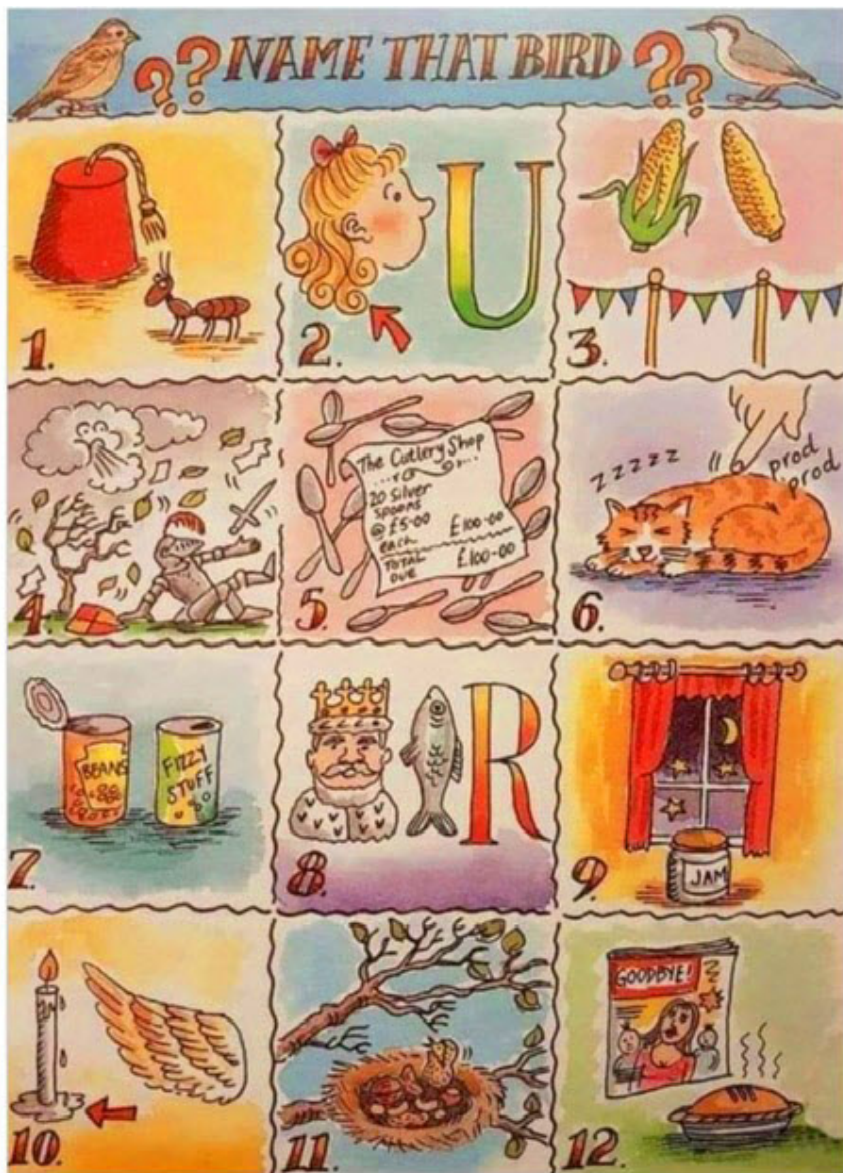


THE OXHILL NEWS

December 2021 No. 565



Answers on back page.

Vanessa Druce, editor & Grenville Moore, consulting editor
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CLUB & GROUP CONTACT DETAILS

Carers4carers:	kcarers4carers@gmail.com or tel: 07947 893504
Oxhill Village Hall:	Jo Collings - Chair - 01295 680215 Ali Sayer - Hall Hire - 07970 922352 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

ONCE IN A MANGER

Once in a manger, a long time ago,
Before there was Santa and reindeer and snow,
A star shone down on humble beginnings below
Of a baby just born who the world would soon know.

Never before had there been such a sight.
Would the Son of a King have to suffer this plight?
Are there no armies to lead? Are there no battles to fight?
Shouldn't He conquer the world and demand His birthright?

No, this frail little infant asleep in the hay
Would change the whole world with the words He would say.
Not about power or demanding His way,
But mercy and loving and forgiving God's way.

For only through humbleness would the battle be won,
As shown by the actions of God's only true son.
Who gave up His life for the sins of everyone,
Who saved the whole world when His journey was done.

Many years have passed since that night long ago
And now we have Santa and reindeer and snow
But deep in our hearts the true meaning we know,
It is the birth of that child that makes Christmas so.

~ by Tom Krause





DAVID HILL

On Tues 9th November Oxhill lost a significant member of its community – David Hill. We have been asked to record some of our memories of a much-respected neighbour of 37 years.

David came to the village in 1973 with his wife Una and young daughter Laura. Essentially a city-boy, he embraced village life and made great contributions to it over the years through his chairmanship of the parish council, enthusiastic support of social events and his general bonhomie. Few will forget seeing him dressed up as a baby in the annual pram race, or his turns as an Ugly Sister, a ‘little maid from school’ or Noel Coward, in village hall revues. Even Morris Dancing featured in his repertoire.

