

THE OXHILL NEWS

April 2026 No. 617



Games Night at the Old Chapel organised by the Friends of Oxhill Church

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A sign that Spring has sprung. Luckily the car is not going anywhere for a while!

~ Lis Stuart

Thank you! ❤️

Thank you to everyone for the support while Milo has been in hospital. We are very lucky to live in such a friendly and kind community. Over the summer, when he has recovered from the operation, Milo and his teacher Alice are planning walks to raise funds for Great Ormond Street Hospital and the British Heart Foundation.

We hope that you'll join us and help us raise lots of money for these two incredible charities! More details to follow.

Thank you again, Jo, Anne, Milo & Felix.

HANGING BASKETS AT OXHILL VILLAGE HALL

A number of people have asked me about the 'Smart Brackets' that we use at Oxhill Village Hall to hang our Hanging Baskets from, how they work and whether we would recommend them. The 'Smart Brackets' work by automatically watering the hanging baskets without the need for any electronics or external inputs. They use a mechanism invented by a local start-up in the village called Autohydrate Ltd and a Patent has been applied for. Ours were donated and fitted by Autohydrate and having seen a few examples around the village, we knew that they worked and therefore we were happy to buy the Hanging Baskets themselves. We used them for most of the summer and they worked very well without any watering or other intervention from the volunteers that make up the Committee that is responsible for the Hall.

One of the attractions for us was the automated operation that gave us colour without them having to be looked after by one of the volunteers as there is enough to do to keep the Hall going without the need for another call on our time. The baskets, along with the lovely planters, made by another volunteer, were a constant source of colour for villagers and visitors alike. We plan to buy more baskets for the coming summer as we were so pleased by the performance of the brackets and the enhanced appearance of our Hall and would recommend the Autohydrate 'Smart Brackets' to others. They work particularly well if you take a holiday in the summer and don't want to lose the plants in your Hanging Baskets due to lack of water.

Sue Philpott



ST LAWRENCE CHURCH FOR APRIL

April begins with Holy Week – the last, dark days of Jesus’ journey to the cross; a time when he is betrayed and abandoned and led to his death, a time which we honour and reflect upon on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. And all because He loved us enough to lay down his life for our sakes.

But then, on Easter morning, His tomb was found empty: He had risen from the dead – there was life, new life, and hope, and a victory over the greatest fear of our lives. The world has changed: no longer are we separated from God. No wonder Christians rejoice on Easter morning. Some do so at first light; for the rest of us there are services at more manageable hours!



This is the Good News –
The grave is empty,
Christ is risen.

This is the Good News –
The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness can never put it out.

This is the Good News –
Once we were no people,
now we are God’s people.
HALLELUJAH! *From Eggs and Ashes.*

Services in St Lawrence Church and elsewhere in April: Holy Week and Easter and beyond.

Monday, March 30th Holy Week begins

9.00 pm Compline in Oxhill Church George Heighton

Thursday, April 2nd Maundy Thursday

7.30 pm Maundy Thursday Service in Tysoe Church George Heighton

Friday, April 3rd Good Friday

7.30 am Tenebrae in Tysoe Church George Heighton/Jill Tucker

Sunday, April 5th Easter Day

9.30 am Easter Day Holy Communion in Oxhill George Heighton

Sunday, April 12th The Second Sunday of Easter

11.00 am United Service in Brailes Church Susan Bowden-Pickstock

Sunday, April 19th The Third Sunday of Easter

9.30 am Holy Communion in Oxhill Church Susan Powden-Pickstock

Sunday, April 26th The Fourth Sunday of Easter

6.30 pm Evensong in Oxhill Church George Heighton

Blessings, Jill



THE OXHILL NEWS

February 2014

No. 471



What a way to spend Christmas Day

WHATCOTE ROAD SEWER REPLACEMENT

A village meeting chaired by Grenville Moore, Chairman Oxhill PC was held on Tuesday 3rd December at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall reference the above.

Representatives from Severn Trent and North Midlands Construction Nomenca came along to explain what would be happening when the Whatcote Road sewer is replaced and to answer any questions.

The sewer had been found to be beyond repair and needed to be replaced from The Sett to the pumping station. The road would be closed in 75-100 meter sections as this work progressed and then each house along the Whatcote Road would be connected to the main new sewer. The bus service would be suspended whilst this work was carried out and a shuttle bus provided, possibly to Tysoe. We will be kept informed of transport details and of diversions to be put in place. Emergency services are informed through Warwickshire County Council and gritting routes will be co-ordinated.

Angela Kean, Clerk Oxhill PC

HISTORICAL SEWER PROBLEMS IN OXHILL

Mike Collins wrote to the Oxhill News saying “given the current sewer situation” we may want to “ re-run the stories from January & February 2014 and the cover picture of the tanker that spent Xmas 2013 in Oxhill.”#

So opposite and below are articles indicating Oxhill has a history of sewer problems.

~ ed.

WHATCOTE ROAD SEWER PROBLEMS

The News last month reported the project to replace the sewer from the pumping station to the top of Whatcote Road. Matters took a serious turn for the worst on Christmas Eve when the sewer collapsed causing the complete blockage and in effect the failure of sewer services to Whatcote. Readers may not be aware that Whatcote effluent is pumped up into the Whatcote Road sewer.

