

# THE OXHILL NEWS

March 2019

No. 532



The first Liliyot apricot blossoms of the year in the WOT2Grow  
Community Orchard

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news-editor@oxhill.org.uk*

## CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE OXHILL NEWS

The editors welcome any pictures, photographs, drawings, poems, puzzles, recipes, announcements or items of local news for possible inclusion in The Oxhill News. Please email [news-editor@oxhill.org.uk](mailto:news-editor@oxhill.org.uk) or place paper contributions in the box labelled 'The Oxhill News' in the Church.

## 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 March 1st and 22nd. For further info please telephone: 01926 851031

## REFUSE COLLECTION

Recycling and green waste bins (blue and green bins) will be collected on Tuesdays March 5th and 19th.

The grey rubbish bins will be collected Tuesdays March 12th and 26th.

## WEEKDAY WALKERS

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

## THE PEACOCK

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

The village lunch is on Wednesday March 20th.



## THE DODDIE 500!



The Calcutta Cup is a rugby match between Scotland and England held in Twickenham on March 16th.

Ex-Scotland Rugby Captain Rob Wainwright and the world record breaking cyclist Mark Beaumont will be cycling the Calcutta Cup match rugby ball from Murrayfield, Edinburgh down to Twickenham, London on an epic 500 mile, 48 hour ride, to raise money for research Motor Neurone Disease (MND).

The cycling challenge is one of many events put together by the Doddie Gump group who support Doddie Weir, a brilliant and beloved Scottish former rugby union player, in his quest to fund research into more effective MND treatments.

### Coming to Oxhill!

These ambitious cyclists will be stopping overnight here in Oxhill courtesy of friend, keen cyclist and Burns Night raconteur Andy MacDonald. On March 15th they head off on the final leg of their journey to Twickenham.

**Please your support and donate generously at:**

**<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/Doddie500>**





## SAVE THE DATES.....

**Saturday 13th April – Paella Night**  
**Tuesday 30th April - AGM**

### AND NOW FOR SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT!

From time to time, it has been suggested that it would be good to have a change from our usual offerings, and to have a speaker on a topic of local interest. Some of you may be aware that in 2008 a hoard of 1141 Roman coins was found near Warmington, and that subsequently a further smaller hoard was discovered. David Freke, a local archaeologist who has been involved with the site from the outset, is coming to tell us about these exciting discoveries and how they fit into the pattern of Roman occupation of this area.



So do come along on **Thursday June 6th at 7.30pm** and make this event a success!

*We have had a few complaints of an increase in dog fouling on the lanes and pathways in the village, so a gentler reminder...*





## **OXHILL VILLAGE HALL BURNS NIGHT REPORT**

In a beautifully decorated Hall (Thanks; Jude MacDonald & OVH Committee) some 44 people enjoyed an excellent, traditional supper of tasty homemade Scotch Broth (Thanks; Pat Crowther) Haggis, Neeps and Tatties (Thanks; OVH Committee & Eileen) a Whiskey laced Dessert (Thanks; Previous ladies) plus Cheese and Biscuits accompanied by traditional/modern speeches and entertainment.

Jo Collings master-minded the build-up to the event and Andy Buchanan was the MC and oversaw the proceedings for the evening. The Address to the Haggis was delivered by Ted Fila, then Derek Harbour presented his tribute to Billy Connolly after which Iain MacPherson provided a very amusing Immortal Memory and tribute to Robbie Burns. Andy MacDonald provided his very entertaining Address to the Lassies and Paul Sayer replied with a robust 'Reply to the Lassies'. Iain MacPherson finished the evening with a couple of Scottish and Traditional songs.

Thanks to all for a wonderful evening!



## CYCLISTS FIGHTING CANCER - 26TH MAY

On Sunday 26th May, the Village Hall will be a feed station and rest stop for the cyclists taking part in Cyclists Fighting Cancer's annual Sportive. This event is hugely popular with cyclists of all ages and abilities setting off from Stratford Racecourse and completing 30, 62.5, 100 or 130 mile rides. The event raises awareness and much-needed funds for Cyclists Fighting Cancer, a nationwide charity that assists children and young people living with cancer across the UK with their physical fitness, strength, mental wellness and confidence by giving them new bikes, specially adapted trikes, tandems, other equipment and support.

