.b@zen.co.uk).



*Fascinating to read Rachel's article with reference to her great great uncle getting thrown out of the pub. It reminded me of when I came with my parents to help them run the pub in 1965. Back then there was a 'village Bobby' who lived in Tysoe and looked after all the small villages in this area. His name was Stan Baylis, he was a quiet thoughtful man and several times a week he could be seen standing on the corner opposite the pub. Parked next to him would be his Velocette Police motorcycle, these were not powerful machines. Stan would always put in an appearance at lunchtime and stand gently rocking back and forward on his heels until closing time ( in those days 2.30pm ) he would then look side to side, wander across the road, nip round the back and in the kitchen door, my father would say "pint Stan?" and the next hour would be spent discussing the 'horses' and bets placed over the phone. Gentle days !*

*Grenville Moore*

## ANOTHER FILTHY STORY FROM GREEN LANE

On 3rd May the downstairs toilet was slow to flush. Oh dear. Go and get the manhole lifters. We found the Severn Trent manhole of the public sewer in the verge to be full to the brim. (Normally it's four feet to the gully). I phoned ST on the emergency number and the men came in four hours. They brought me flowers, declaring that it was our one year anniversary since their last visit.

The blockage was in a typical place towards the church end of Green Lane..... but this time the materials were different. The blockage was mostly made up of fats. (In the past the main items have been rags, paper towels, which have synthetic fibres in them, and wet wipes which also don't break down because of synthetic content). What caused the blockage was new too. The workmen described it as a fairly new rubber gasket from a type of manhole cover! This would perhaps suggest it originated from recent building work.

So on this auspicious flower bedecked anniversary may I remind residents, new and old, that our sewers are very fragile. Please don't put fat and kitchen towels and wet wipes (or nappies!) down them. As for rubber gaskets.....

*Peter Britton*

**PLEASE DON'T PUT FAT, OIL OR GREASE DOWN THE SINK**



# MEMORIES OF OXHILL YOUTH CLUB

*by Lis Stuart*

Oxhill Youth Club was started by Vic Walters and Roy Perry in April 1976 and was one of the only rural youth clubs registered with the Youth Club Association at that time. It was held in the village hall every Friday night and was the highlight of the week and a mecca for the teenagers not just from Oxhill but from the surrounding villages e.g. Tysoe, Whatcote, Idlicote and Fullready. This meant that teenagers of all ages and from different schools met and socialised. Activities included bar billiards which you may remember was situated in the entrance hall. In the main hall, there was table football, often needing mending



*Opening of the Youth club 1976*

when overzealous players knocked the players from their positions. A table tennis table, a game of round the table was encouraged as this meant that most of those attending could be involved. Another game often played and discouraged by those in authority was who can hit the ball between the beams in the ceiling, taking great skills and aim! The piano was often used for sing-a-longs, there was also a pool table and a tuck shop which sold chocolate snacks, including lions bars (a favourite of Mrs Walters!) and cans of fizzy drinks, a real novelty then. The small room was used as a no adults room and was often commandeered by the older members, a wardrobe containing games was used as a seat and there was a dart board which required the door to be shut so that the darts could be thrown. Outside there was a netball hoop on the tarmacked area and football was played either on the grassed area or in the road.

The youth club encouraged a community feel, a sense of democracy and encouraged the attending teenagers to think of others which is often difficult at that age. The record player was always playing the most popular songs, decisions on what records should be purchased and played was voted on so that everyone was included. Vic and Roy encouraged members to discuss their worries and concerns, today I guess that would be called counselling and would require a qualification, no doubt it helped the mental health of the local teenagers at a time when you rarely talked to your parents about such things! Vic also used to listen and help people decide what they wanted to do

after school, today teenagers have careers advice.

There were also visits from the local police, not because there was a problem but because they liked to see so many teenagers purposefully engaged and enjoying themselves.

The youth club also took part in several activities throughout the year they had teams representing the club at the Youth Club Association, it's a Knockout, quizzes, football and netball going up against teams from much larger places like Coventry-Sidney Stringer school was always an interesting game and often being very successful. Trips included the monthly trip to Solihull for ice skating and the annual trip to Alton Towers, where a bus full of local teenagers would go accompanied by 3 or 4 adults have a fantastic time without the now compulsory risk assessments and other paperwork.



*1979 Christmas tea – Village Hall*

One event which bemused the National Association of Youth Clubs was the annual gymkhana, not a usual event for a Youth Club to hold and did involve huge amounts of paperwork for Roy to fill in to get the necessary insurance etc. This was held at the bottom of the Whatcote hill in Tom Herritage's field. A small caravan was used for judging, several events were held e.g. the 14.2 class, the novice class and the potato race. The day always ran smoothly with a everyone having a job to do and a well organised clear up at the end of the day.

November saw the bonfire and firework display followed in December with a Christmas tea and entertainment for the older members of the village, this was greatly appreciated by all who attended and who wrote to the Youth Club to thank them for their efforts. The Youth club also took part in activities which raised money for various charities e.g. the Stratford Talking Newspaper for the Blind.

