

THE OXHILL NEWS

January 2016 No. 494



The 12-sided Tysoe Windmill, built in the 18th century, was fitted with new sails in 2015. ~ *Photo by Zanna McKail*

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Happy New Year 2016



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.

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 every 3rd **Friday**, stopping at the Village Hall at 14:30 and staying there for 30 minutes. The van will visit us on 22 January 2016. For further info please telephone: 01926 851031

REFUSE COLLECTION

Recycling and green waste bins (blue and green bins) will be collected on Tuesdays January 12th and 26th.

The grey rubbish bins will be collected Tuesdays January 5th and 19th.

WEEKDAY WALKERS

Weekday Walkers usually walk on the 2nd and 4th Fridays 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

We welcome Mark Farrell as the new owner of the Peacock!

Here is a list of the special evenings happening in the Peacock throughout January.

- Every Monday: Pie and Pint Night for £10 per person (or glass of house wine or selected soft drink)
- Every Tuesday: Burger 2-4-1 Night
- £10 Main Courses will be featured on the Specials Boards
- Wednesday 13th January: Curry Night
- Wednesday 27th January: International Food Night (more details to follow)

Don't forget our regular events:

The village coffee morning is on Wednesday January 6th at 10:30 am

The village lunch is on Wednesday January 20th.

Come Join Us!



OXHILL VILLAGE HALL UPCOMING EVENTS AND NEWS

Happy New Year from the Village Hall Committee!
And first, a message following the Village Christmas lunch...
...Oxhill Christmas lunch

What a lovely start it was to the Christmas season! Forty four villagers were treated to a splendid feast at the annual Christmas lunch and a jolly time was had by all. Thanks to Jill Tucker for advising us on the perils of Christmas. The three kings need a risk assessment, there are severe health and safety issues with shepherds watching their flocks, you need goggles when dealing with angels and I cannot tell you the amount of dangers encountered with rocking a cradle. I shall never watch a nativity play without a hard hat and a Hi-Viz jacket again! We were also able to welcome the U3A Ukulele Group who delighted us all with renditions of folk songs and carols. We even managed to impress them with our singing, aided by a little drop or two of wine.



Our grateful thanks go to the many people who donated to the event to ensure we had a great time, to the villagers who made decorations, cooked and helped on the day; Sue Robbins, Anne Marshall, Audrey & Jeff Reid, Hugh Rowse, Pat

Crowther & Brian Hobill (who donated the excellent gammon) and the Village Hall Committee members who worked so hard on the preparations and during the event to ensure everything went smoothly. Special praise must go to the kitchen team who, despite the fact that the cooker died on us two hours before the event started, had to rustle up a camping stove





and a hot plate and kept the hot food coming throughout the event. Well done everyone.

Our special thanks should go to Pauline Wyatt who gave the most haunting rendition of Amazing Grace accompanied by the Ukulele Group. It was so lovely.

*Best wishes,
Gaynor Van Dijk*

Coming next...

Saturday 23 January – Burns Night

Not sure if we mentioned... Scotland won't be at the European Football Championships in 2016! However, the Scots know how to get the year off to a great start! Join us for haggis, tatties, neeps and whisky in the Village Hall as we honour Robbie Burns. Gather at 7pm for the 7.30pm start.

Tickets, which cost £15 per person, need to be ordered and paid for in advance as this is always a sell-out. They are available from Jay Roberts on 680030.

Saturday 30 January – Village Big Breakfast

If you like a cooked breakfast, juices and croissants and would like to start your Saturday in the sociable company of fellow villagers, then first Village Big Breakfast is just for you.



Breakfast will be served in the Village Hall between 9am and 11am. Come and chat to friends or read your newspaper and magazines. What better way to start the weekend!

To help with catering requirements, please let Jay Roberts on 680030 know you are coming. Full breakfast will be £5 per adults or £3 per children.



Firstly

I can not think of a better reason to have attained the age of 65 than to be invited to the Christmas Cracker of a lunch served to the Senior Pupils in the Oxhill Old Schoolroom on Dec 7th. To misquote "Nowt was put in, and most certainly nowt was taken out". It was all there on one large overflowing plate, and even enough, I think, for Oliver Twist to have some more! Christmas pud and mince pies rounded off the menu. AND Lisa's special mint creams.

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU to the Village Hall Committee and all those of Santa's little elves who flew along to help them.

I am already looking forward to being invited again next year, when of course I shall be 66!!



