

THE OXHILL NEWS

August 2020 No. 549



Roger Goodman steps down as co-editor of the Oxhill News.

*Vanessa Druce, editor
Grenville Moore, consulting editor
news-editor@oxhill.org.uk*

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. Please email news-editor@oxhill.org.uk or place paper contributions in the box labelled 'The Oxhill News' in the Church.

Submissions must be received by the 15th of each month for publication in the following month.

MOBILE LIBRARY

The Mobile Library will not visit Oxhill in August

The mobile library has books with **large print**, ordinary print, picture books, children's books, paperbacks, non-fiction, novels, sagas, crime, mysteries, adventures, westerns and romance. The van has talking books, cassettes and CDs.

For further info please telephone: 01926 851031

REFUSE COLLECTION

Recycling and green waste bins (blue and green bins) will be collected on Tuesdays August 4th and 18th

The grey rubbish bins will be collected Tuesdays August 11th and 25th.

WEEKDAY WALKERS

Weekday Walkers usually walk on the 4th Friday of each month. If you are interested in joining or to find out further information, please contact Jim Saxton on 680613 or saxton@talktalk.net

THE PEACOCK

The village coffee morning and lunch are both postponed in August.





ROGER GOODMAN HAS RETIRED AS CO-EDITOR OF THE OXHILL NEWS

Roger edited the Oxhill News, alongside me, for seven years. The years have disappeared far too fast.

Roger said editing the News gave him an insight into Oxhill village life. So true. Working on the Oxhill News means going to events, taking photos and chasing submissions. Lately it has meant guessing how many houses to deliver to each month as new houses are built and new residents move in.

Roger was a wonderful colleague, sharing the load, helping with any deadline looming crisis and making sure our mobile office (a big plastic box) was always stocked with our simple but necessary essentials - staples, rubber bands and the mobile library timetable.

I thank Roger for sharing his years at the Oxhill News with me. I deeply appreciated his calm, easy attitude and ready laugh. It was a joy to work with you, Roger.

Vanessa Druce, editor



Roger (with Richard) at the village BBQ 2019

OXHILL VILLAGE HALL

The **AGM** of the Village Hall will be held on 10th August at 7.30pm. This will be at the hall if government restrictions allow, otherwise by Zoom. Details & agenda will be posted on the VH notice board. All villagers are welcome to attend.

Saturday 5th September at 2pm - Oxhill Family Garden Fete

We are fortunate to be able to hold this event in the garden (or the house & barn if wet) at Newborough House, off Noland's Road, by kind invitation of Michael & Karen Perry.

We are continuing to plan this event in the hope that government guidance on outdoor gatherings will have been relaxed by September.

We hope you will come to have some fun & bring family & friends to enjoy a cream tea & win some prizes through skill or luck! There will be a variety of stalls and attractions including bric-a-brac, tombola, bottle stall, cake stall, bouncy castle, classic car display & local food producers plus a grand raffle.

We would be very grateful for contributions to the various stalls please contact:-

Cakes for the cake stall & for teas **Carol Fox** ceafox21@aol.com or tel 680223

Second-hand books **Sue Philpott** suephilpott@yahoo.co.uk

Bottles for tombola **Derek Harbour** dandt@laurelhardy.co.uk

Bric-a-Brac **Barbara Bicknell** bm.bicknell@btinternet.com

Plants or garden produce **Jude MacDonald** judemac07@btinternet.com

Fund raising, in July we were delighted to be awarded a pledge of £10,000 from the Bernard Sunley Foundation. This together with the ACRE award previously reported are dependent on raising the whole amount needed for the refurbishment.

The Village Hall is now open for future bookings, subject to Covid 19 restrictions. Please contact Ali Sayer on 07970922352. ali.sayer@btinternet.com

Jo Collings

Chair of the Trustees OVH



Male Bullfinch

NATURE NOTES FOR AUGUST 2020

Named in honour of the deified Roman emperor Augustus.

1 August is Lammas day – ‘loaf mass’ – the festival of harvest’s beginning. Lammas Lands used for growing crops of hay were traditionally thrown open for common grazing until the next spring.

