

THE OXHILL NEWS

May 2021 No. 558



Prodsports Race Championship 1974

Villager Peter Taylor gives us a glimpse into his first car racing championship in the 'My First' column on page 4.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

ARTICLE

PAGE

Guess Who!	3
My First	4
Pub No Pub Quiz	6
Oxhill Plant Sale	7
Village Easter Activities for Children	8
Getting to Know the Alpacas of Oxhill	12
St Lawrence Church	15
Oxhill Churchyard Mowing	16
Oxhill PCC Gift Aid Form	17
Selling Sidecars to the KGB	18
Oxhill Cooks	20
The Night We Nuked Bicester and Nobody Noticed	22
The Way We Were	25
Carers4Carers	26
Oxhill Village Hall & New Bus Shelter	27
Wildflower Verges	28
Tysoe C.E. Primary School	29
Tysoe Tennis Club	30
Babysitter Available	30
Oxhill Community Website	31
WOT2Grow Community Orchard	32
Home Barber	33
Mazes	34

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

GUESS WHO!



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

The lovely young ballerina is **Carol Taylor**, taken when she was 12 years old. Carol found the photo in her mother's handbag after her mother died.

The water colour of the young boy is **Mick Shephard** painted by Mary Baker, a children's book illustrator who lived in Sutton-under-Brailes, where Mick's family lived. His parents commissioned the painting when Mick was 4 years old.

Finally the young boy in a sailors cap is **Peter Rivers-Fletcher**. Peter was a sea cadet at that stage and later he became a sea scout.

Can you guess the villagers in this month's Guess Who?





my first



This was 31 March 1974 at Brands Hatch. The car is a V12 E-type Jaguar, which I bought from Jaguar in 1973. It was the first V12 E-type ever built and was used by Jaguar to develop the car. I was closely involved in this, as I was working for Jaguar at the time.

I prepared the car for 'Prodsports' racing which was a class for production sports cars with limited modifications allowed. We did the full season of 13 races and won the 'Titan Properties Prodsports Championship'. I still have the trophy in the garage.

Peter Taylor

Do you have a 'My First' story that you would like to share? It can be a first experience, a first special possession, a first pet or any 'first' that made an impression on you. We would love to share it. Please send your story to oxhill@btinternet.com





OXHILL VILLAGE PLANT SALE

The village plant sale, organised by the Garden Club, will take place outside at the Village Hall on **Saturday 22nd May starting at 10.30 am.**

The system, like last September, is 'bring and buy'. And the proceeds will go towards the Village Hall maintenance and rebuild fund.

Cakes and tea/coffee will be available and if anyone wants to set up other stalls, but only selling jams, honey, preserves and vegetables, this is welcomed. with contributions to the village hall from the proceeds.

Please bring along your plants from 10am onwards.

For further information please contact Peter Rivers Fletcher on 680396 or 07730800729.



Village Easter Activities for children



A big thank you to all the villagers who put up an Easter display in their window or garden. It was lovely to see all the families, old residents and new, walking around the village over Easter Weekend spotting Easter eggs 1-50 and picking up a few chocolatey treats along the way! Jude Spink, Leah & Hayden Merrick and Fraser & Emma Stewart and Harry, Isabella & Lily Syrotiuk have been awarded certificates and prizes for completing the trail and the quiz that went along with it.

Celia organized a treasure hunt, which proved fairly challenging, even for some adults (I won't mention any names!) but the following managed to complete it and work out the mystery word! Lewis and James, Martha and Monty and Jude.

There were only two entries for the Easter Garden competition - Jill Tucker and I went along to admire the work of Jasmine and Arthur Fawcus & their cousins on Easter Saturday – well done to them.



Easter gardens by Jasmine & Arthur Fawcus & their cousins



Emma Stewart (age 3)

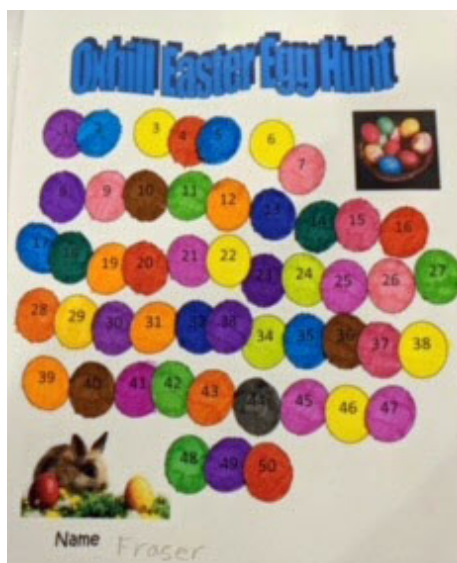


Fraser Stewart (age 6)

There was also a competition for the best decorated Easter Egg – they were all amazing so have all been awarded certificates and prizes and can be seen on the following pages. Well done to Elsie & Lillian, Lily & Isabella, Martha & Monty, Fraser & Emma and Jude!

Thanks to everyone who took part in any way.