He was in his element at the bar of The Peacock, deep in discussion on politics, sport, or just the news of the day. Or - along with Una - entertaining friends at home, preferably in the garden on a sunny afternoon. We were frequent beneficiaries of this largesse, and

soon came to respect his breadth of knowledge and ability to expound his opinions and beliefs. These were generally held pretty firmly, but he was always interested to hear others' views even if they didn't change his own!

Outstandingly well-read, he studied Shakespeare at the Stratford Institute and went on to become a Master of Letters. Along with his extensive knowledge of film and travel, he made a great conversationalist and was always ready to place a literary quote or attribution. He could also place any aircraft – a quick glance at his plane-spotter's app and he might tell you it was 'an A380 inbound from Dubai to Birmingham', demonstrating another of his passions. In the 1980's he was a flying member at Shenington Gliding Club, mastering the 'small and nasty' Slingsby T31, and he loved to talk and read about aviation. Among his earthbound pursuits, he played golf at Brailes, and was elected Captain of the club.

A dedicated Francophile, he loved the country and its food and wines. He had been taking lessons in French conversation until he became ill, partly for the love of the language and partly so he could chat with his grandson Guillaume in his *lingua franca*.

David was a polymath – a man you could say who even showed an interest in things he wasn't interested in.....

Most mornings at about 7.30 we were used to seeing him striding up the lane, with the bearing of the Grenadier Guardsman he'd been in an earlier life. Sadly that stopped about a year ago when fate decided to single him out for a rare illness, amyloidosis, which led to a punishing regime of hospital visits over the following months.

There was one thing David wasn't interested in - organised religion. There will be no funeral, at his request. However there will be a celebration of his life at a later date, in The Peacock of course. We can be sure it'll be standing-room only.

Una and Laura have asked us to pass on their sincere thanks for all the kindness shown to them by their many friends in the village.

David would surely recognise these lines from Richard III:

*“‘Tis a vile thing to die, my gracious lord,
When men are unprepared and look not for it”,*

Peter & Carol Taylor



OXHILL VILLAGE HALL

Curry Night - we had 9 different curries to choose from and all went down very well. Our thanks to the “curry cooks” for the variety & quality of their contributions. As always it was a well attended event & good to get it back in the calendar.



Curry Night photos by Dominic Connolly

Village Christmas Lunch - this is on Tuesday 7th December at 12.30, if you or your partner are 65 or over, you are very welcome to join us, please contact Jo on itsjocollings@gmail.com or tel 01295 680215. There is no charge for lunch but donations are welcome.

Beer & Bubbles - Friday 17th December at 7.30 p.m. black tie & posh frocks. Come & enjoy drinks & festive canapés. £15 pp to include first 2 drinks & lots of canapés. Contact Sarah on 07758 280273 or sarahbracher01@gmail.com

Christmas Tree - we will be installing our Christmas tree on the grass outside the hall again this year.

Hall Improvements - building supplies & builders are in short supply at the moment and together with hold ups on grant applications we have decided to do phased improvements on the hall where possible. The overhead heaters have already been replaced and by the time you read this the earth bank to the rear of the hall will have been removed to facilitate better drainage & begin the process of extending the hall. We also intend to begin planned alterations inside the hall improving the kitchen and installing the French windows as a step towards the overall plan. We are able to do some of these works out of existing funds & with the help of the Parish Council but of course the major building works will be subject to various grant applications coming to fruition. We are still working hard to get these funds in place.

If you have any skills or contacts you feel might be of help to us please contact Jo (details opposite). We look forward to seeing you over the festive season.

Please note all helpers will do Covid LF Tests prior to events. Anyone requiring to test before attending can contact Derek on 07768775584 or dandt@laurelhardy.co.uk for a free test kit.

KNIT AND NATTER

The Knit and Natter group had a stall at the Made in Oxhill fayre and raised over £375 which will go to sponsor a Guide Dog puppy. We are all delighted. Lots of hand made items from mitts, hats, scarves, throws, soft toys and much more were on sale. One of the most popular items was a selection of embroidered cards which are quite unique and lovely.



The picnic hamper raffle prize, very generously donated by one of our group and filled by several others, was won by Jude Macdonald.

Anyone interested in the group can get details from Jane 07530 629114

ST LAWRENCE CHURCH OXHILL

December means Advent, that period of waiting in hope and expectancy for the extraordinary event of Christmas, when, quite simply, God comes to His people. And we say, Come: give us wisdom, give us light, liberate us, lead us, and teach us how to live. Advent is a journey towards hope, so we invite you to join us: there will be Advent windows, Sunday services, and also a Zoomed Advent Compline on Thursday evenings – a time of quiet reflection and prayer.