What a strange year so far. At the beginning of lockdown there was an air of calm and quietness, no noise except for the sounds of nature. People throughout the land suddenly heard bird song and began to notice the nature that lived around and with them. In Oxhill we have always lived closely with nature; in fact over the years I have actually seen outside my house a hare, hedgehogs, a fox, a polecat, and whilst sitting outside the Pub, a muntjac came trotting down, and on another occasion a muntjac with a young fawn. All these in Main Street. This year has brought us fallow deer feeding in a neighbour’s garden, roe deer in Manor fields, a pair of kestrels and a pair of ravens nesting in the village, and our buzzards are still here. I had hoped that a pair of red

kites that roosted for a while in the coppice by the bridge coming into Oxhill would nest, but they didn't, although as I wrote this a red kite flew over the garden obviously looking for carrion. We have had a visit from a white egret on the Manor pond and I have seen otter prints along the brook, and earlier in the year a family of four otters were seen on a pond nearby the church.

Earlier in the spring we had two male bullfinches and a female visiting our bird feeder for a period and I am sure that a pair nested in a nearby hedge. The cock bird is stunning in appearance with his glossy black cap, bib and tail setting off the deep warm red to the breast. Old names for the bird were Blood Olp and Red Hoop. They are normally a bird of orchards, feeding on fruit buds, and a bounty used to be paid for killing them.



Over the same period we also had a male long-tailed tit who spent endless hours 'wooing' himself in a mirror mounted on an outside wall. These appealing little birds are slightly fluffy in their appearance and in many areas were given the name 'muffler' or 'muffin', but my favourite local name is 'bumbarrel', which I always use.

Some curios – see photo on next page:

All these items, with the exception of one were picked up in or around the Manor fields.

Top L to right:

The **baby grass snake** was picked up in Manor Lane. It had been run over and had completely dried out. Grass snakes move very quickly and the chances of one crossing the road as a vehicle passed must be a thousand to one. Very sad.

The **feather** is a primary or pinion (pin) from a red kite. These are the feathers at the end of the wings, sometimes called the 'fingers'. There are ten per wing, and I'm pretty sure this P7, and the colour form and pattern tells me it is a red kite.

The **egg** is a decoy egg used to encourage chickens to lay more eggs. They used to be made of solid china, but this one is solid hard rubber. It has obviously been taken by



a fox and you can see where he has chewed away at it. Can you imagine how confused he was because it wouldn't break. Talk about a hard-boiled egg!

The **walnut shells** are self-explanatory, but the interesting thing here is that I picked them up after watching two crows dropping something from a great height then flying down and pecking at them. I walked over and discovered the walnut shells. They had obviously found them in the Rectory garden and learned that if dropped from a height they would break open.

The last is a mystery; a **fresh water mussel shell**, found by the bank of the brook. I have lived here for over 50 years and have never seen mussels in our brook. I think that finding them near the brook was a coincidence and that a jackdaw or magpie was attracted by the shiny inside and had stolen it from someone's 'moules mariniere' lunch party.

Talking of jackdaws, I was once in a friend's house when a jackdaw's nest crashed down the chimney. Among all the rubbish we found a small foreign silver coin, a blazer button, a cheap silver chain, silver paper from a cigarette packet, a small silver cat/dog food packet, and most surprisingly, the top section of a car aerial.

10 August is our very own St Lawrence's day – the cook's festival.

The cook must be cleanly both in body and garments, and must have a quick eye, a curious nose, a perfect taste, and a ready ear, and must not be butter fingered, sweet-toothed, nor faint hearted. For the first will let everything fail; the second will consume what it should increase; and the last will lose time with too much niceness.

- The English Housewife,
Markham, 1683

Grenville Moore



St. Lawrence Distributing the Treasures of the Church by Bernardo Strozzi

TYSOE W.I.

Unfortunately we are still unable to meet and all our trips are cancelled for this year. We continue to try to engage with our members with cards, phone calls, gifts.

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

1915

FOR 100 YEARS

2015

The face covering project is slowly winding down now, we have made hundreds and hundreds of masks for the community. They are still available at the Post Office, but only for a few more weeks or when stocks run out.

Thanks to everyone who has taken one, helping to keep themselves and our community safe and for your donations, which at the time of writing this, exceeded £500

Tysoew.i.1917@icloud.com. www.tysoewi.com or follow us on Facebook



OXHILL GARDENING CLUB PLANT SALE

**The Family Garden Fete
Newborough House
5th September**

The Garden Club are running a Plant Sale at this lovely fete in September.

Following on from our previous post, it would be lovely if we could have donations of any plants or produce that you can spare for this event. You can drop donations off anytime that suits, with Jude Macdonald, Willow Brook, Back Lane, or of course, bring them on the day.