To prevent overflow a tanker turned up late Christmas Eve to transfer the waste from the top of the road and back into the sewer near the pumping station. The operator Tom, stayed over the Christmas holiday working continuously to ensure that matters were kept flowing only leaving on the 27th December when he was relieved.

It is a timely reminder that there are many unsung heroes working over holiday periods who we often take for granted. I am sure that Oxhill and Whatcote (if they are even aware of the problem they currently face) are all grateful to Tom and others who work unseen at this and other times of the year.

You will be pleased to know that Tom was well looked after by residents of Whatcote Road who kept him supplied with food and drink which included a full Christmas dinner, for which he was very grateful.

The problem continues and as the News goes to press we have 3 tankers working on the Whatcote Road. The replacement work is scheduled to begin at the end of January and the work should be completed by the end of April. During the work expect considerable disruption as a result of the necessary road closures.

Mike Collins

Article above published in Oxhill News February 2014

Historic poster auction

Going, going, gone! The auctioneer's gavel will come down once again for a re-enactment of a traditional auction on Tuesday 31st March at The George, the scene of many such sales in the past.

To close the Estate of Miss E. A. Ryder, deceased, & by order of other Vendors.

SHIPSTON-ON-STOUR

Freehold Residential and other Properties.

These are now intended to be sold by auction.

At "The George Hotel," Shipston-on-Stour, on
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10TH 1930

FREEHOLD PROPERTIES

By order of the Hon. J. M. & A. BYDER, deceased.

LOT 1. The Station house and stone built and tiled

RESIDENCE

known as "WOODLAND" with garden situate in the Street Road, in the township of the above Auctioneers to be sold by auction for £250, and a small 1/2 acre garden.

LOT 2. The brick built and tiled

LOCK-UP OFFICE

situate in the Street Road, in the township of the above Auctioneers to be sold by auction for £25.

LOT 3. The brick and stone built and tiled

RESIDENCE

known as "THE BEEHIVE" situate in Church Street, in the township of the above Auctioneers to be sold by auction for £250, and a small 1/2 acre garden.

LOT 4. CARAGE HOUSE, TYPING, VINTAGE, GREENHOUSE, GARDEN and WAREHOUSE situate in the Street Road, in the township of the above Auctioneers to be sold by auction for £250, and a small 1/2 acre garden.

LOT 5. The brick built and tiled

DWELLING HOUSE

known as "THE BEEHIVE" situate in Church Street, in the township of the above Auctioneers to be sold by auction for £250, and a small 1/2 acre garden.

LOT 6. A PLEASANT PARCEL OF GARDEN GROUND situate in the Street Road, in the township of the above Auctioneers to be sold by auction for £25.

LOT 7. The brick built and tiled

Block of TWO COTTAGES

known as "THE BEEHIVE" situate in Church Street, in the township of the above Auctioneers to be sold by auction for £250, and a small 1/2 acre garden.

By order of the Hon. J. M. & A. BYDER, deceased.

DWELLING HOUSE

known as "THE BEEHIVE" situate in Church Street, in the township of the above Auctioneers to be sold by auction for £250, and a small 1/2 acre garden.

By order of the Hon. J. M. & A. BYDER, deceased.

Under the hammer will be 25 posters dating from 1918 about local homes and farms in villages like Chipping Campden, Ilmington, Brailes, Blockley and Shipston itself. These posters were saved from memorabilia donated to the Museum that now form the Bosley & Harper Collection. The auction keeps faithfully to the original timing, Tuesday being the original day for markets alternating between Shipston and Moreton, with sales commencing at 6pm precisely. An auction catalogue, replicating the original conditions of sale, will be on sale for £2 at The George and local venues as a collectable item even if you're not bidding for one of the valuable posters. These reveal much about the community's past, from the sale of the contents of the mansion at Compton Verney in 1924, Shipston's Monumental Mason's Workshop and Osier Bed to a house sale including a harmonium, magic lantern, dog cart – and a cocker spaniel! Even the gavel is historic, having been presented in 1842 to William Bull, auctioneer and then proprietor of The George. The posters will be available to view from 11am on the day of the auction.

The event will raise funds for local charities including Shipston Home Nursing, Shipston Proms, Shipston Educational Trust, Save Our Shipston and Shipston Museum.

AUCTION OF EARLY 20TH CENTURY AUCTION POSTERS
ON
TUESDAY 31ST MARCH 2026
AT
THE GEORGE HOTEL, SHIPSTON ON STOUR

SHIPSTON-ON-STOUR
WORCESTERSHIRE; AND
WILLINGTON
WARWICKSHIRE.

Valuable Freehold Farms.

FRANK PARSONS & CO.