The youth club gave us all the foundations of many skills that are vital in later life, teamwork, consideration for others and a sense of community, as well as opportunities to take part in activities and visit places that would not have been part of our lives e.g. ice skating whilst living in a rural part of Warwickshire. One of the most important

opportunity that it gave us all was to meet others of a similar age to share experiences and to chat.

Some of the familiar names of those who attended are: Tom Fox, Jo and Nicky Walters, Lis and Andrew Beasley, Guy, Becky and Neil Loverage, Kevin and Linda Welsby, Iain and Catherine Greenway, Harvey and Maxwell Brooker, Lynne Badger, Tim Price, Janet and Sandra Perry, Matthew and Sam Lovelock, Louisa Enock, Kate Casswell, Jill Bowman, Ben Wilson, Mandy Hirons, Richard Sturman, Stephen Wreford, Julia Smith, Nick Seabridge, Fraiser Edwards, Paul and Zoe Herritage to name but a few.

In Memory of Vic Walters and Roy Perry who gave the youngsters of the village so much of their time and energies.



*Roy Perry and Vic Walters  
(1978 A Sponsored Show Jumping and Gymkhana)*



## DENE VALLEY U3A LIFE AFTER WORK

Ask many people what retirement is about and they might say - more time to travel, enjoy hobbies, and spend time with family. But when it actually happens and you walk away from work for the last time, it can also feel like a loss. Loss of identity, the company of colleagues and, perhaps most impactful of all, the loss of structure in your day to day life. Whilst that lack of routine can be liberating, it can also be unsettling.

Covering Wellesbourne and the surrounding villages, Dene Valley u3a fills this gap for many local people "I joined 12 years ago to learn to play bridge," said Alison Edwards. "I am now in several different groups. There's something to interest everyone. Many groups have continued on-line via Zoom during lockdown and our monthly speaker meeting is available to everybody via Zoom. It's really boosted morale to be able to stay in contact," she continued.



U3a is an international organisation. Members form interest groups dedicated to continued learning on a self-help basis. Valley u3a has almost 50 groups, covering topics as diverse as the members who enjoy them, from Bread Making to Bridge, German to Geology, Play Reading to Philosophy and Rock and Roll. In Dene Valley u3a if members want to be active, they can. There are groups for Walking, Bowling, Table Tennis, Curling and Pilates.

The structure is informal and groups are run by members for members.

For only £15 a year, members can join as many groups as they want. The only criterion is that is that they are no longer in full-time employment.



To find out more just get in touch:  
denevalleyu3a@gmail.com  
tel. 07742 486780  
website [www.denevalleyu3a.btck.co.uk](http://www.denevalleyu3a.btck.co.uk)  
to read the newsletter and see the full list of groups.

*Original source: Alison Edwards:  
alison.mallalieu@btinternet.com 07736  
404927*



**Tysoe Tennis Club**  
[www.tysoetennisclub.co.uk](http://www.tysoetennisclub.co.uk)

At last, competitive tennis has got under way after a year's lull. Although the men's team went down fighting against the David Lloyd Centre in Coventry, they came back fighting with a convincing 4-0 win over Chipping Campden. Alcester, however, proved too much and the team were cruelly forced to settle for a draw at Moreton when Steve Freer suffered a muscle tear. With two regulars now injured the men's team needs some refreshing new talent if anyone is interested. Please contact Philip Marshall on [philipjamesmarshall@gmail.com](mailto:philipjamesmarshall@gmail.com)

Fixtures are now out for the summer Ladies' matches and Banbury Town mixed matches.

Our juniors have started their matches in the Warwickshire Summer League. The U10s have had two games. The match against Nuneaton was close with all players showing good improvement. Although the match against Rugby was a challenge, every member of the team won some games against a strong opposition. In the U9 category we played against Warwick and, although we lost, the games were very competitive and again showed good improvement by our players.

Half-term Tennis Camp – Tennisolutions are offering two days of fun tennis during half term – Wednesday 2nd June and Friday 4th June from 9.30 to 3.30. Please contact Debbie at [admin@tennisolutions.co.uk](mailto:admin@tennisolutions.co.uk)

Website: [www.tysoetennisclub.co.uk](http://www.tysoetennisclub.co.uk)

Club Secretary – Carol Spencer 07708 412767 [carol.spencer234@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:carol.spencer234@hotmail.co.uk)



## WOT2GROW COMMUNITY ORCHARD

After a very dry April, May has provided a lot of much welcome rain and the orchard is looking wonderful. The apple blossom is beautiful and plentiful on all but the late cropping trees and some of the cider apples. Everywhere seems to be having a great blossoming this year!

Volunteers have been working all this year on strimming and clearing the soft fruit area and pruning canes and bushes ready for another year hopefully of good crops. Despite having weed suppressant material laid through out some weeds do manage to creep underneath and couch grass gets everywhere in amongst the plants!

The trees have all had their low branches removed to make sure the grass can be cut and strimmed and will be having a good summer prune to maintain their size and shape. With more than a hundred and eighty trees that is a lot of work.



*Cow Parsley*

Yes, the dandelions still provide a wonderful early feast for the insects but are definitely being reduced over the years of careful mowing. We aim to prevent them from seeding not only around the orchard but in neighbouring plots.

