

# THE OXHILL NEWS

February 2025 No. 603



Milo and Pearl

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## CLUB & GROUP CONTACT DETAILS

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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](mailto:oxhill.news.editor@gmail.com)**

## JARS FOR MARMALADE

Marmalade making season is here. If anyone wants any jam jars, I have plenty to give away. Carol Taylor 07875 099723

*Painting by Carol Taylor*





*Otter catching a fish on the Avon river in Stratford Upon Avon.*

We were contacted last month by resident Ray Dagg with an unusual message. He wrote:

### **POND RAIDER**

“In case this has happened elsewhere in the village, something large has visited my pond and taken three very large Koi. they weigh 15lb, 12 lb and 8lb respectively. It's not a heron because it couldn't even pick them up. It took them out of the pond and ate their heads leaving their carcasses on the lawn.

I'm sure Grenville will have an opinion but I think it might been a mink or otter. But otters are pretty rare so I'm drawn towards the former. It's just to warn others this thing is about.”

Grenville gave his opinion convincingly on the next page. However, do you have a different idea? Has your pond been victim to the raider? Do you have any photos of the culprit?

Please let us know at [oxhill.news.editor@gmail.com](mailto:oxhill.news.editor@gmail.com)

*Ed.*



## MYSTERY DEAD FISH

Recently in both Oxhill and Tysoe there have been reports and photos of dead fish left on the bank of ponds, they were all quite large ornamental fish posing the question what is the mystery killer ?

Firstly we have to look at what could take fish like that, there are only three possible culprits a cat, a heron or an otter. As the killings are quite widespread and large I think we can rule out the cat. A heron is definitely capable, but a heron firstly pierces the victim with its long pointed bill and then swallows the fish whole and can take quite large fish but of course they leave no or little evidence. I once surprised a heron whilst walking along a river bank, up it got and flew away, as I reached the spot where it had been there was a dead pike about 30cm long with a perfect round hole in the back of its head. The poor heron had lost his lunch but provided me with super...very bony!

My money is on the otter ( *Lutra Lutra* ) they can travel up to between 2 to 20 miles for food especially in winter and we know they are on the river Stour, one was quite recently run over on the Shipston road and a friend of mine picked up a dead one in Gaydon. We know they visit Manor ponds, I have found their footprints and spraints (poo) along with remains of partially eaten frogs and toads also a family of three has been seen on the large pond behind the church. The otters main diet is fish such as trout, carp and eels although they do eat crustaceans, amphibians, birds eggs and even water birds. All the photos of the dead fish show gnawing marks which is typical of an otter. Being mainly nocturnal you are unlikely to catch sight of them but as recently reported in The Stratford Herald one has been seen in broad daylight on the Avon.....I rest my case, the mystery killer is an otter.

# AUCTION OF PROMISES

**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February**

In aid of

**Oxhill Village Hall and St. Lawrence's Church, Oxhill**

Thank you for offering to donate a Promise to the Auction of Promises. Please complete the form below in block capitals and return as soon as possible. If you are promising on behalf of a business, a Compliments slip with the company's details attached to this form would be helpful.

Name (individual or business)	
Address	
Email address	
Contact telephone number(s)	
Full description of Promise  Please include if applicable: - Dates available - Dates not available - Maximum number	
Additional comments	
Signed	
Date Name and job title (if applicable)	

*Please return this form to Karen MacRae at The Paddocks, Green Lane,  
Ruth Mercer at Struan, Whatcote Road or [ruthc.mercer@btinternet.com](mailto:ruthc.mercer@btinternet.com)*





On **Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February**, the Village Hall Committee and the Friends of Oxhill Church are holding an Auction of Promises to raise funds for both village organisations.

We are now looking to our friends, neighbours and local businesses for Promises to auction. These can be a new item, a used item in excellent condition, or a service. For those who haven't heard of this type of event before, past promises have included two hours of gardening, a bottle of whisky, a trip to the airport, a case of wine, a ride in a classic car, home-baked goodies for an agreed date, a painting, use of a holiday cottage, a meal cooked and served in your own home, and many more.

To start us off, the Peacock has generously promised a free meal for two people. We've also had offers of a new travel case, an evening's babysitting, a tour of Hook Norton Brewery, clay pigeon shooting, dinner with wine for up to six people, photographs of your family, and a Christmas wreath-making lesson for four.

Could you donate a Promise that would be of interest to bidders? Or perhaps you have contact with a company that might make a donation? If you can help with a Promise, please complete the Promise Form over-leaf and return it by **Friday 14th February** to Ruth Mercer, Struan, Whatcote Road, or to Karen MacRae, The Paddocks, Green Lane. Please note that we need one completed form per



FRIENDS OF OXHILL CHURCH

G<sub>2</sub> A<sub>1</sub> M<sub>3</sub> E<sub>1</sub> S<sub>1</sub>  
N<sub>1</sub> I<sub>1</sub> G<sub>2</sub> H<sub>4</sub> T<sub>1</sub>

SATURDAY 8TH FEBRUARY

6:30PM THE OLD CHAPEL

£13 INCLUDES A  
BUFFET SUPPER

DONATIONS BAR

BOOKING ESSENTIAL, CONTACT  
RUTH MERCER 07400 615999

SCRABBLE

Rummikub

Cluedo

MONOPOLY

Articulate!



