

# THE OXHILL NEWS

October 2024 No. 599



Hillary Stait's lush garden: "It's lovely to see some Mediterranean in Warwickshire." ~ Hillary

*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
Join Us for an African Adventure	3
Oxhill Village Hall	4
Curry Night	5
The Oxhill Italian Progressive Supper	6
Tysoe C.E. Primary School	7
Church Fundraising Events	8
National Butterfly Emergency	10
Creating Wildflower Areas	11
Cycle Challenge	13
St Lawrence Church for October	14
The Manor Fields in Summer	16
Oxhill Parish Council Meeting Minutes	18
Tysoe Tennis Club	20
Jam Master John's Raspberry Jam Recipe	21
On Going Sewage Leak Oxhill	24
Dog Poop on Back Lane and the Churchyard	25
Pantomime Time is Here Again - Oh No it Isn't	26
Oxhill Christmas Advent Windows	28
Shipston Flower Club	29
Kineton Regent Club Charity Evening	30
Wot2Grow Community Orchard	31

## 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

A savanna landscape with a river. An elephant is standing in the water, and a group of zebras is on the bank. A giraffe is in the foreground, looking towards the water. The scene is lit with warm, golden light, suggesting sunset or sunrise.

# JOIN US FOR AN AFRICAN ADVENTURE

7PM THURSDAY, 24 OCTOBER 2024  
OXHILL VILLAGE HALL

A story about the beauty of nature, trauma, survival and the kindness of strangers.

Raising funds for the Mtendere Mission Hospital, Zambia (and OVH). With your help we hope to buy medical equipment / an ambulance. Tickets £10 each (children free). To book contact: Ali Sayer on 07970 922352 or email [oxhillvh@gmail.com](mailto:oxhillvh@gmail.com)  
Bar open and raffle.



## OXHILL VILLAGE HALL

After a very busy time in August, you'd have thought the Village Hall committee might have been able to put its collective feet up in September. We wish! There might not have been any events, but we've been planning the rest of the year, finalising the 100 Club (have you signed up yet?), continuing to look for fund-raising opportunities, as well as continuing renovation work on the hall.

The next event in our calendar is the **Progressive Supper, on 5th October**. I'm gutted that Steve and I won't be able to come because it's always a wonderful evening and it's bound to be another corker this year. What's a Progressive Supper I hear some of you ask? At its heart it's the chance to chat with some of your neighbours over fabulous food and wine — and do it three times in one evening!

We start with drinks in the hall where we find out to which two Oxhill homes we'll be heading. There's always a buzz as people compare notes and then it's off we all go: for our starter with one group of people, the main course with a second group of people, and then back to the hall for dessert and a thorough catch up.

The sure way to know that it's Progressive Supper evening is from the torchlights, happy voices and sometimes even singing meandering around the Oxhill triangle! Why not join us this year? Or rather, 'perché non unirti a noi quest'anno?' to be true to this year's Italian theme.

Tickets are £20 each except for hosts for whom there is no charge. Singles are very welcome. Get in touch with Ali Sayer on 07970 922352 or [oxhillvh@gmail.com](mailto:oxhillvh@gmail.com) if you'd like to book a space.

### Upcoming Events

*All available to book via Ali.*

#### **Hippo Talk by Roland Cherry, Thursday 24th October, 7:30pm**

Book your space to hear all about Roland's painful encounter with a hippo!

#### **Curry Night! Friday 22nd November, 7pm**

Is there anything quite like a knock-out curry? The Friends of Oxhill Village Hall outdo themselves every year with an array of amazing dishes for this very popular event.

#### **Seniors' Christmas Lunch, Tuesday 10th December, 12:30pm**

Starters, turkey with all the usual accompaniments, and a selection of puddings are all included in this special event for our senior Oxhillians.

## Beer & Bubbles, Friday 20th December, 7pm

A wonderful way to begin the Christmas season, the Beer & Bubbles party is all about glamour and fizz. Come and mingle with old and new friends over canapés and a glass or two of whatever you fancy.

