

# THE OXHILL NEWS

April 2025 No. 605



A successful half-term litter picking trip for Fraser. This bag full was from the bottom of Nolands Lane. ~ Andrew Stewart

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

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Oxhill Pickleball	Peter Rivers Fletcher 07730 800729 rfn364@btinternet.com
The Peacock Pub	01295 675019
Tysoe Tennis Club:	Club Secretary: Carol Spencer email: carol.spencer234@hotmail.co.uk
Warwickshire Mobile Library:	01926 851031
WOT2Grow Community Orchard:	Miranda Forrester (680265); Paul Sayer (680451); Sue and Mike Sanderson (688080)
talkdementia.uk Carer Support Service	Paul & Heather Dowler Tysoe 688376 email: talkdementia@mail.com Website: talkdementia.uk Tysoe Village Hall every Friday from 10am

**If you would like to list your club or group in the Oxhill News  
please send details to [oxhill.news.editor@gmail.com](mailto:oxhill.news.editor@gmail.com)**

# COUCH

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# TO K

IN 6 WEEKS

**SHIPSTON  
CYCLING**

**SATURDAYS AT 10AM**  
STARTING 29TH MARCH  
WITH A 15K BIKE RIDE

FREE AND FRIENDLY GROUP  
RIDE WITH A CAFE STOP (EITHER  
MID RIDE OR AT THE END  
DEPENDING ON RIDE LENGTH)

REQUIRED: ROAD BIKE AND A  
HELMET, E-BIKES WELCOME

**MEET AT BRIDGE CAR PARK,  
SHIPSTON ON STOUR**

PLEASE DROP US A MESSAGE ON FACEBOOK  
OR INSTAGRAM IF YOU INTEND TO JOIN US,  
OR EMAIL [ADMIN@SHIPSTONCYCLING.CO.UK](mailto:ADMIN@SHIPSTONCYCLING.CO.UK)





## ST LAWRENCE CHURCH FOR APRIL

April is the month of Easter. We continue to walk with Jesus to the cross, and share the pain, darkness and suffering as he dies in our stead; to share the bewilderment of those around him, as they struggled to come to terms with what was happening, and then share in the exuberance of that first Easter morning: the empty tomb meant Jesus was alive; death was defeated; new life had come into the world. Just as we marvel at creation's new life Spring arrives, so relish this great invitation God gives us to share his new life, with all its riches.

On this morning  
let us see you  
in every stranger;

let us hear you  
in the whispered  
hopes of hungry children;

let us welcome you  
into our empty hearts.

*Thom M Shuman, Lead me into Life with You.*





**Church services in April, in St. Lawrence Oxhill, unless otherwise stated.**

**Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> April** 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent

9.30 am Holy Communion George Heighton

**Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> April** **Palm Sunday**

9.30 am Family Service George Heighton

3.30 pm Palm Sunday Holy Communion in **Whatcote** Jill Tucker

**Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> April** **Holy Week begins.**

9.00 pm Compline George Heighton

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> April**

9.00 pm Compline in **Brailes** Susan Bowden-Pickstock

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April**

9.00 pm Compline in **Sutton** George Heighton

**Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> April** **Maundy Thursday**

7.00 pm Holy Communion and Vigil in **Tysoe** Jill Tucker

**Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> April** **Good Friday**

2.00 pm Last Hour by the Cross in **Brailes** George Heighton

7.00 pm Tenebrae, in **Whatcote** George Heighton, Jill Tucker

**Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> April** **Easter Day**

9.30 am Holy Communion of Easter Day Susan Dowden-Pickstock.

# OXHILL'S BIG WEEKEND

## FRIENDS OF OXHILL CHURCH

Plans are well under way for a second **Oxhill's Big Weekend**, to be held on the weekend of **June 14th and 15th**. This year, as in 2023, the theme is sustainability and the natural world. The church will be decorated as befits the small country church that it is, the wildflower meadow in the churchyard will be looking fabulous and there will be an opportunity to reserve and buy the planters used to decorate the church. There will be a wildlife treasure trail around the village and an Arts and Crafts Fair in the Village Hall, where Pimms will be served. The Old Chapel will be

the location of teas, cakes, Ploughman's lunches, raffle and Tombola. Other plans are in the pipeline – read about those in next month's Oxhill News, or on the Oxhill Facebook page!

If you are interested in booking a stall in the Village Hall for Arts and Crafts, please contact me straightaway as we anticipate that demand will outstrip supply.

As usual, all offers of help would be most gratefully received. We will need lots of cakes baked and tea servers throughout the weekend, plus people to run the Tombola and raffle. We also need plenty of Tombola and raffle prizes. Please contact me if you can help in any way.

Thank you.

Ruth Mercer

07400 615999 or email [ruthc.mercer@btinternet.com](mailto:ruthc.mercer@btinternet.com)

## VE DAY 80TH ANNIVERSARY SUPPER

National plans are well under way to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of VE Day in May this year. In Oxhill, we have a history of recognising significant historic events so we are planning to commemorate this important anniversary with a two course Street Party style Supper in **The Old Chapel from 6.45pm on Thursday 8th May** before walking up to the Beacon lighting ceremony. There will also be a donations bar. Tickets are £15 for adults and £8 for children of school age. Beacons across the country will be lit at 9.30pm so we intend to walk to the beacon from 9pm.

Ticket numbers are limited so please book early to avoid disappointment.

