

THE OXHILL NEWS

February 2020 No. 543



Sadly Sue Hunt passed away on 15 January 2020
Her funeral will be held on Monday 3rd February
at 2.00pm in St Lawrence Church

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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 Church.

Submissions must be received by the 15th of each month for publication in the following 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 February 28th. For further info please telephone: 01926 851031

REFUSE COLLECTION

Recycling and green waste bins (blue and green bins) will be collected on Tuesdays February 4th and 18th.

The grey rubbish bins will be collected Tuesdays February 11th and 25th.

WEEKDAY WALKERS

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

THE PEACOCK

The village coffee morning is on Wednesday February 5th at 10:30 am.

The village lunch is on Wednesday February 19th.





A TRIBUTE TO SUE

As many of you will know, Sue was chair of the large committee set up to develop the Parish Plan, which she managed with both with charm and keen intelligence. I got to know her during this period and we quickly became friends, and when the Parish Plan was completed she joined the Parish Council during the period I was

Chairman. She approached all issues with an open mind and a sense of fair play, but always taking care that all procedures were correctly followed. She had an air of authority and self-confidence – when Sue spoke, everyone listened! When she became ill I would regularly go round to see her and we would sit and discuss Parish business, chat, laugh, and enjoy local gossip. Dear Martin would inevitably keep us supplied with tea and coffee.



I for one will sorely miss Sue, as I am sure will many of the villagers, and our heartfelt sympathy and warm friendship go out to Martin and the family.

Grenville Moore



OXHILL GARDEN CLUB

Christmas Party. On the evening Thursday, 12th. December members of the Garden Club gathered at the Old Chapel for their Annual Christmas Party.

Thanks to the Committee and helpers, who had toiled through the afternoon, the room was decorated, the tables laid and everything looked seasonally attractive. Moreover, Douglas was present to welcome us with a plentiful supply of his mulled wine, made to a secret recipe passed down through generations of the Nethercleft family.

Jill gave the Blessing and thanked everyone for contributing to the raffle, the proceeds of which will be forwarded to a charity which provides basic hygiene facilities for deprived areas of Africa. The meal, organised by Pauline and Margaret, with dishes contributed by members, was varied, delicious and abundant. The sweets were irresistible. Oxhill is the natural home of superb cookery!

After the meal came the entertainment and the audience was delighted to see brothers Peter & Jeremy Rivers-Fletcher, prepared to entertain us with keyboard, guitar and sharp repartee. The evening concluded with the vocal participation of the audience. It was all most enjoyable – though, if proof were needed, Garden Club members, in general, cook better than they sing!

Our thanks to Martin and the Committee, the cooks and helpers, our entertainers and to Jill , who allowed us again to use the Old Chapel – an ideal venue. This was an excellent start to Christmas..

BABYSITTER AVAILABLE!

FREYA O'DONNELL – AGE 14, YEAR 10

Children aged 3+

Available weekends during term time,
evenings in the week and all week during the school
holidays.

I live in Oxhill so am local.

Please email me if you are interested:

freyaod5@gmail.com

MISSING KITTEN

Our 4 month old cat has been missing for 2 weeks, we have put posts on Facebook and the Oxhill page but still no luck. If you see our cat please contact Danielle 07557130618. Thank you.

MISSING



OXHILL VILLAGE HALL

NEWS AND EVENTS CALENDAR

HIRING THE VILLAGE HALL

If you want to check the availability of the Hall, you can see an online calendar by going to: www.oxhill.org.uk/VillageHall.htm Click on “events calendar here” to view the diary.

Normally we ask that you contact the Lettings Secretary, Ali Sayer, to make a booking, but during February (to make a booking for any date), please contact Sarah Bracher on 680927, or 07758 280273 or sarahbracher01@gmail.com

NEWS REVIEW

The Beer and Bubbles evening on 20th December seems so long ago, and we have all had several sleeps (not to mention several social gatherings) since then, but a good time was had by over 50 people. Lots of recent arrivals in Oxhill mingled with ‘old hands’. Thanks are due to all those non-Committee members who contributed to an excellent range of canapés, including wonderful sushi, which came out of the kitchen in a steady stream!

FUTURE EVENTS

Tuesday February 11th at 7pm for 7.30pm: A talk about Forensic Archaeology by Prof John Hunter (Emeritus Professor of Ancient History and Archaeology, University of Birmingham).

No booking necessary; just turn up. There will be a £2.50 charge, with simple refreshments available.



This is a talk about the archaeology of modern murder, how buried victims can be located and excavated and how the evidence can be used to obtain convictions. Forensic archaeology is now used widely throughout the UK and in the investigation of genocide and war crimes overseas.

The Committee wants to run more “talks” on a variety of subject, so if you have any suggestions for topics or speakers, or you are willing to give a presentation yourself on a topic of general interest, then please contact gill@northside.me.uk

SAVE THE DATES!

Saturday April 4th 8.30-11am Village Breakfast

Come to the Village hall for a sociable and scrumptious breakfast!

Full English: Sausage, bacon, egg, beans, tomato & mushrooms or black pudding & toast. (£8 per adult and £4 for children.)

Continental: Croissant, pain au chocolate, juice, toast & preserves. (£5 per adult and £2.50 for children.

