

THE OXHILL NEWS

November 2024 No. 600



Congratulations to Paul Sayer for winning a bronze medal at the World Triathlon Championships (age group aqua- bike) in Torremolinos.

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CLUB & GROUP CONTACT DETAILS

St Lawrence Church,	Priest-in Charge Rev. George Heighton, 01295 680201 Associate Minister Rev. Heather Parbury, 01608 685575
Carers4carers:	kcarers4carers@gmail.com or tel: 07947 893504
Oxhill Village Hall:	Derek Harbour - Chair Ali Sayer - Hall Hire - 07970 922352 email: oxhillvh@gmail.com
The Peacock Pub	01295 675019
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
talkdementia.uk Carer Support Service	Paul & Heather Dowler Tysoe 688376 email: talkdementia@mail.com Website: talkdementia.uk Tysoe Village Hall every Friday from 10am

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

OXHILL

3 miles from Kineton.

Important Sale of Farming Stock.

BOSLEY & HARPER

have received instructions from Mr. A. R. M. SPENCER (who is retiring from Farming), to
SELL BY AUCTION, at OXHILL HOUSE FARM,

ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 26TH, 1925

70 head of choice
Shorthorn & first-cross
Hereford & Shorthorn **CATTLE**

comprising:—19 grand Dairy Cows and Heifers, 7 fresh Barreners, 38 choice 2½ and 2-year-old Heifers and Steers, 5 Calves, and 1 Shorthorn Bull (9 months);

310 cross-bred Kerry Hill,
Suffolk, and Cheviot **SHEEP**

viz:—20 pure-bred Kerry Hill Ewe Lambs, 230 very fresh Lambs, and 60 Cheviot Ewes;

8 GRAND CART HORSES

comprising:—5 capital Geldings and Mares (rising 4 years), 2 working Horses and Filly Foal;

Hunter Gelding, Cob Mare (6 years), Bay Pony (6 years),

COLLECTION OF

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS

including 4 WAGONS;

Harness, Dairy Utensils,

Surplus Household Furniture, and other Effects.

CATALOGUES may be obtained at "The White Lion," Banbury; "Unicorn," Stratford-on-Avon; "Red Lion," Kineton; "Peacock Inn," Tysoe;
the place of Sale; or of the Auctioneers, Shipston-on-Stour.

REFRESHMENTS may be obtained on the Premises.

Sale to Commence with the Sheep at 11-30 o'clock.

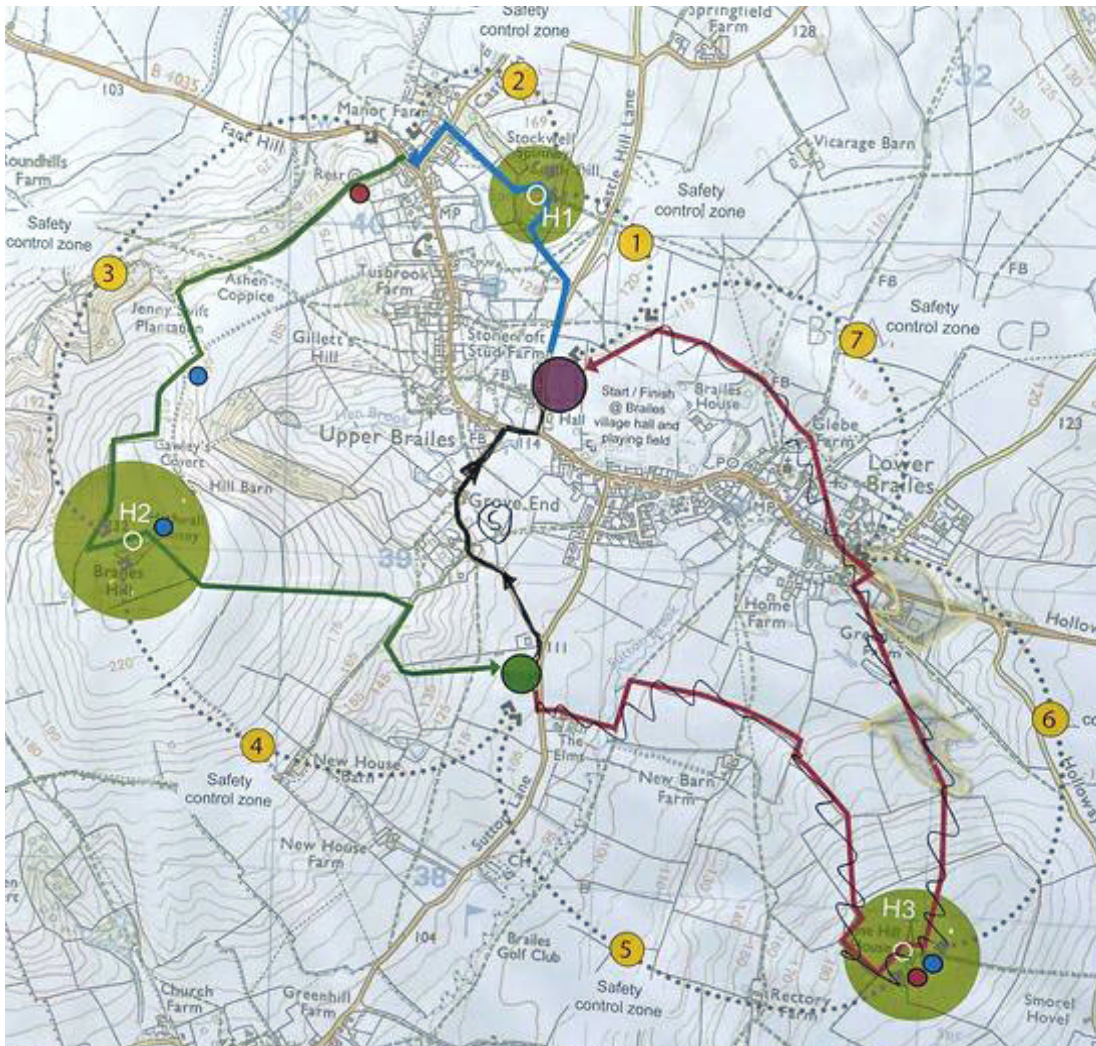
C. G. COLEMAN, Printer, High Street, Shipston-on-Stour---4579