Ruth Mercer

07400 615999 or email [ruthc.mercer@btinternet.com](mailto:ruthc.mercer@btinternet.com)



# NEW PARISH ELECTORAL ROLL

Once every six years a new Electoral roll is compiled; 2025 is such a year. If you have not already completed the simple application form located at the back of the church, I write this in the hope that you as a resident of Oxhill might consider being recorded on the 2025 Church Electoral Roll of St Lawrence's church. Village life in Oxhill is always enhanced by new residents who we hope quickly feel part of our friendly community. St Lawrence's, with its various activities throughout the year, is central to Oxhill and the Parochial Church Council (PCC) feels fortunate that it is supported by so many villagers who, although not necessarily regular churchgoers, contribute in so many ways to its life.

You will be aware that, as of 1st November 2024, the three 'old' parishes merged into one to form the Benefice of Tysoe with Oxhill and Whatcote in the Diocese of Coventry with its new Ecclesiastical parish boundary. I am pleased to report that the new joint PCC has met with elected representatives from the three churches fully in accord with the development of the new parish going forward.

In accordance with the necessary notice of said meeting, it is hereby declared that the first combined parish Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) will be held 11th May 2025 at St. Mary's Church, Tysoe after a shortened 11am service. The deadline for inclusion on the 2025 electoral roll is two weeks prior to this.

Notice of the Preparation of the New Electoral Roll is displayed in each of the three churches and application forms for enrolment may be found therein. The criteria for enrolment is that applicants will declare that they are baptised, resident in the parish, and consider themselves to be a member of the Church of England or that of a church in communion with it. All parishioners are encouraged to enrol as friends of their respective churches and supporters of the new parish. Completed forms, please, to be left at the back of the church or sent to the undersigned at 15 New Park Cottages, Lower Brailes OX15 5JD.

*Douglas Nethercleft  
Electoral Roll Officer  
St. Lawrence, Oxhill*



*St Lawrence Church. Photo by Phi Morris*





# QUIZ NIGHT

SATURDAY  
**12 APRIL**

DOORS OPEN 7 PM

**TICKETS £12.50**  
include a ploughman's & puds

Maximum team size of 6

Ali Sayer  
07970 922352 or  
oxhillvh@gmail.com





## OXHILL VILLAGE HALL

We held two events at the Village Hall in March — a talk by Colin Hales and our St Patrick's Day supper — both of which I was unable to attend! Rather than write something second or even third hand, I've included some insights from people who were there:

### 'HAVE PLANE, WILL TRAVEL' BY COLIN HALES

As you might remember from last month's Oxhill News, Colin's talk was about his extraordinary achievement in not only building his own single seater plane, but in his record-breaking attempt to fly it around the world. Here's what some of our audience told us:



*Hugely entertaining and had the audience totally absorbed - great evening!*

*Colin comes across as a very personable guy and that is why he was able to cross so many otherwise hostile borders. He appears to be focused and never, despite some serious challenges, lost sight of his goals and objectives. A lesson for us all.*

*It's always great to meet life's eccentrics! Quite inspirational – having a dream and getting on with it. Most people would find reasons not to do it.*

*Fascinating and emotional talk.*

Sounds good? Why not book a space in the audience to hear about Belinda Marklew's adventure in the World's Toughest Yacht Race? See below for ticket information.

**THURSDAY 24th APRIL**  
*Doors open at 7pm*

**TALKS@OVH**

# **SAILING THE ROARING FORTIES**

**A talk by Belinda Marklew about the extraordinary challenges  
she faced during the 'World's Toughest Yacht Race'**



**Tickets £8 from Sarah on 07758 280273 or [oxhillvh@gmail.com](mailto:oxhillvh@gmail.com)**

## **ST PATRICK'S DAY SUPPER**

The feedback from this event was brilliant. Here's what our chair, Derek Harbour, had to say about it:

It was cold outside, but there was definitely a warm fuzzy feeling in the Village Hall on Friday night. No, the heating was not too high; the warmth was generated by the wonderful community feeling started by the hard working team of Sue, Sarah, Sally and Ali and then taken up by so many Friends of the Village Hall and all of those present.

The donated warm potato cakes were decorated with smoked salmon and were a nice start to the meal. They were followed by tons of creamy mashed potato and the excellent main dishes of Irish stew and cabbage & ham 'pies' (sounds uninspiring but were really tasty!), some made by the team but others generously provided by Friends. Then came all manner of Guinness & chocolate cakes, apple cakes and more, again baked by Friends and committee members.

Many hands made light work of preparing the hall in the afternoon and many made light of preparing and serving the food. Volunteers made light of serving behind the bar and many hands also made light of clearing up at the end of the evening.

Thank you team for leading the way and for reminding villagers that our Village Hall is a friendly and welcoming place where great times are had. For those who were not present, we hope that your evening was as warm as ours.







## **100 CLUB**

For those of you who are unfamiliar with our 100 Club, it's a subscription-based lottery that awards monthly prizes of £60, £30 and £10 with the remainder of income going towards the upkeep of the Village Hall. Subscription is £60 per annum and renews in September each year, but it's possible to join at any time at a pro-rata cost, e.g. you could join in May for £20. You never know, you might win in your very first month!

As requested, below is a list of all of our winners since the inaugural draw in September 2024. Future winners will be listed in each new issue of the Oxhill News from now on.

