

THE OXHILL NEWS

March 2022 No. 568



Andrew Stewart and his children at the Tree Planting Day at the Manor.

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CLUB & GROUP CONTACT DETAILS

Carers4carers: kcarers4carers@gmail.com or tel: 07947 893504

Oxhill Village Hall: Jo Collings - Chair - 01295 680215
Ali Sayer - Hall Hire - 07970 922352
email: village-hall@oxhill.org.uk

The Peacock Pub 01295 688060

Tysoe Tennis Club: Club Secretary: Carol Spencer
email: carol.spencer234@hotmail.co.uk

Warwickshire Mobile Library: 01926 851031

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

**If you would like to list your club or group in the Oxhill News
please send details to oxhill@btinternet.com**



ANNETTE BULL

We are sorry to let you all know that Annette Bull died at the beginning of February, after a long illness. Annette moved to Rouse Lane in 2011, with her husband Ken and they immediately became involved in village life by becoming active members of the Village Hall Committee. Annette nursed Ken through his cancer until he died in 2019.

After Ken's death, Annette lived quietly in Weavers Barn, but was an active member of one of the Oxhill Book Groups. Her contributions to the group discussions were always well-prepared, incisive and humorous where appropriate. She sadly became ill herself in 2020, which was unfortunate timing, but she bore her illness with great fortitude and stoicism, and never lost her interest in what was happening to the village and its residents. She will be greatly missed by her friends and neighbours.



TREE PLANTING



A grand day out was had on the 5th February when nearly 70 people turned up to plant “their” family tree. The planting was organised by OWLS and with the kind permission and help of Alastair and Debbie Welford at the Manor. Under The Green Canopy incentive and Plant a Tree for the Jubilee the Parish Council agreed to fund the cost of the trees which were a lovely mix of native trees including Oak, Chestnut, Silver Birch and Maple. Pip Porter very kindly baked a tray of chocolate brownies and Debbie Welford kept us all supplied with hot drinks and flapjacks. This was certainly the biggest coming together of the village since the outbreak of Covid and was most enjoyable....thank you all.

I would also like to thank Trees Direct of Shropshire for the quality of their trees and the discount they gave to us as a community wildlife project.

Grenville Moore





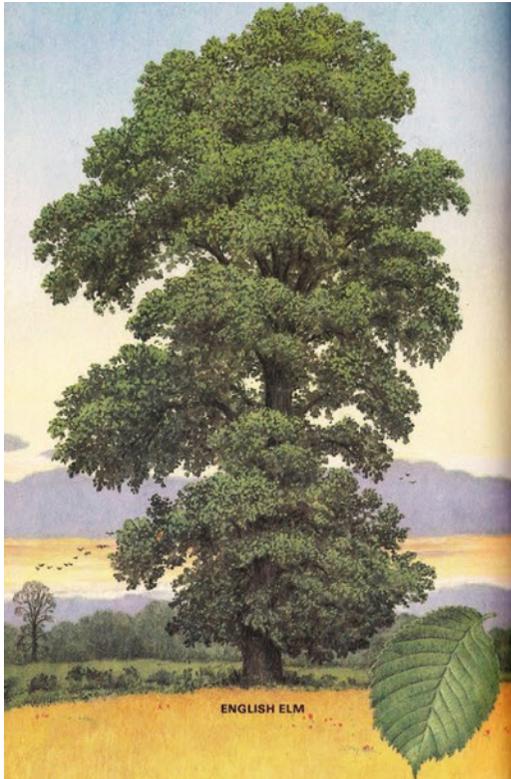




We have received a request to ensure we thank to Grenville & Jane for arranging the wonderful Tree Planting Day. ~ ed.

THE LOST ELMs

by Grenville Moore



Whilst we are talking about trees, it occurred to me that anyone 50 or under will not have seen a full-grown English Elm. Unfortunately in the 1960's a very aggressive form of Dutch elm disease was accidentally introduced to the UK and by 1980 virtually every mature elm in the country had died and vanished. When I came to Oxhill in 1966 with my parents to take over the pub it was a beautiful summer day and my overriding memory was travelling down from the crossroads under a complete canopy of trees, their dappled light cooling the air, and this canopy continued into the village and right through to Shipston. These mighty trees were the English Elm (*Ulmus campestris*) and most would reach the height of 150 feet or 45 metres and frequently lived for five hundred years.

I remember that surrounding the pub car park there were no less than seven of these vast trees. They were trees of hedgerows rarely growing in woodlands or parks. This area was known as "leafy Warwickshire" and the Elm was also known as the weed of Warwickshire. There was

also the Wych elm, not so common as the English and usually found growing in more open spaces. Suckers do grow from old surviving roots and often survive for about 30 years reaching 3-12m in height but then suddenly die back, and infections seem ever present.

Ancient elms once dominated the landscape standing proud and noble, although no one is clear if they are indigenous or arrived with the Romans. As late as the seventeenth century, when the forests had but all disappeared, Culpepper stated elms were one of the 'most commonest English trees, overlooking nature's season'.

