

THE OXHILL NEWS

Queen's Platinum Jubilee Souvenir Issue 2022



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MATT



*'It's a ticketed event, so
I'll be in charge of tear gas
and Mrs Hill will organise
the baton charges'*

OXHILL HAS DONE IT AGAIN !

I have been at all the Queen's Oxhill celebrations from the Coronation in 1953 (a fancy dress cricket match with a tea afterwards, my father was a splitting image of Winston Churchill as umpire)!

Then the Silver Jubilee (again a cricket match, the church versus the pub) when the vicar at the time was fielding and a high ball came at him. He tripped and fell exclaiming bl---y h--l, a quick witted onlooker shouted 'Was that New Testament or Old Vicar'!

Then the Golden and Diamond Jubilees, much larger and more organized, which many of you will remember.

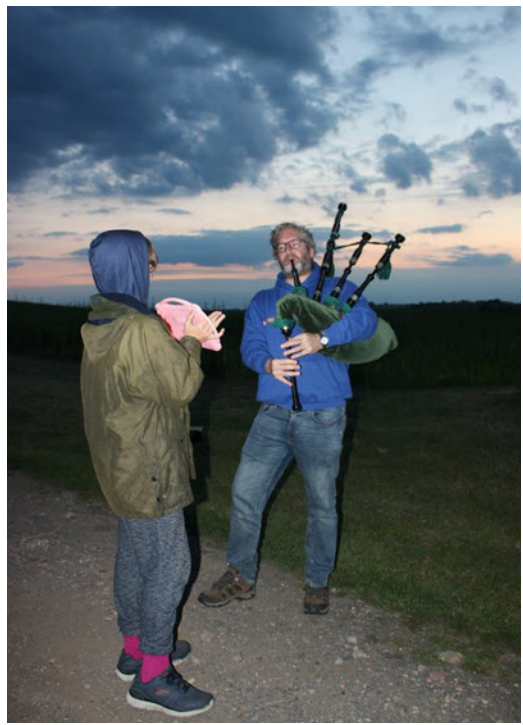
Now the Platinum Jubilee, a three day event and so well organized with something for everyone young or, like me, old.

A BIG THANK-YOU TO EVERYONE INVOLVED IN MAKING IT SUCH A MEMORABLE EVENT.

OXHILL DOES IT WELL AND BETTER EVERY TIME.

*Best wishes to all,
Tom Heritage*





OXHILL BEACON AND TORCHLIGHT PROCESSION

THURSDAY 2ND JUNE 2022

- 1 x HUGE pile of timber (thank you Thomas Fox and team)
- 1 x Box flaming torches (thank you Parish Council)
- 8 x Very well behaved Road Marshals (thank you Lee, Karen & Stuart B, Stuart W, Duncan, Dean, Reuben & Lisa)
- Lots x Thomas Fox Marshals and water-sprayers (thank you all)
- 1 x First-aider (thank you Clare)
- 1 x Emergency transport standby (thank you Lis)
- 3,000 x Litres of water on standby (thank you Thomas & crew)
- 10 x Fire extinguishers
- 5 x Trugs of water
- 1 x Hosepipe at Tysoe Road Barns (thank you Emma)
- 20 x Hi-vis jackets
- 1 x Bagpiper (thank you William Morris)
- 1 x Choir and music (thank you Jill, singers and Belinda)
- 1 x Decent amount of petrol on Beacon (although not as much as Tysoe ...)
- 1 x Risk assessment (“Any children want to help light the Beacon doused in petrol?...”)
- 5 x Torchlighters (thank you Steve, Bill, Verity, James & Freya)
- 90 x Flaming torches lit
- 89 x Flaming torches accounted for
- 1 x Flaming torch ridden into village (Mr S - you know who you are)
- 3 x Buckets for extinguishing torches
- 3 x Wheelbarrows (Yes, Ed, yours was the best)
- 200 x Villagers, friends & family (thank you all)

=

- 1 x Fabulous Beacon
- 1 x Magical Torchlight Procession
- 1 x Charred Hedge (next to Beacon)
- 0 x Reportable Incidents