At the charity HQ in Alderminster, The Charity Bike Shop sells new and donated bikes to the public to raise funds to buy new bikes for children and young people with cancer. They also carry out professional bike repairs and services.

We are looking for volunteers to help at the Village Hall on 26th May between approximately 11am and 3.30pm manning the feed station and providing refreshment to the cyclists. If you'd like to help on the day or could donate a cake, please let me know on 07720 401 691.

For more information on the charity or to sign up for the Sportive, please visit <http://www.cyclistsfc.org.uk>



# ST LAWRENCE CHURCH

You are invited to join us for a  
**Lent Lunch on Wednesday, March 21st, at 12.30pm**  
**in The Old Chapel, Main Street.**

This is an occasion when we eat simply, with a lunch of soup, bread and cheese, in order to enable others to simply live by sharing our world's resources more fairly.

Donations.

If you are able to come, it would be helpful (but not crucial) to let us know beforehand:

**Carol Fox, 01295 680223 or Jill Tucker, 01295 680663**



*A beautiful painting of St Lawrence by Nadia MacCall, who has sadly moved away from the village with her husband Charles.*

## ST LAWRENCE CHURCH, MARCH DIARY

Sunday, March 3 <sup>rd</sup>	9.30 am Holy Communion, (Jill Tucker)
Tuesday, March 5 <sup>t</sup>	Shrove Tuesday, 7.00 pm Pancake Supper, The Old Chapel

Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> Ash Wednesday,  
 10.00 am Holy Communion (with Ashes) at Oddcot  
 Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup> First Sunday in Lent  
 9.30 am Morning Worship (Jill Tucker)  
 Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup> Second Sunday in Lent  
 9.30 am Holy Communion (George Heighton)  
 3.00 pm Afternoon Tea with Prosecco in The Old Chapel  
 Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup> 12.30 pm Lent Lunch, The Old Chapel  
 Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup> Third Sunday in Lent  
 6.30 pm Evensong (George Heighton)  
 Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup> Mothering Sunday  
 9.30 am Family Service for Mothering Sunday (Jill Tucker)

## **DEANERY NEWS FOR MARCH 2019**

March 6<sup>th</sup> is Ash Wednesday, marking the beginning of Lent. Which means that the day before, March 5<sup>th</sup> is Shrove Tuesday, and no doubt a day for pancakes for many of you. It also means the start of our annual series of Deanery Lent Services.

The forty days of Lent mimic the forty days and night Jesus spent in the wilderness, and offer us a time for reflection; for many of us Tuesday evenings spent together are a chance to do that. This year we are thinking about Saints of These Isles. All believers are, or course, saints, but there are some who have had a particular effect on our lives, and we want to think about and celebrate some of these. Our services take place on Tuesday evenings at 7.30 pm, at churches across the Deanery – everyone is warmly invited to come along and join us for any of these:

Tuesday March 12<sup>th</sup> Ilmington: Tom Moffatt on Richard Meux Benson  
 Tuesday March 19<sup>th</sup> Alderminster: John Horton on Hudson Taylor  
 Tuesday March 26<sup>th</sup> Whatcote: Chris Goble on St Cuthbert  
 Tuesday April 2<sup>nd</sup> Tidmington: Carola Beecham, George Herbert  
 Tuesday April 9<sup>th</sup> Burmington: Ben Dyson, Tyndale  
 Tuesday April 16<sup>th</sup> Honington: Eucharist of Holy Week.  
 Celebrant, Jill Tucker  
 Speaker: Sarah Edmonds on Susannah Wesley

# CHURCH FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

We have a number of events in the pipeline for this year and the first one is the...

## **Pancake Supper**

This event will be held on Shrove Tuesday, March 5th in the Old Chapel, starting at 7 p.m. . Please join us for savoury pancakes as well as sweet pancakes, plus a donations bar. Tickets are free but there will be a donations box and all money raised will go to the Church's Lent Charity. To help us to cater for everyone, please contact me (details below) if you intend to join us.

## **Afternoon Tea and Prosecco**

Our next event is Afternoon Tea and Prosecco on Sunday 17th March at 3pm. As usual, the bakers of Oxhill will be donning their aprons, whisking sponges and icing fairy cakes in preparation for this delicious spectacle.

