
THE OXHILL NEWS

September 2021 No. 562



‘Why Does My Dog Do This?’ Find out on page 20

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Warwickshire Mobile Library:	01926 851031
WOT2Grow Community Orchard:	Liz Atkinson (680045), Paul Sayer (680451), Sue & Mike Sanderson (688080) www.wot2grow.co.uk

GUESS WHO!



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

His name is Albert (bottom right) and in the photo above he is joined by Archie (top left), Annie (top right), Arthur (bottom left). We wish the young alpacas a joyful childhood with the Stuart family here in Oxhill.

Thank you to all the villagers who contributed to the Guess Who! column over the last few months. We welcome more photos or drawings of villagers for Guess Who!



ED BRACHER IS RUNNING THE LONDON MARATHON FOR THE RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION

You may be amazed (as I am!) that I have agreed to run the London Marathon on 3 October this year, to raise money for Riding for the Disabled Association - the charity that I lead. As you'll know, I don't really have the natural physique of a marathon runner(!), but given the really tough year we have been through I have decided to continue the pain, to make a personal contribution.

The last year has been a tough year for everyone and the charity sector was badly hit. At RDA we saw income drop away and our costs remain (as we had 4,000 horses to look after and 500 centres to maintain). We were determined to be here when things re-opened to support the people we're here for, but as of today about 40% of our centres remain closed, as they are struggling to find the funds to re-open. That means that nearly 10,000 of our clients are not yet able to access our services. We really need to change that and one way we do this is by direct, small grants to our centres. We need to continue this support as the environment for small charities continues to be challenging. My ambition is to raise £25,000 - all of which will go directly as grants to our centres - helping them adapt to new circumstances and support more disabled children and adults. Our work is genuinely life changing, both physically and emotionally, for the 25,000 people we help. It would be great if you could sponsor me to reach this target and enable us to support our groups. I have realised (too late!) that 26 miles is a long way and your support, encouragement and virtual cheering will help me get there.

So if you feel able to donate, I'd really appreciate any support I can get – go to www.justgiving.com/campaign/EdsRDAMarathon or search “RDA” on Just Giving and scroll down to “campaigns”

*Thanks
Ed Bracher*

THANKS IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR SUPPORT



SOPHIA VERA CLARK

Readers who remember my mother, Vera Clark, and my Aussie sister, Joan, and her son, James, might be interested to know that James married last Christmas Eve, and is now the proud father of Sophia Vera Clark, born in locked-down Sydney on 21 July. We are all very touched that the new parents chose to use Mum's name as Sophia's middle name, and I can't wait for all the travel restrictions to be lifted so that I can go and visit the new family.

Carol Clark





OXHILL GARDEN CLUB

VISIT TO UPTON WOLD GARDENS

On August 10th some 20 members of the Oxhill Garden Club had a very interesting visit to Upton Wold Gardens. This was preceded by a most enjoyable lunch at the Great Western Arms Hotel in Blockley.

In 1973 the present owners moved to Upton Wold. They found a big old house which had been built in 1603 and an 'outdoor living space' as Londoners would call it, that became their life's work as they transformed it from its natural state to a remarkable garden.

We were privileged to explore the gardens and see some of the 15 themed gardens including a canal garden, walnut arboretum, magnolia walk, dovecote garden and vegetable garden. A truly massive undertaking.

The visit concluded with a cream tea.

Thanks to Peter and Margaret Rivers Fletcher for organising the event.

Roger Goodman





ST LAWRENCE CHURCH

Suddenly it is September, and with it Harvest and a new term, both for school and, hopefully perhaps, some of the other activities that are so important and which we have missed so much!

Our Harvest Festival this year is on Sunday, September 26th at 9.30 am. As ever, we will be welcoming your gifts of produce and the harvest of your garden – full details nearer the time.



The day before that, on September 25th, you are invited to come up to Coventry Cathedral to share in our celebration of God's faithfulness. 'Great is thy Faithfulness' is an afternoon of sharing together as we remember the events of this last eighteen months: lamenting together our losses, celebrating our joys and the gifts God has given us and his sustaining presence this last year. The afternoon runs from 12 noon (when we begin in the Ruins) and ends at about 3.15 pm (after a shared Eucharist), and you are welcome to come to all or part of it. Do come armed with a picnic lunch, and be assured that it is extremely family friendly! It may be possible to arrange transport, so we will keep you informed.



SERVICES IN ST LAWRENCE CHURCH IN AUGUST AND INTO SEPTEMBER

Sunday, August 29 th	There is a United Service at Brailes at 11.00 am
Sunday, September 5 th	9.30 am Holy Communion (George Heighton)
Sunday, September 12 th	9.30 am Holy Communion (George Heighton)
Sunday September 19 th	9.30 am Morning Worship (Jenny Rake)
Sunday, September 26 th	9.30 am Harvest Festival (Jill Tucker)

On Wednesday mornings at 10.00 am we continue to have Morning Worship via Zoom, and you are warmly invited to join us for that. If you need the log in details, please contact either George Heighton or myself.

Finally, remember that the doors of our churches are now permanently open!

Jill Tucker

revjill.tucker@btinternet.com



OWLS CHURCHYARD WILDFLOWER AREA

We will be starting the annual clearing of the wildflower area in the churchyard during October. We are hoping to meet up for an hour **each Sunday during October between 3 and 4.00pm** weather permitting, to cut back the brambles, remove thistles, cut down the dead flowers and mow the grass paths.

If anyone would like to help we would be very grateful and you can either just turn up or contact Grenville (680644) or Jane (07530 629114).

You will need some gardening gloves and appropriate tools (secateurs, trowels, strimmers, scythes etc).