Patrick O'Donnell









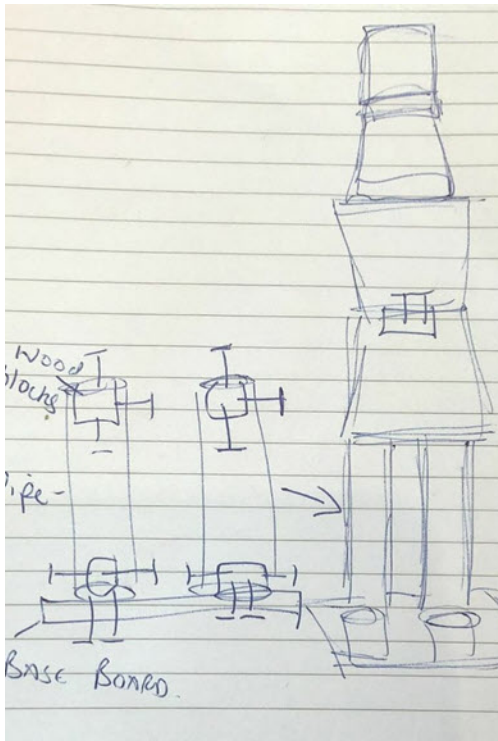
‘A RIGHT ROYAL CORGI’ ART COMPETITION

The village voted for their favourite adults and childrens paintings and over 180 votes were cast, thank you Oxhill.

Here are the winners of the art competition; Adult class Liz Baker and children’s class Emily Harper. Second and third in the adults were Iain Lauchlan and Joy McDonald and the children’s Darcy Griffiths and Guillame Lepeltier. Well done all that took part and what a terrific show.

Grenville Moore





JUBILEE DECORATING COMMITTEE

Ruth had asked me back in September if I could head up the decorating for the jubilee possibly assuming I will do the usual thing under normal time restraints, put up some bunting, hoist a flag encourage people to decorate their hedges. After encouraging my neighbour Lisa Connolly to join me, a plan was hatched to make it the jubilee decorations to top all jubilee decorations...

Lisa and I had joined forces to decorate a small party before, so I knew we worked together well, and with having decorated several kids parties myself including village and school Halloween events in the past I knew we would have to go above and beyond what might be considered normal. The only spanner in the works which effected our extravagant month long Pinterest searches was the very limited budget of just £100. As the marquee got bigger and the head count got larger that £100 felt tiny by comparison. However, with the incredible help and donations of stuff from friends and villagers ... some bicycle wheels, a selection of hula hoops, scrap materials destined for the skip, plant pots, paint, fabric and a giant inflatable unicorn on loan from my children we embraced a proper make do and mend approach to the project. In fact the only major cost was ribbon. We organised several work parties beginning in April, with help from Helen West, Jude MacDonald and Trisha Harbour, constructing and decorating soldiers and painting giant teacups.

Jerry Webb offered his fantastic wood work skills, so not to look a gift horse in the mouth, after a few essential tea and biscuit meetings we came up with the Cheeky Corgis (Candy and Muick...actual Queen Corgi names!).



Later we caught Ed Morgan with a pint in his hand and managed (with little encouragement may I add) to persuade Ed along with Reuben Connolly to construct the finest and only coronation coach the village has ever seen, over engineered and with a chassis good enough for lotus itself which Lisa and I finished off in the nick of time with a tin of gold spray paint, a can of expanding foam and some red velvet.

None of this would have been possible without the top secret hideout courtesy of Phil Brenam. It took us months to plan and prep, sourcing materials streamlining ideas, but we were blown away with the reception from people attending the event and glad that our slightly bonkers ideas paid off.

The flowers were beautifully arranged by Jude, Diane, Carol and Jane. Ivy was scavenged from round the village and the flowers came from Carol's garden. Candelabras were kindly lent out to us for the event and flower displays lent to us by the church. The mannequin flower display and crown were arranged by Jude.

Lynsey Cleaver (with additions from Lisa Connolly)





THE 12 DAYS WEEKS OF 'BIG LUNCH'

(Sung to the tune of the Twelve Days of Christmas)

Three Hundred mouths need feeding
150 hours of cooking
37 Volunteers a making
45 Litres of Jelly wobbling
4 Gallons of alcohol thrown in
60 Kilos of spuds a boiling
50lbs of cheese a nibbling
10 Carving Hams!!
30 Salmon sides
Lots of Veggie Quiche
Many meetings had
And a large glass for Grenville and me x

Joanna Griffiths









THE BIG LUNCH ORGANISATION

Back in January of this year I had a message from Grenville saying he would like to put something to me to consider. We then met up over a couple of gin and tonics and I agreed I would happily oversee the organising of our big lunch for the up-and-coming Queens Jubilee. 5 months of planning and preparation and after much negotiation with local suppliers, we had agreed the final menu. There have been so many people involved in the entire process I cannot list every name. From the tasting sessions and discussion of the fabulously committed jubilee team, to the amazing support we have had throughout the village to cook our jubilee feast. From chutneys and jams, to salmon sides and full hams, to multiple varieties of wonderfully tasty quiches and to our creative wobble chefs that produced so much varieties of jelly, mostly alcoholic!!