All served with choice of tea, cafetière coffee or hot chocolate.

Booking details to follow in a later Oxhill News.

Friday 24th April 7.30pm Paella Evening

Our Paella Evening, using our specially bought pan, tools and ingredients to make the perfect dish, has always been a hit when we have run it. So here's another opportunity to enjoy good company over a community-organised meal using fresh, quality ingredients.

Look out for booking details, ticket price etc in Oxhill News nearer the date!

ST LAWRENCE CHURCH DIARY FOR JANUARY 2020

If you see this before the end of January, you are warmly invited to the next **Deanery Synod** which is on **Tuesday, January 28th at 7.30 pm in St. Edmund's Church, Shipston**. The speaker will be Julie Bellamy, who is the Diocesan Director of Finance, talking about giving, the finances of our Diocese, and the Parish Share System. Anyone is welcome to come along.

Sunday, February 2nd **Candlemas, Presentation of Christ in the Temple**
9.30 am Parish Communion, Jill Tucker

Wednesday, February 5th
10.00 am, **Informal Holy Communion at Oddcot**, with George Heighton (then coffee in the Peacock)

Sunday, February 9th **Third Sunday before Lent**
9.30 am Morning Worship, with music, readings and prayer, Jill Tucker

Sunday, February 16th **Second Sunday before Lent**
9.30 am Parish Communion, George Heighton

Sunday, February 23rd **Sunday Next Before Lent**
6.30 pm Evensong, Jill Tucker

Sunday, March 1st **First Sunday of Lent**
9.30 am Parish Communion, Jill Tucker

We always have suitable coffee and cake (or wine in the evening!) after our services, just to catch up with everybody.

On Sunday, February 16th you are also invited to join us in a **Taizé Evening Prayer in Whatcote Church at 6.30 pm**: anyone from across our villages is invited to come.



Additionally, George will be in St Lawrence Church every Thursday morning at 8.30 am to say **Morning Prayer** – he welcomes anyone who would like to join him for this quiet half hour.

**COME AND SING CANDLEMAS
EUCHARIST**



**Saturday, February 1st , St Mary's Church, Tysoe.
2.00 pm for 2.30 pm until 6.00pm.**

Director: David Noble, St. Mark's Bilton; Organist: Maddy Evans

Candlemas is a special point in the church's year, when we take a last look back at Christmas, and turn our gaze towards Easter. If you love singing, whether in a choir or not, you are invited to join us in this lovely church: to learn some new music, and then sing and share the Eucharist together. All are welcome to join us for the service at 5.00pm. Music provided, and also afternoon tea. Suggested donation towards costs: £8

We hope you can join us: if you are coming, could you let me know:

Jill Tucker : revjill.tucker@btinternet.com

DEANERY NEWS

Dear friends,

By the time you read your February magazines, Christmas will be a distant memory, packed away for next year. But I was reminded again this year that there is no point celebrating the coming of Christ if we don't allow it to affect our whole lives – otherwise it's just a rather expensive series of parties and a lot of food! Perhaps the words of Howard Thurman will help us:

When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,
the work of Christmas begins:

to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among the people,
to make music in the heart.

Lent begins at the end of this month, and we will be holding our usual Lent services in the deanery, on the theme of Mental Health. Look out for the venues and more details, but the evenings will be on the following:

- Tuesday 3rd Mar **Depression and the psalms** Rev Ben Dyson
- Tues 10th Mar **'What about sadness? Making sense of our emotional responses to life's path'** Stephen Bushell
- Tues 17th Mar **Dementia** Rev Jean Fletcher
- Tues 24th Mar **Keeping Health in Mind** Rev Ali Hoggett
- Tues 31st March **Mental Health in our churches**
- Tues 7th April **Holy Week Eucharist** Ven Barry Dugmore

Every blessing
Sarah Edmonds, Area Dean

JOHN HUNTER BOOK TALK

Come & hear the story behind local Tysoe resident, John Hunter's new historical novel **'The Leaving Stone'**.

Full of intrigue and mystery of a remote Scottish island.

Tysoe Village Hall
Sunday 23rd February 2020
7.00 pm for 7.30 start

Tickets £5 to include a glass of wine or soft drink.

Available from Christine Tuffin
Tel: 07432 652316 or email
tysoetaskmaster@gmail.com or on the door.

Signed copies of the novel will be available on the night for £5 (cash only).





FOOD AND MEDICINE FOR YEMEN

Yemen is the poorest country in the world, plagued by war, hunger and disease. There are many innocent children suffering but there is also hope. A Yemeni man, Ghaleb Alsudmy, is distributing food and medicine throughout Yemen. Ghaleb is a bright light of humanity in the middle of darkness. Ghaleb is working tirelessly to help his neighbours and many others. You can see more of his work on his blog at ghalebsudmy.blogspot.com



You can also help by donating to a Go Fund Me page set up to help Ghaleb. Any amount you give will help the most needy of Yemen. Thank you

Please donate at:

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/food-and-medicine-for-yemen>

VISIT TO SEE "PUSS IN BOOTS"

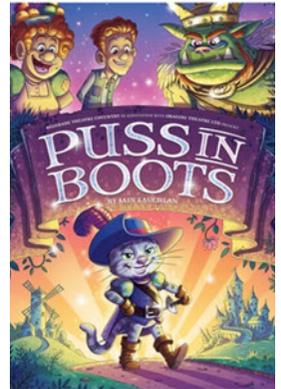
Some seventy folk from Oxhill made the annual pilgrimage to the Belgrade Theatre in Coventry to see the last night of the pantomime on January 11th.