Do you have a favourite cake? Would you like it baked to enjoy at the Afternoon Tea with a glass of Prosecco, or tea if you prefer? If so, then book your place straightaway! The first five people to reserve tickets will have the opportunity to choose a cake (within reason) that they would like to see served at the Afternoon Tea. There will be scrumptious sandwiches as well as delectable home baked cakes of the highest standard as only the magnificent bakers of Oxhill can provide, all for the most reasonable price of £10 per adult ticket, £5 for school age children and free for under 5s.

To be in with a chance of having your favourite cake baked for the event, reserve your tickets now by contacting Ruth Mercer on 07400 615999 or email [ruthc.mercer@btinternet.com](mailto:ruthc.mercer@btinternet.com)

## **Forthcoming Events - please add the dates to your diary!**

A Midsummer Al Fresco Ploughman's lunch is planned for Sunday 9th June to be held in the garden of the Old House unless inclement weather, in which case it will be in the Old Chapel.

After our successful event last October, this year's Autumn Supper will be on Saturday 5th October.

A new event for a new year, there will be a Quiz Night and Raffle on Saturday 9th November.

Further information about future events will be available in the Oxhill News nearer the time, but, if you have any suggestions or questions, please contact Ruth Mercer on 07400 615999 or email [ruthc.mercer@btinternet.com](mailto:ruthc.mercer@btinternet.com).

*Thank you!*  
*Ruth*

## TYSOE W.I.



We've already had a busy time, and it's only just March!

Our take on Burns Night was a huge success with 88 people enjoying themselves, particularly the Scottish Dancing, utter chaos but so much fun.

At our February meeting we welcomed Auctioneer and Valuer Steven Bruce who kept us entertained not just with an insight to his world with many antidotes, but faced with an array of items bought along by members and friends, we had our own little "antiques roadshow." We were also thrilled to welcome four new members.

Our March meeting on 6th at 7.30 sees us welcoming Alexandra Messervy with "Queen of the world" an invitation to the palace.

Come along and join us in a glass of wine, meet new friends.

For more information of upcoming events visit our website [tysoewi.com](http://tysoewi.com) or our Facebook page.  
Email [Tysoe.i.1917@icloud.com](mailto:Tysoe.i.1917@icloud.com)

## TYSOE CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL - FEBRUARY UPDATE

It has been a busy and eventful half-term. Music has featured highly and many of our children (53% of our Year 2 - 6) now have instrument lessons in school, including for piano, drums, guitar, violin and trombone. The Year 6 children performed with the famous African Children's Choir on stage in the Leamington Spa Theatre. It was a fantastic experience to be part of such a large and exuberant choir.



*African Children's Choir at Rehearsal*

Many of the African children have lost one or both parents to poverty and disease. The School Council chose to raise money for the choir by having a 'Pyjamas and Onesies' day which raised almost £100.

We are delighted that Tysoe Utilities Estate Trust has again awarded Tysoe School a grant of £1200, which we will use to sponsor a wide range of curriculum events over the year. Last year, this included trips to the RSC theatre, Warwick Castle, an Egyptian workshop and African drumming. It also supported the week's residential trip to Swanage. This generous donation really enriches the opportunities

that benefit all pupils. In addition, the Trust has provided a second grant of £1600 to pay for swimming lessons. We are very grateful for their continued support.

We also welcomed back local author, Beki Benjamin and Illustrator, Josh Welsby who came into school to read their new publication, 'Up the Apple Tree'. The children enjoyed listening to the story, written by Beki and to have the opportunity to see the original illustrations by Josh. We look forward to another visit as part of a World Book Day event in March.



*Children Playing The P-Trombone*

If you are a prospective parent and would like to visit, please contact Mrs Horrocks on 01295 680244.

Jenny Coates, Head of School

## *Oxhill Garden Club*

On Thursday 14th February, Philip Aubrey gave a talk to members on the topic 'The answer lies in the soil'. Patently a rich loam with a pH value (acidity level) suitable for the particular plants, shrubs and vegetables favoured by the gardener is the ideal, but few gardens start off this way. It is an ongoing challenge to keep the soil aerated, water retentive and with the necessary minerals and other nutrients required for the diverse range of flora that we attempt to grow year on year.