Ali Sayer



Fraser's tick list



Elsie & Lilian West designed their eggs and put them on a tree outside their home.



Monty Sherwood Age 2



Jude Spink



Martha Sherwood 6 Laysfield age 10

Martha Sherwood (age 10)



Lily Syrotiuk



Isabella Syrotiuk Age 11

Isabella Syrotiuk

GETTING TO KNOW THE ALPACAS OF OXHILL

Having moved to Oxhill in February this year I soon realised, from our family walks around the village, that there is a wonderful family of ten alpacas that live right here too, together with their owners Lis, Adrian and their sons. As part of my Discovery Award for school, I would like to share with you what I have found out about these beautiful animals, in the hope that you might find out something new and interesting about them too.



On a fresh Monday morning in March, my mum and I took up Lis and Adrian's kind offer to meet the alpacas and later on I even got to make some felt from their fleece!

The oldest female in the family of alpacas is Isis, who is 14 years old and mum of Issy, Jasmine and Ivor. Also, there is Esmerelda who is mom to Florence and super friendly Echo. (We could tell Echo apart from the other alpacas because she wanted to say hello all the time and she has a brown spot on her white fleece).



Here are some general facts that I found out about from Lis:

- Alpacas are originally from Peru. They therefore like warmer weather.
- A baby alpaca is called a cria.
- The gestation period for alpacas is eleven and a half months.
- They are born during the warmer parts of the day, even in the UK. This is to avoid the new born cria being born during the coldest parts of the day in Peru.
- Alpacas live for around twenty years.
- A group of alpacas is called a herd. As alpacas are very sociable animals, they cannot live alone.
- Alpacas are vegetarian and over the winter they need to be given additional vitamin D, as there is insufficient sunlight in the UK for the alpacas to make enough vitamin D themselves.
- Alpacas tend to poo in the same spot! I could see this from the areas of rich grass in the field where they lived. It also meant that it was easier to Lis and Adrian to collect their poo to sell as rich manure!
- On each foot they have two toes, with their toenails needing regular trims. This is quite a tricky process, but it doesn't hurt them.
- The thick wool of the alpacas is shorn in May.

Making Felt from Alpaca Fleece



To start off the felting process, the wool fibres first needed to be unmatted. As you can see in the photo, I did this using a pair of brushes with metal teeth (that looked like dog brushes). This process, called carding, involved passing the fibres repeatedly between the brushes. The outcome of this was that the fibres became neat and aligned.

I then used the carded fleece to make felt. For this I used a special tool, comprised of

several needles, which I used to repeatedly press through the fleece and into a sponge block. This had the effect of knitting the fleece fibres together to gradually make felt.

I also learned that the fleece can be dyed before being felted, using different natural dyes. I tried this at home using red cabbage, with turned the fleece a gorgeous bluey purple.



Lis showed me some felt that had been dyed with carrot (to turn it orange), turmeric (to give a rich yellow colour) and even elderberries (to turn it purple).

Finally, Lis showed me different ways in which the fleece could be used to make different things such as by forming it into different shapes to make broaches, fridge magnets and decorative ornaments.

I also found out about making felt using soap, where the felt sticks to a bar of soap which gives the soap some texture and makes it last longer.



I had a go at felt soap making when I got home, using the following method that Lis gave me:

- I filled a bowl with hot water and began by wrapping the fleece around the soap in one direction.
- I then put the wool-covered soap into a stocking and gently rubbed the stocking into the wool in small circles until the fleece started to felt.
- I repeated the process by creating a second layer where the fibres were at right angles to the first layer.
- Finally, I let the felt dry on a wire rack.



I used the alpaca fleece that I had dyed with red cabbage dye to make the soap felt. To my surprise, the fleece turned from a blue/purple to green when I rubbed it into the soap! However, I learned from my mom that red cabbage dye is a pH indicator (i.e. it shows if a substance is acid or alkali) and that the green colour indicated that the soap had a neutral pH.

I hope that you have found my article interesting and that you have discovered something new about alpacas too. Maybe, like me, when you next walk past the field of Oxhill alpacas you will now think about them with greater knowledge Issy and Esmerelda will be the mums in charge and Echo will be the one most likely to try and come over to say hello. I am really looking forward to seeing them in May when they have been shorn (and Lis will be working extra hard making felt!) and I can't wait to meet any baby cria in the future.

Thank you so much to Lis and Adrian for their kindness in helping me with my Discovery Award. I really appreciate all the time they took for me to meet the alpacas and find out all about them. I didn't even imagine that I would get to experience dying alpaca fleece and making felt with their wool.

Martha, age 10.

ST LAWRENCE CHURCH, OXHILL

Blue skies, bird-song and blossom tell us firmly that spring has arrived (as do the unwelcome frosts as I write this!). New life is all around us – a fullness of life, vastly more than mere existence. May is in the Easter season, that time between Easter, and the resurrection of Jesus Christ, and Pentecost, when God's Holy Spirit gave the fullness of life, in all its abundance, to Jesus' followers. This year it will be a time when we look back in sorrow and lament for this past year, and look forward with hope to God's fullness of life in ourselves, our communities and our churches – something which is more than mere existence. A time of rebuilding and renewing!