Secondly

And, also most enjoyable, was an evening spent with Oxhill's Horticulturalists, who provided a delicious cold collation, followed by superbly fruity, creamy, spongey, "afters"(totally non-calorific, of course!!), and cheese, in the Old Chapel (My goodness our buildings seem to be suffering the same way as some of the rest of us!)

The food and company was an excellent recipe for conviviality, and I am surprised that more of your readers do not feel the urge to see what they are missing. Why not give the Garden Club a try?

So many thanks for this to the Garden Club Committee and members.

Myrtle

NATURE NOTES FROM YEARS PAST

The Nature Notes articles by Grenville Moore have been a regular feature in the Oxhill News for many years. The News will be reprising some of Grenville's articles so that they can be enjoyed all over again. Here is an article from January 2003:

January: the midwinter month, named after the double-faced Roman God Janus, who looks back towards the Old and forward to the New Year.

Well no sooner had I mentioned seeing a Barn Owl and what a rare occurrence that is, than Tom Heritage mentioned that he had seen what he thought was a family group of no less than five Barn Owls hunting the fields between Oxhill and Tysoe. A Barn Owl has on average four to seven young and this may have been a second brood hatched at the end of August to September. They take eight to ten weeks mature to flight. The other morning while walking my dog in the dark, I heard at least three screeching (they are often referred to as screech owls) across the field to each other.

On the subject of birds of prey, while walking down Back Lane , I heard the continuous "kew-kew-kew" of a Green woodpecker and saw a female Sparrowhawk, pursuing the woodpecker round Mrs Rodwell's field. A Sparrowhawk is a very fast skilful flyer, but the woodpecker was leading it a merry dance round the field. Several times the hawk made a lunge, only to be out-jinxed by the woodpecker. I wondered how long the woodpecker could outwit the superior flying skills of the hawk when suddenly the woodpecker popped over the fence and flew up the road directly at me with the hawk in hot pursuit. I remained motionless and the woodpecker skimmed past my shoulder.



Sparrowhawk chasing a green woodpecker (not the ones described in the article)

The hawk on the other hand seeing 'man' stood on her air brakes, veered off, and losing her concentration called off the attack. The question is did the woodpecker use it's cunning to involve man in it's escape, or was it just down to luck?



Weasel rides a Green Woodpecker

*The photo looks fake, but I've seen the accompanying photos and its true! A weasel was attacking the woodpecker, when the bird took flight.
Both animals got away safely.*

This takes me back to summer a year or so back when we were leaning on our fence talking to Bill Gardner when we heard a terrible cacophony of bird alarm calls and a bundle of flapping wings from over by the beehives in the far corner of Bill's field. With Bill's permission, I hopped (a middle-aged struggle would describe it better) over the fence and made my way across the field to find a male sparrowhawk (male sparrowhawk bright grey underpants with red-brown barring, about 12in (30 cm) high; female darker brown and duller, but up to 25-30% larger standing 15in (38 cm) and a wingspan 4-6in wider) clutching on to the back of a similar-sized Green woodpecker who in turn was hopping about unable to take off and furiously attempting to peck at the hawk. Green woodpeckers are very fond of bees and their larvae, so it had obviously been pounced on while investigating the hives. At my approach the startled Sparrowhawk released the woodpecker and flew off, and the woodpecker ruffled it's feathers and also flew off unharmed. Perhaps I am destined to become the saviour of Green woodpeckers - Saint Grenville of Woodpeckers!!

On the 18th January tradition has it that you must greet the first new moon of the New Year, and the days will now be growing noticeably longer. But remember - As the days lengthen, so the cold strengthens (Digby 1669). On that note, I wish you all the best for the New Year.

ST. LAWRENCE'S CHURCH

Sunday 3rd Christmas II: 9.30am Parish Communion (ML)

Sunday 10th Epiphany I: 9.30am Morning Worship (JT)

Sunday 17th Epiphany II: 9.30am Parish Communion (ML)

Sunday 24th Septuagesima: 9.30am Family Service (NM)

Sunday 31st Sexagesima: 9.30am United Benefice Communion

For other benefice services see porch notice board

VICARAGE NOTES

Dear Friends,

Sirpa and I receive many cards which are usually all different, which amazes me. Some tell of family and events, but most have a link with the Christmas story and with two important words – love and peace.

Some cards reveal the Epiphany scenes, and I was inspired to look for a long forgotten poem, which, though written about 400 years ago by Jeremy Taylor (1613-67), still speaks to me:

*They gave to thee
Myrrh, frankincense and gold,
But, Lord, with what shall we
Present ourselves before thy majesty,
Whom thou redeemeest when we were
sold?