All proceeds raised will go towards the extension and refurbishment of Oxhill Village Hall. Thank you

ST LAWRENCE CHURCH

DIARY DATES FOR AUGUST

We are delighted to say that we are beginning to hold services in St. Lawrence Church once again: not quite every week - we are taking small steps as we move forward – but we would be absolutely delighted to see you.

If you would prefer not to join us in church, we entirely understand: most of the time there will also be a Zoomed service available on a Sunday, and the Wednesday Morning Prayer will continue as a Zoomed service.



Oxhill's St Lawrence Church

Sunday, August 2nd	11.00 am Morning Worship, led by George Heighton Will be Zoomed.
Wednesday, August 5th	10.00 am Zoomed Morning Prayer

- Sunday, August 9th** 11.00 am Morning Worship, led by Jennie Rake
There will be a service Zoomed from Brailes
- Wednesday, August 12th 10.00 am Zoomed Morning Prayer
- Sunday, August 16th** 11.00 am Morning Worship, led by George H with Jill
Tucker
Will be Zoomed.
- Wednesday, August 17th 10.00 am Zoomed Morning Prayer
- Sunday, August 23rd** No Service
There will be a Zoomed service (from Brailes)
available at 11.00 am
- Wednesday, August 24th 10.00 am Zoomed Morning Prayer
- Sunday, August 30th** No Service
You are invited to the 11.00 am service at Brailes
(which is not Zoomed)

Note that on Sunday, September 6th there will be a Holy Communion Service at 9.30 am.

We look forward to meeting up again!

Blessings, Jill



WILL YOU HELP US TO SAVE WATER?

On behalf of the Environment Agency and Severn Trent, I'm writing to brief you on the outlook for water supplies over the summer and to ask for your help to ensure we can meet demand at what is a particularly sensitive time.

We know Local Resilience Forums have a crucial role to play in managing incidents. We also know LRF members are community leaders in their own right who help set the tone for what happens locally.

Demand for water in the Midlands has increased sharply as a direct consequence of the CV-19 emergency, combined with an exceptionally dry spring. We've seen spikes in usage of up to 40 per cent in some cases.

If the long-range weather forecasts are accurate, we'll have enough water for the summer, despite the exceptional conditions. But the margin of comfort is small and we're therefore taking additional steps to ensure safe, reliable supplies of water for the whole community.

The first thing we're doing is increasing the amount of water we can treat and put into supply. We've recently built the capability to provide an extra 50 million litres a day, and will increase this by a further 50 million litres a day in the coming months. The second thing we're doing is trying to reduce demand to more normal levels. Specific measures include:

- A comprehensive customer education programme guided by insights from behavioural psychologists;
- The offer to make million pound payments to charities in exchange for customers saving water; and
- Working with large water users, such as industry, to reduce their demand while maintaining their ability to operate effectively. We've been very encouraged by the positive response we have received.

However, as Sir James Bevan, Chair of the Environment Agency, noted: “It is not just the job of the government or the Environment Agency, or the water companies to fix this problem.”

We’re therefore looking for your help

We don’t want to distract from the essential work you do, but three simple acts will make a big difference to managing demand. We would specifically ask LRF members:

1. To not use hoses to water gardens, municipal parks and other outside areas on days when the temperature rises above 22°;
2. To not wash vehicles more than once a month between now and September (except for reasons of essential hygiene); and
3. To help spread the message by inform employees why these measures are necessary and encourage others to be more water conscious.

You can find some really **simple tips about water saving** you can share with your teams at <https://www.stwater.co.uk/wonderful-on-tap/save-water/you-can-make-a-difference/> and they can pick up some **free water saving devices** at <https://www.stwater.co.uk/wonderful-on-tap/save-water/free-ways-to-save/>.

Our basic message is simple: there is sufficient water for everyone if we all do our bit by minimising the use of water hungry gadgets like sprinklers and pressure washers.