In legend the elm has always been associated with death, the grave and rebirth. It was said that Elves are linked closely with elms and inhabit the caverns within the roots and the tree is also said to grow on burial mounds. This is interesting because there is also an English tradition of using elm boards for coffin making.

Within villages judges often dispensed justice from under the shade of elms, and in many parts they were also known as the death tree for they were very prone, without warning, to

lose a massive branch often crashing down on an unfortunate soul, this is possibly the origin of the saying ‘elm hateth man, and waiteth’ ! I remember this happening in the pub car park but fortunately in this instant it was only slight damage to a car. The elm’s latin name, *Ulmus*, refers to an instrument of punishment, for elm rods were used for whipping prisoners and slaves.

That the roots of elms are beneficial to the soil is agreed by folklore and botanists alike, for the trees’ health-giving qualities are reflected in the lush vegetation that used to flourish around them, vegetation which gave home to many life-forms essential to the eco-system of our lands. I miss those magnificent trees.

Huge elm, with rifted trunk all notched and scarred,
Like to a warrior’s destiny ! I love
To stretch me often on thy shadowed sward,
And hear the laugh of summer leaves above;
Or on thy buttressed roots to sit, and lean
In careless attitude, and there reflect
`On times, and deeds, and darings that have been,
Old castaways, now swallowed in neglect.

The Shepherd’s Tree: John Clare



Beautiful elm trees in John Constable’s The Hay Wain (1821).

MORE TREE PLANTING

Nine more trees were planted the following Saturday morning (February 12th) in driving sleet and rain. Coffee and flapjacks were served partway through and I returned home wet and numb with cold to power cut.

Carol Fox



OXHILL VILLAGE HALL



Quiz Night 12th March - teams of up to 6 people. 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 will find a team for you to join. Please email to book: ali.sayer@btinternet.com

The Village Breakfast 26th March - 9am to 11.30am please book in advance

email: itsjocollings@gmail.com or tel 680215

Air Purifiers - We are installing HEPA air filters in the hall. These are funded by Public Health Works. County Council to improve ventilation which is vital to help prevent & reduce infections.



FROM WINTER TO SPRING...

We've been busy through the winter updating our facilities to make the hall an even more attractive proposition for our hirers whatever the size of the event, most recently upgrading the main hall lighting to better support sports and staged events. We have a number of areas available to book and it was great to recently see a family party booking with music and food making excellent use of our reception, smaller hall and kitchen / servery.

On the music front, judging by the ticket sales at the time of writing, it was a fun February with Cotswold Events "Just Take That" tribute and our jazz night with "Tom 'Spats' Langham's Hot Fingers" well attended – check out our Facebook page for pictures and video captured.

As spring approaches, we're looking forward to Cotswold Events "Elvis Experience" on the 5th March – tickets available from www.ticketsource.co.uk/cotswoldevents.

Our jazz programme continues on the 18th March with "Richard Leach's Street Band" - tickets from www.ticketsource.co.uk/townsend-hall or from A. Clarke Electrical Services in town. Take a look at www.richardleachjazz.co.uk to whet your appetite.

Don't forget we're a venue funded as a charity, so keep up your support through your bookings, event attendance and donations - numbers are still available in our "150 club"; and please consider us when shopping through Amazon Smile or one of the many retailers supporting charities through easyfunding. **Winning numbers in the February 150 club draw are:** £15 No. 52; £10 No. 111; £5 No 53.

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

ST LAWRENCE CHURCH

SUNDAYS IN MARCH



Lent begins on March 2nd this year, which is Ash Wednesday, and with it a chance, and an invitation, to offer our lives back to the God who loves us, and to learn anew what it means to walk with him.

Wednesday, 2nd March, Ash Wednesday

7.30 pm Holy Communion for Ash Wednesday in Tysoe Church

Sunday, 6th March, 1st Sunday in Lent

9.30 am Holy Communion George Heighton

Sunday, 13th March, 2nd Sunday in Lent

9.30 am Holy Communion George Heighton with Jennie Rake

Sunday, 20th March, 3rd Sunday in Lent

9.30 am Holy Communion Heather Parbury

Sunday, 27th March, Mothering Sunday

3.30 pm Mothering Sunday Service Jill Tucker
to be followed by tea and cake

Additionally, as is currently the practice, you are invited to join us via Zoom for Morning Prayer on Wednesday mornings at 10.00 am. Either Jill or George can give you the link, or it is The Grapevine.



SHIPSTON DEANERY LENT SERVICES 2022 - CONVERSATIONS ON MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING

We have traditionally always met as a Deanery during Lent, to worship together and to reflect together on some aspect of our Christian journey. This year our services are wrapped around ‘Conversations on Mental Health and Wellbeing’ – something we started 2 years ago, and which were somewhat interrupted by covid. Please feel most welcome to join us for any or all of the services – they always begin at 7.30 am, and we take the opportunity to visit churches across the Deanery.