Am favoured with instructions from the Executors of the late EDWARD WRIGHT, Esq. to SELL BY AUCTION,
AT THE WHITE HORSE HOTEL, SHIPSTON-ON-STOUR, ON
MONDAY, MAY 27th, 1918
At 3 for 4 o'clock in the afternoon, and subject to the Conditions of Sale to be then produced, the following Valuable Properties, viz.:-

At SHIPSTON-ON-STOUR :

Lot 1.—All that Highly Desirable and compact Freehold

PASTURE FARM

situate on the Compton Road, comprising 3 Enclosures of excellent Pasture Land, containing, according to the Ordnance Survey,
67A. 2R. 22P.
In the same more or less, now in the occupation of Mr. F. E. Greenhill, together with Lot 2, at a rental of £80 per annum.
The Farm is advantageously situate adjacent to the Town, the majority of the fields opening on to the Highway.
The fields are well watered, the Pasture is of good feeding quality, and there is a capital 3-bay Shed (one end enclosed) and Yard on No. 148.
There is a quantity of prime Elm Timber which has been valued at £222 and will be in addition to the purchase money.
POSSESSION MAY BE HAD AT MICHAELMAS NEXT.

Lot 2.—All those capital

FARM PREMISES

situate in Telegraph Street, Shipston-on-Stour, comprising:—2 commodious Barns, Stable for 4 Horses, 3-bay brick-built and tiled Shed, 3 Yards, and 3-bay thatched Wagon Hovel, which, together with Lot 1, is in the occupation of Mr. F. E. Greenhill.
POSSESSION MAY BE HAD AT MICHAELMAS NEXT.

At WILLINGTON (about 1 mile from Shipston-on-Stour) :

Lot 3.—The Valuable

FREEHOLD FARM

with the HOUSE, GARDEN, ORCHARD, and FARM BUILDINGS, situate in the Hamlet of Willington, in the County of Warwick, together with the several Enclosures of Meadow, Pasture, and Arable Land, containing, according to the Ordnance Survey,
58A. 0R. 8P.
or thereabouts, in the occupation of Mr. A. Bryan at a Rental of £60 per annum.
There is a quantity of excellent Elm Timber which has been valued at £125 and will be in addition to the purchase money.

To View, apply to the respective Tenants, and, for further particulars, to the Auctioneers, Shipston-on-Stour; or to the Vendor's Solicitors,
Messrs. WRIGHT, HASSALL, & Co, Leamington.

LICHENS IN OXHILL CHURCHYARD









by Grenville Moore



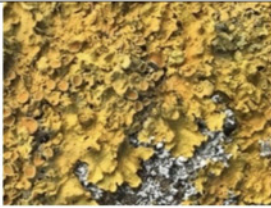
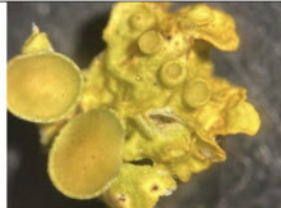
Back in January as part of the Churchyard Biodiversity and Heritage Project three Lichenologists, Di Napier, Stephanie Gaskin and Sheila Snowden came to survey our churchyard for Lichen. There are approximately 2050 different species in the British Isles and they are famed as indicators of air pollution. In the past lichen diversity was greatest in the northern hills and the west and south but relatively poor elsewhere, but as air quality improves lichen species are colonising places where they haven't been since prior to the Industrial Revolution.

Lichens can grow, albeit slowly, on almost any surface and their size can sometimes date gravestones and walls. They can also give away the nature of the stone: on acid rocks they will be yellow 'map' lichens, while limestone will host a greyish type with pitted surfaces.

So what did our churchyard yield? Interestingly back in 2007 at Stonehenge and Avebury in Wiltshire approximately 80 different sorts were recorded and in 2012 in Oxhill 82 species were counted but this year saw 113 species so that's an additional 31 new unrecorded in Oxhill. Marvellous!

Many of these only have Latin names but here are some pictures of the more interesting English named varieties.

<p><i>Variospora flavescens</i></p> <p>Limestone Firedot</p>	<p>On lime-rich stone, with bright yellow-orange margins, often white in the centre</p>		
<p><i>Verrucaria nigrescens</i></p> <p>Blackwart Lichen</p>	<p>Black crusts on lime-rich stone</p>		
<p><i>Physconia grisea</i></p> <p>Grey Frost Lichen</p>	<p>On lime-rich stone, with frosted tips to the lobes and much greener when wet</p>		
<p><i>Placynthium nigrum</i></p> <p>Blackthread Lichen</p>	<p>On lime-rich stone, with button-like fruits and blue-black fringes</p>		

<p><i>Protoparmeliopsis muralis</i></p> <p>Chewing Gum Lichen</p>	<p>On paths, with lobed edges and jam tart fruits</p>		
<p><i>Xanthoria parietina</i></p> <p>Common Sunburst Lichen</p>	<p>Very common on trees and walls near to animal farming</p>		

<p><i>Punctelia subrudecta</i></p> <p>Speckled Shield</p>	<p>On wood and bark, with white spots filled with 'soredia' that can start new lichens</p>		
<p><i>Ramalina fastigiata</i></p> <p>'Shrek's Ears'</p>	<p>The 'Shrek's Ears' produce spores, another way that lichens reproduce</p>		

<p><i>Cladonia</i> group</p> <p>Pixie Cups</p>	<p>Found on decaying wood, an important habitat for lichens</p>		
<p><i>Lecanora</i> group</p> <p>Rim Lichens</p>	<p>These have fruits like tiny jam tarts</p>		



FRIENDS OF OXHILL CHURCH

GAMES NIGHT

After the usual Oxhill slow start to ticket sales, we had an excellent turnout for Games Night on March 7th. There was a huge variety of games to choose from so each table found something to suit their tastes. Walking around the room, there were groups playing games ranging from Mahjong and Cribbage through Articulate to Uno and Snakes and Ladders. The Bagatelle brought by James and Linda Synge proved a great attraction with Gill Roache winning the prize for the highest score of the night. If there had been a booby prize for the lowest score, I think I would have won it!