Then as we reach Christmas there are Carol Services: because the church is usually packed, and yet Covid is still with us, we will be holding two Carol Services this year, December 20th and 22nd. You are welcome to attend either: it would be helpful (but not essential) if you could let us know which one you would like to come to by contacting Drina Heighton on 01295 680201 or drinaheighton@gmail.com

Church Services in December

Sunday, December 5 th	9.30 am	Holy Communion	Heather Parbury
Sunday, December 12 th	9.30 am	Holy Communion	George Heighton
Sunday, December 19 th	9.30 am	Morning Worship	Jennie Rake
Monday, December 20 th	6.30 pm	Carol Service	
Wednesday, December 22 nd	6.30 pm	Carol Service	
Saturday, December 25 th	Christmas Day 9.30 am	Holy Communion for Christmas Day George Warner.	
Sunday, December 26 th	10.00 am	United Deanery Service in St. Edmunds, Shipston.	

This will also be Zoomed: the link will be in the Grapevine

Advent Compline, on Zoom

Thursday December 2 nd	7.45 pm	Waiting in Expectation
Thursday December 9 th	7.45 pm	Waiting in Hope
Thursday December 16 th	7.45 pm	The Promise of God's Coming
Thursday December 23 rd	7.45 pm	God's Comfort in the Silence

The Zoom link will be in The Grapevine, or contact Jill (see opposite)

On the hillsides,
hope was heard singing unexpected Hallelujahs.
In a Bethlehem backwater,
hope hovered
and love was born.
And now,
as the wise journey and the powerful start to pace the floor
and mumble into sleepless nights,
we gather –
the light of the world is here.
The job now is to keep it burning.

Sally Foster-Fulton, Hope was heard singing

Jill Tucker, 01295 680663, revjill.tucker@btinternet.com





OXHILL ADVENT WINDOW DATES

Oxhill advent windows will be opening each evening from the 1st - 24th December, please see below for the locations on each date.



Day	Date	6.15 pm - Location	6.30 pm - Location
Wed	1 st	3 The Leys, Whatcote Road (Mick & Barbara)	2 The Leys, Whatcote Road (Verity & Patrick)
Thur	2 nd	3 Orchard Close (Rachel & Geoff)	
Fri	3 rd	Medway, Green Lane (Jim & Ann)	The Old Rectory, Main Street (Val)
Sat	4 th	The Peacock Pub	
Sun	5 th	Briar gate, Main Street (Ali & Paul)	The White House, Main Street (Giophe)
Mon	6 th	Fern Cottage, Main Street (Celia)	
Tue	7 th	Apple Tree Cottage, Blackford Way (Elaine & Ed)	Laurel Cottage, Blackford Way. (Tricia & Derek)
Wed	8 th	The Old House, Back Lane (Jill & Colin)	
Thur	9 th	Peacock House, Main Street (Grenville & Jane)	
Fri	10 th	15 & 16 Leys Field (Sam & Lucy)	
Sat	11 th	Tehidy, Green Lane (Tom & Morna)	Cariad, Green Lane (Don & Ellie)
Sun	12 th	2 Leys Field (Sally)	Byways, Whatcote Road (Bernie & Tony)
Mon	13 th	The Stables, Rouse Lane (Stuart & Katie)	The Granary, Rouse Lane Sarah & Ed)
Tue	14 th	2 Peacock Cottages, Main Street (Helen)	
Wed	15 th	1 Orchard Close, Whatcote Road (Sue)	
Thur	16 th	Hillox, Whatcote Road (Duncan & Jane)	Struan (Ruth)
Fri	17 th	Binswood, Main Street (Lynsey), The Mapes (Joanna), Meadow View (Lisa)	
Sat	18 th	6 Leys Field (Steph)	9 Leys Field (Maggie & John)
Sun	19 th	The Fellows, Beech Road (Lynne)	The Manor (Debbie & Alistair)
Mon	20 th	Fern dale, Green Lane (Lisa & Mark)	2 Groves Close (Fiona & Jeremy)
Tue	21 st	Grove Cottage, Gilks Lane (Carol)	
Wed	22 nd	The Old Post Office, Main Street (Selina)	3a The Sett (Andrea & Andrew)
Thur	23 rd	Short Meadow, Whatcote Road (Chris & Paul)	Hares Breath, Whatcote Road (Carol & Tony)
Fri	24 th	Box Wood, Green Lane (Clare & Will)	Oak View, Green Lane (Lis & Adrian)



We've had an amazing response and have an advent window plus, which will help to make the village bright and cheerful during the gloomy days and dark evenings of December and over the Christmas period.

If anyone else would like to take part with either a decorated window or outside decoration please let me know which of the 6.30 pm slots you would like.

Best wishes to everyone,

Lis Lis.stuart@outlook.com or 07538 865789





Carers4Carers

Finding support through supporting each other

Friday 10th December 10.30 - 12 noon: Carers4Carers monthly meeting at Kington Village Hall. Please join us for a meeting with a seasonal flavour. Our companionship group will also be on hand to take care of your loved one while you are with us. Pre-booking for the meeting is essential.

For more information about our self-help support group, including help with transport to/from meetings, phone Gillian on 07947 893504, email us at kcarers4carers@gmail.com or take a look at www.carers4carersonthefosse.org.uk.

Lisa Barnett – Assistant Coordinator
Carers4Carers

St. Swan Singers and Friends

Warmly welcome you to an
afternoon of Christmas Carols
– both traditional & modern!