Hopefully, we will continue with in-person services in Church: for those who prefer to worship from home, some of our services will continue to be available on Zoom. Our mid-week Wednesday morning services will continue to be Zoomed.

Sundays in Church

Sunday, 2nd May 9:30am Holy Communion
Sunday, 9th May 9:30 am Morning Worship
Sunday, 16th May 9:30 am Holy Communion
Sunday, 23rd May 18:30 pm **Pentecost:** Evening Worship for Pentecost
Sunday, 30th May 9:30 am Morning Worship.

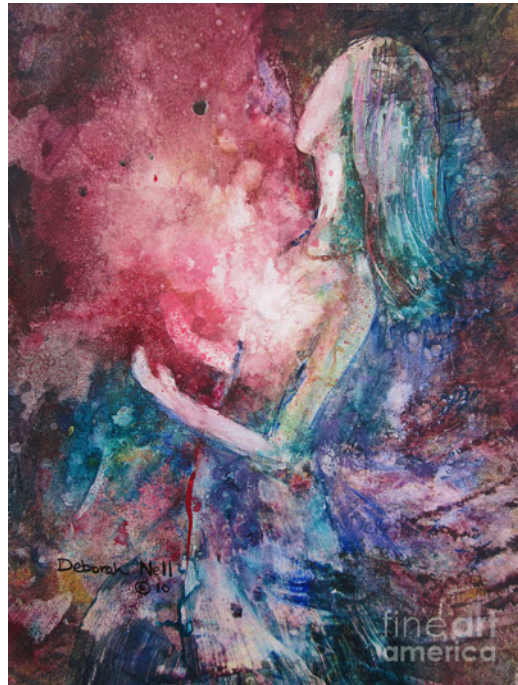
Wednesday Mornings: Morning Prayer on Zoom at 10.00 am

And at the time of writing, the **Church will be open for private prayer** on Wednesday afternoons, between 12 noon and 4.00 pm.

Spirit of the Living God,
fall afresh on us,
freshen us, renew us,
open our eyes to the needs around us.

Enable us to be seen as God's holy
people
by our love and joy,
our peace and patience,
our kindness and generosity,
our faithfulness and gentleness.
May we shine as your lights in our
world.

From Liz Knowles, in Fire and Bread.



OXHILL CHURCHYARD MOWING

Thank you to everyone who got in touch with their views and offers to contribute to the cost of keeping the churchyard looking tidy. The majority opinion was for mowing to continue so the decision has been made for it to be maintained this year by Thomas Fox Landscaping and the PCC are very grateful for the contribution made by the company towards the cost. However, with Church fundraising not possible for the last 12 months, and funding from the Parish Council no longer permitted, any donation great or small towards the cost would be most gratefully received. If you are able to help, you can donate in either of the following ways:

- By placing cash or a cheque to Oxhill PCC in an envelope and posting through John McKail's or Ruth Mercer's door (addresses below)
- By bank transfer to Oxhill PCC's bank account with the reference being "Churchyard Mowing" (bank details below)

If you are in a position to contribute and can Gift Aid it, please complete the form below, place in an envelope addressed to James Synge and return to John McKail (Brambles, Back Lane) or Ruth Mercer (Struan, Whatcote Road).

Your help and generosity is greatly appreciated.

*Thank you.
Oxhill PCC*



Wildflowers in the Churchyard August 2019

OXHILL PCC GIFT AID FORM

Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate

Gift Aid is reclaimed by the charity from the tax you pay for the current tax year. Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer.

In order to Gift Aid your donation you must tick the box below:

☐ **I want to Gift Aid my donation of £_____ and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to Oxhill Parochial Church Council.**

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

I enclose cash / cheque

I have transferred £_____ to Oxhill PCC bank account

(Delete as applicable)

Bank details

Sort code: 404319

Account no: 40632341

Reference: Churchyard mowing

Full Name:

Postal Address:

Date:

Please notify the charity if you:

- want to cancel this declaration
- change your name or home address
- no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains

If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.

SELLING SIDECARS TO THE KGB

by Peter Rivers Fletcher

Peter Taylor, Reuben Connolly and Derek Harbour's recent articles had prompted my own recollections of doing business with the Russians – this time with the KGB.

When the Berlin Wall came down in 1989, Russia started to be more open to the modern world and wanted to catch up with modern technology. When visiting Heads of State arrived at Moscow airport their motorcade into the city was always escorted by motorcycles and Russia had always used WW2 based machines for this purpose.

The escort group, part of the KGB, now decided to buy modern BMW motorcycles which were fine in the summer months but fell over in the snow. Having a sidecar fitted prevented this and they had always used old Russian sidecars with their old bikes. When they approached BMW in Germany with a request for sidecars to fit their new bikes, BMW told them that they could not supply and did not recommend them for the bikes they were now using.

