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# THE OXHILL NEWS

February 2015      No. 483



The right place to be.

Henry in front of the fire at The Peacock at Christmas

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## 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](mailto:news-editor@oxhill.org.uk) or place paper contributions in the box labelled 'The Oxhill News' in the village Church.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS THE 15TH OF EVERY MONTH.

## MOBILE LIBRARY

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.

The library van will continue to visit Oxhill, stopping at the Village Hall at the new time of 14:30, staying there for 30 minutes. The van will visit us on Friday February 20th.

## REFUSE COLLECTION

Recycling and green waste bins (blue and green bins) will be collected on Tuesdays 10th and 24th February.

The grey rubbish bins will be collected on Tuesdays 3rd and 17th February.

## WEEKDAY WALKERS

This walking group usually walks on 2nd and 4th Friday of the month. If you are interested in joining or to find out further information, please contact Jim Saxton on 680645 or email [saxton@talktalk.net](mailto:saxton@talktalk.net)

## AT THE PEACOCK

**Quiz Night** on Sunday 1st February at 8pm.

### Village Events

Village Lunch on February 18th at 12:30.

The Village Coffee morning will be on Wednesday February 4th at 10.30am.



## MASTER OF SCIENCE WITH DISTINCTION!

Alexandra Finlyson has recently been awarded a Master of Science in Pollution and Environmental Control from the University of Manchester.

She has taken up a post in Derby working for "Clear Environmental", working in the field of waste water modelling. She now lives in Lichfield with her boyfriend Nick Tree.



## OXHILL FESTIVAL CHOIR

After the lovely time we had at Christmas with the Tysoe Choir the plans we have for Easter are already falling into place. It has been decided that the two choirs will join together again to sing at a service on Friday 3rd April at 7.30 pm at Tysoe Church (Good Friday).

This will follow a similar format to the Carol Service. The Choir will sing two pieces on their own. Rehearsals will begin on Monday 2nd March, 7.30 pm in the Old Chapel for both choirs.

Further rehearsals will be on Mondays, 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th March. Sue Wightman is unavailable so Jill Tucker has kindly agreed to lead the choir on this occasion.

I would be grateful if you could let me know if you will not be available on 3rd April so I can estimate numbers for the day.

*Gaynor Van Dijk (680349)*

# NOTES OF OXHILL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 13th JANUARY 2015 AT 8.00 PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL

The meeting, chaired by Grenville Moore, was attended by Parish Councillors Carol Taylor, Tom Heritage and David Hill and one member of the public. Apology received from Brian Badger.

## **MATTERS DISCUSSED**

### **Highways- Heavy lorries through the village**

We have been informed by W.C.C. Traffic Projects Group that HGV's are permitted to use any classification of road for access and deliveries even if a weight restriction is in place (unless it is a structural weight limit).

### **Parish Plan**

Six points are identified for action by the Parish Council:

- 1) Support for the elderly** – to be pursued
- 2) Access to a range of activities for young people** – to be pursued
- 3) Concerns of flooding.** We will contact Severn Trent for a meeting to discuss what steps can be taken to reduce the risk of potential or actual flooding.
- 4) Speed limits.** We have already been advised that community radar equipment is available, free of charge, for monitoring speed which provides information on the extent and severity of the problem. This requires 7 volunteers who will be trained in the use of the equipment. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER FOR THIS PROJECT PLEASE CONTACT ME on 680441
- 5) Parking on pavements.** We have no real ongoing enforcement available, i.e. police presence, yellow lines, but it is our responsibility to abide by the law and not park across the pavement thereby respecting the safety of those who walk, push prams, or use mobility aids to safely use the pavements and not have to go into road. The main area of concern is the top of Beech Road by the flower trough. The parking in this area makes it difficult for drivers to see on coming traffic.
- 6) Dog fouling.** This has been brought to every ones attention on many occasions. It is a question of thinking of others. If your dog fouls the pavement or open spaces used by others then it is your responsibility to clean up after your pet. The Parish Council can provide bins for this use but would you like a dog waste bin outside your house?

## **Finance – Precept 2015/2016**

Expenditure for the above period was discussed and a balance sheet provided of present and future expenditure. £500 would be allowed for insurance, audit fees, Clerk's honorarium and expenses, membership of WALC; grants towards mowing the churchyard and Village Hall ground of £600 and £200 respectively; support would continue for the Oxhill News at £768 pa. Elections will be held in May for District and Parish Councils, provision has to be made in the event that Oxhill will hold an election, i.e. if more than 5 people stand for Parish Councillor. The cost of this will be in the region of £700. If no election is needed the cost is £100. We brought forward £993, therefore a precept of £2500 was agreed by the meeting.