There are plenty of seeds now ready for harvesting if anyone would like some. Please help yourselves.



Myrtle at the Village Christmas Lunch 2015

Myrtle Knight, long-time resident of Oxhill, grew up during WW2. She has deeply moving memories of her family and community. Ruth Mercer and Sheila Wilde interviewed Myrtle during lockdown and we are pleased to publish some of Myrtle's memories over the next 2 or 3 issues of the Oxhill News.

Ed.

MYRTLE KNIGHT

PART 1

I was born in St Johns Vicarage Crewe because my father was the vicar. I was the youngest of three children. My brother was 6 years older; my sister was 7 years older and I was born on the 28th of June 1928.

When I was little girl, we lived in a vicarage had been bought from the owners of Rolls Royce and we had a garage - wonderful for playing in and running around on your tricycle – for six cars because, obviously, the owners of Rolls Royce brought samples home.

My grandfather lived with us when we had a vicarage big enough. My grandfather was in the merchant navy and went to America from Abu Dhabi with Welsh slate. In order to have fresh meat, they took live animals on board.

We left there when I was seven, and my father went to be the vicar of St Mary's Liskard which was in Merseyside. We went to such a small vicarage in the middle of a street, which wasn't big enough to have my grandfather living with me - with us, which really quite distressed me because the others were always away at boarding school. It seemed to me little Myrtle and Grandpa did everything together, going to the park. He was diabetic. He wasn't allowed to eat anything in the way of cake, but he always had fruitcake for little Myrtle, who went to tea in what he called his diggings around the corner.

In August 1939, we went off on holiday to Tenby in Pembrokeshire. We stayed in a house owned by a lady called Mrs. Mathanly Mathiason. I thought the parents and grownups were being so boring, they wanted to listen to this awful, boring old man Chamberlain every single news time and I wanted to go to the beach. I can see myself now standing at the window thinking, oh, come on, please, I want to go to the seaside. And then of course, came of momentous words "No such undertaking has taken place and therefore, we are at war with Nazi Germany." Almost immediately we packed up our belongings. My father and brother went back to the vicarage to black it out. And my mother and sister and I went to stay with people in Shropshire until they'd done that, because we imagined being Merseyside, the river will be blown to pieces within the first ten minutes of the war. I mean, this was just what everybody thought, you know, shipping - Merseyside.



Myrtle's Grandpa



Arnold Pare

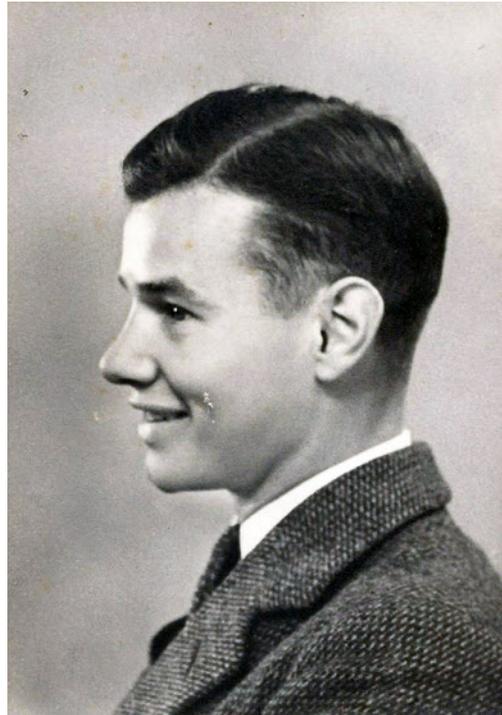
At the beginning of the war my father had two curates. One was called Mr. Watmough and the other one was called Arnold Pare. Now Arnold Pare was recruited into the Red Berets, the parachute regiment. And dropped into occupied France, to be a padre for the troops, but very unfortunately he was captured at Arhem. On his way to a prison camp in Germany, a CO who'd also been captured came and said to him, "Pare, I think you would be the most unlikely person that they would think would be carrying anything important with you and therefore, we want you to take these documents, which we want to get back to the war office." Arnold Pare was a very, very,

very nervous young man who couldn't say boo to a goose. He was dropped out of a moving train in the middle of the night and rolled down the embankment. He was about to knock on the door of the first farm house but something inside told him not to, so he didn't. When he went to the next one, he was told that the first farm were Nazi sympathizers.

The people in the second farm house asked him what flowers did his grandmother grow in her garden? The flowers would not have been the same if he he'd been German. And they wanted him to quote the Nicene Creed, which Germans would not have known because they would be Lutherans. And therefore, he stayed with them and was hidden in an attic above the wardrobe. There was a piece of sack cloth on the top of the wardrobe. And because the Germans were absolutely sure that he was there, he was supposed to be there deaf and dumb son. They would do things like walking into the kitchen when he was having a meal and dropping bayonets behind him and he wasn't to jump. He wasn't to say anything. He was deaf and dumb. And then came the day when he was hiding in this false top of the wardrobe and the Germans came and drove bayonets into it, but the blood didn't run until they had gone.

I never quite discovered how he got back home, but at Paddington Station, he suddenly saw his wife, who thought he was dead. It was a complete coincidence. She was going to visit her mother and he walked up to her. And why she didn't die I can't imagine. But because of that, he was in a film called *The Red Beret*, about the parachutists. I don't know whether he was named. But what he had done was in the film. He was one of the most nervous curates you could ever come across anywhere. Quite extraordinary, the things that people can actually do when they have to.