BRAILES WALK

by Tricia Harbour

Quite a few Oxhillians took part in the Brailes 3 Hill Walk on Sunday 29th September. Unfortunately due to the heavy rain during the week we could only do 2 of the hills, but luckily Sunday morning was dry and everyone enjoyed the well organised and clearly marked route with splendid views of our beautiful countryside.

Photos by Tricia Harper





CONGRATULATIONS ST LAWRENCE CHURCH, OXHILL

YOU HAVE BEEN AWARDED AN ECO CHURCH BRONZE AWARD.

Well done to everyone who has worked so hard to reach this milestone. From everyone at A Rocha UK, thank you. Thank you for becoming a beacon for saving nature. Thank you for joining A Rocha UK's Eco Church movement caring for God's creation. Nature is crying out. Thank you for answering the missional call for creation. Thank you on behalf of the insects that are now buzzing, the birds that are singing, and the plants that are springing into life.





ST LAWRENCE CHURCH

NOVEMBER IN OUR CHURCHES

November is a season of remembering: we remember those we have loved and lost, and those who gave, and continue to give, sacrificially for the good of our nations and our communities. We remember with thanksgiving and with sadness those we have known personally; we remember with gratitude those who have served for our sakes; we remember those who continue to suffer the after effects of battle, and we remember those who stand and watch as their loved ones are deployed in some way. And we pray for peace – as we come towards the end of another year, and look ahead to the coming of God in our midst, we realise anew just how much we need his presence in our world and in our lives.

In Loving Memory on November 3rd gives us a chance to particularly remember those we have loved and lost, whether recently or many years ago. At the back of each church is a list if you wish a name to be read out, whether you can come to the service or not.

Sunday, November 3rd All Souls'

3.00 pm **In Loving Memory** United Service in Tysoe Church. Jill Tucker

A service of remembering and comfort for those who have lost loved ones. In music, word, prayer and silence we will remember, and light a candle in their memory. Afterwards you are invited to stay for tea.

Sunday, November 10th Remembrance Sunday
3.30 pm Service of Remembrance in Oxhill Church,

Jill Tucker

Sunday, November 17th 2nd Sunday before Advent
9.30 am Holy Communion in Oxhill George Heighton

Sunday, November 24th Last Sunday before Advent
6.30 pm Evening Worship in Oxhill Jill Tucker

Generous God
we thank you for the pointers and signs
that remind us of your love,
your constancy
and call to action.

We give thanks
for those wise, wonderful,
and often ordinary people
who have altered the paths of our lives.
Fiona Barker, Winter.

Jill Tucker

Remembrance Day



CHURCH NEWS & NEEDS

CHURCH BIG CLEAN

It's the annual big clean of the church on Saturday 7th December to get the church sparkling for Christmas! 10 am. Lots of help needed! Coffee and cake will be on offer. Please help. Bring dusters and polish and brushes so we can make the church shine.

TRAVELLING NATIVITY

I know some people will be caught up with the wonderful Advent Windows but if some of you like to be involved in the travelling nativity which we used to do before Covid? For those who do not know about it we have a beautiful set of nativity figures in a lovely star covered box which can travel round the houses during Advent and be displayed in windows or just to enjoy and bring on the Christmas feeling. Each figure is fitted with a battery so they all light up. Usually it would stay in your home for one or two nights then move to the next household.

The Nativity would begin its journey around the village on December 8th at the Christingle service at 3.30 pm. If you would like to take part please contact me, Carol Fox on 07966059596.

HELP! HELP URGENT HELP NEEDED!

Would anyone be prepared to help on the church cleaning rota?

Sadly we are losing two of our regular helpers. It involves cleaning the church during the second week of the month. The church has its own vacuum cleaner and feather duster. Usually our helpers work in pairs, one vacuums and the other dusts and polishes pews. So if someone (or two) could assist we would be very grateful and it will keep our lovely church looking good.

Please contact me on 07966059596 if you can spare some time.

