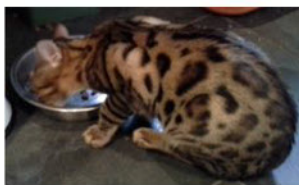


THE OXHILL NEWS

December 2016

No. 504

MISSING CAT Leonardo



Leo was last seen on Monday 21st November at his home **Oak View, Green Lane (silver house)**.

He is three years old, micro chipped and very much missed.

Please can you contact us on the number below of you see him or hear that someone has acquired a new cat which looks like him.

07538 865 789.

Thank you, the Stuart family.

*Editors: Vanessa Druce 07972 240818 & Roger Goodman
news-editor@oxhill.org.uk or oxhill@btinternet.com*

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 oxhill@btinternet.com or place paper contributions in the box labelled 'The Oxhill News' in the Church.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS THE 15TH OF EVERY MONTH.

MOBILE LIBRARY

The mobile library has books with **large print**, ordinary print, picture books, children's books, paperbacks, non-fiction, novels, sagas, crime, mysteries, adventures, westerns and romance. The van has talking books, cassettes and CDs.

The library van will continue to visit Oxhill every 3rd **Friday**, stopping at the Village Hall at 14:30 and staying there for 30 minutes. The van will visit us on December 2nd & 23rd. For further info please telephone: 01926 851031

AEROBICS CLASS

Every Monday morning 10:00 - 11:00 at the Village Hall there is an aerobics class. The cost is only £1! Come join us!

WEEKDAY WALKERS

Weekday Walkers usually walk on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month. If you are interested in joining or to find out further information, please contact Jim Saxton on 680613 or saxton@talktalk.net

REFUSE COLLECTION

Recycling and green waste bins (blue and green bins) will be collected on Tuesdays December 13th and 27th.

The grey rubbish bins will be collected Tuesdays December 6th and 20th.

THE PEACOCK

The village coffee morning is on Wednesday December 7th at 10:30 am.

The village lunch is on Wednesday December 21st

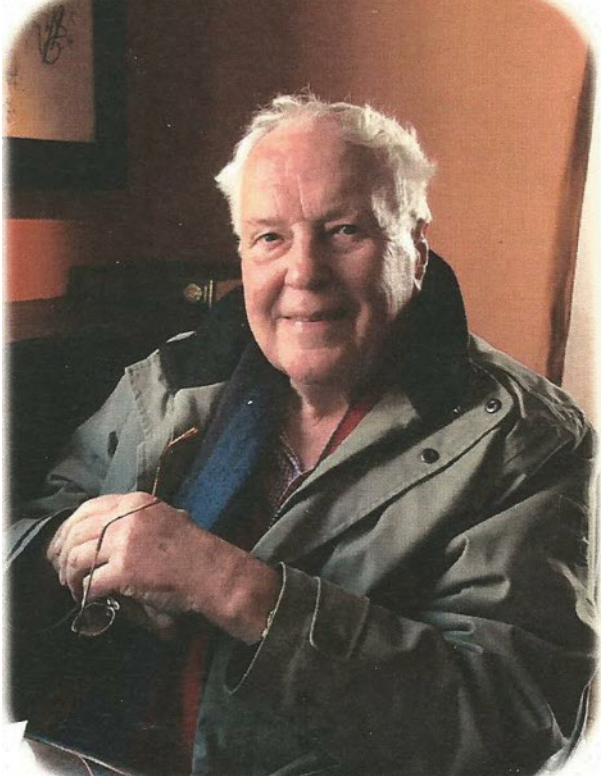


TERRY ROBBINS

On 16th October Terry Robbins (age 76), sadly passed away at Warwick Hospital after his long battle with Cancer. We would like to thank everybody for their kind messages and offers of support throughout his illness and in the weeks following his death. We were overwhelmed with how many people attended

Terry's funeral last month. It was fantastic to have so much support from local villages and it has meant so much to the family in a time of great sadness.

Sue Robbins, Katie, Hannah and Julian



WE WILL MISS HIM

Terry spent nearly half his life living in Oxhill after moving into Woodbury on Main Street with Sue and his family in 1979. He was working for Automotive Products in Leamington Spa and remained with them until he retired.

During his nearly forty years living here Terry threw himself into village life in many ways. When a plan was mooted to get the church bells ringing again he joined the construction team hanging the bell-frame from steel joists in the tower roof, removing the old and rotten flooring and replacing it with a new steel support system. Whilst doing this he also joined a group of villagers learning to

ring bells so that there would be a team ready to go when the structural work was done. When it was done he duly became one of the band ringing for services. He and Sue joined the Oxhill Walkers, taking Sunday rambles round Warwickshire and nearby parts. He was also a founder member of WOT (Whatcote, Oxhill, Tysoe) Travellers, taking trips on the Shakespeare Express, the Manchester Ship Canal, the Dawlish seawall and the Settle-Carlisle line, to name but a few.

All his life he was a keen gardener, and later joined WOT2Grow, the community orchard in Tysoe, working with other members to keep it in trim and, of course, to harvest the fruit in due season.

Terry and Sue were great supporters of the Village Hall, working behind the scenes and attending and enjoying many functions there. They were also regular Friday evening 'Early Doorsers', first at the Peacock and later the Royal Oak. Terry was a quiet and private man but had a wicked sense of humour. The great esteem in which he was held was shown by the overflowing church at his funeral service.