My company, based at Blockley, had been making and fitting sidecars for all types of BMW for a number of years, and was approached through an intermediary to find out if we would be interested in supplying 15 bikes fitted with a specially adapted version of one of our sidecars for this purpose. As this would represent the largest single contract we had ever had, we approached BMW in England who jumped at the opportunity to sell us a sizeable batch of machines together with an approval for their use.



The KGB were delighted and we began manufacture of a modified version of one of our sidecars, and fitting these to the batch of BMWs supplied. We adapted two shipping containers so that the whole shipment could be sent to Moscow.

When we told the Russians that they were ready to be shipped, they gave us specific instructions to be shipped through Finland which sounded somewhat odd to us, but they explained that they would send an armed escort from the Finnish border because the shipment was likely to be raided by bandits if we did it any other way.

Having reached Moscow safely, I was requested to visit the KGB group to oversee the detail handover. They booked me on a first-class Aeroflot flight from London, at which one of my pilot friends said would be a risk he would not take, but I had no alternative but to accept with some misgivings. But all was OK, and at least there was glass in the windows and inside

toilets. I was met at the airport by the KGB and chauffeured to my hotel close to Red Square, with instructions not to answer the telephone in my room after 9pm or open the door if someone knocked. The reason was that the hotel was riddled with prostitutes. Surely enough the phone went that evening and then a knock at the door. Be assured that I stayed put!

For the next two days I was escorted by a charming colonel in the KGB and had a personally escorted visit to the spectacular Kremlin palaces and various sights around the city. I had expected cold weather as this was January, but the Russians laughed at my winter coat and provided something that made me look like a bear but was really warm. Some things were really weird – the official car they used to take me around in kept on breaking down but the driver usually managed to fix it somehow. The hotel restaurant had armed guards, and there had been a gun battle for the control of Moscow airport whilst I was there - incredible to our normal life in the UK.

The amount of Vodka drank by everyone was immense – a way of coping with the hardships of life. Whilst I was there the first McDonalds was opened in Moscow and I was proudly shown this. The business side of things was easy and they used the sidecar outfits for about ten years with no problems. All in all, a great experience and the people were lovely. The Aeroflot flight home just made it!



OXHILL COOKS

by Ruth Mercer

BACON, CHEESE AND APPLE PLAIT



As the sun has come out and now we are able to socialise in our gardens, I thought I'd share a recipe that works well hot or cold with a salad (and maybe some baked beans), so if your guests are late, dinner won't be ruined. Alternatively, you could cook it ahead of time. However you do it, it's delicious. I generally make it when I have roasted a ham and have leftovers to use up even though the recipe calls for bacon. I have always made my own pastry for the plait, but last week I tried it with shop-bought ready-rolled pastry which saved

a huge amount of time. The pastry wasn't as tasty as homemade, but it was stronger than my very short shortcrust so held together better.

Shortcrust pastry:

Make with 8oz plain flour and chilled for at least 15 minutes, or 1 pack of ready-rolled shortcrust pastry

Filling:

- 1 onion
- 1 cooking apple, peeled and cored
- 250g (8oz) lean bacon, derinded OR ham
- 1 large slice of bread
- 50g (2oz) cheddar cheese
- 2 tsp ground coriander
- ½ tsp curry powder
- 1 tsp mixed herbs
- Pinch of mustard powder
- Salt and pepper
- Beaten egg to glaze

1. Preheat the oven to 190 non fan, 170 fan.
2. Mince the onion, bacon/ham, apple, bread and cheese. If you don't have a mincer, a food processor would do the job instead but it might be best to process each ingredient separately as the bacon will need more processing than the apple, for example.
3. Add the spices, herbs and seasoning and mix well, remembering not to over-salt if using salty bacon.
4. Roll or cut the pastry into a rectangle 30cm x 25cm (12"x10"). (If you do this on a piece of baking parchment, it will make it easier to transfer it onto a baking sheet later.) Place the filling down the centre leaving about 4cm at the top and bottom, pressing it into a wide strip about 3-4cm tall and 12 cm wide. Cut 1cm slanting strips, at about 45 degrees to the filling, down each side of the pastry. Fold the top and bottom pieces over the ends of the plait to give something for the end strips to attach to. Dampen the strip edges with water and plait the strips over the filling by taking them from alternate sides.
5. Place the plait on a baking tray and brush with beaten egg.
6. Bake for 30-40 minutes or until golden brown and crisp. (The plait in the picture was glazed with egg yolk so is browner than it should be.)



Jasmine and Arthur Fawcus and the Easter cake they baked together following Ruth's recipe in the Oxhill Cooks in last month's Oxhill News.

THE NIGHT WE NUKED BICESTER AND NOBODY NOTICED

by Phil Brennan

I have at home a picture of the Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police presenting me with a photo of an exploding car. I will explain.