Once everyone had played a game or two, we had a break for supper. It was lovely to receive many compliments for the tasty and delicious selection of food on offer. This is all down to the excellent Friends of Oxhill Church cooks. There was a large variety of savoury tarts and quiches to choose from, with some people sampling most of them! Plenty of freshly baked bread and various cheeses, along with new potatoes and salad, made for a substantial supper. For those who had a small space left, there was a large selection of cakes to round off the meal. No one left hungry.

As usual, these events don't happen without much planning and preparation and, as such, I should like to thank Carol, Carol, Kay, Linda, Lis, Gaida, Jon, Adrian and James for all their hard work and baking skills (no baking skills were demonstrated by the three men, but we live in hope). Nothing would happen without them and it definitely wouldn't be half as enjoyable either. Thank you also to the Village Hall for the loan of the small tables. They are ideal games tables. Finally, thank you to Colin and Jill Tucker for the use of the Old Chapel. It is a fantastic venue for our events and we greatly appreciate being able to use it.

Ruth Mercer

07400 615999 or ruthc.mercer@btinternet.com



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

TREASURE HUNT AND AFTERNOON TEA

Sunday 12th April

Treasure Hunt from 1.30 pm, Afternoon Tea from 3 pm

Test your Oxhill knowledge as you walk round the village on a treasure hunt and then join us for Afternoon Tea in the Old Chapel. Alternatively, skip the walking part and just come for tea!

Treasure Hunt sheets will be available at the Old Chapel from 1.30 pm; then you are invited to walk around the village answering the questions, returning to the Old Chapel from 3 pm for Afternoon Tea. Please arrive at the Chapel by 4 pm at the latest. The Treasure Hunt sheet is included in the Afternoon Tea price and there will be a prize for the highest score. Tickets cost £15 for adults and include a glass of Prosecco as well as plentiful sandwiches, scones, cakes and endless cups of tea or coffee. Tickets for children between the ages of 5 and 16 are £5 with endless water or squash but no Prosecco! Preschool-age children are free. Food allergies can be accommodated with sufficient notice.

Please book in advance, preferably well in advance, like now!

OXHILL'S LITTLE WEEKEND (working title, may change)

Sunday 14th June:

We are still in the early stages of planning but there will be plenty of food and drink at the Old Chapel, plus the annual Garden Club plant sale, Tombola and raffle. The Artisan Market will be in the Village Hall as it was at last year's Big Weekend. If you would like a table at the Artisan Market, please contact me as soon as possible as they are getting booked up very quickly.

Friday 21st August: TBA BARN DANCE

Thank you to those who have expressed an interest in a Barn Dance. If anyone can provide a suitable venue, then we could definitely go ahead. Please email me if you can help in any way.

Saturday 7th November: QUIZ NIGHT

Always very popular but no need to book yet!

Ruth Mercer

07400 615999 or ruthc.mercer@btinternet.com

Treasure Hunt, Afternoon Tea & Bubbles at the Old Chapel

Scrumptious sandwiches,
delectable home baked
cakes and Prosecco

Sunday
12th April

Treasure Hunt from 1:30pm
Afternoon Tea from 3:00pm

£15 Adults

£5 Children

Booking essential with
Ruth Mercer: 07400 615999

In aid of St Lawrence's Church, Oxhill



by Ruth Mercer

This week, I was hosting Knit and Natter and needed to bake a cake to refresh the knitters and natterers. I like to use them as Guinea pigs to test new recipes for me and I had an excess of parsnips, so a plan was hatched - I'd make a parsnip cake. Parsnips add moistness, sweetness and flavour to a cake, similar to carrots but with more fragrance. The reviews of the cake were very positive, especially as they thought it could count as two of their fruit and veg five-a-day tally. It appears a solid sort of cake but the taste and texture are very satisfactory. It definitely found favour with the knitters.