September 2024: Ed Morgan, Katy Dowding, Kay Hawtin  
October 2024: Kay Hawtin, Dave Nash, Steve MacRae  
November 2024: Sarah Bracher, Ros Arthur, John McKail  
December 2024: Peter Taylor, Richard & Hilary Stait, Morna Macpherson  
January 2025: Richard & Hilary Stait, Jean Duffy, Roger Goodman  
February 2025: Lee Robinson, Eileen Macpherson, Dave Hawtin

The March draw is scheduled for 7:30pm, Friday 21st, in the Peacock. Winners will be announced on the village Facebook page and, from the May issue, in the Oxhill News. Please note that winners can opt out of publicity, in which case their name(s) will be replaced by Anonymous.

If you would like to join the 100 Club, please get in touch with Sally on 07769 348844 or [oxhillvh@gmail.com](mailto:oxhillvh@gmail.com).

### **APRIL DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Our first village event this month is **Quiz Night**. Back by popular demand, there will be the usual mix of head-scratching, silly team names, laughter, competition, and a two course meal of ploughman's and puds. Don't worry if you aren't a regular quizzier or if you're coming on your own - we'll find you a team to join and there's no pressure to be worthy of Mastermind! Tickets are £12.50 from Ali on 07970 922352 or [oxhillvh@gmail.com](mailto:oxhillvh@gmail.com). If you're already mentally building your team, please note that there is a maximum size of six.

You can also join us this month for the third in our **Talk Series** which this time features Belinda Marklew who, as many of you will know, used to live in Oxhill and still lives just up the road in Kineton. The challenge of crewing a yacht in a race going the wrong way around the world sounds truly terrifying to me, but wow! it must have been incredible. Belinda will be sharing her story on April 24th. Tickets are £8 from Sarah on 07758 280273 or [oxhillvh@gmail.com](mailto:oxhillvh@gmail.com).

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

This year's AGM will be held on Tuesday 27th May. We would love to share headlines from the past year with both old and new faces and to hear your ideas for the coming year so please join us for a glass of wine at 7pm. The meeting is scheduled to end at 8pm.

Please speak to any of the committee members if you would like to know more or if you might be interested in joining us for the coming year. As always, we welcome all enquiries.

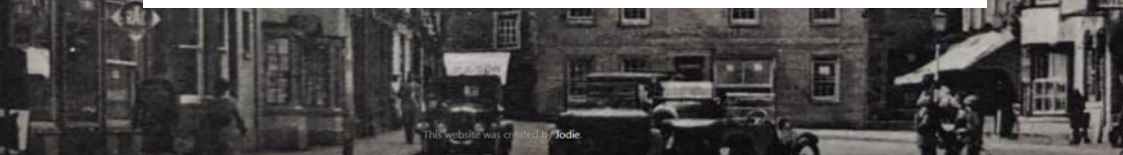
*Karen MacRae*

# EXHIBIT AT THE SHIPSTON MUSEUM

## Auctioneering in Shipston-on-Stour

Old Clark House  
Shipston-on-Stour  
CV36 4EL

Opened Weekends and Bank Holidays  
12 - 4pm from Easter to September



The Shipston Museum has a new exhibit on **Auctioning in Shipston** from 1800s onwards. The exhibit items are from the museum records and Robert Harper whose grandfather, Henry F. Harper, was a successful auctioneer in Shipston from 1900 until 1953. Henry Harper, along with his partner John Bosley, auctioned estates and their contents, farms, cottages and so much more.

As Robert explains:

“In 1900, Frank Parsons [auctioneer] employed my grandfather, Henry F. Harper and John Bosley (two years earlier), so they became Frank Parsons & Co. They were successful in their business throughout the four counties; Warwickshire, Oxfordshire, Worcestershire and Gloucestershire. They covered area from Woodstock to Stratford and Banbury to Evesham, which was absolutely massive in those days, because the motor car hardly existed. So, they did things on horseback and in carriages. They became the leading firm of auctioneers, land agents and estate agents in Shipston-on-Stour.

Frank Parsons bought the Manor House in Sheep Street from where he ran his business. He lived next door to what was then the Bell Hotel in Shipston, a coaching inn.



*Henry F. Harper 'He was like a good tree – straight, strong and sound all through'.*



Throughout the First World War, Frank Parsons was continuing to work, but he was in sick health. He retired in 1917 and he died in the early 1920s.

The firm was handed to John Bosley and Henry Harper, and the firm became Bosley and Harper.

They were prolific in the amount of work they did from 1900 until my grandfather died in 1953. They were holding cattle markets at Moreton in Marsh and Shipston on Stour alternating every week. And together with the sales of property, estates, live and dead farming stock, furniture, fields of sprouts, orchards of fruit, timber, growing timber, fields of peas, fields of sprouts, hay and grass keeping - all sold by auction, the number of auction sales in 50 years is innumerable.”

Over the last few months, the Oxhill News has been fortunate to publish pamphlets from different historical auctions in the area. The exhibition at the Shipston Museum has a much greater collection of memorabilia with historical details, photos, biographies of the auctioneers and stories from 150 years of local auctions.