### A final word about the '100 Club'

It's too late to sign up for the September draw, but you can still join the 11 draws from October 2024 through to August 2025. The first prize is £60, second prize £30, and third prize £10; what's more every entry helps to support your village hall. Please email Sally Mannerings at [oxhillvh@gmail.com](mailto:oxhillvh@gmail.com) or speak to any of the committee if you'd like more information or a new entry form.

*Karen MacRae*



# CURRY NIGHT!

## 22 NOVEMBER

### 7:00PM

Contact Ali on 07970 922352 or [oxhillvh@gmail.com](mailto:oxhillvh@gmail.com)

# The Oxhill

ITALIAN

# Progressive Supper

Saturday  
5th October  
7pm

Tickets £20  
(free for hosts)



Contact Ali on 07970 922352 or [oxhillvh@gmail.com](mailto:oxhillvh@gmail.com)



# **Tysoe C.E. Primary School**

**Welcome to our  
Open Mornings/Afternoon  
For Reception 2025**

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September 9:30am  
Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October 1:30pm  
Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October 9:30am**

**Please sign in at the main office.**

**01295 680244**



## QUIZ NIGHT SATURDAY 19TH OCTOBER AT 7 P.M.

Join us at the Old Chapel for an evening of interesting questions and good food – nothing happens in Oxhill without food. The question writer aims to produce a quiz that is enjoyable for all ages of adult with no impossible questions. 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 try to be the Oxhill quiz team matchmaker. Included in the ticket price is a two-course supper (vegetarian and gluten-free options will be available if requested at time of booking). There will also be a donations bars, well stocked with beer, wine and soft drinks. Tickets are £12 per person.



Our Quiz Night is usually fully booked quite quickly so book your places now by email or phone.

Ruth Mercer  
ruthc.mercer@btinternet.com  
07400 615999

## MADE IN OXHILL POP-UP ARTS AND CRAFTS SHOP NOVEMBER 29TH – 30TH

Back for its sixth year, Made in Oxhill will be returning to the Old Chapel in November. If you haven't been before, it's a chance for you to see the creativity of the villagers and to purchase unique Christmas food and gifts produced locally. And then there's cake: what's not to love! Opening on Friday evening last year seemed very popular so we are repeating it this year. On **Friday 29th November**, the Pop-Up Arts and Crafts Shop will be open from **6 p.m. to 8 p.m.** with mince pies and mulled wine available to get you into the festive shopping mood. On **Saturday 30th November**, the shop will be open from **11 a.m. to 4 p.m.** when refreshments of hot drinks and cakes will be available. Entrance free!





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 as I already have bookings for half of them. There will also be a cake stall raising funds for the Church. All donations of cakes and offers of help will be gratefully received.

Please check on the Oxhill Community and the Made in Oxhill Facebook pages for updates.

Ruth Mercer

ruthc.mercer@btinternet.com

07400 615999

# QUIZ NIGHT

THE OLD CHAPEL, OXHILL

SATURDAY 19TH  
OCTOBER 7PM

£12 PER PERSON  
TWO COURSE  
SUPPER INCLUDED  
DONATIONS BAR

TEAMS OF 1-6

TO RESERVE YOUR TEAM'S PLACE,  
CONTACT RUTH MERCER: 07400615999

IN AID OF THE CHURCH OF ST LAWRENCE, OXHILL

# NATIONAL BUTTERFLY EMERGENCY

Some of you may have heard on national radio recently the reports on the state of our nature, in particular insects, with a dramatic loss of bees and butterflies. The recent butterfly count that took place during July and August reported the lowest figures recorded in 14 years, the average count in a garden was only 7 compared with 12 last year. Over the last 48 years we have witnessed a massive drop of 33% in the butterfly population. We have had hardly any butterflies in our garden this year, and we keep a very wildlife attractive garden, very few bees and no hoverflies (one of my favourites).

The lack of insects has a dramatic affect on bird life as well. I'm sure many of you will have noticed the lack of swallows, house martins and swifts; these are all airborne insect feeders. For heaven's sake I've found myself getting so excited this year when I saw a swift. Years ago you would see dozens in all villages and towns diving and swooping with that characteristic scream.



