
THE OXHILL NEWS

January 2017

No. 506



Sunset over Oxhill in late November.

By Lyn Sandalwood.

We always appreciate receiving photos that show what a great village we live in.

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CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE OXHILL NEWS

The editors welcome any pictures, photographs, drawings, poems, puzzles, recipes, announcements or items of local news for possible inclusion in The Oxhill News. Please email news-editor@oxhill.org.uk or place paper contributions in the box labelled 'The Oxhill News' in the village 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, stopping at the Village Hall at 14:30, staying there for 30 minutes. The van will visit us on Friday January 14th.

REFUSE COLLECTION

Recycling and green waste bins (blue and green bins) will be collected on Tuesdays 10th and 24th January. The grey rubbish bins will be collected on Tuesdays 3rd, 17th and 31st January.

WEEKDAY WALKERS

This walking group usually walks on 2nd and 4th Friday of the month. If you are interested in joining or to find out further information, please contact Jim Saxton on 680645 or email admin@jimsaxton.co.uk

AT THE PEACOCK

Village Events

The village coffee morning is on Wednesday January 3rd at 10.30 am.
The village lunch is on Wednesday January 17th at 12:30pm.



Local scenes at this time of year.....Sunrise, sent in by Tricia Harbour



And an early sighting of the first snowman



Maybe if you have a local photo that you wish to share around Oxhill, send it along to oxhill@btinternet.com



WOT2GROW COMMUNITY ORCHARD

A New Year and time to start planning what we will be doing from Spring through Summer! We already have a date to start pruning the apples and pears and there is a long list of tasks to be done before next year's fruit is ripening including building a cage base over which we can throw netting having lost all the redcurrants this year to the blackbirds!

The raised beds are under construction for the blueberries and we will be planting up in the new year.

All the fruit has been gathered in and we have picked 187kg of soft fruit, 300kg of apples and 56kg of other top fruit!

The top fruiting apples have been Kidd's Orange Red, Pixie, Sunset, Merton Worcester, Ellison's Orange, Spartan and Grenadier all producing over 20kg per variety. As well as cropping well they all have tasted wonderful and have kept quite well considering we do not have the best conditions for this.

The last of the medlars are about to be turned into medlar jelly having ripened and softened which is called bletting. The quinces have been disappointing because although there were plenty of fruits they turned brown inside very rapidly after picking.

The nuts were stripped from the trees before we could pick them so we need to be quicker next year!

So, we have had mixed results this year but generally the trees are in a good state even if some are not as vigorous as others and next year we look for help from the weather as well as our volunteers to get another productive season. Why not join us and get your share of the harvest???

Don't forget the Wassail on **Saturday January 21st 2017 from 5:00pm at the orchard** – do join us with stout shoes/boots, torches and something to make a noise!!

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

OXHILL VILLAGE HALL UPCOMING EVENTS AND NEWS

Happy New Year!

Firstly, on behalf of the Village Hall Committee, I would like to thank you for supporting the village hall during the past year; whether by attending one of our many events, joining in with an activity held in the hall, hiring the facilities, or indeed supporting the committee across all sorts of tasks as a 'friend' of the village hall.

Remember, it's the village's hall and everyone is welcome and it's you, the villagers, who make it such an integral asset to Oxhill life!

We look forward to welcoming you throughout 2017.

Stuart Whittaker, Chairman, Oxhill Village Hall Committee

Coming next...

**Saturday 21
January - Burns
Night**



Forget Scotland the Brave, it's Barkers the Brave as they once again host our annual Burns Night on 21 January. Stuart and Karen were terrific last year, following in the great tradition of past Burns nights the village has seen from resident Scots living 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.

SCARECROW WEEKEND TO RETURN FOR 2017

Thank you to everyone who completed the survey on the possible return of the Scarecrow Weekend in 2017.

There were 33 responses and of these 29 were in favour of a Scarecrow Weekend in 2017, 2 didn't know and 2 responded 'no'. Of the 33, 29 said they would make and display a scarecrow. There were no preferences for a date if it returned, although 16 indicated June or July and 10 specifically highlighted 1 and 2 July. The top 3 favoured activities were music (27 respondents), children's entertainment (22) and a breakfast in the village hall (21).

Given this level of support from households in the village, the PCC, Village Hall and Parish Council, with support from The Peacock, have therefore decided to go ahead with a Scarecrow Weekend.