To those who provided tasty options for GF, vegan and vegetarian, And to the enormous amount of potato's that required cooking on the morning of the big lunch. And of the volunteers who did all the prep work on the day, plating food, laying tables and to clearing up when everyone had finished. Not forgetting Hugh and his driveway being taken over with the fridge trailer bursting with food provided by our community.

Thank you to everyone, a feast fit to commemorate our queen, and a lunch to be celebrated together as a brilliant village x

Joanna Griffiths

THE BIG LUNCH FRIDAY 3RD JUNE 2022



I think the Queen would have enjoyed our little party! What a fabulous day and evening. Special thanks to Ruth Mercer, Joanna Griffiths, Lynsey Cleaver, Grenville Moore, Lisa Connolly and all the amazing cooks in the village. We were treated to a right Royal feast.

Karen Barker





What an awesome jubilee weekend! So much preparation from some wonderfully talented, creative artists, designers, organisers, chefs, performers, marshals and helpers. We are so lucky to live in the most extraordinary, community spirited, villagey-village ever!

Helen West





Having seen all the festivities in Oxhill over the last 50 years! I had to write to say that you and all the other organisers, chefs, and decorators etc. have surpassed them all. Well done! It was a super weekend. Having seen the photograph of the line up in amongst the other photographs of surrounding villages in the Stratford Herald, you all should be really proud. 300 !! - but Oxhill does seem to come up trumps.

*Thank you
Mrs Una Hill*



Thank you so much for all the hard work you did for the village Jubilee weekend. It was a fantastic event and we enjoyed it hugely - especially Guillaume who will have some wonderful memories and excellent photos to treasure for those 'where were you?' moments in the years to come.

*Thank you
Laura, Francois, and Guillaume*











FRIDAY NIGHT ENTERTAINMENT

Friday night entertainment brought the brilliant and Warwickshire renowned Simon Kemp Rhythm and Blues Orchestra. Ten wonderfully talented musicians and singers accompanied by their saxophones, guitars and pianos performing a mixture of soul, funk blues and boogie woogie, dressed in the classic 'blues' tailored suits reminiscent of Jools Holland and his Rhythm and blues ensemble. Simon delightfully leading his band with his infamous charisma and passion. Songs we know and love which saw plenty of enthusiasm from our villagers dancing and singing along. Even our own young Archie Griffiths joined the band on stage, having been taught guitar from the age of 7yrs by Simon himself. A true evening of fun and entertainment had by all to finish off a wonderful Jubilee Friday.

Joanna Griffiths





JUBILEE HOBBY HORSE EVENTS

SATURDAY 4TH JUNE 2022

Thanks to some good weather (and hard work by the ground crew – thanks Patrick!) the “going” for the Jubilee Grand National was firm, although a bovine course invasion a few days before the event meant it was very soft in patches. The crowds gathered in anticipation and were rewarded with three very exciting races, especially the adults with a closely fought battle between Mike Bridgeman and Matt Tofts. Costumes were amazing, although some inhibited performance (Ed Morgan) and congratulations to all for the effort.

Back at the Jubilee field the show jumping proved no less exciting with some brilliantly artistic performances and great interpretations from all age groups, with special mention to Jane Smith’s valiant (and highly entertaining) but ultimately futile attempt to get her horse to take the first fence!

WINNERS:

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| Best Turned-Out | Adults – Lisa Connelly
Children – Penny Edmondson |
| Grand National | Novices (0 – 7) – Jack Wesley
Colts/Fillies (8 - 12) – Joint winners: Jasmin Fawcus & Guillaume Lepeltier
Adults – Mike Bridgeman |
| Show Jumping | Children – Jasmin Fawcus
Adults – Alice Mercer |

Ed Bracher





A SELECTION OF HOBBY HORSE COMPETITION WINNERS



GAMES, CRAFTS & FACE PAINTING

On Saturday between about 4-5pm children aged from about 2 to 11 took part in some fun races and some parachute games. We did some relays where children had to transfer tennis balls one at a time from one hoop to another, sack races (lots of enthusiasm for this one) egg and spoon (unfortunately the eggs were a bit light and kept getting blown away by the wind!) We had 20 children round the parachute showing great cooperation and played popcorn, buried treasure and mushroom amongst other things. It was lovely to see children of all ages, some from the village and some visiting, all getting on so well and having fun together. Many thanks to Sibford School for the loan of some PE equipment.

Inside the marquee children were having their faces painted and taking part in craft activities organised by Lis Stuart and helpers.

Ali Sayer

Crafts included; sand bottles which was the most popular with the children, treasure boxes decorated with jewels popular as well. Painted stones using jubilee colours, crowns and tea light jars accessed by all ages. The face painting was very popular with both children and adults, who chose a variety of decorations including flowers, super heroes.