*A moth drinking nectar. Photo by Steve MacRae*

The collapse in our insect population is a barometer of our eco system. There are quite a few reasons for this; the wet spring and extreme weather has obviously played a big part but the other main culprit is an obsession with tidiness in our gardens and farms. The Government is still allowing the use of neonicotinoids which is an insecticide that is banned in Europe, and hedgerows are cut back too severely and too early in the season. Hedges should not be cut until the end of August and ideally left until February giving insects and birds ample time to feed on the berries and fruit. We are in great danger of making these islands of ours hostile for nature, and I understand we are already the worst country in Europe for this.

We can all help by simply leaving more areas of our gardens wild/rough, grow wild flowers, dig ponds, build a dry hedge. Generally in Oxhill we are pretty good at this as can be seen in the churchyard and Back Lane. Jane Smith has written a detailed article on how this has been established and managed. We are also lucky to have the recently created wildlife areas at the Manor thanks to Alastair and Debbie, but we can still do a bit more, so come on Oxhill.

*Grenville*

# CREATING WILDFLOWER AREAS

*by Jane Smith*

I have recently been asked if I can help with creating a wildflower area so I thought I'd put down some of my experiences in working both in the churchyard and on the verges along Beech Road.

The projects here in Oxhill were started around 15 years ago when Grenville asked if anyone was interested in joining a biodiversity group here and one of the ideas was to turn as many of the council mown verges as possible into wildflowers. The highways authority was approached, it was agreed where we could safely do this and a map was drawn up for the council mowers so they knew which areas to leave alone. Grenville then organised a meeting in the village hall so that anyone who objected could raise their concerns. He also approached the PCC of the church and an area at the rear of the church was designated a wildflower area. This has been given the thumbs up by the eco-church movement.

The group – by now named ‘OWLS’ (Oxhill Wild Life Society) – regularly cut and cleared the churchyard area and for several years waited to see what plants came through. It soon became evident that the ground was too fertile for anything except very tough grasses and dominant wild flowers such as docks, thistles, nettles, cow parsley and hogweed. Some knapweed and meadow vetchling struggled through but was soon crowded out. We then started to remove the top couple of inches (sorry – 5 cm!!!) of turf which not only knocked back the grass but also slightly reduced the fertility. This gave the wild flowers a chance to get a hold. The knapweed thrived as did the meadow cranesbill and oxeye daisies and slowly other plants appeared or were introduced – agrimony, red campion, teasels, willow herb, wild carrot, bugle (*Ajuga*) and ladies bedstraw among others. We also sowed yellow rattle which is a parasite of some grasses. Along the verges, removing the turf was more tricky as the bank meant that uncovered soil was easily washed away but slowly the flowers are

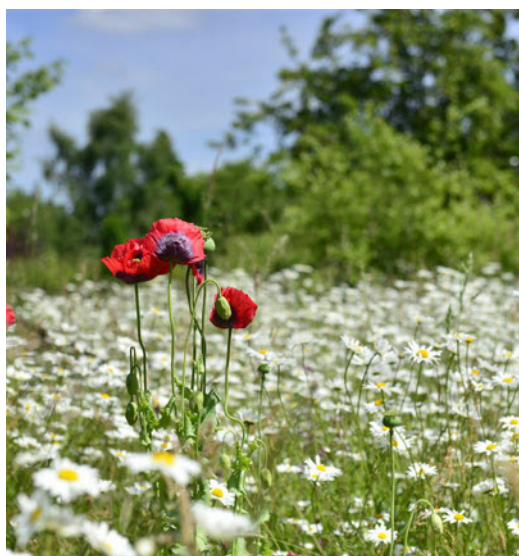


winning the battle! Each year the flowers seem to vary, one year being a mass of the purply-blue meadow cranesbill and then the next a mass of pink with the red campion.

In the Autumn it is essential to cut back and remove the vegetation to avoid the build up of nutrients and this can result in a huge amount of debris though it fairly soon starts to rot down and become more manageable. In residential areas this can be considered unsightly so we endeavour to remove it once it has rotted down somewhat. In the churchyard for years it has been removed to compost heaps at each side of the wild area. However, last year when the area was increased due to the removal of a huge hornbeam, we ran out of steam after cutting down everything. Thus a large pile of cuttings was left until this Spring. When removed, several beetles ran off, a large toad had to be relocated and a small snake slithered away – too quickly to make a definite identification but we presume it was a grass snake – so this debris had created a great habitat for overwintering beasties. The area left beneath was clear enough to seed phacelia, cosmos and borage which the bees have loved.