There was a program on Sunday nights called the 100 Best Tunes. I can see my mother and father sitting on the settee holding hands and me thinking, gosh, how soppy. They were worried to death that their only son would have to go to war. My father said, "'Don't worry, dear, it'll all be over before he has to go.'" Was it? Heck. And exactly the next year. He was 18. He turned 18 on the 5th of December and three weeks later, he was in uniform before Christmas.



Myrtle's brother Mervyn Knight

He was a pilot in the Fleet Air Arms. all of it was dangerous. He used to horrify his little sister with stories like you go to land on an aircraft carrier and the carrier is pitching and rolling. And just as you get there, it's going the other way. And of course ever so many of the planes went straight into the water.

He served the whole length of the war. He always made light of it all. He was only a sub-lieutenant, but he used to refer to himself as Rear Admiral Sir Mervyn Davis V.C. He went off to train in Canada, which was quite an experience because, of course, we weren't that sort of family that went on holiday to Canada. It was it was very dangerous, very, very dangerous mission because if you were strapped into the airplane and it was difficult to get out of it. So you drowned. But if you didn't, the airplane went down and sucked you in with it, so it was it was pretty dangerous sort of situation, really.

I remember, we took a house in Wales the year war broke out in September. Four of my brother's friends came and camped in the garden. We had a tremendously exciting time. My sister must have thought it was absolutely wonderful because they were all just a year younger than she was. They were all just boys to me. But I can tell you that two years later, my brother was the only one that was still alive. Yes, we were very grateful.



Fairey Fireflies (1771 Squadron), Fairey Barracudas (828 Squadron), and Supermarine Seafires (880 Squadron) of the Fleet Air Arm on the flight deck of HMS Implacable (R86) warming up ready to make strike on enemy shipping at the entrance to Alten Fjord, Norway.

OXHILL VILLAGE HALL

SAVE THE DATES!

Saturday 11th September **Progressive Supper** (details below).

Saturday 2nd October, we plan to hold a **Village Breakfast**.
You will be able to book in for a full English or continental breakfast,
more details next month.

Saturday 13th November will be “**Curry Night**”

Friday 17th December “**Beer & Bubbles**” party



OXHILL PROGRESSIVE SUPPER

Saturday 11th September

Before Covid, this event had been running for some years and is a great way to meet people in the village. It starts around **7pm** with a drink or two in the village hall – we then split up into groups of about 8 and go to houses around the village for starter and then in a different group of 8 for main course. Everyone meets back at the village hall for desserts. You can come as paying guests (£20 per person) or provide starter or main course and accompanying drinks. This year the theme is **Middle Eastern**.

If you would like to take part, please contact Ali Sayer (details below) and indicate whether you would like to host starter or main course or would like to come as a paying guest. If you offer to provide a course, it is helpful to know how many you can seat around your table. We also need to be informed about any food allergies/intolerances.

ali.sayer@btinternet.com or 07970 922352



*All photos from the
Progressive Supper 2018.*

AN OXHILL HOUSE IN TIME

by Carol Clark

In the interests of furthering our understanding the history of the village, I have started to collect and collate information about who has lived in the older properties in the past. My sources are primarily censuses, which are online from 1841 through to 1911, trade directories and electoral rolls, although this repertoire will hopefully expand over time. Some properties do have a lot more information online than others - local farms, the Rectory and the Peacock are all usually recognisable for example, but it's not always possible to identify other properties from documents, simply because people didn't always use or write down house names.

Binswood Cottage

Year	Source	Surname	Name	Occupation	Property name then/ Comments
1891	Census	Neal	James & Sarah	General Labourer	Deduced from location
1895	Spennell's Directory	Neal	James		Binswood Cottage
1900	Spennell's Directory	Fisher	Joseph		Woodbine Cott
1901	Census	Neal	Clark	Agricultural Labourer	Deduced from location
1911	Census	French	Georgina Margaret	School Head Teacher	School House
1939	1939 Register	French	Georgina	Schoolmistress	Woodbine Cottage

As an initial example, this is what I have in the database so far for **Binswood Cottage**: It shows the year and source of the information, the name and occupation of the main inhabitant as it is shown in the source, and what the name of the property then was, if given. It's interesting here that the house name was changed to Woodbine Cottage at about the start of the twentieth century, and as yet I don't have an explanation. Additionally, Georgina French, headmistress of the neighbouring school (now the Village Hall), chose to identify the property as "School House" in the 1911 census.

James Neal and Clark Neal were almost certainly related, but I haven't yet managed to find the connection. Clark Neal's mother was unmarried at the time of his baptism in 1848, and in the 1851 census, Clark was living in an unidentified property (which may or may not have been this one) with John and Rebekah Mullis, who were listed as his grandparents. John Mullis was then a "Chelsea Pensioner", having served with the 38th Regiment of Foot according to other records. I'm not convinced that any of them would have the means to actually own the house, so there's plenty of scope for further research here.

Georgina (or Margaret) French was headteacher at the village school (now the village hall) from 1901 until she retired in Dec 1937. We have recently transcribed her gravestone in the churchyard; it says:

TO THE MEMORY OF GEORGINA MARGARET FRENCH
FOR 36 YEARS BELOVED HEADTEACHER OF OXHILL VILLAGE SCHOOL
GOD CALLED HER ON 23RD FEB. 1958 AGED 85 YEARS

More recently, Binswood Cottage became host to the village Post Office. After a spell away from the village, local woman, Lilian Welsby, moved into Binswood Cottage, in 1988. She worked at the Post Office across the road at The Homestead until it closed in 1995 and then converted her garage into a community Post Office facility in January 1996. It eventually closed in April 2000 and Lilian moved to Brailes in 2012.



