

THE OXHILL NEWS

February 2022 No. 567



Nica, belonging to villager Kat Janczur, professional detection & dog handler.
Read more about Kat and her dogs on page 8.

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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



OXHILL GARDEN CLUB

NEXT MEETING
WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 23RD
7 PM
VILLAGE HALL



Continuing with our 'local' flavour, our next meeting is an illustrated talk by:

ALASTAIR AND DEBBIE WELFORD ON THEIR EXPERIENCES IN DEVELOPING THEIR OXHILL MANOR ESTATE

Many of us will have seen the great changes in the Manor landscape over the past few years, but these have not been without their problems. These and future aspirations will be revealed.

PLEASE PUT THIS DATE IN YOUR DIARY

Doors open 6.30pm, £2, refreshments included (but you pay for wine!).



Trip to Pantomime at the Belgrade

On Saturday 8th Jan, a group went from Oxhill to the last night of the pantomime at the Belgrade Theatre in Coventry (oh yes we did!!). 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. The performance of **Beauty and the Beast** was amazing - the costumes, scenery, acting, singing and dancing were all absolutely brilliant! Iain was hilarious as Dame Dolly Mixture from Middle Widdle on the Piddle! Perhaps those of you who weren't able to join us this year will be able to come to Jack and the Beanstalk next year.

Ali Sayer





NATURE NOTES FOR FEBRUARY 2022

by Grenville Moore

February, the shortest month with a lack of any redeeming features. However, it does give some tantalizing glimpses of the approach of spring; we will gradually start to see the lengthening of daylight hours and the first signs of new growth on plants and trees. 1 February is St Brigid's Day; Imbolc, the Celtic feast of springs awakening. On this mystic day adders were believed to abandon their winter lairs: oyster catcher birds – called in Gaelic Gille Brighde, ‘the servants of Brigid’ – made their appearance bringing spring with them. On a more scary note it was also believed to be the month of ravaging wolves !



Saint Brigid (St Brigid) of Ireland in stained glass at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Macon, Georgia, United States

Whilst chatting to Alastair down at the Manor a week or two ago, he was standing with his back to the hedge and a small bird in the hedge caught my attention. It was its movement that was different, it was a restless flitting flight bobbing from fence post to the end of a twig landing for just a few seconds here and there. Every time it halted, it flicked its tail and shrugged itself a little and every so often sharp bursts of alarm call, like knocking two pebbles together and it is from this call that they get their name Stonechat (*Saxicola torquata*). This small bird was the male, some colloquial names are Stone Clink, Stonesmith, Stane Chapper and from their habitat Furze Chitter and Bushchat and these latter names are what made this sighting unusual. The Stonechat is a bird of heath, moorland and gorse and is usually found in southern and coastal areas, so this was a rare sighting... a first for Oxhill. It really is a stunning-looking little bird with its rich rust coloured breast, glossy black head that is set off by a white colour and shoulder patch. They, like the wren, are one of our few resident insectivores and are highly susceptible to bad winter weather, so let's hope we have a mild winter so this little chap survives.

February is said to be the best month to breed dogs and it is now that foxes also begin to mate, Gilbert White in his journal of 1778 writes; “ Foxes begin now to be very rank, and to smell so high, that as one rides along of a morning it is easy to distinguish



where they have been. At this season the intercourse between the sexes commences; and the females intimate their wants to the males by three or four sharp yelpings or barkings frequently repeated.” I think here in the country we are all familiar with those eerie sounds at night.

14 February is of course Valentine’s day but traditionally it is this day that birds begin to pair off. This particularly holds true for the Corvid family. Watch the crows and jackdaws around the village as they begin to pair off, it can be very entertaining as they vie for attention.

OXHILL’S ‘LEGEND’ UPDATE

Ray Dagg gave us a wonderful update about the continued interest in the PC who stopped the Beatles final performance:

The madness continues. A journalist and cameraman from the main Canadian TV channel are coming to my house on Wednesday to film an interview about me on the roof for broadcast Canada wide. Following that I am doing a live radio show for Toronto. Don't know why they're both Canadian. Coincidence I think. If it's of any interest, let me know. I intend to put Oxhill on the map Canada wide.

Kat was interviewed for the Oxhill News. Here is an edited transcript of the interview. ~ ed.

KAT JANCZUR

DETECTION DOG HANDLER & TRAINER



Is good breeding important for working dogs, like police dogs, or could rescues be working dogs?

Good breeding is quite important. Some rescue dogs end up being police dogs, but I would rather select a puppy bred from parents that work themselves, so you have the genetics on your side. For example, if you want a gun dog, you are probably better to get a spaniel from parents that are working and picking up birds, rather than a pet dog.

One of the most important things is the work ethic of a dog. You need a dog that, when things get hard, will try harder rather than give up. That's the opposite of what you want in the pet dog. When I was selecting my latest puppy, one of the reasons I chose her was because she was five weeks old and trying to chew the shoelace of my shoe and she wouldn't give up. She just

kept trying and trying to get my shoelace. I'm looking for a dog that is very persistent in getting what they want and will be willing to go through difficult terrain or brambles or things like that in order to be successful.