*Thank you
Carol Fox*

RIDDLE

I am taken from a mine and shut up in a wooden case from which I am never released and yet I am used by almost everybody.

What am I?

Answer on back page



CHURCH FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

QUIZ NIGHT

There was much head-scratching and brain-searching at the Old Chapel on October 19th when ten teams took on the challenge of the Church Fundraising Quiz. Unfortunately, some of the teams were depleted by illness but the healthy ones bravely carried on. The final scores were remarkably close and, coming to the last round, three teams were fighting for the win. In the end, the “We’ve left ample room for the fire trucks” team (the McKail family and friends) were the winners, narrowly beating “Universally Challenged” and “Whatcote Wonders” (Whatcote Road men’s and ladies’ teams). As well as the quiz, everyone enjoyed a generous and delicious hot meal and plenty of cake afterwards.



Year after year, our Quiz Evening is greatly enhanced by the skills of our entertaining and professional Questionmaster Iain. He manages to elevate the questions and keep the teams in order and laughing most of the evening. We are so lucky that he agrees to come back and host the evening every year. Thank you to everyone who supported the event.

These events take a lot of hard work from a dedicated, industrious team and I want to thank Carol, Gaida, Jerry, Lis, Linda and Jon for all their help in planning, setting up the tables and chairs, preparing and serving the food, washing and clearing up; James and Linda for bar duties; Carol, Carol, Lis, Gaida, Linda, Lucy and Alice for providing all the delicious pasta dishes and home-

baked cakes; Alice for poster design. Special thanks go to Lis and Adrian who saved the dinner by taking it round to their ovens when things didn’t go to the original plan. There would be no events like the quiz without this hardworking team. Thank you for all you do through the year as well. Thank you also to Ed Bracher for his idea and photos that contributed to the Picture Round. Lastly, a massive thank you to Iain Macpherson for being the perfect Quizmaster, giving up his Saturday evening and bringing his own PA equipment too. We are so fortunate that he is happy to return as Quizmaster every year as he is an absolute star, keeping everyone entertained all evening. Thank you again, Iain. It just wouldn’t be the same without you.

Ruth Mercer



MADE IN OXHILL POP-UP ARTS AND CRAFTS SHOP

After the positive response to last year's new opening hours, we will be opening Made in Oxhill Pop-Up Arts and Crafts Shop for a Friday evening and Saturday again this year. **New for this year, we will be offering a light lunch of homemade soup and bread on the Saturday.** Join us at the Old Chapel for a browse and Mulled Wine and Mince Pies from **6pm to 8pm on Friday 30th November** or for tea, coffee, homemade soup and cakes from **11am to 4pm on Saturday 25th November**, or visit on both days! There will be stalls selling gifts, bags, artwork, cards, knitted goods, cushions, jam, honey, and more, all produced locally. Please come along and have a look around. You might be able to do all your Christmas shopping without leaving Oxhill and support local entrepreneurs at the same time!

Could you spare an hour or two to help serve refreshments or run a stall? Please contact me if you can help in this way.

If you are able to donate items for a home produce stall or can bake a cake or mince pies for the refreshments, you can deliver them to me beforehand or to the Chapel from 4pm on Friday 30th November and during the event. All donations would be most welcome!

Ruth Mercer
ruthc.mercer@btinternet.com
07400 615999

MADE IN OXHILL

ARTS ❄️

CRAFTS

Pop Up **SHOP**

THE OLD CHAPEL
OXHILL

FRIDAY 29TH NOVEMBER
6PM - 8PM
MINCE PIES AND MULLED WINE

SATURDAY 30TH NOVEMBER
11AM - 4PM
TEA, COFFEE & CAKES
HOMEMADE SOUP
WITH BREAD

GIFTS
CARDS
BAGS
CUSHIONS
ARTWORK
KNITTED GOODS
HOMEMADE
JAMS & HONEY
ALPACA GOODS
AND MORE!

Pantomime time is nearly here - oh no it isn't!

One of the highlights of the winter is a trip from Oxhill to the last night of the pantomime at the Belgrade Theatre in Coventry. The panto is written and directed by Oxhill resident Iain Macpherson (also known as Iain Lauchlan), who stars as the pantomime dame!

Iain has reserved 100 tickets for the performance of **Dick Whittington** at 7pm on **Saturday 4th January, 2025**. As in previous years, I have organised a coach to leave the village 5.15- 5.30pm and arrive in time for a drink at the theatre before the performance. You would get back to Oxhill 10.30-10.45pm. The cost of the panto tickets is £37.50 for adults and £32.50 for children. The cost of the coach depends on how many people use it (last year the coach was £8.50 a seat & £5 for children-the cost of the coach has gone up a little this year but not significantly).

Please contact Ali Sayer on 07970 922352 or ali.sayer@btinternet.com if you would like tickets for the panto and if you would use the coach. **I will need a definite commitment and payment by 20th November.**





Douglas selling his honey wares at the Arts & Crafts Pop Up Shop 2023.

In late October Douglas Nethercleft took me to visit his apiary and spoke to me about bees and beekeeping. Our conversation was recorded, though I stopped the tape when I got on a bee suit and approached the hives. We're publishing extracts from the interview in two parts, over two issues in November and December. Below are the first extracts of our interview.