Sunday 12 December, 2.30pm

- St Peter's Church, Kington
- Free admission with retiring collection
- Refreshments available

Polite notice: masks to be worn inside the church





Wot2Grow Community Orchard members with Lord and Lady Northampton



WOT2GROW COMMUNITY ORCHARD

As the year draws to a close the apples and pears, the cider apples and perry pears are safely harvested and what a bumper year it has been. Despite a not very good start to the year the rain and mild conditions have produced a lot of smaller apples but larger pears!! The two apple pressing that were pasteurised have been a great success along with our own Apple Day output of fresh juice.

A good session at the end of October enabled a lot of maintenance work to be done, hedge cutting, strimming, clearing the wild flower strip and removing the willow “fedge” as the protection is no longer needed for the nectarines and peaches. The mowers have also been active as the grass refuses to stop growing!!



Wot2Grow Chairman Mike Sanderson with the Northhamptons

A very successful tree planting happened in November when Lord and Lady Northampton, Spenny and Tracy, came to the orchard and did the honours! A specially grafted pear tree from a very old Warwickshire tree in Cubbington was duly settled into the orchard and with care will be there for many years to come. Members came to the orchard and enjoyed a pleasant afternoon culminating in tea and coffee and apple cake and plenty of discussions about the orchard and its ethos!! It was so good to have our guests see what has been achieved in ten years and to know that the way of managing the trees and the environment fits in with their thinking too.

January brings the **Wassail** back to the orchard after last year's lock down so we will celebrate on **January 15th from 4.30pm** with all the usual bonfire, procession and traditions!! Look out for posters for full details.

The Community Orchard 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



PLANT A FAMILY TREE

OWLS working with the Parish Council and supported by Alastair and Debbie Welford, have come up with an idea for 'The Queen's Green Canopy'. The project is that every family with children aged 16 or under will be able to plant a family/children's tree. Alastair and Debbie have very kindly agreed to a plan to create an 'avenue' of trees alongside the footpath that runs up the bank behind the Manor.

We think we can accommodate approximately 20 trees. These will all be young native trees of a height of 1.2 metres to 1.5 metres. The plan is to have a planting day where the children can help plant 'their' tree.

If you would like to take part in this project please contact
Grenville Moore on gren.moore@gmail.com or 07968 789968.



The Way We Were

In December 2005 the Village Christmas Lunch was cancelled because a fire broke out in the hall while cooking was in progress. An excerpt from the 2006 January issue of the Oxhill News describes the event opposite. Below are photos.



SENIOR CITIZENS' CHRISTMAS LUNCH

From the Committee

Many thanks to those people who attended the village hall on the Sunday to decorate the hall and tables for the Monday lunch; we had no idea what was about to happen!

All started well with the dinner arriving and cooking happening (thanks to all those who cooked and prepared the food), carols were playing, sherry was being served. And then the power disappeared. I hasten to add that this was not the fault of the cooks.

Upon looking into the problem we found that the village hall was on fire! A hasty and well-ordered evacuation took place under the guidance and instruction of the urbane Chairman of the Parish Council and the fire brigade was summoned. Four appliances arrived, with Shipston (20 minutes) beating Wellesbourne (25 minutes) and Stratford (30 minutes) to the punch. A water bowser arrived from Stratford a few minutes later, with the head honcho with the white helmet in close pursuit. Apparently the rules are that for fires in public buildings a minimum of three appliances have to attend, and the village hall is of course a public building. The Shipston contingent rapidly dealt with the fire, Wellesbourne and Stratford looking on with admiration.

It was very clear that the original Lunch in the hall had become a non-starter, or at least a non-finisher. Although fire damage as such was confined to the lobby area there was no light, no heat, and the inside of the hall was covered with a fine layer of greasy sooty debris. In true Oxhill fashion Oxhillians came to the rescue. Many many thanks must go to Diana Cronin, who opened her home to provide warmth and comfort (and apparently Christmas cheer – see later articles) to those chilled by standing outside the hall watching events unfurl.

Many prospective diners (lunchers?) naturally enough went home, and Jill Tucker arrived to invite those who gritted their teeth and stuck it out to the Old House. There turkey and pork baps (fortunately never exposed to the air inside the hall, so still perfectly edible) were served, along with suitable liquid refreshment, to about a quarter of the original contingent. Contrary to views stated elsewhere in this publication the servers did not outnumber the diners, though it was a pretty close-run thing.

May I conclude by also thanking all those people that cooked, came to help on the day to work in the village hall, and who donated food, crackers and wine.

Heard during the fire, "At last the village hall is serving red wine at room temperature". You can't keep Oxhill down for long.

Keith Seabridge

Taken from the Oxhill News January 2006 issue.

Find out more on the Oxhill Community website: oxhillcommunity.co.uk



NATURE NOTES FOR DECEMBER

by Grenville Moore

Dark December has now come, and brought with him the shortest day and the longest night; he turns the mist-like rain into ice with the breath of his nostrils; and with cold that pierces every bone, drives the shivering and houseless beggar to seek shelter in the deserted shed Even the houses, with their frosted windows, have now a wintering look; and the iron knocker of the door, covered with hoary rime, seems to cut the fingers like a knife when touched.