This year we saw "Puss in Boots". The scenery was fabulous, Mrs Pudding's dresses exceeded our imagination and we were treated to plenty of good old fashioned pantomime banter - Oh yes we were! etc.

Plus lots of singing and dancing.

As always some unsuspecting member of the Oxhill contingent is volunteered by Iain to join him on the stage. This year it was Brian Emerson's turn. He was terrific, didn't bat an eyelid when covered in shaving foam, and looked like a real pro.

To avoid disappointment put a date in next year's diary!





Tysoe Tennis Club

www.tysoetennisclub.co.uk

The A and B teams met in the winter league on a sunny afternoon on 4th January for their second meeting of the season. It finished, as expected, with a Tysoe A victory, but not before the B team had pushed their illustrious rivals to the limit in a very competitive and thoroughly enjoyable match.

The Ladies A drew against Leamington on 5th January, thanks to our star player Jo. However, Tysoe won more games so this therefore counts as a win. Well done girls.

Contacts:

Club Secretary – Carol Spencer 07708 412767 / carolspencer234@hotmail.co.uk

Junior Tennis – 07796264358 / lfinlyson@live.co.uk

Website – www.tysoetennisclub.co.uk



CHURCH FUNDRAISING

Made in Oxhill



This new event was held in the Old Chapel at the end of November. The Chapel was full of many and varied stalls, with tea and coffees served in the kitchen accompanied by delicious cakes. Many people visited and bought original gifts along with home produced goodies and both stall holders and visitors felt it was a great success.

Although it had not been an intentional fundraiser, over £330 was raised for the Church. On top of that, Knit and Natter raised around £120 for Guide Dogs.

This event was only successful due to the huge effort of many people. Firstly, thank you to the stall holders for supporting the event as well as many publicising it and putting up posters around the area. Secondly, thank you to all who visited and bought things which made the stall holders very happy. Thirdly, thank you to everyone who baked excellent cakes and donated them. Finally, thank you to the excellent tea ladies and gentlemen, who kept everyone well fed and watered. None of this would be possible without the help of the outstanding Church Fundraising Committee who work tirelessly baking, moving tables, washing up, making teas etc etc. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Pancake Supper

Our next event is the annual Pancake Supper on Shrove Tuesday, this year being **Tuesday 25th February in the Old Chapel**. If you haven't been before, it is an opportunity to eat savoury pancakes followed by sweet pancakes. If that sounds a little dull, it is anything but: there is always a selection





of different delicious filled savoury pancakes and much choice of sweet toppings. Last year was the first year that we served gluten free pancakes, although no gluten intolerant people attended! However, there will be gluten free and vegetarian options available this year too, as there are at all our events now.

The supper will start at **6.30 pm** so that children can come and we will serve families with

children first. Don't worry if you can't get to it until **7 pm**: there will be plenty of pancakes for all who let me know they are coming. We do not charge a ticket price as Pancake Supper has always traditionally been a donations event in Oxhill, so there will be an opportunity to make a suitable donation for your meal. There will also be a donations bar. As usual, please contact me if you would like to come or are able to help in any way.

Ruth Mercer
07400 615999
ruthc.mercer@btinternet.com



PARISH TRAFFIC SLOWING PLAN

FAO Christine Coles, secretary, Oxhill Parish Council

I have read the PC's proposal in January's Oxhill News to use parked vehicles to slow traffic in the village, and would like to make the following observations.

Firstly, the concept is fundamentally flawed, since it seeks to impose a significant hazard in order to mitigate a perceived one. A collision with the parked vehicle(s) is a distinct possibility, even at a legal speed. The proposal recognises this in its statement that 'a front and rear camera would be fitted to record any collision'. Any attempt by the PC to avoid legal liability for such a situation is inherently doomed by this statement.

Secondly, whilst the liability risk might be insurable, the emotional consequences of a serious or fatal accident are not.

Thirdly, the practicalities of the idea are onerous. The vehicles would need to be taxed and MOT'd (unless old enough for exemption) as well as insured, and maintained in roadworthy condition. Lights would need to be checked daily, and batteries changed regularly. Theft and vandalism are highly likely.

Fourthly, any chicane, mobile or otherwise, will slow vehicles whilst they negotiate it, but have no effect on speed thereafter.

Finally, the size of the speeding problem needs proper definition so that any action is proportionate. The 2016 survey can be disregarded as warning signs were displayed. The 2 day survey carried out by the council is insufficient in scope. Pedestrian estimates of vehicle speeds are notoriously inaccurate, being prone to exaggeration.

I would be grateful if the above comments could be made known to the Parish Council members and Chairman.

Many thanks
Peter Taylor
Grove Cottage
Oxhill
01295-688025

OXHILL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 14TH JANUARY AT 8.00PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Councillors Present

Cllr Harbour (Chairperson), Cllr Connolly, Cllr Rivers-Fletcher, Cllr Robertson and Cllr Stuart

Clerk to the Council, Mrs C Coles, District Cllr John Feilding and eight villagers

20/01. Apologies for absence

Cllr Chris Williams

20/02. To receive Declarations of Interest under the Council's Code of Conduct relating to business on the agenda

Cllr Stuart declared an interest in the pre-planning consultation in Green Lane. The Chair declared an interest in item 20/10.