Promise. If you need another form, they can be found in the Peacock and the village noticeboard.

An Auction of Promises catalogue of lots will be delivered to every house in Oxhill in the week leading up to the event. Each catalogue will be numbered and there will be a draw on the night for one lucky person to win a bottle of Prosecco just for showing up with their catalogue — so don't forget to bring it with you!

To be a successful evening, we need plenty of bidders so please do try to come. We have an entertaining auctioneer and a bar plus the possibility of that free bottle of Prosecco: what more do you need for a fun Saturday evening?! If you're unable to attend the event but wish to bid for a lot, you will be able to place sealed bids or ask someone to bid on your behalf. Please contact Ruth if you would like more information and keep those Promises coming in!

The event will be held in Oxhill Village Hall and doors will open at 7:00pm with the auction starting at 7:30pm. Entrance will be £2 per person and the bar will be open throughout.

Derek Harbour

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

## **FRIENDS OF OXHILL CHURCH UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **GAMES NIGHT**

**SATURDAY 8TH FEBRUARY**

**6.30PM**

It's a New Year and a new name for what was formerly known as the Church Fundraising Committee. We are continuing the new theme by bringing a new event to The Old Chapel, although maybe there were Games Nights happening when it was a Methodist Chapel. Turn off your screens and come to the Old Chapel at 6.30pm where there will be a large selection of board games and packs of cards available for you to play, or bring your own games. Come with a group to play or come by yourself and we'll find you a group to join. Lis and Adrian will be on hand to teach anyone who wants to learn how to play cribbage. There will be a delicious two course buffet for you to enjoy between rounds of Scrabble, Cluedo, Rummikub, Articulate and vintage Trivial Pursuit etc, plus a donations bar to oil the little grey cells. Tickets cost £13 to include supper. Please book in advance, as long in advance as possible!

Ruth Mercer

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

IN AID OF THE CHURCH OF ST. LAWRENCE

**ST DAVID'S DAY**  
**SATURDAY**  
**MARCH 1ST**  
**7PM**  
**THE OLD CHAPEL**  
**SUPPER**

**£15 ADULT**  
**£7 CHILD**  
**£40 FAMILY**  
(2 ADULTS + OWN CHILDREN)

**ASSORTED**  
**COTTAGE PIES**  
**FOLLOWED BY**  
**SWEET PANCAKES**  
**WITH A DONATIONS BAR**

**BOOK WITH RUTH MERCER, PLEASE CONTACT 07400615999**

## **ST. DAVID'S DAY PANCAKE SUPPER**

**SATURDAY 1ST MARCH**

**7 PM**

More changes to the calendar as we move our customary Pancake Supper to a Saturday. We are hoping that this is more convenient than a school night. We are also changing the menu to be slightly less pancake-centric. I'm sure that this will disappoint some, but we are reverting to the Oxhill Pancake Supper menu from last century when cottage pies of many varieties were served, followed by sweet pancakes. Because of the date, expect the odd leek to feature in the pies. There will be vegetarian and gluten free options (it's helpful if you let me know in advance), plus plenty of sweet pancakes with a choice of toppings, all for the astoundingly cheap price of £15 per adult, £7 per child under 14. This year, we are offering an upgrade to Crepes Suzette for dessert at an additional cost of £1. (It covers the cost of the brandy!)

Please book your place as soon as possible: it is a popular event that sells out quickly.

Ruth Mercer

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

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**OXHILL'S BIG WEEKEND**

**JUNE 14TH AND 15TH**

We are in the very early stages of planning but would welcome suggestions, help, and offers to open gardens. Please contact me if you want to help or have ideas of what we can do to improve on last time.