The date for diaries (after checking what else is on that weekend) is **Saturday 1 and Sunday 2 July.**

The initial outline for the weekend is as follows:

SATURDAY

Village Hall breakfast	9.30am - 11.30am
Teas and Cakes from the Village Hall	11.30am - 5pm
Children's entertainment in The Peacock garden	Afternoon
Music at The Peacock	Evening

SUNDAY

Songs of Praise at St Lawrence's Church	9.30am
Village Hall breakfast	9.30am - 11.30am
Teas and Cakes from the Village Hall	11.30am - 5pm
Sunday afternoon jazz in The Peacock garden	Afternoon

Throughout the weekend we hope that several **gardens will 'open' to the public** as in previous years, there will be **art on display in the village hall**, a **children's treasure hunt/quiz** and a **raffle prize draw**.

The theme for the weekend (and particularly for scarecrow makers) is **'That's Entertainment'**.

The weekend will be a fundraiser for the village, with the proceeds going to the PCC for the church and the Village Hall. We hope to announce some specific items the proceeds will support.

The plan is to use collection buckets to raise income from visitors parking in the village which will offer, in return, a sticker to access the open gardens and a treasure hunt/quiz sheet.

Twitter and Facebook will be set up to promote the weekend, along with a poster, and publicity in the Oxhill News and local media.

What next?

- We firstly need volunteers willing to open their gardens (20 of those surveyed like the idea of Open Gardens)
- We will need volunteers for the weekend (23 of those surveyed were happy to volunteer. It could be a couple of hours through to the whole weekend.) - tasks will be various ranging from designing a poster, to early application to the council to close the road along Main Street

The next Oxhill Quarterly Meeting (to discuss and plan village-wide events and involving representatives of the PCC, Parish Council, Village Hall Committee and The Peacock) will be held around mid to late January, when we will be discussing and agreeing on the next actions.

If you are willing to open your garden or happy to volunteer your time and talents, particularly for one of the early tasks needing to be done, please do get in touch by contacting **Katy Dowding at kdowding@me.com or on 688194**. Katy will also follow up with those who completed the survey and offered to help.

OXHILL GARDEN CLUB

On the evening of Thursday 10th November members were given an insight to the planning and build of a Show Garden by Alan Franklin of Pro Gardens Ltd. Established in 2005 and based in Tysoe, the company provides an all-inclusive service for garden design, landscaping and maintenance. Alan's talk was titled 'A Show Garden for Malvern – how we did it!' and illustrated by slides of the project at various stages of its construction.

Having come up with the garden design concept some twelve months before, Alan had to submit detailed plans to the RHS for approval soon after with the hope that the all important planting that augmented the 'bones' of the design would indeed be ready some nine months later. The 30 square metre plot at the Malvern showground was in a grassed area set aside for the build of show gardens each year. Removal of the turf invariably exposes the 'foundations' of previous projects, which usually have to be dug up and removed before the current year's work can get underway – fortunately at no cost to the exhibitor. Points are deducted by the judges for any exhibit that is not structurally sound.

A mentoring service by experienced garden designers was available during the build and Alan was happy to make use of this. A near disaster occasioned by an 'eleventh hour' failure of a promised fibreglass 'wall' to arrive on site was narrowly averted by a replacement being constructed in aluminium by a local Tysoe blacksmith – but a point was still deducted by the judges as the feature deviated from the submitted plan.

Pro Gardens have a nursery at Hornton where much of the planting is grown for shows but, as was the case for Malvern, plants, shrubs and trees are not always ready in time and other nurseries have to be scoured for quality material in flower or leaf. Even so, a replacement centrepiece birch tree was not actually in leaf on the day and lost a mark. Conversely some grasses surrounding a featured staddle stone were deemed by the judges to have grown too tall! I'm pleased to report that, despite these vicissitudes, Alan and his team came away from Malvern with a 'Silver' and, indeed, went on to win a 'Gold' with the same garden design elsewhere later in the year.

Alan explained that the cost of constructing a show garden was of the order of £5k per square metre – whether it be 30 or 100 sq m. He was

grateful to his sponsors without whom some show projects would not be possible.

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The January meeting in the Village Hall takes place 7.15 for 7.30pm on the 12th of this month and is “All About Chickens” – the speaker, Jacqui Vallance, of the Warwickshire Chicken Coop (Co-operative?) will explain!

Douglas Nethercleft

KNIT & NATTER

Happy New Year to all the Knitters & Natterers our January dates are Thursday 12th and Thursday 26th from 2.00pm to 4.00pm in Oxhill Village Hall

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 January but if you want to speak to me in the meantime, please do not hesitate to call me.

Tricia Harbour (680676)

TYSOE W.I.

2017 is Tysoe W.I.'s centenary, we have an action packed year ahead, full details will appear next month.

Our first meeting of 2017 kicks off on Wednesday 4th January at 7.30, when we will welcome Redwings Horse and Donkey sanctuary.