We will miss him.

CHRISTMAS CARDS



We are not sending any Christmas cards out this year, instead we are making donations to Cancer Research and the Macmillan Cancer Support. We would like to wish everyone a happy Christmas in Oxhill a very Happy Christmas and a Healthy 2017.

Warmest regards, Ed & Elaine Morgan

OXHILL VILLAGE HALL

UPCOMING EVENTS AND NEWS

Coming next...



Monday 5 December - Village Christmas Lunch

The committee members and friends of the committee are looking forward to this year's Oxhill Christmas lunch. It starts at 12.30pm in the village hall and is open to all villagers aged 65 or over and their spouses / partners.

Call Tricia Harbour on 680676 should you have any last minute queries.

Friday 16 December - Beer and Bubbles

Get your glad rags out as it's the return of Beer and Bubbles; the perfect way to celebrate the Christmas season, with delicious canapés which can be washed down with some bubbly, cocktails or a glass of beer. The Hall will be specially decorated to reflect the season and appropriate mood music will be playing softly in the background for this special posh frocks and black tie (or suits) event.

The price is £12.50 per head and includes a selection of canapés and two drinks. Additional drinks will be available. The evening will start at 8pm.

Tickets, which should be ordered in advance, from Tricia Harbour on 680676.

Saturday 21 January 2017 - Burns Night

They came, they saw, they conquered! After a fantastic debut hosting last year's Burns Night, Stuart and Karen Barker are back to lead this year's celebrations in Och Hill!

Join us for haggis, tatties, neeps and whisky in the village hall as we honour Robbie Burns. Gather at 7pm for the 7.30pm start.

Tickets, which cost £15 per person, need to be ordered and paid for in advance as this is always a sell-out. **They are available from Stuart or Karen Barker on 680033.**

Improved heating and new charges for hiring the Village Hall

We are replacing the coin meters used to heat the village hall soon, and installing a programmable system with a thermostat to control the heating. This will mean much improved heating in the hall, which we know can be an issue when it's cold!

With the village hall therefore bearing the cost of electricity in future, the committee has agreed to a modest increase in hiring rates from 1 January 2017, to £6.50 per hour for village events and £11.50 per hour for outside events. These rates will apply throughout the whole of the year.



CURRY NIGHT AT THE VILLAGE HALL

Another very enjoyable curry night in Oxhill Village Hall, thanks to all the chefs who provided the delicious curries and everyone who helped to decorate the hall. ~ *Tricia Harbour*



ST. LAWRENCE'S CHURCH

Oxhill Services for December and January

Sunday, Dec 4th 9.30am Holy Communion BCP

Sunday, Dec 11th **9.30am Village Nativity Play in The Old Chapel**
(with refreshments and perhaps a special visitor)

Sunday, Dec 18th 9.30am Holy Communion

Tuesday, Dec 20th 7.30pm Carol Service, followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

Sunday, Dec 25th **Christmas Day:** 9.30am Holy Communion

Sunday, Jan 1st 9.30am Holy Communion BCP

Sunday, **Jan 8th** **9.00am United Service in Tysoe with Bishop John**

Sunday, Jan 15th 9.30am Holy Communion

Sunday, Jan 22nd 9.30am Family Holy Communion

Mid week Holy Communion:

Wednesday, Dec 7th, 10.00 am at Oddcote

Wednesday, Jan 4th, 10.00 am at Oddcote

For other benefice services see porch notice board

ST LAWRENCE NOTES

Dear Friends,

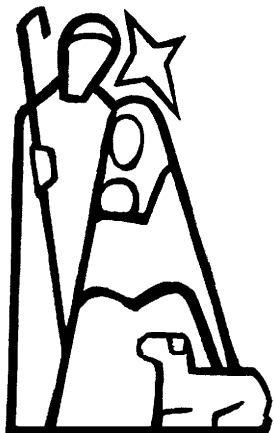
Firstly, a big thank you to all those who helped fill a shoe box: we sent the tremendous number of 30 shoe boxes off to give Christmas presents to some in the poorest parts of Eastern Europe.

Secondly, a big invitation to our smallest people to be part of our Nativity Play in The Old Chapel on Sunday, December 11th at 9.30am. Like last year, this is for everyone, so please just come and join in. If necessary, we will have a practice on Friday, 9th at about 5.00pm

At Christmas, the church will be specially decorated and full to bursting to host a very special party – a celebration of the time when God came to live among us. He came to be part of our everyday lives – our struggles, joys,

sorrows and disappointments. And he did so because he wants to be part of our lives, and to pour his blessings on us. During December, many are opening their homes to the Travelling Nativity, as Mary and Joseph travel throughout our villages, and we are encouraged to make room for the Christ-child. That message continues: we are all asked to make room for the Christ-child in our homes and lives.

We hope you will be able to join us for the celebrations – the Nativity Play, the Carol Service, and Christmas Day itself.



This, tonight,
is the meeting place
of heaven and earth.

For this, tonight,
is the stable
in which God keeps his appointment to meet his
people.

In an out of the way place
which folk never thought to visit -
there God kept and keeps his promise;
there God sends his son.

~ Cloth for the Cradle.