Chambers Book of Days

I hear on the news after much faux jeopardy that turkeys will not be in short supply this Christmas Quelle surprise!



Our domestic turkey's ancestor is the wild turkey, which is an upland ground bird native to North America (who remembers James Stewart as Davy Crockett shooting wild turkeys with his long Kentucky rifle), but this wild bird probably originates from a sub-species that comes from Southern Mexico. Although native to North America the turkey probably got its name from the domesticated variety that was first imported to Britain on ships coming from the Levant via Spain. Adult males are called toms or gobblers, and the females are called hens, and a juvenile male is called a jake. Their

preferred habitat is mixed hardwood and conifer forests with scattered openings of pastures and orchards. Surprisingly, despite their weight, wild turkeys unlike their domesticated counterparts, are agile, fast fliers. In ideal habitat of open woodland or wooded grasslands, they can fly close to the ground for approximately a quarter of a mile. They roost well off the ground up in the canopy. They are omnivorous with the bulk of their diet being nuts, seeds, berries and grasses, but will occasionally consume amphibians, lizards and snakes, much like pheasants.

Attempts to introduce the wild turkey to Britain as a game bird in the 18th century were not successful. George II had a flock of a few thousand in Richmond Park, but they were all too easy for poachers to kill, and mass fights broke out between groups of poachers and gamekeepers, and it was then considered too dangerous to try and keep them on your land. All the main varieties of domestic turkey today descend from a turkey raised in Central Mexico that was subsequently imported into Europe by the Spanish in the 16th century. Enjoy your Christmas dinner!

16 December is traditionally the beginning of the mice pie season. Perhaps try this 17th century recipe from the Fairfax Household book

“take one pound of tripe well shred or thirteen eggs hard boiled with half the whites taken out; two pounds of suet well shred as small as possible; one pound raisins; two pounds of prunes, stoned and shred; one pound currants, and half an ounce of nuts; cinnamon, mace and cloves a quarter ounce each; eight sour apples shred; one gill each of verjuice, sack and brandy, and half a pound of lemon peel with sugar”

And a very merry Christmas.



NURSES' HOME-MADE CAKE STALL
at the Shipston Rotary Victorian Evening
Friday 3rd December 6pm-8pm

For more information please visit
www.shipstonhomenursing.co.uk/events

MADE IN OXHILL

Well, what a weekend we have just had with the wonderful, hard-working Oxhill artists, crafters and home producers at The Old Chapel! The range of original gifts, artwork, decorations and produce on sale was lovely to see and seemed to be very much appreciated by all our visitors. We felt that opening on two shorter days worked well but would welcome feedback from those who visited as we are already planning next year's event!

Thank you to everyone who baked cakes, scones and biscuits for the very busy refreshment area. Drinks and cake sales alone raised over £320 towards the upkeep of St. Lawrence's Church, Oxhill.

None of this would have been possible without the hard work of the serving and washing up team: an enormous thank you to the team of Sue Hedley, Sue Robinson, Carol Fox and especially Gaida Webb who was there all day for both days.

I have also received donations from the stallholders of well over £200 which also goes towards the upkeep of the Church. Thank you to each stallholder for their contribution to the success of the event. Without all of you, it just wouldn't happen.

Finally, thank you to everyone from the village and further afield for supporting us by visiting our Pop-Up Shop. We look forward to seeing you again next year!

Ruth Mercer

07400 615999

ruthc.mercer@btinternet.com





by Ruth Mercer

With Christmas on the horizon, this month's recipe is from my middle daughter, Lucy. It is definitely not for every day consumption but ticks all the boxes for the Christmas season. After all, Terry's Chocolate Oranges are one of your five a day at Christmas, right?! You can decorate it as festively or not as you like.

TERRY'S CHOCOLATE ORANGE MILLIONAIRES SHORTBREAD

Shortbread:

225g softened unsalted butter
110g caster sugar
260g plain flour
Zest of 2 oranges

Caramel:

120g condensed milk
60g golden syrup
150g unsalted butter
150g dark brown sugar

Chocolate topping:

2 chocolate oranges
100g milk chocolate



- Preheat oven to 150 degrees. Line a 11" x 7" fairly deep traybake tin with greaseproof paper / baking parchment.
- Cream the softened butter and sugar together until light and fluffy. Add flour and orange zest and mix until it forms a shortbread dough. You can use a mixer to do this.
- Press the dough into the lined tin and distribute to all corners, levelling. Prick the surface all over with a fork. Bake in the oven for 35-40 minutes until cooked through and browning slightly.