We are visiting Leamington Guide Dog training centre on Thursday 19th January, leaving Tysoe at 12.30. We will be car sharing. Anyone is welcome to come along, we do ask for a minimum donation of £5 per person. For more details telephone Dee 680971.

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

Email: Tysoew.i.1917@icloud.com

OXHILL VILLAGE HALL

Oxhill Christmas Lunch – Monday, 5 December

The Christmas Lunch for the Senior Citizens from the Village was held on Monday 5 December and followed the usual, successful format of previous years. The Hall was full to capacity, with 48 guests to Lunch and in addition to the delicious 3 course meal with wine that was provided there was also some brilliant entertainment.



This year, all of the ‘turns’ were ‘home grown’ and Myrtle, Duncan Harper and Pauline Wyatt accompanied by Margaret & Peter Rivers-Fletcher were excellent and kept everyone entertained and amused.



The following people who, whilst not on the Village Hall Committee, always help out behind the scenes and deserve enormous thanks: Sue Robbins, Anne Marshall, Hugh Rowse, Debra Collins, Roger Goodman, Audrey & Jeff Reid and Brian Hobill (who donated the excellent gammon). Virtually all of the Village Hall Committee members helped out with decorating the Hall, cooking food, waiting upon tables, washing up, clearing up and generally working tirelessly to make the day the success that it clearly was. Special mention should be made of Stuart

Whittaker who masterminded the kitchen, ensuring that all of the food was excellent and Tricia Harbour who oversaw the whole event.

Thanks also to the many kind people who made generous donations to help defray the cost of the lunch.



And last but not least, our very own Three Wise Monkeys
I mean Three Wise Men!!



GARDEN CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY

Held on December 8th in the Old Chapel, the occasion provided a very sociable and entertaining evening. The food provided by members of the Garden Club was excellent with a superb array of cold cuts and salad, followed by puddings and cheese served by committee members.



Following the sumptuous buffet, we were entertained by Peter Rivers Fletcher and his brother Jeremy. Their repartee and obvious enjoyment was infectious and provided a fitting end to an excellent evening.

Thanks to all for their great cooking, setting out and putting away.



Roger Goodman

NATIVITY PLAY

Very soon now the Christmas Tree will be gone, the decorations put away, and the thank-you letters written. All, it seems, is back to normal. But it is different now: the Christ-child does not go away. He was born into this world to stay with us, to journey with us, to teach us and to die for us. With the Christ-child in our world, our world is a different place.

God with us -
on a day like this,
on a night like this,
in a place like this,
in a world like this -
a world of suffering and hope,
of tears and laughter -
at the turning of the year
we turn to you.

Jan Sutch Pickard, Hay and Stardust

Thanks: The Nativity Play was wonderful as ever: thanks to Olivia Kimmins for writing the script, to all the budding thespians who took part (some a little more willingly than others, perhaps), and thanks to all those who produced yummy cakes.



But most of all, my thanks to all of you for supporting us: and also of course to Father Christmas, who somehow managed to find out about it and turn up!

Thanks too to everyone for their work supporting the Christmas Services: flowers, decorations, tree, bell-ringers, singers, mulled wine and mince pies, and also spring-cleaning the Church for Christmas. It is a wonderful team effort – thank you very much.



Services during January

Sunday, January 1st 9.30am Holy Communion (BCP)

Sunday, January 8th 9.00am We are all invited down to Tysoe for 9.00am, when the Bishop of Warwick is coming to lead the service: he will be spending the morning in the Brailes/Tysoe group of churches, and we look forward to welcoming him here.

Sunday, January 15th 9.30am Holy Communion (CW)

Sunday, January 22nd 9.30am Christingle Service: Christingle celebrations are named after the Christingles that are given to the children (and adults) and lit during the service. Christingles are made from an orange decorated with red tape, sweets and a candle. The orange represents the world: the red ribbon symbolises the love and blood of Christ: the sweets and dried fruit represent all of God's creations and the lit candle represents Jesus's light in the world, bringing hope to people living in darkness.

Do join us for this very special occasion. There will of course be drinks and cake afterwards!

Sunday, January 29th 9.30am United Benefice Service in Whatcote.

Have a very blessed New Year, Jill

BEER and BUBBLES NIGHT at the VILLAGE HALL



This annual event took place on December 16th. The Village Hall had a convivial atmosphere as some three dozen Oxhillians stepped out in their finest gear to enjoy a chat, some canapes and of course some beer and bubbles.

As usual it was a team effort and the normal skills of decorating the hall and washing up were augmented by hidden expertise of cocktail mixing and canape making.