We've nothing but ourselves, and scarce
that neither;
Just dirt and clay;
Yet it is soft and may
Impression take.
Accept it Lord, and say: this thou hast
rather.
Stamp it, and on this sordid metal make
Thy holy image, and it shall outshine
The beauty of the golden mine.*



Christmas Services

My thanks to all who led and shared the special services over Christmas. As always, our churches were beautifully decorated and I hope that all who came felt welcomed and even inspired.

On behalf of Martin, Jill and myself, may I wish everyone



Happy New Year, God bless,

*Nicholas Morgan 01608 685230
braileschurch@gmail.com*

St. Lawrence Church, Christingle Service, Sunday, January 31st, 9.30am



Following a wonderful celebration of Christmas, everyone is warmly invited to join us for our Christingle Service, which this year is on the Sunday that marks Candlemas, January 31st.

Candlemas is the time when we turn our back on Christmas, and look instead to Easter. It is also the time when, traditionally, the last of the Christmas candles were given out to the parishioners in order to light their homes! So it is fitting that we give the children Christingles on that occasion as well, which mark both Christ's birth and his death, and also the light that he brings to our world. This is a Benefice Service, when we also extend a warm welcome to those from Tysoe and Whatcote, and be offering everyone tea, coffee and cake afterwards! And it is lovely to be back in the Church! Our collection that Sunday will be in support of The Children's Society.

OIL ORDER DATES FOR 2016

The dates for oil orders for next year are:

5th January
9th February
22nd March
7th June
6th September
18th October
29th November

We hope that you all had a very happy Christmas and that you will have a Healthy and Warm New Year.

We will be sending out reminders in the usual way.

Mick & Barbara

KNIT AND NATTER

Our December sessions have been a little down on numbers so it would be nice to get them back up if there is an interest for this in the Village. In January we have meetings on Thursdays, the 14th and 28th, starting at 2.00pm.

Any Mums with babies are welcome to join us, even if it's just for a cup of tea and a change of scenery.

Please feel free to come along for a cup of tea and to 'Knit & Natter'. Also don't forget the BOOK EXCHANGE. If you'd like to know more or have some suggestions for the next few months, then call Tricia Harbour on 680676 or just turn up and join in.



CAROL SERVICE

Well! The painting was finished, the cleaning completed, the Christmas tree in, new candle holders installed and outside lights repaired. All done in time for the annual candlelit Carol Service. Many thanks are due to all who helped with all the preparation. Thank you to the team of helpers who came last Saturday to give the church a really good clean. The shiny brass and gleaming pews set off the newly painted white walls.



Sadly I missed the service due to my vehicle breakdown and having to wait for rescue. I am told that the service was very well attended, the church looked wonderful and the choir sang splendidly. A big thank you to all those who took part in the choir. Thank you Tony Withersford for once again

being our organist for the evening. Thank you also to all the readers. I am sorry I was not there to hear them. Of course a really big extra thank you must go to Charles and Nadia MacCall for all that they have done to improve the interior of the church.

*Happy New Year
Carol Fox PCC*



DEANERY NEWS FOR NOVEMBER

I hope you had a wonderful Christmas, celebrating the God who comes to live among us: he came in tricky times 2000 years ago, and comes in tricky times now.

The next Deanery event is the Deanery Synod on Tuesday, February 2nd, at 7.30pm in St. Edmund's Church, Shipston. That date is Candlemas, when we turn away from Christmas and turn towards Easter. We are really looking forward that evening to welcoming Barbara Lang, who spent many years as a Salvation Army Officer working in South Africa – and we look forward to welcoming all who would like to meet her.



Looking further ahead, note that Easter is quite early this year (March 27th), and that Ash Wednesday is February 10th. Our Deanery Lent Services, which will revert to Tuesdays, therefore begin on **Tuesday, 16th February, at 7.30 pm**. This year we are spending time looking at some of the 'hot potatoes' of our faith....and we open with Revd Sarah Edmonds speaking (in Tysoe Church) about what it means to be a church for everyone.

As we welcome in a New Year, may we echo these words from Common Worship:

To a troubled word,
peace from Christ
To a searching world,
love from Christ.
To a waiting world,
hope from Christ.

Blessings, Jill

COACHING AT TYSOE

Tennis coaching that is now available at Tysoe, provided by Mark and Andy at Tennisolutions. On the opposite page is a leaflet with all the information but in short we are offering several sessions for junior coaching, a session for cardio tennis designed to deliver a great workout on Friday mornings and an adult improver hour on Wednesday evenings.