Lindsay Cleaver, David Whittacker, Hettie and Beatrix now live in Binswood Cottage.

Village's new post office

OXHILL residents have got a new post office thanks to a caring local woman, who has opened it in her garage.

The new Oxhill Post Office, at Binswood Cottage, was opened yesterday (Monday) by local actor Peter Jeffery and Cllr Bill Gardener, chairman of the parish council.

Oxhill was left without a post office last year after Post Office Counters couldn't find anyone to replace the retiring subpostmaster until, that is, the company approached Lillian Welsby.

Mrs Welsby, who worked for several years at the former Oxhill Post Office, was delighted to be asked and she soon set about converting her garage into a purpose-built post office.

"It was terrible when the

old post office closed. The village has a lot of elderly residents who had to make a journey of several miles to the nearest post office to collect their pensions," she said.

"We do have a definite need for a post office here and I know it will be welcomed wholeheartedly."

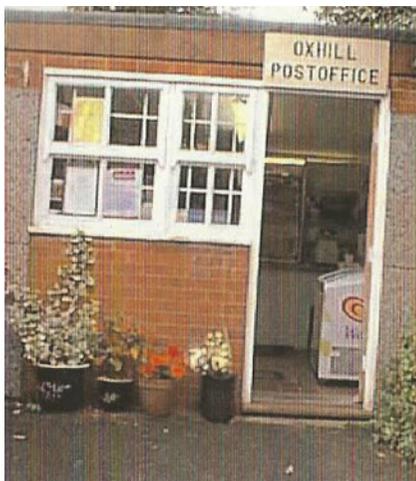
Caroline Watkins, of Post Office Counters, said the company was delighted Mrs Welsby was running the post office and was confident she would get villagers' support.

The new post office will be open from 9am to 1pm and 2pm to 5.30pm on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays and from 9am to 1pm on Thursday and Saturday.

Stratford Herald 9 January 1996



Lilian, Binswood Cottage 2000



The Oxhill Post Office

by Ruth Mercer

Oxhill Cooks June 2021



**Rhubarb & Orange Pile-it-High
Meringue Pie** baked by Charlotte
Nicholl following Ruth's recipe from
Oxhill Cooks June 2021.

As we approach Autumn, the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness according to Keats, this month's recipes are for making use of that fruitfulness. **Pickled Plums** should be prepared in the next few weeks when plums are at their most abundant, to be opened on Boxing Day for an unusual and delicious accompaniment to cold turkey. The quantities below will fill 2 x 900g jars and 1 x 450g jar. If you don't have those sizes, use the biggest jars you have as it's easier to pack the plums in.

Plum and Blackberry Slump is a favourite, a rather informal-looking pudding but with a great flavour. The challenge is to find plums and blackberries abundant at the same time, a problem I overcome by freezing plums prepared in readiness!

PICKLED PLUMS

5 dried chillies
5 cloves
1.35 kg firm, ripe plums
9 blackcurrant leaves
1 l distilled malt vinegar (the clear sort)
500 g granulated sugar

1. Wash and dry the jars and wash the plums. Add 2 chillies and 2 cloves to each of the 900g jars, and the remaining chilli and clove to the 450g jar.
2. Prick the plums all over with a wooden cocktail stick. Place a blackcurrant leaf in the bottom of each jar, then pack the plums into the jars, placing another blackcurrant leaf in the middle and one on the top. The plums need to be packed quite tightly, but not tight enough to bruise them.
3. Put the vinegar and sugar into a saucepan and heat until the sugar is dissolved. Bring to the boil and boil for 5 minutes.
4. Pour the hot sugared vinegar over the plums in the jars a little at a time to avoid cracking, adding enough to cover the plums completely.

5. Leave to cool, then fit the lids tightly. Don't forget to label them!
6. Store in a cool, dry, dark place for at least 2 months before eating.

PLUM AND BLACKBERRY SLUMP

(PROBABLY SERVES 6, BUT IT DEPENDS HOW MUCH YOU LOVE PLUMS AND BLACKBERRIES)

500 g plums, stoned and cut into 3-4 pieces
500 g blackberries
125 g caster sugar (75 g for the fruit, 50 g for the topping)
250 g mascarpone
175 g self raising flour
1 tsp baking powder
1 lemon
50 g butter, melted and cooled slightly
2 tbsp milk

1. Place the plums and blackberries in a saucepan with 75 g sugar and 2 tbsp water. Bring slowly to the boil, cover and cook for 3-5 minutes, until the plums just begin to soften. Tip into a large round ovenproof dish and cool. (It doesn't have to be round, it could be square or rectangular, whatever looks right for the quantity of fruit)
2. Turn on the oven to 220 C / 200C fan / Gas Mark 7.
3. Put the flour and baking powder in a mixing bowl. Add the zest of the lemon and 50 g caster sugar. Pour the melted butter, milk and juice of the lemon into the bowl and combine gently together to form a scone-like mixture.
4. Beat the mascarpone until smooth. Using 2 dessert spoons, dollop 6 blobs of mascarpone on top of the cooled fruit. Resist the urge to spread them together.
5. Using 2 spoons again, dollop 6 spoons of the scone mixture over the mascarpone. Don't worry if it doesn't cover.
6. Bake in the preheated oven for 20-25 minutes until the scones are golden brown and the mascarpone is oozing out.
7. Leave to cool for at least 5-10 minutes before eating.



"It was YUMMY!" - Charlotte Nicholl

*You can find the recipe online at
oxhillcommunity.co.uk*

*Please send in photos of your Oxhill
Cook bakes.*

WHY DOES MY DOG DO THIS?

by Celena Mulhern

“Is the raised front paw the dog pointing?” was a question which came up in recent conversation around the Thursday coffee van visit, so being the owner of a dog that points, I thought I’d try to answer it here.