If you would like to know more about bees and beekeeping, get in touch with Shipston Beekeepers at sbka.org.uk

~ Vanessa, ed.

BEES AND BEEKEEPING

Part 1

Lovely to be here, Douglas, at your apiary in Oxhill. How did you get involved in beekeeping?

When I was a young lad, knee high to a grasshopper, I went to a local museum and they had an observation hive inside the museum. The hive was connected to the outdoors by a long tube where the bees came in. I could actually see the bees working on the comb. I was very interested at that point and but the opportunity to keep bees didn't really occur until I arrived in Oxhill 20 years ago.

We used to live in Maidenhead and the children had left home. We knew Warwickshire was a beautiful county so we took an ordnance survey map and we found the biggest triangle of nothing in Warwickshire and that was Oxhill. I wanted to have a dog and keep bees and do bell ringing. I tried the bell ringing but wasn't very successful at it but I kept going with the bees and the dog.



I've got three hives at Newborough Farm. They all produced very well this summer. We had a very wet season to begin with and the amount of honey brought in for the first crop was rubbish. But, come the end of June, things looked up and I've had the best crop I've had in 20 years.

Do you know why that is?

You can never really tell. Obviously, there was a lot of nectar about at the right time of year for the bees to collect, because they need to collect roughly 40 or 50 pounds weight of honey to see them through the winter. Honey has a lot less water content than the nectar which they collect from the flowers. Once they bring the nectar back to the hive, about 80% of the water in the nectar is evaporated off leaving honey, which shouldn't contain more than 20% water.

I always thought the bees collected pollen.

Some bees collect pollen, some bees collect nectar, some bees collect propolis. Propolis is a sticky resin-like substance that they get from poplar trees and other trees with that kind of sap.

So, when a bee collects nectar, it sucks up the liquid that's in the flower?

Correct. It takes it into its honey stomach. A bee has two stomachs. The first one is for holding nectar and the second stomach is for digesting that which it needs to digest to live. In the course of a bee's foraging it will visit, I'm going to say hundreds of flowers, maybe thousands of flowers, taking a minute drop from each one.

And doing many trips.

Many trips. And then it regurgitates the nectar to a receiver bee who then finds a cell into which it can deposit the nectar. So, there are receiver bees and forager bees. Bees have many

functions during their life. They progress from one to the next according to their age and life cycle. Let's start with the queen, shall we?

Yes.

The hive will contain frames of honeycomb made out of the wax. And those cells are used for the storage of nectar (which eventually becomes honey) or pollen or the larvae. The eggs that the queen lays become larvae and the larvae develop and eventually emerge as young bees.

Is it the queen that's producing the wax?

No, the workers and they will only be able to produce wax when they are of a certain age, about eight days after they emerge.

There's one queen and up to 40,000 - 50,000 worker bees and maybe less than 500 male drone bees, whose function is only to impregnate virgin queens, but that's another story. So you've got many workers who have different jobs according to their life cycle. As they emerge from the cell as a newly emerged bee, their first job is to do housekeeping duty and to clean out their cell and other cells of any detritus. Their next job is to look after the larvae, which have developed from the eggs that the queen has laid in the cells. They will use some of the pollen and some of the honey to feed the larvae, which grow. Eventually the cell in which the larvae is residing is capped over with wax by the bees. It stays in there for about 15 or 16 days.

So the queen lays an egg in multiple cells.

The queen can lay, it is said, up to 2000 eggs a day. A frame of drawn comb, with all the cells empty will probably comprise 2000 cells, and there are 10 or 11 frames in each box that you can see there.

Every day, during the summer, maybe 2000 or 3000 bees are emerging and a similar number are dying out in the field because of exhaustion.

How long do bees live?

Approximately six weeks in the summer and six months in the winter.

So that's why you need so many bees because they actually have a very shortish lifespan. You need a continuous replenishment of the hive.

That's it.

And the queen, how long does she last?

She can last three or four years, but it's unusual. It's best to have a young queen who is most fecund so she can lay a lot of eggs. The older the queen gets the less productive she is. It's unusual for a queen to be older than three years old because eventually the workers decide that she is no longer as productive as she should be and they replace her with another queen.

How do the bees get a new queen?

If a larva is fed a particular diet with the same foods, but in different proportions and including royal jelly, the larva will turn into a queen.

The virgin queen will hatch from a larger cell than a normal worker. She will fly off to what is called the congregation area where drones, male bees, are congregating. She will get mated by up to 15 or 16 different drones. And only the fittest drones who can fly the fastest can actually catch the queen. Then she comes back to the hive and after a couple of weeks she starts laying eggs. She can decide to lay a fertile egg which becomes a female worker or a non-fertilized egg which becomes a drone. Now, obviously at the beginning of the season, she wants lots of workers. So therefore 90% of what she lays will be female. But eventually the genetics sort of kick in and she'll start laying unfertilized eggs, which become drones. The older she gets, the more likely it is that she will unintentionally, but by virtue of her age, start laying drone eggs, willy nilly. And at that point all the workers as a collective (known as the hive mind) decide that's the queen is no longer ideal so they will replace her.