- For the caramel filling, put all ingredients in a non-stick pan on the hob on a medium heat. Melt down slowly and mix constantly to stop burning on the bottom of the pan. Once all melted, bring to the boil and boil until the caramel becomes richer in colour and the bubbles are big and glossy. Test caramel by dropping a couple of drops in a cup of cold water to make sure it forms into a soft little blob.
- You can pour the caramel onto the shortbread whilst the shortbread is still warm (not straight-out-of-the-oven hot though!). Let the shortbread and caramel cool thoroughly. I usually put it in the fridge for a while although if it gets too cold, it makes spreading the chocolate topping more difficult as it hardens when it hits very cold caramel.
- Once the caramel is cool firm, melt the chocolate oranges and additional chocolate (carefully and slowly!). Distribute over the top of the caramel shortbread and allow to cool. Again, I usually put it in the fridge. Decorate how you like!



Cut into squares and enjoy!



Cakes from the Made in Oxhill Arts & Crafts Pop Up Shop

OXHILL PARISH COUNCIL

PRECIS OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 12.10.21

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 14th September 2021

The minutes were approved and signed as a true record of the meeting.

To receive a report from the County and District Councillor

The report from County Cllr Mills included the following main points:

- WCC have released a powerful video to raise awareness of child exploitation in Warwickshire. There is a campaign full of information and resources. Links will be put on the village Facebook page.
- A new strategy to support victims of domestic abuse is approved.
- WCCS Covid 19 Mental Wellbeing and Resilience Fund has awarded £750K to support local groups and businesses.
- The Warwickshire County Council Plan public engagement survey is now live.
- A £557K contract to help the county's small businesses in the hospitality, leisure and tourism sectors bounce back from the Covid 19 pandemic has been awarded by WW to Coventry and Warwickshire. Cllr Mills to forward any relevant details.
- Warwickshire residents are being encouraged to give up smoking to improve their personal health and to protect friends and family members from household fires related to smoking.
- Covid 19 rates of infection. They decreased across the district slightly at the beginning of October.

The following report was received from Cllr Feilding.

- Key Milestones – The business case will be submitted before the end of 2021.
- Shared Management Team Posts – Proposals have been agreed to implement a joint team on 2nd August 2021.
- Shared contracts between two authorities – A joint specification was agreed for the Refuse and Recycling contract between the two authorities.
- Joint Core Strategy/Local Plan Review – The process for the determination of the South Warwickshire Local Plan has commenced.
- Plans for Full Service Integration – Councils to progress with the process of service integration irrespective of the decision relating to the full merger.
- Strategy Housing Policy – Discussion has taken place to integrating local need properties within larger planning applications. IN the smaller schemes it is difficult to integrate these properties.
- Climate Change – A training course was held and the need to incorporate improved insulation and other improvements to developments.

To discuss and receive an update on improving accessibility on all local footpaths

Discussions have started with a villager about how to implement this. This is ongoing.

To discuss the Queens Green Canopy

A written request from WOT2Grow Community Orchard to purchase a tree for the Community Orchard in Tysoe was circulated. The cost is £73.80 and it was accepted by all Councillors.

To receive an update on planning

The following update was given;

One application was received after the agenda had been issued.

21/02855/FUL, The change of use of an existing building with planning permission for the purposes of specialist sheep housing, laboratory and veterinary purposes (as permitted under planning permission 12/01682/FUL) to business uses associated with farming operations and equestrian related activities, comprising uses such as gate/fence fabricator; livestock trailer fabricator; livestock trailer repairs/adaptations; farrier; animal feedstuff distributor; sand school/manège contractor; and farm machinery repairs/servicing at Church Farm, Whatcote Road.

Mr Heritage attended the meeting and advised that farming is in a poor state. The EU subsidies are being phased out. A report carried out by Reading University was circulated and farms need to diversify. Approval was given in 2012 for a sheep shed which was used for a limited period of time. Mr Heritage found other uses for the area which was not appropriate and refused. He tried to find other ways to bring in income. The government is encouraging diversification and a report has recently been carried out by Brown & Co in Banbury. The report has not been received yet and will be circulated soon.

The Chair noted that they accept the suggestions made and understand why diversification has to happen. The planning application is the same as before but with different labelling. Mr Heritage did understand why people were unhappy before. The Parish Council have to comment by 29th October. They would like to see the report carried out by Brown & Co before commenting.

Mr Heritage has seen other land owners put forward housing developments. He may consider this option if planning is not allowed. He was encouraged to discuss any proposed plans with the Parish Council first.

Older Application

21/02129/LBC, Renovation works to the walls, windows and thatch roof. Replacement of window and stove with flue at Bilton Cottage, Church Lane. Granted by SDC.

Financial Report

To approve the cost to purchase wheelie bin speed awareness stickers (details circulated)

It was agreed to allow Cllr Rivers-Fletcher to spend up to £300.00 to purchase bin stickers.

The following correspondence was received and circulated;

- WCC, Road Closure of Nolands Road on 18th October 2021
- WCC, Road Closure of Kinton Road and Whatcote Road from 22nd November to 8th December

Councillors Reports

A lot of work has been done in clearing footpaths.



*Hettie Porter Born 8th November 2021
Pip, Barney and Bea (and Olive)*





Dear friends and neighbours of Oxhill. This year we have decided not to send Christmas cards, but instead we are going to make a donation to Target Ovarian Cancer, a charity close to our hearts.

