

THE OXHILL NEWS

November 2021 No. 564



'Little Shop of Horrors' Halloween display by Lindsay Cleaver

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CLUB & GROUP CONTACT DETAILS

Carers4carers:	kcarers4carers@gmail.com or tel: 07947 893504
Oxhill Village Hall:	Jo Collings - Chair - 01295 680215 Ali Sayer - Hall Hire - 07970 922352 email: village-hall@oxhill.org.uk
The Peacock Pub	01295 688060
Tysoe Tennis Club:	Club Secretary: Carol Spencer email: carol.spencer234@hotmail.co.uk
Warwickshire Mobile Library:	01926 851031
WOT2Grow Community Orchard:	Liz Atkinson (680045), Paul Sayer (680451), Sue & Mike Sanderson (688080) www.wot2grow.co.uk

FINLYSON WEDDINGS

Two Finlyson weddings took place in September and October this year, only 4 weeks apart!

Emily and Simon married at Holy Trinity in Stratford with a reception at Blackwell Grange and Alex and Nick were married at The Hawksyard Estate in Staffordshire.

Emily and Simon have set up home in Stratford and Alex and Nick in Etwall, Derbyshire.

We have just about recovered from such excitement in such a short space of time!

Thanks, Liz



SOLITARY BEES & WOOD BURNING STOVES

Now is the time of the year when we, who have wood burning stoves and open fires are checking if we have enough logs for the winter months to make our homes cosy & warm. So how about a cosy home for those most important solitary bees!



Although you may have ‘bug hotels’ for a variety of insects, solitary bees have specific requirements. A home for them can be easily achieved if you have a log and a wood drill.

If you have a whole log place it somewhere where it can’t be moved or a slice of log that can be hung like a picture with strong wire, both need to be south facing (solitary bees need to be warm). This is what you need to do:

- Drill several holes about 1.5cm apart all being about 10mm to 15mm deep, using drill bits from 1.5mm to 10mm, as different species require different sizes.
- Then make sure all the holes are free from dust & debris (you wouldn’t want YOUR BED full of rubbish)
- Finally, place your hotel in your chosen spot & admire, knowing you have done something for ecology!

Suzanne Dowding





‘TREES FOR BEES’

WEDNESDAY 17TH NOVEMBER

The next Oxhill Garden Club talk at the Village Hall is our local bee keeping expert Douglas Netherclef will be giving us an illustrated talk all about the many functions of trees over time, not just for the uses of man but also as significant provider of nectar for bees.

Doors open from 7pm (wine available) and talk starts at 7.30pm.

£2 on the door

This is open to all, so please make this a date in your diary – we hope to to see you there.

Peter Rivers Fletcher

Oxhill Halloween displays are peppered throughout the issue.

~ ed.





by Ruth Mercer

With the abundance of apples this Autumn, this cake is a must-bake. It works well as a dessert or a cake and is a firm favourite with my family.

APPLE AND APRICOT CRUMBLE CAKE

Serves 8-10

175 g Soft brown sugar (light or dark, whichever you prefer)
225 g coarse porridge oats or crunchy tropical fruits oat cereal
225 g self raising flour
1 tsp mixed spice
225 g butter, melted
2 eating apples, peeled, cored and sliced
175 g ready-to-eat dried apricots, roughly chopped
25 g sultanas
For the topping - 2 tbsp brown sugar

1. Preheat the oven to 180C / fan 160C. Grease and base line a 18 cm or 20 cm deep, loose-bottomed tin.
2. Mix together the sugar, cereal or oats, flour and spice.
3. Stir in the melted butter, then tip half the mixture into the prepared tin. Press down gently.
4. Now arrange half the apple slices, apricots and sultanas on top and sprinkle the rest of the crumble mixture over it. Place the remaining fruit on top and press down lightly.
5. Sprinkle the 2 tbsp brown sugar on the top and place in the oven for 35-40 minutes until firm and golden brown.
6. Stand tin on cooling rack for 20- 30 minutes before removing from the tin.
7. Serve warm or cold with ice cream, custard, cream or natural yogurt.



The Way We Were



GATEWAYS

by Carol Clark

The early information we have about Gateways (opposite the Peacock) was researched by Charles Ivins. Mr Ivins was an amateur local historian, who lived at Pillerton Priors, and researched the history of many Oxhill properties through their Deeds held in the County Record Office. I am also using some of Ann Hale's notes for this article.

Gateways was originally one of the village's small farms, and the cottages formerly known as Barn Row, now Beech Road, were barns belonging to the farm (converting barns into dwellings is not a recent phenomenon).

The farm's ownership can be traced to the Bishop family in the late sixteenth century. It appears to have changed hands several times over the following years until, at the time of the enclosures in the late 18th century, it was in the hands of the Cole family. Sarah Cole married a Richard Badger of Honington in 1805, and in about 1828, they rebuilt the house.

In 1840, the property was bought by James Gardner of Church Farm. He built a new farm house on land owned by the farm at the end of Manor Lane (which no longer exists), and



*Ron Mouldsdale's pond is resurrected.
"We uncovered the large bowl structure
and didn't know what it was. So we made
a pond!" Christina Isaac*



***R. B. 1828** carved into the outside
wall refers to the year the house
was built and the initials of
Richard Badger, the owner of the
newly built Gateways.*

performed the barn conversions. Originally all the cottages would have been thatched, but Porthkerry is now the only survivor of this style.

