

# THE OXHILL NEWS

November 2020 No. 552

## FIREWORKS

ARE TERRIFYING FOR ANIMALS



If you plan to have a fireworks display this Bonfire Night in November, please let the village know on our Oxhill Community Facebook page or email the Oxhill News and we will post the information on Facebook.

As November 5th falls on a Thursday this year, fireworks could be released on the weekend before, the weekend after or on the day itself, so please let us know the location, date and approximate times of your fireworks. This way we can keep our animals indoors or at least out of harm's way.

*Thank you*

*Vanessa Druce, editor*  
*Grenville Moore, consulting editor*  
*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. Submissions must be received by the 15th of each month for publication in the following month.

Please email: [news-editor@oxhill.org.uk](mailto:news-editor@oxhill.org.uk). or [oxhill@btinternet.com](mailto:oxhill@btinternet.com)

## MOBILE LIBRARY

**The Mobile library will be at  
the Oxhill Village Hall on  
27 November for  
“Select and Collect”  
From 13:15 to 13:30**



The mobile library has books with **THE MOBILE LIBRARY IS BACK!** 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 & CDs.

For further info please telephone: 01926 851031

## REFUSE COLLECTION

Recycling and green waste bins (blue and green bins) will be collected on Tuesdays November 10th and 24th.

The grey rubbish bins will be collected Tuesdays November 3rd and 17th.

## THE PEACOCK

The village coffee morning and lunch are both postponed in November.



## COFFEE VAN

The Awesome Coffee Van sets up shop outside the Peacock every Thursday morning at 11:30-ish.

# POPPY APPEAL 2020

Corona was never going to make things easy this year and Remembrancetide 2020 WILL be very different. Indeed, things are changing daily. George Heighton is still awaiting ecclesiastical guidance. It is hoped what he gets will accord with my guidance from Poppy HQ. I will give another update in Nov but be prepared for Eleventh Hour changes.

Like all Charities, the Poppy Appeal will really suffer this year and a lack of income will severely impact on its support to our Service personnel. I am determined we should not take the easy option and do nothing.

What we know thus far is:

There will be no Church service on 8 Nov.

Door to door collections will not take place.

What will happen is:

For those wishing to donate I will be on parade with a begging bowl and poppies outside Tysoe Village Hall from 0900 - 1500 hrs on Sat 31 Oct and 7 Nov 20. Any offers of assistance to assist me will be gratefully received.

I will lay a wreath at the Tysoe War Memorial at 1100 hrs on 8 Nov 20. If others wish to lay one please let me know so I can order one for you. I will have with me a collection tin and will be happy to receive donations.

I will lay a wreath at 1100 hrs on 11 Nov at the Memorial Cairn at the Natural Burial Ground. Please ask if you need a wreath.

Collecting tins will be held at village retail outlets that are prepared to accept them.

I will have a collecting tin at Dinsdale Cottage, which will be happy to receive donations. You should ring before visiting (680316) to ensure I'm at home.



THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

**DONATE TO THE  
POPPY APPEAL**

The Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal supports the Armed Forces community, past and present.

POPPIES ARE AVAILABLE AT:  
**7 BEECH ROAD.**  
[rbl.org.uk/poppypeal](http://rbl.org.uk/poppypeal)

**EVERY POPPY COUNTS**

Cornelius, Second World War Veteran. Supported by The Royal British Legion.

If anyone from Oxhill can see a safe way around the regulations and would like to take the initiative please contact me for any support you need.

With a little mental aggression and your support we can make this year's Appeal memorable for all the right reasons.

*David Sewell*

*If anybody in the village would like a poppy or make a contribution, we have poppies and a collection box at 7 Beech Road, Oxhill 01295 680705*

*Pat Crowther*



## POPPIES

Following on from rainbows, teddies, letters of the alphabet and Hallowe'en, it would be great if any of you could decorate your windows with poppies etc to mark **Remembrance Sunday**, which this year is **November 8th**. Let me know if you'd like to take part.