Carol Spencer

SPRING TERM MONDAY 4TH JANUARY – SATURDAY 12TH MARCH 2016

Tysoe Tennis Club



Monday

3.45pm - 4.30pm	TOTS	4-5 YRS	£50
4.30pm - 5.30pm	Reds	5-8 YRS	£68

Wednesday

5.00pm - 6.00pm	Orange	8-9 YRS	£68
6.00pm - 7.30pm	Green	10-11YRS	£100

Friday

6.00pm - 7.30pm	Jnr	11 YRS +	£100
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Tysoe Tennis Club, Main Street, Tysoe, CV35 0SR

Fridays

Sessions @ Ettington Community Tennis Court & Community Hall

3.45 – 4.30pm	Reds Tennis (4-7 yrs)	£50
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4.30 – 5.30pm	Mini Tennis (6-9 yrs)	£68
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Saturdays

Sibford School

9.30-10.15am	Mini Red Tots	£50
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10.30-11.30am	Mini Red	£68
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11.30am-12.30pm	Mini Orange	£68
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11.30am -1.00pm	Green & Junior	£100
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Sibford School, Sibford Ferris, Banbury, OX15 5QL

Adults

Member (Tysoe Only)	£65
Non Member	£75
PAYG	£10

Wednesdays	7.30 – 8.30pm	Tysoe Adult
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Fridays	10.45 – 11.45am	Tysoe Cardio Tennis
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Saturdays	1.30 – 2.30pm	Sibford Adult
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COACHING PROGRAMME 2016

PAYMENTS & ENROLMENTS

Payments can now be made online by credit/debit card, PayPal, bank transfer or cheque making it even easier.

Existing Players

If continuing from last term, your class will remain the same unless your Coach has advised you otherwise. Places are confirmed once full payment is received.

New Enrolments

Please contact admin@tennisolutions.co.uk or call the relevant coach to check suitable class vacancies, price start from £5 per session in a term, half term block.

New Players can book for a **FREE** trial Session.

Contact Andy Moss on 07530392204 or email admin@tennisolutions.co.uk, Individual Tuition /

Adults & Advanced Coaching – Mark,
07710087934

www.tennisolutions.co.uk

Enrolment Form Spring 2016

Venue:	Class/Colour:
Day:	Time:
Name:	
Date of Birth:	
School / Year:	
Parent Name:	
Email:	
Tel. No:	
*Photo consent: Please sign here	YES / NO
Medical Info: only fill in if applicable	
Fee: £	Please tick below:
<input type="checkbox"/> I would like to pay through Debit/Credit Card	
<input type="checkbox"/> I have paid by bank transfer date: ___/___/___	
Sort: 09-01-28 Account No. 87941875	
<input type="checkbox"/> I enclose a cheque payable to 'Tennisolutions Coaching'	
<input type="checkbox"/> I enclose a separate payment of £6 for Tysoe Membership along with the membership form.	

NATIVITY PLAY AND SANTA VISIT AT THE CHAPEL

We had a wonderful Sunday morning at the Old Chapel with a finely acted Nativity play, followed by tea, cake and mince pies. And to top off the fun Santa arrived in with great cheer bearing a sack of prezzyes and magic tricks!



Minutes of a meeting of Oxhill Parish Council held on Tuesday 17th November at 8.10pm in the village hall.

The meeting, chaired by Grenville Moore and was attended by Councillors David Hill, Carol Taylor and Sue Hunt. Four members of the public attended and a presentation was given by Mr. Bob Church from Warwickshire Rural Watch.

Minutes – Minutes of the previous meeting were read, agreed and signed.

Matters arising -- Repairs to the footpath outside Peacock Cottages are due to commence on November 23rd 2015. Main Street will be closed during the repairs for approximately three days a diversion will be in place during this period. House holders affected will be notified and a notice displayed on the village notice board.

Rural Community Housing questionnaire – Rural Community Housing will be contacted and the questionnaire distributed with the Oxhill news to every household. Proposed by Grenville Moore and Seconded by Sue Hunt.

Funding from Stratford District Council for a community space - Stratford District Council will liaise with all parties involved to facilitate a project that is acceptable for the community.

Radar gun training – this will take place on 26th November 2015 for the volunteers.

Warning signage on the bend on the Tysoe Road - a defect has been raised by Stratford District Council but as yet there is no date for the completion of the work.

Back land Development - to date there has not been a written definition of back land development, each planning application will be taken on its own merits. There is an indication that it is ‘garden land’ not ‘land behind gardens’.