That's the exact opposite of what you will be looking for in the pet dog. You want a pet dog that is more agreeable and will not insist in getting what they want, but rather be able to settle into everyday life.

Can dogs can be trained to find many different scents?

A dog can be trained to pick out a very specific scent – such as Yorkshire tea, because it has a distinctive scent picture. Or a dog can be trained to find just tea in general. Two of my older dogs are trained to search for Japanese knotweed. The youngest one is not yet fully trained, as she's eight months old, but she is in training.

Can you tell us about a search experience you've had with your dogs?

Last summer we were working at a development site in London. The bank wouldn't release funds for them to develop the site, because the owner mentioned that there might have been

knotweed, even though there was no history. The bank said they were not going to give the money unless they had search dogs to check the site.

My bigger dog, the Dutch Shepherd, was working that day because it was really hot and he is better in hot temperatures than the spaniel, who runs too much and can overheat herself. We searched where they thought the knotweed could be, but my dog didn't find anything. Everyone was like, okay, it's fine, it's not there. Then halfway through, my dog lay down where he had found something. I went to him and I was a little bit like, oh no, because there wasn't supposed to be anything there, but he had found a rhizome of Japanese knotweed. After that he found, I think, 12 pieces of different sizes of rhizome in the rubble. Some of them were under the rubble, so we had to dig them out. The day was quite nice for my dog because he kept finding things and getting his reward. But also for the developers; they could now put a plan in place to make sure the knotweed was dealt with, and the bank would release the money.



Do you have a favourite dog or a dog that sticks in your memory?

My favourite dog is my Dutch shepherd. He is very sweet even though he's so big. We went through a lot together; we travelled, moved countries, moved houses, different jobs. He has been with me all along. We have a really strong relationship.

A dog I'll keep in my memory was one I had when I was in Holland. She was a rescue and I got her when she was four months old. She was found on the street with her mum as a puppy and she had a lot of behavioural issues. She had broken her own leg because she was so stressed at being left alone. The first six weeks I had her, I slept on the sofa with her. I couldn't take a shower on my own. We couldn't leave her at home because she would attack

our other dog. She started making me feel that I may never want to have a dog again, because it was so difficult. But I persevered and did everything I would have taught my clients and saw that the training actually works. She turned around to be a nice dog.

Perseverance very is important; these changes don't happen overnight. It's about being consistent for a long time before there is a change. She's always been anxious, but she could also be a very functioning dog, going to classes, having friends and could be left alone. That experience of a dog that was very, very hard to work with, and turned out to be a nice dog was very valuable to me.

She gave me empathy. It's easier now for me to connect with the owners, the ones that have the reactive dogs, because she was quite reactive initially. She broke my finger pulling towards another dog. I now understand owners who might be stressed with dogs that are barking or pulling on the lead.



I think as professionals, we often tell people, you have to do this and this, but everyone has their own everyday life, they have families and work. And with dogs that have some issues, especially the ones with issues outside, it impacts on their everyday life. Everyone gets tired, so I think as dog professionals, we need to understand and help people in a way that is suitable for their lifestyle.

I knew a man who was a bit rough training a German Shepherd puppy for the police. What is the best way to train?

It doesn't matter how big the dog is. Training is about consistency and clear instructions. It's absolutely important to have clear rules and expectations with dogs. Training has nothing to do with the physical strength or force of the trainer. This is old school training that used to be more prevalent in the police environment, but the UK and

European police have moved towards a more modern approach. People should train dogs rather than intimidate them. There's a difference. You can be really sweet and soft with your dog and still have rules. It's about understanding the dogs.

First, you have to teach them what you want, what the word means because dogs are not born understanding what 'no' means or 'quiet' or their name or anything really. They don't speak English or any human language, so they respond to the tone of voice. If you speak with a low-pitch it is more threatening and when you're speaking high-pitched it is more inviting. But for words, we need to teach the meaning of the words. Using the dog's name, we can start teaching recall and attention to their name. With the word 'no' or 'quiet' or if you want a dog to stop barking on cue, you have to teach them what that means first. We teach dogs in a way that's clear for them to understand before we can enforce it and ask them to do it in different situations.



Japanese Knotweed is extremely invasive, persistent and can wreak havoc on a building's infrastructure.

How did you start working with dogs? What is your background?

Growing up we didn't have a family dog but since I was old enough to talk, I wanted one. I kept bothering my parents and finally I got a dog when I was nine years old. Dogs were kind of an obsession with me.

I have been working professionally with dogs since around 2009. Initially I was working with my own dogs. I did a diploma at the Centre of Applied Pet Ethology (COAPE) in training and behaviour. COAPE is a British organization, now international, that trains people to work with dogs. it was one of my first certifications. In 2009 I started to work at a rescue with dogs that had severe behavioural issues.

I worked for the Dogs Trust in 2017 when I first moved to the UK. I was first a Head Coach at two of their Dog Schools and then a Coach Trainer for the North region.

I did a master's degree in human psychology, but the animal side was more interesting to me. I went on to do a postgraduate degree in animal behaviour at Newcastle University. While doing all of that, I kept working with dogs, but I gradually changed into working with working dogs.