## **QUIZ NIGHT**

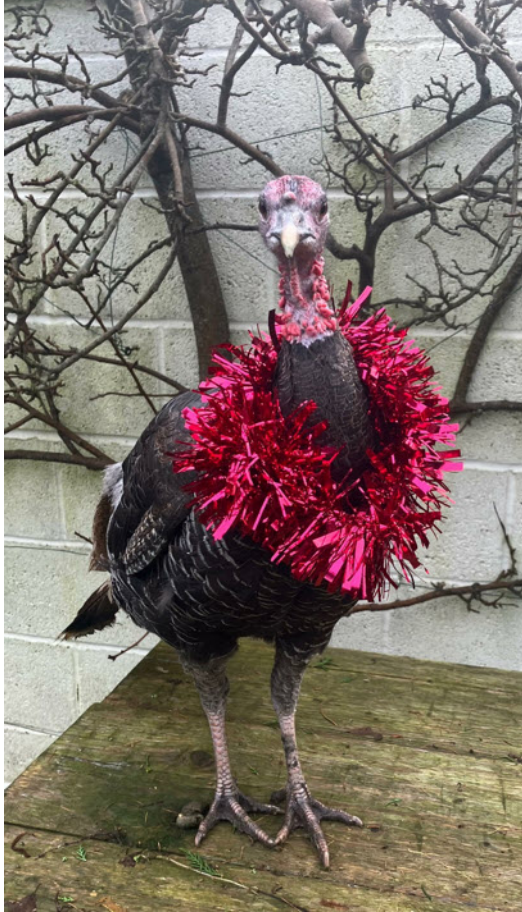
**SATURDAY 25TH OCTOBER**

## **BIG CHURCH CLEAN**

A BIG THANK YOU To all who came on one of the coldest mornings, on Saturday 11th, to complete the Big Church Clean that we started in December. In spite of no heating they persevered to give our lovely church a really good clean so apart from those on our monthly cleaning Rota, we are now set up until next time in December 2025. Thank you all most sincerely.

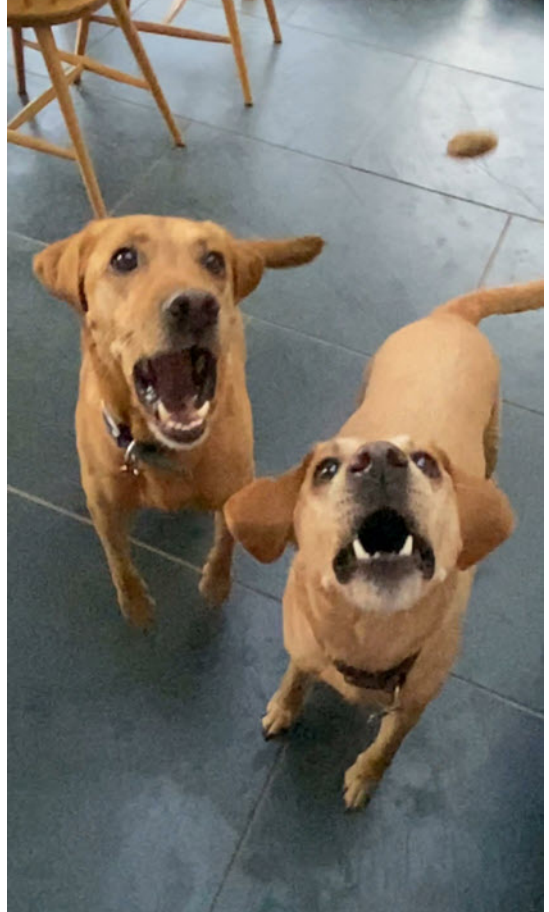
*Carol Fox*

# FUNNY PET PICTURES



Pearl, our pet turkey, is pictured celebrating the festive season and the fact that she's a turkey for life and not just Christmas.

~ Jo Sweby



Crumble and her sister Tosca.

~ Jasmine Fawcus



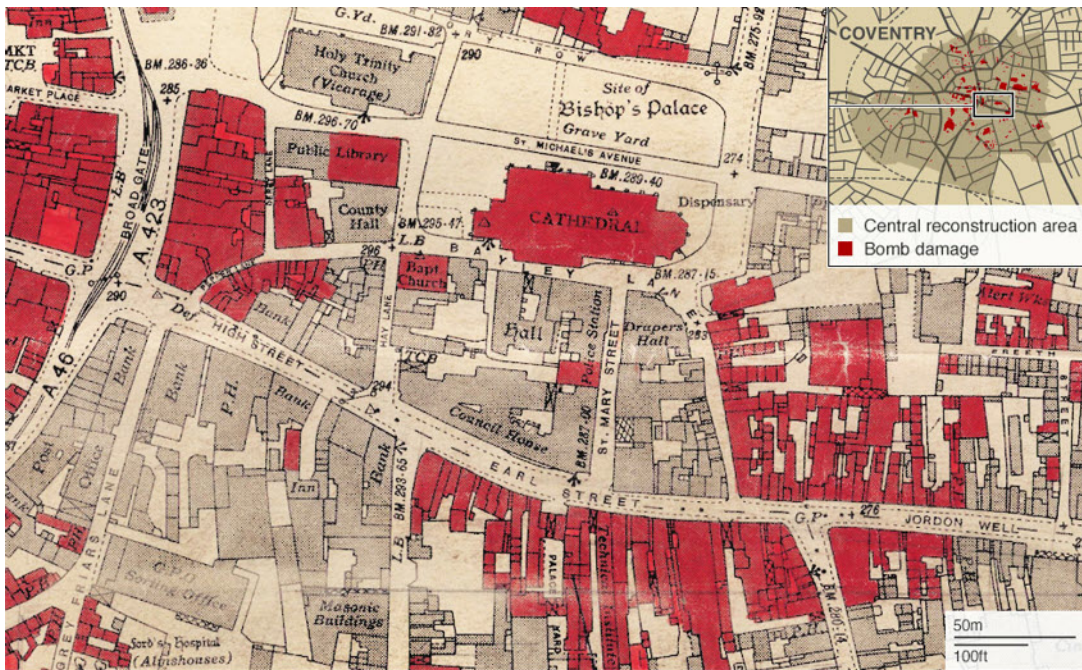
Dash, a Cria (*baby alpaca*) using (*suckling*) a towel as a comfort blanket.