20/03. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd December 2019

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed.

20/04. To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on this agenda for report only

There were no matters to discuss.

20/05. Public Participation Session

A villager spoke about the post-box on the crossroads which has been knocked down. He asked the Parish Council to write to Royal Mail to ask if it can be moved to the Church.

Action: The Chair to draft a letter.

The verge by Conifers on Whatcote Road was reported as it is in a poor condition.

Action: The Parish Clerk to send a letter. A general note about parking will be put in the next Oxhill News.

It was noted that some villagers are not aware the PC meetings are open to the public. The Clerk replied they have always been public meetings.

A note to this effect is on the bottom of the agenda which is put on the notice-board and website.

Action: The Parish Clerk to write a reminder for the newsletter.

A villager reported the setts on the Main Road which require attention. They may have been moved by the street cleaner who was seen in the road.

Action: To be reported to Highways.

Mr Moore spoke about the flooding at Leys Field which was minuted at the last meeting. The SDC Enforcement Officer has phoned Mr Moore a couple of times. The suggestion of a French drain down the fence to the pond will solve the problem. Part of the 106 agreement is that no property or land should flood. SDC were warned about the number of springs but this information was ignored. A Construction Management Plan which should have been in place before work commenced was missing. The Enforcement Officer did visit but some time ago. It was agreed another visit is very overdue.

20/06. To receive a report from the County and District Councillor

The report from Cllr Feilding focussed on the new budget for 2020/21 being set by Stratford District Council. Only 40% of its income comes from the Council Tax. The rest comes from Central Government. Central Government will continue to reduce the amount of money it provides to District Councils. The Council Tax is split as follows:

Parish Council's	3.4%
Stratford District Council (SDC)	7.8%
Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)	11.5%
Warwickshire County Council (WCC)	77.3%

The PCC would like a 4.99% increase and are currently consulting with the public until 17th January.

A report was received from Cllr Chris Williams. WCC were named as the UK's top performing council for highway maintenance for the second year in a row. Warwickshire was among 111 highway authorities, including 28 County Council's which looks at satisfaction with highway services. Warwickshire came out top for public satisfaction amongst County Council's for Highway Maintenance dealing with potholes and cold weather gritting.

20/07. To receive an update on Traffic Calming

Cllr Rivers-Fletcher gave the following report. The summary of his approved report to the Parish Council was published in the last Oxhill news to gain reaction from the village. Despite support from various quarters in the village there have been a number of arguments against the proposed trailer scheme. Since it was never intended to go ahead with this without further consultation and approval on a number of fronts, there may have been a misunderstanding of this point. Two aspects now need further consideration – whether the speed of vehicles, particularly down Whatcote Rd, is of real concern to residents, and if so whether the Parish Council need to do anything about this. The proposed solution was considered to be the only possible affordable solution that could be effective within the current finances of the council, and the limited options open to the PC. Since no one has yet volunteered to join a committee to take the discussion further, Cllr Rivers-Fletcher is recommending that the Parish Council continues to further research the village attitude to traffic speed and any further potential solutions.

There are some aspects of the parked trailer idea which are of concern such as liability, the legal side and the amount of horses and children seen around the village. Options to reduce the problem are limited without street lighting. One person questioned the statistics of the last speed survey. The statistics do back up that people speed through the village. WCC are not concerned about speeding unless there is a fatality. The Parish Council recognise that trailers are not a popular option but there is a lack of other suitable and practical ideas.

A villager asked how long the trailers will be parked in one place? Ideally one to two weeks. Another person asked if there is evidence that by putting in calming measures, it will tackle fast speeds? Physical barriers will stop speeding. Flashing signs are another option but expensive.

Cllr Feilding noted that Alison Wiggins has agreed to visit Oxhill and put a camera on the Main Road. Tysoe have a speed camera which could be shared with joint agreement.

Action: The Chair to make contact with Alison Wiggins.

From the floor Mr Shepherd suggested the following:

1. The Parish Council carry out a survey through the newsletter.
2. The figures are publicised for everyone to see.

It was noted that a speed survey was carried out two years ago and there will be a charge for another one to be done.

Action: Cllr Rivers-Fletcher to consider all options raised at this meeting.

20/08. To receive an update on Assets of Community Value (ACV)

Parish Councils are able to nominate an Asset of Community Value to protect their status. Although the Parish Council believed there were three assets to nominate, there are only two, the village hall and pub. The Village Hall is currently changing status to a CIO. Investigation work took place with the pub and the Parish Council were ready to move forward. An application was submitted to SDC by mistake without consent from the pub. A villager is proposing to buy the pub and they could be advised that an ACV is a constraint. The villager said he would not proceed with the purchase if there was an ACV in place.

Stuart Whittaker, the purchaser of the pub was invited to the meeting to discuss his future plans. He plans to spend money to make the pub better. He is proposing to extend the kitchen and put an extension on the back. He spoke about the field to the right which he would like to lease and turn into a vegetable garden. It was unanimously agreed not to proceed with the ACV on the pub.

