

# THE OXHILL NEWS

September 2022 No. 574



*Mick Groves with his grandsons on the summit of Gran Paradiso.*

*Vanessa Druce, editor & Grenville Moore, consulting editor*

*Email: [oxhill.news.editor@gmail.com](mailto:oxhill.news.editor@gmail.com) Website: [oxhillcommunity.co.uk](http://oxhillcommunity.co.uk)*

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

ARTICLE	PAGE
Wedding Announcement	3
A Generation Challenge	4
In The Wilds	6
St Lawrence Church	8
Oxhill Fete	10
Village Hall, Its Not Too Late	12
Quiz Night	12
Townsend Hall	13
Made in Oxhill Pop-Up Arts & Crafts Shop	13
Oxhill Churchyard Project	14
Erratum	15
Oxhill Cooks - Plum and Almond Flan	16
Wot2Grow Community Orchard	18
Apple Day at the Orchard	19
Tysoe Tennis Club	20
National Garden Scheme Burmington Grange	21
Sudoku	22

## 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](mailto:oxhill@btinternet.com)**



## WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT

Jackie and Michael Dawson would like to announce the marriage of our daughter Harriet to James Whybrow at Bath Guildhall on the 15th of July. A blessing then took place at St Lawrence Church Oxhill on the 30th of July.

They have made their home in Charlbury and we would all like to thank the Rev Jill Tucker for a lovely service.

*Michael Dawson*





## **A GENERATION CHALLENGE**

Oxhill mountaineer – Mick Groves - has just returned from a successful expedition to the Alps with two of his grandsons.

His original plan was to try to summit Mont Blanc with them, but unfortunately the authorities had closed Mont Blanc to climbers, due to the dangers of rockfalls and avalanches, triggered by the exceptionally hot weather.

So he took them to the Italian Alps where they successfully climbed Gran Paradiso – the highest mountain in Italy at 4061 metres.

They next completed a challenging via ferrata rock climb on the exposed cliffs high above Chamonix in France, before travelling to the Swiss Alps to successfully climb Tete Blanche at 3710 metres.

“This is the second expedition to the Alps I have taken with grandchildren - the last in 2017 with another 16 year old grandson and an 18 year old grand-daughter” says Mick. “I

planned this trip two years ago when these boys were 16 year olds, but Covid restrictions caused a two year delay so they have now become 18 year old men - so a quite different relationship dynamic (also much harder to keep up with!).”

“Training for these expeditions in mountain-less South Warwickshire is a challenge” says Mick “but long, hilly walks, gym sessions, short runs, and repetition sessions climbing Edgehill with a weighted rucksack and then running back down again, have proved good for basic fitness. A visit to Snowdonia provided longer climbs to improve stamina.”

“Sadly, the next “batch” of potential mountaineering grandchildren won’t be 16 until 2027. By then I shall be well into my 80s so we will have to see whether I am then still fit enough to lead such expeditions – but don’t rule it out!”



# *In the Wilds*

by *Steve MacRae*



## **TWO FOR ONE!**

Europe's smallest bird, the Goldcrest, has an unmistakable rapid-fire, high-pitched song that stopped me in its tracks last week right here in my back garden. Tracking the tune led me to the wonderful sight of a mother feeding her fledgling, the tiny gold diamond on the top of her head glistening in the sunshine as her youngster helped itself to a fat, green caterpillar from her beak. Unfortunately, they refused point blank to stay still so I failed miserably to get even one decent photograph. Determined to do better, I lay in wait the next day, lens following the fledgling for nearly an hour, hoping that mum might land in just the right place and miraculously give the shutter time to close before she flew off again. As you can see, I didn't quite get the shot I was after, but Mother Nature gave me a brilliant bonus for trying - a Treecreeper only one tree over!

Goldcrests are approximately 9cm tall and weigh 6g, a little more than a teaspoonful of water. Treecreepers are a bit bigger at 12.5cm and about 10g and can be found spiralling up trees, probing the bark for insects as they go



# ST LAWRENCE CHURCH

September brings many significant moments: shorter days, as we are two thirds of the way through the year, beginning the countdown to the end of the year: holidays for some: a return to school and to work for others: and for our farmers and gardeners, the harvest.

