

THE OXHILL NEWS

February 2021 No. 555



Guess Who! Turn to page 9 to find out more.

Vanessa Druce, editor & Grenville Moore, consulting editor
Email: oxhill@btinternet.com

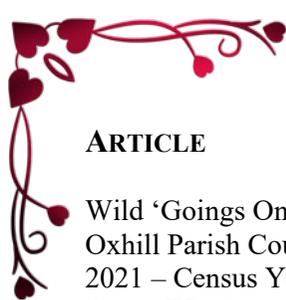


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CLUB & GROUP CONTACT DETAILS

Carers4carers:	kcarers4carers@gmail.com or tel: 07947 893504
Oxhill Village Hall:	Jo Collings - Chairman - 01295 680215 Ali Sayer - Hall Hire - 01295 680451 email: village-hall@oxhill.org.uk
The Peacock Pub	01295 688060
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

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

WILD ‘GOINGS ON’ AT THE MANOR

by Alastair Welford

During the summer of 2017 we visited Oxhill for the first time having resisted looking at the Manor as we were not looking for a listed property or building project!

By the time we completed the purchase (end November 2017) it was home to too many rodents so we did not move in! The listed building planning journey has been an experience we will not repeat. At one stage being accused of destroying parts of a historic building was extremely hard to work through as nothing could have been further from our minds or the truth. The support and encouragement we received from new friends in Oxhill has helped us through this time and we are very grateful to you all for that. Thank you.



The Oxhill welcome was totally unexpected and was and is a real bonus. Beer & Bubbles and our first Burns night were a great intro to Oxhill life - for those moving in during this lockdown you have quite an experience to yet appreciate! We have an amazing village hall committee!

During 2020, in the Manor river valley, we have seen Barn Owls, Badgers, Foxes, Pole Cat, 4 broods of mallard ducks on the three ponds, about a dozen different varieties of dragon and damsel flies alongside a brood of Moorhens on the Oxbow pond and masses of frogs. 2 broods of swallows were achieved despite all the builders



and Honk the swan joined us for a while and we hope, as the ponds mature and sufficient cover grows on the island, he will return with Mrs Honk and do what swans do! An Egrit stalked the pond margins for a month and Herons are regular visitors. 2 pairs of Snipe were seen as they speedily crossed the 3 ponds and a Kingfisher is now feeding in the Oxbow ditch by the Manor. Roe Deer are regularly seen at the 3 ponds and although it is early days we hope much more wildlife will populate these areas as the ponds mature. We hope that OWLS (Oxhill Wildlife Society) will at some stage give a guided incursion into the valley area that hopefully will encourage local children, teens and families to get involved with wildlife both at the Manor and other areas in and around Oxhill. We will be planting some specimen trees in the valley



Canada geese visit one of the Manor ponds.

and have had some families expressing interest in planting a specific tree they can then watch and nurture as it grows. So, if anyone else wishes to plant any please contact Debbie or Alastair.

The old barn and stables (“Manor Stables”) will be used as offices by Nicodemus, a charity we started that works with many thousands of marginalised youth in both the UK, Guatemala and shortly in El Salvador too (see www.Nicodemus.org.uk). Training for our partners will be recorded and broadcast from Manor Stables. Nicodemus will also be creating a local community “hot desk hub” at Manor Stables so anyone using it will benefit the charity through the fees. Manor Stables may also be used for the occasional



Tadpoles in one of the Manor ponds.

wedding or mini conference as lockdowns ease. There is a big screen that will be used for training and this will be able to be used for watching films or the 6 Nations, for example. If anyone has any ideas or wishes to use Manor Stables, please contact us.

We would like to thank you again everyone for making us so welcome in Oxhill and we look forward to becoming more involved in the community.

We have a very big bonfire that you may have noticed that we are saving for a post-lockdown village Bonfire Party! May it come around very soon!

Alastair Welford
07860 261246
awwelford@gmail.com

Debbie Welford
07802 322803
dmwelford@gmail.com

OXHILL PARISH COUNCIL - 2020: A YEAR IN REVIEW

Back in December 2019 the Parish Council (PC) met to set out ideas and plans for the coming year and your team of Councillors would now like to provide you with a summary of our achievements and outstanding issues in what was a very challenging year for many people. We will reviewing plans for the coming budgetary year at the February meeting, so please get in touch if you have any ideas or suggestions using the contact details provided below:-

Installation of further speed reduction measures

With broad consultation and a decent volume of feedback from various parishioners the mobile chicane idea has been put on hold, but a small speed radar has been purchased for informally monitoring anonymised speeding events (i.e. not the specific cars or drivers involved) to provide summary data to the authorities to enable our traffic challenges to be taken more seriously.

More waste/dog bins located around the village

Two additional waste bins have been installed and they have all proved very helpful and well used by dog walkers and other villagers alike. As a further step, new signs have also been ordered to promote responsible dog ownership.

Up to three new bus shelters on a one per year basis

The making of the first bus shelter was commissioned during the year but following major restrictions in hardwood supply, which also delayed the new Church gates, the new shelter should be installed outside the Village Hall during the Spring at which point discussion will open on further shelters. The proposed bench near the Church has been put on hold while other locations are considered given the relatively new bench in the churchyard already.

Provision of local footpaths map to residents

Local public footpath maps were published in the Oxhill News and on the village Facebook page with the aim of ensuring residents are aware which paths they can use safely and without encroaching on private property. Additionally a small footpaths improvement team has been mobilised to make simple repairs to footpath infrastructure and clear overgrown areas alongside local landowners.