Action: The Chair to write to SDC and confirm this decision.

Cllr Feilding spoke about the pub at Avon Dassett. It was purchased and ran down by the owners who then wanted to sell the pub for development. It was listed as an ACV. The village raised £250K and purchased the pub.

Action: Cllr Feilding to arrange a meeting with Oxhill PC and Avon Dassett.

20/09. To receive an update on the Publication of Local Footpaths Map for Residents

Cllr Connolly has agreed to produce a local footpath map for the newsletter and will register for a public sector mapping agreement. Once the footpaths are agreed he will check the detail with local landowners. The accuracy of maps was queried. Definitive maps are 20-30 years old with added diversions which means there are issues with thickness of lines. Ideally it would be useful for someone to walk the footpaths. There is a walking group in the village but they meet informally.

20/10. To receive a proposal to equalise the PC Contribution to the Village Hall and Church

The Chair did not take part in the discussion as he is on the VHC.

The Parish Council currently give two donations each year, £600.00 to

the PCC and £200.00 to the Village Hall. This is based on grass cutting costs. There is more grass to be cut in the churchyard and the work is complex which is why they receive the higher donation. The additional money for the village hall could be used for ongoing running costs.
Action: The Chair to ask the VHC for a short summary on how they would spend the extra money.

20/11. To receive an update from Councillors on tasks agreed for the next financial year

Cllr Stuart has obtained costings for a new bench for the churchyard, £400.00. The Chair has found a source of sandbags to help with flooding. They can be stored in the village. He will investigate signage and costs for the next meeting. A new bus shelter was briefly discussed. A contractor would need approval from WCC and a license to work on the highway.
Action: Mr Moore to ask Robin Stanford if he can reapply for a license to work on the highway.

20/12. To receive an update on planning

Older Applications

- 19/01049/FUL, *Change of use of existing building and adjacent land from mixed B1 and Sui Generis (Specialist sheet housing) to mixed B1 and Sui Generis (light industrial and motor vehicle storage and refurbishment – part retrospective) at Church Farm, Whatcote Road.* An appeal has been made. The Parish Council will be submitting new information to support their original objection.
- 19/03160/FUL, *Proposed extension to reinstated garage and alterations to rear elevation to include new roof-lights at first floor and new fenestration at ground floor at The Orchard, Rouse Lane.* Approved by SDC.
- 19/02884/FUL, *Demolition of existing lean-to and construction of single storey extension to 3 sides at the Village Hall.* Approved by SDC.

20/13. Financial Report

The following payments were approved:

£80.00 to Tysoe Children's Group (newsletter copying)

£132.00 to Smartwater (kits)

To review the current budget and forecast to 31st March 2020

The Parish Council are currently working to budget.

To set the precept for 2020/21

Councillors have looked at spend ideas for 2020/21. These were minuted with approximate costs at the last meeting. More emphasis is being put on parishes to be self-sufficient. It was agreed to set the precept for 2020/21 at £11,025.00 (5% increase).

Action: The Parish Clerk to notify SDC.

20/14. To receive the following correspondence

The following correspondence had been circulated:

WALC, Police Precept Consultation 2020/21. The deadline for responses is 17th January.

20/15. To receive Councillors Reports

Cllr Stuart spoke about the overflow of ditches. The detail and photos will be forwarded to WCC Highways. A complaint has been received about the slurry at the Kineton crossroads. This will be reported.

Cllr Stuart is proposing to submit a pre-planning application for the erection of two, 2 bedroom semi-detached houses on her land where the container is. They will look like farm workers cottages. The plans were circulated at the meeting.

Cllr Stuart would like to draft a country code for the next newsletter. To include items such as opening and shutting gates and the illegal dumping of rubbish.

Action: Cllr Stuart to draft a notice and circulate.

20/16. To confirm meeting dates for 2020

10th March, 13th May, 7th July, 8th September and 10th November.

There being no other business to discuss, the meeting closed at 9.25pm.

TYSOE CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

JANUARY UPDATE

Aspire Coaching's Play Makers Award

Twelve children from Years 5 and 6 had a day's training to complete the Playmaker Award. Aspire coach Matthew Whittington led the course to develop leadership skills and teamwork through physical activity. He was very complimentary about the school and enjoyed working with the children. He thought that we had some great young leaders in the making.



Playmakers

We welcomed the children back to a new term with a theme this week on the environment. Different classes have focused on particular aspects:

Beech Class have been learning about household waste. The pupils said: 'So we can make the world clean and tidy - we are going to re-use our rubbish so animals don't get trapped or sick.' - Perdy Y1

'So we can make our rubbish into things.' - Calissa Y1

Oak Class have been learning about 'saving our oceans'. They have explored the dangers of rubbish being deposited in the sea.

Rowan Class have been looking at how materials can be recycled to create something new. They are hoping to create a lion by weaving plastic bag strips onto chicken wire.

Silver Birch Class have been learning about pollution and plastic in the ocean; they read a book called 'The Adventures of a Plastic Bottle', which showed the journey of a plastic bottle and thought about ways plastic bottles could be re-used. They have also been learning about other single-use plastic items and how they can harm the environment; they used these items to make artwork. In ICT they found alternatives to single-use plastic packaging and thought about ways they can make a difference.