This is our chance to thank our generous God, as a community, for heat, light and rain: for soil holding and feeding the crops, and seas that give us fish: for animals that provide milk and food, and flowers for their beauty; for trees giving fruit, and the depths of the earth yielding metals and minerals: and for farmers and growers, who work tirelessly to conserve, tend and harvest all that God has given us. And for Jesus, who broke bread to feed a hungry crowd, teaching us to do likewise, and who died and rose again to help us offer this harvest of kindness.

Let us join together to celebrate all of this at our Harvest Thanksgiving on Sunday, September 25th at 3.30 pm.

Sunday, Sept 4 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Holy Communion (George Heighton)
Sunday, Sept 11 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Morning Worship (Jennie Rake)
Sunday, Sept 18 <sup>th</sup>	6.30 pm	Evening Worship (Jill Tucker)
<b>Sunday, Sept 25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>3.30 pm</b>	<b>HARVEST THANKSGIVING</b> (George Heighton)

The Wednesday morning Zoom service at 10.00 am will resume on Wednesday, September 7th.



## Galatians 6:7-9

**<sup>9</sup>Let us not become weary in doing good,  
for at the proper time we will reap a  
harvest if we do not give up.**



## **Be the blessing**

May you be the blessing:  
may you be the justice in the harvest,  
the sharing in the community,  
the hope in the neighbourhood.

May your gift of self  
be a blessing to many.

May you be the change that the world needs:  
the light in the shadows,  
the truth in the darkness,  
the healing in the hurt.  
May our gift of self  
be a blessing to the world.

For your need to be no other  
than yourself.  
It is enough.

*Roddy Hamilton, Autumn, ed Ruth Burgess*

Every blessing, Jill.

[revjill.tucker@btinternet.com](mailto:revjill.tucker@btinternet.com)



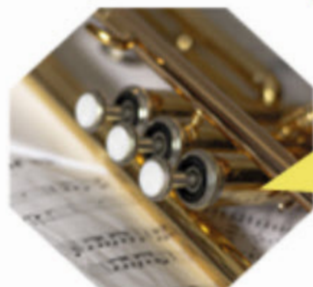
# OXHILL FETE

Saturday 3rd September 2pm

NEWBOROUGH HOUSE, OXHILL, CV35 0RJ

Shipston Town Band  
2:15pm and 3:30pm

Dog Show 3pm  
2:30pm Registration



Classic cars  
Tombola  
Cakes  
Bric-a-brac  
Plants, Toys  
Lucky dip  
Honey, Books



**FUN GAMES AND STALLS GALORE!**

Bouncy Castle  
Face Painting  
Splat the Rat!  
Map Treasure Hunt

Food & Drink  
Prosecco & beer  
Traditional teas  
Homemade cake  
Farmhouse ice cream

**RAFFLE  
DRAW &  
PRIZES  
4:30pm**

**PAY BY CASH OR TOKENS  
BUY TOKENS WITH CASH OR CARD**

**IN AID OF OXHILL VILLAGE HALL RENOVATION FUND**

**PRIZES INCLUDE**

**£100  
CASH**



Vouchers for The Peacock Oxhill,  
The Bell Shenington & The Bower House Shipston;  
**Charlotte Tilbury Beauty Products;**  
Chocolate cake from Shipston Taste of the Country;  
**Free passes to the climbing wall at Stratford Leisure Centre;**  
Signed trilogy by local author; Plants from Quarry Nursery  
**Monsoon Estates coffee; local ham joint; and more!**