A new ‘accessibility-compliant’ Community website

The Parish website is being upgraded to ensure that it is accessibility compliant and a code of conduct relating to inclusivity has also been adopted, in-line with government regulations. The new website will incorporate a PC ‘page’ as well as one for each of the village ‘clubs’, like the Garden Club, OWLS, etc. plus the Village Hall. We expect it to go ‘live’ in the near future but any corrections or amendments will still be possible. We

will continue to support the existing site for a limited time to ensure that all relevant content is moved across.

Ongoing support for Oxhill Village Hall

We have continued to support the Village Hall Committee as appropriate, by providing maintenance funding similar to that previously provided for the Church, as we believe it is a critical focal point of our community and essential it continues to thrive as a social hub once we emerge from the pandemic.

Proactive stance on flooding including pursuing of the relevant authorities

Various different drainage issues have been raised with the County Council and in several cases resolved, e.g. drains being cleaned out on Rouse Lane etc. The culverts along Whatcote Road remain an ongoing issue, both at the top of the road near the lay-by, but also more recently near the Village Hall junction. Both have been reported and are being assessed by the Highways team.

Frequent updating of the village on security matters

With various local Neighbourhood Watch groups in place the PC has not had to do a great deal on this topic, particularly with many more people being at home during the pandemic, but the SmartWater scheme remains active and property marking will resume with the Stratford Rural Crime team when possible.

Green review against the Stratford District Climate Change initiative

As one of the more ambitious plans for 2020 much of the ‘green credentials’ work has been put on hold while the pandemic runs its course. This item like others that were incomplete has moved onto the agenda for discussion and potential action during 2021 instead.

Alongside all of the above it was highlighted that roughly two-thirds of the effort spent on the Parish Council relates to Planning Applications, which are summarised after each meeting in the minutes. Throughout 2020 the PC took the view that we would rather be recognised for supporting the majority of sensible, pragmatic and well thought-through planning applications than be ignored as an ‘irritant’ group objecting to everything.

Skimming through the responses to various planning applications for the year we can see that the PC has supported more than half of all applications and registered no objection for a further number. The remaining few where we have objected have been in-line with the majority community feeling based on our regular consultations around the village.

Moving into 2021 and the pandemic continues to rage and arguably accelerate. The NHS vaccination program is progressing and the local GPs are providing information directly to registered patients and via the local Facebook pages. As such the PC will continue to

meet virtually and has increased the frequency to once a month (excluding August and December holiday periods) on the second Tuesday of each month. This should ensure that each meeting is more focussed and able to respond to planning applications within the more stringent timelines set out by the District Council.

Please remember that all PC meetings are held in public and members of the community are always welcome to attend. Each meeting has 15 minutes of ‘open floor’ time where people can raise any relevant issues for discussion. You can find the agenda and information about (and minutes of) PC activities on the following site: www.oxhillpc.uk. The next meeting is at 7.30pm on Tuesday 9th February and if you would like to attend (online remotely) the log-in details will be on the agenda and a printed copy will be available on the Noticeboard outside The Peacock, three days before the meeting.

We all wish you a happy and prosperous 2021 and hope that you and your families avoid the worst of the pandemic. Our thoughts are with those who are struggling through what have become very difficult times for many.

census
2021

2021 – CENSUS YEAR

The National Census will take place on Sunday, 21 March of this year. Every household should get a letter from the government informing everyone about this and what is planned. Because of the Pandemic, there is a big push, this time, for a ‘Digital’ Census, ie it is hoped that most people will complete the legally required information on-line. However, it will be possible to apply for a hardcopy form if people do not have access to the Internet. You may read that Scotland has decided to postpone this important event but England and Wales have decided to go ahead, as planned because the information derived is very useful in allocating resources, etc. If, when you receive your letter you want any help or guidance, please contact anyone on the Parish Council and they will be pleased to assist.



GUESS WHO!

Can you guess who is on the cover of this month's Oxhill News?

Can you guess who is sitting on the horse in the photo on the left?

This month we are starting a new column: **Guess Who!** We are asking villagers to send in photos of themselves (or other villagers) as children, teenagers, young adults or simply disguised. We will publish the photos in the Guess Who! column and then reveal their names in the following month's issue.

So look out for the names of our first two mystery villagers in the March issue of the Oxhill News.



POPPY APPEAL 2020

I never cease to be amazed by people's generosity. Despite the punitive restrictions this year with no house to house collections, the Tysoe and district area excelled itself and

really rose to the challenge. To date over £4.3k has been raised.

A very big thank you to everyone who helped achieve this remarkable milestone. It's already slightly more than our average annual take and can only go up once I recover all the pub collecting tins.

David Sewell

REQUEST FOR OXHILL NEWS SUBMISSIONS

Normally our village magazine is brimming over with news and photos of events in our village. However, in these past few months little or nothing has been going on. Fortunately we have been able to fill our pages with stories from our villagers - stories of past experiences, interests, achievements, observations and discoveries. It has been a joy to read and publish these stories. Villagers have told me how much they love the articles. Some have stopped me to recount one of their own stories and though I love listening, I would prefer to share their stories with the whole village.

So I am making an appeal to all villagers to give us a story (or two) of an interesting experience, a hobby or interest you have, a beautiful or surprising photo you've taken, a drawing or painting you've made or something you've always wanted to say and didn't have the forum to say it. We are interested and we believe the village is too.