A couple of years ago, when the tree was first removed, Lis and Adrian provided packets of bee friendly seeds which created a spectacle of colour buzzing with insects so it was decided to continue seeding bee friendly plants in that space – not just native wild flowers as was the case over the rest of the area.

Work on clearing the wild flower areas has started this Autumn but we are trying a slightly different method this year rather than cutting the entire area i.e. mainly pulling out the rough grass and leaving any flowers that are in seed. This is so that we do not damage toads etc that might be lurking in the undergrowth but this might be a challenge too far – time will tell. If anyone fancies coming along for a bit and helping with this, they would be very welcome. Regardless of getting involved, if anyone ever wants to wander through the area, they are more than welcome and we try and keep a narrow path cut through it for this. There's also a bench to use so you can sit and watch the insects, dragon flies and butterflies.



## CYCLE CHALLENGE

I took on the challenge of riding 150 miles in September to raise money for CFC, a charity that supports children with cancer. At the time of writing, with over a week to go, I have cycled 132 miles and raised £500. Many thanks to all of you that have sponsored me – if you missed out and would like to donate a small amount, search for my name on the JustGiving website or I can take cash donations and pay them in for you.

*Ali Sayer*



# ST LAWRENCE CHURCH FOR OCTOBER

October is a time of rich oranges and reds, berries and nuts, of putting the garden to bed and of increasing darkness. In the cyclical dance of the seasons, it is a time of both harvest and letting go, and of rest, before the letting go results in the new beginnings of spring. It may look quiet, but in reality God is at work under the surface. Hopefully we can allow ourselves a time of rest and letting go before the new life of Advent and Christmas begin.

It is the season of letting go.  
Green makes way for red and gold.  
Winds blow with fierce intention  
and what once held strong  
now releases its grip on limb and bough.

It is the season of slowing down,  
of remembering the bud and seed,  
of measured light, dying beams,  
slanting across the changing rhythm of our days.

It is the season of returning,  
falling back to the earth,  
to the life that quivered in summer breezes,  
to the energy that shone sun onto our upturned faces.

Creator of all seasons, enfold us in the wisdom of letting go.  
Infuse us with the breath of slowing down.  
Guide us in the dance of returning  
as we rest and renew in this most holy season. *Sally Howell Johnson 'Autumn'*



## Church services in October and into November:

**Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup>**      9.30 am      Holy Communion      Susan Bowden-Pickstock

**Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup>**      9.30 am      Morning Worship      George Heighton

**Sunday, October 20<sup>th</sup>**      6.30 pm      Evening Worship      Jill Tucker

**Sunday, October 27<sup>th</sup>**      **Bible Sunday**  
9.30 am      Holy Communion      Jill Tucker

**Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>**      **All Saints Day – Remembering our Loved Ones.**

There will be a single, **United Service in Tysoe Church at 3.00 pm**, led by Jill Tucker; a time of remembering those we have loved and lost, whether recently or many years ago. This is a time to pause, pray, and light a candle in their memory if you wish. And afterwards there will be tea.

*Jill Tucker*



*The Forerunners of Christ with Saints and Martyrs by Fra Angelico*



## THE MANOR FIELDS IN SUMMER

In July Ed Bracher posted his beautiful photo (no filter, no editing) of the Manor fields on the Oxhill Facebook page. As autumn approaches here is a lovely reminder of summer. We've reproduced it here over 2 pages to hopefully do justice to Ed's stunning photo.





*“Beautiful evening to walk through the Manor fields; so lucky to have this on our doorsteps!”*

*~ Ed Bracher*



**Oxhill Parish Council**  
**Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting**  
**held Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2024 at 7.30pm**  
**in The Village Hall**

Councillors Present

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

Clerk to the Council, Mrs C Coles, District Cllr Littlewood and two villagers

**24/51. Apologies for absence**

None

**24/52. To receive Declarations of Interest under the Council's Code of Conduct relating to business on the agenda**

No interests were declared.