This dog is a German Shorthaired Pointer (GSP). The “point” is the dog’s reaction to scent, or maybe sight. The dog will freeze to immobility, the nose and tail straight out, with a fixed stare in the direction of the scent. Sometimes there’ll be a raised paw and sometimes not. So why is this? I’m no expert and it’s a hotly debated question among owners of working GSP’s and other pointing breeds.

There’s a saying which goes “raised paw not sure”. Some say a dog with it’s leg up is unsure of what it has in front of it - it’s an indication of scent but the dog isn’t secure in the knowledge there’s definitely something there and when it is the dog will form a solid point with all 4 legs on the ground. Others say their dogs raise a paw when indicating one particular identified scent – eg., a rabbit or a woodcock, etc .

I think most would agree though that all dogs are different and that an owner must develop the ability to read their own dog’s body language and understand what the dog is telling them.

My experience with my dog is that whether she raises a paw or not is not the whole story. If her paw is raised there will often be other indicators she’s not sure. Her top line may not be sufficiently statuesque, her head and tail may be a little too relaxed – almost indiscernibly so (cover photo). It doesn’t mean there’s nothing there – it could be a bird that’s moving or one that is slightly too far in front of her nose for her to hold it.

When she’s definitely holding something under her nose, there is no doubt – she is rock solid, from nose to tail, not a muscle moves and all 4 paws are firmly on the floor (photo right). Unfortunately you can’t see her paws in this picture so will have to take my word for it that they were all firmly on the ground and that there was a pheasant in the crop right in front of her.



OXHILL PARISH COUNCIL
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 13.07.21
DRAFT PRECIS OF MEETING

To approve the minutes of the meetings held on 4th, 25th May and 29th June

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

Cllr Chris Mills was welcomed to the meeting.

To receive a report from the County and District Councillor

The main points from County Cllr Chris Mills included:

- Businesses across Warwickshire are set to benefit from a £140M cash injection to boost the economy. This will stimulate the economy, create jobs support local businesses and attract investment into the county.
- 20 is Plenty. A motion was put forward at the Full Council Meeting reducing the speed limit in certain areas to 20mph which was given cross party support. A working party has been set up.
- Adult Social Care. Warwickshire provides support to older people.
- Protecting the most vulnerable residents. Throughout the pandemic the Council has protected and supported the most vulnerable residents and provided meal vouchers with an £8.2M investment to protect the elderly and vulnerable.
- Giving children the best start in life. A new Warwickshire School with special needs is to be built.
- Building Safer Communities. Investing with the police to make communities safer by adding £1M funding for voluntary and community sector.
- Supporting people with dementia. In Warwickshire there are approx. 8000 people who are living with dementia. Many are affected including those who care for them.
- UK100 Net Zero Pledge. At the Cabinet meeting on 17 June, WCC agreed to sign up to the UK100 Net Zero Pledge on carbon emission reduction.
- New environmentally friendly school buses. WCC has unveiled its fleet of ten new home to school transport buses. The new buses which cost just under £900K are better for the environment.
- Covid 19 cases across Warwickshire. Covid cases have been rising across the county and figures are going up.
- The Warwickshire County Council Parish Champion is Cllr Chris Mills.

The main points from District Cllr Feilding included:

- The amalgamation of two districts and how a consultation will proceed. It will create South Warwickshire Council. A way forward is to invite the Chairmen of all Parish Council's for a briefing.

- The SDC wards will be revised. The proposal is to increase from 36 to 41 District Councillors. Several of the larger wards will be broken up. Red Horse Ward is considered to be one of the larger wards but will remain as it is.
- Price of parking tickets. A great deal of time was spent on this issue.
- Affordable Homes. This will be dealt with next time as they ran out of time to discuss it.
- Edgehill Quarry. This will be filled. There are strict conditions around noise and type of material that is being used to refill the quarry. The material is to be spoil from building sites and the owners are allowed to recycle on site.
- Green bin permits. These are now around 46,000 which represents 74% of all properties. Expectations have been exceeded and it is one of the highest take ups of permits in the country.
- Fly tipping remains a major problem. April saw 63 incidents (an increase over last years 47 incidents) and May saw 35 incidents (down on last year's 38).

To discuss Leys Field and S106

SDC have visited the site and observed concerns raised by residents. The case matter with the Wildlife Buffer Zone has been closed by SDC Enforcement. It was confirmed there will not be a footpath to the back of the village hall. This was one of the S106 agreements.

To review the new bus shelter

There is a bench inside the new bus shelter but it takes up a lot of space. The shelter is appreciated by the school children. It was agreed that the bench is too big and that costs for a smaller seat for people to sit on whilst waiting for the bus would be explored.

To discuss village gates

This idea was explored. They would have to be purchased from an outside company and installed by Highways which increases the overall price. It was agreed to consult the village. The 30mph signs were discussed as some are faded and missing. These will be reported to Highways.

To receive an update on speeding

Recordings were made at various times of the day between 2nd April and 10th June using the radar speed camera located halfway along the straight part of the Whatcote Road. During 185 minutes, a total of 118 cars were logged. 40.5% were measured at 35mph and over and above 9.3% were above 40mph. The fastest speed was 55mph. Both uphill and downhill numbers and percentages were similar.