Please send your submissions by the 15th of each month to oxhill@btinternet.com

Thank you, eds.

The next generation of Oxhill News devotees. Thank you Jo for the photos.



*Felix engrossed in last month's
January 2021 Oxhill News*



*Milo perusing through the Oxhill
News back in June 2016.*

THE LARK ASCENDING

by Grenville Moore



A week or two before Christmas, BBC4 broadcast a programme focusing on *The Lark Ascending* by Ralph Vaughan Williams. It seems to portray an idyll of rural England, but there is an underlying layer of sadness, and this quintessential ‘English’ tune is almost guaranteed to bring a tear to the eye of most people. It was a wonderful programme and it reminded me of

my father-in-law, James Barr, who died in 2003. Jim was a kind and gentle man, farmer, shepherd, champion hedge-layer, had ploughed with horses in his youth, and possessed a keen knowledge and love of the countryside and wildlife. He taught me a lot over the years. Jim was a quiet man and never pushed his opinion unless asked, a rare thing it seems these days. Although a long-term resident of Warmington, he had decided he wanted to be buried in Oxhill. The day of his funeral was bright and sunny, and the service in Oxhill church was a delightful dedication to a true countryman. During the service swallows, which used to nest in the porch, flew in and out over the coffin, and as the coffin was carried out of the church to the sound of *The Lark Ascending*, the swallows accompanied him.

The following morning whilst walking the dogs across the fields, feeling sad and melancholy, my heart was lifted by the skylarks singing. They inhabit the centres of large fields and rise to great heights, constantly singing (the lark ascending!). You very rarely see them on the ground, but this morning a single lark was singing above me while I skirted the edge of the field. It then descended in short, ‘parachuting’ movements and astonishingly landed not more than a metre in front of me. I came to a halt with the dogs, and the lark and I looked at each other in utter stillness, for what was probably a few seconds but seemed like minutes, before it took off. Did I imagine it, or did I hear Jim’s voice saying ‘it’s all OK Gren, I’m fine’.



Photo sequence of a skylark landing - a WHOOSH as he descends with feet down. This sequence is about 0.6 seconds worth - don't miss the one at the bottom right corner against the tree. Photo from moorhen.me.uk

Who would have thought this warm-hearted selfless man had experienced some of the horrors of WW2. He joined up just before the start of the war and was part of the 24th Field Regiment, Royal Artillery. At the age of just 20 years, he found himself part of the British Expeditionary Forces moving to Northern Europe, but months later they were retreating to Dunkirk, and just short of 340,000 soldiers found themselves on the beaches. Jim was part of the rear-guard action trying to hold the Germans back while hundreds of boats took the troops off the beaches. Eventually they were ordered to 'spike' their guns and it was every man for himself. While he was waiting on the beach, he found time to comfort a dying Belgian soldier, who gave Jim his small prayer book. Written inside is an inscription '*from a Belgium soldier for a British Comrade, la Guerre 1939 -*'. We still have this prayer book. Jim managed to get aboard a paddle steamer, we think the *Medway Queen*, that made a total of seven trips across the channel.



James Barr

In 1942 Jim was in North Africa, driving a Sherman Tank. His unit was now part of Montgomery's 8th Army that took part in the battle of El Alamein. It was here in the hot sand dunes of the desert that Jim's tank, taking part in a 'cat and mouse' exercise, was ambushed in a German Panzer, and heavily outgunned they took a direct hit on the turret. The driver had an escape plate under his seat and Jim managed to crawl out under the tank. His four colleagues weren't so fortunate and all perished. He carried an old photograph of the crew with him for the rest of his life, until the day he told us the story one lunch time. He had never spoken of it until then. He later destroyed the photograph.

Jim's war continued with landing at Anzio, and in 1944 he was again in the thick of it at Monte Cassino, coming under heavy bombardment from the German forces occupying the monastery on top of the hill. American troops were also involved, but that is a whole other story! Suffice to say that when Rome was taken, the British troops were pulled back to let the Americans take the glory.



Jim's tank at the Battle of El Alamein

Jim remained in Italy until the final months of the war when all the British troops were boarded on to trains that brought them up through Europe. He said the train was so slow you could get off it and walk alongside, and so as it moved through all the orange and lemon groves, he filled his kit bag with the fruit. When he got home to Clifford Chambers, he went down the road giving all the neighbours an orange, and to find that he and the rest of the troops who fought so long and hard in Italy had been described by Lady Nancy Astor as 'the D-day Dodgers'!

Here we are in lockdown, in our warm houses, a lot of us getting deliveries to our door with marvellous food from around the world, great entertainment with television and Netflix, computers and iPads and phones to keep us in touch, books and music How lucky are we? The only thing missing at the moment is the wonderful singing of the skylarks, but soon!



The bombing of Cassino Monastery and town, May 1944, by Peter McIntyre, an official Second World War artist.



St Lawrence Church during a snowy winter

ST LAWRENCE CHURCH

The church is still open, but, just temporarily, we have once again taken the decision to close the doors of our building, for the safety of all those who would pass through them. This will continue throughout February, but be the subject of constant review. Hopefully, not be for too long, but with the current state of the pandemic, and with the vaccines now being rolled out, we felt that minimising risk was the wisest thing to do. When the strong advice is to stay at home, we could not in all conscience invite people to come out.

God is of course not confined by the wall of our churches: we can worship anywhere, and signs of his presence abound, especially in the kindness and care we see around us. And we continue to pray and care for each one of you.

As before, we continue to worship and meet together via Zoom:
Sunday at 11.00 am, and Wednesday at 10.00 am.