Willow Class have been looking at the pros and cons of renewable and non-renewable energy.

Visits from prospective parents are welcome. Contact Mrs Horrocks on 01295 680244.

Paige Neale
Head of School

OXHILL PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Updates on two services for the village and a useful contact number.

We have been advised that **VASA** are continuing with their '**Community Transport Service**' to take people to medical appointments or to visit family and relatives, etc. All of the volunteer drivers are DBS checked and carry ID. The cost is 45p per mile plus a £3 admin fee – all payments are to the volunteer driver. To book call 01789 262889 or go on-line: transport@vasa.org.uk

We have also been advised that there is a ‘**dial-a-ride**’ **Minibus Service** for all ages in the Stratford district between 9.30am and 2.30pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays called **UBUS**. From Oxhill it can be used to travel to Stratford, Shipston and other local villages. The cost depends on the distance travelled from Stratford and varies between £5.80 and £7.20 per person for a return journey. To book call 01789 264491 or go on-line: UBUS@stratford-dc.gov.uk

ORBIT Housing – John Fielding, the Councillor and Ward Member for our area, has a direct line to an Agent at ORBIT Housing and is happy to pursue any issues that any ORBIT Tenants may have **IF** they have contacted ORBIT about the repair necessary but are not satisfied with the delay. John will need the job number allocated by ORBIT, details of the problem and the contact details of the person with the problem.

John’s contact details are: John.fielding@stratford-dc.gov.uk or call 07718 037142
Derek Harbour, Oxhill PC Chair

OXHILL ART GROUP

Oxhill Art Group will start again on Wednesday 4 March 2020. For those of you who are new to the village, we meet from 10.00 am to 1.00 am in the Village Hall. This is an informal group where you can learn some new skills, work on a new piece, or complete a work in progress. Beginners are very welcome as are more advanced artists. We usually run for six to eight sessions and the cost for each session is £12.00. There is no obligation to attend all sessions.

Please contact Grenville Moore
01295 680664 – mobile 07968 789968
email gren.moore@gmail.com



SHIPSTON BEEKEEPERS

Shipston Beekeepers currently has some hundred members based in South Warwickshire, North Oxfordshire and parts of Gloucestershire - many of whom have attended a previous year's introductory course, enjoyed practical apiary beginners' meetings during the summer months and subsequently obtained their own bees. Bees are important as pollinators and beekeeping is so multi-faceted that some aspect of the craft is bound to resonate with every individual.

Douglas Nethercleft
(SBKA Course Facilitator)

A decorative border of bees and a beehive surrounds the text. The border consists of several cartoon-style bees with black and yellow stripes and white wings, connected by a dashed line. A beehive is also part of the border, located near the bottom right.

Two day Introduction To Beekeeping course

Run by Shipston Beekeepers - a branch of Warwickshire Beekeeping Association

Saturday 25/04/20 09.30 - 16.00 Brailes Village Hall OX15 5AS
Theory - How a honeybee colony works; the beekeeping year; how to get started; essential equipment; harvesting your honey and wax.

Sunday 26/04/20 10.30 - 14.30 Practical at club apiary OX15 5HZ -
Siting an apiary; assembling hive parts; apiary safety; inspecting a honeybee colony / handling bees (weather permitting) Beesuits provided.

Light lunch and refreshments provided both days. Gift Voucher available.

Enrolment: www.sbka.org.uk/training
Enquiries: secretary@sbka.org.uk

SCARECROW WEEKEND 2020 - 6TH AND 7TH JUNE

A committee has been formed and I would firstly like to thank all those who are involved so far.

Following our first few meetings in the pub, it has been decided that Oxhill Scarecrow Weekend will be held on Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th June 2020. Opening times will be from 11am to 5pm. The theme is 2020 and this can be interpreted however you wish.

Now that we have the date and some details secured, we are recruiting for volunteers to help out across the weekend. Please see below for whom to contact to get involved.

If you would like to be part of a team, please contact the relevant people:

Parking - we will require volunteers to help over the weekend to marshall the car park. There will be a rota and shifts will be allocated. Please contact Ruth Mercer on 07400 615999 or ruthc.mercer@btinternet.com to offer your assistance.

Tombola - we will require lots of donated prizes for a children's and adults' tombola. Please contact Caroline Keena on keec30@hotmail.com if you have things that would be suitable as prizes.

Made in Oxhill - we will be celebrating our talented Oxhill makers at the scarecrow weekend this year. Please contact Lynsey Cleaver on 07960 783080 or lynsey_cleaver@yahoo.co.uk for more information.

Teas - Ruth Mercer (details above) will be heading up the teas team. We will require cakes a-plenty but also volunteers to help out. There will be a rota for this and shifts will be allocated. Please contact Ruth to volunteer.

Scarecrow making session - we hope to organise this a little closer to the date. Updates will be published in the Oxhill News as and when.

There are still elements of the weekend that are yet to be confirmed but details of these will unfold over the coming months.

Our next meeting will be on Saturday 8th February at 3pm in The Peacock and we would welcome more volunteers. If you can't attend on February 8th but want to be involved, please feel free to contact me by email: lucymercerc@hotmail.co.uk. You can also contact me with any queries regarding the weekend in general.