### **Planning**

Outline planning for up to 4 dwellings on land to the rear of "Stablecroft" was returned with objection to backland infill on agricultural land and in contravention of our main planning principles set out in the Parish Plan. This application has now been refused.

Planning applications for i) outline planning for one dwelling at "Merrydown" and ii) construction of detached dwelling on land off Green Lane. Both these application were supported in line with the Parish Plan.

Permission was granted for single storey side extension with roof space at "Clermont"

Application to upgrade and underground 14 span of low voltage cable by Western Power was granted.

### **Footpaths**

The footpath from Beech Road to Gilks Lane, which runs behind the houses on Main Street is blocked and needs opening up as a right of way. Highways to be notified.

### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 10th March 2015 at 8.00 pm in the Village Hall.

*Angela Kean, Clerk*

### **BLACK CAT FOUND DEAD ON GREEN LANE**

Near the beginning of January a black cat was found dead near the crossroads of Green Lane and Whatcote Road. We don't know who the owner of the cat is, so we are informing the Oxhill News in case anyone is missing a black cat.

*Anonymous*

## OXHILL VILLAGE HALL – UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Upton House in WW II – Illustrated Talk on 20 February, 2015**

Upton House is changing this year. Our neighbouring National Trust property is shifting its focus from 1930s country house to how the house was used during the Second World War. Come and hear a fascinating illustrated talk about Upton during the war and see some of the artefacts, on **Friday 20 February from 7.30pm at Oxhill Village Hall.**

Tickets are £5 each which includes a glass of wine or a beer. They are available from Tricia Harbour on 680676.

### **Brooks Williams gig - Friday 13 March, 2015**

Oxhill's own impresario, Pat Crowther, has booked the fabulous **Brooks Williams** (rated as a Top 100 Acoustic Guitarist and Singer) at the Village Hall on **March 13<sup>th</sup>.** You can hear samples of Brooks' wonderful playing and music on YouTube or on [www.brookswilliams.com](http://www.brookswilliams.com) .

Doors will open at 7.30pm for an 8.00pm start and tickets will only cost £10, direct from the impresario himself, Pat Crowther on 680705.

### **Celtic Friday Night @ the Village Hall – Friday, 27 March, 2015**

A welcome return for one of our casual Friday Night events with a Celtic theme comprising of a Welsh Lamb Casserole followed by an Irish Dessert, all for £10.00 per person and doors will be open from 7.30 pm onwards.

Tickets will be available from Jay Roberts on 680030

**Please Note that Knit & Natter will take place on 5 & 19 February.**

*Derek Harbour*

## A TRIP TO THE PANTO

A group of us from the village went to see Aladdin, starring Iain McPherson and his Daughter Morna at the Belgrave Theatre in Coventry on the last night, January 10th. There was a range of ages from 14 to, well, I wouldn't really like to say but discussions about pensions were heard more than once.

We had good seats and from the moment that the musicians started to play to the end, we were royally entertained. Iain and Morna were great as were the rest of the very talented cast. The scenery was excellent, with a few jokes here and there for the observant, the sets were imaginative as well as being technically awesome and the costumes (particularly those worn by Iain) were terrific. The script was superb and the jokes often worked on two levels so we were all entertained and no-one was offended.

It was a Pantomime – just like it should be – well done all concerned! We'll be back for more next year – Oh yes, we will be.



The Pantomime stars were:

Widow Twankey - Iain Lauchlan      Wishee Washee - Craig Hollingsworth  
Emperor - William Finkenwrath      Aladdin - Morna Macpherson  
Princess Jasmine - Arina II

*Derek Harbour*

OXHILL VILLAGE HALL  
FRIDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2015 AT 8.00  
( DOOR OPENS 7.30 )

*Brooks Williams - Guitarist Singer-Songwriter - [www.brookswilliams.com](http://www.brookswilliams.com)*



***“Pan-American Roots ‘n Blues, doused in Moonshine alt-Billy and delicious Dixie” Net Rhythms***

Ranked in the Top 100 Acoustic Guitarists, Brooks Williams is one of the most versatile and entertaining performers on the acoustic roots music scene today. From Statesboro Georgia USA, he is a proverbial triple threat: a fiery guitarist, a smooth-as-silk vocalist, and stunning songwriter. In February 2014 he was nominated best male vocalist by the UK’s folk roots mavens, ***Spiral Earth.***

***“Deft, tasteful guitar chops.” Rolling Stone***

A road warrior, in the truest sense, Williams has toured throughout the world including the USA, Canada, Ireland, the UK, Turkey, France, Italy, The Netherlands and Africa. Appearances include Shrewsbury Folk Festival and Cro-predy Festival in England, New Bedford Folk Festival in Massachusetts, Celtic Connections in Scotland, and Uncle Calvin’s in Texas.