To receive an update on planning

The following update was given;

- *21/01665/FUL and 21/01666/LBC, 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. Support from PC.*
- *2/02123/TREE, T1 (T500) - walnut - Rear garden: Remove major deadwood and lift the crown to 3 metres all round. T2 (T487) - horse chestnut - Front garden, adjacent to the drive: Reduce crown over road back by 2metres. Reduce back from house to leave a 2metre clearance. T3 (T489) - holm oak - Front of house: Fell to ground level and grind out the stump. T4 - lawson cypress - Rear garden left hand side: Trim back by 0.5metres and lift the crown to 3metres at The Old Rectory, Main Street. The PC will not object to the work to the walnut and horse chestnut. The holm oak is unusual and could be an old tree. The application does not say why the tree is being removed and whether it will be replaced. These comments to be sent to SDC.*
- *21/01403/OUT, Demolition of existing steel framed buildings and brick building and erection of up to 5 No dwellings at Wixey Transport, Kineton Road. Objections by PC and refused by SDC.*
- *20/03373/FUL, Proposed extension and alterations to Short Meadow and Short Meadow Cottage. Granted by SDC.*

CLlr Feilding advised that the planning application 20/02224/OUT, Erection of 11 market dwellings and 7 affordable dwellings at Wixey Transport is to go to full planning committee. A date is to be agreed by SDC

To discuss the proposed redevelopment and future plans for Hogwood Farm

The meeting was attended by Mark Wildish who has designed the proposed development of Hogwood Farm. The development is in the parish of Pillerton Hersey but close proximity to Oxhill. He is aware of the history of the site and how it has impacted on village life. He is working on an exit plan/strategy with the current owner. The pig units will be replaced and all farming on site will be ceased. It is currently agricultural land and this will face difficulty as it goes against the Countryside Planning policy. The proposal is for the development of 10 units which will look like agricultural buildings. Mr Wildish is hoping to get the support of local people.

Financial Report

The following payments were approved:

£19.00 to Parish Clerk (SLCC Membership)

£40.00 to Parish Clerk (ICO membership)

£14.40 to TEEC (planning feature for website)

£7.39 to L Stuart (lock and key for filing cabinet)

£159.23 to Zurich Insurance

£15.00 to WALC (Training course for Parish Clerk)
£30.00 to J McKail (Internal audit)
£95.94 to GDR Solutions Ltd (first aid course)
£15.00 to WALC (Training course)
£434.40 to MB Groundworks and Landscaping (bus shelter)

To receive Councillors Reports

Cllr Stuart has applied for a County Council Grant via Cllr Chris Mills as the deadline was 11th July. The grant, if successful, will improve accessibility for all on local footpaths and replace seven stiles with kissing gates.

The overhead poles in Manor Field have been placed underground.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

Tuesday 14th September 2021 at 7.30pm in the village hall

(View previous Parish Council meeting minutes at
www.oxhillcommunity.co.uk/meetings)



Peacock Pub landlord Mark Photo by Roger Goodman

THE JACKDAW

by Grenville Moore

Corvus monedula, we have a lot of these birds, the smallest of the Rook and Crow, in the village and they mostly nest in our chimneys, indeed many years ago we actually had a chimney fire due to this rascal throwing twigs down our chimney. We recently had a Buzzard take a Jackdaw from a small garden in the village, it is very rare for a Buzzard to take another bird, especially a corvid, their main diet is carrion or small mammals. We have also had a young Jackdaw with a broken wing, but able to partially fly, in the vicinity of the village hall, I know of two families who have been putting food out for him, he may survive but I doubt it.

All this takes me back to when I was a teenager and we were living at The Butchers Arms in Priors Hardwick, I had a fireplace in my bedroom and early one morning there was a ‘tchack’, a crash and the bedroom filled with soot ! A young Jackdaw had fallen down the chimney, fortunately we had an old Parrot cage and I was able to easily catch him (or her, I never knew) and pop him in his new temporary home.

For the next couple of weeks I fed him up and he quickly became very tame and I named him Fred. He was very happy to sit on my shoulder as I wandered about and much to the amusement of the locals he seemed to get very excited to go behind the bar, he would jump up and down on my shoulder squawking. Fred would strut up and down the bar top taking a drink out of people’s pints and then go all wobbly obviously drunk! Locals would offer him a cigarette which he would take in his bill, they would light it and again he would strut back and forth shaking his head from side to side and looking very pleased with himself.



Not Fred, or is it?

Of course this was a wild bird and I knew I should release him. The first couple of days he would fly up to the trees at the rear of the pub but would always come back to his cage which I left open, then one day he didn’t return, I would occasionally call his name and on a couple of occasions he would suddenly appear and come and sit on the roof of my car and gaze at me with that beady black eye his head tilted to one side then one day he only came to the fence and was joined by a ‘friend’....that was the last time I knowingly saw him.

SKELETON FOUND IN OXHILL

When I came to the village in 1965 with my parents who had just taken the tenancy of the pub, it was a very quiet sleepy little village. However the talk of village was about the then recent find of a human skeleton on the verge close to the cattle grid on the gated road. Apparently the police were called and at first it was thought to be a gypsy road side burial but then became apparent that it was in fact an ancient burial. I was recently talking to Carol Clark about this and she managed to find a local paper cutting on this find. I do now wonder why the area was not better investigated by the archaeologists but of course they were not then aware of the Roman villa 100 yards up the road.

Grenville Moore. Newspaper clipping courtesy of Carol Clark

OLD SKELETON DISCOVERED AT OXHILL FARM

THE discovery of an ancient skeleton on farm land at Oxhill is supplying members of the Shipston Historical Society with some interesting research and excavation work.

The skeleton, which is almost certainly many centuries old, was discovered by Mr. W. Varney while he was ploughing at Noland's Farm, Oxhill.