The Zoom link is given in The Grapevine, or available from George Heighton or myself.

February 16th sees Shrove Tuesday (and a probably virtual Pancake Supper!) February 17th is Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent. It will, perhaps, have a particular poignancy this year as we complete a year of living with COVID: we hope to provide resources that will enable us, both Alone and Together, meet with God and be fed as we journey through Lent. Look out for details in The Grapevine.

This lovely prayer speaks of a God who does not need a church building: it is from Iona, hence the nautical reference.....



God's Word

God, help us to listen for your voice:
in the words of the Bible,
in the cries of the poor,
in the testimony of the saints,
in the warnings of the prophets,
in the questions of children and young people,
in everyday conversations with our neighbours,
in words unsaid,
in the movement of breath...

God, sometimes your voice may not be a voice at all.

Help us to sense you
in the smell of grass after a rain,
in the colours of the sea,
in the tang of salt spray,
in the touch of a stranger. Amen.

Neil Paynter and others, 'We bring you everything and tip it out in front of you.'

*Every blessing, Jill
revjill.tucker@btinternet.com*

THE SPY WHO SHOVED ME

by Reuben Connolly

Having read with great interest the excellent article from Peter Taylor last month (FROM RUSSIA WITH GHERKINS, O.N. January 2021) I felt compelled to write about some of my own experiences in Russia that seemed to complement his.

During my five years at Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) - the reason we moved from Herts to Warks - I was fortunate enough to find my way into the quaintly and somewhat colonially named 'Overseas Operations' team. My role was to lead the Online Sales arm of the region and develop web-based car sales functions in as many Southern and Eastern hemisphere markets as we could.

Working in far-flung locations such as Japan, Korea, Australia, South Africa and Brazil, to say I developed a decent air miles balance is quite an understatement! There was one market in our region though that never quite fitted in on many levels; and of course given the preface herein that can only be Russia!

I already had some experience of working in Russia during my 20s as a Management Consultant with Deloitte, but while still 'consumer business', that had been a very different industry to automotive and also a long way from the capital - just outside St. Petersburg. The winters there were cold and beautiful, with local attractions such as the Winter Palace and the Church of the Saviour on Spilled Blood, but today's story is about Moscow...

Obtaining visas was one of the major distractions of working in the Overseas team and Russia was particularly awkward, usually involving a visit to the embassy in London to have your fingerprints taken and your paperwork checked. Never one to miss an opportunity, we had a new 'concierge car parking' business being trialled in London, so

I jumped into a supercharged Racing Green XJ-R and pummelled it down to Elephant & Castle. There I was greeted by a chap on a street corner in a branded T-shirt who I handed over the six-figure car to for two hours while I got my visa. They said he would take it somewhere to park and bring it back once I was ready, but I'm not convinced he ever parked it and probably just cruised around looking like he'd stolen it!



Reuben and the Jaguar XJ-R

Some time after and I was on my way to Russia with the aim of understanding why the local team had taken the budget we'd assigned for implementing our prescribed online sales platform and gone ahead and built their own instead. Arriving in Moscow's Sheremetyevo airport at 11pm on a Sunday I was greeted by nothing more than heavy snow and an ever colder reception; Anglo-Russian relations were at quite a low ebb and the Border Guards seemed even more officious than I'd ever encountered elsewhere.

Having recently completed a tour of the Middle East between applying for my visa and travelling to Russia they clearly had concerns over my reasons for visiting Dubai, Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait and Oman all in one week; so off I went with the 'supervisors' to discuss the situation further. At this moment all the cinematic stereotypes of interrogation rooms and rubber gloves went flashing through my mind; and it was clear that my host for the evening knew exactly what I was thinking! Fortunately she was a stunning brunette with a playful smirk and odd coloured eyes (one blue, one green, 'just like David Bowie' as she gleefully informed me after the formalities some hours later - although factually incorrect - I wasn't going to challenge her!) but she also had an entirely different uniform to all the other officers.

As we walked past the standard suitcase search areas and into a different section I was conscious that the area started to feel more militaristic than civilian and more dark uniforms were present. Perhaps naively I felt the need to ask what her uniform designated: to that she simply said flatly that "If you have to ask then you probably don't want to know". It was around that moment that my own uniform, particularly my trousers, nearly turned their own darker shade and there was no further small talk!



Still I managed to hold it all together and she showed me around a corner into a small room with no windows and just a small table with a male operative waiting for me to sit down. However, just as I stepped over the threshold the female agent pushed me hard in the back so I stumbled into the room and instinctively turned around and shouted indignantly "What the bloody hell are you doing?". Apparently that was a good response as she said "We just want to be sure you are British", which apparently my outburst suggested I probably was.

After that it was all pretty straightforward with the main concern being whether I had visited Saudi Arabia while in the Middle East. In reality I had been due to visit Saudi during the same week as the other markets, but it was the one place my wife didn't really want me to go, so I had decided to delay it for a future visit as we just couldn't squeeze it in. Within a couple of hours of questions and waiting for approvals I was on my way to the Sheraton airport hotel, which wasn't very far at all and helpfully close to the office for the next morning.

I never plucked up the courage to ask the female operative her name, so apart from the short discussion about her heterochromia and a recommendation for which vodka to drink (Russian Standard is the only real vodka, apparently, but not the one with the English label) we didn't say much as I recovered from my detention. She did, however, leave me with one wise gem that I will always remember: she simply said "Always eat the pickles, they neutralise the alcohol" and with that I was on my own in a strange land. Somehow I was much better prepared for the team meal the following evening where the only rule was 'no more than one toast every 28 seconds' and I ate plenty of pickles, particularly the mini gherkins, which brings us back to where this story began.