A branch of the Gardner family of Burland House lived in Gateways for many years. In the 1891 census, William Gardner, a retired farmer, was living in the property, referred to as The Lawn, although this is the only reference to this name I have found so far. His son Willoughby continued to live in the house until his death in 1935; he was Janet Gardner's late husband Bill's great uncle.

A family named Coleman then lived at Gateways from about 1937 through to the 1950s, followed by Mr Ron Mouldsdale. When I was a child in Oxhill. I recall he had a fish pool inserted in the patio, just by the door in the impressive brick wall, and being petrified of accidentally stepping back into it!

Marianne Swan moved into Gateways in 1975. She was the widow of an eminent obstetrician who on the death of her first husband joined the VAD to drive an ambulance in the London Blitz. She always opened her lovely garden for village charities and made

her driveway and kitchen available for all village events requiring 'teas' (*Myrtle Knight, Oxhill News July 2015*)

The Isaac family now live in Gateways.



Ron Mouldsdale [resident of Gateways in the 1960's] was always known as Ronnie within the village and was an old fashioned commercial salesman and would always say "I travel in ladies underwear" meaning he represented a manufacturer of ladies underwear.

Ronnie shared his house with his boyfriend Murray Brown who came from New Zealand and was an actor, he had the most wonderful velvet voice and was younger than Ronnie. Ronnie always sat in a particular chair in the pub and heavens forbid if anyone else sat in it. Murray often worked as a barman when not acting and customers adored him, he was very handsome and could get away with saying quite risqué things. They had many theatrical and musical friends and there were often wonderful raucous evenings in the pub and at Gateways.

~ Grenville Moore



Marianne Swann outside her home, Gateways, in 1999.



Front door beautifully restored by the Isaac family.



Let the BUS take the strain



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SHIPSTON LINK

'Bringing Shipston and the Rural Community together'

• Tel:- 01386 593446 • Email:- enquiries@shipstonlink.co.uk

UBUS

'For anyone living in an area with limited public transport or who struggles to use public transport because of mobility or health issues'

• Tel:- 01789 264491 • Email:- ubus@stratford-dc.gov.uk

STAGE COACH

'Save on Student Travel - Half price tickets for job seekers'

• Tel:- 0345 810 1000 • Email:- midlands.enquiries@stagecoachbus.com

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'Door to Door volunteer cars for medical and social appointments, mileage costs are payable. Free transport for COVID19 vaccinations including boosters for priority groups'

• Tel:- 01789 262889 • Email:- transport@vasa.org.uk

All offer you the opportunity to travel free or at reduced rates, regularly within the Stour Valley



Carers4Carers

Finding support through supporting each other

Friday 26th November 10.30 – 12 noon: Carers4Carers monthly meeting at Kineton Village Hall. Come along for coffee, biscuits and friendly chat. Our speakers this month are from The Olive Branch, a new, local carer wellbeing company. Our companionship group will also be available to take care of your loved one while you have some much-needed relaxation. Pre-booking for the meeting is essential.

For more information about our self-help support group, including help with transport to/from meetings, phone Gillian on 07947 893504, email us at kcarers4carers@gmail.com or take a look at www.carers4carersonthefosse.org.uk.

Lisa Barnett
Assistant Coordinator
Carers4Carers

TYSOE W.I.

We are so excited to welcome ten new members!

Our October meeting saw the return of Cathy Morris, a wonderful singer, entertaining us with well known songs from the 1930s to 1970s, no matter age, everyone knew the words, singing their hearts out (masked).

We are really hoping to return to more normality.

Our craft and laugh group have produced a few new Autumn and Halloween creations now in Tysoe tearoom windows.

Follow us on Facebook, visit our website www.tysoewi.com

Email tysoew.i.1917@icloud.com □

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

POPPY APPEAL 2021



Carrying cash is a rarity these days! The Poppy Collectors will hit the streets at the end of October. If you would like to support this year's Appeal could you please keep any donations accessible for the collectors' visits. At least this year we can do house to house.

David Sewell

ST LAWRENCE CHURCH

THE SEASON OF REMEMBERING

Come among us, God,
You, who bless the poor and the broken
and stand by the sad and the strong,
Come God, and meet us here.

Life has changed for everyone in the last eighteen months, and we have all had different experiences. This time of year is a Season of Remembering, a chance to reflect on the past year, to give thanks for what has been a blessing, and to lament and grieve for what we have lost, whether it is our loved ones or parts of our lives we have lost, and remember anew the majesty of God's faithfulness towards us.



The two key events are a special service entitled 'In Loving Memory', which will be in **Tysoe Church at 6.30 pm on Tuesday, 2nd November**, and of course **Remembrance Sunday**, which this year is **Sunday 14th November**: the service in Oxhill Church will be at **3.30 pm** that day.

Then, of course, we begin to look ahead to Advent, and the promise of God coming to live among us, in all the mess and muddle of our lives! As part of the Advent and Christmas preparations, we are collecting **filled shoeboxes** to be sent to families in Romania, Moldova, Ukraine and Bulgaria, but the deadline is **November 4th**. Leaflets are in church or the Peacock, or from me.

Also looking ahead, we hope to be able to send the **Traveling Nativity** around the village again this year. This is a beautiful Nativity Set which passes from house to house, day by day, throughout Advent (from **November 28th until Christmas Eve**) as a symbol of the Holy Family's journey to Bethlehem, and the welcome they would have received into homes along the way. It is for everyone, old and young. Full details will be available soon, and there will be leaflets in the church and the Peacock, or from me.