Ali Sayer (07970 922352 or [ali.sayer@btinternet.com](mailto:ali.sayer@btinternet.com))

Don't forget there will be poppies and a collection box at 7 Beech Rd if anyone wishes to contribute.

## HALLOWEEN TRAIL DISPLAYS

Ali Sayer organised a brilliant Halloween Trail in which 45 houses created Halloween-themed displays in their gardens or windows.

Children (and adults) walked around the village hunting for as many displays as they could find.

Scattered throughout this issue are some of Oxhill's Halloween Trail Displays.



*Myrtle Knight suggested we publish this Kipling poem because,  
'It is a good one with Covid in mind'.*

## THE CAMEL'S HUMP IS AN UGLY LUMP

*by Rudyard Kipling*

The Camel's hump is an ugly lump  
Which well you may see at the Zoo;  
But uglier yet is the hump we get  
From having too little to do.

Kiddies and grown-ups too-oo-oo,  
If we haven't enough to do-oo-oo,  
We get the hump—  
Cameelious hump—  
The hump that is black and blue!

We climb out of bed with a frouzly head  
And a snarly-yarly voice.  
We shiver and scowl and we grunt and we growl  
At our bath and our boots and our toys;

And there ought to be a corner for me  
(And I know there is one for you)  
When we get the hump—  
Cameelious hump—  
The hump that is black and blue!

The cure for this ill is not to sit still,  
Or frowst with a book by the fire;  
But to take a large hoe and a shovel also,  
And dig till you gently perspire;

And then you will find that the sun and the wind.  
And the Djinn of the Garden too,  
Have lifted the hump—  
The horrible hump—  
The hump that is black and blue!

I get it as well as you-oo-oo—  
If I haven't enough to do-oo-oo—  
We all get hump—  
Cameelious hump—  
Kiddies and grown-ups too!



## ST LAWRENCE CHURCH

This time of year is one of Remembering: we think about those who we have loved and lost, and those who died or have suffered in the cause of peace – and continue to do so today.

But things are even more difficult this year. For many there is an even greater sense of loss: for those we are unable to see; those to whom we may have been unable to say farewell, or whose funerals we were unable to attend. Perhaps we grieve the loss of the life we used to know, and are now unable to live, or the family or friends we are unable to meet.

Our God understand this, and stands alongside us as we grieve, for whatever reason. Just as Jesus wept at the grave of Lazarus, his friend, so God weeps with us, his beloved children. And he urges us to bring all our needs and griefs, hurts and losses to him, and promises that his love will enfold us. He is indeed close to the broken hearted.

So as we go into November we have, on **November 1st, a service ‘In Loving Memory’**, giving us a chance to remember and bring before God those we have lost. That will be at 3.00 pm in the Church: there will be music, prayer, stillness, and a chance to light a candle in their memory. If you would like a name read out, please could you let either George Heighton or myself know: details below. Simple prayers ‘In Loving Memory’ will be published in the Grapevine.

The following Sunday, **November 8th, is Remembrance Sunday**. There will be a service in church at 9.30 am. We are also inviting everyone to join in the act of Remembrance at home this year by putting either poppies or doves (for peace) in their windows that weekend. Nearer the time a simple Act of Remembrance will be published in the Grapevine. Again, details from either of us below.

The full list of services for November is below. As ever, we fully understand that not everyone is wanting to come back in our church buildings, so most Sundays there will be a Zoomed service at 11.00 am, and every Wednesday there will be one at 10.00 am. Details in the Grapevine.



Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup>      3.00 pm      In Loving Memory Rev Jill Tucker  
*The service from Tysoe will be Zoomed at 11.00 am*

Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup>      **Remembrance Sunday**  
9.30 am      Remembrance Service Rev Heather Parbury

Sunday, November 15<sup>th</sup>      11.00 am      Holy Communion      Rev George Heighton  
*This service will be Zoomed*

Sunday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>      11.00 am      Holy Communion      Rev Jill Tucker  
*This service will be Zoomed*

Sunday, November 29<sup>th</sup>      **Advent Sunday**  
11.00 am      United Service in Brailes  
*This service will be Zoomed*

Rev Jill Tucker      01295 680663      [revjill.tucker@btinternet.com](mailto:revjill.tucker@btinternet.com)

Rev George Heighton      01295 680201      [revgeorge@outlook.com](mailto:revgeorge@outlook.com)

## **STOP PRESS !!**

### **ANOTHER LARGE DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED FOR OXHILL**

A Planning Application (20/02224/OUT) has been submitted to Stratford District Council to develop the 'Transport Yard' at the top of the hill on the Kineton Road plus some agricultural land adjacent to it. The Proposal shows 5 three bedroom and 6 four bedroom detached open market dwellings (11 in total) and 7 Affordable Housing Units.

You can view the proposed development on the SDC Planning Portal. Your Parish Council will be discussing it at the next meeting that will take place by Zoom on 10 November.

We would encourage Oxhill residents to write to SDC with your views on the proposal before the expiry date of 11 November.

# MADE IN OXHILL POP-UP ARTS AND CRAFTS SHOP

It gives me great pleasure to be able to bring news of a village event that might actually be able to happen, depending on the state of local lockdown at the time. Our 2nd Made in Oxhill Pop-up Shop will be held on Saturday 28th November between 11am and 3pm in The Peacock garden, by kind permission of Mark and Sarah. To keep everyone safe, appropriate COVID measures as stipulated at the time will need to be followed, including wearing face masks, checking in, hand sanitising and social distancing. The Peacock will be serving tea, coffee, mulled wine, as well as cold drinks, along with a selection of hot baps.

The number of stalls that we can have will be limited to ensure social distancing but, if you are a local craftsperson or producer and would like a pitch, please contact me as soon as possible. There will also be a charity cake stall. Oxhill is full of excellent bakers so we should welcome donations of home baked cakes.



Wrap up warm and come along with your face mask! Not only will you be able to buy unique Christmas food and gifts produced locally, but you will be supporting local craftspeople. We will be following the national pandemic guidelines so, if they should change in the coming weeks, the event might have to be cancelled. Please check on the Oxhill Community Facebook page and village noticeboards for updates.

*Ruth Mercer*  
*ruthc.mercer@btinternet.com*  
*07400 615999*

# PAUL SAYER'S 220 DAY CYCLING CHALLENGE

I completed my cycling marathon raising funds for Cyclists Fighting Cancer 2020 Challenge on 16th October. I rode for 220 days without a break, covered 7100 miles, wore out two pairs of shorts, and raised £3730. Thank you to everyone who donated - your generosity exceeded my wildest expectations.

And yes I did have a day off riding when I had finished !



## WANTED

A couple of buckets of gravel / small stones to fill verge pot-holes by the new Church gate on the Tysoe road.

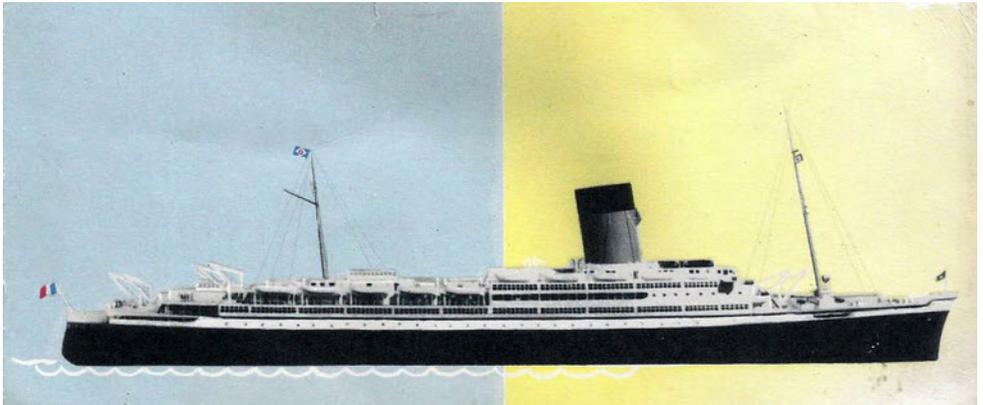
Can collect and return buckets - or you could effect the 'repairs' yourselves. All contributions gratefully received.