With more time I would love to tell you all about the greatest storm in 100 years that I got caught in while visiting Gorky Park, or the team-building 'banyo with complimentary cherry tree' and why in Russia 'women do Finance and men do IT' but alas those stories might have to wait for another time and perhaps in response to another tale that Peter might regale us with in the future. Until then I will raise a glass of vodka to the beautiful secret agent I can only assume was called Natalya and wish you all Na Zdorovia (which of course doesn't really mean cheers in Russian at all)!

PS. We never really figured out why the Russian team had done their own thing with online sales - something to do with all their systems being different to the rest of JLR - but after the team meal and the inevitable morning after it didn't really seem to matter, especially as we had a day of ice-driving in 4WD F-Types planned at the new Jaguar brand experience centre! It was a tough gig, but looking back now I'm not entirely sure why I left.

Serendipity

During lockdown I have been amazed as to the variety of 'stuff' that one can find, usually by accident, on the internet. Serendipity! This invariably leads to the exploration of other rabbit holes and the discovery of further delights! Any link to a YouTube, BBC Sounds, or Other event given here will invariably lead to 'suggestions', easily clicked on, of similar items in the particular genre being viewed or otherwise experienced. I don't pretend that all of my 'findings' will necessarily be of interest to others, but some might. You won't know unless you try them out and, perhaps, experience something new, thought provoking, or just beautiful!

A Virtual Wassail - Green Matthews
www.youtube.com/watch?v=sto76LDw5vM



*A Virtual Wassail
Green Matthews*

TED Talks - Sir Ken Robinson
www.ted.com/talks/sir_ken_robinson_do_schools_kill_creativity

Radio 4 Podcast Greg Jenner - You're Dead to Me
Genghis Khan www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p08qg3xl

Alma Deutscher's opera Cinderella "When the day falls
into darkness"
www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q77Mv3bgqjE



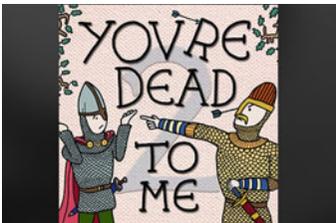
*TED Talks - Sir Ken
Robinson*

Natalie Haynes Stands Up for the Classics
Helen of Troy www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m000j7qp

Enjoy!
Douglas Nethercleft



*Stand Up for the Classics
Helen of Troy*



*Radio 4 - You're Dead to
Me*



*Cinderella "When the day
falls into darkness"*

OXHILL COOKS

This month sees the arrival of Lent, preceded by Shrove Tuesday, this year falling on February 16th. Normally, the Oxhill Church Fundraising Committee would be planning an enormous feast of delicious pancakes, both sweet and savoury, to be enjoyed by many villagers. This year is anything but a normal year, so I'm afraid you are on your own with pancake-making this year! To help you with this task, I have chosen to give you the recipe for one of the dishes produced for the village pancake suppers by Gaida Webb. It is straightforward but delicious. Last year, she made the recipe with gluten-free buckwheat pancakes, so I am also including a recipe for those. I prefer the taste of buckwheat pancakes but they are a little more tricky to fry, as it is mostly gluten that sticks pancakes together!



Cheese and leek buckwheat pancakes before they go in the oven.

CHEESY PANCAKES WITH HAM AND LEEKS (serves 4-6)

For the pancakes (makes about 12)

- 230g plain flour
- 2 medium free-range eggs, beaten
- 340ml milk 2 tsp vegetable oil, plus extra for greasing

For the cheesy filling

- Butter, for greasing
- 3 leeks, trimmed
- 250g young spinach leaves (optional)

- 180g (6 slices) finely sliced honey roast ham, trimmed of fat and halved
 - 200g Vacherin Mont d'Or, Reblochon or Camembert
 - 30g Beaufort, Comté or Gruyère cheese, finely grated
1. Sift the flour and a pinch of salt into a bowl and make a well in the centre. Pour the eggs, and 100ml water into the well. Using a wooden spoon or electric mixer with whisk attachment, beat until combined, adding the milk gradually to produce a batter. Stir in the oil. Rest the batter for 30 minutes, if you have time.
 2. Place a 18cm non-stick frying pan or crepe pan over a medium-low heat. (If you don't have a frying pan that size, use a bigger one but aim to make pancakes about 6" in diameter.) Rub with a little oil and when hot, pour in a little batter and rotate the pan so that it is evenly coated in a thin layer. When it begins to set, loosen the pancake with a wooden palette knife and flip over. Cook for 30 seconds more, then slip onto a plate and cover with a cloth.



Cheese and leek buckwheat pancakes after they come out of the oven.

3. Repeat to make about 12 pancakes. At this stage, you can freeze the pancakes. To do this, layer them between sheets of baking paper, wrap well in cling film, then foil and freeze for up to 3 months.
4. Preheat the oven to 200°C/fan180°C/gas 6. Liberally butter 1 or 2 shallow baking dishes.
5. Cut the leeks in half lengthways. Remove the outer leaves and wash thoroughly. Bring a large pan of salted water up to the boil. Add the leeks and cook for 3 minutes or until just cooked. Remove with a slotted spoon and cool under cold running water. Squeeze dry on kitchen paper. Cut each leek half into 4.