PARSNIP AND ORANGE SPICE CAKE

Ingredients

3 eggs
150 ml cooking oil (I use rapeseed but sunflower oil would work too)
240g self raising flour
1 tsp baking powder
1 tsp cinnamon
½ tsp nutmeg
2 tsp mixed spice
200g caster sugar
100g walnuts, chopped
500g parsnips, peeled, ends trimmed and coarsely grated
2 oranges, zest only

Filling / icing

200g full fat soft cheese (Philadelphia or equivalent)
50g butter at room temperature
150g icing sugar

You will need 2 x 20 cm round sandwich tins

1. Grease the sandwich tins, preferably with lining paste. If not using lining paste, base line the tins with baking parchment as well as greasing.
2. Preheat the oven to 180C / 160C fan.
3. Place the eggs and oil in a large bowl and beat together for 2 minutes. Add the flour, baking powder, cinnamon, nutmeg, mixed spice and sugar and mix together.
4. Now add the walnuts, grated parsnips and most of the orange zest. Keep back a little zest for decorating the top of the cake at the end.
5. Beat for two minutes until it resembles a thick batter.
6. Divide the mixture between the two tins and bake for 25-30 minutes until the cakes are golden in appearance and a skewer inserted in the centre comes out clean. Allow to cool in the tins for 10 minutes before turning out onto a cooling rack.
7. Once completely cool, prepare the filling and icing by creaming the butter before adding the soft cheese and icing sugar. Beat until combined and smooth. If mixed for too long, it will become runny. Put in the fridge until the cake is ready to be filled and iced.
8. Sandwich the cake together with the filling and then put the rest on the top of the cake. Decorate with the reserved orange zest. Add a few chopped walnuts if you like!





HISTORY OF PAYN'S HOUSE

by Carol Clark

I'm delighted to be able to present this timeline of the history of Payn's House, Back Lane, which was originally researched and compiled by Ann Hale herself.

Blackford bef.1606 – bef.1700

John (I) Blackford, who died in 1606 left “*one house ... lately erected and built*” together with “*one Close wherein the said house does stand called or known by the name of Barne Close*” to his second son, **Richard**, Richard's wife, **Elizabeth**, and their son, **John (II)** during their lives, to revert thereafter to his (**John (I)**'s) younger son **John (III)** and his heirs. There is good reason to believe that this refers to Payn's House since it is known that the **Pains** bought the house from the **Blackfords**. A researcher of Oxhill land deeds has also advised that ‘Barne Close’ was indeed the authentic name for this parcel of land.

In 1649 **John Blackford (III)** died, leaving premises to **Daniel Blackford**, (who fought at the Battle of Edgehill; his memorial slab is in the Church). Either



Painting of Daniel Blackford.

this Daniel, who died in 1682, or more probably his son, another **Daniel**, sold the property to **William Pain** at an unknown date.

Pain bef.1700 – c.1797

William Pain died in 1700 and in his will, he leaves “*house, homestall close, yardland and a half with all and singular premises which I purchased of Daniel Blackford*” to his wife, **Elizabeth** (at the time his son **John Pain (I)** was a minor).

John Pain (I)’s will of 1745 leaves “*house and land (again “as formerly purchased off Daniel Blackford”)* to his son **John Pain (II)** who died in 1797, and around this time the house passed into the Ward family ownership.

Ward c.1797 – 1886

In 1819 **John Ward (I)** died, leaving Payn's House (“*lately bought off John Payn*”) for the use of his wife **Mary**, and then to his son **John Ward (II)**. In 1831 **Mary Ward** died and the house appears then to have been let as a school; the large room in the barn was known within living memory as “the schoolroom”.

TO BE LET,

And entered upon at Midsummer next ;

PREMISES, situate at OXHILL, lately occupied as a Seminary for young Gentlemen, and eligible for that purpose; consisting of a respectable House, School Room, Stable, Orchard, Gardens, &c.

➡ For Particulars apply to Mr. WARD, Oxhill, near Kington, Warwickshire; if by Letter, post-paid.

Warwick and Warwickshire Advertiser 11 June 1836

John Ward (II) was widowed in 1861 and made a settlement of all his properties for the benefit of his two sons, **John Ward (III)** and **James Gardner Ward**, in which Payn’s House was included.

In 1875 **John Ward (III)** died and **John Ward (IV)** inherited. After **John Ward (IV)**’s death in April 1886, his son **John Henry** advertised the property for sale following which the Trustees of Settlement sold **Payn’s House** to **Jane Middleton**, who lived with her older, also unmarried brother and sister, John and Susanna.

Middleton 1886 - 1910

In the 1891 Census. **Susanna**, **Jane** and **John Middleton** were listed as occupants of Payn’s House. **Jane Middleton** died in 1910, leaving the house garden, barn and premises to **John Groves**, farmer, the son of her sister, Elizabeth.

O X H I L L,
Warwickshire.

Desirable Freehold Property.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION, BY
HUTCHINGS & DEER,

At the Peacock Inn, Oxhill, on Tuesday, the 5th day
of October, 1886, at Five for Six o'clock in the
evening, subject to conditions to be then produced,

LOT 1.—All that desirable Freehold HOUSE,
with School-room, Barn, Stable, and Outbuild-
ings, two large Gardens and productive Orchard,
fronting Turner's-lane, Dock-lane, and High-street,
in the village of Oxhill, now in the occupation of Mr.
George Melton and Henry Summerton.

The House, which is substantially-built, Stone,
Brick, and Slated, comprises Parlour, Sitting-room,
Dairy, Kitchen, and Back Kitchen, five Bed
Chambers, and three Attics. Detached from the
house are large School-room, Barn, and three-stall
Stable. The two Gardens and Orchard are very pro-
ductive. extending back to High-street.