Finally, the **Benefice Choir** is starting up again. If anyone would like to come and sing with us, again, would you get in touch with me?

Church Services in November, all in St Lawrence Church, Oxhill, unless otherwise stated.

Tuesday, November 2nd All Souls Day	6.30 pm in Tysoe Church ‘In Loving Memory’
Sunday, November 7th	9.30 am Holy Communion
Remembrance Sunday, November 14th	3.30 pm Remembrance Day Service
Sunday, November 21st	9.30 am Holy Communion
Sunday, November 28th	6.30 pm Evening Worship

Jill Tucker

01295 680 663

revjill.tucker@btinternet.com



HARVEST FESTIVAL

The Harvest Festival service was very well attended. Lovely to see you all and thank you for staying on for the Auction of Produce afterwards. A big thank you to Bill Fox and Tom Heritage for your help with the Auction. It was good fun and thank you to Jasmine who was our excellent “runner” fetching and carrying when required. Also a big thank you to those of you who dropped off flowers and produce. The flower ladies did great. The church looked wonderful so thank you to all who helped. The sum raised from the auction was £177.50 and has been donated to the Farming Community Network Charity which helps all those in distress who are connected with Farming and the countryside.

BIG CHURCH CLEAN

Once a year we gather up a work party to give the church a thorough clean and anyone who could come along to help with this would be most welcome. The date is **Saturday December 4th** and will ensure that the church is sparkling for the Christmas services and of course for the next 12 months. The PCC would like to extend thanks to those on the monthly Rota who help keep the church clean and tidy throughout the year as well as those who shine up the brass regularly.



Good food and conversation at the Village Breakfast

VILLAGE HALL EVENTS

The Village Breakfast was well attended with over 50 breakfasts served many to new residents.

CURRY NIGHT SATURDAY 13TH NOVEMBER 7.30 P.M.

To book contact Ali on 07970922352 or Ali.sayer@btinternet.com. **This event sells out quickly so be sure to book £20 p/p.**

BEER & BUBBLES EVENING FRIDAY 17TH DECEMBER 7.30P.M.

A pre-Christmas black tie & posh frocks event, with Canapes, to get in the Christmas mood.

TUESDAY 7TH DECEMBER OVER 65'S CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Last year we had a take away lunch but this year we hope to revert to the usual format with a 3 course Christmas meal serve in the hall. This is open to anyone in the village who is 65 or over, & their spouse/partner whatever their age & is funded by the Village Hall Committee. Donations are of course welcome.

Invitations to those served last year will be distributed at the beginning of November, but it is not too late to be added to the invitation list if you are new to the village.

Let Jo Collings know as soon as possible if you would like an invitation. itsjocollings@gmail.com or tel 680215







OXHILL CHRISTMAS ADVENT WINDOW

We need just a few more volunteers to decorate their windows for the Oxhill 2021 Christmas advent windows.

Last year we had an amazing array of windows throughout December, which brightened up the village and gave us all a good excuse for an evening stroll.

This year we would need at least 24 windows to be decorated and 'opened' each evening between the 1st December and Christmas eve. Last year we had more than 30 having many nights with two windows opening. You can see last year's windows on the events page of the Community website www.oxhillcommunity.co.uk



There is no need to be religious or arty and there is no 'theme', the aim is for each window to be a surprise as it is revealed.

If you would like to participate, please contact me.

Lis Stuart

07538 865 789

Lis.stuart@outlook.com



Sue Hedley, Barbara Shephard and Belle Amie.

PLEASE WILL YOU JOIN THE PARTY?

CELEBRATE IN OXHILL ON JUNE 2ND, 3RD & 4TH 2022



As mentioned in last month's Oxhill News, a working party has been meeting to discuss a village celebration for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee next year. We are planning an opening event on the evening of Thursday 2nd June, then a Big Lunch Street Party on Friday 3rd June, followed by games and entertainment. The Queen goes to Epsom for Derby Day on Saturday 4th June, and we intend to stage our own, horse-themed, events that day with games for everyone to join in. Tea and cakes will be available in the afternoon and there will be more entertainment going into the evening.

None of this will happen unless enough of the village want to join in.

Those who remember the Diamond Jubilee Big Lunch in June 2012 will understand how vital it is for us to hire a marquee large enough for everyone to sit and eat lunch, in case we get similar weather. (We had horizontal rain and it felt like about -5C). Along with the associated equipment, this is quite a big, but essential, expense and we need to confirm the reservation in the next month.

What might it cost?

The ticket price will include, as a minimum, a two course lunch for the Big Lunch and tea and cakes on June 4th as well as all the entertainment. Depending on the results of the survey below, possible donations and sponsorship, we might be able to provide a meal after the horse fun on June 4th.

Currently, we anticipate that an adult ticket will be less than £30 and a family ticket (based on two adults with two school aged children) will be less than £75. We hope that the tickets are priced such that ALL villagers can participate. Tickets are for the **Whole Event**.

Tickets for friends and family not living in the village will cost slightly more. Priority for tickets will be given to villagers in the first instance, but in the event of spare tickets being available, please indicate on the questionnaire how many friends and family tickets you would like. Your request will be logged: the sooner you get your request in, the higher it'll be on the friends and family list!