In 2004, I played a minor part in a large anti-terrorism exercise. The Forces of Good are always practicing how to outwit the Forces of Evil, and at TVP in particular, we regularly planned to deal with Harwell, Aldermaston, and/or the Prime Minister at Chequers getting blown up. This one was significantly different: every few years it was necessary to simulate as close as possible a real incident. Virtually everybody on the force who wasn't already on duty would be expected to volunteer, and the whole decision-making structure up to Downing Street would be involved.



Those of you who watch too much TV will have heard about Gold Command, COBRA and all that: briefly, the police are expected to manage a major incident, co-ordinate the other emergency services and civilian agencies, the army stands by to “assist the civil powers”, the politicians get in the way, and the press and TV look for ever more creative ways to act irresponsibly [that’s another story...].

My role in all of this was Fixit Fairy to make sure that all the computers and radio stuff needed would be in place and working throughout. In the early planning stages, this involved some circular discussions with the exercise planning team (“we need some more IT” “OK What?” “Can’t tell you, it’s secret”) but we got there in the end. The code name for the exercise was “Red Signal”, a nod to the incident exactly 40 years previously which was the last time the whole of the force was involved with a single objective, the hunt for the great train robbers.

The scenario, known of course initially only to the exercise planners, was that a gang of baddies had acquired the means to make a small “dirty” nuclear device, had set off from the north of England to deliver it somewhere, and had run into problems on the way. They may have crashed their car, the device may have gone off at the scene, or not etc etc. The-Techies-Nobody-Talks-About had actually blown up a real car and left it to be discovered.

As the intelligence was fed into the command team, not only would they have to manage the hunt for the guilty, but make some serious decisions about leaving the good people of Bicester to fry, or organise an evacuation. Heady stuff, all played out in real time over a long weekend, with close to 7,000 officers and civilians on the streets, as well as the other agencies.

Almost the last message at the final briefing was that there was bound to be huge national interest after the event: on no account talk to the press, all enquiries through the press office.

The Command Centre was at our training HQ, a splendid mansion in Berkshire with an excellent canteen. As we would be locked in for the weekend, I had organised myself a minor role-playing job for the first 24 hours, acting as a runner between the Gold commander and the visiting Spooks, who were locked in a remote classroom. Nothing much happened of note, except I remember sneaking off for a smoke with a twelve-year-old Major heading the army CBRN [Chemical, - oh, you look it up] team. After that, I reverted to my day job, channeling Young Mr. Grace - “You’ve all done very well “ - with my team.

About mid-way through Sunday afternoon, things suddenly went quiet: the chiefs were seen to go into a huddle, and shortly after the word went round: “job done, pack up, it’s finishing early”.

After the event, the Chief Constable was understandably chuffed to bits, and showed her pleasure by combining the debrief with a bit of a do, and presenting mementos to all and sundry. From her point of view, the force had been stressed-tested to the limit and emerged with flying colours. But then....

Nothing. Not a word, anywhere. No press, no TV. This from a government that heralded the daffodil harvest with a triumphalist press release, let alone a major milestone in the fight against terrorism. Unofficially, we knew why we finished early: the minor Major's CBRN response team had set out into the night and got irretrievably lost searching for Ground Zero, thus throwing the whole timetable out. Even this didn't sound like failure, it was just a sensible decision to wrap things up, with most of the objectives met.

And how come nobody local noticed what was going on? Every PC who could still breathe was driving around somewhere. My chum volunteered for an unspecified role, and found himself half naked having a cold shower with 50 other "casualties" in a portable decontamination chamber in a lay-by off the A34 and nobody noticed?

To this day, I don't know why. Maybe we were told wrong and it was never intended to be publicised. Maybe the policy changed. No trace remains: I stole enough commemorative T-shirts for my team, but they were all XXL, and mine wore out years ago. Either way this will be the first you have heard of Exercise Red Signal, so by the time you read this I shall probably be in the Tower of London.

A terrific article from Phil Brennan. Phil and his wife, Heather, moved into the old thatched cottage (one of the oldest houses in Oxhill) behind the church in 1985. What many people won't know is, that as well as being Hon. President and former instructor of Shenington Gliding Club, he is a champion athlete. Shortly before retirement he rediscovered running and since then he has racked up over three dozen appearances for Midlands Masters, England and Great Britain Masters.

In 2019 in his late seventies (hope you don't mind me letting that one out Phil) he won both UK titles and a Bronze in the 800 m World Championship, in that year he finished 10th in the World rankings at 800 m, 1500 m and 3000m and 1st at the mile. In March last year he won Gold at 800m and Silver at 1500m. Keep it up Phil.

Con. Ed.



*Phil Brennan, gold medal winner
half-marathon, 2016 World
Masters Athletics Championships
in Perth Australia*

The Way We Were

The Peacock Pub in 1968

Note the archway (now the ladies and gents toilets), four families of swallows used to nest under there every year and several more in the stables at the rear which were used for horses.

Note no tables or benches out on the front then, there was not a culture for drinking outdoors as much as now, even on hot days.

Also note the mounting stone, which also had an iron ring to tie your horse to.