- 8th March** Ettington Church - Papyrus UK, Prevention of Young Suicide
- 15th March** Tysoe Church - The Well, Christian Healing Centre
- 22nd March** St Peter’s Whatcote - BEAT - The UK’s leading Eating Disorder charity
- 29th March** St Edmund’s Shipston - Rev Ricarda Witcombe Lead Chaplain SWFT
- 5th April** St Gregory’s Tredington - Dr Shirley Evans - Association of Dementia Studies
- 12th April** St Peter & St Paul Long Compton
Holy Week Communion with April Gold, Diocesan Director of Education

Services all start at 7.30pm with refreshments afterwards and a chance for questions and discussion

Jill Tucker

revjill.tucker@btinternet.com



WANTED/ NEEDED FOR ST. LAWRENCE CHURCH



Help needed for someone to help with Church Flowers and/or cleaning for only 4 weeks of the year, ie for the week before the fifth Sunday of the month. Our present helper is moving away.

Help is also needed for church flowers at other times, as over the past few years due to bereavements and house moves we have become generally short of Flower Helpers. Please please look at your busy calendars to see if you could spare some time to assist with these items. Help and guidance can be given to anyone who feels a bit nervous about putting flowers together.

Please call or text Carol Fox on 07966059596 or Jude on 07894084058

Or email ceafox782@gmail.com, judemac07@btinternet.com

Thank you

Look forward to some contacts PLEASE!!

OXHILL CHURCH FUNDRAISING PLANS

After a couple of “interesting” years, we have fixed dates for some events this year. The first event will be an **Afternoon Tea on Sunday 8th May at 3 pm**. More details will be in April’s Oxhill News although please email or call me to reserve your tickets.

Later on in the year, we will be holding our second annual (apart from during pandemics) **Quiz on Saturday 15th October**. Following on from the success of **Made In Oxhill** over the last three years, I have already taken table bookings for Made in Oxhill 2022, to be at The Old Chapel over the weekend of **November 26th and 27th**. Please put these dates in your diary and look out for further information in due course.

Ruth Mercer 07400 615999
ruthc.mercer@btinternet.com





Introduction to Beekeeping

Day 1 - 23rd April 2022

Day 2 - 24th April 2022

Bookings from 1st December 2021

Village Hall Brailes OX15 5AS

run by

Shipston Beekeepers

www.sbka.org.uk

Led by a local Master Beekeeper our weekend course will give you an insight and hands on experience of, the world of the honey bee and the role of the beekeeper. We will cover:-

Day 1 (classroom, Brailes Village Hall)

- How a honey bee colony works
- The beekeeping year
- The essential equipment
- Harvesting your honey and wax
- How to get started with your own bees

Day 2 (Apiary, Lower Brailes)

- Siting an apiary
- Assembling hive parts
- Apiary Safety
- Inspecting a honeybee colony (weather permitting)

Bee suits will be provided.

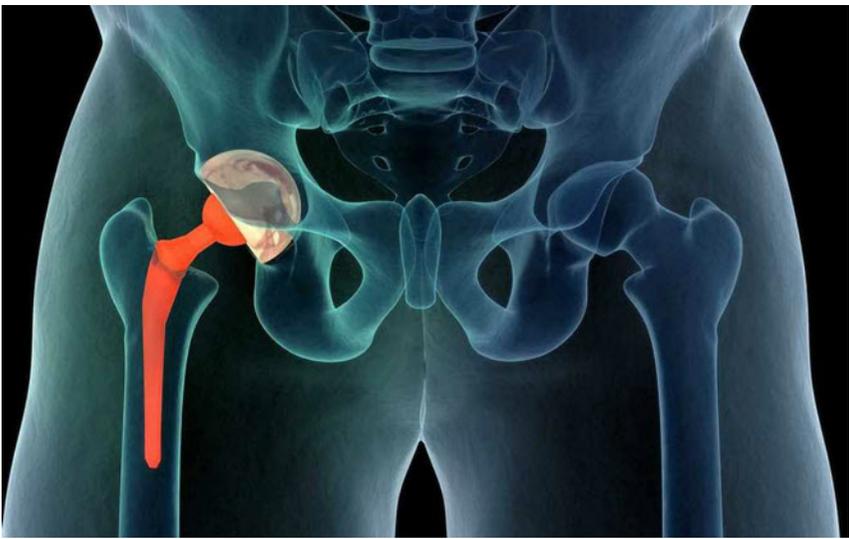
Beyond this course Shipston Beekeepers hold weekly apiary meetings to help newer members build up their beekeeping experience.

Cost £70: Light lunch and refreshments included

Enrolment :- <https://www.sbka.org.uk/introduction-to-beekeeping-enrolment/>

Enquiries:- secretary@sbka.org.uk:





HIP TIPS – A RETROSPECTIVE

by Douglas Netherclef

I had a successful hip replacement operation on the NHS at the Ramsay Health Care Cherwell Hospital, Banbury around midday on Wednesday 19th January, being discharged fit to go home on the afternoon of the following day. I am writing this two weeks later having just been told that the surgical wound has healed well and that my progress on crutches is good. Prior to the operation one attends a pre-assessment where one is measured / tested for fitness to undertake the surgery and given instruction as to the procedure and aftermath. The tests include the monitoring of blood pressure and heart rhythm /robustness, but the MSRA check and blood sample taken have a finite life. I attended three pre-assessments primarily because of delays caused by Covid.