We would like to wish you all a very Healthy and Happy Christmas and all the very best for the New Year.

Love and BIG HUGS, Ed & Elaine XXXX

Mike and Heather Bridgman would like to wish all residents of Oxhill a wonderful Christmas and the very best New Year.

We won't be sending any Christmas cards this year and instead we will be making a donation to the Migraine Trust Charity.

Stay safe and well everyone. x

We will not be sending Christmas cards in the village but will be making a donation to Great Ormond Street Hospital. We wish all our Oxhill friends merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Anne, Jo, Milo & Felix



The last summer apple.....or is it a Christmas decoration? photo by Grenville Moore



The Tysoe Mixed A team enjoyed the summer playing again in the Banbury League (Division 3). Our squad was strengthened by the arrival of Pete and Lou Stubbs but also hampered by injury and Covid. We had some great moments when at one point we beat the Divisional frontrunners to their surprise and annoyance! The top three teams in Division 3 were working hard for promotion and we ended up being kingmakers in our last match as, by taking points off one of them, we allowed Kings Sutton B to win the Division by one point to become Champions. Tysoe A therefore remains in Division 3 for another year.

WINTER TENNIS

The Ladies A team travelled to Kenilworth and were faced with very strong opposition. Congratulations to Liz Finlyson and Julie Smart who fought hard to win one rubber but the team came away with a 3-1 loss. Their next encounter was against Studley where both couples won one rubber resulting in a draw.

The Ladies B team went to the glorious location of Warwick Boat Club, where they enjoyed being by the river in the shadow of the castle but, unfortunately, the tennis suffered and subsequently a 4-0 loss ensued. The following match fared better against Warwickshire County Council with some very competitive play ending in a draw.

Tysoe Mixed A had its first tennis match in the Banbury Winter League against Byfield C. The match was hard fought with Tysoe A coming out on top 6-2 on a beautiful mild windless day.

JUNIORS

All the junior teams have had some competitive play in the Warwickshire Winter League although poor weather has also resulted in rearranged matches.

The U10 B lost against strong teams from Rugby and Leamington. The U10 A lost against Solihull and the U9s had a hard match against Berkswell.

All of the children are enjoying the matches and gaining great experience as well as improving their game.

We are pleased to have found a new coach for Sunday mornings and so now offer a 9-9.30am session for young and inexperienced players. The 9.30-10.30 slot is for 8+ and more confident players.

Please contact nicki@tysoe.net for more information.

Club Secretary: Carol Spencer 07708 412767

Carol.spencer234@hotmail.co.uk



POP UP SHOP
Monday 29th November to
Thursday 2nd December
10am - 3pm daily
Function room at the back of the White Bear
Designer New & 2nd Hand Clothes
Accessories - Homeware - Superb Men's wear too!
All profits go to Shipston Home Nursing

Contact Rebecca for more information
T 01608 674929 E rebecca.mawle@shipstonhomenursing.co.uk
www.shipstonhomenursing.co.uk

We held our AGM at the beginning of November with many members attending. We said goodbye and thank you to our President of 6 years Jacqui, who now deserves a rest from official duties and welcomed our new President Eileen. We all look forward to her term in office.

After a glass of wine our speaker enthralled us with his talk "The Christmas Truce" by Sir Andrew Hamilton who has an astonishing personal link to the First World War and the Christmas Truce in 1914.

Sir Andrew's grandfather, Captain Robert Hamilton, was an officer in the first battalion in the Royal Warwickshire Regiment. During his service he kept a diary which is how Sir Andrew learnt of his grandfather's role in the truce.

Captain Hamilton and the Royal Warwicks were in the trenches by Plugstreet Wood in Belgium facing the Germans across No Man's Land on Christmas Eve.

We were privileged to be able to lay a wreath at the memorial on Remembrance Sunday.

Our craft and laugh group have been very busy creating lots of beautiful Christmas gifts, decorations, cards, toys and more. We will be selling these at the Christmas Bazaar.

THE CHRISTMAS BAZAAR
TYSOE VILLAGE HALL
SATURDAY 4TH DECEMBER
10.30-12.00

WE WILL ALSO HAVE A POP UP
SHOP AT MONKEYBEAN CAFE AT
SUGARSWELL PARK ON THE SAME
DAY 10.30-1.00

BOTH RAISING MONEY FOR
TYSOE DEMENTIA GROUP

Hope to see you at one of these events.



Our Dementia Friendly Cafes
offer tea & coffee, a chat,
friendship and support for people
living with dementia, carers,
family and friends

Tysoe Dementia
Friends Cafe
EVERY FRIDAY
Tysoe Village Hall
10am - 12 noon
Just Call in

Contact Heather & Paul on 01295 688376
or email: talkdementia@mail.com
www.talkdementia.uk



Celebrate in Oxhill on June 2nd, 3rd and 4th, 2022!