~ *Lis Stuart*

If you have any fun photos of your wonderful animals, we would love to share them in the Oxhill News. Please send them to [oxhill.news.editor@gmail.com](mailto:oxhill.news.editor@gmail.com)

Thank you Jo, Jasmine and Lis for sending us this month's great photos.

*Thank you, ed.*



*Central Coventry after the blitz. Red denotes bomb damage.*

*Oxhillian Diane Harper lived in Coventry during the Coventry Blitz of 1940. She was just seven years old. Diane, now in her 90s and living in a nursing home in Banbury, told me her father had built a log bunker in the garden to protect the family.*

*In this interview I learn about the bunker and Diane's other memories of the Coventry Blitz. The interview has been edited for space.*

*Thank you Diane. ~ Vanessa, ed.*

## **SHELTERING FROM THE COVENTRY BLITZ OF NOVEMBER 1940**

Dad was a Canadian [living in Coventry]. He decided that the government protection for civilians was inadequate. He was experienced in building with logs in Canada, having been born there, and lived there out in the wilds. He thought, right, I'll use logs. So he dug down into the orchard about 200 yards from house. I think the shelter was about six or seven feet down. All log-lined including the roof.

*So your father dug down six foot and lined the shelter with logs?*

Bear in mind, if it finished at six foot, it must have been dug quite a bit lower.

*How did you enter the bunker? Was there a hatch?*

It was open. You walked down three feet, then turned left at a right angle and then walked another three feet, or approximately. It might not have been that much. Bear in mind, I was only seven. Then we did another turn, and at each turn, there was a curtain we had to go through, just a lightweight one. For the blast.

*I see, for the debris?*

Yes.

*Was the roof above the level of the ground?*

No, below the level of the ground. I don't know when Dad dug it, or whether he had somebody to dig it with a digger. If Dad had one of his men, or somebody digging a hole like that, I'd have been kept out of the way.

*And how big was it?*

He made double bunks. I think the bunks were large enough that two kids could sleep in one, and two adults could sleep in the other. Dad also put in an air pipe, the ordinary sort of sewer pipe, and he led the electricity line in through it as well. So most things were sorted.

If there was a warning, I had my jobs to do, and my mother had her jobs to do.

My job first was to take big bags of straw, and I mean big bags, stuffed with straw to use as mattresses. They were warm, and it didn't matter if they fell on the floor or anything like that. I could carry those. I couldn't have carried a bed mattress.

That was my first job, then I had to carry tins of candles, tins of food and a bucket of water.

*You carried a bucket of water? You were seven years old. Water is heavy.*

Yes. It was heavy. I didn't get it all there sometimes. I'd slip on the grass or something like that, but we had water in there, let's put it that way.

Mother opened all the windows in the house, every single one. She made certain the fire was out, and the night burner was stoked down so that it was just a light. And then Mum would make sandwiches or something like that.

*Were the windows opened so that the blast wouldn't blow them out?*



*Diane Harper (left) enjoying her 80th birthday party at the Old Chapel in 2013.*



*No. 303 Squadron: The Polish pilots in the Battle of Britain*

Yes. Opened; the blast went straight through. This was Dad. That was his brain thinking. He had the doors open and the windows open, so there was no opposition to the blast. My father was a senior ARP warden.

*ARP?*

Air Raid Protection. He had information that other people didn't have. Germans weren't quite as clever as they thought they were.

On the night of that first blitz, there was a Polish squadron who escaped from Poland with their fighter planes. Their planes were in Baginton, which was part of Coventry. They were not allowed to go up because they couldn't defend Coventry. Otherwise, the Germans would have known that the Poles knew and we knew too much about what Germany was up to. So they were kept down out of it. I can imagine they were as mad as hell. They wanted to be up there to sort the Germans out.

Before the Blitz my father had come in at ten to seven that night. He'd been at work all day. He came in looking a bit tired, even then, and he said to Mum, "Get into the shelter today. It's going to be a long one."

*So he knew it was coming?*

He didn't say any more. Mum, I, the dog and the cat went into the shelter. It was a 12-hour, non-stop air raid and it was over about seven o'clock in the morning.