We are grateful for your help.
Kind regards

Liv Garfield
CEO, Severn Trent

Mike Grimes
Area Director, Environment Agency

TWAM

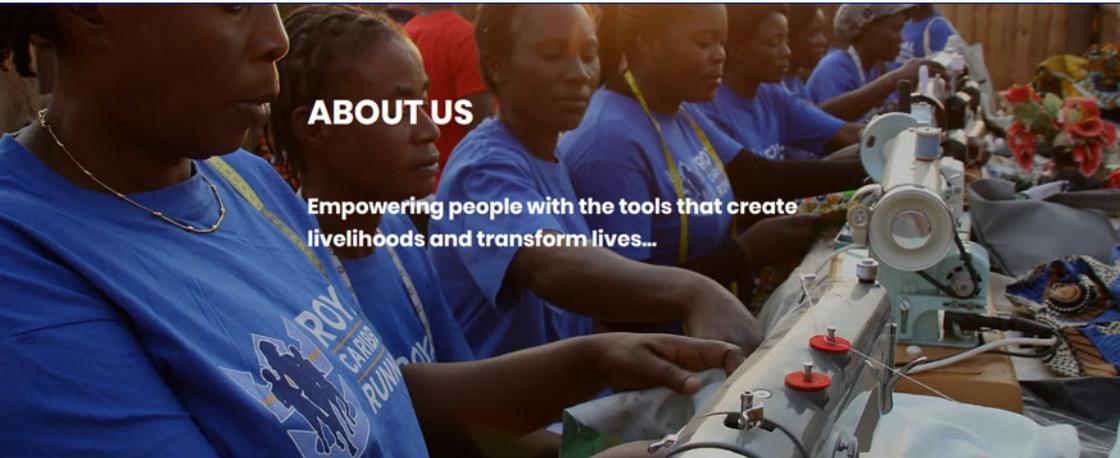
Tools with a Mission

TWAM is setting up to re-start collecting unwanted tools from the beginning of August, our current list of wanted tools can be found at <https://www.twam.uk/donatetools>

I am your nearest collector is Jim Saxton Tel: 07748 324934 Email: jimsaxton@btinternet.com ,.

I am based in Oxhill, but do not wish to physically collect, but are happy to have tools dropped off, contact me for details.

Thank you, Jim Saxton



ABOUT US

Empowering people with the tools that create livelihoods and transform lives...



From garage to barn, barn to warehouse

Find out how the incredible story of Tools Mission began in shed in Bexleyheath in

How it all began



Yes please...

We couldn't list everything or expect you to know how to identify tools, but hopefully the list below will give you an idea.

Agricultural tools: Fork, spade, hoe, garden rake, hand fork and trowel, lopper, secateurs and hand shears

Builders' tools: Spade, shovel, 3ft spirit level, axe, crowbar, fork, sledge hammer, bow saw, bolsters, chisels, all types of hammers and trowels, pin and lines, tape measures hacksaws and blades etc

Carpenters' tools: Bevel, braces, clamps, hand drills and bits, all types of files and hammers, Stanley knife, all types of planes and saws, pliers, rules, all types of saws and screwdrivers, squares etc

Electricians' tools: Allen keys, hand drills and bits, all types of pliers and hacksaws, screwdrivers, spanners, soldering iron, voltmeter etc

Motor mechanics' tools: Allen keys, cold chisels, breast drill and bits, all types of hammers and pliers, punches, metric socket set and spanners, adjustable spanners, cantilever toolbox, tyre pressure gauge etc

Plumbers' tools: Basin or tap wrench, wire brush, breast drill and bits, various grips and saws, screwdriver, oil can etc

Garage workshop: Hydraulic jack, axle stands, battery charger, ramps and large engineers vice etc

Power tools: Hand and bench drill, sander, planer, jigsaw, circular, band and chop saw, lathe, cultivator, rotavator etc

Bibles: Not Authorised Version or King James Version

Sewing machines: manual, electric, treadle and industrial

Knitting machines: machine wool and needles

Haberdashery: needles, cottons, large material pieces/rolls, buttons, zips etc

Fully working IT equipment: Desktop computers and laptops running a minimum of Windows 7, tablets, networking switch routers and cables

PARLIAMENTARIAN CAVALRY CAMP - 1644

(originally published - July 2008)

Our local Royalist, Daniel Blackford, lies in a place of honour in the aisle of Oxhill Church. However the other side did not go unrepresented here, and on the nights of 25th and 26th June, 1644, Oxhill was the site of a Parliamentary encampment of horse. King and Parliamentary forces criss-crossed the Midlands that summer, destroying bridges as they went, and depleting local food supplies. In June, 1644 (two years after the battle of Edgehill) Waller's army, marching from Stow, reached "Shipston-on Stower," where the exhausted foot soldiers were quartered, while his cavalry came on to Oxhill.