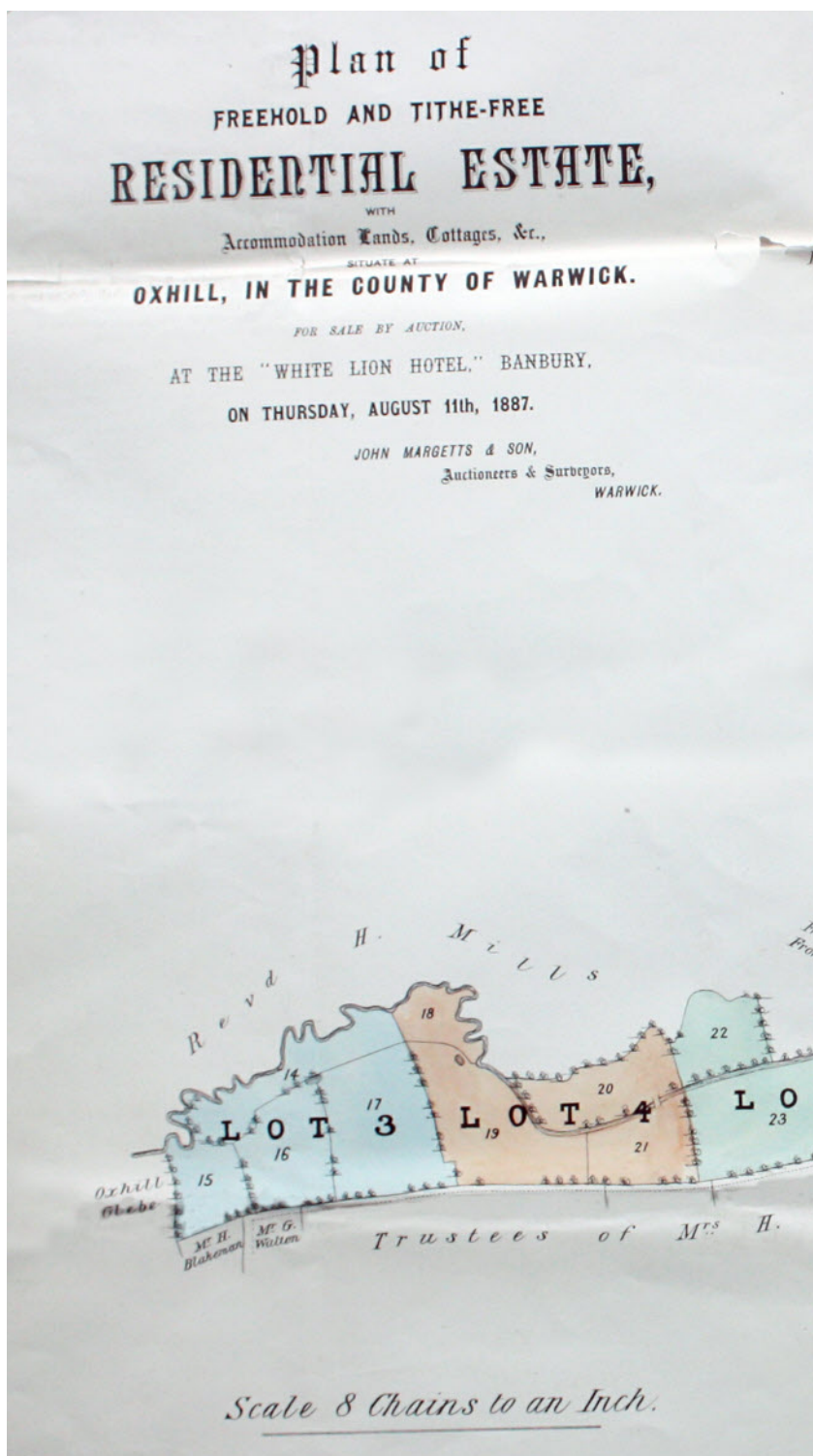
The Shipston Museum has free entry and is open on weekends & bank holidays from 10 - 4pm. Find out more on their website [shipstonmuseum.co.uk](http://shipstonmuseum.co.uk)