When Dad came in, I looked at him and said, "Dad, you've got all white all over you. What's the matter?"





*Bomb damage in the centre of Coventry*

“Oh, it's a little bit of dust. Ruth [Diane's mother], we've got no water, no electricity and no gas in Coventry. That's all gone. I'll be back.”

That was Dad. Mum knew what she got to do. We walked down to the house. The house was basically okay. Mum went round shutting the windows saying, “All this damn dust. Damn dust everywhere.”

But on the lawn were three cows and a grand piano. Now, we didn't keep a grand piano on the lawn. We didn't normally have cows on the lawn. So Mum looked at me and said, “Where's that bucket?” There was a cowry farm not that far away and she said, “You take those back to the farm.” I don't think she knew what to do really, but I had the cows and the bucket.

The cows followed me, out of the house, down our lane, turn left, down the hill and up the other side, across the golf course and the little cowry farm was there on the other side. I took his cows there, all three of them.

When I got there, the farmer came out. “Oh, you wonderful girl. Oh, my beloved cows.” He had about six cows. In those days, they didn't have big cows. Before I turned to go back, he gave me a big milk jug of fresh milk.

Mum said, “Did you give him any money?”

I said, “No, I hadn't got any. He didn't want any. He said he got his cows.”

The next job for me was go around to the neighbours with as many small pots as mother could find, with that fresh milk. That was what we did. It was what we expected to do. Not so now perhaps, but that's what it was.

Anyway, Dad came back probably about dinner time and said “Right, I fixed your accommodation out of here.” One of my father's foremen in the factory lived out of Coventry and he got in after the blitz to see what was needed. And dad said, “Right, we need accommodation.”

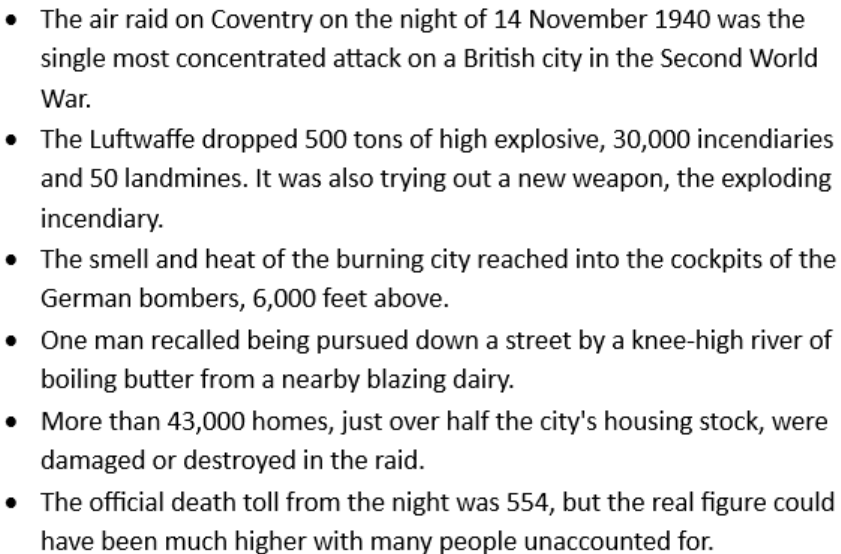
“Oh,” he said, “My wife will put you up.”

Poor wife, no children and not used to children when half a dozen kids arrived. She was a very nice lady with quite a big beautiful house. Anyway, we all snuggled in, three or four in a bed, tops and bottoms and sheets were torn. Mum kept saying, “Don't worry Mrs Bendall, it'll be all right, I'll bring you some sheets.” I think it was a case of a big house and no money.

We were there for three or four days and then we went back home. They got the water in, they got the electricity going, they got the gas going, now come back and clear it up.

Now Coventry just got on with it, did a shake and said, damn, right, get on with it. But the next big blitz we had in April, that's just over six months, mother was shaking all the time. I said, “Why are you shaking?” “Because I know what's happening.” First one, we didn't understand enough of what was happening.

*I know you were young, but do you remember anything about the blitz?*

- 
- The air raid on Coventry on the night of 14 November 1940 was the single most concentrated attack on a British city in the Second World War.
  - The Luftwaffe dropped 500 tons of high explosive, 30,000 incendiaries and 50 landmines. It was also trying out a new weapon, the exploding incendiary.
  - The smell and heat of the burning city reached into the cockpits of the German bombers, 6,000 feet above.
  - One man recalled being pursued down a street by a knee-high river of boiling butter from a nearby blazing dairy.
  - More than 43,000 homes, just over half the city's housing stock, were damaged or destroyed in the raid.
  - The official death toll from the night was 554, but the real figure could have been much higher with many people unaccounted for.



Yes, it was very, very noisy. Very noisy.

*But the log bunker kept you well protected? What about other bunkers? I heard about metal bunkers, did other people have them?*

Nobody in our area seemed to have one.