Gardening isn't for everyone and more and more households are investing in 'maintenance free' decking, paved areas and pot plants. Philip, however, was in the business of imparting the secrets of 'good soil' gardening. He believed that he could make an educated guess as to the acid / alkali level of any particular patch of ground and its nutritive state by virtue of the small flora, lichens or mosses growing on the surface and their colour, or lack of it. To be sure, however, he advocated the use of a soil testing kit to establish, and then keep an eye on, the pH of different parts of the garden. The top four inches of soil should be scraped away and a sample taken of the exposed layer beneath. For lawns, one could take a conical divot the size of a carrot and just test the soil at the tip.

Philip had experienced both sandy and clay soils in his gardening life. Each had their problems, but both could be improved by the digging in of well composted materials – the leafy parts of prunings, vegetable kitchen waste, chicken and horse manure, most weeds, and copious amounts of leaf litter. The woodier parts of prunings he burnt, putting the ash on the compost heap – of which he always

had two on the go. Albeit a naturally 'hot' compost heap is required to kill weed seeds, it is the small insects, fungi and bacteria in the rotted material dug into the ground on a seasonal basis that improves the soil. Scattered, sieved 'second soil' from discarded potted plants, too, has its place as a lawn improver.

Given the basic premise that quality homemade compost was a prerequisite to keeping garden soil in good heart, it was quite sobering to see the range of proprietary brands of soil 'conditioners' that Philip brought along to illustrate the curative measures he suggested could be taken to resolve particular problems or soil deficiencies. All in all, members were treated to a master-class of how to garden even better knowing what lies beneath our feet and how to make it more productive.

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The next event in the Club's calendar is the AGM. Join us 7.00 for 7.30pm on Thursday March 14th in the village Hall for a convivial glass of wine prior to the evening's business. This will be followed by a cheese etc. small plate buffet accompanied by more fruit of the vine and soft(er) drinks. John, please bring a few extra bottles!

*Douglas Nethercleft*

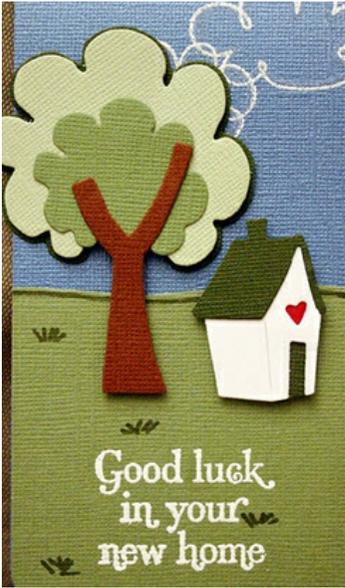
## DENE VALLEY U3A



Dene Valley U3A will host a presentation by Dr Alison Foster on "Colour, Taste and Smell - How plants affect our lives". This will take place at St Peter's Church, Wellesbourne, on Tues 12th March starting

**THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE** at 2.30pm.

Non members welcome to attend at a nominal charge of £2 which includes refreshments. If you would like to know more about our organisation then please visit our website at <http://www.denevalleyu3a.btck.co.uk>



## CHARLES AND NADIA MACCALL

We are very sorry that Charles and Nadia have needed to move away. We already miss them very much. We have heard from them since they left and they are beginning to settle. Their new home will be in Bath. We send them our very best wishes for the future. We extend a warm welcome to the Fawcus family who now live in Fern Cottage.

*Carol Fox*

## OXHILL DISTRICT SERVICES DIRECTORY

The new Oxhill District Services Directory will be delivered to each home in Oxhill and will also be part of a Welcome Pack given by the Parish Council to the new homes in the village.

The Directory will include a list of tradesmen, services, shops, surgeries, vets, clubs, pubs and local attractions. If you have a service, trade or product you would like the villagers to know about, or if you know of someone who offers a service, trade or product, then please let us know.

To be put on the Directory please give us your name, service and contact details or the contact details of the person you think should be on our list.

**Email: [news-editor@oxhill.org.uk](mailto:news-editor@oxhill.org.uk)**  
**Deadline: March 15th 2019**



*Thank you*



In aid of St David's Church  
Newbold-on-Stour with Armscote



Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May  
10 am - 12.30 pm

# Newbold Plant Sale

St David's Churchyard

Great Variety !      Great value !

Tombola      Refreshments

Produce Stall



Plant donations greatly appreciated  
Please contact Gilly Marsden 01789 459168  
or deliver to Church on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May 3 - 7 p.m.

## SARIS

We both would like to thank everyone for their kind thoughts and words when we lost Viper. It certainly helped us to know that we had good friends and that Viper was missed by lots of you.