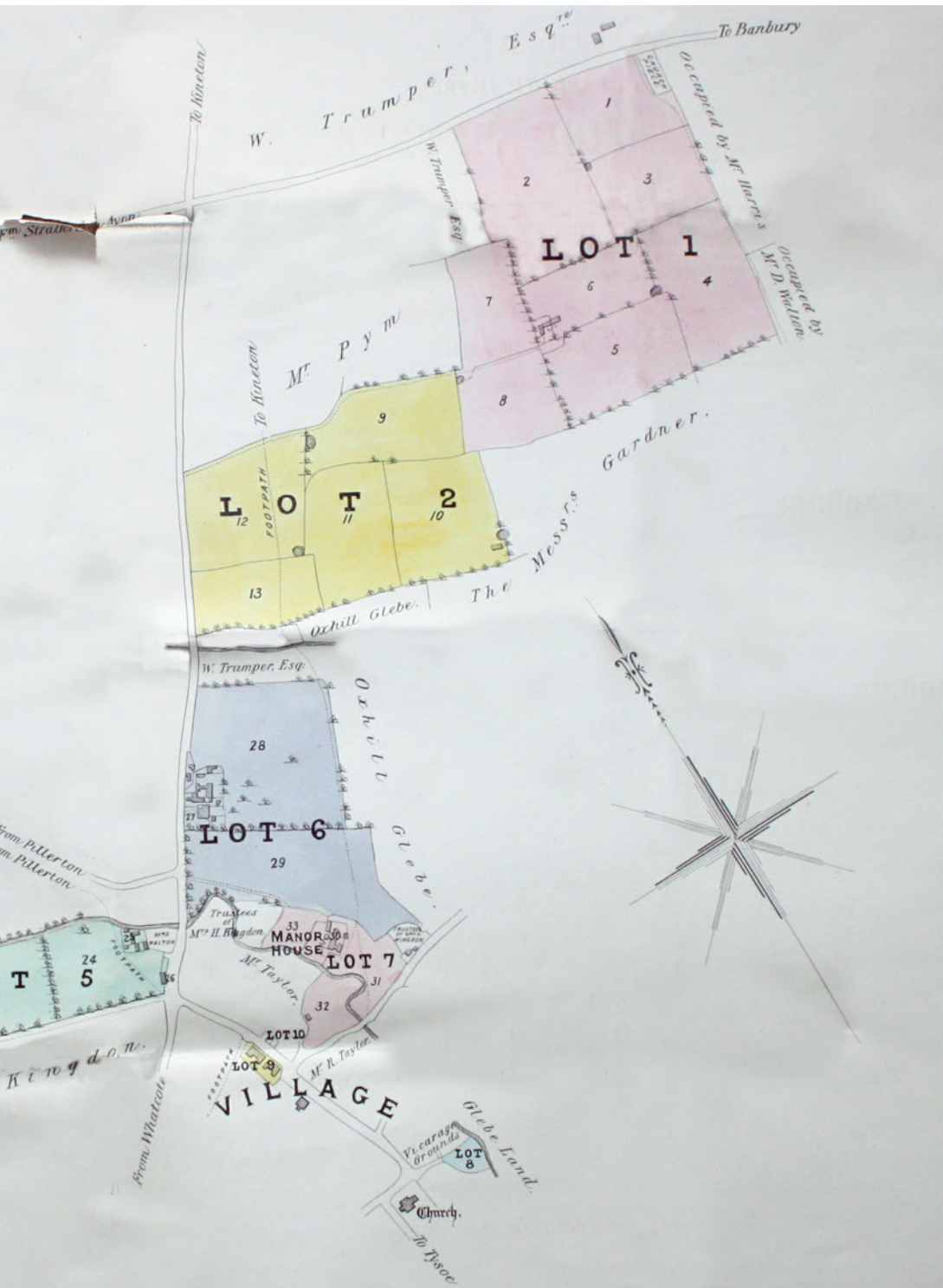


**Prize pigs being auctioned in Shipston, 1910**

## THE AUCTION OF WHITEHALL HOUSE ESTATE 1887

In 1887 the Whitehall House Estate of Oxhill, was divided into lots and auctioned. The auction pamphlet says the estate contained "279 Acres, 2 Roods and 2 Perches of rich feeding old turf, dairy, meadow and good corn growing land." The Estate also included the Manor house, 7 cottages with gardens, carpenter's shop, farm buildings and more.









*Tysoe Tennis Club*  
www.tysoetennisclub.co.uk

## **EXCITING NEWS FROM TYSOE TENNIS CLUB**

We are very pleased to announce that Tysoe Tennis Club have partnered with Rosie Clarke Coaching to deliver all of our coaching needs. This includes Junior Coaching, Group Coaching, Private Coaching and links with local schools. Rosie already runs successful programs at Shipston, Banbury and Bloxham so we are delighted to bring her expertise to Tysoe.

We also plan to introduce a NEW COURT BOOKING SYSTEM - which will ensure that anyone can check court availability to avoid being disappointed and not being able to play.

Finally, we are holding our AGM on Monday 24 th March at ... when we will go into more detail about our plans to increase the tennis provision at the courts.

For more information, please see [www.tysoetennisclub.co.uk](http://www.tysoetennisclub.co.uk)





## PLANT SALE

The Garden Club's Spring plant sale will take place at the Village Hall on Saturday 10th May between 10.30 am and 12 noon. Please put the date in your diary.

The sale is a 'bring and buy' event, so please start to assemble any plants you can bring along. But do come along whether or not you have anything to bring with you. There will be plenty of choice – all at very reasonable prices!

All proceeds will go to the Village Hall.

*Kate Nash*



## VILLAGE PHOTOS

Two beautiful village photos posted on our Oxhill Village Community Facebook page.



*Early morning. Photo by Paul Roebuck*



*St Lawrence church in the moonlight. Photo by Giosue Larucci*



*The Village Hall ‘Talk Series’ has introduced us to wonderful speakers sharing stories of challenge and adventure. The evenings have been thoroughly enjoyable. In the same vein of challenge and adventure, I am including an story from a dear friend whose work took him to a little island in the Outer Hebrides in the 1970s.*

*If you would like to share a story, please get in touch at [oxhill.news.editor@gmail.com](mailto:oxhill.news.editor@gmail.com)*

*~ Vanessa, ed.*



*Aerial view of castle bay on the island of Barra in the outer hebrides.*

## **BARRA, BOATS AND BOMBS**

*by Ken Trice*

My work in the construction industry has occasionally resulted in me working on projects by the sea. One such occasion was in 1970 when I was sent to work on a project in the Outer Hebrides, a string of islands off the west coast of Scotland in UK. There I was to supervise the construction of an extension to Castle Bay Pier on the Isle of Barra, together with a small slipway on the nearby Isle of Eriskay. Barra is a small island at the southern end of the Outer Hebrides. It's about 15 miles around and at that the time had a population of about 1500. Eriskay is even smaller. Eriskay had a circumference of a about 4 miles with a population of little over 100.

Despite their remoteness, both Barra and Eriskay have their own claims to fame because the British comedy film



*Barra, Scotland*



*Airport on Barra Beach.*

“Whisky Galore” was filmed on the islands in 1949. The film was based on a true story of events on the Isle of Eriskay during World War II. It tells of a ship, reportedly carrying 50,000 cases of whisky, bound for USA, that ran aground there. The plot revolved around there being a stand-off between the locals, who were hell-bent on relieving the marooned vessel of Scotland’s favourite tipple for themselves, and the Customs Department.