Have a very special Christmas,
Every blessing, Jill



REDWINGS HORSE SANCTUARY

Redwings takes used postage stamps as part of their fundraising efforts. They are grateful for even small amounts and so people might like to save the stamps from their Christmas cards. If you are unable to deliver them in person then put them in an envelope through my letterbox and I will make sure they are taken to the Horse Sanctuary.

Gwyn Adams

DEANERY NEWS FOR DECEMBER & JANUARY

This is the time of year when we stop and pause, in a precious period of waiting, for God to come into our homes and our lives. Then comes the celebration, as individuals, families, churches and communities, of God's arrival in the form of a baby. That will be happening in every church across the Deanery, so if you want to know more please do search out what your local church is doing.

Official Deanery events cease for a bit, until the next Synod which is on Tuesday February 7th, at 7.30 pm in St Edmund's Church Shipston. Our theme that evening will be the environmental challenges facing our world, and our speaker will be Godfrey Armitage of the Diocesan Environmental Group - as everyone is invited to join us that evening.

In the meantime, an Advent poem:

Light looked down
and saw darkness.
I will go there, said Light

Peace looked down
and saw war.
I will go there, said peace.

Love looked down
and saw hatred.
I will go there, said Love.

So he,
the Lord of Light,
the Prince of Peace,
the King of Love,
came down
and crept in
beside us.

~ John Bell, from Cloth for the Cradle, Iona Community

Have a blessed Advent and a wonderful Christmas,
Jill





CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

In a magical setting in the lonely Victorian church on Winderton Hill
Join us for an atmospheric and truly authentic Victorian evening of song
and music as Winderton Church opens its historic doors.

Since its closure in the 1970's the church has been rarely used It's dark,
on a hill and windy but it will be filled with candle light as we prepare for
Christmas.

Join us for a memorable evening of song and experience how our
Victorian ancestors would have celebrated the coming of Christmas.

Wrap up warm and bring a torch for the path

SUNDAY 11TH DEC 6PM

Donations Welcome
We will have mulled wine and mince pies



WHAT I DID ON MY HOLIDAYS

Those of you who are used to seeing an elderly gent jogging round Oxhill may be interested to know that I have just been privileged to take part in one of the biggest sporting occasions of 2016, the World Masters Athletics Championships in Perth Australia. "Masters" are over 35 year olds who compete in 5 year age bands at regional, national and international level under the same rules governing the Olympics etc. (I think the oldest participant was 97, so I've got a bit to go yet).



4000 competitors with 3000 supporters from 90 countries descended on Perth for 10 days of competition and socialising. As it is all strictly amateur, with only local sponsorship for the event, it was of no interest to the media apart from the specialist sporting press - no bad thing in my opinion.



I took part in various events and was lucky enough to get a gold medal as part of the half-marathon team in my age category. I then retired to Brisbane to attempt to eat and drink my own weight with my elder brother who lives there, and have just got back.

If anyone is interested in taking their running (or jumping, or throwing) in a different direction, do please get in touch. And grateful thanks to all the drivers who have managed to avoid me for the last thirty years. More details of the event are on www.perth2016.com

Phil Brennan



KNIT AND NATTER

Merry Christmas to all the Knitters & Natterers our December dates are Thursday 1st & Thursday 15th from 2.00pm to 4.00pm in Oxhill Village Hall
Our January dates are 12th and 26th

PLEASE NOTE: You do not have to knit - Just come along and enjoy a cup of tea and a biscuit with friends.

If you want, you can bring along any craft like embroidery, crocheting, sewing, etc that you want to do. We also have a selection of paperbacks that you can swap or borrow. I look forward to seeing you all in December but if you want to speak to me in the meantime, please do not hesitate to call me.

Tricia Harbour (680676)





CHRISTMAS AT THE UPTON HOME FRONT

With Christmas fast approaching here at Upton we are busy preparing for another (and final) Christmas on the Home Front!

From the end of November the house will be decorated with beautiful foliage from our own gardens, real vintage Christmas decorations and Christmas decorations made for us by our wonderful volunteers and visitors, in make do and mend fashion.

Visitors over the Christmas season will find out about how people created delicious Christmas food whilst rationing was continuing: mock goose anyone? And watch your teeth on the “chocolate” Yule Log! (may contain actual splinters).

Or if you are just looking for a breath of fresh air, our winter walk will be open in the garden all season for a quiet stroll or a chance for the little ones to stretch their legs! How about coming to join us for one of our fantastic events this December?

Victory Christmas Fayre, 3 & 4 Dec 11-4pm – Normal admission prices apply.

Family Feast for Christmas Cooking Demonstration, 8 Dec 10-2 - £20 per person, pre-booking essential.

1940s Christmas Curiosity Trail, 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, 18 & 19 December 12-3pm
– Bring the family along for some vintage festive fun, solve our clues and claim your prize! £3.50 per trail, and normal property admission prices apply.