*dournethercleft@aol.com*  
07850 352905

Thanks for the  
*Memories*

*We sat down with Janet Gardner to find out more about her fascinating life as a Wren in WW2 as well as a little of her life after the war. This is the final extract of Janet's story here in the Oxhill News - for now at least. The first part was in last month's October issue. ~ Vanessa, ed.*

I did my WREN training in South Africa along with other women in the RAF, because we might have been shadowed if we had been trained here in the UK. Our boat the SS Louis Pasteur was docked in Cape Town and we had to remain in the Cape Town area. I could not get a pass to leave the area, in case I decided to stay in South Africa.

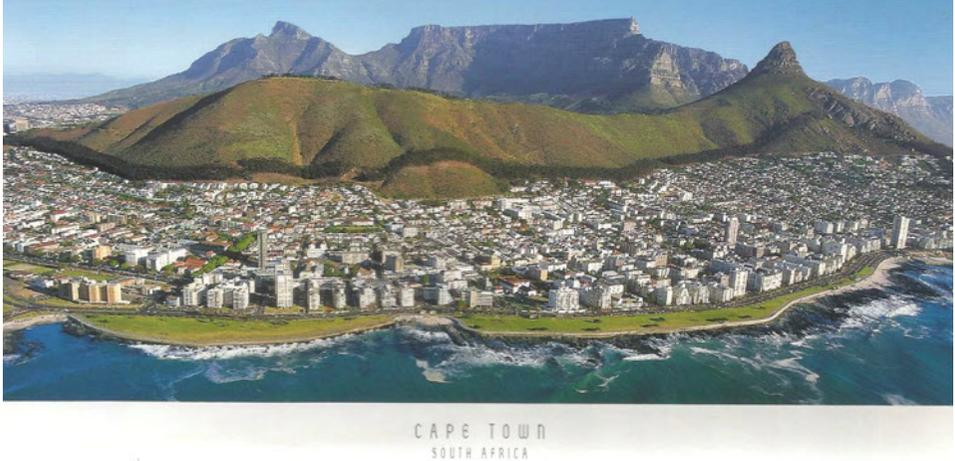


*SS Louis Pasteur*

We were in Cape Town for over a week. We walked so much – almost all the way to Simon's Town [*approx. 25 miles away from Cape Town*].

My cousin Gordon Dickson, a very good-looking blond man, was born in South Africa and was in the South African Navy stationed in Simon's Town. Though I was not able to go there to meet him, he came to visit with me and we would go out. On one of our walks we saw penguins on the beach and had a cup of tea. Penguins resented us walking along the beach. They took the beach as their possession.

We waited for three days for the table cloth [*cloud*] to lift off of Table Mountain so we could have the views. I didn't like the cable car. It was open so we had the wind blowing through us. They laughed, after all I had been through. I don't know what was worse, going up or coming down. You felt as if you left your tummy behind you.



Gordon's mother died in childbirth, so he was raised by his motherless aunt who moved from Britain to South Africa to look after him. She told me "You realise don't you, that you two are cousins." I didn't know he was my cousin before that.

South Africa had apartheid. We didn't know anything about it. We were in a bus one day and there were black people on the bus. We sat with them and we were told we couldn't sit there and we didn't understand why.

Gordon's friend invited us back for a meal. His wife cooked. They must have been Catholic, there were so many children around the table. She served waffles. I had never had waffles before and I liked them.