How does the change of the queen happen?

As I mentioned, bees change the feed for the larva to make it into a queen. This can happen in an emergency if the resident queen unexpectedly dies, maybe if I'm a bit cack-handed manipulating the hive and I accidentally squash her. When they replace her because of her lack of productivity, that is called 'supersedure'.

So you can get emergency queen cells and you can get supersedure queen cells. But maybe once a year, when the colony feels that it needs to reproduce itself you might get up to a dozen swarm cells. When the virgin queens inside are nearly ready to hatch the colony encourages the resident queen to lose weight so that she can exit the hive and lead a swarm of a mix of bees to another location and set up another nest.

Does that happen to your hives?

Yes, I lose half of my colony, including the old queen, but I am left with multiple, hopefully, sealed queen cells from which one will eventually become the queen and be the egg layer. You notice I don't use the term 'rule the nest' because the queen doesn't rule the nest. It is the hive mind that rules the nest. However, by virtue of maybe half a dozen different

pheromones that she gives off from different parts of her body, she influences the behaviour of the hive.

I started off by saying that the bees have different jobs according to their development. We talked about the cleaning, being a housekeeper bee and then moving on to be a nurse bee to feed the larvae. By about the eighth day their wax glands have developed and they can start producing wax in the form of miniature disks on the underside of their body which are then collected by that particular bee and other bees and kneaded into the wax which creates the comb.

The combs are such a distinctive shape.

Made up of hexagonal cells. The bees will fill any empty space in the hive with comb in an amazing way. If I have put too few frames in a box, the bees will hang a 'catenary' from the ceiling. It is a U-shape of comb as they would in a natural cavity in a hollow tree.

When the bees are intending to go to a new location as a swarm they emerge from the hive and they find a nearby convenient resting place where they hang in a ball, a swarm, usually in a tree. The ball may consist of 10 or 15,000 bees, with the queen in the middle. Some of the bees have developed to be scout bees and they fly away from the ball looking for a suitable nest site. About 200 scout bees will fly in every direction looking for somewhere for the new nest. And having found something, they will examine it minutely and come back to the ball of bees and "communicate with their fellow scout bees – "Look, I've found a really nice place, come with me and check it out and see what you think of it." Eventually the scout bees decide on one particular location for the new nest. They excite the ball of bees, which warms up ready to fly and the scout bees lead the swarm to the new nest. And somewhere in the middle of the swarm is the queen. They go into the new cavity and the bees that are able to produce wax, produce a catenary comb hanging from the ceiling. As soon as there's enough of the comb there, the queen will start laying her eggs and the forager bees will bring back the necessary nectar and pollen to feed the larvae and the new cycle starts.

Does a hive weigh a lot?

A wooden frame of drawn comb will probably weigh four ounces, but if it's filled with honey, it can weigh three pounds. There are 10 frames in a box, let us say, so that's 30 pounds of honey.

I'll describe a hive to you. You've got the floor, you've got a brood box, you've got a smaller box on top, which is called a super. On top of the right-hand hive is another super because that particular colony was very productive and I needed to put another box on top to contain all the honey. On top of that, hidden away underneath the roof is a feeder tray, which I can, in an emergency, put sugar syrup in to feed the bees if there is a dearth of forage. But as I was saying earlier on, the bees need to store, and the beekeeper needs to leave, 40 pounds weight of honey in the hive for them to go through the winter.

Towards the end of the summer the queen's rate of laying eggs slows down. The bees that she does produce in October and November, are the bees that are going to have to survive the winter of six months, from October through to March. They're not doing any work, so



Bee swarm

they're not working themselves to death. They're going to cluster into a ball with the queen in the middle, and they manipulate the temperature as appropriate. The natural temperature of a hive is 35, 36 degrees, the same as a human, so we have a lot in common in terms of the temperature we prefer to be at. During the winter, when the weather gets cold, the bees on the outside of the ball are feeling the cold, and they will be replaced by other bees from further in, who come out and take their turn to keep the cluster warm.

That's how the penguins keep warm in the Antarctic over winter.

Exactly like that. During that time, the ball of bees moves around inside the hive. They move to a frame that has honey, and they eat that. Eventually they will exhaust all the honey, by which time you hope that it's springtime and there are flowers about for them to go and collect nectar. If it's a very late spring or you haven't, as a beekeeper, left enough stores for them to eat during the winter, then you end up with a dead colony. I've been beekeeping for over 20 years, and I'm proud to say that in 20 years, with an average of six colonies every year, I've only lost four colonies during the winter or just after the winter.

And that was because of the lack of food?

It might have been disease or something else or maybe the colony wasn't big enough to keep warm, if you like, the ball wasn't big enough to sustain itself.

More about bees, honey, mead and wax in Part 2 next month...

Oxhill Parish Council
Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting
held Tuesday 10th September 2024 at 7.30pm
in The Village Hall

Councillors Present

Cllr Stuart (Chairperson), Cllr Connolly, Cllr Rivers-Fletcher and Cllr Robertson

Clerk to the Council, Mrs C Coles, County Cllr Mills, District Cllr Littlewood and seven villagers

24/65. Apologies for absence

Cllr Storey (personal)

24/66. To receive Declarations of Interest under the Council's Code of Conduct relating to business on the agenda

No interests were declared.