**24/53. To approve and sign the minutes of the meetings held on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

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

**24/54. To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on this agenda**

There were no matters arising.

**24/55. Public Participation Session**

No matters were raised by members of the public.

**24/56. To receive a report from the County and District Councillor**

The report from Cllr Littlewood included:

Successful work on behalf of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Severn Trent and planning.

The full report will be available to read on the village website [www.oxhillcommunity.co.uk](http://www.oxhillcommunity.co.uk).

Cllr Littlewood had circulated another email about expected changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) under the new Government. To protect settlements there needs to be a Neighbourhood Development Plan, Parish Plan or Local Housing Needs Survey. Oxhill have a Parish Plan dated 2014 but it needs updating. A Housing Needs Survey was carried out last year. Neighbourhood Plans last for five years and are a planning consideration.

*Action: Cllr Stuart to send out more information on Neighbourhood Plans. To be discussed in more detail at the next meeting.*

From the floor, a villager noted that he felt the Planning Department at SDC took no notice of Parish Council's.

**24/57. To receive an update on the removal of the fallen tree on Beech Road**

The tree has been removed and the branches taken away. An invoice has been received. Total cost £240.00 with VAT.

**24/58. To receive feedback on the defibrillator training and agree a donation**

Two training sessions were held in the village hall and 30 people attended. It was noted that training will be arranged every two years. A bleed kit is going to be put in the existing cabinet.

A defibrillator runners scheme was discussed which is an annual cost of £120.00. The next training will be arranged in 2026. It was agreed to give a donation of £250.00 for the training.

**24/59. To receive an update on the grant application for a replacement footpath bridge on the cattle grid road**

Cllr Connolly gave the following update. The closure to submit forms was 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024. A completed application has been submitted and the cost of full installation has been applied for.

**24/60. To discuss the Charity/group donations applications from First Responders, Choir, Shipston Home Nursing and the village hall**

Funding request forms had been completed for each application.

The application from the First Responders is to purchase a new vehicle costing £35K and replacing a vehicle which is ten years old. It was agreed to give a donation of £1K.

The application from the Community Choir of Oxhill, Tysoe and Shenington is an open and inclusive choir. They asked for a donation of £100.00 to be able to set up a website to enable members and new members easy access to the music they sing. It was agreed to give a donation of £100.00.

Shipston Home Nursing – It was agreed to give a donation of £250.00.

The Village Hall are trying to raise funds to pay for defective workmanship. They have not contacted the Parish Council.

Other future expenditure is the purchase of A VAS which would provide data on speeds. The pole is in place already.

*Action: Cllr Rivers-Fletcher to get costs and talk to nearby residents.*

**24/61. To receive an update on planning**

*24/01328/PVN, Install 30kw on a steel framed concrete fibre agricultural shed at Straw Shed, Church Farm, Whatcote Road. No objection by PC.*

**24/62 Financial Report**

*The following payments were approved under statutory powers:*

£18.00 to Parish Clerk (SLCC membership)

£28.80 to TEEC (planning tracker on website) \*

£40.00 to Parish Clerk (ICO payment)

\* The Parish Clerk to ask TEEC if there are statistics showing usage.

*To discuss increasing the savings ring fenced for Chapel Field*

It was agreed to transfer £7K from the main account to the savings account. Proposed by the Chair, seconded by Cllr Roberts and all voted in favour.

*To receive an update on bank signatories*

Cllr Clare Storey is now set up to authorise payments.

**24/63. Councillors Reports**

The missing and damaged 30mph signs have not been attended to.

*Action: The Chair and Parish Clerk to meet and report all the highway signs which need replacing.*

**24/64. To note next meeting date and time**  
10<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at 7.30pm

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.20pm.



## **REVIEW OF THE LADIES SEASON**

*by Colin Wilson*

The summer season has now finished with both ladies teams completing their fixtures in the Evesham Summer Leagues.

The "A" team spent the season playing in the "lofty heights" of Division 2 - with the "B" team playing in Division 6 out of 7.

The "A" team were promoted last year due to a team dropping out of Division 2, meaning our ladies were facing very strong competition from the likes of Alcester, Stratford and Claverdon.