NEW BUS ROUTE SCHEDULE - PLEASE KEEP

Stratford-upon-Avon to Banbury
via Wellesbourne, Kineton & Tysce


Stratford-upon-Avon to Banbury
via Loxley, Kington and Tysoe

Monday to Saturday

Monday to Friday

| | 6 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 6S | 7 | 7 | 6 |
|---|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Stratford Station Interchange  | 0900 | 1030 | 1230 | 1415 | SH | SGG | 1615 | ... |
| Stratford, Wood Street | 0905 | 1035 | 1235 | 1420 | 1535 | 1620 | 1620 | 1800 |
| Stratford, Bridge Street | 0907 | 1037 | 1237 | 1422 | 1539 | 1622 | 1622 | 1802 |
| Avon Crescent | 0912 | 1042 | 1242 | 1427 | 1550 | 1630 | 1630 | 1807 |
| Wellesbourne, Chestnut Sq. | 0925 | 1055 | ... | 1440 | 1603 | ... | ... | 1820 |
| Loxley | ... | ... | 1249 | ... | 1609 | 1639 | 1639 | ... |
| Ettington Village Hall | ... | ... | 1256 | ... | 1617 | 1651 | 1651 | ... |
| Kineton Church | 0935 | 1105 | 1309 | 1450 | 1659 | 1659 | 1659 | 1830 |
| Ratley | 0945 | 1115 | ... | 1505 | ... | ... | ... | REQ. |
| Oxhill, Village Hall | ... | ... | 1318 | ... | ... | 1708 | 1708 | ... |
| Tysoe, the Peacock | 0955 | 1125 | 1325 | 1515 | ... | 1715 | 1715 | REQ. |
| Shenington | 1003 | 1133 | 1333 | 1523 | ... | 1723 | 1723 | ... |
| Wroxton | 1010 | 1140 | 1340 | 1530 | ... | 1730 | 1730 | ... |
| Banbury Bus Station | 1023 | 1153 | 1353 | 1543 | ... | 1743 | 1743 | ... |

Saturday

| | | 6 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 7 | 6 |
|-------------------------------|---|------|------|------|------|------|------|---|---|
| Stratford Station Interchange |  | 0900 | 1030 | 1230 | 1415 | 1615 | ... | | |
| Stratford, Wood Street | | 0905 | 1035 | 1235 | 1420 | 1620 | 1800 | | |
| Stratford, Bridge Street | | 0907 | 1037 | 1237 | 1422 | 1622 | 1802 | | |
| Avon Crescent | | 0912 | 1042 | 1242 | 1427 | 1630 | 1807 | | |
| Wellesbourne | | 0925 | 1055 | ... | 1440 | ... | 1820 | | |
| Loxley | | ... | ... | 1249 | ... | 1639 | ... | | |
| Ettington Village Hall | | ... | ... | 1256 | ... | 1651 | ... | | |
| Kington Church | | 0935 | 1105 | 1309 | 1450 | 1659 | 1830 | | |
| Ratley | | 0945 | 1115 | ... | 1505 | ... | REQ | | |
| Oxhill, Village Hall | | ... | ... | 1318 | ... | 1708 | ... | | |
| Tysoe | | 0955 | 1125 | 1325 | 1515 | 1715 | REQ | | |
| Shenington | | 1003 | 1133 | 1333 | 1523 | 1723 | ... | | |
| Wroxton | | 1010 | 1140 | 1340 | 1530 | 1730 | ... | | |
| Banbury Bus Station | | 1023 | 1153 | 1353 | 1543 | 1743 | ... | | |

These services will replace the existing 268, 269 and 270 bus services from Monday 24th October 2016.

6 Banbury to Stratford-upon-Avon via Tysoe, Kineton and Wellesbourne

7 Banbury to Stratford-upon-Avon via Tysoe, Kineton and Loxley

Codes:

HOL: Monday to Friday School Holidays
K: Operates to or via Kineton High School on School Days
SCH: School Days Only
SGG: Service starts / continues to Stratford Girls Grammar School
REQ: Served on request to driver only