We had such a big hole in our lives and looked everywhere to find another dog. Nothing seemed right except another Flat Coat so we are now the very proud owners of Saris. She was trained as a gun dog but her trainer let her go because although she did most of what was required she wouldn't pick up the dead birds. That won't be a problem for us!

*Mick & Barbara*



# Carers4Carers

Finding support through supporting each other

Friday 22nd March 10.30 – 12 noon: Carers4Carers monthly meeting at Kineton Village Hall. Come and join us for coffee, biscuits and friendly chat. They'll be no speaker this month, however Anita will be on hand to offer some TLC and relaxing treatments. Please let us know in advance if you would like us to look after your loved one in our Companionship Group. For more details, including help with transport, please phone Gillian on 01926 640203/07947 893504.

Many thanks.

Kind regards,

Lisa Barnett

Assistant Co-ordinator, Carers4Carers



## What is WOT2Grow?

A Community Orchard that was planted in 2011 for the benefit of the local communities but especially Whatcote, Oxhill and Tysoe!

The orchard is run by a company that is not for profit and managed by the people who become members (shareholders) in the company. The members are the ones who get the fruit, none is sold, along with the infirm and elderly in the villages, the Tysoe Lunch Club and the local Care Homes.

The orchard covers two acres and has soft fruit - raspberries, blackcurrants, red and white currants, gooseberries, logan and tayberries, and blueberries - 20 varieties of apples (cookers and eaters), 3 varieties of pears, 4 varieties of plums as well as apricots, greengages, damsons, cherries, nectarines, peaches and nuts. Some cider apples and perry pears have also been planted. Although there will be fruit each year the amount obviously varies but there is fruit from July through December.

There is a strong sustainable and environmental focus in the management of orchard, natural biodiversity has increased immensely since 2011 and beehives have been introduced producing delicious honey. Trees, bushes and canes are treated with organic plant protection products and fertilisers. Pests and diseases are controlled by natural means and by in-built plant resistance.

The members, and families, and friends maintain the orchard by doing the planting, mulching, pruning, fruit thinning and harvesting, grass mowing and site maintenance.



*Grenadier Apples*

There is a one off cost to become a member of £25 and thereafter an annual maintenance fee currently £15. These fees are used to pay for insurances etc. and the cost of things needed to maintain the orchard, none of the members receives payment for work done!

Want to join us or know more then contact Liz Atkinson (680045), Paul Sayer (680451), Sue and Mike Sanderson (688080) or see the website [www.wot2grow.co.uk](http://www.wot2grow.co.uk)

## WHAT'S ON IN & AROUND OXHILL

### March

Friday 1st	14:30	Village Hall - Mobile Library
Monday 4th	8:30	Morning Prayer, St Lawrence Church
Monday 4th	10:00	Aerobics Village Hall
Tuesday 5th		Green & Blue bin collection
Tuesday 5th	19:00	Pancake Supper, The Old Chapel
Wednesday 6th	10:30	The Peacock - Village Coffee Morning
Monday 11th	8:30	Morning Prayer, St Lawrence Church
Monday 11th	10:00	Aerobics Village Hall
Tuesday 12th		Grey landfill bin collection
Thursday 14th	14:00	Knit and Natter, Village Hall
Friday 15th		Oxhill News submission deadline
Sunday 17th		Village Lunch, The Old Chapel
Sunday 17th	15:00	Afternoon Tea & Prosecco, The Old Chapel
Monday 18th	8:30	Morning Prayer, St Lawrence Church
Monday 18th	10:00	Aerobics Village Hall
Tuesday 19th		Green & Blue bin collection
Wednesday 20th	12:30	The Peacock - Village Lunch
Friday 22nd	9:30	Weekday Walkers
Friday 22nd	10:30-12:30	Carer4Carers Meeting, Kineton Village Hall
Friday 22nd	14:30	Village Hall - Mobile Library
Monday 25th	8:30	Morning Prayer, St Lawrence Church
Monday 25th	10:00	Aerobics Village Hall
Tuesday 26th		Grey landfill bin collection
Thursday 28th	14:00	Knit and Natter, Village Hall
Saturday 30th	15:30-17:30	Children's Afternoon Tea, Village Hall

### April

Saturday 13th		Paella Night, Village Hall
Tuesday 30th		AGM