Not surprisingly, this has proved to be a tough season against clubs with a much better pool of players. Despite the team's valiant efforts, we will be one of two teams relegated to Division 3.

In Division 6, the "B" team had a good steady season, and by finishing mid table, we will retain our status in that Division

## **MIXED LEAGUE**

We enter a team in the Banbury mixed tennis league, and last year were promoted to Division 3 - it has been a similar story to the Ladies A team, with a much higher standard of opposition, and with a couple of matches still to complete, it does look like relegation back to Division 4 beckons.

Both teams have introduced some new players over the last two seasons and hope to again next year - with the introduction of "Pickleball" at the village hall, this may inspire others to try their hand on a different court one day!!



## JAM MASTER JOHN'S RASPBERRY JAM RECIPE

*I visited John McKail, AKA Jam Master John, to find out how he makes his raspberry jam. I took photos, jotted notes and have tried to recreate some of his comments here. I hope you enjoy John's jam story as much as I did. ~ Vanessa, ed.*

“Raspberry Jam is very simple to make. I've got jam in the cupboard from 2006 and it is still good. Just keep the jam in the dark...”

“I'm used to making raspberry jam. When I was young in Glasgow, the garden had an allotment to grow our own. During the war you grew your own to beat the rationing...”

“My uncle lived in York. He worked at Terry's Chocolate and his house smelled of chocolate. It was lovely. He used to give chocolate to the kids in the neighbourhood. He had 4 allotments – 1 for vegetables, 1 for fruit, 1 for flowers and 1 for the scrap from the other 3 allotments. When I went to York in summer, I used to help him. He didn't let his wife help him make jam.”

“I, too, did the jam instead of Joyce [*John's wife*]. One time Joyce made raspberry jam and when I came back home, Joyce said, “I don't know what went wrong,” She had added too much sugar and the jam had hardened. It was like glass getting it out, so we didn't.”



## JOHN'S RASPBERRY JAM RECIPE

### 3 lbs raspberries

"I'm using frozen raspberries. It wasn't a good harvest this year but I've collected little amounts over the last couple of weeks and froze them."

### 3 lbs sugar

"Pound for pound of raspberries to sugar, I use white granulated sugar."

Put raspberries in pot. Turn on heat and cook until reasonably soft.

Meanwhile sterilise jars and lids. "Sterilise jars in over at 120 -130°C. ("Until jars are hot enough to burn your fingers.") Sterilise lids (if metal) in boiling water. Do not use metal lids that have rust.

Add sugar to raspberries and stir constantly so it doesn't stick to the pot.

Bring to a fast rolling boil for approximately 10 minutes before testing to see if it is set.

Meanwhile put a couple of saucers in the fridge to cool. The saucer will be used to test if jam is set.

Add a **lump of butter** to the boiling raspberries and sugar. Butter will reduce scum.

Heat until jam reaches 221°C.

"I can tell by the bubbling."



Pull jam off heat.

Put 1 teaspoon of jam on cold saucer. Put back in fridge to cool. Leave in fridge a couple of minutes.

Check if the jam is set by pushing it along the saucer to see if it wrinkles. John tells by tilting the saucer sideways to see if it slides down the saucer.

Pour jam into a gravy boat ("I don't have a ladle.") to then pour into jars.

*Editor: I notice there is less spillage with a gravy boat when pouring into jars, than with a ladle.*

Fill up sterilised jars.

Close jars with lids. Make sure the lids are tight and create a seal. You will hear a pop when the jar cools meaning it is sealed.

*Thank you John!*



# ON GOING SEWAGE LEAK OXHILL

As many people are aware there has been frequent occurrences of sewage leaking to the surface in several locations around the village during wet weather. Severn Trent have been contacted on several occasions but as yet there has been no resolution to the issue. It is hoped that if more people contact Severn Trent there will be greater pressure to resolve this. If you have time, please could you send an email to the following contact expressing your concerns. Below is a template letter that you can use.

This may be emailed to [customercare@severntrent.co.uk](mailto:customercare@severntrent.co.uk)

*Oxhill Parish Council*

**Dear Sirs,**

## **FORMAL COMPLAINT**

I am writing to express my concern about the condition of Oxhill's sewage system. Following numerous complaints from village members, I understand that the sewer has recently been cleansed and inspected by CCTV both before and after the cleaning. It was running at approximately 50% capacity prior to cleaning, but now that it has been cleaned, sewage will arrive at the pumping station even quicker.