Monday to Saturday

| Monday to Friday | | | | | | | | | | | Saturday | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---|---|---|---|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| SCH | SCH | HOL | SCH | 6 | 7 | 7S | 6 | 6 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 7 | 7 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 7 | 6 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Banbury Bus Station | 0730 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1010 | 1210 | 1410 | 1610 | 1750 | Banbury Bus Station | | | | | | 0725 | ... | 1010 | 1210 | 1410 | 1610 | 1750 | | | | | |
| | 0740 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1024 | 1224 | 1424 | 1624 | 1804 | Wroxton | | | | | | 0739 | ... | 1024 | 1224 | 1424 | 1624 | 1804 | | | | | |
| | ... | 0732 | 0732 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1031 | 1231 | 1431 | 1631 | 1811 | Shenington | | | | | | 0746 | ... | 1031 | 1231 | 1431 | 1631 | 1811 | | | | | |
| | ... | 0740 | 0740 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0920 | 1038 | 1238 | 1438 | 1638 | 1818 | Tysoe, the Peacock | | | | | | 0754 | 0920 | 1038 | 1238 | 1438 | 1638 | 1818 | | | | |
| | ... | 0745 | 0745 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0925 | ... | ... | ... | 1643 | ... | Oxhill, Village Hall | | | | | | 0759 | 0925 | ... | ... | ... | 1643 | ... | | | | |
| Ratley | 0750 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1049 | 1249 | 1449 | ... | 1829 | Ratley | | | | | | ... | ... | 1049 | 1249 | 1449 | ... | 1829 | | | | | |
| Kineton Church | K | 0757 | 0757 | 0808 | 0937 | 1101 | 1301 | 1501 | 1655 | 1841 | Kineton Church | | | | | | | | | | | 0811 | 0937 | 1101 | 1301 | 1501 | 1655 | 1841 | | |
| Ettington Village Hall | ... | 0809 | 0809 | 0820 | 0949 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1707 | ... | Ettington Village Hall | | | | | | | | | | | 0823 | 0949 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1707 | ... |
| Loxley | ... | 0817 | 0817 | ... | 0957 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1715 | ... | Loxley | | | | | | | | | | | 0831 | 0957 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1715 | ... |
| Wellesbourne, Chestnut Sq. | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1110 | 1310 | 1510 | ... | 1850 | Wellesbourne | | | | | | | | | | | ... | ... | 1110 | 1310 | 1510 | ... | 1850 |
| Avon Crescent | ... | 0825 | 0825 | ... | 1005 | 1125 | 1325 | 1525 | 1725 | 1903 | Avon Crescent | | | | | | | | | | | 0838 | 1005 | 1125 | 1325 | 1525 | 1725 | 1903 | | |
| Stratford, Bridge Street | ... | 0833 | 0833 | 0837 | 1013 | 1133 | 1333 | 1533 | 1733 | 1908 | Stratford, Bridge Street | | | | | | | | | | | 0843 | 1013 | 1133 | 1333 | 1533 | 1733 | 1908 | | |
| Stratford, Wood Street | ... | 0835 | 0835 | 0840 | 1015 | 1135 | 1335 | 1535 | 1735 | 1910 | Stratford, Wood Street | | | | | | | | | | | 0845 | 1015 | 1135 | 1335 | 1535 | 1735 | 1910 | | |
| Stratford station interchange | ... | SGG | 0838 | SGG | 1018 | 1138 | 1338 | 1538 | 1738 | 1912 | Stratford Station Interchange | | | | | | | | | | | 0848 | 1018 | 1138 | 1338 | 1538 | 1738 | 1912 | | |

These services will replace the existing 268, 269 and 270 bus services from Monday 24th October 2016.

JOHNSONS
@xcelbus

For bus enquiries please call 01564 797070 or email businfo@johnsoncoaches.co.uk
For traffic and service updates please follow us on Facebook @johnsonsexcelbus and Twitter @johnsonstraffic



HALLOWEEN AT THE VILLAGE HALL

The decorations were colourful, the pumpkins were spooky, the snacks were delicious and the kids (of all ages) had a wonderful time!!



SWAN SINGERS

Swan Singers meet in Kineton on Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm at the Methodist Church Hall. The choir numbers about 45 singers, sopranos, altos, tenors and basses and sings a complete range of music from modern to traditional and classical pieces. The choir is non-auditioned, no experience is necessary, and all that is required is enthusiasm and a willingness to try new things and have fun. Many of the choir do have previous singing experience and are happy to help those who are new to it.



Over the two years since it was formed, the choir has performed at many concerts and charity events and has received generous support from the Heart of England Foundation, Warwickshire County Council and the Big Lottery Fund. The health benefits of singing in a group are well proven giving a huge sense of achievement and belonging to a team who all inter-depend on each other to produce songs in four-part harmony.

Tuesday evenings usually end with a large group repairing to the pub afterwards and many new friendships have formed.

Our next concert is a traditional carol concert:

**Carol Concert with the Swan Singers
Friday 9th December at 7.00pm
St Peter's Church, Kineton.**



Everyone is very welcome to join the choir for this free traditional carol concert celebrating Christmas with favourite carols and some lesser known ones. Retiring collection.



TYSOE CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

We were delighted to receive an excellence award for improvements at Tysoe School as recognised by Ofsted in 2015-16. The certificate was presented to our Year 6 Councillors at a Warwickshire Award's Ceremony. The children felt very privileged to be chosen.

Recently, all classes participated in a Personal Social and Health Education Week. As part of their learning, children were reminded how to keep safe on the internet. Children discussed friendships and how to be caring towards each other. Older children were trained as peer mediators to support each other in resolving minor difficulties.

On Remembrance Day older children went to the war memorial to join with the Tysoe community in a service of remembrance. Each class had crafted a poppy wreath and written poems to share. One class learnt about World War II by having a Living History Day when they experienced some of the difficulties of being a child in wartime. They learnt about the plight of evacuees and were able to examine artefacts. Many of the children also used their ration and identity cards for the rest of the day. To quote a child, 'It was fantastic!'

A competition launched by the Neighbourhood Plan asked children to write a postcard to explain why Tysoe Village was special. Winners will be displayed in the Methodist Hall at the end of November.

Seasonal preparations have now begun for Christmas performances. The Christmas Fair will be held on Saturday 26th November from 2-4pm in the

Village Hall so please join us. Many families gave Christmas gifts so that twenty-four shoeboxes were sent to Operation Christmas Child, a fantastic total! Reminder: the deadline for registering for a place in our Reception Class for next September is 16th January. Prospective parents are most welcome to arrange a visit by calling Mrs Horrocks on 01295-680244.

Jenny Coates Head of School



Award Ceremony



Remembrance Day

TYSOE W.I.