Before I moved to the UK I worked for a Dutch company called Scent Imprint for Dogs that trains puppies (from 8 weeks old) to be detection or tracking dogs. Initially my main responsibility was puppy development and training. With time I started doing more scent detection training. That's what I still do in the UK. I work as a consultant for a company in the UK that trains and breeds detection dogs and I have consulted for various government

agencies. I also give seminars on scent detection training. And I have company, Canine Detection Solutions, for canine detection of invasive plants, in particular Japanese knotweed.

I trained my detection dogs for knotweed when a friend of mine, with a dog that searched for a dry rot in buildings, said to me why don't you do Japanese knotweed. I looked into it and realized that knotweed is actually a problem and I did a surveyor course on it. It's quite difficult for humans to spot it because the rhizomes are underground, but the dogs can find them.

Knotweed comes from Japan where it lives on volcanoes. It has evolved to remain covered by the soil after eruption where it can just lay dormant for over 20 years. Often people will buy property not knowing it is there because it also goes dormant in winter. They start doing work on their garden and suddenly, without warning, it starts growing because the conditions have changed.

Did you ever work with someone who was sceptical that dogs could find knotweed?

Last year we were in Wales where there was a research site of 12 acres with knotweed. They've been researching knotweed and different ways of dealing with it for quite a few years. We were there with a person who did a PhD on how to deal with knotweed. He didn't really believe in dogs finding it. He told me he thought it was a bit of a gimmick. But then he saw the dogs working and it absolutely changed his mind. It was the revelation of seeing the dogs finding the knotweed even though you couldn't see anything over the ground. He knew it was underground but not where it was. Having the dogs show him was quite nice.



OXHILL VILLAGE HALL

The Burns Night celebration planned for 22nd January has unfortunately now been cancelled due to the Covid uncertainties..

HOWEVER, WE HAVE GREAT PLANS FOR MARCH SO PLEASE RESERVE THESE DATES!

Quiz Night 12th March - teams of up to 6 - 7.30 for 8pm start £5 per person to include a light ploughman's supper. If you can't make up a team please just come along & we'll find a team for you to join. Bookings: ali.sayer@btinternet.com

The Village Breakfast - is back again on **26th March** 9am to 11.30am please book in advance. Bookings: itsjocollings@gmail.com

As reported in the December Oxhill News, we are proceeding with phased improvements to the hall. At the time of writing this the strip foundations are being dug out for the extended hall, at the same time we are obtaining quotes for the kitchen improvements & the French windows. Grant applications are still on going. If you have any skills or contacts you feel may be of help please contact Jo (email as above).

OXHILL CHURCHYARD WILDFLOWER AREA

Once again we will be holding weekly work parties in the wildflower area through April. **Every Sunday from 3.00 to 4.00.** Please bring gloves, secateurs and spades as we will be cutting back brambles as well as general tidying.

If interested please contact Jane 07530 629114





Celebrate in Oxhill on June 2nd, 3rd and 4th, 2022!

Funding News

We are very grateful to Oxhill Parish Council for providing funding towards the cost of the Oxhill Platinum Jubilee celebrations organised by St. Lawrence Church. This funding will allow us to reduce the cost of Villager tickets to a much more affordable level and include a beacon and torch-lit procession on Thursday 22nd June; The Big Lunch and entertainment on Friday 3rd June; tea, cakes and horse races on the afternoon Saturday 4th June plus burgers and more entertainment in the evening.

Want to get involved?

Thank you to everyone that has volunteered to help during the event: it can't happen without plenty of lovely volunteers! We will need plenty of cooks, stewards, marshalls, entertainers, first aiders, setter uppers and downers. There are decorations to be made, tables to be laid, bells to be rung, songs to be sung. We are also in need of a qualified umpire and arranger of Oxhill's Village Sport, water volleyball.

Come and find out more about this major event in *your* village

Please come to The Old Chapel to find out what's going to be happening and how you can help. There will be two sessions so we hope that one will suit you. They are as follows:

Thursday 3rd March at 7.30pm

Saturday 5th March at 4pm

No Six Nations Matches are happening on those days.

Register your interest

There is still time to reserve your family's tickets for the event. You can do so by completing the questionnaire that can be found in the November Oxhill News on the village website, oxhillcommunity.co.uk or by emailing oxjub@btinternet.com. Alternatively, come to the Old Chapel on March 3rd or 5th. We are limited to a maximum of 300 tickets and we will sell out, so please don't delay! This promises to be the village event of the decade.

Thank you for your support.

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

In the village, by the village, for the village

ST LAWRENCE CHURCH

The very beginning of February sees Candlemas, or The Presentation of Christ in the Temple. The infant Christ was brought to the Temple, as was the custom, and there he was recognised by the elderly Simeon and Anna as the Christ Child, God's promised Messiah. They had waited patiently in the Temple, hoping and longing for God's promises to be fulfilled – and they saw that in Jesus.

In that one moment the crib and the cross are held together: in the lovely words of the liturgy, we 'turn from the crib to the cross'. Instead of a tiny, helpless baby, we look to a Messiah who loved, taught, healed and ultimately died for us, that we might have life to the fullest. Simeon called him 'a light to all nations'. May we recognise Christ in those we meet, and be light for those in need.