24/67. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 9th July 2024

The minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed as a true and accurate record.

24/68. To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on this agenda

There were no matters arising.

24/69. Public Participation Session

A villager spoke about the defibrillator training which really helped recently when somebody collapsed. Somebody collected the defibrillator and First Responders and an ambulance attended.

A villager was at the meeting to discuss the planning application at Fern Cottage, Main Street. The Parish Council have received notification which came in after the agenda had been issued. There has been no site notification. The Chair advised that plans are on the website now.

24/70. To receive a report from the County and District Councillor

The report from Cllr Mills included:

Prepare for emergencies: Key Contacts, Home to School Transport, Funding for new schools, Local Council's Charter, RSV Vaccination for older people, RSV vaccination in pregnancy, Domestic abuse survivor engagement, Dementia contact in Warwickshire, World Alzheimer's Month 2024, Funding for new schools, All electric buses in Warwickshire, Tree planting funding, Aston Martin honoured with King's Award for Enterprise and WCC's Cabinet approves New Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service Operating Model. The full report will be available to read on the village website www.oxhillcommunity.co.uk.

The report from Cllr Littlewood included: Planning Applications, Welfare and Support, Resettlement & Asylum in SDC, SDC Finances and Resources. The Tysoe AD application will be determined in the next four weeks. If refused it will go to committee and there will be a further delay on a decision. Flooding and sewage problems have been discussed. There have been a series of local incidents. Anyone can report an incident. Cllr Littlewood asked to be copied in to any which are reported. The Fox & Hounds at Great Wolford, Warwickshire was an Asset of Community Value and has been saved.

The pub was taken off the market as a Public House and the owners wanted to turn it into a house. The local community came together and raised £400K. Both Cllr Mills and Cllr Littlewood will help residents if they are entitled to the winter fuel allowance.

24/71. To receive an update on the current situation of sewage on Manor Fields

Two villagers were present to explain the problem in more detail. This is a village problem which has been ongoing for some time. A recent survey has shown that 50% of the sewers are blocked and more pressure is being put on the sewers. Severn Trent (ST) have tried to close the complaint and are oblivious to the fact that people are affected. They know the problem, the pumping station is not big enough to cope and requires an upgrade. There is evidence that all tests were carried out upstream and not downstream. A meeting with senior officials is taking place on 18th September. The Parish Council did write to ST but never received a response. Cllr Connolly asked if it's a planning consideration but Severn Trent are not a statutory consultee. The Chair asked if the Parish Council should be present at the meeting on 18th September but it was felt the less people that went, the better. It was agreed to draft a skeleton letter that people could add to and send with photos and videos.

Action: The villager present to send the correct address to the Chair and a note will be put in the Oxhill News.

24/72. To discuss updating the Parish Plan or producing a Neighbourhood Plan

The Chair had circulated information about Neighbourhood Plans (NP). It will be a lot of work and expense but has more power than a Parish Plan which the village has previously done. It would be part of the Core Strategy and without one the village is vulnerable. A NP does not stop development but helps control it. The current Core Strategy will be replaced in 2031 and will become the Stratford Warwick Local Plan. Tysoe have done a NP but they are a bigger village and Councillors understood why. Plans last three years and then have to be renewed. A villager asked if there is a perception of a threat to the village in the next 5 years? Following the recent Housing Needs Survey and the tour of the village, there is little land to be built on. WCC have a 14.5 year housing supply. There are grants available up to £18K. It was agreed to get more information from other villages about costs and processes.

Action: The Parish Clerk to email Tysoe PC.

24/73. To discuss the idea of the setting up of Parish and Town Council Forums by SDC and responding to the questionnaire

SDC is keen to ensure that communication continues to meet the needs of the district. An idea is to set up a Parish and Town Council Forum to discuss pertinent issues in real time. It was agreed this would be useful to receive updates on planning strategies and policy government changes twice a year.

Action: The Chair to respond to the questionnaire.

24/74. To receive an update on the replacement bridge off Nolands Road

There are a few parties involved in this project. The removal of the old bridge has been organised and the disposal of materials and clearing of the ditch. The purchase price is £2500.00 and installation cost is £1250.00. The Parish Council have asked Cllr Chris Mills for £2250.00 and the quote is currently with WCC Finance for approval.

24/75. To discuss the fly tipping of garden waste around the village

The Parish Council have been made aware of fly tipping of garden waste on Beech Road. There was a similar problem in Green Lane and a note was sent to all residents. It was agreed to follow the same process.

24/76. To receive an update from the District Council's Climate Assembly Event

Cllr Connolly attended the event on 5th September. It was well organised but not publicised enough.

It has been five years since SDC declared an emergency and it was an update to see what they have done. Workshops were held but Cllr Connolly felt they would have been run better with an objective and outcome. There were lots of ideas but also controversial ones.

Action: Councillors to look at the Climate Change Action Plan which is a big part of a NP.