I must first say that I cannot speak too highly of the professional care and attention I received before, during and after the operation from all of perhaps twenty different staff from half a dozen different disciplines. However, the instruction as to aftercare for me as a person living alone, both at the pre-assessment and on discharge, was, in retrospect, lacking in advice on some of the practical aspects of home living. The object of this article is to give readers a ‘heads up’ as to what they might experience if faced with an operation like mine.

Having attended my first pre-assessment and subsequently read a myriad of informative leaflets given to me, an initial shock was to learn that I wouldn’t be able to put on my own socks for some six weeks! A similar time span applied to not being able to drive a non-automatic car, having to wear (and have changed for me) supportive surgical stockings, and having to self-inject every evening to reduce the likelihood of blood clotting. Having a haircut and cutting one’s toenails beforehand was deemed to be a good idea too!

Despite an eighteen-month pre-operation supportive regime of physiotherapy, X-ray and other appointments initiated by my local GP, the practice was unaware that this had culminated in my being given a date for an actual hip replacement until I contacted my GP a fortnight before the operation to discuss concerns that I had about aftercare – living alone as I do. I was keen to put in place any home help visits, meals on wheels, walking aids and home adaptations that might be needed. My doctor told me that it was the responsibility of the hospital to discharge me into a safe environment; the hospital told me that although they would arrange subsequent physiotherapy sessions, this was ‘elective’ surgery and that it was down to me to make my own arrangements for any necessary post-op personal care, safety and well-being.

I was very lucky that a friend had had both of her hips ‘done’ recently (and now walks ten miles most days!) and, having had difficulty returning issued kit to her health authority, has lent me most of that listed below – the most essential being the litter picker (a thousand and one uses) and extra-long shoehorn. Given that I had the rest of the kit waiting at home, I requested that I be discharged with a Zimmer frame rather than the usual pair of crutches - and am so glad that I did so! How do you carry a cup of coffee and other stuff from one room to another when on crutches?

- Equipment – some essential, some necessary, some useful:
- Litter picker and extra-long shoehorn as above;
- Progressively used Zimmer frame, crutches and walking sticks;
- Custom blocks to raise chair and / or bed height;
- Raised lavatory seat;
- Frame to surround lavatory if adequate grab rails / leverage points not to hand;
- Toe loop with extension to assist in moving shod foot / operated leg to one side.

I was discharged with spare surgical stockings, wound dressings, pre-filled injection needles, Paracetamol, and Codeine pain killing tablets. I was unaware until too late that the latter can give rise to constipation – this, for the first few days, causing me more discomfort than the new hip! A hastily delivered prescription of orange flavoured CosmoCol saved the day!

So, to conclude, a six-week sick note in hand for SSP purposes, a daily Appetito meal delivery, a well stocked store cupboard, much help from friends and neighbours exercising Chip my Border Collie, the right equipment to hand, and strict adherence (!!) to a regime of muscle strengthening exercises makes me confident that I will be back to full mobility very soon.



WOT2GROW COMMUNITY ORCHARD

At last some wintery weather mixed in with very mild temperatures! Although the gardens are looking very spring like the orchard is still in winter mode apart from the apricots which always get ahead of themselves. Such early blossom is beautiful but doomed to succumb to frosts and possibly snow.

The autumn raspberry canes have been cut down and burnt as we don't want any diseases lingering around the orchard. A good working party of members did this in record time!

The rest of the work is very weather dependant so is hit and miss between the wet and the frosts but pruning trees will continue over the coming months.

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



Apricot blossoms are starting to appear.



Hungry young blackbird. A lull in storms Dudley and Eunice caught on way back from Thursday's coffee van on Gilks Lane.

~ Carol Taylor

PHOENIX RISING

DEVELOPMENTS AT OUR LOCAL AIRFIELD

by Phil Brennan

It's a little-known fact that one of the reasons Heather and I moved to Oxhill in 1985 was to avoid a long weekend commute to Shenington Airfield, where I was a volunteer gliding instructor. (And Heather was a solo glider pilot. Not many people know that.)

My day job at the time involved long periods away in exotic locations like Crewe and Southend, so it didn't matter too much where we lived.

Anyway, I've been involved with gliding at the airfield ever since, although for the last few years in a semi-detached honorary capacity.

The airfield is of historic importance: it was known as RAF Edgehill when it was built in 1941, primarily as a training unit for bomber pilots. The first British jet, the Gloster-Whittle Pioneer, was stationed there for trials in 1942. Many years ago, you could always find some know-all in a pub who would tell you "I knew there was something wrong about it: it made a funny noise and didn't have no engine!" Fortunately, the Germans didn't notice. There is actually an Oxhill connection:



The Whittle Jet

The previous owner of the Old Rectory, David Waley, was involved in its development, and told me he witnessed its first, unofficial, flight on a Gloucestershire airfield. There is a historical dispute as to whether it leapt into the air by accident, or whether it was a controlled "hop" along the runway.

Stone quarrying has nibbled away at the edges of the airfield over the years, so it is quite small: it has supported gliding and powered aviation for many years alongside being a working farm. It is in an ideal position for gliding, free of controlled airspace and benefiting from good soaring conditions most of the year round, and has always been popular within the gliding community.