During the time I was there, Barra was serviced by the MacBrayne’s passenger ferry sailing out of Oban (on the west coast of the Scottish mainland) and the British European Airways, (BEA as it was known then), from Glasgow. BEA scheduled flights on a 14-seater aircraft to Barra several times a week.

The Barra airport was situated at the north east of the island. It was not an airport in the normal sense of the word and in reality, did not even resemble one. In fact, one could be forgiven for not even knowing it was there, even though it is located immediately adjacent to the road. The reason for it not being noticeable was because at low tide the landing area was simply a sandy beach, while at high tide it disappeared under the sea.

This particular beach was chosen as an aircraft landing area because it is reinforced with shells that provides a very hard surface. Barra is unique in this respect. It is the only place in the world where scheduled flights (albeit small aircraft) use a tidal beach as a runway.

The “airport terminal” comprised a 10ft X 10ft wooden hut, manned for the single daily aircraft arrival and departure. This was the only activity at the “airport”.

Because arrival by air was dependent upon the tide and wind direction, one never really knew if the plane was actually going to arrive until it flew low over the town of Castle Bay at the south of the island to announce its pending arrival. Having been alerted, those involved (including passengers) would take to the road and make the 6-mile trip to the “airport”.

Another intriguing aspect of the airport operations was the procedure immediately prior to the plane’s departure. It was then that one of the two airport staff would be poised on the

beach in front of the plane's propellers, with a fire extinguisher at the ready, as each the four engines spluttered into life. While this was being done, the solitary "airport" fire engine proceeded to roar around the beach. When first seen, one could be forgiven for thinking it was being done just for fun, but one soon learned that its purpose was to chase cattle away that had strayed onto the "runway". This procedure was also needed before a plane's arrival.

Eventually, and having been given the thumbs up by the airport staff, the pilot would turn the plane into the wind and roar across the sand. It was never a smooth take-off because the beach was invariably left rippled by the receding tide.

Interestingly, Barra airport has at various times, been voted as having the most stunning aerial approach, and runway, in the world.

Unbeknownst to me at the time, Castle Bay was one of the ports of call on the two-handed Round Britain Yacht Race. That year, "Snow Goose", one of twenty-eight entrants, was the first to arrive and was seen anchored in the bay one morning. There was a mandatory stop-over of 48 hours.

The next leg of the race was to Lerwick in the Shetland Isles, about 140 miles north of John O'Groats, the northern most point of Scotland. This entailed the yachts venturing out into the Atlantic Ocean where, according to the weather forecast, gale force winds were to be expected.

Upon my arrival at the construction site the morning after the departure of the leading yachts, I was met by my foreman who was irate by the fact that a large proportion of our sand stockpile had disappeared overnight. We put two and two together and concluded that because of the storms in the area, the race competitors needed as much weight as possible low down in their yachts to act as ballast. A stockpile of sand within arms-reach, obviously proved too tempting, and provided the them with a readily available and ideal solution.

A few days later another competitor arrived. It was a catamaran that limped in crewed by a team from Her Majesty's Services. They were despondent because they had rudder damage and told us that they would have to withdraw from the race. I offered them the use of our crane if that would be of any use to them. They promptly accepted, and because of the lack of space on the pier and the fact that special equipment was needed to lift the vessel out of the water, it was brought alongside, whereupon only the stern was lifted clear of the water. Within hours the crew had completed the repair and were truly grateful that they were back in the race.



*Round Britain Yacht Race*





*German G7 torpedo, the standard torpedo for all German U-boats.*

Another unusual event that happened during my time there involved a large fishing boat that was seen in the bay with its nets out. Commercial fishing in the bay was most unusual and according to the Harbour Master, he had never in his lifetime, seen a boat of that size fishing in the bay.

After going back and forth for some time, the fishing boat came alongside the pier where we were working and the skipper asked if we could help. He said that they were not fishing in the bay but that while fishing at sea something had got caught in their net and their activity in the bay was merely an attempt to clear it.

Within no time we had the crane hook connected to the net and were hoisting away. As the net slowly emerged from the water, one could see a barnacle encrusted cylinder about 2 ft in diameter. The crane continued hoisting and the cylinder kept coming. I began to wonder how big this thing was. By this time there were many onlookers on the pier eager to see what all the fuss was about. Eventually the whole cylinder was clear of the water. It was about 25 ft long. We gently lowered it onto the pier and began disentangling the net only to reveal a large torpedo like object. This caused the Harbour Master to rush off to his office in what seemed like panic.

While the Harbour Master was away, some of the barnacles were gingerly chipped off the cylinder to reveal what appeared to be something written in German. When the Harbour

Master returned, he urgently cleared the pier of all the onlookers and informed us that Army bomb disposal personnel were on their way.

Several hours later the bomb disposal personnel arrived by helicopter and immediately began to inspect the object. They confirmed that the cylinder was of German origin and wanted to remove the end of the cylinder. After several tense minutes the end was off, and as the Army guys peered inside, their faces changed from that of concern to a grin followed by laughter. As one of them withdrew his arm from deep within the cylinder, clutching a sample of the contents, we could see that the panic was over. But what was it? Having smelled it the officer shouted “*It’s butter, rancid butter*”. But what on earth was butter doing in a German torpedo casing we thought.