*The Presentation of the Christ Child in the Temple
by Ludovico Carracci, 1605*

Services in St Lawrence this month:

- Sunday, February 6th 9.30 am HC(George Heighton)
- Sunday, February 13th 9.30 am HC(George Heighton)
- Sunday, February 20th 9.30 am HC(George Heighton, with Jennie Rake preaching)
- Sunday, February 27th 6.30 pm Evening Worship (Jill Tucker)

Our **Wednesday Morning Prayer** continues at 10.00 am on Zoom: details of the link from George Heighton or Jill Tucker or in the Grapevine.

And note that Wednesday, March 2nd is Ash Wednesday, and the start of Lent. How quickly the year goes by!

Jill Tucker



OXHILL COOKS

by Ruth Mercer

My mother used to cook this recipe when I was a child. She got it from a caravan and camping cook book; why she had such a book is a mystery to me as she never intended to partake of either activity. The whole point is that it can be cooked without an oven, making it ideal to prepare on a camping stove. However, I tend to cook the sausages in the oven and the sauce in the microwave. Whichever way you choose to make it, it is quick and easy, ideal for a weekday meal and can be adapted easily to suit whatever ingredients you happen to have.



SAUSAGE SUPPER

- 1 lb pork sausages, herb ones are good, or whatever you prefer
- 1 onion, chopped
- 4 oz mushrooms, sliced
- 14 oz can of chopped tomatoes
- 2 tbsp tomato paste (or tomato ketchup if you are like me and don't have tomato paste)
- 1 tsp sugar
- 1 tsp dried marjoram or oregano or even basil

2 tsp French mustard (the sort that isn't made in France)
Salt and pepper
8 oz tagliatelle or other pasta
Grated Parmesan to serve

1. Cook the sausages. I tend to put them in the oven at 180C for 30 minutes, or 20 minutes for chipolatas.
2. Put the onion in a Pyrex dish and sprinkle with a little oil. Cover with lid and microwave at full power for 4 minutes. Add the mushrooms and stir, then microwave for another minute or so until both onions and mushrooms are cooked.
3. Stir in tomatoes, tomato paste, sugar, herbs and French mustard. Microwave for 3 minutes, then taste and season with salt and pepper to suit.
4. Cook the pasta as per instructions on the packet. While the pasta is cooking, cut the sausages into chunks about ½" thick. Stir into the tomato sauce. Drain the pasta.
5. Serve the sausage sauce on a bed of pasta and sprinkle with grated Parmesan cheese.

If you prefer to make the sauce on the hob, steps 2 and 3 will be as follows:

2. Heat a tablespoon of oil in a pan, add the chopped onion and fry gently until soft. Add the mushrooms and continue frying until just cooked.
3. Stir in tomatoes, tomato paste, sugar, herbs and French mustard. Simmer for a couple of minutes, then taste and season with salt and pepper to suit.



SHIPSTON HOME NURSING News for 2022

Tania Llewellyn - 50% Sale in January

Local designer Tania Llewellyn is a regular supporter of the Charity and her January sale of this easy, elegant & original collection of Jackets, Cotton Shirts & Nightwear is a great opportunity to grab a bargain.

Visit her website at www.taniallewellyn.com/collections/new-year-sale-shipston-on-stour

10K RUN/WALK - Sunday 8th MAY

We are hopeful that this event will take place in May, as with all events in this new world we will advise you of any changes as soon as we can.

The new date is Sunday May 8th 2022 and the online entry is ready for you to sign up on our website at <https://www.shipstohomenursing.co.uk/event/10k-run-walk-2022-at-walton-hall/>

In the churchyard of our village church is a grave a slave, Myrtilla. The Oxhill News has published articles about Myrtilla, but we have recently received another article with more information. Please visit the Local Attractions page on the Oxhill community website if you would like to know more: OxhillCommunity.co.uk ~ ed.

MYRTILLA

by John Hales

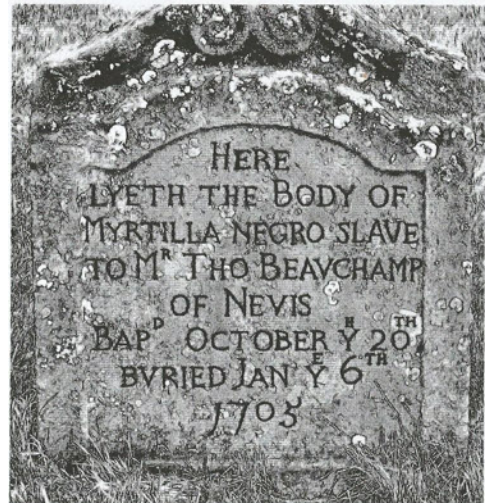
Oxhill is the burial place of Myrtilla the negro slave of Thomas Beauchamp of Nevis, in 1705. There is a prominent grave stone near the village church commemorating her burial.

Thomas Beauchamp was a sugar plantation owner in Nevis which was then one of the two leading British sugar producing islands. They used slave labour. Initially this was both white and black, but quickly it became black only. One can find a Thomas Beauchamp on the island in 1677-8 and in 1707.