A busy day at Sherington Airfield

As with any small club largely managed and staffed by volunteers, the gliding operation has long trodden a path understood by Mr Micawber (“Income £20 per annum, expenditure £19 19/6d, result: Happiness.....”). Early last year, however, it looked as if COVID would be the last straw to bring it all to an end.

Fortunately, Mr Micawber’s other advice (“Something will turn up”) was comprehensively ignored by the members. Utilising every available skill, they developed a detailed rescue plan. They were supported by the British Gliding Association, and most importantly the airfield owner, who sees aviation as part of his vision for opening up the airfield for more community access and leisure facilities.

As a result, the operation has been relaunched as Edgehill Gliding Centre, on a much sounder footing than for many years, and will be actively seeking new members as the weather improves. We recognise the need to get involved with the local communities, so this won’t be the last you hear on the subject: it’s likely that Open Days will be organised in the near future.

I would say it wouldn’t I, but I have always found gliding an endlessly fascinating sport. A strong volunteer culture means that everyone is encouraged to contribute what they can to the ground operations, as well as enjoying the flying. It’s also a gloriously useless activity, unless perhaps you are a young person contemplating a future in aviation, in which case it can give you some skills. Or indeed if you want to be a meteorologist: you will soon know as much about the weather as any sailor.

It is emphatically not elitist nor unsustainably expensive, quite the reverse, and age and medical considerations are relatively relaxed. It's certainly different from most other things you will do in life.

If anyone is remotely interested, have a look at the new website www.edgehillgliding.com. Airfields can look a bit intimidating from the outside, so if anyone just wants to take a look, I would be happy to host a short escorted tour, either one-to-one or in small groups, say a carload. Even if you just want to go plane- or buzzard-spotting, get in touch by phone or the Oxhill Community Facebook page.

Phil Brennan
Bilton Cottage 07305 073863



Shenington Airfield / Edgehill Gliding Centre



by Ruth Mercer

With Mothering Sunday and Easter approaching, it must be time for another chocolate cake recipe! I found this one during the first lockdown; it is a very simple recipe that makes a surprisingly delicious and moist chocolate cake. The first time I made it was for our granddaughter's 3rd birthday party, held virtually on FaceTime. The cakes are sandwiched together and covered in chocolate ganache, but, on occasion, I have filled it with a chocolate fudge buttercream and covered it with the same chocolate fudge icing as the chocolate nest cake recipe (Oxhill News, April 2021).

CHOCOLATE FUDGE CAKE

Ingredients

Cake:

50 g (2 oz) cocoa powder
90 ml (6tbsp) boiling water
3 large eggs
50 ml (2fl.oz) milk
175 g (6 oz)self raising flour
1 rounded tsp baking powder
100 g (4 oz) soft baking margarine
275 g (10 oz) caster sugar

Ganache icing:

3 tbsp apricot jam
150 g (5oz) plain chocolate (around 39% cocoa solids), broken into pieces.
150 ml (1/4 pint) double cream

1. Preheat the oven to 180 C (or 160 C fan) and grease and base line two 20cm (8") round sandwich tins.
2. Blend the cocoa with the boiling water until smooth. (I tend to mix them together in the bottom of my mixer bowl and let it cool for a few minutes before the next stage. You could prepare the tins while it cools a little).

3. Add the rest of the cake ingredients and beat well until it forms a smooth, thickish batter. Divide the mixture equally between the two tins and level the surface very lightly.
4. Bake in the preheated oven for 25-30 minutes, until well risen and the tops of the cakes spring back when pressed lightly with a finger.
5. Leave to cool in the tins for 5 minutes and then turn out onto a cooling rack, peeling off the lining paper.
6. Warm the apricot jam either in a microwave or a small pan and spread on the base of one cake and the top of the other.
7. To make the icing, heat the cream gently in a saucepan until it starts to boil. Remove pan from the heat and then add all the chocolate and stir until it has melted completely. Allow the ganache to cool until thick enough to spread.
8. Spread the ganache on top of the apricot jam, sandwich the cakes together. Then spread ganache over the jam on the top of the cake and smooth with a palette knife.





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

Presentations of the plans for Oxhill Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

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

You will also be able to hand in your completed ticket form with the appropriate payment.

Tickets

Inside your Oxhill News is a form to complete to buy your tickets for the event. Ticket numbers are restricted to 300 and, as it is a community event, we would like everyone in the village to be able to participate in the celebrations. If you have already paid a deposit to reserve villager and guest tickets, then please deduct your deposit from the cost of the tickets. If you haven't reserved any tickets, sales will be exclusively for Oxhill residents until April 5th to give every villager another opportunity to get tickets. If the event isn't sold out by then, guest tickets for friends and family will be available to buy. Please indicate on the form if you would like to be put on the waiting list for guest tickets. First come, first served!