Later that day we learned, from the Harbour Master, that during the Second World War, German U Boats used to call at ports in Ireland, (a neutral country during the war and only about 125 miles away), after having fired their torpedoes at the convoys of ships in the Atlantic. Apparently, the U Boats occasionally had additional torpedoes stored in casings on their decks and having used these torpedoes, the Germans would fill the empty casings with butter in Ireland to take home. What the fishermen had caught was not a torpedo but a torpedo casing, which had presumably broken loose from the deck of a U-Boat, and laid with its contents of butter on the bottom of the Irish sea for some 30 years.

The “torpedo” incident was the main talking point for several weeks in the small community of Barra’s only town of Castle Bay, but normality was eventually restored when the harmless tube was loaded onto the regular passenger ferry for it to be transported to the mainland.

It was experiences like these that were no doubt a prelude for me wanting to go to out-of-the-way places, be near the sea and becoming interested in sailing. In the following chapters, I refer to some of the interesting places I have visited in Asia and recount some of the unusual sailing experiences I had along the way.

*All rights reserved © Ken Trice*

## REFURBED CAR PARK AT THE VILLAGE HALL

You will all have seen the refurbished Car Park at the Village Hall and noted just how smart and neat it looks. This is in large part due to the efforts of Geof Beesley who specified the detail in the project and worked with Cooper Surfacing Ltd to produce this excellent result and the Village Hall Committee is very grateful for Geof’s help.

*Derek*



KADS



Kineton Amateur  
Dramatic Society

"A witty script full of rhyme" - The Public Reviews



# Cyrano de Bergerac

by Edmond Rostand  
adapted by Glyn Maxwell

April 2nd-5th 2025 - 8pm  
Kineton Village Hall

Tickets £9 at [kads.org.uk](http://kads.org.uk) or call 01295 680487

This production of Cyrano de Bergerac (Maxwell) is presented by  
arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd [www.concordtheatricals.co.uk](http://www.concordtheatricals.co.uk)





# WOT2GROW COMMUNITY ORCHARD

## FEBRUARY 2025 NEWS

Work in the community orchard has continued, with volunteers finishing the pruning of the rest of the apple trees. There was a lot of clearing up to do and there is now a large pile of wood for the upcoming bonfire, as well as suitable branches being put to one side for members who have a fire or log burner.

And a recent email to members stated that, 'The orchard was given its first mow [of the year] and the mowers can now do this without the possibility of being decapitated'! So a very big thank you to all who were involved.

Two of our members made a beautiful plaque for the crab apple tree that was planted in the orchard by the three parish councils to commemorate the Queen's Green Canopy Platinum Jubilee. This was a unique, UK-wide tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022, by inviting people to "Plant a Tree for the Jubilee."

Membership of the community orchard is open to everyone living in Whatcote, Oxhill and Tysoe and surrounds, and members get fruit every week during the summer and autumn months. Please come and join us!

The orchard is next to the allotments on the Shenington Road in Tysoe. Find out more from the contacts below or email: [mirandawot2grow@gmail.com](mailto:mirandawot2grow@gmail.com).

*Allie Aves*

Contacts: Miranda Forrester (680265); Paul Sayer (680451); Sue and Mike Sanderson (688080)





# SHIPSTON HOME NURSING

Welcome to the first of our newsletters for 2025. Below you'll find a link to our annual newsletter, as well as information on forthcoming events for the year ahead. Thank you for supporting Shipston Home Nursing.

## AN UPDATE FROM ANDREW REVELL, OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Our patient numbers continue to grow with 167 patients and families cared for in 2024 through our Hospice at Home Service and a further 29 through our Bereavement and Counselling Services.

During 2024 we met and began care for 103 new patients all of whom had been diagnosed with illnesses which were incurable and no longer responding to treatment. Our aim is to introduce ourselves to all patients, assess their needs and agree an initial plan of care within 24 hours of the patient being referred to us for support.

We are often asked to describe exactly what a Hospice at Home Service does. It's a difficult question as our care is specific to each individual patient. However we can broadly describe what we do as, Nursing Care and Symptom Control, Personal Care, Night Care, Respite Support, Emotional Support, Pre and Post Bereavement Support, Liaison, Advice and Signposting with all other stakeholders as part of a multi-disciplinary approach to caring for the whole family.

### Upcoming Events

With the warmer weather and lighter evenings, spring finally seems to be on its way. In April and May we have some exciting events planned; whether you're interested in fashion, gardening or the great outdoors - there is something for all. Here are some dates for your diaries.

[Pop Up Shop](#): 1st and 2nd April, Ilmington Village Hall

[An Hour of Glorious Operatic Arias](#): 26th April, St Edmund's Church, Shipston

[Plant and Home Produce Sales](#): 10th and 11th May, various locations

[NGS Ilmington Open Gardens](#): Sunday 25th May

[NGS Admington Hall](#): Saturday 14th June

[Golf Day at Feldon Valley](#): Friday 11th July

[Rotary Tour d'Ilmington](#): Sunday 13th July

[Walton Hall 10k](#): Sunday 21st September

[Christmas Gift Fair](#): 18th and 19th November, Ettington Community Centre

Through our fundraising efforts and the generous support we receive from donors and grant making bodies, we are still financially healthy and finished our 2023-24 financial year with a net income of £30,938.

Our patient facing, fundraising and operations teams continue to work tirelessly to maintain and improve the high standards we want to be recognised for. As always, my thanks go to them for their efforts and dedication.

Similarly, without our loyal groups of volunteers, trustees, donors, personal and business supporters, our future would be bleak. My thanks also go to you all.