It was a very quiet sleepy village back then.



The Peacock Pub 1968



The Peacock Pub April 2021



Carers4Carers

Finding support through supporting each other

Carers4Carers monthly meeting: we are a self-help support group for carers living in Kinton, surrounding villages and rural areas. Membership is free and we offer a monthly newsletter and friendly telephone support. Our virtual coffee morning is now accessible by phone to those without internet access.

New and existing members are always welcome. Look out for joining instructions in our monthly email or contact the number below.

Do take a look at our website www.carers4carersonthefosse.org.uk, email us at kcarers4carers@gmail.com or call Gillian on 07947 893504.

Lisa Barnett – Assistant Coordinator

Carers4Carers

BBQ PARTY

OXHILL VILLAGE HALL

Saturday 3rd July at 5.30p.m.

The village hall committee plan to hold a

“Breakout From Lockdown Party”

A family event with barbecue and games for the children.

Save the date!



OXHILL VILLAGE HALL

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

This year the 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.

After months of lockdowns & restrictions are you yearning to work with like minded villagers, keen to sustain & develop our Village Hall as we hopefully move away from this pandemic? If so, we are looking for volunteers to join the committee, help run the hall & organise our annual events programme. If you are new to the village this is an excellent way to get to know people.

Being a committee member is not onerous, especially as we are supported by an active 'Friends' group. It involves discussing & agreeing how we manage the building, it's day to day running & making it a good venue for hire & regular activities.

We normally organise around 10 events a year including themed evenings, Burn's Night, boules competition & BBQ, guest talks, safari supper, village breakfasts & Christmas social with cocktails & of course we always welcome new ideas!

If you are interested & want to find out more you can contact any committee member or our chair, Jo Collings at: itsjocollings@gmail.com

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



Thank you to Iain Lauchlan, who built the beautiful new bus shelter outside the Village Hall.

WILDFLOWER VERGES



It is becoming increasingly well known that we need to take action to help wildlife and biodiversity. It was with this in mind that Grenville started the OWLS group in Oxhill over a decade ago. It is a part of the national biodiversity action plan – one of the local schemes known as LBAPs.

One of our projects was to convert some of the grass verges into wild flower strips which are beautiful from Spring onwards and heave with the buzz of bees and other insects. They reduce the council's need to mow and thus lower costs and pollution.

Peter and Ann Hale had already done this to their side verge in Back Lane and now some of the verges along Beech Road are converted. They are full of wild flowers just waiting to burst into bloom and it is fascinating to watch the different species that dominant year on year. A few other households have already joined in and it would be great if more did the same.



Before flowering the verges may look weedy but they are just waiting to burst into flower and we are hoping that the daffodils, primroses and other early plants will spread to make the planting more obvious at this time of year. Be patient and just watch what appears.

Jane

TYSOE C.E.PRIMARY SCHOOL

Reception Artwork

We are grateful to the PCC for funding the new artwork in the Main Reception at school.

We love that it represents our school so well. We were keen to have Sunrising, Windmill and Edgehill represented and all of the farmland and nature that we are so lucky to be surrounded by here in Tysoe. We really like the five leaves of the different trees our classes are named for too; Beech, Oak, Rowan, Silver Birch and Willow.

We really like all the animals included in the artwork too. We especially like the caterpillar changing into the butterfly because we think it represents our values so well; Nurture, Serve and Grow.

We think the different seasons on show and the rainbow are important to show that we are a Christian school and we are growing as valuable members of the Christian community. We think the artwork really does represent life in all its fullness.



Babysitter Available!

I'm available from the 17th May
and through the summer
holidays.

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

freyaod5@gmail.com

Freya O'Donnell, age 15



Tysoe Tennis Club
www.tysoetennisclub.co.uk

We have now been able to start social tennis and, after 17th May, we should be able to start competitive matches. Please refer to the website to see when the courts are available.

www.tysoetennisclub.c.uk Secretary: **carol.spencer234@hotmail.co.uk**

Junior tennis has also started again much to everyone's relief. We ran a very successful Easter Camp with around 14 children taking part despite the arctic weather conditions. Junior coaching has resumed on Friday from 4.00pm onwards and Sunday mornings from 9.00am catering for ages 4 - 12 . We have around 25 children taking part so please come and join us if you are interested or contact Debbie on **admin@tennisolutions.co.uk**

Also good luck to our under 9 and under 10 teams who have matches scheduled in the Warwickshire Junior league.



OXHILL COMMUNITY WEBSITE

We are pleased to announce that the Oxhill Community Website is now live.

www.oxhillcommunity.co.uk

You can find the following information on the site:

- Parish Council information including minutes and meetings;
- the Oxhill News,
- groups and clubs including the Gardening Club, Knit and Natter, the Art Group and OWLS;
- upcoming events e.g. Garden Club Plant Sale;
- information about the Village Hall;
- history of the village;
- notices and information;
- and much more.

Please let us know if you can think of anything else that you would like to be added.