*So they stayed in their houses?*

Yes. And the only one that was killed was my friend. She lived up the hill. They had an old farmhouse. They had it lined and reinforced with steel, but they got a direct hit.

*Your mother was shaking during the second blitz because she saw the results of the first. I think Coventry was levelled. I know the cathedral was bombed, but I don't know when that was.*

Now, that's what I'm not 100% clear on myself. Coventry Cathedral, St Michael's. In the 15th, 16th century Coventry had these two great big churches. St Michael's, which became a cathedral in 1923 and its twin, Holy Trinity. So why St Michael's was chosen for the cathedral in 1923 and not Holy Trinity? I don't know.

When they came round for money after the blitz, my father opened the door and a man said, "I know you've had a hard time, but do you think we could spare a little bit more for a new cathedral?"

My father said, "I can't spare a penny for a new cathedral. You've got Holy Trinity there. What's wrong with that? If you want a hospital, yes, that's something for the people and what Christ would have wanted, not another bit of glorification of the church." So they went away.

I remember Dad was absolutely hopping. He wasn't normally a hopping sort of man, he was very calm, but that had him hopping. Why did we have to have these beautiful things and then fight like cat and dog? Doesn't make sense.

*The second blitz came the following April?*

Yes, but Coventry still worked. I don't think the amount of effort put in by the Germans actually had a major effect. One or two things did affect it. Where my father was working, he worked with Morris from Oxford.

*Morris Minor?*

Morris Oxford. It's all part of Mr. Morris. Lord Nuffield as he became. He wasn't Lord Nuffield in those days, he was Mr. Morris. His garage was down in Oxford, I think is still there, the original one, but he moved the majority of his engineering side up to Coventry. Germans decided it shouldn't be there and they dropped some form of mine right in the middle of the Morris tool rooms, as it was called.

We sent in some young naval men who were a mine disposal squad. A young man was doing his first disposal and he wasn't quite successful enough. The mine went off. Dad came home, and it's the first and only time I ever saw Dad really upset. He came and said, "That lad gave his life for those scallywags!"

I mean, you could go through so much, and then something just triggers you. And that triggered him. And he never actually felt or expressed any hatred of the Germans. I never heard him express that. He said, they're a clever race. They're a very clever race, but they have bad leaders. Well, that can apply anywhere.



*A mass grave was dug for the Coventry Blitz victims.*

**STRATFORD on AVON DC LICENSING AUTHORITY**  
**LICENSING ACT 2003**  
**Public Notice**

Oxhill Village Hall Committee is applying for the variation of a Premises Licence for Oxhill Village Hall, Main Street, Oxhill CV35 0QU.

If granted the application will allow the following licensable activities to take place: sale of alcohol on the premises.

The intention to make any *variation* to the premises licence is to: apply for an annual licence for the sale of alcohol at events run by the Oxhill Village Hall.

Any person wishing to make representations in relation to this application may do so by writing to:

Licensing Authority Stratford on Avon DC,  
Elizabeth House, Church St, Stratford on Avon CV367 6HX  
Tel:01789 260211  
Fax:01789 260808  
Email:Licensing@Stratford-dc.gov.uk

Representations may be made for 28 consecutive days from the date of this notice. A copy of the application for the grant of the above licence is kept by Licensing Authority at the above address. The application can be viewed by appointment. It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction for making a false statement is a Level 5 fine on the standard scale.

18 January 2025



*Simeon's Song of Praise by Aert de Gelder*

## **NEWS FROM ST LAWRENCE CHURCH**

February 2nd is Candlemas, a day that marks the time when Jesus as a baby was taken to the Temple by his parents, and recognised by Simeon and Anna as the Messiah, the one for whom the world had been waiting. It was then that Simeon spoke the words that we have been using for centuries, known as the Nunc Dimittis:

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace,  
for mine eyes have seen thy salvation;  
which thou hast prepared before the face of all people  
to be a light to lighten the Gentiles,  
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Hence the significance of the candles and the light they give at Candlemas. It marks the end of the season of Christmas, with God's promise of hope, peace and light ringing in our ears – the light that can never be put out.



## CHURCH SERVICES IN FEBRUARY

Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> Candlemas

9.30 am Holy Communion Sue Bowden-Pickstock

Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday before Lent

9.30 am Holy Communion Jill Tucker

Sunday, February 16<sup>th</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday before Lent

9.30 am Morning Worship Jennie Rake

Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Lent

6.30 pm Evening Worship Jill Tucker

Look out as well for events coming up in The Old Chapel:

- Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, Games evening
- Saturday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, Pancake Supper, which also marks St. David's Day!