Thomas was the father of several children from Perletta, born Meese, in the village or later in Cropredy, Oxfordshire. There is no record of their marriage but as she was the daughter of the rector it is unimaginable that they were not married. But how might a young woman brought up in a Warwickshire village come to marry a plantation owner?

The answer lies in her family history. Her father, Nicholas Meese, the rector, was part of a large family that came from Over Worton, Oxfordshire. They had acquired wealth towards the end of the sixteenth century and with that wealth bought more land and then enclosed land. They were accused of buying land on trust and breaching the trust.

Two of the sons became clergymen after going to Oxford. The other sons were brought up to be merchants and the daughters were brought up to marry merchants.



Myrtilla's grave (top). Enhanced view of inscription (bottom).

Amongst the brothers was George, born about 1624 who lived in Binley, Warwickshire and died in 1678. He had a son George who went into the Royal Navy. He spent most of the 1690s in the West Indies. He was promoted to Rear Admiral 3rd February 1696.

From the letters of George Meese in the Greenwich Maritime Museum, one can construct his history in the 1690s. In one narrative he was sent with nine vessels to raid the French half of Santo Domingo, now Haiti. Before daybreak on July 8th, he disembarked several hundred men a mile east of Petit Goaive and advanced with a pair of small craft and numerous boats in support off shore, to take the town by

surprise. The governor Ducasse barely managed to escape, bolting from his bed out a window directly into the jungle. The French island capital was overrun and looted and the Raiders caused considerable damage before their men became inebriated and were obliged to repair back aboard by the appearance of a relief column.

On the 11th of July his men were getting very sick as did Meese himself. George Meese died on 17th July 1697. His death is much like that of Robert Willmott, another young admiral who died of fever in the same area in 1695. He was in St Kitts in March and had wanted to take Petit Goaive, but could not because of the fever.

Not only is Meese defending slave interests, his will shows he had Mulattos and 27 negro slaves. George Meese must have been in connection with people who dealt in slaves and no doubt plantation owners. Owning slaves may well have been customary for naval officers. Olaudah Equiano was sold as a slave to a Royal Navy officer Michael Henry Pascal, a lieutenant. Admiral Richard Kempenfelt, the victor of the Second Battle of Ushant (1781), had his Black servant with him when *HMS Royal George* sank accidentally at Portsmouth in 1782.



Sugar plantation on the island of Nevis, 1890



WOT2GROW COMMUNITY ORCHARD

Another year starts with rising Covid infection rates and yet again the Wassail was cancelled with regret. However many of the people who come along to enjoy the tradition fall into the more vulnerable in our community so it seemed the right thing to do and call off the event.

A few members have gathered together to start the year by planting three crab apple trees, representing Whatcote, Oxhill and Tysoe villages, to support The Queen's Green Canopy celebration of her platinum jubilee. Oxhill Parish Council and Whatcote Parish Meeting have kindly donated trees which helps the orchard which is a not for profit organisation. The three varieties of the standard trees are Sentinel - white flowers and red/orange fruit, Rudolph - cerise flowers with red fruit, Golden Hornet, - white flowers with golden fruit. So we look forward to a wonderful flower display in the spring and some lovely fruit to follow!



Tree planting

The orchard is looking at its winter best thanks to the mild weather but recent frosts will be of benefit in killing off some bugs and hopefully reducing disease amongst the trees. And looking ahead there are plans for more tree planting and rain water harvesting.

If you would like to enjoy the harvest of fruits then why not join us – just use the contact numbers below or message us via the web site. 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



Tysoe Tennis Club
www.tysoetennisclub.co.uk

JUNIOR TENNIS NEWS

The weather has caused delays with the tennis fixtures with both the Orange and Green teams having one match still to play before the end of the winter season.

The Oranges put up a spirited defence against Rugby and, although they lost, several of the matches were close.

Junior Coaching continues to be popular on Fridays from 4pm onwards and Sunday mornings from 9am.

Please contact Nicki on nicki@tysoe.net if you would like further information or look at the Tysoe Tennis Club website.

Contact:

Club Secretary – Carol Spencer 07708 412767

carol.spencer234@hotmail.co.uk

Babysitter Available!

**I am available evenings and
weekends.**

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

freyaod5@gmail.com

Freya O'Donnell

Oxhill Parish Council
Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting
held on Tuesday 9th November 2021 at 7.30pm
in Oxhill Village Hall

Councillors Present

Cllr Harbour, Cllr Robertson and Cllr Stuart

Clerk to the Council, Mrs C Coles, County Cllr Chris Mills and five villagers

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. There are late agenda items to discuss and the Parish Council will not be able to approve any expenditure which is not on the agenda. This will be carried forward to the January meeting.

21/116. Apologies for absence

Cllr Connolly (away), Cllr Rivers-Fletcher (holiday) and District Cllr J Feilding

21/117. To receive Declarations of Interest under the Council's Code of Conduct relating to business on the agenda

The Chair declared an interest as a member of the Village Hall Committee.

21/118. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 12th October 2021

The minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed.

21/119. To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on this agenda for report only

There were no matters to discuss.

21/120. Public Participation Session

A villager spoke about the Queens Platinum Jubilee in June 2022. A marquee has been reserved for the event and a deposit of £60.00 is required in November. The Parish Council have given money in the past to help finance Jubilee events. The costings have been supplied. The event will be fully inclusive for all villagers regardless of their means. If the Parish Council give a grant it will offset the ticket price. The committee are currently collecting feedback and will make a decision by 20th November.