Deposits

We should be very grateful if you could offer a deposit so that we are able to confirm equipment bookings. We suggest £20 per property or £10 for a single adult. Previous village events have been oversubscribed as we are limited to a maximum of 300: the village has grown considerably since then. Providing a deposit will guarantee your tickets and enable the organisers to have confidence in the support of the community. If the questionnaires show there isn't enough interest in the event, deposits will be returned.

Contact oxjub@btinternet.com or call 07400 615999 if you have further questions or want to discuss anything.

Will Oxhill Celebrate The Queen's Platinum Jubilee? Questionnaire

Please answer the questions below so we know if the village wants a celebration. Your questionnaire (with deposit, we hope) will be collected during November by one of our team of helpers, or you can email it to oxjub@btinternet.com.

Name				
Address				
Are you interested in a whole village event over two days?				
If there is sufficient interest, how likely are you to join in the Oxhill Platinum Jubilee Celebrations?	Almost certain (deposit included)	Likely	Unlikely	Definitely not!
How many <i>Villager</i> tickets do you want to secure with a deposit today?	Adult	12-18 years	5-11 years	Under 5
How many <i>Guest</i> tickets would you like if available?	Adult	12-18 years	5-11 years	Under 5
Would you be prepared to help in any way? Cooking? Stewarding? Setting up? Clearing up? First Aid?				
Do you have any skills / qualifications that might be helpful for such an event?				
Would you be interested in making a donation to ensure that every villager is able to join in?				
Deposit paid:	£			
Collected by:				

Data Protection: by completing this form you agree to the information provided being used for the planning of the Oxhill Platinum Jubilee Event. Your personal details will not be used for any other purpose or passed to any third party not connected to the event.



WOT2GROW COMMUNITY ORCHARD

The season of mists and mellow fruitfulness is upon us and has surely made October the start of Autumn. And with the beautiful sun on many days it has been a wonderful start to the season.

The soft fruit has finished and the top fruit has come into its own with good crops of stone fruit - damsons, greengages and plums - followed by apples and four varieties of pears.

The apples in particular have been good and a second batch has been sent for pressing and pasteurising.

Autumn maintenance involves a lot of clearing of the soft fruit canes and tying in the new canes which will produce next years crop. The autumn raspberries will be left until February before cutting to the ground to allow the new fruiting canes to emerge.

The grass has continued to grow and the mowers have been at work and hoping for "just one more cut"! Of course that depends on the weather!! Maintaining the hedges and margins is also an urgent task and the removal of the now dead and seeded wildflower strips needs to be done before winter sets in.

Always lots to do so why not join us and get the benefits of working out doors and sharing in our harvest!! Contacts are below.

Some car parking is available at The Community Orchard 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



We don't have photos this month from the orchard, so here is a lovely photo of a goldfinch nest in a plum tree from summer 2018.

This is the third and final part in Myrtle Knight's memories of her time before, during and just after WW2. We would like to thank Ruth Mercer and Sheila Wilde for interviewing Myrtle and providing us with this wonderful memoir. If you would like to read the first two parts of the interview, you can find it, and so much more, on the Oxhill Community website: www.OxhillCommunity.co.uk

~ eds.



MYRTLE KNIGHT

PART 3

Everybody between the age of about 21 and 30 had been in the war. Very rarely you'd come across somebody who hadn't. When I first went to school the headmistress stood on stage and said, "Now, girls, when you go home on the train, you are not to speak to anybody unless they're in uniform." But everyone was in uniform, the world was in uniform.

I left school at 17 and went to the local art school for a year because I couldn't go to college until I was 18. The war was just over and all the colleges and universities gave the returning service men priority.

When I was 18, I got my place at Dorset House, Oxford, a school of occupational therapy. I started there at the same time as my brother started at Cambridge, and he was seven years older than me, because he, like many men at that time, started late.

We were not much more than school children, but believe me, there wasn't the fun that would normally have been happening in college. Those men were 26 or 27 and some of



Rooksdown House Basingstoke 1940s

them were married, so it really was a very serious time for the service men and automatically, it was for us too. Several of my friends had boyfriends who were about 10 years older than me.

I was 21 when I left college and started working at Rooksdown, a plastic surgery unit in Basingstoke. I was still a child. It had a very, very great impression on me to see the bravery of these men, because of what had happened to them in war.

Sir Harold Gillies was the plastic surgeon at Rooksdown. He was a pioneer in the field. Harold started plastic surgery at a hospital in Sidcup during WW1, which is where my father was the chaplain. My father had very good memories of Harold and was amazed when I went to work with Harold in the next war. Harold's success in WW2 was quite an eye opener for my father because plastic surgery in the first world war was not very successful. The doctors would try and stitch something on, but it sort of sloughed off. It just didn't always work.

I called the plastic surgeons in the second world war, magicians. There were three, Sir Harold Gillies, Sir Archibald McIndoe and Sir Thomas Kilner. Sir Thomas Kilner was not as well-known as the other two. The one everybody knows was Sir Archibald McIndoe, because he wrote books and founded the Guinea Pig Club. But my man Sir Harold Gillies was just every bit as important.

It was a Guinea Pig Club reunion that caused me to go to a Christmas party in London where all three were there. Harold got up to make a speech and said, "I hope everybody has noted the secret side of the plastic surgeons: they've all got half glasses." And of course, all three of them were wearing half glasses.