# VILLAGE HALL OXHILL FETE

## ITS NOT TOO LATE!

Please make your donations of goods for the Fete as follows:-

**Bottles** - Derek Harbour dandt@laurelhardy.co.uk. 07768775584

**Cakes** - Sue Philpott suephilpott96@yahoo.co.uk 07890112219

**Plants** - Jude MacDonald judemac07@btinternet.com 01295 680150

**Toys** - Celia Fawcus celiafawcus@gmail.com  
07715270692

**Bric-a-Brac** - Steve MacRae  
stevemacrae21@gmail.com 07914221151

**Books** - Gill Stewart gill@northside.me.uk  
07836375161



## QUIZ NIGHT

Three years ago we held the first Church Fundraising Quiz for some many years. As it was so enjoyable and successful, we had hoped to make it an annual event, then COVID struck. But now we are back and quizzing on **Saturday 15th October at 7pm in The Old Chapel.**

Can you take on the challenge of our quiz? As the nights draw in, join us at the Old Chapel for an evening of interesting questions and food of course (this is Oxhill: nothing happens without food). The quiz writer has promised to produce a quiz that will have something for everyone, suitable for all ages of adults and won't feel like you are sitting an interminable and impossible all night exam (yes, I've been to quizzes like that). If nothing else, the Quizmaster will keep us all entertained. (Oh yes he will)! We anticipate teams to be made up of 4 members but will be happy to see teams with anything from 1-6 members. Don't worry if you want to come but don't have a team: let me know and I'll act as the Oxhill quiz team matchmaker. Tickets are £10 per person and will include buffet refreshments in the middle of the evening. There will also be a donations bar offering wine, beer and soft drinks.

Tables are limited so book your places now!

Ruth Mercer

[ruthc.mercer@btinternet.com](mailto:ruthc.mercer@btinternet.com)

07400 615999

## September and we're back in the groove

After the summer holiday season, we're back in the groove with our jazz events kicking back off. On Friday September 30th, we're really looking forward to seeing "Sarah Spencer and her Transatlantic Band" at the hall. The "transatlantic" comes from Sarah living and playing on both sides of the Atlantic. She's a top-rated tenor saxophonist, who apparently loves playing "Hot and Dirty"! Come along for a night of exciting jazz and wear your dance shoes! Tickets are just a tenner and available from [www.ticketsource.co.uk/townsend-hall](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/townsend-hall), where you can bag your own table and seat, or for general admission from Clarke's in town.

As noted last time, anything we make from the jazz events is targeted at a project to provide a stage lift, to make the stage accessible to all. Please come along – enjoy yourself and feel good that you're also contributing to a great cause.

So much going on, not just live music – plenty of other events, e.g. sports and clubs. Visit us at [www.townsendhall.co.uk](http://www.townsendhall.co.uk) to find out more

## MADE IN OXHILL POP-UP ARTS AND CRAFTS SHOP

Our **4th Made in Oxhill Pop-up Shop** will be held over the weekend of **Saturday 26th November and Sunday 27th November** in **The Old Chapel**. If you are a local craftsperson or producer and would like a space, please contact me as soon as possible. From experience of previous years, all the tables will be reserved very quickly! I already have bookings for almost half of them. There will also be a cake stall raising funds for the Church. All donations of cakes will be gratefully received.



Not only will you be able to buy unique Christmas food and gifts produced locally, but you will be supporting local craftspeople. Put the dates in your diary and I will confirm the opening times closer to the event. In the meantime, please check on the Oxhill Community and the Made in Oxhill Facebook pages for updates.

Ruth Mercer  
[ruthc.mercer@btinternet.com](mailto:ruthc.mercer@btinternet.com)  
07400 615999

# OXHILL CHURCHYARD PROJECT

I am pleased to report that we have completed the memorial survey of Oxhill Churchyard and Church. Many thanks go to Carol Clark, Rachel Beasley and David Freke and previously by Mike Collins. We started on 13th April 2021 recording memorials, using a churchyard map generated from a drone and on the ground survey.



We have a created digital database covering:

**Burials Register:** This contains 1654 entries covering the years 1568 to the present day. There are many infants and a fair number from the workhouse in Shipston on Stour. The oldest person buried was AMY CLARIBEL CLIFTON who was buried in 1993 aged 98.