6. Add the spinach to the boiling water. As soon as it has collapsed (about 30 seconds), drain and cool under cold running water. Squeeze dry and chop.
7. Take the first pancake and place half a ham slice in the middle. Add 2 pieces of leek and a little of the spinach. Finally, add a lump of the Vacherin Mont d'Or (you can use the rind).
8. Neatly roll it up and place in the baking dish. Repeat with the remaining pancakes. Sprinkle with the grated cheese and bake for 25 minutes or until hot and bubbling.

Gluten-free buckwheat pancakes

- 250 g buckwheat flour or a mix of 150 g buckwheat flour and 100 g gluten-free plain flour
- 2 eggs
- 250 ml milk
- 325 ml water

Make as above, following steps 1 and 2. Gluten-free pancakes can be substituted for standard ones in any recipe. I like the following recipe, inspired by galettes I've eaten in France. The quantities of lardons, goats cheese and walnuts are approximate as I've never actually weighed them.

Galettes with Goats' Cheese (serves 4-6)

- 1 batch of buckwheat pancakes (galettes)
- 100 g (approx) lardons or chopped bacon, fried
- 150 g (approx) goats cheese, crumbled
- 50 g (approx) walnuts, chopped
- Mixed salad leaves

Dressing made from:

- 3 tbsp olive oil
- 1 tbsp balsamic vinegar
- 1 tbsp honey

1. Place all the dressing ingredients in a jam jar and shake until combined, making sure the lid is secure!
2. To serve, place a hot galette on a dinner plate. Sprinkle with the goats' cheese, lardons and walnuts, a little dressing and place some salad leaves on top. Add a little more dressing onto the leaves. If desired, the plate could be put under the grill to melt the cheese before adding the salad leaves.





Carers4Carers

Finding support through supporting each other

Carers4Carers monthly meeting: Carers4Carers is a self-help support group for carers living in Kinton and the surrounding villages and rural area. We offer members a monthly newsletter, telephone support as well as a virtual coffee morning. Look out for joining instructions in our monthly email or contact the number below. New and existing members are always welcome.

Do take a look at our website www.carers4carersonthefosse.org.uk, email us at kcarers4carers@gmail.com or call 07947 893504.

Best wishes for 2021

Lisa Barnett – Assistant Coordinator
Carers4Carers



Tysoe Tennis Club

www.tysoetennisclub.co.uk

Unfortunately, due to the current Covid restrictions and lockdown, matches and social tennis, apart from singles, are not allowed. This may be reviewed in mid February.

Club Secretary: Carol Spencer: carol.spencer234@hotmail.co.uk

Junior tennis: Debbie at admin@tennisolutions.co.uk or Nicki Campbell on nicki@tysoe.net

GARDEN WASTE SERVICE

If you would like to receive a garden waste service from 1st April 2021, there will be an annual charge of £40 per bin. We are offering an early bird rate of £35 for residents who subscribe before 28th February 2021. To apply go to the Stratford upon Avon government website at www.stratford.gov.uk/waste-recycling/garden-waste-service.cfm



Stratford-on-Avon
District Council

Or for further advice please email streetscene@stratford-dc.gov.uk or call 01789 260628.



MADE IN OXHILL VIRTUAL POP UP ARTS AND CRAFTS SHOP AND CAKE STALL

Thank you to everyone who supported our virtual event which ran from mid-November until mid-December. The virtual cake stall has raised £220 for our church, thanks to the excellent cake bakers and hungry cake eaters of Oxhill.

As we have now entered yet another lockdown, we would like to continue to run the cake stall until we are all free again, or we run out of orders. To ensure everyone's safety, no one will be baking anything for anyone else if they have any Covid symptoms or have been in contact in the last 10 days with someone who then exhibits symptoms. Please call me if you would like to order something from the list below and I will put you in touch with the appropriate baker.

I am sure that all the Made in Oxhill makers and artists would still be happy to receive orders. Contact details can be found in December's Oxhill News, on the Facebook page: www.facebook.com/madeinoxhill or by calling me.

Ruth Mercer
07400 615999
ruthc.mercer@btinternet.com



Selection of cakes



Made in Oxhill Virtual Pop up Arts and Crafts Shop Cake Stall

How it works!

1. Choose a cake from the list below
2. Contact Ruth Mercer on 07400 615999, ruthc.mercer@btinternet.com or through Messenger to reserve the cake and arrange to pay
3. Ruth will give you the contact details of the baker and you can then arrange a mutually convenient time for the cake to be baked and collected / delivered

Victoria sponge, 7": £5

Banana loaf cake: £5

12 Red velvet cupcakes, cream cheese frosting: £6

8 large scones supplied with jam and clotted cream: £5

9" Carrot cake, cream cheese frosting: £7

9" Carrot and walnut cake, cream cheese frosting: £7

Fruit cake 8": £7

Local honey flapjacks: £3 for 4 very large portions.