Stratford-upon-Avon Herald 1 October 1886

Groves 1910 - 1928

The property was tenanted by **Clifton** family at this time. The 1921 census has **Arthur Clifton** living here with his son, **Walter** and daughter **Ethel**. In 1927 **John Groves** died, leaving the property to his two surviving sons, **Henry and Herbert**.

Clifton 1928 – 1968

In 1928 **Walter Clifton** bought the house from **Henry & Herbert Groves**.

Cartmell 1968 – 1975

In 1968 **John Cartmell** bought Payn's House from **Amy Clifton** (Walter's widow).

Hale 1975 – present

ART WORKSHOPS *for Adults*



Join local Artist Lynsey Cleaver for a fun half-day workshop creating rockpool imagery or a wildlife portrait of a Fox or Owl using monoprinting techniques on a gelliplate combined with hand painting. Both workshops are perfect for artists of all levels and promise creativity and inspiration in a friendly atmosphere. Materials and Gelliplates will be provided along with refreshments.



Creating Rockpools Using Gelliplate Monoprinting

Saturday 18th April 1 - 5pm

Oxhill Village Hall

only a few spaces left!



Wildlife Portraits Using Gelliplate Monoprinting

Saturday 9th May 1 - 5pm

Oxhill Village Hall

**Book online @www.lynseycleaverartist.co.uk/book-online
or contact Lynsey on 07960783080 for more information
Only a few spaces left !**



AN EVENING WITH
LANDSCAPE ARTIST
GIOSUE LARUCCI

Tuesday 14th April 7pm

Tickets £8

from Ali on 07970 922352
or oxhillvh@gmail.com



OXHILL VILLAGE HALL



TALKS@OVH

'Down Under' by Colin Hales, 6th March

If you've ever Googled Colin Hales you'll know him to be an incredible adventurer, engineer and pilot. Given that this is the second time Colin has donated his time and effort to our Village Hall we can add one more to the list - generous!

For this talk, Colin concentrated on his first long haul flight in his tiny self-built aircraft: to Australia. One of the many challenges in taking such a small plane that distance is the number of times that he needed to stop and land to re-fuel in countries that are themselves challenging. For most countries he was able to pre-book his landing because of international agreements, but there was no reply from some, e.g. Myanmar and Iran, so he had to get to a neighbouring country and then re-apply. This sometimes resulted in him being there for weeks at a time.

His presentation included many photos from his trip and we saw pictures of countries that, for many political and other reasons, we may never see. The whole evening was fascinating and everyone there was transfixed by this interesting, modest and engaging man.



An evening with landscape artist, Giosué Larucci, 7pm, Tuesday 14th April

Professional artist and local man, Joey Larucci, will be joining us in April to tell us about what it's like to have a career as a landscape artist and all that that entails. Those of us lucky enough to be there can expect to learn about Joey's career, what he does, how he does it, what his inspiration is, and why he paints the way he does. We'll also have the opportunity to see some of Joey's work up close.

This event is sure to sell out so please get in touch with Ali to book your seats as soon as possible. You can reach her on 07970 922352 or oxhillvh@gmail.com.

100 CLUB

February's winners were Derek Harbour, John McKail, and Roger Goodman. Would you like to be in with a chance to win this month? Email Sally at oxhillvh@gmail.com for more information.

THE MARCH QUIZ!

We've just missed the chance to share the news from the quiz held on 21st March - photos and a sample of questions will be in the next issue.

REGULAR ACTIVITIES AT THE VILLAGE HALL

Our pages in the Oxhill news habitually focus on our own events which means that we forget to remind everyone that there is plenty of other stuff going on at the hall.

- Mondays: Tappers (children's dance and tap), 5.30pm; Sam BoxFit, 7.30pm

- Wednesdays: CCOTS choir, 7pm

- Thursdays: Pilates, 9.30am; Knit & Natter, 2pm; Karen Clarke's Restorative Yoga, 7pm

To learn more and for contact details, please get in touch with Ali on 07970 922352 or oxhillvh@gmail.com. You can also contact Ali to book events of your own whether a private party, a business meeting, club sessions, classes, and more. The charges to hire the hall can be found on the village website at <https://www.oxhillcommunity.co.uk/lettings>.

Karen MacRae

CHANGE OF DATES

Unfortunately, we need to change a few of the dates that were in the advance Events Calendar issued in December as there have been some unforeseen changes.

The first is the date of the AGM which was 26 May. This has been brought forward to 12 May.

The second is the date of the Progressive Supper which was scheduled for 19 September. This has been brought forward to 12 September.

Lastly, we showed the date of our Beer & Bubbles event as Saturday 19 December when it should have been Friday 18 December.

We apologise for having to make these changes and hope that despite this we will still have your support at these events.