**Memorials:** We found 429 memorials, some hidden under dense ivy and ground cover. Over 100 of those memorials were footstones lined up against the East boundary fence. For each memorial we have recorded the material, dimensions and inscription (In some cases referring back to past surveys from the 1900's) together with a photograph.

**Memorial Names:** Records all those named on the memorial including, for example wife's name of buried husband.

There is a book in the church, which lists all the names of those found on memorials, giving references to stone number and associated map this list is in alphabetical order. All this data is now available on the internet to aid those interested in genealogy and general interest in Oxhill Churchyard.

To get access to the database go to [www.churchyards.uk](http://www.churchyards.uk) and then scroll down until you see Oxhill listed. Clicking that will bring you to the Oxhill page, from which you can do the following:

1. Click the link to the churchyard map, which shows all the memorials found with their allocated numbers. You can expand the view to aid reading.
2. Then there are search options for the three databases, Green for Burials, – Blue for Memorial Names - and Purple for Memorials.

*Article by Jim Saxton*

## ERRATUM

**Parish Giving**  
*Help Support Our Village Church*

In response to the beautifully displayed centrefold of last month's Oxhill News 'borrowed' from the internet, the good burghers of St Albans were delighted that so many Oxhill residents were prepared to support All Saints, Houghton Regis.

The latter's PCC, however, respectfully declined to accept these offers of financial support feeling, in all conscience, that the intention of the givers was probably to support our church whose Parish Giving details are in fact:

Church / Parish name ..... St Lawrence, Oxhill

PGS Parish code .....110611206

In the village of .....Oxhill

In the Diocese of .....Coventry

Thank you to those who picked up on the error – and to those whose generosity is even now winging its way into the correct bank account!

Douglas Nethercleft

(St Lawrence PCC Member)



*A beautiful sunset over St Lawrence's Church. Photo by Craig Flint*



*by Ruth Mercer*

The year is flying by and the plums are ripening already. It is always good to bake using the produce of the season, so this month's recipe uses plums. It seems a good year for plums too. The flan case in this recipe is rich and buttery, more like shortbread than pastry, with just a touch of cinnamon which works well with plums. Make sure you use a good non-stick tin or you might find it difficult to remove! The flan filling is very juicy once it is cooked but sets a bit when cooled. Serve it with cream or ice cream - it's delicious!

## PLUM AND ALMOND FLAN

### **Ingredients**

*For the Cinnamon shortbread*

175 g plain flour  
120 g softened butter  
60 g caster sugar  
½ tsp ground cinnamon

*For the filling*

700 g plums (I have used Victorias and a dark red plum: both worked well)  
100 g caster sugar  
1 tablespoon cornflour  
½ teaspoon ground cinnamon  
¼ teaspoon almond essence  
30 g slivered blanched almonds, or flaked almonds

1. Start by preparing the cinnamon shortbread dough – put all the ingredients in a mixing bowl and mix with fingertips until the dough just holds together. (I use a food mixer but be careful not to overmix it if you do).
2. Press the shortbread on to the bottom and side of a 20 cm loose-bottomed tart or flan tin. Place in the fridge while you prepare the filling.
3. Cut each plum in half, remove the stone and slice each half into 3 or 4 slices longitudinally. Place the slices in a large bowl.



4. Add the sugar, cornflour, cinnamon and almond essence and mix gently to coat all of the plum slices.
5. Preheat oven to 190C / 375F / Gas 5.
6. Arrange the plum slices in concentric circles, closely overlapping, in the shortbread flan case. Pour the remaining sugar mixture left in the plum bowl over the flan.
7. Sprinkle the almonds evenly over the plums and bake in the oven for 45 minutes until the shortbread is golden and the plums are tender.
8. Cool the flan in its tin before removing carefully.