*Blessings, Jill*



# EVENTS IN 2025

JANUARY	25	Burns' Night
FEBUARY	6	'From XJ6 to F1' Peter Taylor
	22	Auction of Promises
MARCH	6	'Have plane - will travel' Colin Hales
	14	St Patrick's Day Supper
APRIL	12	Quiz
	24	'Sailing the Roaring Forties' Belinda Marklew
MAY	17	Paella Night
JUNE	21	Summer Soireé
JULY	12	Family Barbecue
SEPTEMBER	13	Progressive Supper
OCTOBER	11	Race Night
NOVEMBER	22	Curry Night
DECEMBER	9	Seniors' Christmas Lunch
	19	Beer & Bubbles

Email [oxhillvh@gmail.com](mailto:oxhillvh@gmail.com)  
to reserve your ticket





# OXHILL VILLAGE HALL

Happy New Year from everyone at Oxhill Village Hall; we wish you and yours all the best for health, wealth, and happiness in 2025.

As with life in general, things also change at the Hall so I've attached an updated events programme. The major changes are that our St Patrick's Day Supper has moved to Friday 14th to avoid a clash with the Six Nations and that we've joined forces with the Friends of Oxhill Church to put together a bigger and better Auction of Promises to benefit both church and hall — more on that elsewhere.

In the meantime, I'd like to tell you about three talks we have lined up for you.

The first of these will be by Peter Taylor on 6th February. As many of you might know, Peter spent more than 50 years in the motor industry helping to test and develop some iconic cars along the way including the XJ6 and McLaren F1 car. An extraordinary career with some extraordinary inside stories and highlights, it's sure to be a fascinating evening. We might also persuade the man who still holds the MIRA track record to share some driving tips!

The second talk of the year will be by Colin Hale on 6th March. When I first heard that the talk would be about building a plane, I assumed I wouldn't be that interested. I got that wrong! Not only did Colin build his own plane, he decided to fly it around the world, nearly getting there before things went a wee bit awry. I say, 'a wee bit,' but crikey — you've got to hear it first hand to believe it!

The third talk of the year will be by Belinda Marklew on 24th April. Belinda will tell us all about her adventure on the Norwich Union, a yacht crewed by amateur sailors who undertook the hair-raising BT Global Challenge, also known as 'The World's Toughest Yacht Race.' It's acknowledged as the hardest race because it goes around the world the wrong way! (No, I didn't know there was a 'wrong way' either!)

If you would like to book seats for the talks, please email [oxhillvh@gmail.com](mailto:oxhillvh@gmail.com) or contact Sarah Bracher on 07758 280273 for Peter's talk and Ali Sayer on 07970 922352 for Colin and Belinda's talks. Tickets are £8 per person and the doors and bar open at 7pm.

*Karen MacRae*



**SAINT  
PATRICK'S  
DAY**

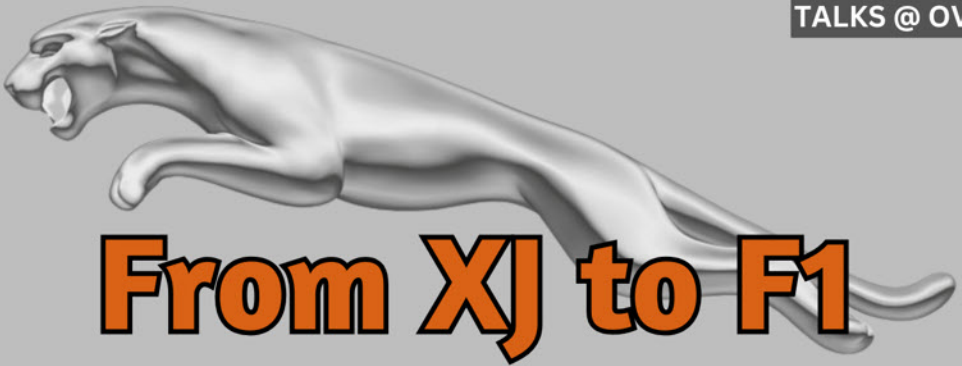
**THREE COURSE**

**SUPPER**  
AT THE VILLAGE HALL

**£20**      **7PM FRIDAY**  
**14TH MARCH**



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



# From XJ to F1

Peter Taylor spent over 50 years in the motor industry and was closely involved in the test and development of a wide range of cars from the Jaguar XJ6 to the McLaren F1 car. His talk will reveal inside stories from his remarkable career including how he set the circuit record at the Motor Industry Research Association facility in Central England - a record he holds to this day!



7pm Thursday 6th February

*Tickets £8 from Sarah Bracher at [oxhilluh@gmail.com](mailto:oxhilluh@gmail.com)*



# HAVE PLANE, WILL TRAVEL

## A TALK BY COLIN HALES

7pm Thursday 6th March



The aircraft in question is homebuilt, designed and built in garages and sheds around the country, and the journey is one of extremes: a journey around the world taking the aircraft and its pilot, our speaker Colin Hales, to places no plane like this has ever been to before. What is so special about this aircraft? Well, its size for one thing – so small it would fit inside many family homes. And the journey? How about travelling further than any similar-sized aircraft has travelled before, breaking down international boundaries that have stood since cold war days, and crash landing in Japan!