Apricot jam Swiss Roll (different jam fillings available): £3

Lemon Drizzle loaf cake: £5 ½ cake: £3

6 cupcakes, topped with buttercream: £3

Large Strawberry and fresh cream Gateau: £10

Large fruit Pavlova: £10

Lemon sandwich sponge, filled and topped with lemon buttercream, 8": £7 ½ cake: £4 ¼ cake: £2

Victoria sandwich 8", filled with jam and buttercream and topped with glacé icing: £5

Spanish Orange and Almond cake (gluten free): £7 ½ cake: £4

6 pieces of Millionaires shortbread: £3

Coffee Cake, with or without walnuts: £7 ½ cake: £4 ¼ cake: £2

6 cinnamon buns (available at weekends only): £5

Boiled fruit cake 8": £7

Chocolate fudge cake, 7": £5

Chocolate sandwich cake, 8": £7

Chocolate Brownies: 4 large pieces £3 6 large pieces £4

8" lemon drizzle sandwich, filled and topped with lemon buttercream: £7

½ cake: £4. ¼ cake: £2

Chocolate Guinness sandwich cake, 9", filled and topped with whisky cream icing: £10 ½ cake: £6

¼ cake: £3

COVID VACCINE SCAM ALERT — AN NHS UPDATE

Some people are receiving suspicious calls and text messages offering vaccinations. Remember, the vaccine is only available on the NHS, free, for people in priority groups. You will be contacted by the NHS when it is your turn. Offering a paid-for vaccine is a crime. At the moment house calls are not being made to deliver or discuss the vaccine. Anyone doing so is committing a crime.

If you receive a fraudulent call, hang up. If you think you have been a victim of fraud contact Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040. If you are vulnerable, and particularly if you are worried that someone has or might come to your house, report it to the Police online or by calling 101

COVID-19: VACCINE FRAUD

Criminals are using the COVID-19 vaccine as a way to target the public by tricking them to hand over cash or financial details. They are sending convincing-looking text messages letting people know they are eligible for the vaccine or phoning people directly pretending to be from the NHS, or local pharmacy.



PEOPLE ARE WARNED TO BE ALERT TO THESE SCAMS:

The **NHS** will:

- ⊗ **NEVER** ask for payment - the vaccine is free
- ⊗ **NEVER** ask for your bank details
- ⊗ **NEVER** arrive unannounced at your home to administer the vaccine
- ⊗ **NEVER** ask you to prove your identity by sending copies of personal documents such as your passport

TOP 4 VACCINE SCAMS



TEXT MESSAGES

People are asked to press a number on their keypad or to send a text message to confirm they wish to receive the vaccine, doing so is likely to result in a charge being applied to their phone bill and fraudsters collecting personal information to use again.



PHONE CALLS

Victims receive a phone call from a fake caller offering the vaccine for a fee or asking for bank details.



WEBSITES

Fake URL links to convincing-looking NHS vaccine booking forms, these look like official NHS forms and may contain some personal information already, at the end of the form it asks for their bank details.



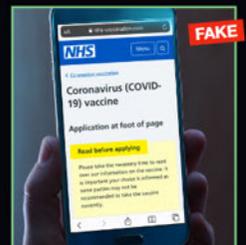
IN PERSON

Fraudsters are calling unannounced at the homes of victims by pretending to be from the NHS to administer the vaccine there and then, in exchange for a cash payment.

LIKE OTHER SCAMS, THE SAME ADVICE APPLIES:

- 1** **Challenge** - Could it be fake? It's ok to reject, refuse or ignore any requests that don't feel right. Check **GOV.UK** to ensure it's genuine.
- 2** Do **not** respond to text messages that try to get you to send money, or important personal information such as bank details or passwords.
- 3** Use **official** government websites and refer to 'Contact Us' sections of websites to access information and service.
- 4** **Challenge** unannounced callers to your home, NHS visits if necessary will be agreed with you directly or via carers, they will never turn up unannounced.

EXAMPLES OF SCAMS



A NHS: We have identified that you are eligible to apply for your vaccine. For more information and to apply, follow here: uk.application-form.com

FAKE



WOT2GROW COMMUNITY ORCHARD

What a start to 2021!! Another lockdown but we are still able to work at the orchard with suitable precautions and distancing. The weather however limits the amount of work and time spent as with pruning it cannot be wet, freezing or very windy!! However we have managed to carry on as well as maintaining the currants and generally keeping things tidy. We are not having regular work sessions until a bit later in the year and we will be starting new projects as we get into the better weather.

It was a great shame that we had to cancel the Wassail this year, fortunately we made the decision early enough so we did not have to change lots of arrangements. The AGM also had to be modified to take account of not being able to hold a meeting as usual. Next year back to normal!!

If you are interested in coming along and helping out please contact one of us or via the web site and we can give you more information. If you become a member then you share in the fruit we harvest, this is one of the main benefits of being a member – free organically produced fruit in season!!



Liz Atkinson



The Community Orchard is just behind the allotments on the Shenington Road in Tysoe.

Liz Atkinson (680045), Paul Sayer (680451), Sue and Mike Sanderson (688080)

website www.wot2grow.co.uk

Both photos from the WOT2Grow Community Orchard's Wassail 2017

TWAM

Tools with a Mission

TWAM – TOOLS WITH A MISSION

TWAM is still operating even in lockdown, and we are still collecting tools, for those who don't know TWAM is a Christian charity, would collect unwanted tools, refurbish them and put them in to Trade Kits – e.g., Carpenter, Car Mechanic, Tailor's Kit we then ship them out to third world countries, and they go to training centres.

Individuals nominated by their village; suburb then attends a residential 6 months course learning a trade. On completion they are gifted a Trade Kit and return to their village etc. to apply their trade and support their family.

To see what tools, we require go to www.twam.uk/donatetools and then if you have anything, tools or bible, contact me, a formal collector for TWAM.