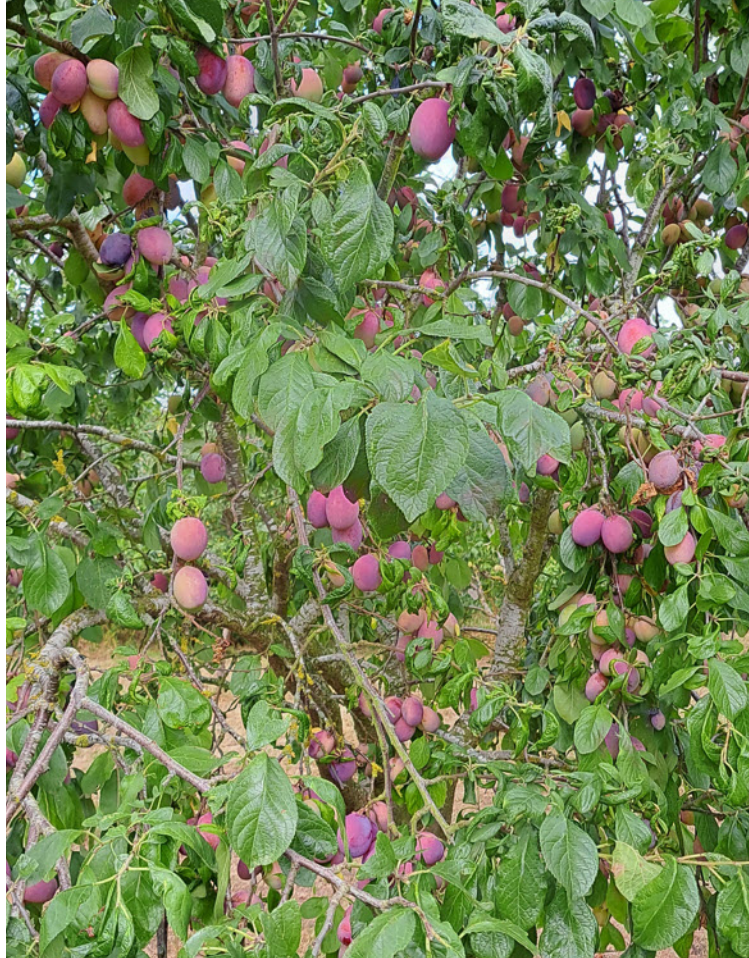


## WOT2GROW COMMUNITY ORCHARD

Such very hot weather is a problem for the trees at the orchard as well as for the people! Heat and no water make it hard for the trees to cope and some have good amounts of fruit. Despite some pruning and thinning three trees have split but we can save them and they will still be productive if a little odd shaped in the short term. Like last year we will be juicing a lot of our early apples and again in October. Discovery and Ellison's Orange are both picking with Merton Worcester and Sunset not far behind! And the first cookers, Grenadier, are ready to go. This is a good way of using the crops and is much appreciated by our members.

The early plums have been good and we have given some to local care homes which is part of our commitment to the local community. We still have damsons and greengages to come and then many more varieties of apples and pears.

Apple Day at the orchard is on October 8th from 1 to 4pm! Look out for the posters!



*Victoria Plums*

Find out more – 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](http://www.wot2grow.co.uk)



HAPPY  
**APPLE**  
DAY

## APPLE DAY AT THE WOT2GROW ORCHARD

**SATURDAY OCTOBER 8<sup>TH</sup> FROM 1 TO  
4 PM!!**

Put the date in your diary to come and make fabulous apple juice at the orchard!

Bring your own apples, clean please, and lots of containers to take the apple juice home.

It will last 24 hours or can be frozen for a longer period.

We will have lots of apples and all the machinery required to produce the juice and fill containers. It is great fun cutting up apples, “scratting” them and then turning the press to get the juice. Lots of fun for the children to get involved with.

Look out for the posters!!



*Discovery Apples*



Tysoe Tennis Club  
[www.tysoetennisclub.co.uk](http://www.tysoetennisclub.co.uk)

Tysoe Men concluded a very successful season by securing an excellent 2-2 draw away at league champions Snitterfield in their last match. In doing so they secured a third place finish, their best for some years. Well done to everyone who fought so hard for Tysoe this year.

The Banbury Town League summer matches are still ongoing.

The Club Tournament, for members only, will be held on Sunday 4th September starting at 10 am.