Mr Rainsford Mowlem, Sir Thomas Kilner, Sir Harold Gillies and Sir Archibald McIndoe.

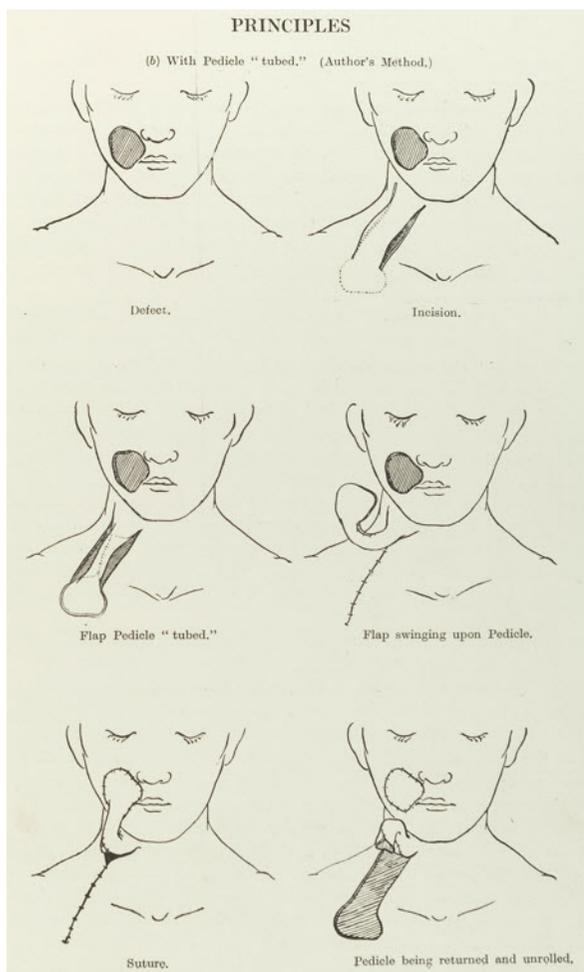
Rooksdown was in a place called Park Prewett, which used to be a big country house. There we saw the sort of things that nobody nowadays ever sees, the most terrible sights. Soldiers who had been injured in the war. If there had been an explosion and they had been in a boiler room of a ship or a cockpit of a plane, or any enclosed space, they frequently lost their eyebrows and most of their hair or much worse. I can remember one man that had no eyebrows, no hair, no fingernails and his fingers had been burned to stumps in the boiler room of a ship.

Harold came out of retirement because the damage to people's bodies was worse in our war than it was in his war because, of course, there were no aircraft in his war.

The doctors created this thing called a pedicle. It was a roll of living skin that went from their raised arm and attached to their face or from their buttock to somewhere else. And they had to live with that for a long time. Frequently, they would have an operation every three months for about two years to build bits up slowly and reconstruct the damage. They were very brave men. It was an unbelievable experience.

Nowadays the surgery would be seen as amateur patchwork, but for the time they did an absolutely fantastic job and they made these men feel like men, because they had felt very demoralized. They knew how they looked to their wives and girlfriends. And many single men thought they would never get a girlfriend looking like that. Harold was a psychologist of the first order, because he realized how people thought. He was determined that the men live normal lives.

There was a whole team of dentists who learned to reconstruct the jaw and teeth so the men looked normal. The dentists were almost as important as the plastic surgeons. They were geniuses. There's no question about it. They did all sorts of things. They didn't just do dentistry. I remember, particularly one tall and dark man who worked in the department which made ears. Plastic ones, of course. They only clipped on, but they looked right. It was quite incredible what they did, but



Pedicle image from Harold Gillies' 1920 book "Plastic Surgery of the Face".



Our physios at Rooksdawn

unfortunately, they couldn't do anything about eyes.

The men would come to Rooksdawn and they would stay for six months, a year or as long as it took until they healed. They used to come to the occupational therapy department and we would have a cup of tea and a chat. They would tell me what had happened to them when they had their injury. If they had a very bad injury, they don't want to move it because it hurt.

In occupational therapy we get the men to use their muscles without realizing it. The men would do mainly carpentry and woodwork which they enjoyed and they would lose themselves in the action. They would punch holes with a lever or use a jigsaw with their feet and they would not think about their feet working. It's sort of a clever way of getting them to move, that's what occupational therapy was about.

My man, Sir Harold Gilles, would insist that these men went out into the community. He was a man you didn't argue with, he knew what he was doing. He was very rough and bluff, but don't forget that his patients were all men, so he needed to be tough. He insisted these men went into the community and didn't hide away in the hospital. They had to be seen by people who shunned the look of them.

The men would try to pay the publican to let them have a private room so that ordinary people didn't see them, but Harold paid the publicans to not let them have a private room. He had to point out to the ordinary English public, that this is what they have done for you in keeping Germany at bay.

Harold would get teams together for hockey matches. He would get the men running up and down the field and some of them could barely walk. Some of the matches were terrifying. I remember Harold roaring down the pitch. I can't imagine why nobody got hit over the head with a hockey stick. We all had to join in. There was no way that Harold would have his fellow surgeons think they were too important to play hockey. If anyone said they didn't want to play, he would go round, knock on the door and ask why. He'd say, "You can't be too busy. You come with me." He'd go into the offices and say to the girls answering the telephone, "Come along now. You played hockey at school, so you know how. Come and play."