Oxhill Parish Council





WOT2GROW COMMUNITY ORCHARD

What a difference a month makes!! The weather has been very mixed but with some warmer and sunnier days the blossom has broken on the stone fruit and the frosts do not appear to have killed off the flowers. The apricots were the first closely followed by the plums and damsons and then a small amount of peach and nectarine flowers. The early cherries have flowered and the greengages and pears are just starting bud break. The early apples will not be far behind with deep red already showing on the buds!!

Such a lovely time to observe the fruit trees and also the hedges where the blackthorn is in full flower and the hawthorn beautifully green.

Work continues on various maintenance activities and the mowers have been active!! The wild flower strips are providing some beautiful flowers and there are increasing numbers of early wild flowers establishing in the main grass areas. We still need to keep the dandelions under control and the thistles especially as we are surrounded by farmland and are required to stop their spread. We work organically and the orchard remains a haven for wildlife which is obvious if you spend some quiet time there just observing!!!



Blackthorn and Hawthorn

As lock down eases we will be getting geared up for the summer and there will be lots of help required. So, do contact one of us or via the web site and we can give you more information.

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



JOSH DAVIES
BARBER

STANDARD CUT	£15
SKIN FADE	£17
CREW CUT	£11
OAP	£11
CHILD	£11
BEARD	£10



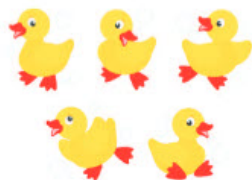
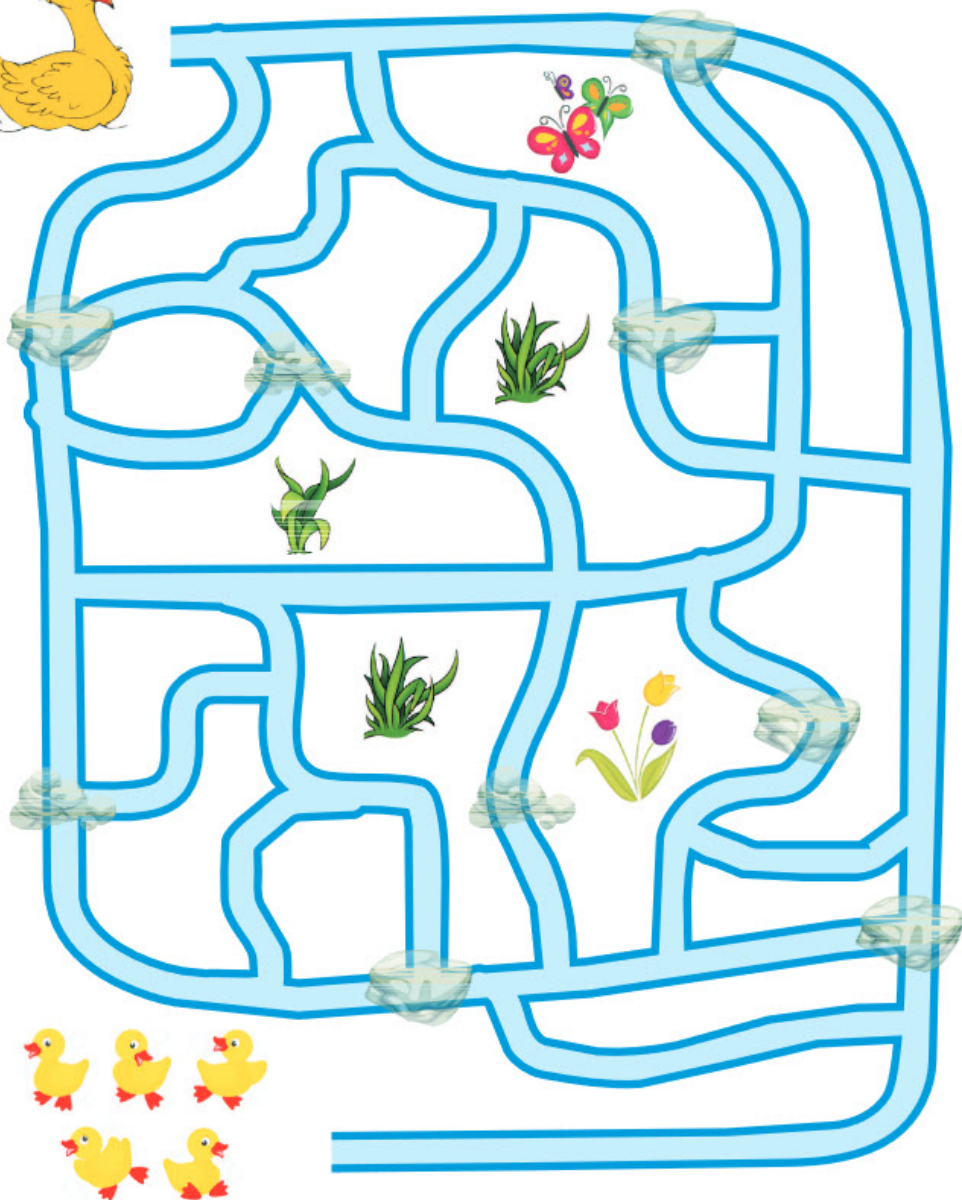
07720 631660
JOSHBARBERBOOKINGS@GMAIL.COM