Derek Harbour, OVH Chair

EVENTS IN 2026

JANUARY	24	Burns' Night but not as you know it!
FEBRUARY	10	<i>'The Rolling Stones & Me'</i> A chat with Glenn Crouch
	24	<i>'Down Under'</i> A talk by Colin Hales
MARCH	21	Quiz Night
APRIL	14	<i>An evening with landscape artist Giosue Larucci</i>
MAY	12	Annual General Meeting
JUNE	20	Summer Soireé
JULY	11	BBQ & Boules
SEPTEMBER	12	Progressive Supper
OCTOBER	17	Oktoberfest!
NOVEMBER	21	Curry Night
DECEMBER	8	Seniors' Christmas Lunch
	18	Beer & Bubbles

Email oxhillvh@gmail.com
to reserve your tickets



HISTORICAL PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

ALL THINGS NEW

by Lis Stuart

All dates, names and references to places in the village have been taken from the extracts of the Parish Council minutes as recorded at the time.

THE TELEPHONE BOX

Many of you will remember the red telephone box that was opposite the pub. I remember often seeing how many children could be squeezed into in when it was raining when waiting for the bus. At a time when people didn't have their own phone in their homes or the phone was in the hallway or another downstairs room. Trying to have a conversation that could be overheard by everyone in the household or being reminded by the bill payer exactly how many minutes you had been on the call and exactly how much it was going to cost. Followed by repeated 'walk by's' tutting and watch' tapping until the call ended. The phone kiosk afforded at least a little privacy until someone stood waiting outside. Then there was the party line, where you shared your number with other people, sometimes getting a 'crossed line' or having to wait until the other person had finished their call. At this time you could also ring up for music or for the talking clock, both these had to be paid for and were gretly frowned upon by the bill payer.



Example of a Red Kiosk

It was in 1939 that "the Chairman proposed that the P.O (post office) be asked to transfer the public telephone to a kiosk in the centre of the village. This was seconded by Mr. H Simmonds ad carried unanimously, and the Secretary was asked to write to the Postal Authorities to this effect."

Monday 11th 1988 "New telephone boxes – Oxhill did not qualify to keep the old red type." This would then have been replaced by the new style booth. Unfortunately, my memory does not recall exactly what this looked like, although I do remember it was useless for sheltering in in the rain.

BINS AND REFUSE

1937 Mrs Gibbins requested information "with regard to the disposal of ashes and refuse. The Chairman replied that the District Council was shortly going to collect all refuse in the villages."

In rural areas it was common to put rubbish into the local ditches, there are several references of ditches in the village requiring cleaning out. Whether this was because of rubbish I am not sure. Later the minutes record many of these being piped.

At this time households would have had significantly less rubbish as there was no plastic. Food bought in shops was weighed out and put into paper bags before being taken home in wicker baskets or string bags. The bags themselves being used as fire lighting materials on the coal fired range or kitchen fire, put out in the back garden for the weekly bonfire or put on the compost heap.

When things broke, it was normal practice to mend them rather than throwing them away. Travellers would repair leaking pots and pans, staple together broken crockery, knife grinders sharpened knives and other metal utensils were made to last as long as possible.

Newspapers once read were used, for example, cut into squares and hung in the lavatory as toilet paper, used to light the coal fire, crumpled into wet shoes to help dry them out, wrap left over food scraps for disposal, used to wrap fish and chips in the chip shops.

Clothes passed on to smaller family members. Darned or mended when they became thin or torn. When they were beyond repair, the material was used to make clothes for younger children or patches. Made into rag rugs and whatever was left was given or sold to the rag and bone man.

Ashes households in the past produced far more of them than we do today. This was because of heating water in coppers having the various fires mentioned above. Households saved it and spread it on the garden. Even sort from the chimney was saved for a year or so that it lost its sulphur content and could be used for spreading around plants

The 1964 minutes record that “It was asked if in future the Council intend to collect bins from the houses?”

MAIL BUS SERVICE

It was interesting to read that Mail buses, often called post buses existed. It was a public transport service that combines local mail delivery with passenger transport, mostly used in rural areas where traditional bus services are less economical. They were used in the UK by the Royal Mail starting in 1967, running on specific routes during the day often delivering mail in the morning and picking it up in the afternoon.

In 1967 “The Chairman stated that he had received a letter saying that there was a proposal to run a Mail Bus Service and he would like to know what response there



Example of Mail Bus

would be from Oxhill. The Chairman asked those interested to raise their hands and eleven did so.”

In 1968 it is recorded that “The Mail van bus service had not been started as there was not enough support in the area.”

SHOPS IN OXHILL

As a child I remember there being two shops in the village. The grocery (Karibu as it is now known) formerly part of the Bake house was run as a grocery store by several owners. But my memory is of Mr and Mrs Hale who ran it until it closed in 1976. It is recorded that “Regret was expressed at the closure of the Village Shop a letter of thanks would be sent to Mrs Welsby and family for their endeavours to keep it open 1975”. A friend recalls Lillian working in the shop at this time.

The other was the Post office which was a child’s delight with high shelves filled with jars of sweets run by Mr and Mrs Rouse, being allowed to climb on a stool to fill paper bags with penny sweets This was followed by Mr Day who added groceries and other items to the offerings, extending the shop along the side of the property.