Patrick trained as a carpenter

*Jim Saxton Tel: 07748 324934 or
Email: jimsaxton@btinternet.com*

The image shows a testimonial for Nicholas. At the top left is the TWAM logo with the tagline 'Tools with a Mission'. To the right of the logo is the text 'transforming lives through livelihood creating tools'. Below this is a photograph of Nicholas, a young man in a blue jacket, standing in a workshop. Overlaid on the right side of the photo is the text: 'When I finish training, my dream is to open my own carpentry workshop. Nicholas'.

Tools with a Mission
2 Bailey Close, Hadleigh Road Industrial Estate, Ipswich, IP2 0JD
t: 01473 210220 e: post@twam.uk

The Way We Were



The Oxhill Village Hall circa 1910.



The Oxhill Village Hall January 2021. Notice how the front foyer entrance has been removed.



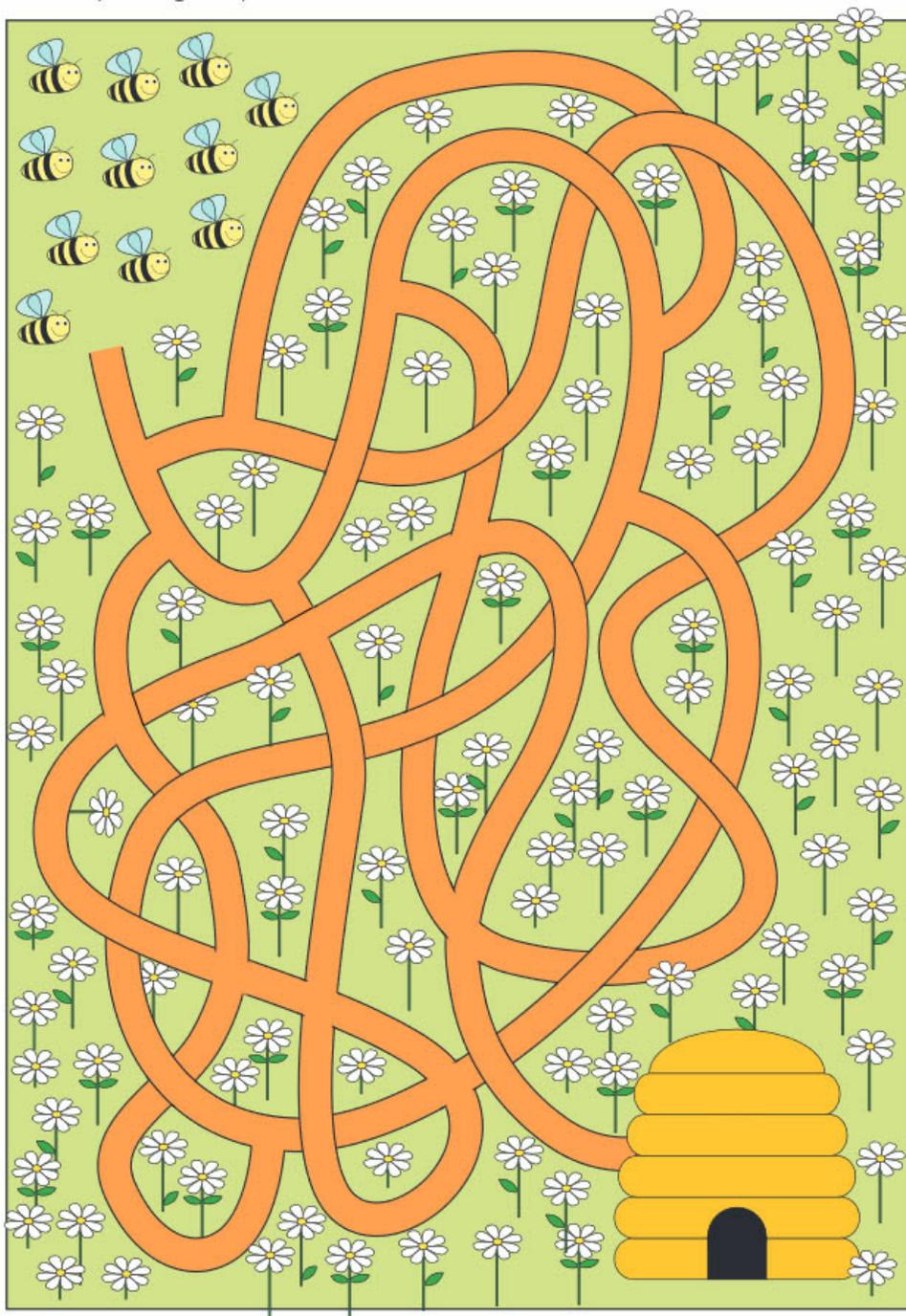
VANDALS DESTROY FAKE SPEED CAMERA

The fake speed camera on Whatcote Rd, which has been up for nearly three years was destroyed by vandals one night last week. Most of it was taken away and the tubing supporting it was bent. I cannot imagine it was anyone from our village. No plans for another just yet!

Peter Rivers Fletcher

MAZE

Find the way through labyrinth.



WHAT'S ON IN & AROUND OXHILL

FEBRUARY

Thursday (every) 11:30 ish Awesome Coffee Van outside the Peacock Pub
(Covid restrictions & weather permitting)
Friday 26th 13:15 - 13:30 Mobile Library, outside the Village Hall

PC MEETINGS

The date of the next PC Meeting is Tuesday, 9 February at 7.30pm. This meeting will be held virtually by Zoom. More details on how to attend, etc 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.

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 15th of each month for publication in the following month.

Please email: oxhill@btinternet.com

BIN COLLECTION CALENDAR



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



February						
M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28