Rusty Racquets has proved to be really successful and great fun so there will be further sessions to follow.

Also amazingly successful was the free junior coaching lessons. Sixteen families were involved with 22 children taking part over the four sessions. On average, 13 children have joined each week. Tom and his assistants have done a brilliant job keeping the children active and engaged.

Tennisolutions Summer Camp sessions supported 14 children of various ages and different abilities and the Junior Group coaching programmes will restart on Friday, 9th September.

For more details contact Carol Spencer at [carol.spencer234@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:carol.spencer234@hotmail.co.uk)

Or visit the website [www.tysoetennisclub.co.uk](http://www.tysoetennisclub.co.uk)



## NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME AT BURMINGTON GRANGE

**SEPTEMBER 11 2:00 PM – 6:00 PM**

National Garden Scheme at Burmington Grange: 11 September 2022,  
Cheriton, Shipston-on-Stour, Warwickshire, CV36 5HZ, 2pm -  
6pm

Burmington Grange are opening their beautiful gardens to the public once more through the National Garden Scheme, by kind invitation of the Ramseys. Entry is £5.

Wander through 1½ acres, set in the rolling hills of the North Cotswolds with wonderful views over unspoilt countryside and enjoy a small vegetable garden, beautiful sunken rose garden with herbaceous and shrub borders, orchard and tree walk with unusual trees.

Pre-booking for this event is available on the NGS website at:  
[www.ngs.org.uk/view-garden/25136](http://www.ngs.org.uk/view-garden/25136).



# Sudoku Puzzle

LEVEL: **EASY**

---

	7			2			4	6
	6					8	9	
2			8			7	1	5
	8	4		9	7			
7	1						5	9
			1	3		4	8	
6	9	7			2			8
	5	8					6	
4	3			8			7	

# Sudoku Puzzle

LEVEL: **HARD**

---

		6	5					8
	9	5					2	
7			9			3		
				4		2	7	
			8	7	3			
	7	9		5				
		2			8			9
	5					8	1	
3					5	4		

# WHAT'S ON IN & AROUND OXHILL

## SEPTEMBER

Thurs 1st	14:00-14:30	Mobile Library, outside Village Hall
Sat 3rd	14:00	Village Fete, Newborough House
Thurs 22nd	14:00-14:30	Mobile Library, outside Village Hall
Every Thursday	11:45ish	Awesome Coffee Van, outside Peacock Pub

## PC MEETINGS

The date of the next PC Meeting is **Tuesday, 6 September, 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 one of the village Notice Boards, a few days before the meeting.

If you want any request to be included for consideration at the above meeting please send details to the Clerk ([oxhillpc@btinternet.com](mailto:oxhillpc@btinternet.com)) at least 10 days prior to the meeting to ensure that it is included on the publicly visible Agenda.

### Answer EASY

8	7	5	9	2	1	3	4	6
3	6	1	7	5	4	8	9	2
2	4	9	8	6	3	7	1	5
5	8	4	6	9	7	1	2	3
7	1	3	2	4	8	6	5	9
9	2	6	1	3	5	4	8	7
6	9	7	4	1	2	5	3	8
1	5	8	3	7	9	2	6	4
4	3	2	5	8	6	9	7	1

### Answer HARD

1	3	6	5	2	4	7	9	8
8	9	5	3	6	7	1	2	4
7	2	4	9	8	1	3	5	6
5	8	3	6	4	9	2	7	1
2	6	1	8	7	3	9	4	5
4	7	9	1	5	2	6	8	3
6	4	2	7	1	8	5	3	9
9	5	7	4	3	6	8	1	2
3	1	8	2	9	5	4	6	7

### FRIDAY is our collection day

**F** Food Waste    **R** Recycling    **W** Waste    **G** Garden Waste

**1** Every week    **2** Every 2 weeks    **3** Every 3 weeks    **+** Every 2 weeks

### September 2022

2	F	R		G
9	F		W	
16	F	R		G
23	F			
30	F	R	W	G