Myrtle playing in the 2014 Oxhill Boules Competition for the Gardner Cup

We did pantomime and singing shows that I was quite involved with where the men would learn funny verses and to do strange things, and then produce a performance for the other people. Everybody wanted to join in and be part of it. We had grass skirts for one of the performances, grass skirts and bra tops. It was really quite fun. And of course, we would have a room full of disabled service men roaring their heads off. It did them more good than a lot of other stuff.



A great many good people would come to entertain the men. I remember Joyce Grenfell came. Joyce Grenfell was a comedian of the best sort, she told wonderful stories. These people came to help them recover, because everything was intended that they should live as normal as possible. Harold was absolutely right.



Rooksdown Revels

Rooksdown was definitely a community where everybody there did their bit in quite uneventful ways, like the girls who answered the telephone, would go shopping and bring things back for the men. There was a wonderful sense of community. Everybody pulled together.

It was the most remarkable time of my life.



Goats Lodge Woods. Pauline, Mrs Hardaker and Myrtle Knight, 1945

Oxhill Parish Council
Parish Council meeting Held on 14.09.21
Precis of meeting

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 13th July 2021

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

To receive a report from the County and District Councillor

The report from County Cllr Mills included the following main points:

Consultation on bus services - WCC is engaging with groups and individuals across the county to get their views, *Support for families and individuals facing hardship* – Additional funding has been allocated to every Council for families with children, *Small grants to support Warwickshire's youth work organisations* – Grants are available for small community and voluntary sector groups that provide youth services for 11-18 year olds, *Warwickshire Residents show support for Afghan families* – Warwickshire is expected to welcome around 100 people into the county. For some it's a short stay as they make plans to move to be close to friends and family elsewhere in the UK, *Plant a Tree for the Jubilee* - *The Queens Green Canopy*, anyone can get involved by planting a tree during the forthcoming planting season which runs from October 2021 until March 2022.

The report from District Cllr Feilding included the following main points:

Local Boundaries Commission – Recommendations for changes to Districts was published last week. The consultation period ends on 8th November. Recommendations are to increase Councillors from 36 to 41 and decrease wards from 36 to 35.

SDC and WDC merger to create a South Warwickshire Super District – A public consultation has begun. A new District Council would cover the whole of South Warwickshire. Annual savings could be made by merging two Councils. The link will be put on the website.

Do not Drop Litter roadshow – A series of Roadshows are being put on in Alcester, Southam and Henley-In-Arden.

To discuss Oxhill Village Hall and using CIL money to support improvement work

The Trustees of Oxhill Village Hall have asked the Parish Council to make an application to SDC for money from their CIL fund to assist with the hall renovation project. This is an infrastructure project to be delivered within the next 2 years. There is a need owing to the dilapidation of the hall and housing development in the village which means the hall is now inadequate and unfit for purpose. The VHC had applied to the Green Shoots Fund but were turned down. It was agreed to get more information to apply for CIL money.

To discuss the Queens Green Canopy

This is part of the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations. The idea for every child to plant a tree was briefly discussed.

To receive an update on the approved grant from Cllr Mills to improve accessibility on all local footpaths

The application was successful and £1500.00 awarded to the Parish Council for this project.

To receive an update on planning

The following update was given;

- 21/01986/FUL, *Detached garage and new vehicular access at Fithers Field, Whatcote Road.* Objection by PC.
- 21/01665/FUL, *Proposed conversion of outbuilding to new kitchen and hallway, construction of single storey link and construction of detached oak framed garage at Church House, Church Lane.* Granted by SDC.
- 21/00730/FUL, *Erection of a dwelling at Windmill Farm, Banbury Road.* Refused by SDC. The application was refused because there was insufficient information submitted to demonstrate an essential need for a dwelling to be sited at Windmill Farm to serve the business of Red Horse Vale.
- 21/02295/AGNOT, *Creation of a single track at Oxhill Manor, Beech Road.* No objection by PC. Withdrawn by applicant.
- 21/02123/TREE, *Tree work at The Old Rectory, Main Street.* No objection by PC or SDC.
- 21/02129/LBC, *General renovation work at Bilton Cottage, Church Lane.* Supported by PC.
- 21/02585/LBC, *Proposed insertion of 4 no conservation roof windows in rear roof slope at The Old Rectory, Main Street.* Support by PC as the proposal will not adversely affect the Conservation Area or the Listed Property.

Financial Report

The following payments were approved under statutory powers:

- £870.50 to Tysoe Childrens Group (newsletter copying)
- £511.20 To Parish Clerk (hours)
- £127.80 To HMRC
- £58.50 to Parish Clerk (mileage to meetings)
- £29.83 to Parish Clerk (expenses)
- £496.40 to I Macpherson (seat for bus shelter)

The following correspondence was received and circulated;

- Roads Policing, New Road Safety Strategy to 2030
- Roads Policing, Results of anti speeding campaign
- WALC Annual Conference, 22-23 October

Councillors Reports

The bench which was too big and removed from the new bus shelter could be placed somewhere else in the village.