Action: The Parish Clerk to ask for a road closure for the whole of Main Street. A suitable PC grant will be discussed at a later meeting.

The Queens Green Canopy was discussed again. Its for the community to be involved in. Villagers have been talking and under OWLS, each family with a child (16 or under) can plant a tree. A four foot tree would cost £6 each and the total cost of the project would be £300.00. Other families can join in if they wish to. The trees will have to be ordered and paid for before Christmas. It was agreed that an extraordinary meeting would be arranged late November/early December to agree the expenditure.

A villager spoke about the planned extension at Whitehill House. The original layout of the house was confusing and this work has been carefully thought through and will straighten things out. The Parish Council will review the formal application when it is submitted to SDC.

A trustee from the Village Hall Committee pleaded with the Parish Council to submit the CIL fund to SDC. This was agreed at the September meeting and applications have to be submitted by Spring. The work at the hall will be a phased development.

The three main items are the removal of the bank of earth at the back of the hall, to remove existing windows in the north face of the hall and install two French doors and work on the kitchen area to remove the chimney breast and construct a new ceiling. The Parish Council may be able to use some of their reserves for other work depending what amount of CIL money is awarded by SDC.

21/121. To receive a report from the County and District Councillor

The following report was received from County Cllr Mills.

Mental Health and Wellbeing support

WCC's Covid 19 Mental Wellbeing and Resilience Fund has awarded £750K to support local community groups to develop sustainable and innovative solutions to help improve the mental wellbeing and resilience of Warwickshire.

Project Warwickshire

A £557,000 contract to help the county's small businesses in the hospitality, leisure and tourism sectors bounce back from the Covid pandemic has been awarded by WCC.

Help for residents to meet household costs through Winter

A new £500M household support fund grant will be made available to Local Authorities in England.

Residents encouraged not to return to pre-pandemic behaviour

With cases of Covid 19 remaining high across the county, the Director of Public Health for Warwickshire is urging residents not to revert to pre pandemic behaviour to stop cases increasing any further.

Green Shoots Community Climate Change Fund

Town and Parish Council's across Warwickshire will be supported to create their own climate emergency action plans thanks to the Warwickshire County Council Green Shoots Fund.

New Counselling project in Warwickshire to support children and parents

A new project called Strengthened Families will support children and parents in Warwickshire with their wellbeing. It will be managed by the Parenting Project who are a voluntary organisation working with children and young people including those with SEN and Disability from 0-25 years.

Warwickshire County Council one step closer to providing Priority Worker Help To Buy Funding (PWHTB)

Cabinet approved the plan to progress the development of the PWHTB scheme to facilitate home ownership for priority workers who may not be able to move onto or up the property ladder.

WCC unveils Children and Young People Strategy 2021-2030

WCC cabinet has approved a new Children and Young People strategy which outlines the Council's commitment to ensuring children and young people have a voice and be the best they can be.

Have you say on how Covid 19 has impacted on you

Many people have had a tough time during the last 18 months during the Covid crisis. WCC is inviting people who live, work or study in Warwickshire to take part in a survey to help understand the impact of Covid 19.

A villager asked Cllr Mills about the Green Shoots Fund and did any local villages get any money? The Village Hall Committee applied but were unsuccessful. Cllr Mills noted there may be more funding next year and agreed to get more detail.

The following report was received from District Cllr Feilding

Covid

The last week has seen a reduction in cases across the district and county. The current rate in the over 60s remains high however there have only been three cases in the over 80s in the last week.

Digital Report

The plumbing needs to be fixed to ensure the right systems are in place. They need safe secure sharing of information, simple to use services that work first time every time. The digital tools should be simple to use. Customers should be kept informed and the services are designed to communicate with customers. An excellent website with up to date accurate information is needed. Broadband is still very poor with only 36% of properties having gigabit broadband.

As at 28 October, nearly 49000 permits had been purchased and over 75% of dwellings with a garden have at least one permit. Permits are being sold at the rate of 50 per week.

Waste Contract

The joint SDC/WDC contract was awarded to Biffa and commenced on 1st August 2021. An information night will be organised for Councillors. After the New Year there will be messages on social media, the media and notice-boards to encourage residents to recycle more and put waste in the right bin.

Fly Tipping

It is well below last years level but still has some way to go before we get to 2019 levels.

Household Support Fund

The Government have made £3.47M available to WCC to support those residents who are struggling and need immediate financial support this winter with food, energy and water bills. There is a press release with contact details.