# Charity Plant and Home Produce Sales



Sponsored by



**NFU Mutual**  
CENTRAL SOUTH WARWICKSHIRE



## Saturday 10th & Sunday 11th May

Our popular sales return in local villages and towns, stalls confirmed so far are: Barcheston, Brailes, Cherington, Ettington, Great Wolford, Halford, Long Compton, Shipston, Stretton, Wellesbourne, Whatcote & Whichford.

Can you support us...

- Could you host a stall in your village?
- Are you able to provide plants/produce?
- Could you volunteer at a local stall?

If so, please contact Allison and Kate on 01608 664 850 or at [fundraising@shipstonhomenursing.co.uk](mailto:fundraising@shipstonhomenursing.co.uk) Thank you!

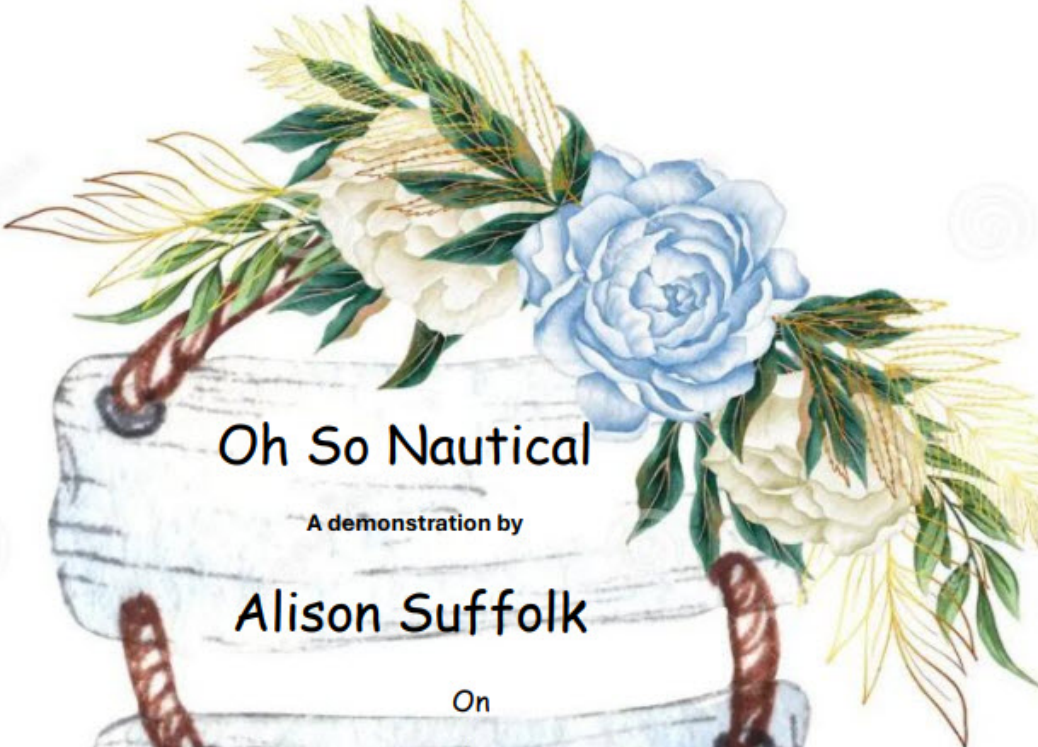
[www.shipstonhomenursing.co.uk/events](http://www.shipstonhomenursing.co.uk/events)

Registered Charity No. 1162586



# SHIPSTON FLOWER CLUB

presents



## Oh So Nautical

A demonstration by

## Alison Suffolk

On

Tuesday , 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2025


7.00 pm for 7.30 pm

At

Shipston on Stour Primary School

Station Road, CV36 4BT

Visitor Entry £6





# **We're hiring!**

## **Nursery practitioners**

Full or part-time,  
Rota basis 7.45am - 6pm

## **Early years practitioner Level 2/3 Apprentice**

## **Office assistant**

Part-time

Join our lovely team at our village  
based nursery in Tysoe, Warks.

Competitive pay

**Apply via**

**[tysoechildrengroup.co.uk/careers-2/](http://tysoechildrengroup.co.uk/careers-2/)**

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# WHAT'S ON IN & AROUND OXHILL

## APRIL

Wed 2nd	14:30-14:50	Mobile Library outside Village Hall
Wed 2nd-Sat 5th	20:00	Cyrano de Bergerac, Kineton Village Hall
Tues 8th	19:00	Oh So Nautical, Shipston Flower Club
Sat 12th	19:00	Quiz Night, Village Hall
Thurs 24th	19:00	Sailing the Roaring Forties, Village Hall
Every Thursday	12:00	Coffee Morning, Peacock Pub

## MAY

Thurs 8th	18:45	VE Day 80th Anniversary Supper, the Old Chapel
Sat 10th	10:30-12:00	Garden Club Plant Sale, Villag Hall
Tues 27th	19:00	Village Hall AGM

## PC MEETINGS

The date of the next PC Meeting is **Tuesday, 13th May 2025 at 7.30pm**. This meeting will be held in the Village Hall. The minutes and agendas will be posted on the Parish Council part of the Welcome to Oxhill Notice board, not the one by the pub.

If you want any request to be included for consideration at the above meeting please send details to the Clerk ([oxhillpc@btinternet.com](mailto:oxhillpc@btinternet.com)) at least 10 days prior to the meeting to ensure that it is included on the publicly visible Agenda.



## BIN COLLECTION CALENDAR

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

Food waste Recycling

General refuse Garden waste