ClIr Rivers-Fletcher gave an update on speeding. An article was put in the Oxhill News and one volunteer came forward. A suggestion to purchase bin speed stickers was discussed. The cost to be agreed at the next meeting.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

Tuesday 9th November 2021 at 7.30pm



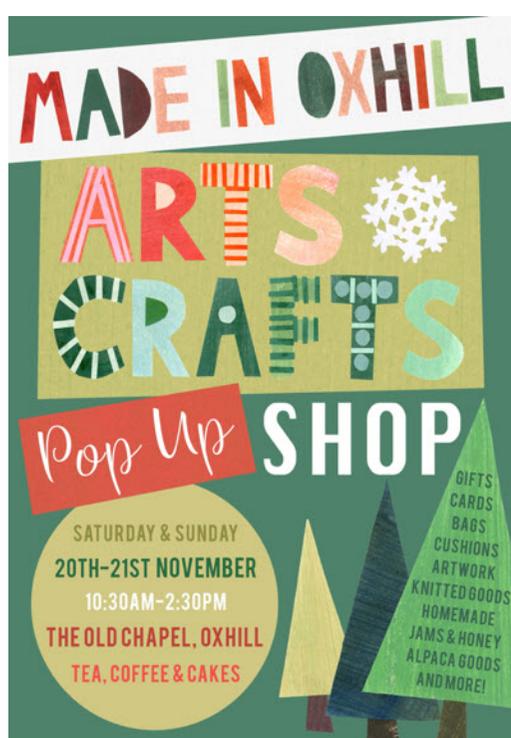
MADE IN OXHILL

Please come and support local artists, crafters and home producers at **The Old Chapel, Oxhill** on **Saturday 20th November** and **Sunday 21st November** from **10.30 to 2.30pm**. We will have a good selection of stalls so you can get your Christmas shopping done locally: not only will you save yourself time and hassle but you will be able to buy something original, not available on the High Street or Amazon! And if that isn't enough of an incentive, there will be tea, coffee and home baked cakes to enjoy while you shop! All proceeds from the refreshments will go towards the upkeep of St. Lawrence's Church, Oxhill.

CALLING ALL BAKERS!

In order to cater for all the hungry shoppers at **Made in Oxhill**, we should welcome donations of cakes, mince pies and biscuits. If you are able to make a cake for the event, please bring it to the Old Chapel between 4pm and 6pm on Friday 19th November or after 9.30am on Saturday 20th November. Please call or email me with any further questions. Thank you very much.

Ruth Mercer
07400 615999
ruthc.mercer@btinternet.com



When you
buy from a
SMALL BUSINESS
an actual person
does a little
happy dance
★ THANK YOU! ★





The Townsend Hall in Shipston Is Back!

One of our regular hall event hirers has recently put on a Beatles tribute band, originally booked for April 2020! It's so good to get back to a level of normality 18 months or so later! This has been followed with an Abba tribute band early October and they've also booked the hall for a James Bond themed evening November 6th and the Birmingham Blues Brothers on 4th December.

In other event news, a big thank you to the Shipston Rugby Club for booking their dinner event with us, with guest international rugby union referee, Nigel Owens. We hear this was a superb evening! This is a great example of things that are possible to put on at the hall given the comprehensive facilities it has to offer, including: kitchen; servery; 2 halls – one with a stage, sound / dvd system; projector; lighting; etc.

Our regular club bookings: kids dance, sports clubs, drama, pilates, etc, are also back!

SKYBALL
LICENSE TO DANCE

The stakes are high, but you've been granted first-class security clearance to join us for a classic night of James Bond as released by floor-swinging disco funk grooves - shake and stir all night long with the Cotswold Show Band!

SATURDAY 6TH NOVEMBER 2021

Venue: Townsend Hall, Sheep St, Shipston on Stour Warwickshire, CV344E
Doors: 7.30pm | Carriage: 8.00pm

TICKET DETAILS:
Tickets £10 including welcome drink and mince pie
Dress code: Black Tie & Dinner

RSVP ONLINE!
www.townsendevents.co.uk
01829411009

SKYBALL
November 6th 2021
James Bond hits! Shake and stir all night long with the Cotswold Show Band.

COTSWOLD EVENTS
presents

THE BIRMINGHAM BLUES BROTHERS

Saturday 4th December 2021

BLUES BROTHERS
December 4th 2021
A fun night for lovers of the Blues Brothers and music in general.

LIVE PRO WRESTLING

SW

SATURDAY 10TH JULY
SHIPSTON-ON-STOUR

DOORS 6:30PM / START 7:00

LIVE PRO WRESTLING
On Hold
Come and enjoy some live professional wrestling at the Townsend Hall. After the success of the last wrestling events, it's back for more!

Prices:
Front Row VIP: £15
General: £10
Family: £35

BRAND NEW BEGINNERS PILATES

MONDAYS
09:30am to 10:30am
BOOKING ESSENTIAL

BEGINNERS PILATES CLASS
Coming Autumn 2021
This class is for beginners to Pilates. Come along on Mondays 9:30am to 10:30am this Autumn at the Townsend Hall

Some upcoming events at the Townsend Hall, Shipston on Stour

For those new to the area, or just didn't realise, the hall is held in trust for the benefit of our community (non-profit). It's a charity and there's a small group of volunteers and trustees that work hard to keep the hall going.

It's not easy and it doesn't come for free....

The small fee we charge for hall bookings keeps us ticking over, but we're always in need of additional funding for us to keep chipping away at a long list of maintenance / improvement projects.

We've used some of our limited available funds recently to upgrade the stage electrics to comply with regulations, and we're also working on how we can build on the partial council funding (thank you!) to provide a lift that will enable stage access for all.