The minutes from May 2000 State that “Notification of closure of Oxhill Post Office” (I presume this was when Lillian Welsby operated it from the garage at Binswood). “An interested party had approached the Post Office to discuss details regarding re- opening this facility but had had no response. Parish Council would pursue this.” July 2000 mentions the closure of the Post Office stating that’ No further information or interest had been received regarding the re-opening of the Post Office. In April 2001 the minutes record “Tom Herritage spoke of the Government initiative to get village Post Office re-opened, and hope someone would pursue the possibility of re-opening Oxhill Post Office.”

BROAD BAND

Tuesday 8th May 2012 A presentation was given by Balvender Heran, Stratford District Council re faster board band Connection for the County and District. Funding was available for this via Broad band UK for local Broad band plans and DEFRA had announced further funding for rural areas. Stratford District Council had to match this funding pound for pound. Lottery money was available and Parish Councils would be encouraged to apply for £10,000 grants. Also, everyone in the village should be encouraged to register an interest for take up to the scheme.

ELECTRICITY

March 3rd 1938 “Mr Winsor then proposed that a letter from this meeting asking the Shropshire, Worcestershire and Staffordshire Electric Power Co at Evesham whether there was any likelihood of electricity being brought to Oxhill within the next two years or so: and if this was so, what would be the cos of installation in private houses and the cost of the current afterwards, Mr Winsor pointed out that the company would be more likely to grant facilities for electricity to be brought to Oxhill if they were sure of it being made a paying

proposition by a good number of householders being prepared to have it installed. Reference was made to new lighting being required in the Church. Mr J.B. Heritage seconded Mr Winsor's motion and suggested that a public meeting be called after a reply had been received from the Electrical Power Company."

March 18th 1939 "The question of the possible coming of electricity to Oxhill was then brought before the meeting by the Chairman. After discussion it was proposed by Mr Winsor and seconded by Cllr Davies that a letter be sent from this meeting to the S.W. and S. Electric Power Co at Banbury to ask them to send a Representative to canvass the houses of the Parish. This was carried."

After this there is no mention of electricity coming to the village. It would be interesting to find out when this did happen and how many homes had access to it in the early days.



1953 OS map of Oxhill

SHIPSTON HOME NURSING

CHARITY BIKE RUN



LOCATION

REVS AUTOMOBILIA
THE FOSSE
GL56 9RE



SUNDAY 28TH JUNE

10:00AM

CONTACT : LES HARDIMAN
07830223846



START at Revs

£20 PER BIKE

ALL BIKES WELCOME

FREE CUPPA AT START



SCAN FOR DETAILS

USEFUL VILLAGE CONTACT DETAILS

Oxhill Parish Councillors:

Malcolm Robertson: chair@oxhillparishcouncil.gov.uk
Jon Mercer: cllr.jon.mercer@oxhillparishcouncil.gov.uk
Peter Rivers Fletcher: cllr.peter.rivers-fletcher@oxhillparishcouncil.gov.uk
Sarah Hobill: cllr.sarah.hobill@oxhillparishcouncil.gov.uk
Barbara Shephard: cllr.barbara.shepard@oxhillparishcouncil.gov.uk

Oxhill Village Hall:

Derek Harbour - Chair
Ali Sayer - Hall Hire - 07970 922352
email: oxhillvh@gmail.com

St Lawrence Church:

Priest-in Charge Rev. George Heighton, 01295 680201
Rev Canon Dr Jill Tucker 07973 994800
revjill.tucker@btinternet.com
Churchwarden: Verena Rogers
email: rogersvm37@gmail.com
mobile: 0759 248 5016 landline: 01295 574 323

Friends of Oxhill Church:

Ruth Mercer 07400 615999 or
ruthc.mercer@btinternet.com

Carers4carers:

kcarers4carers@gmail.com or tel: 07947 893504

Community Choir of Oxhill, Tysoe and Shenington (CCOTS):

Rehearsals Oxhill Village Hall 7.45- 9.15 pm every Wednesday term time only.
Website: www.ccots.org.uk
Email: membershipsecretary@ccots.org.uk

Oxhill Pickleball:

Peter Rivers Fletcher 07730 800729
rfn364@btinternet.com

talkdementia.uk:

Carer Support Service: email: talkdementia@mail.com
Website: talkdementia.uk
Tysoe Village Hall every Friday from 10am

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

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

WHAT'S ON IN & AROUND OXHILL

APRIL

Wed 8th	14:30-14:50	Mobile Library outside Village Hall
Sun 12th		Treasure Hunt & Afternoon Tea, the Old Chapel
Tues 14th	19:00	An Evening with Giosue Larucci, Village Hall
Sat 18th	13:00-17:00	Creating Rockpools Using Gelliplate, Village Hall
Every Thursday	12:00	Coffee Morning, Peacock Pub

PC MEETINGS

The date of the next Parish Council meeting is **Tuesday, 19th May 2026 at 6.30pm**. The 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.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE OXHILL NEWS

The editors welcome any pictures, photographs, drawings, poems, puzzles, recipes, announcements or items of local news for possible inclusion in The Oxhill News. Submissions must be received by the 18th of each month for publication in the following month. Please email: oxhill.news.editor@gmail.com

APRIL 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
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