If you miss the visit from a collector, completed forms can also be posted through any of the following doors:

Grenville Moore, Peacock House, Main Street

Gaynor Fila, Primrose Cottage, Back Lane

Patrick and Verity O'Donnell, 2 The Leys, Whatcote Road

Geof and Rachel Beesley, 3 Orchard Close

Joanne Griffiths, The Maples, Main Street

Lis Stuart, Oak View, Green Lane

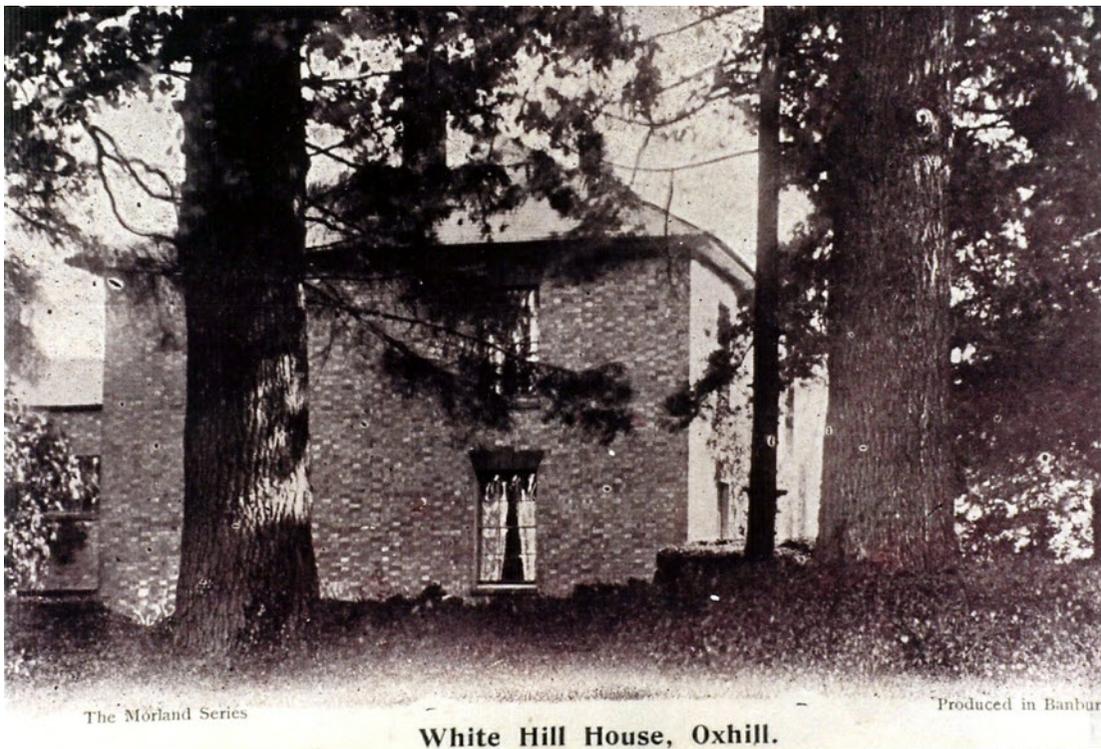
Ruth Mercer, Struan, Whatcote Road

Lucy Mercer, 16 Leys Field

Thank you for your continuing support.

Contact oxjub@btinternet.com or call 07400 615999 if you have questions.

The Way We Were



WHITEHILL HOUSE

by Carol Clark

In about 1811, John Ward of Oxhill House bought a newly enclosed piece of land called Whitehill Close from William Horniblow, an apothecary from Shipston-on-Stour, and a considerable landowner in the village at the time. Whitehill Close, on the Kinton road, subsequently became the site of a new house and outbuildings, grandly known as Oxhill Villa.

I have been unable to definitively establish who inhabited the property in the following years, but James Gardner Ward, another member of the Ward family, was certainly in residence for the 1861 census, with his wife Elizabeth and children Charles and Ada.

Sadly Elizabeth was buried at Oxhill in July 1871, just over a week after the burial of her four year-old daughter, Louisa, and less than three weeks after the birth of her fifth child, Mabel, who survived. James remarried in 1874, to Maria Stevens, who appears in the 1871 census at Oxhill Villa as housekeeper, and probably did a lot to help look after the baby and keep the family going.

The Wards were devout Methodists, and, as first reported by Ann Hale in 2006, James Gardner Ward was one of four people who laid a memorial stone at the chapel as part of its restoration in 1878:

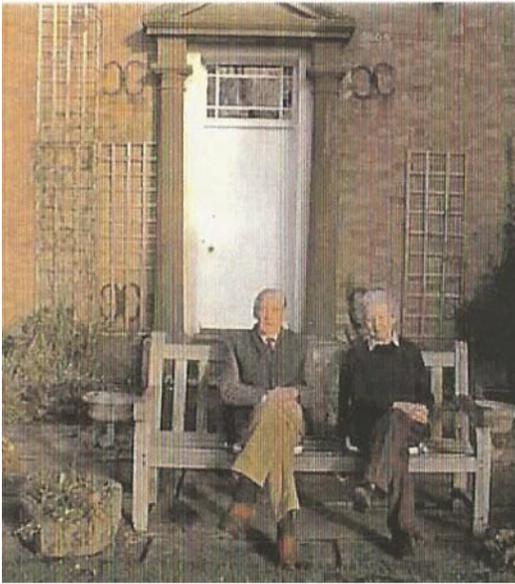
"James had an unlucky time of it in his stone-laying, as the rope holding his stone up broke, so that the stone came down into position heavily, and splattered him with mortar!"