Lucy Mercer



Public consultation
.... have your say

Climate Change Planning Guidance



Stratford-on-Avon District Council is consulting on new planning guidance which focuses on Climate Change.

This guidance will be used when submitting planning applications, to ensure that new development addresses the effects of Climate Change through suitable adaptation and mitigation measures.

Take a look at the full document online!



www.stratford.gov.uk/climatechangespd

- 1 Increasing Accessibility
- 2 Improving Energy Efficiency
- 3 Adapting to Higher Temperatures
- 4 Mitigating Flood Risk
- 5 Mitigating Biodiversity Loss



Take part in our public consultation by visiting www.stratford.gov.uk/climatechangespd or emailing policy.consultation@stratford-dc.gov.uk between **9 January and 21 February 2020**

Questions?
Come along to our drop in session in **Room 002 at Elizabeth House** on **Tuesday 4 February** between **3pm – 7pm**

THE COUNTRYSIDE CODE 2019

We are very lucky in Oxhill to have access to so much open space and opportunities to walk and engage with the natural environment. However, over recent months there have been several instances of gates being left open (occasionally leading to animals escaping), animals worried by dogs, hedges being cut without the land owners permission and green waste being put into fields (which is hazardous for livestock).

It has also been noted that dog owners are not clearing up after their dogs when using green footpaths. This is not only unpleasant for those following but is potentially harmful for livestock who may graze there.

We would like to remind everyone of the countryside code and encourage you to keep it in mind when enjoying our countryside.

The Countryside Code - Respect Protect Enjoy

Respect other people

- Consider the local community and other people enjoying the outdoors.
- Leave gates and property as you find them and follow paths unless wider access is available.

Protect the natural environment

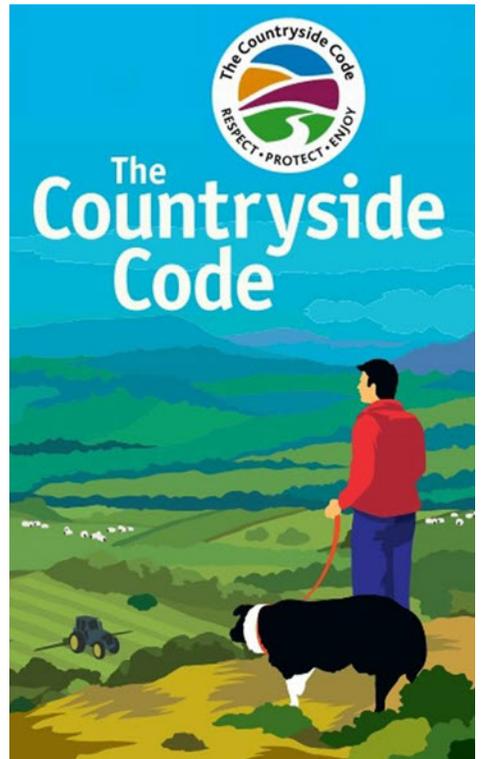
- Leave no trace of your visit and take your litter home.
- Keep dogs under effective control.

Enjoy the outdoors

- Plan ahead and be prepared.
- Follow advice and local signs.

More details can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-countryside-code/the-countryside-code>





HELP PLEASE!



**Stour Valley Lions are raising funds
for the Australian Bushfire victims.**



Reproduced from New South Wales Rural Fire Service

You can contribute by sending your donations to:-

Lloyds Bank – A/C Stour Valley Lions – Sort Code 30-98-90
A/C No 16589960 Ref:- Australia Bushfires

Or

The Treasurer, Stour Valley Lions. 29, Railway Terrace, Shipston on Stour CV36 4GD
Ref- Australia Bushfires

If you would like to learn more about the activities of Stour Vally Lions
then please contact the membership officer –
Paul Macpherson – email: paul@paulmacpherson.co.uk

REDWINGS HORSE SANCTUARY



With Valentine's Day just around the corner, you might be looking for a special gift for your loved one. Why not show how much you care by adopting a rescued horse, pony, donkey or mule from Redwings Horse Sanctuary?

Not only does this make a unique and thoughtful gift for any animal lover, but every penny goes towards the care of your chosen resident and their friends at the Sanctuary – so, it really is the gift that keeps giving!

From just £15 per year, you can adopt one of four “Adoption Star” residents who live at Redwings Oxhill. There's super-fluffy donkey Arya, mischievous donkey duo Timothy and Cain, cuddly cob Rumpel and Shire horse Lady who, in keeping with Valentine's Day, has a beautiful white heart marking on her bottom!

Every adoption pack includes your Adoption Star's story and photo, as well as a certificate and friendship card. You'll also have access to your new friend's online blog, receive a further update in the post and a personal invitation to their birthday party!

Redwings is a national animal welfare charity, responsible for over 2,000 rescued horses, ponies, donkeys and mules across the UK. We rescue neglected, mistreated and abandoned equines, giving them a safe place to live and providing essential veterinary treatment, rehabilitation and lifelong care. We also look to rehome those who are capable of living outside of the Sanctuary and currently have 700 horses living in loving Guardian homes.

Redwings Oxhill is one of five Redwings visitor centres across the country where you can meet some of our rescued residents and hear their stories. Here you can also purchase items from our gift shop, enjoy our café and all sale proceeds go towards our work.