Every penny counts towards keeping our hall going. We have a "150 club" (see website, address below, for details) – please join if you can – for a £15 yearly subscription, you're in with a chance to win a cash prize in our monthly draw, and a big cash prize in our Christmas draw; and have you discovered Amazon Smile? Maybe select us as your charity for Amazon to support - no additional cost to you when doing your Amazon shopping.

Otherwise, please make the most of your hall – it's there for your benefit and your bookings are also a great help towards running costs. Check out the diary on the website – plenty of slots still available if you'd like to make a booking for your event / club.

On Sunday November 14th we have a Christmas gift fair booked into the hall and a number of our trustees also plan to be around – once you've got your gifts sorted, look us up for a chat!

The **150 Club winners in the October draw** are: £15 no. 65; £10 no. 54; £5 no. 101.

Visit us at www.townsendhall.co.uk to find out more.

TOWNSEND HALL HOME COVID-19 EVENTS CLUBS ABOUT CONTACT

REGULAR CLUBS

Take a look at the regular clubs which meet at the Townsend Hall below.

 <p>BADMINTON Mondays & Thursdays 19:30-22:00</p> <p>VISIT WEBSITE</p>	 <p>CALYPSO KIDS Weekdays Various Times</p> <p>GET IN TOUCH</p>	 <p>DANCE WITH DASH Weekly Various Times</p> <p>GET IN TOUCH</p>
 <p>DRAMA GROUP Sundays at 19:00 Wednesdays at 19:39</p> <p>VISIT WEBSITE</p>	 <p>Stour Valley Lions Film show matinees Further information to follow</p> <p>GET IN TOUCH</p>	 <p>LITTLE FISHES Thursdays 09:45</p> <p>CALL 07912 671 032</p>

Moda Rosa

DESIGNER CLOTHES SALE

IT'S BACK

Thursday 4th November
5.30pm - 8.30 pm

Friday 5th November
9am - 4pm

AMAZING PRICES
UP TO 80% OFF!

Armani, Temperley,
Paul Smith, DVF,
Paule Ka, Vilagallo
Amanda Wakeley & more
including knitwear
& accessories



Reg. Charity
No. 1162586

Donation £5 Entry 10% Shipston Home Nursing
Darlingscott Farm, Darlingscott, Shipston-on-Stour
Warwickshire, CV36 4PN

with special thanks to John and Maggie Sargent

CHRISTMAS GIFT FAIR



**£5
Entry**

November

Ettington Community Centre, CV37 7SX

Tuesday 16th - 5.30pm-8.30pm

Wednesday 17th - 9.30am-3.00pm

**Our popular Christmas Fair is back this year,
with many new stalls!**

**This is a great opportunity to shop locally for
your Christmas pressies. Be inspired by the
individual artisan stalls selling delicious food
from our food hall and beautiful gifts,
perfect for presents and stocking fillers.**

**Enjoy a scrumptious homemade lunch on
Wednesday provided by our hard working
team of volunteers.**

We look forward to seeing you there.

Entry includes coffee & homemade biscuit

Pantomime time is nearly here - only 19 tickets left out of 100!



One of the highlights of the winter is a trip from Oxhill to the last night of the pantomime at the Belgrade Theatre in Coventry. The panto is written and directed by Oxhill resident Iain Macpherson (also known as Iain Lauchlan), who stars in the show as the pantomime dame! Last year this outing didn't happen for obvious reasons.

Ian has reserved 100 tickets for the performance of **Beauty and the Beast** at 7pm on **Saturday 8th January, 2022**. A coach has been organised to leave the village about 5.30 and return around 10.45. The cost of the panto tickets will be £28.25 for adults and approximately £26.75 for children. The cost of the coach will be between £5-£7.50 - to be confirmed)

Please contact Ali Sayer on 07970 922352 or ali.sayer@btinternet.com if you would like tickets for the panto and if you would use the coach.

THE WORD SEARCH BATTLE

Search for the animal names under the puzzle. Words can be horizontal, vertical, and diagonal. Sometimes words may even be backwards.

Have fun!

ANIMALS

L	R	A	T	I	G	U	A	N	A
Z	S	F	W	Q	S	N	A	K	E
G	H	H	I	K	C	U	D	C	H
S	W	Y	E	S	J	A	I	P	B
L	V	K	C	E	H	M	E	I	I
I	N	T	O	L	P	A	U	T	R
B	A	J	W	C	F	L	A	A	D
R	W	F	P	O	B	L	A	C	J
E	S	Q	W	U	Y	N	O	T	R
G	Z	L	C	H	I	C	K	E	N

BIRD
CAT
CHICKEN
COW

DUCK
FISH
GERBILS
IGUANA

LLAMA
MICE
PEAFOWL
RAT

SHEEP
SNAKE
SWAN

WHAT'S ON IN & AROUND OXHILL

NOVEMBER

Sat 13th	19:30	Curry Night, Village Hall
Wed 17th	19:00	Oxhill Garden Club Talk, Village Hall
Thurs 14th	14:00-14:30	Mobile Library, outside Village Hall
Sat/Sun 20/21st	10:30-14:30	Made in Oxhill Pop Up Shop, the Old Chapel
Every Thursday	11:45ish	Awesome Coffee Van, outside Peacock Pub

DECEMBER

Tues 7th		Over 65's Christmas Lunch
Fri 17th	19:30	Beer & Bubbles Evening, Village Hall

PC MEETINGS

The date of the next PC Meeting is **Tuesday, 9 November 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



BIN COLLECTION CALENDAR



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



November						
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					