We have many different areas at the orchard that need work throughout the year – the soft fruit, the trees, the hedges and wind breaks, the grass, the sensory garden and the bees. So if you fancy helping out do get in touch!!! Your reward will be some lovely organic fruit in return for your efforts.

The Community Orchard is just 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](http://www.wot2grow.co.uk)



*Lord Lambourne Apple Blossom*



*Braeburn Apple Blossom*

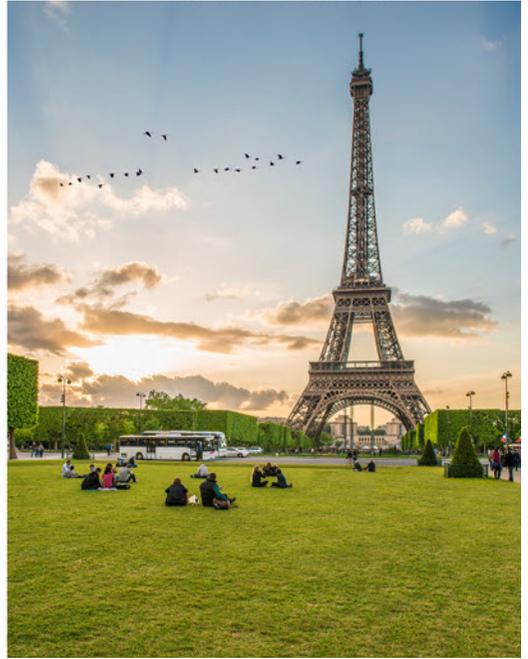
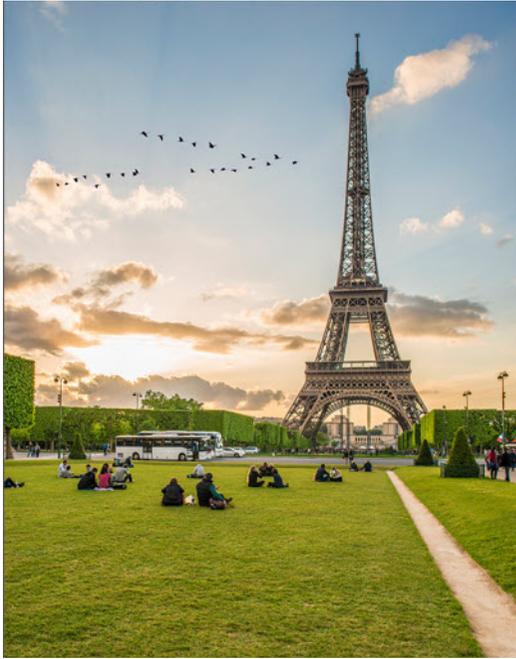
# FIND THE DIFFERENCES



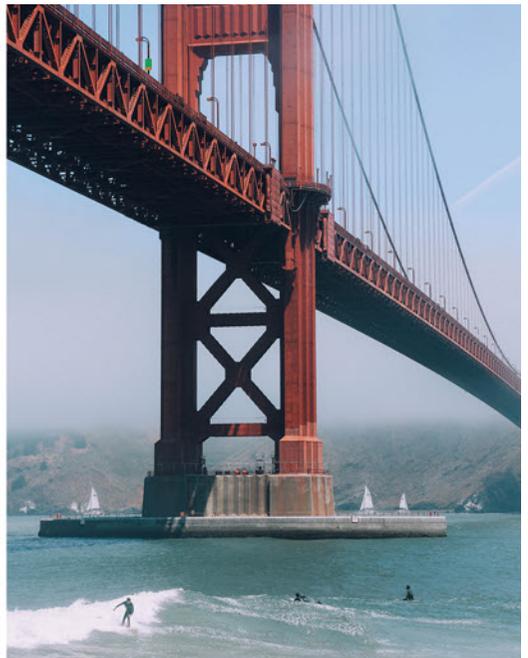
Find **6 differences** in this picture of London's Big Ben



Find **6 differences** in this picture of the Leaning Tower of Pisa



Find **5 differences** in this picture of the Eiffel Tower



Find **6 differences** in this picture of the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco

# WHAT'S ON IN & AROUND OXHILL

## JUNE

Friday 18th	13:15 - 13:30	Mobile Library, outside Village Hall
Wednesday 23rd	19:00	Village Hall AGM
Sat 26 - July 4	10:30 - 17:30	Warwickshire Art Exhibit, the Old Chapel
Every Thursday	11:30	Awesome Coffee Van, outside Peacock Pub

## JULY

Sat 3rd	17:30	BBQ Party, Village Hall
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## PC MEETINGS

There is no PC Meeting planned for June, so the date of the next PC Meeting is **Tuesday, 13 July at 7.30pm**. This meeting will be held in the Village Hall. The Agenda for the meeting will be shown on the PC Website or a physical copy will be displayed on the Notice Board by the Peacock a few days before the meeting.

## 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@btinternet.com](mailto:oxhill@btinternet.com)

June						
M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su
	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				

## BIN COLLECTION CALENDAR



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