Roger Goodman



Joe and Emily, like several others, kindly giving away some of their oversupply of apples.

WEEKDAY WALKERS

The Weekday Walkers concluded the year in the traditional way, by leaving their boots and sticks at home, and doing a Treasure Hunt , this year in Stow-on-the-Wold.

This had several virtues. It exercised the brain cells rather than the legs; it took us to corners of Stow we hadn't seen before; it allowed time for coffee in a shop rather than a field; there was time for some sneaky retail therapy, and the concluding pub lunch at The Talbot was excellent.

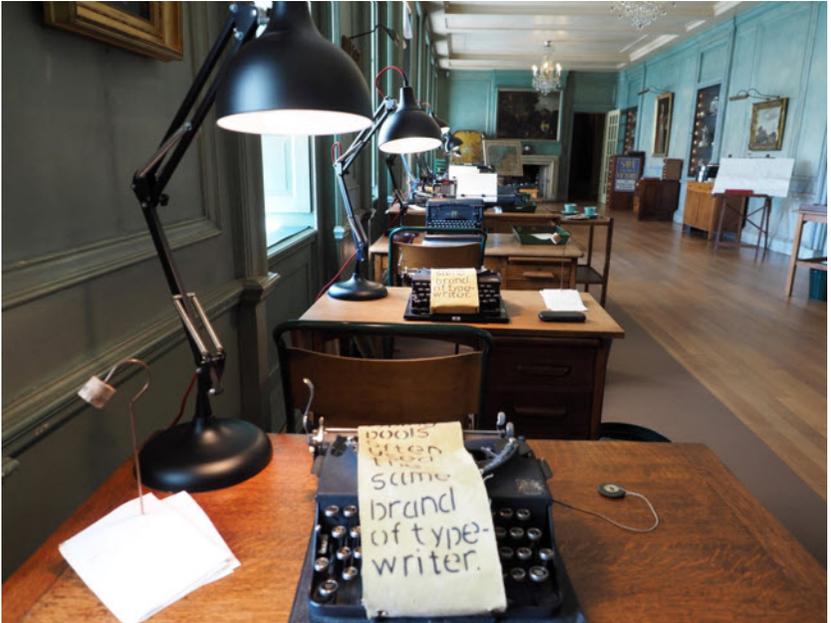


Thanks to Jim Saxton for organising it, and for all his work during the year too. Now it's back to soggy walks in January I suppose!

Gill Stewart

UPTON HOUSE AT WAR: LAST CHANCE TO SEE!

Visit during the weekends in January to get a final glimpse of Upton House during the Second World War and discover the stories of those who lived here. Tap on the typewriters, discover the important secret and philanthropic work the family undertook and take a stroll in the fresh air on our Winter Walk.



After a very busy Christmas season Upton House is preparing for a fresh start in 2017.

Our presentation across the site will be changing in March from our current 1940s display, and being taken back in time to the 1920s.

We will be looking at 1927 when Viscount Bearsted purchased Upton House and set about creating changes to make the house we see today.

For information about your visit and our opening hours please visit our website on <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/upton-house-and-gardens>



Anniversary 1997-2017

2017 is a special year for Shipston Home Nursing, celebrating its 20th Anniversary. Your local Charity, nursing the terminally ill within their own homes since 1997.

We would like to thank everyone who has been involved and all who have supported this wonderful Charity over the last 20 years. We look forward to seeing you all at fundraising events throughout our Anniversary year.

Please look out for our special fundraising events throughout 2017 including our Roaring 20's Anniversary Ball in September

visit www.shipstonhome nursing.co.uk for further details

Registered Charity No. 1001400

WHAT'S ON IN & AROUND OXHILL

January

Tuesday	3rd	10:30	Village Coffee Morning, Peacock
Tuesday	3rd		Grey Bin Collection
Wednesday	4th	19:30	Tysoe W.I., Tysoe VH
Wednesday	4th	10:30	Village Coffee Morning, Peacock
Tuesday	10th		Green & Blue Bin Collection
Thursday	12th	14:00	Knit & Natter, OVH
Thursday	12th	19:30	Oxhill Garden Club, OVH "All About Chickens" by Jacqui Vallance, Warwicks Chicken Coop
Friday	14th	14:30	Mobile Library, OVH
Tuesday	17th		Grey Bin Collection
Wednesday	18th	12:30	Village Lunch, Peacock
Saturday	21st	17:00	Wassail, WOT2Grow Orchard, Tysoe
Saturday	21st	19:00 for 19:30,	Burns Night, OVH
Tuesday	24th		Green & Blue Bin Collection
Tuesday	31st		Grey Bin Collection

February