Planning – Applications for permission have been granted for 4 escape windows to the first floor bedroom accommodation at The Granary Rouse Lane. A replacement dwelling and re-positioning of existing vehicle access at Oakwoods House. Outline planning for a residential development of up to 4 houses at Stable Croft.

Applications are under consideration for tree maintenance at Meadow Cottage, Dwellings on land Off Church Lane. An application has been received for the development of two dwellings on Gilkes Lane.

Finance – Councillors were asked to consider the items for the precept for 2016. The Parish Clerk will investigate the cost of erecting a bench adjacent to the trough on the area opposite the Peacock Public House.

Bank Mandate forms – the forms will be passed to each Councillor and the Clerk to complete the necessary paperwork in order for the bank to make the necessary changes to the signatories.

A payment of £396.50 was made for the production of the Oxhill News from April to September 2015. Proposed by Carol Taylor and seconded by David Hunt. A payment of £100 was made for the purchase of garden voucher for Angela Keen (previous Parish Clerk) as a recognition of her commitment and hard work over numerous years.

Any Other business- A presentation was given by Mr. Bob Church, Community Safety, Rural Crimes Officer / coordinator from Warwickshire Rural Watch. His main role is victim support, Warwickshire Rural Watch are able to offer the following:

- Support to victims of crime and loan security equipment to victims.
- Education programs in schools
- Community programs.
- Fuel Theft detectors and signage
- Property marking through the Supported Communities Program.

More information can be found on the website

www.warwickshireruralwatch.co.uk

It was proposed that signage declaring the village as an area with Fuel theft detectors be erected on all entrance to the village this was thought to be a good idea.

Mr. Church also raised the proposal of a property making event to be held in conjunction with a future village event. This will be considered and the timing agreed, when CRE markers will be available to mark items such as mowers, power tools etc. Signage for this will also be considered.

He also discussed the wish to reinstate Neighbourhood Watch within the village, this will require volunteers order for this to proceed.

The issue of parking on pavements around the village with particular reference to Main Street, therefore blocking the passage to pushchairs was raised. Although

it is recognised that in some areas the road narrows and so this is necessary it was requested that if people do park on the pavement that they to show consideration and make sure they leave enough room for pushchairs/prams to pass on the pavement in safety.

A member of the public has identified that the style from the Leys Field onto Main Street is difficult to negotiate and has requested that a gate be installed. The costs and viability of this will be investigated.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm

Date of the next meeting 8pm on Tuesday 12th January 2016 in the Village Hall.

*Lis Stuart
Parish Clerk*



WOT2Grow Community Orchard

We have been moving on with the weeding and maintenance at the orchard with the wet and mild weather helping us to get on top of it. The weeds are just easing out of the ground making it a much quicker and easier job than last year! The sensory garden is looking neat and tidy after its autumn tidy up but we have yet to cut back the wild flower strips.

There is plenty to do in the early months of the year and we will be pruning the apples and pears soon, the leaves have just about fallen but a few are clinging on.

Don't forget the Wassail on Saturday January 16th starting at 4:30pm at the orchard. Do come along and join us – bring torches and something to bang to make a noise, food available at 4:30 followed by our very own Wassail!

Our AGM will be held on Tuesday January 26th at 8:00pm in Tysoe Village Hall committee room so come along if you want to know what we are doing now and to help decide what we do in the coming years.

For information about the orchard or the Wassail contact one us.

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



WHAT'S ON IN & AROUND OXHILL

January

Tuesday 5th		Grey landfill bin collection
Tuesday 5th		Deadline for Oxhill Oil Consortium order
Wednesday 6th	10:30	The Peacock - Village Coffee Morning
Friday 8th	9:30	Weekday Walkers
Tuesday 12th		Green & Blue bin collection
Tuesday 12th	20:00	Oxhill Parish Council Meeting Village Hall
Thursday 14th	14:00	Knit & Natter Village Hall
Friday 15th		OXHILL NEWS SUBMISSION DEADLINE
Saturday 16th	16:30	Wassail at WOT2Grow Community Orchard
Tuesday 19th		Grey landfill bin collection
Wednesday 20th	12:30	The Peacock - Village Lunch
Friday 22nd	9:30	Weekday Walkers
Friday 22nd	14:30	Village Hall - Mobile Library
Saturday 23rd	19:00	Burns Night - Village Hall
Tuesday 26th		Green & Blue bin collection
Tuesday 26th	20:00	AGM WOT2Grow Community Orchard
Thursday 28th	14:00	Knit & Natter Village Hall
Saturday 30th	9:00	Village Big Breakfast - Village Hall
Sunday 31st	9:30	Christingle Service St. Lawrence's Church