The pumping station capacity is inadequate. Even with the sewer running at 50% capacity, it was frequently overloaded, causing eruptions at five locations within the village perimeter.

One eruption is of particular concern as it is located by a resident's back door, due to sewage backing up in the sewer and erupting there. This location is a few feet below Oxhill Main Street, meaning other residents' properties are at risk of sewage eruptions.

If the sewer is intact and there is no water escaping into or leaking from it (which Severn Trent should know from the recent CCTV inspection), the obvious problem is the inadequacy of the Oxhill pumping station, especially with additional sewage from recent housing developments and sewage from Whatcote passing through it.

I trust we will hear that the pumping station will be upgraded this autumn to properly handle the current sewage volume, as it is known to be inadequate' and is causing river pollution, land pollution and putting houses at risk of being inundated with sewage with the associated public health issues.

I also understand that river pollution tests were conducted upstream from where sewage entered the river on Oxhill Manor land. This calls to question the validity of Severn Trent's



tests and reports to the EA, which claimed no pollution. Severn Trent have been provided with both video and photographic evidence of river pollution at Oxhill.

This situation is wholly unacceptable and has been ignored by Severn Trent for too long. CCTV inspection and cleansing only occurred in late August 2024, despite this problem being known for many years.

This requires prompt action. Please register this letter/email as a formal complaint regarding the inadequacy of the pumping station and the unresolved sewage eruption points, which pose a risk to Oxhill residents' properties and a cause of pollution. Please provide me with a complaint reference and keep me informed of when this matter will be rectified. Rectification is the only acceptable outcome for my complaint.

I am aware that this letter/email will be similar to many others from residents, but collectively we are extremely concerned. I trust that multiple complaint references will ensure the weight of our concern is fully understood by Severn Trent.

Yours faithfully,



## **DOG POOP ON BACK LANE AND THE CHURCHYARD**

Dog poop left on our streets and gardens is a common complaint in the village, and once again, there has been a complaint of dog poop on Back Lane and the churchyard.

Please clean up after your dogs and if you have guests please ask them to clean up after their dogs, as we are a small village trying our best to keep it pleasant and foul-free.

Thank you, editor



## 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!

Ian has reserved 100 tickets for the performance of **Dick Whittington** at 7pm on **Saturday 4th January, 2025**. As in previous years, I am planning to organise a coach/coaches to leave the village about 5.30pm and arrive in time for a drink at the theatre before the performance. You would get back to Oxhill around 10.30pm. The cost of the panto tickets is £37.50 for adults and £32.50 for children. The cost of the coach is not yet known (last year the coach was £8.50 a seat & £5 for children).

Please contact Ali Sayer on 07970 922352 or [ali.sayer@btinternet.com](mailto:ali.sayer@btinternet.com) if you would like tickets for the panto and if you would use the coach.





*A small collection of Oxhill Advent window displays from 2021*

## **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

# SHIPSTON FLOWER CLUB

Presents

## Inspired by Music

A demonstration by

### Ruth Mahon



On Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> October, 2024

At Shipston on Stour Primary School,  
Station Road, CV36 4BT

Doors open 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start

Visitor Entry £6



## **Kineton Regent Club Charity Evening.**

**Taking place on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2024, the club are pleased to announce that this year's speaker will be Sir Graham Meldrum CBE. H.M. Chief Inspector of Fire Services (retired).**



**His talk will be on the theme of "Do you want to know a secret" and will be based on "Personal Tales of Personalities"**

**It promises to be a very interesting evening and we hope that you will be intrigued and interested in joining us for an enlightening time, which will not only include the talk, but also drink and canapes.**

**The venue is, Kineton Village Hall, with arrival from 7.00pm, the talk commencing at 7.30pm and drink and canapes served around 8.30pm.**

**The aim this year, is to raise much needed funds for The Fire Fighters Charity and tickets are priced at £20.00 each.**