James Gardner Ward died on 1 December 1881, and in March 1889, his widow Maria remarried, to Nicholas Middleton who was a Tysoe man, and had been farming Kirby Farm for some time. The newspaper report on the wedding mentions that he'd purchased Whitehill (as it was now called) before the marriage, so Mrs Ward was in fact his tenant (presumably making the point that he didn't marry her for her property).

Nicholas passed away in 1909, and there follows about 10 years of tenant farmers. However, by the 1921 census, a John Middleton and his wife Rose Ellen were living at Whitehill. A newspaper report on John's death in 1933 helpfully explains that he was a Tysoe man, and a nephew of Nicholas Middleton. It seems Nicholas must have left Whitehill to John, who was content to continue to be a tenant farmer of the Marquis of Northampton in Tysoe, until the Marquis started selling off his farms. John didn't want to buy his land, preferring instead to move to Whitehill.



Whitehill House today



*Parker and Nancy Smith in front of
Whitehill House, 1999*

John's widow, Rose Ellen Middleton, continued to live at Whitehill, until 1948, when Arthur Booth bought the property for £12,000. Arthur died in 1960 and the property passed to his son, Roger, who made considerable decorative changes to the interior. Then, in 1974, well-loved and remembered villagers, Parker & Nancy Smith moved in, and remained until their respective deaths in 2007 and 2013.

Finally, I have recently found, from two different secondary sources, reference to Beauchamps, the "owners" of slave Myrtilla, which identifies them as being from "Whitehill Farm" at the time of Myrtilla's burial in 1705. Whether this is the same location as the current Whitehill remains to be discovered...



Nancy Parker Smith, Whitehill House, was, with her husband Parker (retired Chairman of HP Sauce) simply the best and most generous, Oxhill has ever produced. Can anyone forget Parker as Father Christmas, and how anonymously he provided the wine for many village events?

~ Myrtle Knight, quoted from the article 'Farewell' July 2015, Oxhill News

Babysitter Available!

**I am available evenings and
weekends.**

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

freyaad5@gmail.com

Freya O'Donnell

Climate Change Mitigation Event

Saturday 23rd April

10am – 1pm.

At Oxhill Village Hall

- Come and find out how small changes can make a difference to climate change.
- Ways to reduce your use of water and electricity- helping the environment and reducing your bills.
- Ways to reduce plastic in everyday lives.
- Find out about free products.
- Ways to reduce food waste.
- Creating a wildlife pond / container environment.
- Creating a wildflower area.
- Free bee friendly / wild flower seeds.



Nothing But
Footprints



WESTERN POWER DISTRIBUTION
Serving the Midlands, South West and Wales

grüum.

IT'S BACK



**FREE
ENTRY**

POP UP SHOP



POP-UP SHOP

Monday 28th February- Thursday 3rd March 2022

If you missed our successful Pop-up Shop last year, don't worry...we have a date this Spring!

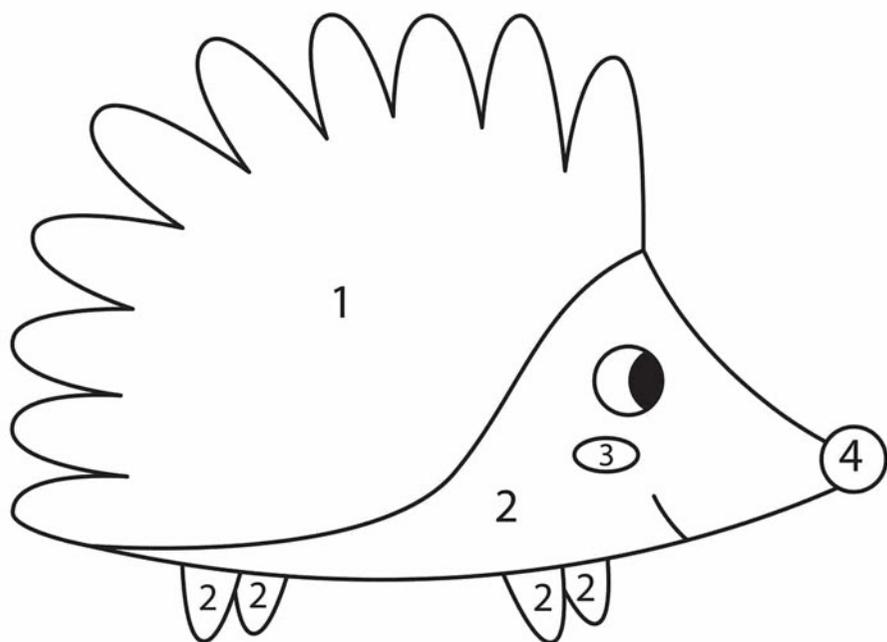
The White Bear have kindly offered the use of their Function Room for 4 days to help sell more of the amazing donations we have received and help us raise funds for the Charity.