Mr. Varney was ploughing while a drainage ditch was being dug. As he was turning on the ditch he noticed what he thought was a piece of pottery lying in it.

"I am interested in things of that sort," Mr. Varney told the 'Evesham Journal' on Monday. "I went to have a look at it. Mr. Ken Hutsby, the son of the farmer, said he thought it was the top of a skull. But I thought that was

impossible. It was like paper and went to powder when you touched it. When we found a tooth we knew for certain it was a skull.

"The ditch, which was being dug across the field, was on the line of an old stone drain and this might have some connection with the skeleton. It was in a crouching position about four feet deep. The chap probably wasn't pulling his weight with the drain building so they left him there to die."

Mr. L. Bradley, chairman of Shipston Historical Society, believes the skeleton could be prehistoric or pagan Saxon. But they have not yet completed their work in establishing its approximate age. He and five other members of the society have been digging for the rest of the skeleton.

"The clay soil was so sticky that it could not be riddled," he said. "And after the top and sub-soil had been removed to a depth of three feet the final phase was to dig out this clay a spoonful at a time and examine it. All the tiny fragments were put in a bucket, including a thread which could be a form of cotton or flax and may have been part of his clothing."

OXHILL CHRISTMAS ADVENT WINDOWS

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN!

We would like 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. In order to ensure that everyone knows their date in good time to plan it would need to be organised by mid-October so I would need volunteers by the beginning of October to ensure that we have enough windows.

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

- Live in a house that has a window that can be clearly seen from the road without people coming onto your property.
- Are happy to keep the window illuminated each evening after it is 'opened' until Christmas.
- Are interested in participating or are prepared to act as a standby in case we have problems recruiting enough people

Please let me know:

- Your name and address
- Your email address and preference you have about days and any dates that are not possible.

Please be aware that a list of addresses and dates will be available in the Oxhill News, face book page and on the notice board. No names or email addresses will be shared without your permission. I look forward to hearing from you. Please let me know by the 8th October.

Lis Stuart

07538 865 789

Lis.stuart@outlook.com





Carers4Carers

Finding support through supporting each other

Carers4Carers look forward to reopening on Friday 24th September 10:30 – 12:00 noon at Kineton Village Hall.

Do drop in for a cup of tea and friendly support. Our companionship group will be on hand to take care of your loved one while you have some much-needed relaxation. Anita will offer well-deserved TLC (hand and neck massages). *Pre-booking for the meeting is essential.*

LOOKING FOR TWO SPECIAL VOLUNTEERS!

Do you have an interest in the creative arts and / or an understanding of carers' needs? Or perhaps you have experience with people with additional needs? If you could offer a few hours a month, a warm welcome and perhaps also make a good cup of tea, please get in touch!

For more information about our self-help support group and volunteering with us, 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 Tennis Club

www.tysoetennisclub.co.uk

The Tysoe Summer mixed A tennis team are currently lying 5th in the Banbury League (Division 3). They have a match in hand over Charlbury B and a win in their next match would see them move up to 4th place and so mid-table.

Congratulations to the Ladies A team who came top of Division 4 in the Evesham Ladies Tennis League. Unfortunately, the Ladies B Team didn't fare so well, coming bottom of the same Division despite some good competitive play.



Tysoe Tennis Club Men's Team

June and early July have proved very successful for Tysoe Men's Team with two wins and two draws, one of the draws being against the League leaders. This leaves the team in fourth place in the League with a single match to go. A decent result in that one will guarantee a fourth place finish – a very creditable performance of the season.

JUNIOR TENNIS

Junior coaching continues to go well. Our Friday sessions finished at the end of the summer term with over 40 children attending the various groups. The new term will start in September.

Anyone interested in junior coaching (ages 4-11), please contact Debbie at admin@tennisolutions.co.uk. Juniors MUST be members of the club to receive coaching. Coaching had carried on during the summer with our Holiday Camps which have taken place each Wednesday and been well attended.

We also hope to enter an Orange (U9) and Green (U10) team into the Warwickshire Winter Junior League once we know the details. Contact: nicki@tysoe.net

Website: www.tysoe.tennisclub.co.uk

Club Secretary – Carol Spencer **07708 412767**

carol.spencer234@hotmail.co.uk

FOOTPATHS WORK

Saturday 31st July saw Geof Beesley and his team of intrepid volunteers tackle some of the more overgrown areas of public footpath locally: including the copses on the footpath from the Church towards Tysoe and the hedge exit on Tysoe Road diagonally opposite the driveway to Kirby Farm.

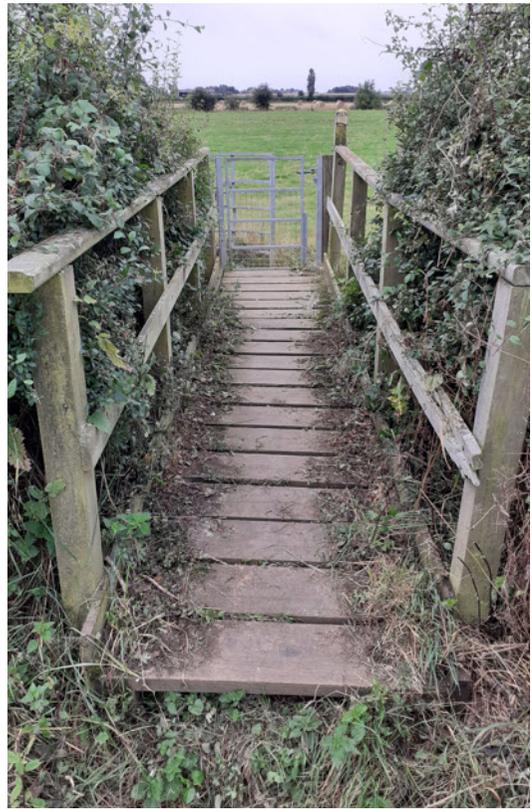
While it always remains the landowners' responsibility to maintain footpaths across their land and ensure they are well marked and unobstructed, from time to time the footpaths team arrange a small group with first aid support to run some light trimming and beating back of weeds.