Battle of Edgehill 23rd October 1642 in the English Civil War: by Palamedes Palamedesz

It is probable that the church was used as accommodation for horse or men, as often happened, and it would be surprising if a visit over two days had not left some marks. There is an old local legend told to me by Bert Bloxham that might apply here, although it has been assumed to relate to the battle of Edgehill two years earlier. The story goes that soldiers sharpened their swords on the smaller window on the south (far) side of the church chancel. I have always been uncertain of the Edgehill connection,

as there was to my knowledge no large band of soldiers in the village at that time. Local combatants such as Daniel Blackford would probably have born pikes, and in any case would have had their own whetstones at home for any swords. Nevertheless, the window's mullions are quite noticeably flattened, and if this is due to sword sharpening it seems to me more likely that it would have been done by the troops quartered here in 1644.

Another thought. A month before they visited Oxhill, Waller's soldiers had torn down the old market cross at Abingdon. I wonder if it was they who destroyed the top of Oxhill's preaching cross, whose stump remains to the right of the churchyard path? Could be!

*Ann Hale
July, 2008*



Carers4Carers

Finding support through supporting each other

Carers4Carers monthly meeting: Carers4Carers is a self-help support group for carers living in Kineton and the surrounding villages and rural area. While we remain unable to run our monthly meetings, we are keeping in touch via our monthly email and newsletter; our volunteers are offering telephone support calls and we are now running a “virtual coffee morning”.

If you would like to join us, look out for joining instructions in our monthly email or contact the number below. If you are a member, haven't heard from us but would like a call, do get in touch.

To find out more about our work, take a look at our website
www.carers4carersonthefosse.org , email us at kcarers4carers@gmail.com
or call 07947 893504.

*Thank you so much.
Lisa Barnett – Assistant Co-ordinator*

THE ETTINGTON STITCHERS RAISE OVER £600 FOR SHIPSTON HOME NURSING



Coordinator Lindsey Yarrow and the wonderful choice of materials on offer.

Ettington Village Grandmother Gwenda supplied everything required to start this marvellous project a few weeks into lockdown.

The team of Stitchers have made over 500 face coverings, raising funds for local hospices and Air Ambulance.



A few of the Ettington Stitchers with Andrew at The Insomnia Café Ettington



Allyson and Lindsey

Lindsey, Allyson, Helen, Alison, Mary, Jane, Madi, Freya and Nola have worked together to raise well over £2000 for worthwhile causes.

Please visit the fantastic “Insomnia Coffee Shop” in Ettington, run by Andrew Nardone who has supported the Stitchers every step of the way. Come and pick your own fabrics from a wide range: childrens, business, contemporary and fun! You can choose from ready-made or place a personalised order.

In addition, there is a selection of donated plants for sale.

The Insomnia Coffee Shop is the perfect place for a delicious coffee and cake. Takeaway is currently available but as soon as lockdown conditions allow there is an idyllic sunny garden or indoor seating area where you can get together with friends.

Lindsey team coordinator says “It has been quite a journey, in challenging times, but enormous fun, all in good spirit, supporting the community and the Stitchers contributing many hours of sewing”

Many thanks to you all for your wonderful contribution and excellent idea. Good luck and keep up the excellent work!



Andrew in the garden of The Insomnia Café

*Rebecca Mawle
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WHAT'S ON IN & AROUND OXHILL

August

Tuesday 4th	Green & Blue bin collection
Tuesday 11th	Grey landfill bin collection
Saturday 15th	Oxhill News submission deadline
Tuesday 18th	Green & Blue bin collection
Tuesday 25th	Grey landfill bin collection

September

Saturday 5th 14:00 Oxhill Gardening Club Plant Sale

The date of the next PC Meeting is Tuesday, 8 September at 8.00pm. It is unclear, at present, whether this meeting will be held at the Village Hall or virtually by Zoom. More details will be in the Agenda for the meeting which will be shown on the PC website or a physical copy will be displayed on the Notice Board by the Peacock a few days before the meeting.

There was a PC Meeting held on Tuesday 7th July, but the Oxhill News has not yet received the minutes, so we will publish the July meeting minutes in next month's Oxhill News edition.

If you need to contact the PC please call Derek Harbour on 01295 680676 or e-mail oxhillpc@btinternet.com



The Oxhill News is pleased to welcome Grenville Moore as consulting editor. May your time with us be fruitful and enjoyable.

Vanessa Druce, editor

Finn McCool, Grenville and Jane's dog