Redwings Oxhill, in Banbury Road, Kington, CV35 0RP, is open every Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday, between 10am and 4pm. Entry is FREE and dogs on leads are welcome too!

To sponsor an Adoption Star, simply pop into Redwings Oxhill, call 01508 481000 or head to www.redwings.org.uk/adopt.





Carers4Carers

Finding support through supporting each other

Friday 28th February 10.30 – 12 noon: Carers4Carers monthly meeting at Kinton Village Hall.

Please join us for coffee and biscuits. Lisa Barnett, our assistant co-ordinator and also a speech and language therapist, will be continuing her talk and answering questions on the swallowing difficulties experienced by people with neurological conditions and the frail elderly.

Please let us know in advance if you would like us to look after your loved one in our Companionship Group.

For more details, including help with transport, please phone Gillian on 01926 640203/07947 893504.



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

DENE VALLEY U3A

Dene Valley U3A will host a presentation by Roy Smart on **'The Life and Times of Wallis Simpson'**.

This will cover the early years when Wallis first met the man that was destined to become King Edward VIII and the ensuing constitutional crisis of his subsequent abdication. Roy will also tell us about her later life as the wife of the Duke of Windsor and her final years in which she was kept a virtual prisoner by her obsessive lawyer and died a sad and lonely woman.

The presentation will take place at St Peter's Church, Wellesbourne, on Tues 10th March starting at 2.30pm. Non-members are welcome to attend at a nominal charge of £2 which includes refreshments. If you would like to know more about us and possibly even consider joining our organisation, then please visit our website at <http://www.denevalleyu3a.btck.co.uk> or go to our Facebook page.

Dene Valley U3A - On the 2nd Tuesday of every month our organisation hosts a presentation on a topic of general interest starting at 2.30pm in St Peter's Church, Wellesbourne. All welcome. Non members £2 which includes refreshments.



**FREE
ENTRY**

POP UP SHOP

**Townsend Hall, Sheep Street,
Shipston on Stour CV36 4AE**

**Friday 7th February 10am - 6pm
Saturday 8th February 9.30am - 2pm**

**Antiques - Homeware - Furniture
Designer New & 2nd Hand Clothes
Accessories - Collectables...**

GOOD QUALITY MERCHANDISE TAKEN

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

www.shipstonhomenursing.co.uk



WOT2GROW COMMUNITY ORCHARD

Winter is with us but so far it has been horribly wet and mild with some high winds thrown in for good measure!

The harvesting of fruit has finished and the results are interesting. For the first year we have had a lot of beautiful Bramley apples, we have three trees and picked 86kg of fruit as well as a lot of windfalls. More than half of the apple varieties fruited well but the early ones were hit by the frosts and did not produce any fruit. Overall a much lower harvest this year compared with last year but that is quite normal!

The grass has continued to grow and late mowing seems to get later every year but along with other maintenance it keeps the volunteers busy. Surprisingly this is a busy time of year, the wind break hedging has to be pruned and it is good to see birds nests in some of the trees. In fact the biodiversity at the orchard continues to grow every year and we have a many species now living and visiting the orchard. The autumn raspberries will be pruned in the next few weeks and then it will be spring for the remainder of the soft fruit to be cut back.



Nibbled Apple

We always need help with various tasks so why not volunteer to do a short session or two!! It is surprising how much can be done in a short session and what a difference it makes to this beautiful, tranquil green space! So contact us and see how to help and also learn new skills.

The Community Orchard is just behind the allotments on the Shenington Road in Tysoe and is open 24/7!

Liz Atkinson (680045), Paul Sayer (680451), Sue and Mike Sanderson (688080) or see the website www.wot2grow.co.uk



Medlar - Autumn colour

WHAT'S ON IN & AROUND OXHILL

February

Saturday 1st	14:00	Candelmas Eucharist, St Mary's Church, Tysoe
Tuesday 4th		Green & Blue bin collection
Wednesday 5th	10:30	The Peacock - Village Coffee Morning
Friday 7th		Pop Up Shop, Townsend Hall, Shipston
Saturday 8th		Pop Up Shop, Townsend Hall, Shipston
Tuesday 11th		Grey landfill bin collection
Tuesday 11th	19:00	'Forensic Archaeology' Village Hall
Saturday 15th		Oxhill News submission deadline
Tuesday 18th		Green & Blue bin collection
Wednesday 19th		The Peacock - Village Lunch
Sunday 23rd	19:00	'The Leaving Stone', Tysoe Village Hall
Tuesday 25th		Grey landfill bin collection
Tuesday 25th	18:30	Pancake Supper,
Friday 28th	9:30	Weekday Walkers
Friday 28th	10:30	Carers4Carers, Kineton Village Hall
Friday 28th	14:30	Village Hall - Mobile Library

March

Wednesday 4th	10:00	Oxhill Art Group, Village Hall
Tuesday 10th	14:30	'The Life & Times of Wallis Simpson' St Peter's church, Wellesbourne

April

Saturday 4th	8:30-11:00	Village Breakfast, Village Hall
Friday 24th	19:30	Paella Evening, Village Hall
Saturday 25th	9:30	Beekeeping Course, Shipston

PC Meeting Tuesday 10 March at the Village Hall starting at 8.00pm

This meeting is open to the public to attend