Tickets just £10 from Pat at [patrickcrowther@hotmail.com](mailto:patrickcrowther@hotmail.com)

## PARISH ACTION PLAN

As you will have read, the Action Plan was addressed by the Parish Council at the last meeting. There are eight ‘value statements’ that require action to be taken and some require more input than the parish council can achieve alone.

- 1) Support for the elderly – needs the formation of a working group. We need volunteers.
- 2) Access a range of activities for young people – again needs the formation of a working group and again volunteers needed.

Perhaps one working group could address both the above? Just a suggestion.

- 3) To retain close connection with the countryside – OWLS has already undertaken and will continue to support this criteria. If you would like to join OWLS, please contact me.
- 4) Flooding – the Parish Council will be contacting Severn Trent Water to start with and will liaise with affected residents.
- 5) Development/Planning in Oxhill – now we have a Parish Plan, which the Parish Council can use to support planning issues.
- 6) Oxhill residents want people to behave responsibly – there are several points to be addressed here and as you can see from the Parish Council minutes, these were discussed in some detail.
  - a) Speeding – we do require seven volunteers to train in the use of a community camera. Mick Shepard will co-ordinate this, but initially application forms can be obtained from Angela Kean – 680441.
  - b) Parking – this is quite a difficult one in a small village. While it is accepted that when there is a function in the Old Chapel, cars will have to park partly on the pavement, we have had complaints that some vehicles have been parking fully on the pavement by the telephone box, obstructing visibility, which is another matter. Persistent offenders will have their vehicle photographed and sent to the Police. It really is just a matter of being considerate and ‘think before you park’.

- c) Dog fouling – again think of YOUR responsibility. Part of the problem seems to be that occasionally younger residents of the village, when walking the family dog, ignore the fact that their dog has just fouled the pavement. Please make sure your children take the ‘poo bags’ with them.
- 7) Broadband – Mike Collins is monitoring this one for us at the moment.
- 8) Oxhill residents should be well informed – We have the Oxhill News and two notice boards, so it is difficult to see what more we can do. I think those of us on the Parish Council, village hall committee and PCC just need to look at how if possible we can give out more information – perhaps an information booklet to every house or a village website. Do we have a volunteer to look at putting something like this together?

Any suggestions, ideas, or volunteers, please contact Grenville Moore – 680664.

## OXHILL GARDEN CLUB

On January 15th Anne Chambers, owner and gardener, took us through a year at Kiftsgate Court gardens. Set on the edge of the Cotswold escarpment near Chipping Campden, the gardens are the creation of three generations of women gardeners. Anne’s grandmother first designed and planted a series of interconnecting gardens each with its distinct character in the 1920s and we were treated to a slide show that included many of her original plantings still thriving almost one hundred years on. Anne’s mother continued the development of the gardens and introduced new plant and shrub varieties particularly suited to the different micro-climates found in the different parts of the six acre estate.

Anne and her husband are building on their inheritance and spend most mornings working in the gardens (with a little hired help!) before the visitors arrive in the middle of the day Saturday through to Wednesday, April to September. There is always work to be done keeping the grounds immaculate, pruning as necessary and filling in for natural die back. Whereas the drifts of snowdrops and daffodils are self-seeding despite the ground being returned to mowed lawn later in the year, the dense plantings of tulips need to have several hundred bulbs of the same varieties added to maintain the glorious annual showings.

Anne’s enthusiasm was lovely to see and her horticultural knowledge such that she not only had the name of each and every plant at her (very green) fingertips but could also recount its history. The most notable, the famous Kiftsgate rose (*Rosa filipes ‘Kiftsgate’*), is a vigorous thorny climber and reckoned to be the largest in England. It takes up half the space on one side of the Rose Border and

three trees have been smothered by its spreading habit. We were shown a spectacular slide of it covered in panicles of white blooms resembling a cascading July waterfall amongst the trees.