24/77. To discuss the road sign at the Whatcote Road/Green Lane junction

The road sign has been hit and damaged by a farm vehicle.

Action: The Parish Clerk to report with photos to SDC.

24/78. To receive an update on planning

- 24/01875/FUL, Demolition of existing storage building and erection of replacement storage building (use Class B8) at Red Horse Vale Ltd, Windmill Farm. It was agreed to support.

A second application had been received after the agenda had been issued.

24/01841/FUL, Alterations and extensions to existing outbuildings to create annexe living accommodation for family at Fern Cottage, Main Street. The Parish Council is to respond by 26th September. Councillors to look at the paperwork.

24/79. Financial Report

The following payments were approved under statutory powers:

£240.00 to Atwell & Sons Ltd (removal of dangerous tree)

£792.00 to Tysoe Childrens Group Ltd (copying of newsletter)

£552.12 To Parish Clerk (hours)

£138.00 to HMRC

£58.50 To Parish Clerk (mileage)

To discuss the purchase of a new VAS and consider the costs

There is a pole to place a sign on Whatcote Road. Signs are permanent and moveable and all measure speeds in both directions. A sign costs approximately £2.5K.

Action: Cllr Rivers-Fletcher to complete a project form and write to Connexin who own the pole.

To discuss supporting the Village Hall who are applying to the Warwick District Council Rural Capital Improvement Scheme for an improvement project.

Oxhill Village Hall are going to apply for a Warwick District Council Rural & Urban Capital Improvement grant that will pay up to 80% of an improvement project that costs £10K. The plan is to get the car park improved (not full tarmac). It was proposed by Cllr Connolly and seconded by Cllr Rivers Fletcher that £500.00 be given if the bid is successful.

24/80. Councillors Reports

There was nothing to report.

24/81. To receive the following correspondence

- Shipston Home Nursing, Donation thank you letter.
- Shipston Community First Responders, Donation thank you letter.
- Community Choir of Oxhill, Tysoe and Shennington, Donation thank you letter.
- Villager, Maintenance of Public Rights of Way. There are general difficulties when walking the local footpaths. The footpath team will meet and see what work they can do to improve matters.

- Katharine House Hospice, Bereavement Volunteers. On noticeboard.

24/82. To note next meeting date and time
Tuesday 12th November 2024 at 7.30pm

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Ali 07970 922352
oxhillvh@gmail.com

OXHILL VILLAGE HALL
for our community

Seniors' Christmas Lunch

Look out for your personal invitation to join us for turkey and all the trimmings!

Tuesday 10th December
12:30pm



OXHILL VILLAGE HALL

Progressive Dinner on Saturday 5th October



There was a real buzz in the village hall on Saturday evening as we all met up for this year's Progressive dinner – 58 people in total taking part. The hall was decorated with Italian bunting and flags – people were welcomed with a complimentary drink and were given an envelope revealing who were their hosts for starters. After finding their way there and enjoying an hour of wining and dining, the starter

hosts opened an envelope showing where everyone was going for their main course – more meandering around the village! We all met back at the village hall for desserts and drinks. There have been lots of positive comments from people who attended – people were enjoying themselves so much no one wanted to leave at the end! A big thank you to all the hosts who provided an Italian-themed starter or main course. Thanks also to everyone who provided a delicious pudding or helped with setting up and clearing up!



Photos from the Progressive Supper.

100 Club

50 people have signed up for the 100 club draw – the winners of the September draw were Ed Morgan £60, Katy Dowding £30 and Kay Hawtin £10. We all held our breath as the winning numbers were pulled out of the bag by Pippa at the pub on the third Friday evening of the month. If you haven't already signed up, it's not too late to join in. It is £60 annually but charged pro-rata if you join late – email Sally Mannerings at oxhillvh@gmail.com.



Photos of 100 Club draw

Curry Night Friday 22nd November at 7pm

This event is usually very popular – you can book places by emailing oxhillvh@gmail.com or contacting Ali on 07970 922352. There will be a selection of curries – hot and mild, chicken, beef, vegetarian, etc and the bar will be open as usual. Cost is £18 a head. The plaque displaying all the donors to the Village Hall Renovation Fund will be unveiled during the evening.

Senior's Christmas Lunch Tuesday 10th December at 12.30pm

Guests receive a welcome drink, starter, turkey with all the trimmings and dessert. Joanna Griffiths and Kim Fowler have kindly offered to take charge of the main course this year, whilst the committee and Friends will wait on you and provide starters and puddings. Anyone in the village aged 65 and over and their partner of any age is very welcome to come along – we will be sending out invitations but if we have missed you off the list, please let us know. We are hoping to provide a little bit of musical entertainment too!

Beer and Bubbles Friday 20th December at 7pm

A wonderful way to start the Christmas season – a chance to put on your glad rags if you want to but not essential – a bit of sparkle is fine! Join us for drinks and canapés and mingle with fellow villagers. Cost is £15 a head.