**Tickets £8**

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



JOIN US FOR

# DINNER & DANCING

*at Primrose Hill Farm*

## 22 March 2025

COCKTAIL ON ARRIVAL - THREE-COURSE DINNER  
DJ ANDY SAUNDERS - AUCTION & RAFFLE

7PM FOR DINNER AT 8PM

PRIMROSE HILL FARM, ARLESCOTE, OX17 1DQ

TABLE OF 10: £800 - TABLE OF 12: £960

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR TO BUY TICKETS:  
[WWW.SHIPSTONHOMENURSING.CO.UK](http://WWW.SHIPSTONHOMENURSING.CO.UK)



Registered Charity No 1162586

## KNIT AND NATTER

Oxhill Knit and Natter has resumed after a Christmas break. It's held on the first and third Thursday of the month; sometimes in Oxhill Village Hall sometimes in someone's home. Jane Smith is our organiser. 07530629114 for details or look out for dates and venues in good old Oxhill News.

*Carol Taylor*



# RUBBISH BIN IN LEYS FIELD HAS BEEN REMOVED

The Leys Field residents have decided to remove the bin in the children's play area.

The bin was not meant for poo bags to be deposited, as the bin was not being collected and emptied by the council. It was left up to the residents of Leys Field to empty the bin. Leys Field resident James Essex wrote:



“I have just undertaken the unenviable task of emptying a good few months worth of waste from the bin as the council do not collect from this location. It was not a pleasant task and not something that should be easily accessible to young children in a play area!”



## The Community Choir of Oxhill, Tysoe & Shenington

Thinking of taking up a new hobby in 2025?

Please come and join the CCOTS Choir.

Our new term starts on Wednesday January 8th and we will be learning some new songs.

We rehearse regularly on Wednesdays from 7.45pm until 9.15pm at Oxhill Village Hall, term time only.

Everyone welcome

No auditions. No need to sight read. No experience necessary  
We sing a range of music from musicals, popular classics,  
light classical to spiritual.

[www.ccots.org.uk](http://www.ccots.org.uk)

# MATH QUIZ

Answer on back page

$$\begin{aligned}a^2 + b^2 &= 29 \\ ab &= 10 \\ (a+b)^2 &= ?\end{aligned}$$

## SHIPSTON FLOWER CLUB

presents

### *Rhythm 'n' Roots*

A demonstration by

**Elaine Hale**

On

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February, 2025

7.00 pm for 7.30 pm

At

Shipston on Stour Primary School,

Station Road, CV36 4BT

Visitor Entry £6



# WHAT'S ON IN & AROUND OXHILL

## FEBRUARY

Wed 5th	14:30-14:50	Mobile Library outside Village Hall
Thurs 6th	19:00	'From XJ6 to F1' talk by Peter Taylor, Village Hall
Sat 8th	18:30	Games Night, The Old Chapel
Tues 11th	19:00	Rhythm 'n' Roots, Shipston Flower Club
Sat 22nd		Auction of Promises
Every Thursday	12:00	Coffee Morning, Peacock Pub

## MARCH

Sat 1st	19:00	St David's Day Supper, The Old Chapel
Thurs 6th	19:00	'Have Plane Will Travel' by Colin Hales, Village Hall
Fri 14th	19:00	St. Patrick's Day Supper, Village Hall
Sat 22nd	19:00	Dinner & Dancing Primrose Hill Farm

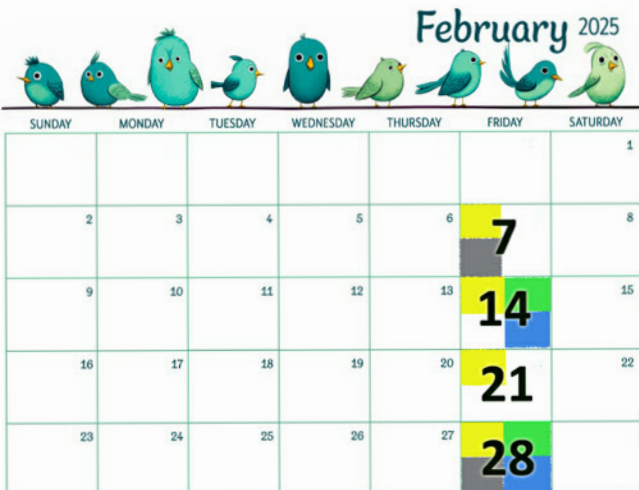
## PC MEETINGS

The date of the next PC Meeting is **Tuesday, 11th March 2025 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.

# MATH QUIZ

Answer = 49



## BIN COLLECTION CALENDAR

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

Food waste  Recycling

General refuse  Garden waste