OPENING TIMES 10am - 3pm

Lots of Designer New and 2nd Hand Clothes, Accessories, Jewellery, Bric-a-Brac, Designer fabric samples plus Men's wear too!

NB: Please note – No more donations thank you

Colour by Numbers



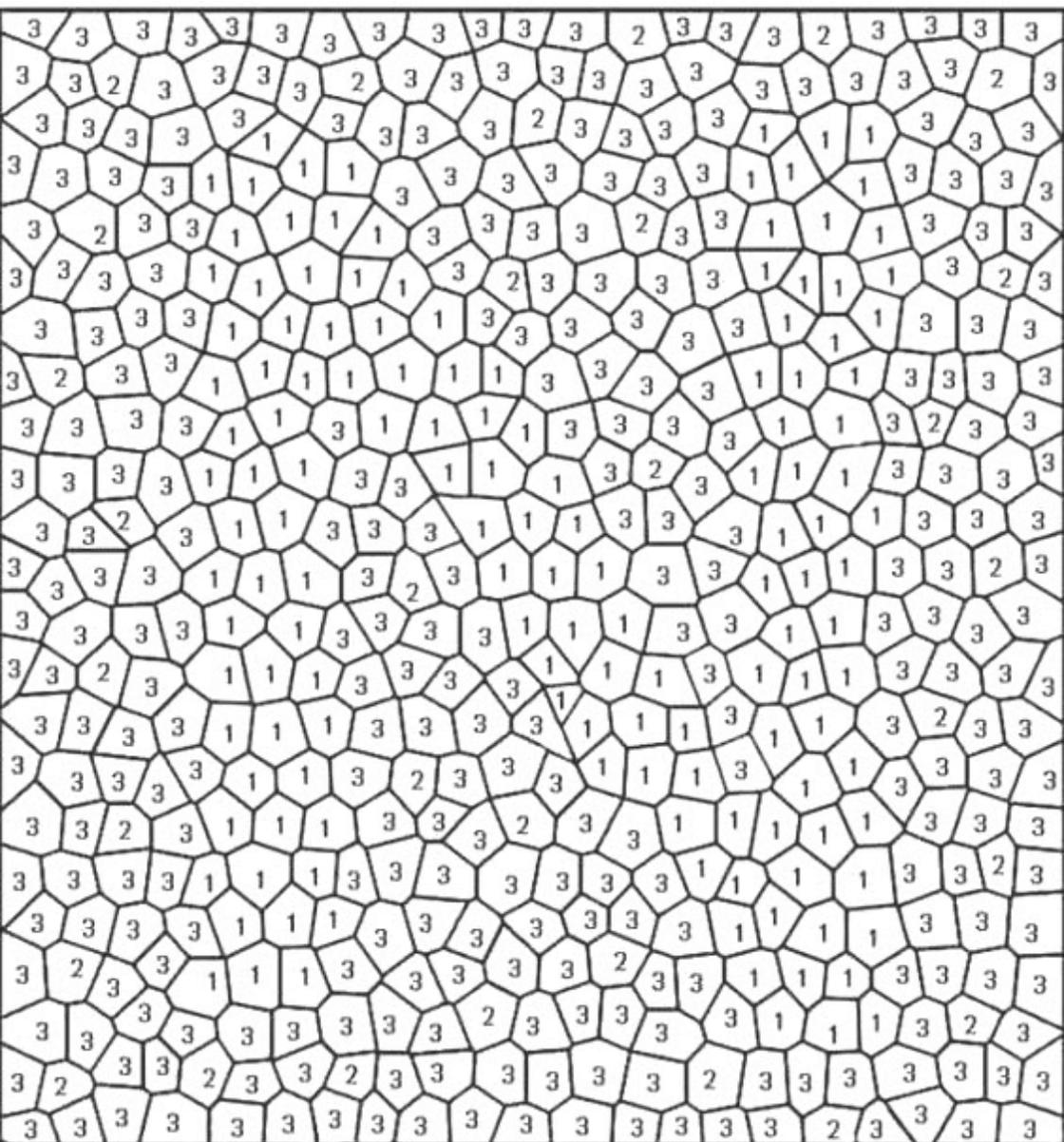
1 - ●

3 - ●

2 - ●

4 - ●

Colour by Numbers



1 = Blue

2 = Yellow

3 = Red

WHAT'S ON IN & AROUND OXHILL

MARCH

Sat 12th	19:30	Quiz Night, Village Hall
Thurs 17th	14:00-14:30	Mobile Library, outside Village Hall
Sat 26th	9:00-11:30	Village Breakfast, Village Hall
Every Thursday	11:45ish	Awesome Coffee Van, outside Peacock Pub
Every Sunday	15:00-16:00	Churchyard Wildflower Area clean up

APRIL

Thurs 7th	14:00-14:30	Mobile Library, outside Village Hall
Sat 23rd	10:00-13:00	Climate Change Mitigation Event, Village Hall
Thurs 28th	14:00-14:30	Mobile Library, outside Village Hall

PC MEETINGS

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

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

March						
M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

BIN COLLECTION CALENDAR



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