21/122. To receive an update on planning

The following update was given:

- *20/02224/OUT, Demolition of existing steel framed buildings and brick building and erection of up to 11no open market dwellings and 7no affordable dwellings at Wixey Transport, Kineton Road. Refused by SDC.*
- *21/02855/FUL, The change of use of an existing building with planning permission for the purposes of specialist sheep housing, laboratory and veterinary purposes (as permitted under planning permission 12/01682/FUL) to business uses associated with farming operations and equestrian related activities, comprising uses such as gate/fence fabricator; livestock trailer fabricator; livestock trailer repairs/adaptations; farrier; animal feedstuff distributor; sand school/manège contractor; and farm machinery repairs/servicing at Church Farm, Whatcote Road. Support with comments by PC.*

An application was received after the agenda had been issued:

- *21/02589/FUL, Proposed redevelopment of existing pig farm to create 10 new dwellings at Hogwood Farm, Pillerton Hersey Road. This will be supported by the PC.*

21/123. Financial Report

The following payment was approved under statutory powers:
£151.19 to TEEC (website hosting)

To approve the costs of the footpath accessibility project

The Parish Council have received the grant money (£1500.00) from Cllr Mills. Seven gates are required and Cllr Stuart read out three options with prices. It was agreed to proceed with the self build option which is the cheapest. A villager is donating materials and volunteers will be needed to erect them and provide the labour.

21/124. Councillors Reports

An update was given on the buffer zones at Leys Field. Despite plans being submitted to SD Enforcement by the Parish Council and SDC saying the plans were wrong, they have now changed their mind and advised that the plans are right. A letter has been issued to Mr Palmer to put the matter right.

The Chair spoke briefly about the Wixey Development which has just been refused by SDC. Cllr Feilding supported the application despite the Parish Council and villagers objecting to it. The Parish Council have to support SDC development policies. The Parish Council have no confidence that Cllr Feilding will represent the views of the village in the future. Therefore he has been told he is not welcome to attend any meetings but he will send his monthly report by email which will be minuted.

The precept for 2022/23 will be set at the January meeting. A note to be put in the Oxhill News asking for spending ideas which will be considered.

21/125. To note Meeting dates for 2022

11th January, 8th February, 8th March, 12th April (Annual Parish Meeting), 10th May (Annual Parish Council Meeting), 14th June, 12th July, 13th September, 11th October and 8th November.

There being no other business to discuss, the meeting closed at 8.30pm.

30MPH BIN STICKERS

Following the delivery of bin stickers to Whatcote Rd and Green Lane homes, the first opportunity for their use resulted in about 40% of the houses showing these on their bins. To have any good chance of success we do need a much better turnout, so please do ensure that your bins show these stickers.

Parish Council



Oxhill Parish Council
Minutes of an Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting
held on Tuesday 14th December 2021 at 7.30pm
in Oxhill Village Hall

Councillors Present

Cllr Harbour, Cllr Rivers-Fletcher, Cllr Robertson and Cllr Stuart

and four villagers

21/126. Apologies for absence

Cllr Connolly and the Parish Clerk

21/127. To receive Declarations of Interest under the Council's Code of Conduct relating to business on the agenda

No interests were declared.

21/128. To approve the purchase of trees for the 'Plant a Family Tree' Project (details circulated)

Several quotes have been sought and information sent to the PC. The price of each tree was negotiated to £6 with additional costs for guards, delivery and stakes totalling an approximate cost of £236.00 + VAT. The proposal is to plant a family tree up the slope of the Manor Field along the footpath opposite the current planting area. Currently there are 18 families that are interested, another advert will be put out to enable all those interested to respond. The number required is expected to be 20 trees, the Parish Council have therefore agreed to fund up to £300 for costs. This was agreed unanimously.

21/129. To approve the costs to help fund the celebrations for the Queens Platinum Jubilee in June 2022 (details circulated)

Funding for costs related to the celebrations for the Queens Platinum Jubilee. A presentation was made by members of the committee outlining the proposal. The Parish Council was asked to fund the key items for the event- the marquee, furniture hire, catering support (a refrigerated trailer) and torches (national Beacon Lighting) a total cost of £3,1000. As this is the first large scale village event since before COVID and is the first real opportunity to bring the community together and welcome new members of the community to the village with the aim of involving as many people as possible by making it accessible to all, the Parish Council agreed unanimously that the key items should be funded. All invoices for items will be made directly to the Parish Council up to a total of £3100.

21/130. To approve the following payment:

- £954.00 to K G Brooks Electrical Ltd (fan heaters for village hall)

This was previously agreed at a meeting. A payment of £954.00 to KG Brooks Electrical Ltd will be made for the fan heaters.

There being no other business to discuss, the meeting closed at 8.00pm.



WALNUT TREE

The wonderful Walnut tree (*Juglans regia*) in the Old Rectory garden (photo taken on New Year's Eve) walnut trees live between 150-300 years and unfortunately are not that common in the British isles and probably the main reason is that during the Napoleonic Wars the walnuts of England were slaughtered to provide stocks for the Brown Bess...the English musket that broke the French cavalry charges at Waterloo. Walnut is still used for fine gun stocks.

Grenville Moore

POOP ON PATHS

Sadly, the problem of certain Dog Owners not picking up is still with us. Recent occurrences have happened on and around the Permissive Paths on the Manor's land and on the grass in front of a resident's house. The fact that both of these areas are 'grassed' does NOT excuse the dog's owner from the requirement to pick up. As a village we are fortunate to have so many nice places to walk and exercise our dogs but we must accept the responsibility of leaving those places clean and free from mess.