Thanks from the Parish Council go to Geof and the team including Celena Mulholland, Lee & Sue Robinson, Jeremy and Fiona Franklin plus Dave and Kate Nash (pictured).

Other areas were tackled and indeed on a subsequent weekend person(s) unknown trimmed back some blackthorn around the bridges in the field leading from the Village Hall and Oxhill Farm towards Pillerton - possibly the Consulting Editor of this fine newsletter himself! Thanks again to all involved.

Reuben Connolly





Footpaths in and around Oxhill.

SAVING OUR VILLAGE HISTORY

Many of you will remember Ann Hale who sadly died several years ago. Together with her husband Peter, Ann spent many years researching the history of Oxhill and occasionally she would put a fascinating piece in the Oxhill News, I tried many times over the years to persuade her to do a monthly article but she always underestimated her talent for writing and would decline. Of course all those years of research resulted in several shelves full of box files containing her notes.



Earlier this year after discussions with Peter and his son William they agreed to release the files a few at a time so we could get all the research digitalised and eventually put into a accessible format on the Oxhill website. I would like to thank Carol Clark and Alexander Chick who enthusiastically have spent most of the summer toiling away on what seems to me a mammoth task, we're not quite there yet but watch this space.



WOT2GROW COMMUNITY ORCHARD

The mowers are mowing, the pickers are picking and the pruners are pruning!! As always summer is a busy time at the orchard and many hands are needed to keep pace with everything so why not get involved and help out with various tasks at your orchard.

Contact one of us to find out more.



Conference Pears



Heron Plums - almost ripe!

Although the summer raspberries are very reduced in number, and therefore the amount we are picking, the rest of the soft fruit is giving the usual good harvest. The fruit is distributed to the members of the orchard and also some is given to the elderly and infirm in the villages and the surrounding area.

The pruning of the stone fruit is complete and now it is the turn of the apples, pears, perry pears and cider apples to get a summer prune. All the trees have grown well so it is the time to prune for shape rather than for growth! Following this it will be the turn of the nut trees and then we start again with winter pruning, a continuous cycle of maintenance to keep the orchard looking good and productive. The first apples, cookers, are starting to be picked and it won't be long before the early eaters are ready!

The bees continue to buzz, the birds to sing and the butterflies to flutter so why not enjoy a peaceful walk in the orchard, it is open every day for the community to enjoy!!

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



Food for birds too!!



Spartan apples before thinning.



TYSOE W.I.

We were all so excited to meet up again after so long. Christine, one of our lovely members gave us the use of her garden and marquee. Just over half of our members were able to make it. Many were on holiday or childcare duties.



Jacqui, our president welcomed everyone back, and committee were very touched by the vote of thanks from Gillian thanking us for keeping everyone connected and delivering meetings in a bag every month.

Gillian also won the raffle.

The sun shone and chat and laughter were in abundance.

Everyone bought a picnic followed by a slice of Welcome Back Cake.



Brain Teasers

Answers on the back page

Which number comes next?

31, 28, 31, 30, 31, ?

Family

Beth's mother has three daughters. One is called Lara, the other one is Sara. What is the name of the third daughter?

Bear

A man lives in a house where all the walls are faced towards the south. A bear passes next to the house. What colour is the bear?

Two sons

A wealthy Arabian man has two sons. When he got older, he called his sons over for a discussion and told them both that he could not decide which one of them would be the new heir. The race would decide this. The following morning, his sons would have to leave for Kaddishta, a small town located approximately 20 miles from them. The son whose camel arrives last will become the new heir.

The following morning at sunrise, both sons were ready for the race, with their best camels and dressed for the journey. Their father blesses them both, wishes them luck and the race starts. Each son did everything he could to stay behind the other one, the animals became restless and the sun was slowly setting beyond the horizon. By the end of the day, both of the sons had crossed less than one hundred steps.

Deeply disturbed, the brothers went to an inn. They ordered wine and began to discuss about their misfortune. Their father had given them a task to which they could see no end. In the attempt to get the inheritance, they found themselves in real danger of dying in the desert which rested between the inn and the town Kaddishta. They told their dilemma to the innkeeper. After a short while of pondering, the innkeeper gave them two words of advice.

The next morning, the brothers made their way towards Kaddishta, however they rode this journey as fast as they could. What advice did the innkeeper give them?

WHAT'S ON IN & AROUND OXHILL

SEPTEMBER

Thurs 2nd	14:00-14:30	Mobile Library, outside Village Hall
Sat 11th	19:00	Progressive Supper, Village Hall
Thurs 23rd	14:00-14:30	Mobile Library, outside Village Hall
Every Thursday	11:45ish	Awesome Coffee Van, outside Peacock Pub

OCTOBER

Sat 2nd		Big Breakfast, Village Hall
Every Sunday	15:00-16:00	OWLS wildflower clean-up churchyard

PC MEETINGS

The date of the next PC Meeting is Tuesday, **14 September 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.



Answers

1. The number 30. January - 31, February - 28, March - 31, April - 30, May - 31, June - 30
2. Beth
3. White. If all the walls are faced towards the south, then the house is located on the Northern Pole and Northern Polar bears live there.
4. Switch camels

September						
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			