Tysoe W.I. have had a busy year and next year will be even busier as we will be 100 years old, the oldest W.I. In Warwickshire. Keep a lookout for all our events.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 7th December at 7.30. This will be a social evening with lots going on, so come and join us for mulled wine and fun.

For more information email us: tysoew.i.1917@icloud.com

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

OIL ORDER DATES FOR 2017

Here are the oil order dates for next year so that you can plan ahead:
January 3rd, February 7th, March 21st, June 6th, September 5th, October 17th, November 28th

We would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy Warm New Year!

Mick & Barbara Shepard

Oxhill Garden Club

On Thursday 13th October members and friends were introduced via a talk titled *Changing People's Lives* to a charitable organisation that few of us had heard of previously. The Women's Farm and Garden Association (WFGA) was set up in 1899 as a Union to promote the training of 'ladies' in farming and gardening and was instrumental in founding, during World War One, what became the Women's Land Army. The organisation continues its good work today and provides, amongst other opportunities, places to enable both women and men to gain practical experience in working gardens of good standing such as Highgrove and Chenies Manor. As well as providing work experience for up to 15 hours per week for a year and the chance to learn from experts in the field, the owners of the gardens pay the trainees the current minimum wage, provide tools and arrange insurance cover. The trainee is responsible for their own transport and the submission of a monthly report. There is a two week probation period for both parties' satisfaction before agreements are signed and a £600 registration fee becomes due from the trainee to the charity.

ABOUT WRAGS



The WRAG Scheme (Work and Retrain As a Gardener Scheme) provides hands-on practical horticultural training. The concept is simple. The trainee gardens for 14 hours a week for a year, in a carefully sourced garden...

Our speaker, Vivienne Hayday, in her capacity of Regional Manager is particularly involved in vetting the suitability of owners / working gardens putting themselves forward as potential mentors / places of work for women and men returning to work or changing career; she arranges placements and monitors the learning experience of the trainees. By the end of a year the intention is that those involved in this Work and Retrain as a Gardener Scheme (WRAGS) will be able to actively seek a career in horticulture. Vivienne cited several instances of well paid professionals reassessing their priorities relatively late in life and opting to embrace gardening or a related activity as a fulfilling occupation.

Membership of WFGA costs some £25 per annum with benefits including workshops, practical gardening work days, garden visits and tours. If you are a keen gardener, want to develop your horticultural skills and meet like-minded people, join today at www.wfga.org.uk

The next Garden Club event is our Christmas Party on 8th December starting at 7.00pm in the Old Chapel; those wishing to attend should book asap via reggethin@aol.com / 680453. The next 'second Thursday of the month' meeting is on 12th January (7.15 for 7.30pm) when Jacqui Vallance of Warwickshire Chicken Coop is giving a talk titled *All About Chickens*.

Douglas Netherclef



Asian Hornet (*Vespa velutina*)

As you may already know, Asian Hornets have been spotted in the UK this year and made the news <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-gloucestershire-37421846>. Smaller than our native, normally gentle, European Hornet (*Vespa crabo*) this invasive species is, potentially, a serious threat to our pollinators and, ultimately, our UK food chain. The Asian Hornet is not much bigger than a large queen wasp, is dark in colour and has yellow legs.

The Tetbury, Gloucestershire nest has been destroyed, but the expectation is that it is only a matter of time before these pests become much more widespread in the UK. They have been confirmed in Somerset, too, but no nest found; so in October and November hundreds of Queen Asian Hornets may have been released into our countryside. Each one has the potential to create its own colony next spring.

There has been much talk in the press about these Hornets attacking honey bees; what has not been widely reported is that they are voracious predators of all insects, including butterflies.

An established nest 'ball', invariably hanging high up in a tree, should not be tackled by anyone other than a registered pest control operator. However a simple trap can help destroy queens emerging from their solitary winter nest sites if put out in February and March of next year. Experience in France suggests a 70% reduction in numbers if this method of trapping is widely used. The trap can be made in the kitchen at home from a used plastic bottle; instructions from the National Bee Unit can be found at our Shipston beekeepers' website - <https://www.sbka.org.uk/2016/11/asian-hornet/>

Douglas Netherclef



Minutes of a meeting of Oxhill Parish Council held on Tuesday 8th November at 8.00pm in the Village Hall.

The meeting, chaired by Grenville Moore and was attended by Councillors Duncan Harper, Stuart Whittaker and Derek Harbour, apologies were received from Sue Hunt. Two members of the public attended.

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

Matters arising

Parish Council Website – The Parish Council now has a domain name and a website address, <http://www.oxhillpc.uk>, the website is in the process of being built and items will be added as and when appropriate. We would like to thank Mike Collins for his help in this endeavour.

Leys Field Update – The Newt survey and the archaeological dig are both complete, items found were Roman, Medieval and Neolithic, a County archaeologist is being consulted about further works .

Benches and Planters- Further investigations will be made into low maintenance materials.

Speed of Vehicles – A survey of average speeds through the village taken from sat nav recordings has been obtained along with the cost of monitoring speeds using a radar. Due to the lack of street furniture further investigation needs to be carried out, Transport and Highways will be contacted for more information. They will also be contacted in regard to moving the 30 mile an hour speed limit to beyond current and future dwellings.

Pay Phone Removal- Stratford District Council is proposing to remove pay phones from a number of villages, many of these as the box in Oxhill have not been used during the twelve month monitoring period. The Parish council will return a response to the consultation to remove the phone and box.