Lis Stuart



SATURDAY AFTERNOON CAKE & BBQ

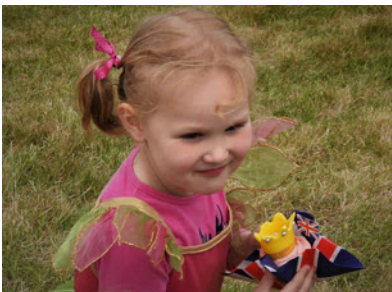
A BIG THANK YOU!

A huge thank you to all you cake bakers who supplied the Jubilee Afternoon Tea!
You are a fabulous band who supply delicious cakes for everyone to enjoy!
Your efforts are very much appreciated.

What a fantastic weekend we had! Oxhill at its best!

Thank you again. We couldn't do these events without you!

From Gaynor and all involved in the organising the Jubilee! In fact from all the village!!



OXHILL'S GOT TALENT

I received a request from the Jubilee Team to provide some entertainment on the Saturday of the Jubilee celebrations. "An evening of entertainment in the marquee for the village." How was I going to do that? No budget! So therefore no Theatre or TV professionals.....OK. Local talent it had to be.

It was suggested we do an Oxhill's got talent which opened up the remit beautifully. We got word out that I was looking for people to entertain, to bring their talent to the marquee, to show that Oxhill does indeed have talent.

On the night, after a fun virtual kid's disco and a taxing quiz which everyone threw themselves into and didn't take too seriously (by the way thanks to Ruth and Grenville for their questions) I decided to kick things off and to try to hold the evening together but the stars were, without a doubt, the local performers who brought their talents to the stage that night.

Lillian West who kicked it off with her amazing display of acrobatics, Jane Ellis who read her daughter Erin's story so beautifully and sensitively, Belinda Marklew who transfixed us with her clarinet aided and supported by the talented Peter Rivers Fletcher. But Peter wasn't done yet, he also played and accompanied the velvet voice of Brian Emmerson who knocked us all out with his rendition of a couple of classics.



Who could forget the vision of Mike Bridgman, dressed as the Queen, holding audience, deciding to grace us with his/her presence and singing his version of an old hit from Eurovision, Muppet on a String.

The act who were the first to come on board in the search for talent and last onstage were the Archie Griffith's band the Dizzy Pandas. They were fresh from their exams and did us proud

with some rock and roll classics. They got everyone up and dancing. It was fantastic climax to a brilliant evening before we finished up with some last night at the proms classics led by Jill Tucker and the choir.

Oh, I must mention the wonderful audience who supported us throughout and sung magnificently during the farmyard song plus everyone who took part in the After Eight challenge, especially Stuart and Brian who fought it out in the tape measure challenge.... So funny!

~ Iain Macpherson





SONGS OF PRAISE

SUNDAY 5TH JUNE 2022

A wonderful Jubilee weekend was rounded off with the Songs of Praise in the Church on the Sunday afternoon. A full house came together to thank God for, and to celebrate, both the 70 years of our faithful Queen's reign and Pentecost, when God poured out his Holy Spirit on his people. The two were not unconnected – at her Coronation the most solemn part of the ceremony was when she, as a perfectly ordinary human being, was anointed, so that God would empower her to carry out her role. That same anointing is there for us, to know God's empowerment, whatever our role.

Belinda and her clarinet joined James at the organ to sing hymns chosen by various of us. We used words and prayers from 'Our Faithful Queen', as well as words from the Bible, and sung 'God be in my head', the hymn of prayer given to the Queen 70 years ago: it too was included in the book of devotions given to the Queen by the then Archbishop of Canterbury as she prepared for her coronation. Many of us sung it at school, and have done so ever since;

God be in my head,
and in my understanding.
God be in mine eyes,
and in my looking.
God be in my mouth,
and in my speaking.
God be in my heart,
and in my thinking.
God be at my end,
and at my departing.

Then, to round everything off, we did our best to eat up the last of the cakes from the weekend: we marveled at the fabulous flowers in the church (some of them a legacy from Imogen and Thomas' wedding) – thank you so much everyone - and looked back in time at Carol Clark's photos of Oxhill Then and Now.

Jill Tucker



The flowers in the church were arranged by Jude MacDonald, Carol Fox, Sue Robbins, Fiona Franklin and Rachel Beesley.



It has been a joy to bring the village this special Platinum Jubilee Souvenir issue. Thank you to everyone who submitted words and photos. I apologise if your photos did not make it into the magazine. It was very hard to choose from so many wonderful pictures - this issue could easily have been double the size!

*Here's to future wonderful village events,
Vanessa, ed.*



The Bears of Oxhill