Contact Ali: 07970 922352
or oxhillvh@gmail.com

Beer & Bubbles

Friday 20th December 7pm



SHIPSTON FLOWER CLUB

Presents

Holidays, Food and Hot Sun

A demonstration by

Leena Patel

On Tuesday, 12th November, 2024

At Shipston Primary School,

Station Road, CV36 4BT

Doors open 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start

Visitor Entry £6

SEPTEMBER 2024
★ WINNERS ★

1st Prize (£60)
Ed Morgan

2nd prize (£30)
Katy Dowding

3rd Prize (£10)
Kay Hawtin



100 CLUB LOTTERY

It's never too late to enter! £60 per annum with prizes every month. Email Sally at oxhillvh@gmail.com.



CURRY NIGHT!

22 NOVEMBER

7:00PM

Contact Ali on

oxhillvh@gmail.com

OXHILL CHRISTMAS ADVENT WINDOWS

For the last few years, the community has been brought together on dark December nights by the opening of 1 'advent window' each evening. It is a chance to see friends and neighbours at a time of year when we retreat into our homes. It also brightens up the village and gives it a real festive feeling.



We need at least 24 windows to be decorated and 'opened' each evening between the 1st December and Christmas eve (with the exception of the few evenings when other events are organised). To ensure that everyone knows their date in good time to plan it would need to be organised by mid-October so I would need volunteers by mid-October to ensure that we have enough windows.

Some people offer mulled wine or similar and a few nibbles however, this is not compulsory and there is no pressure to do so, it is about the windows (or other decorations) and sharing the festive season. You can double up with a neighbour and share an evening if you would like.

If you google 'advent windows' or look at the Oxhill Community, Sulgrave or Helmdon village web sites you can find a wide range of ideas and ways people have decorated their windows elsewhere. There is no need to be religious or arty and there is no 'theme', the aim is for each window to be a surprise as it is revealed.

If you

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

Please let me know:

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

Please be aware that a list of addresses and dates will be available in the Oxhill News and on the notice board. No names or email addresses will be shared without your permission. I look forward to hearing from you. Please let me know by the 30th October.

Lis Stuart
07538 865 789
Lis.stuart@outlook.com

It's All Happening!

The servery has undergone a major transformation – it's always been a great location for small gatherings and to locate facilities such as a bar for the bigger events, right next to the kitchen, but it's now also a very attractive option for a get-together such as a meeting.

The main hall is also undergoing a major upgrade to the lighting throughout, including the stage to provide even better lighting possibilities for staged events. This is along with an upgrade to the screen for an improved cinematic and presentation experience.

For those that have been following our news and the fund-raising efforts from our events to help fund a stage lift, to provide access to the stage for all, it's now with us! Another great addition to the facilities the hall offers.

We've even spruced up the outside with a lovely paint work refresh!

It looks like the news is already getting out there. The hall is very busy through the remainder of this year, with the diary nicely full of bookings, both public and private. There are so many great public events that people have booked in, but to highlight just one, amongst many, that catches the eye: "Arts in the Cotswolds" is being held over three days in late November – should prove to be fascinating. Check out what else is on by visiting our Events and Diary pages of our website and get ahead of the game if you have an event you'd like to book in from now through next year, through our Contact page.

The hall has also continued with its Jazz events this year. Organised and staffed by unpaid trustees and volunteers, all proceeds go towards helping with the maintenance of the hall (a charity). A big thanks to all that have attended these events and enjoyed the outstanding musicianship of the bands this year. We hope to see you at the next one, which is the ever-popular Tom "Spats" Langham on Friday, 15th November. Tickets are going fast and he sold out last time, so get in quick! For details of this event and others, check out our web-site: www.townsendhall.co.uk.

Jenny Glover
Townsend Hall Chair



OXHILL GARDEN CLUB

The Oxhill Garden Club plant sale on Saturday 28th September was blessed with a lovely sunny morning and a good selection of plants from various contributors. So it was really disappointing that so few villagers turned up., unlike this event in the past. We have no idea why and will probably not have this event next year. Despite the poor attendance more than half the plants were sold and the remaining were donated to Shipston Home Nursing. £81 was raised for the village Hall.

Peter Rivers Fletcher



WHAT'S ON IN & AROUND OXHILL

NOVEMBER

Wed 6th	14:30-14:50	Mobile Library outside Village Hall
Tues 12th	19:00	Shipston Flower Club: Holidays, Food & Hot Sun
Fri 22nd	19:00	Curry Night, Village Hall
Fri 29th	18:00-20:00	Made in Oxhill Arts & Crafts Pop Up Shop
Sat 30th	11:00-16:00	Made in Oxhill Arts & Crafts Pop Up Shop
Every Thursday	12:00	Coffee Morning, Peacock Pub

DECEMBER

Tues 10th	12:30	Seniors' Christmas Lunch, Village Hall
Fri 20th	19:00	Beer & Bubbles, Village Hall



Riddle Answer : A pencil

PC MEETINGS

The date of the next PC Meeting is **Tuesday, 20th November 2024 at 7.30pm**. This meeting will be held in the Village Hall. The minutes and agendas will be posted on the Parish Council part of the Welcome to Oxhill Notice board, not the one by the pub.

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

NOVEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					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

BIN COLLECTION CALENDAR

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

Food waste Recycling

General refuse Garden waste