Planning – Permission has been granted for: separate driveways for Plots 2 and 3 on the Green Lane

Planning pending – Appeal for 2 detached houses at the rear of Oak woods House, Green Lane. Arboricultural works at Auchneiven House, Whatcote Road.

A dwelling adjacent to Merrydown, Green Lane. Change of use to barns at Harrods Farm and a New dwelling at Hollies, Rouse Lane.

Finance

Mandate form- This has now been successfully completed, conformation is awaited.

Transparency Fund – The Parish Council has been successful in its application for a grant for equipment to meet the requirements of Transparency legislation, the grant will cover the costs of a computer, scanner, printer, software, costs involved in setting up the website and the clerks wages to set up the website. The total received was £1012.00. The New Website will be complete in the New Year proposed by Derek Harbour and seconded by Duncan Harper. Costs of £42.91 to provide the domain name and website were paid.

Correspondence

Warwickshire Health Transport- Information has been received and placed on the village notice boards requesting that volunteers come forward to help less mobile members of the community by providing transport to medical appointments.

Gritting Routes – Information about routes which will be gritted in bad weather has been received. This will be available on the notice boards. A reminder that the road from Oxhill to Kineton via Herds hill will not be gritted.

WRHA Rural Housing report – the link will be sent to all councillors.

Road Closure – The Road closure on Back Lane currently in place for underground cabling has an end date of the 5/12/16.

Any other Business

Bus Time table – The bus time table has been changed, causing difficulties for less mobile residents to access transport, information regarding new times will be included in the Oxhill News.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.10 pm. Date of the next meeting 10th January 8.00pm in the Village Hall.

Matters raised by the members of the public attending

The Cherry Tree, Whatcote Road The Cherry Tree has now been pruned to prevent damage when the site on the Leys Field is accessed by works vehicles. The developer has reassured residents that work will be carried out giving consideration to the tree.

Lis Stuart
Parish Clerk

Kineton & Tysoe Surgeries

MARKET SQUARE AND TYSOE SURGERY MAIN STREET

Dear Patients,

Winter is coming and with this cold weather and dark evenings. As a practice we have advice available in the surgery and on our website. The NHS website: www.nhs.uk/Livewell/winterhealth/ has lots of information on keeping yourself safe and well in winter. We all have elderly friends, family and neighbours and winter is a time when older people are more vulnerable.

If you're worried about a relative or an elderly neighbour, contact your local council or ring the Age UK helpline on 0800 00 99 66.

Winter also increases heating costs and there are ways that we can look to reduce our energy costs. The Energy Saving Trust (EST) has advice on how to reduce bills and make your home more energy efficient. They can also advise on grants and schemes available around the UK. Find out more online from the EST website or call 0300 123 1234.

Please don't forget the Men's Health Evening talk by Mr Kieran Jefferson and Mr Donald MacDonald consultant urologists 7pm 6th February 2016 at Kineton Surgery.

Regards, Jenny and Raj

2016 Review

Ettington Community First Responder Scheme provides emergency medical response to 999 calls in the Stourdene area on a voluntary basis in conjunction with West Midlands Ambulance Service. The Scheme receives no government funding and relies on fundraising and donations to provide the equipment carried by the Community First Responders (CFRs) which includes a defibrillator. None of our team – medical or support – receive any payment for their services. If you'd like to know more, please visit our website and social media feeds where we have lots more information.

Operational

Since our launch in 2009, we've been called to 813 incidents. At the time of writing, we're seeing a particularly busy period with 24 incidents attended during the month of October alone. WMAS is upgrading its qualifications requirements for CFRs so the 6 CFRs in our team will soon be commencing a new training regime involving further exams and practical assessments.

Goodbyes and Hellos

During 2016 we have been sorry to say goodbye to CFRs Derrick and Alison. Derrick joined as a CFR soon after the Scheme was launched and served the community for nearly 7 years. Alison has been our Scheme Coordinator for 4 years as well as qualifying as a CFR in 2015. We were also sorry to lose the support of Lauren who had been helping organise our fundraising events as Communications Officer. On a happier note we have been pleased to welcome James as our newest CFR. James lives in **Kington** so extends our coverage to the south-east of Ettington.

Scheme Car

The car, which has entered its fifth year in our service, plays a fundamental role in our operation; with Ambulance Service radio and high visibility markings it helps us maintain contact with the Emergency Operations Centre and helps the following ambulance crew immediately know that they have arrived at the right place. We have also received comment that simply seeing it provides

reassurance that we exist; helping to save life in our communities. It is now approaching 13 years old and having stretched another year's service out of it beyond what we planned, the wheels of replacement are now in hand. If you work in the motor trade and are able to help us secure a cost-effective deal we'd love to hear from you.

Fundraising

2016 has been another big year for fundraising. Our main event for the year was a talk given by Ettington-based Polar Explorer Mark Wood in June. An audience of well over one hundred enjoyed a very interesting and entertaining talk which raised nearly £1,000. We would like to thank Mark for giving his time and Ettington Chase for providing their superb venue free of charge as well as giving much help organising and promoting the event. The Ettington Village Breakfast as usual provided a welcome boost to our funds. We were also delighted to be chosen as Valpak's nominated charity. And of course there have been many individual donations as well as income from our charity boxes, and you may have spotted our car and volunteers at other events in the villages around our patch. We'd like to thank everyone who has helped, participated or donated to us during the last 12 months.