**Tickets are available through, Flower Thyme in Kineton, other Regent Club members and locally from Tony Wyatt, Harefield, Whatcote Road, Oxhill. Tel: 01295 680335.**



# WOT2GROW COMMUNITY ORCHARD

## SEPTEMBER NEWS

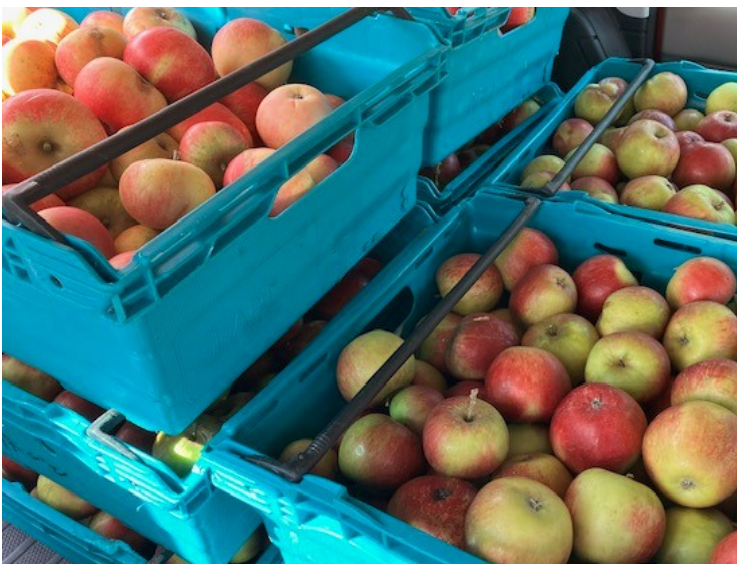
Willing volunteers gathered at the orchard this week to start picking apples for juicing. Twelve crates of apples were picked, then some members kindly took them to Merrylegs in Bidford on Avon for pressing, pasteurising and bottling.

The juice will be available to buy at our annual Apple Day on Saturday 12th October from 1pm to 4pm. There will be lots of fun juicing more apples – and drinking it of course! Refreshments will be served including homemade cakes using orchard ingredients such as apples (of course!), hazelnuts and pears. Members will be available to answer any questions you may have and to tell you more about the benefits of joining, so we hope to see you there.

There will soon be lots more apples and pears to be shared among members and the surplus is donated to care homes in the area. Anyone living in and around the villages of Whatcote, Oxhill or Tysoe are welcome to join and enjoy this wonderful harvest.

The membership fee of £25 until March next year includes fruit for the rest of the year. This is fantastic value for local organic fruit, and while it is not a requirement of membership to volunteer in the orchard more help is always welcomed!

The orchard is next to the allotments on the Shenington Road in Tysoe.



*Allie Aves*

Find out more from the contacts below or message us via the website: [www.wot2grow.co.uk](http://www.wot2grow.co.uk)

Miranda Forrester (680265), Paul Sayer (680451), Sue and Mike Sanderson (688080)

# WHAT'S ON IN & AROUND OXHILL

## OCTOBER

Sat 5th	19:00	Italian Progressive Supper, Village Hall
Tues 8th	19:00	Shipston Flower Club: Inspired by Music
Wed 9th	14:30-14:50	Mobile Library outside Village Hall
Fri 11th	13:30	Tysoe C.E. Primary School, Open Afternoon
Sat 19th	9:30	Tysoe C.E. Primary School, Open Morning
Sat 19th	19:00	Quiz Night, Old Chapel
Thurs 24th	19:00	Join Us for an African Adventure, Village Hall
Thurs 24th	19:00	Kinton Regent Club Charity Evening
Every Thursday	12:00	Coffee Morning, Peacock Pub

## NOVEMBER

Fri 22nd	19:00	Curry Night! Village Hall
Fri 29th	18:00-20:00	Made in Oxhill Pop-Up Arts & Crafts Shop
Sat 30th	11:00-16:00	Made in Oxhill Pop-Up Arts & Crafts Shop

## 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](mailto:oxhillpc@btinternet.com)) at least 10 days prior to the meeting to ensure that it is included on the publicly visible Agenda.



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	31		

## BIN COLLECTION CALENDAR

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

Food waste  Recycling

General refuse  Garden waste