Thank you to everyone who has completed and returned the questionnaire from last month's Oxhill News. The responses received so far have been overwhelmingly positive which means that the event should go ahead. However, it would be great if we had more questionnaires returned to give us a better idea of numbers. Unfortunately, our plan to collect from every house in the village went awry due to unforeseen circumstances.

If nobody has collected your questionnaire yet, it would be extremely helpful if you are able to either email it to the email address below or post through one of the following letterboxes:

Geof and Rachel Beesley, 3 Orchard Close
Grenville Moore, Peacock House, Main Street
Ruth Mercer, Struan, Whatcote Road

Please call Ruth Mercer on 07400 615999 if you would like someone to fetch your deposit and questionnaire personally.

A copy of the questionnaire can be found in the November Oxhill News on the village website, oxhillcommunity.co.uk.

Thank you for your support and we look forward to enjoying an amazing village event next year.

Contact oxjub@btinternet.com or call 07400 615999 if you have further questions or want to discuss anything.

In the village, by the village, for the village

Events at the hall keep on coming! This will go out after the James Bond themed evening; Lions Cinema evening; and the Small Business Gift Fair; but should still be in time for you to get involved with a fabulous weekend of live music, starting with **Jools and the Jazzaholics on the 3rd December**; followed by the **Birmingham Blues Brothers on 4th December**; and the **Town Band on 5th December**.

On the maintenance and facilities improvement front, we've taken delivery of replacement doors for the smaller of our two halls, which will significantly improve sound proofing and better support co-existing events. We've also invested in ramps to improve access / exit for the main hall fire exit doors to the driveway.

As noted last month, we're a charity and rely on booking fees, donations, and support for our funding initiatives to keep the hall well maintained and to provide improvements to the facilities we offer to the community. There are still numbers available in our "150 club", so please check that out (website below for details) and hopefully you're considering us when, at no cost to you, you shop through Amazon Smile or "easyfundraising" (link on website).

The **150 Club winners in the November draw** are: £15 no. 112; £10 no. 103; £5 no. 40.

Visit us at www.townsendhall.co.uk to find out more.



Old country lore says bountiful autumn fruit means a hard winter.

Photos by Grenville Moore

Letter to the Editor

Part 3 of Myrtle Knight's fascinating memories struck a chord with my family, particularly the reference to Sir Harold Gillies: often referred to as the father of plastic surgery.

My uncle, David Sewell, was born in 1917 with a missing ear and, for much of his life, wore a leather pouch strapped across his forehead: an unattractive arrangement but probably considered less offensive than what it was attempting to disguise. From a young age, his ambition was to join the Army: however, being half deaf was one thing, but lacking an actual physical ear was too obvious a handicap for the Army Medical Board to ignore.

David's father, Horace, a retired general, sought the help of Sir Harold, with whom he was familiar, and throughout 1935-36, David underwent a series of skin grafts to build an ear. The procedure was a success and, with a degree of string-pulling by his father, he was eventually allowed into the Army and, commissioned into the 4/7th Royal Dragoon Guards in 1939, he was sent out to join the British Expeditionary Force in 1940. Within weeks, the Germans launched their Blitzkrieg and David was killed in action on May 19th whilst trying to hold up the advance at Lessines, Belgium. His name is on the Tysoe War Memorial.

Percy Sewell

There is something about Myrtle Knight that reminds me of my mother. Both have a certain style. Myrtle and Mother, they were the greatest generation that gave so much and asked so little in return. No block of marble can equal their lives of sacrifice. We must continue to remember them and like you, write their stories.

Sally Bleakley (aunt of editor, Vanessa)



*Sarah Regan, mother to Sally and
grandmother to Vanessa*

WHAT'S ON IN & AROUND OXHILL

DECEMBER

Fri 3rd	19:30	Jools and the Jazzaholics, Townsend Hall
Sat 4th	19:30	Birmingham Blues Brothers, Townsend Hall
Sun 5th	19:30	Town Band, Townsend Hall
Tues 7th	12:30	Over 65's Village Christmas Lunch
Thurs 16th	14:00-14:30	Mobile Library, outside Village Hall
Fri 17th	19:30	Beer & Bubbles Evening, Village Hall
Mon 20th	18:30	Carol Service, St Lawrence Church
Wed 22nd	18:30	Carol Service, St Lawrence Church
Every Thursday	11:45ish	Awesome Coffee Van, outside Peacock Pub

PC MEETINGS

The date of the next PC Meeting is **Tuesday, 11 January 2022 at 7.30pm**. This meeting will be held in the Village Hall. The Agenda for the meeting 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.

Please note that there may be an EGM in December to consider requests that cannot potentially wait until January but the date is not known as yet. Once it is known the date and Agenda will be shown on the Community website and a printed copy will be displayed on the notice board a few days ahead of the meeting.

IN ERRATUM

The cover of last month's Oxhill News (November 2021) wrongly spelled **Lynsey Cleaver's** name.

BIN COLLECTION CALENDAR



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



NAME THAT BIRD

Answers in order 1-12

pheasant, curlew, corn bunting, nightingale, spoonbill, kittiwake, toucan, kingfisher, nightjar, waxwing, nuthatch, magpie

December						
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	29	30	31		