Communication

Whilst it consumes a lot of amount of our time on top of everything else, we strive to keep regular communications with the communities that we serve. This includes the provision of updates at Parish Council meetings and other Parish events. If you are on Facebook or Twitter, please like/follow us so that we can keep you updated on developments within the Scheme.

How You Can Support Us

If you'd like to find out more about us, please check out our website www.ettingtoncfr.org.uk, like us on Facebook, or follow us on Twitter. For more information about becoming a Community First Responder or organising a fundraising event for us, please e-mail us at info@ettingtoncfr.org.uk. We would be particularly interested in hearing from anyone in Newbold on Stour, Halford, Tredington or Alderminster who might be interested in becoming a CFR.

**Ettington
Community**



First Responder Team

Registered Charity No: 1140022

www.ettingtoncfr.org.uk



Facebook - <http://www.facebook.com/EttingtonCFR>



Twitter - <http://twitter.com/#!/EttingtonCFR>





WOT2Grow Community Orchard

What a busy time now that the weather has cooled and the first frosts are upon us. The orchard is looking good as we go through the autumn colours and leaf drop, the plums and similar fruit lost their first followed by some apples, pears and cherries. Although there are some apples still to be picked most of the work is in tidying up and starting the winter maintenance. Weeds and grass need to be pulled from the edges and around the trees, pruning can start on the currants and gooseberries and the messy task of putting glue round the trunks of the fruit trees to catch the winter moth as she climbs up has been done. The herbs have been cut back in the sensory garden and the bees have been tucked up in their hives!

The apples and pears have been superb with a really good harvest which has balanced out the lower yields on the raspberries and gooseberries. Such is nature in regulating the amount of fruit each year helped by our pruning, thinning and cultivation!! We are also learning what enjoys being on the orchard site and what finds it a challenge.



Medlars

The blueberry project has laid out the areas and cleared the old canes, posts and wires ready for the contractor to come along and build the raised beds. A very exciting project which will add another fruit for people to try fresh from the bush rather than from the supermarket.

We will be Wassailing on **Saturday January 21st 2017** – see separate article and look for posters as we want as many people as possible to join us.

Also we have our **AGM on Tuesday 24th January 2017 at 7:30pm** in Tysoe Village Hall so come and have your say.

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



HERE WE COME A WASSAILING!!!

An evening of fun, food, drink, and tradition awaits those who join us on **Saturday 21st January 2017 from 4:30pm**, with the **procession starting at 5:00pm**, for our now traditional Tysoe Wassail!

The tradition goes back hundreds of years and is all about having fun whilst encouraging the orchard to produce good fruit in the coming season. At the WOT2Grow Community orchard we have started to build our own tradition for the event and it is proving popular!

The orchard looks magical with the lights dotted through the orchard and the big bonfire to warm your hands by as you sample the hot mulled cider or spiced apple juice prior to the start of the procession.

The lighted candle flares, singing of songs, throwing cider on the trees and making lots of noise including gun shots all add to the atmosphere! Just come along and experience something different and special!!!

Do come along, stout shoes or boots are needed as well as torches also anything to make a noise! Find the Wassail at the community orchard behind the allotments in the Shenington Road Tysoe.



Beautiful Ashmead's Kernel

Contacts for more information Mike Sanderson (01295 688080) Liz Atkinson (01295 680045)

WHAT'S ON IN & AROUND OXHILL

December

| | | |
|----------------|-------|--------------------------------------|
| Thursday 1st | 14:00 | Knit and Natter |
| Friday 2nd | 14:30 | Village Hall - Mobile Library |
| Monday 5th | 12:30 | Village Christmas Lunch |
| Tuesday 6th | | Grey landfill bin collection |
| Wednesday 7th | 10:30 | The Peacock - Village Coffee Morning |
| Wednesday 7th | 19:30 | Tysoe W.I. Meeting |
| Thursday 8th | 19:00 | Oxhill Garden Club Party, The Chapel |
| Friday 9th | 9:30 | Weekday Walkers |
| Friday 9th | 19:00 | Carol Concert, Swan Singers, Kineton |
| Sunday 11th | 18:00 | Carols by Candlelight, Winderton |
| Tuesday 13th | | Green & Blue bin collection |
| Thursday 15th | | Oxhill News submission deadline |
| Thursday 15th | 14:00 | Knit and Natter |
| Friday 16th | 20:00 | Beer and Bubbles - Village Hall |
| Tuesday 20th | | Grey landfill bin collection |
| Wednesday 21st | 12:30 | The Peacock - Village Lunch |
| Friday 23rd | 9:30 | Weekday Walkers |
| Friday 23rd | 14:30 | Village Hall - Mobile Library |
| Tuesday 27th | | Green & Blue bin collection |

January

| | | |
|---------------|-------|--|
| Tuesday 3rd | | Oxhill Oil Consortium Final Order Date |
| Thursday 12th | 14:00 | Knit and Natter |
| Saturday 21st | 19:00 | Burns Night - Village Hall |
| Thursday 26th | 14:00 | Knit and Natter |