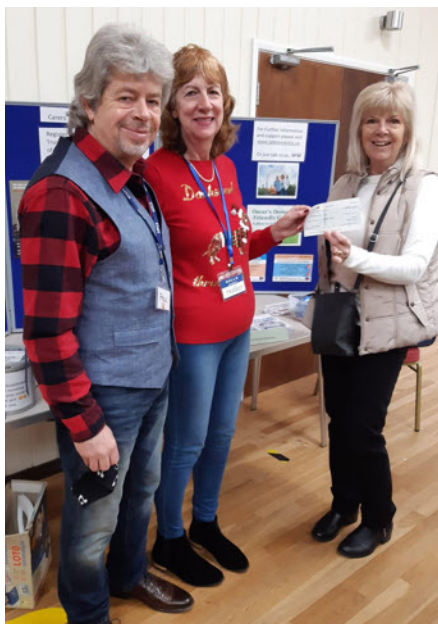
Oxhill Parish Council

After another difficult year with cancelled meetings, we had a fantastic Christmas party, it was wonderful to see so many of our members. Think it's safe to say fun was had by all. We have some very talented ladies.

Visit our FB page to view photos and videos. Great Christmas outfits!



CRAFT AND LAUGH GROUP



The Craft and Laugh Group were at it again, decorating the Village tearoom windows for Christmas, though it's our wonderful crafter Pat who produced most of it! Well done, Pat, hope you all enjoyed viewing it.

The group also spent several months creating lots of items to sell to raise money for Tysoe Dementia Group. Staging a number of pop-up shops, we are thrilled to report we raised £520!

We are so grateful for all the support from our members, the public turning out to buy and many donations. Well done everybody

What will we do next? We are plotting a little something for the Queens jubilee celebrations, so watch this space!

January meeting, unfortunately due to rise in covid numbers we took the reluctant decision to cancel. We're hoping to be able to hold our February meeting, and are looking forward to welcoming back Alexandra Messervy FRSA, Alexandra will give an insight into 70 years of the operational side of the British Monarchy as we prepare to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen.



Carers4Carers

Finding support through supporting each other

HELLO AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Here's our notice for your February edition if you have space. It would be great if you could please include us.

Friday 25th February 10.30 - 12 noon: Carers4Carers monthly meeting at Kinton Village Hall. You are welcome to join us for coffee, biscuits and friendly chat. Speaker / activity to be confirmed. Our companionship group will also be available with activities for your loved ones to enjoy while you are with us. Pre-booking for both the meeting and companionship group are 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.

Best wishes

Lisa

Carers4Carers

Lisa Barnett – Assistant Coordinator

Match the animals with their babies

DOG



KID

GOAT



CUB

LION



PUPPY

COW



TADPOLE

FROG



FOAL

HEN



CALF

CAT



LAMB

HORSE



DUCKLING

DUCK



CHICK

SHEEP



KITTEN

NAME THE BAND

Example: Poorly behaved - Bad Manners

1	Very skinny girl	
2	Vegetarians won't eat this	
3	Really up against it	
4	Harding (minister) is one	
5	The biblical first	
6	Accident investigators need this	
7	Treatment for illness	
8	These youths enjoy one another at dinner	
9	Mentally unstable	
10	Keeping it unchanged	
11	Very over qualified	
12	Sian Lloyd was one	
13	Children grow up	
14	Buddhist place of peace	
15	Uncomplicated colour	
16	Mad keen on cars	
17	Cry when frightened	
18	Residents of the Irish Capital	
19	Traditional Bread Winners	
20	Maybe not that intelligent	
21	Too many live here	
22	Hug tightly	
23	Busy start to the week	
24	A dark day of rest	
25	Blue road sign with an arrow	
26	Tobogganing, Ice Skating or Snowballing	
27	Use a garotte	
28	Sweet new-borns	
29	Lines of the play	
30	The Elements	

WHAT'S ON IN & AROUND OXHILL

FEBRUARY

Thurs 3rd	14:00-14:30	Mobile Library, outside Village Hall
Wed 23rd	19:00	Oxhill Garden Club Talk, Village Hall
Thurs 24th	14:00-14:30	Mobile Library, outside Village Hall
Every Thursday	11:45ish	Awesome Coffee Van, outside Peacock Pub
Every Sunday	15:00-16:00	Churchyard Wildflower Area clean up

MARCH

Sat 12th	19:30	Quiz Night, Village Hall
Sat 26th	9:00-11:30	Village Breakfast, Village Hall

PC MEETINGS

The date of the next PC Meeting is **Tuesday, 8 February 2022 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.

February						
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						

NAME THE BAND ANSWERS

1	Thin Lizzie
2	Meatloaf
3	Dire Straights
4	Dido
5	Genesis
6	Black Box
7	The Cure
8	Fine Young Cannibals
9	Madness
10	Status Quo
11	Three Degrees
12	Weather Girls
13	Boys to Men
14	Nirvana
15	Simply Red
16	Motorhead
17	Tears for Fears
18	Dubliners
19	Men at Work
20	Simple Minds
21	Crowded House
22	Squeeze
23	Manic Mondays
24	Black Sabbath
25	One Direction
26	Cold Play
27	The Stranglers
28	Sugar Babes
29	The Script
30	Earth Wind and Fire

BIN COLLECTION CALENDAR



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