HOME BARBER

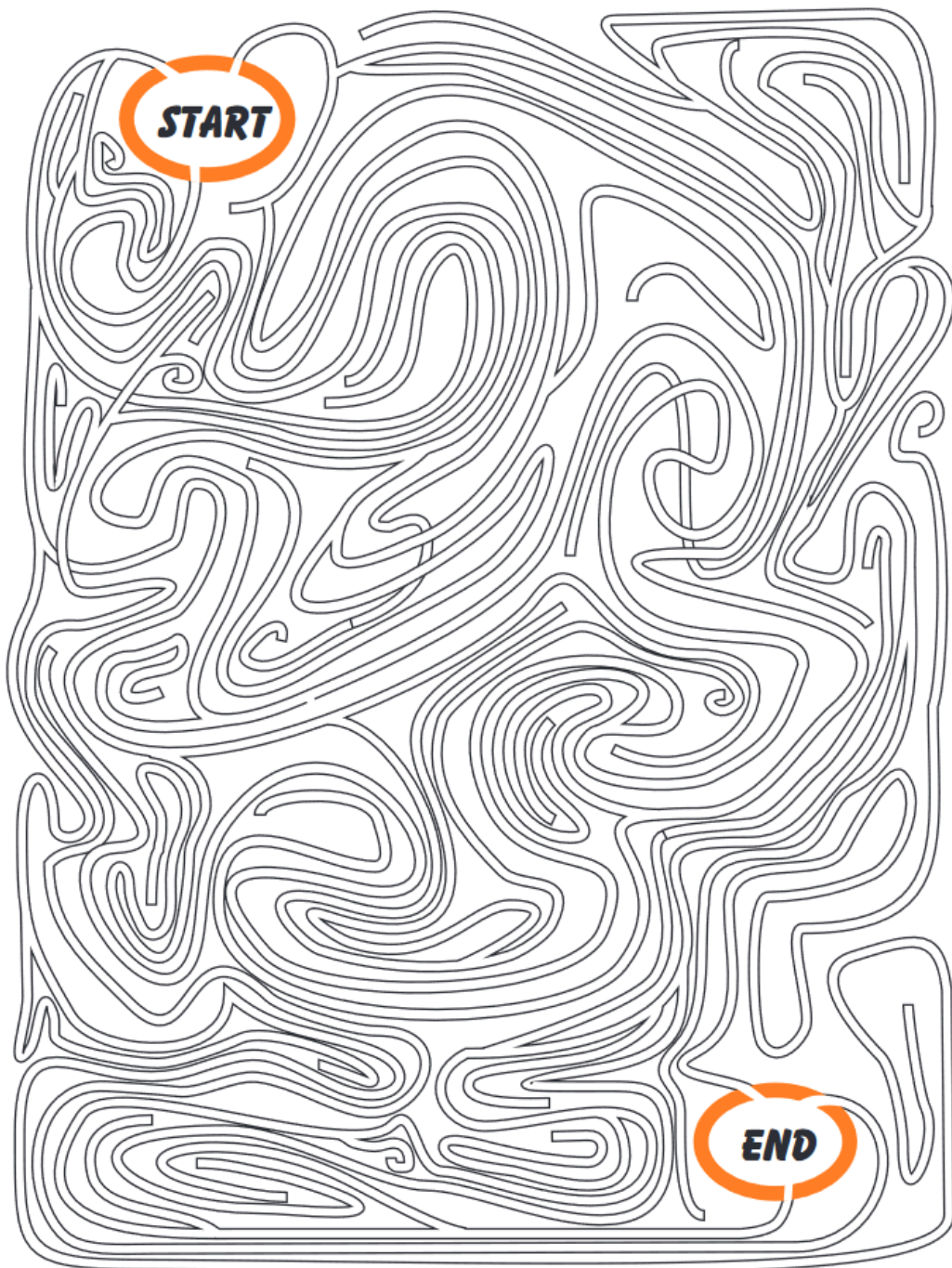
Josh Davies mainly does home visits which may suit some people. He is prepared to cut ladies hair as long as its not too fancy!

MAZE

Find the way through labyrinth.



MAZE



WHAT'S ON IN & AROUND OXHILL

MAY

Friday 21	13:15 - 13:30	Mobile Library, outside Village Hall
Saturday 22nd	10:30	Garden Club Plant Sale, outside Village Hall
Every Thursday	11:30	Awesome Coffee Van, outside Peacock Pub

PC MEETINGS

The date of the next PC Meeting is **Tuesday, 4 May at 7.30pm**. This meeting will be held virtually by Zoom. More details on how to attend, etc will be in the Agenda for the meeting which 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

BIN COLLECTION CALENDAR



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



May						
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
31						