The consensus of those present at the talk, whether or not they had visited Kiftsgate before, was that the committee should arrange a trip there later in the year. Watch this space! The next Garden Club meeting (always the third Thursday in the month) is on 19th February, is a talk by Philip Aubrey on ‘The History of the Birmingham Botanical Gardens’, and is when we look forward to a social gathering of friends old and new.

*Douglas Nethercleft*

## CAROL SERVICE THANKS

Once again the church was very well attended (full!) for the Carol Service. Thanks are due to all the readers. All very good. Thanks also to those who helped bring the Christmas tree from Kineton ,to those who assisted with erecting and decorating it and also for its removal afterwards! Grateful thanks for providers of mince pies and mulled wine. The Festival Choir was magnificent and thanks to all choristers and organist for beautiful Christmas music. We look forward to seeing each and all of you at next year's Carol service.

*Carol Fox*

**EMPTY BOWLS  
@ Whichford**  
**SATURDAY 21st FEBRUARY 12-3pm**

WHICHFORD POTTERY'S STRAW KITCHEN CAFE AND OCTAGON

Supporting [www.shipstonhomenursing.co.uk](http://www.shipstonhomenursing.co.uk) - [www.smatrust.org](http://www.smatrust.org)

**Tickets £15**

Includes winter-warming bowl of homemade soup & artisan bread. Exhibition of donated bowls by local and International potters. Plus a unique bowl to takeaway  
For more information and to reserve a place contact:

Pippa Brook 07778 845318

[pippa@brookfamily.net](mailto:pippa@brookfamily.net)

Suzie Coyte 07989 568724

[suziecoyte@gmail.com](mailto:suziecoyte@gmail.com)



## OXHILL NEWS DISTRICT DIRECTORY

We know that when you have an emergency in your home (a pipe bursts, the boiler breaks, the garden turns into a jungle) you need a list of service providers to call. So we've decided to help.

The Oxhill News is putting together a directory of services in and around Oxhill – eg. plumbing, heating, gardening, cleaning and/or medical.

The list will be published annually.

If you provide a service that you think the residents of Oxhill should know about, please tell us. This is not advertising – we will not list prices or opening hours or recommendations. We will simply list service providers and their contact details.

We will be publishing the directory in April, so you have 2 months to send us your details!!

*Roger & Vanessa, editors*

## ST. PETER'S CHURCH WHATCOTE CHRISTMAS PUDDINGS 2014

To my surprise all the puddings were sold by the first week of December. The profit for 2014 is £395.18p.

May I say thank you to all our regular and some new customers and wish you all a happy and peaceful 2015.

*June Wreford*

## VILLAGE E-MAIL CONTACT LIST

For those who have recently moved into the village or who have just not been aware in the past, an e-mail distribution list is maintained for quickly disseminating important information to the community. The majority of properties in the village are now contactable via this list.

If you would like your e-mail address to be added to this list then please send details to [residents@oxhill.org.uk](mailto:residents@oxhill.org.uk).

The list remains private and is not used for any purpose other than those that are of direct importance to the village.

## DEANERY NEWS FOR FEBRUARY

On **Tuesday, February 3rd** we look forward to welcoming Revd Canon Dr David Stone to Deanery Synod. David is Precentor (i.e. organises the worship) and Sub-Dean of Coventry Cathedral. He is passionate about worship that is exciting and ‘worth getting out of bed for’ .....hence the title. All are very welcome to come and hear him and meet him at 7.30 pm in St. Edmund’s Church, Shipston.

February 17th is Shrove Tuesday, which probably means Pancake Suppers, and February 18th is Ash Wednesday, marking the start of Lent: our Deanery Lent Services will begin the following week. This year they will be held on **Wednesdays**, to give those for whom Tuesday is a problem a chance to attend. Our services will be based around the Pilgrim Course Book 1 – Turning to Christ, and we hope that churches will be able to follow it in their house groups etc. It costs £5.99, and copies will be available at Synod, or on-line via Church House Publishing, Eden or Amazon (and probably others).

Details are as follows: we always begin at 7.30 pm.

25 February,	Shipston: Do you turn to Christ? Revd Barry Jackson, Rector of Kineton
4 March,	Tysoe: Do you believe and trust in God the Father? Revd Daniel Pulham, Minister of Stour Valley Baptist Church, Shipston
11 March	Long Compton: Do you believe and trust in his Son, Jesus Christ? Revd Canon Kathryn Fleming, Canon Pastor of Coventry Cathedral
18 March	Brailes: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit? Revd Canon Andrew Dow
25 March	Tredington: Do you repent of your sins? Revd Naomi Nixon, Ministerial Development Learning Advisor
1 April	Ettington (HC): Do you renounce evil? Ven. John Green CB, Archdeacon Pastor

*Jill Tucker*

## **St. Lawrence Church, Oxhill: Lent, Holy Week and Easter 2015**

*A look ahead to events planned as we move towards Easter.*



### **Shrove Tuesday: February 17<sup>th</sup>.**

Pancake Supper, 7.00pm, at The Old House.

### **Ash Wednesday: February 18<sup>th</sup>.**

Eucharist of Ash Wednesday with Imposition of Ashes. 7.30 pm in St. Lawrence Church.

**Lent Lunch:** a simple lunch of soup, bread and cheese, with a focus on serving the poor. **Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 12.30 pm,** at The Old House.

### **Mothering Sunday: Sunday March 15<sup>th</sup>**

9.30 am: Mothering Sunday Service

### **Palm Sunday: March 29<sup>th</sup>.**

9.30 am: Family Service for Palm Sunday.

### **Good Friday: Friday April 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

- **Morning: 10.00am – 12.00 noon** ‘Messy Church’ in The Old Chapel for children and carers to create an Easter Garden and other visual liturgy for Church, hopefully accompanied by home-made hot-cross buns, rounded off with a very simple act of worship in the Chapel.
- **Evening: 7.30 pm in Tysoe church:** Oxhill Festival Choir to join forces with the Tysoe Choir to lead an evening of sacred music, meditation and prayer for Good Friday in Tysoe Church.

### **Easter Day: Sunday April 5<sup>th</sup>.**

9.30 am: Eucharist of Easter Day.

*Jill Tucker*

# ST.LAWRENCE'S CHURCH, OXHILL SERVICES IN FEBRUARY

*All are warmly welcome*

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> Septuagesima / Candlemas** 9.30am Parish Communion (ML)

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> Sexagesima** 9.30am Sunday Worship (JT)

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> Quinquagesima** 9.30am Parish Communion (ML)

**Ash Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup>** 7.30pm Holy Communion with imposition of ashes (JT)

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> Lent I** 9.30am Family Service (NM)

*For other services in the benefice please see porch notice board*

## VICARAGE NOTES

Dear Friends

### Thought for the month

Candlemas Day February 2nd ends the ancient 40 days of Christmas with the great theme of Christ the light for the world. That light is desperately needed as, once again, we see the wicked actions of extremists across the world. Our prayerful and practical support must be for all striving to build understanding between nations and peoples. A communion prayer preparing for Lent reads:

*O Holy God, we behold thy glory in the face of Jesus Christ:  
grant that we who are partakers at his table may reflect his life in word and  
deed,  
that all the world may know his power to change and save;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

The season of Lent begins quite early this year and there will be a special communion service on Ash Wednesday as well as the Deanery Lent Services over the following weeks. Please see Jill's notice for all the details.

God bless,

Nicholas Morgan 01608 685230

[braileschurch@gmail.com](mailto:braileschurch@gmail.com)

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## WHAT'S ON IN & AROUND OXHILL

### February

Sunday	1st	20:00	The Peacock - Quiz Night
Tuesday	3rd		Grey bin collection
Wednesday	4th	10:30	The Peacock - Village Coffee Morning
Thursday	5th	14:00	Knit and Natter
Tuesday	10th		Green and Blue bin collection
Monday	15th	23:59	COPY DEADLINE FOR THE NEWS
Tuesday	17th		Grey bin collection
Wednesday	18th	12:30	The Peacock - Village Lunch
Thursday	19th	14:00	Knit and Natter
Thursday	19th	19:30	History of Birmingham Botanical Gardens , OVH
Friday	20th	14:30	Mobile Library
Friday	20th	19:30	Talk at Oxhill Village Hall Upton House in WWII
Tuesday	24th		Green and Blue bin collection

### March

Monday	2nd	19:30	Oxhill Festival Choir Rehearsal Old Chapel
Tuesday	10th	20:00	PC Meeting, Village Hall
Friday	13th	19:30	Brooks Williams Live Music, OVH
Friday	27th	19:30	Celtic Night incl Meal, OVH