Before we left, Gordon arranged for each of us to have a net of Jaffa oranges. And after we left, we revelled in them. Now when I have Jaffa oranges [*Janet winced*] I think they don't know what they are talking about.

When we came out from South Africa we were escorted by Gordon's ship. It was sad because I was fond of Gordon. Gordon didn't live long after the war. He didn't come home to the UK.

We had rough seas, but I didn't mind. The others all made out that they were sea sick, I don't know if they were, so I had to work night shift while they stayed in their bunks swaying with the boat. I also had to sleep in the top bunk because they couldn't get down to go to the loo.

There was delicious food on board but they wouldn't eat it. I ate a lot as my appetite didn't fail. I don't know if it is the same on other boats but on the Pasteur, the long table where we ate, had a ridge all the way around it so the plates didn't fly off.

Dolphins followed our ship, jumping out of the water, until we were far enough that the water got too cold.

We got to go on another trip to America, our last one. On the journey we took more POWs to America. I did not like how the American soldiers treated the POWs, after all we are all human.

We stopped in Washington and worked with the American women's navy. Our hotel was across from the White House, but I didn't see much. I got food poisoning and had to stay in bed for a few days. They would come back and tell me all the food they had been eating. I said, "Don't tell me anymore."

When we left on the Pasteur we took all the RAF flying officers who had finished their training, back to the UK.

After the war I worked on a switch board as there was no jobs for coders or cyphers. The joy of working on a switch board is that when it is not busy you can make all the calls you want. I was courting my husband then, so I used to ring him up on the phone and have long conversations.



*Janet with her husband, Bill and their three sons, (from left) Christopher, Brian and Nick all born at Poplar's Farm.*



*Janet Gardner*

I met Bill, my husband, at the vicarage because I was the vicar's daughter. I had wanted to be a farmer's wife throughout the war.

When we decided to get married, we had to wait to fix a wedding date because as Bill's father said "You can't fix a marriage date when the hay has not been harvested." Farming was always the first thing and the other bits came after.

Bill's best man arrived the night before from Burma and he had to wear his uniform at our wedding because he had no other clothes.

Bill and I went into farming on 24 July though I don't remember which year. We inherited Poplar's Farm in Gaydon from Bill's family.



# NATURE NOTES FOR NOVEMBER 2020

*by Grenville Moore*

The Anglo-Saxons named it Blotmonath (blood month) or Windermonath (wind month) – it was the month to butcher livestock to lay down salted meat for the winter. Fishing stopped and boats tied up for the coming months, as the sea was too dangerous.

1st November is the Feast of All Saints or All Hallows, which is also Samhain, the Pagan Celtic new year festival when stored fruits and crops were blessed and the dead remembered ..... which brings me to the long-gone Anglo-Saxon who wandered across Leys Field around about 690 AD, perhaps for a chat with the farmer, or perhaps he was the farmer, pulls his hanky out of his belt pouch ... and whoops .... loses his ale money. 1330 years later I am wandering across Leys Field (after the top surface was stripped off) and something catches my eye (just about on your front doorstep Lucy Mercer!), that Saxon coin, just lying in the mud, a sceat (a small silver coin), this one in mint condition. The runes (the letters of the runic alphabet prior to the Latin alphabet) can clearly be seen on the one side. The other side shows an image/symbol of the owner/chief of the province where it was minted, in this case we think the Three Monks foundry from the Frisian town of Dorestad, southern Netherlands/Belgium. Had that Anglo-Saxon travelled from Friesland to here, or had the coin just moved up country by way of trade? We will never know.



*Anglo-Saxon coin with runic symbol*



*Reverse side with symbol of province chief*

The Anglo-Saxons will certainly have been familiar with swans, because in 966 the Saxon King Edgar granted rights over local swans to the abbots of Croyland in Lincolnshire, which became the central principle of the legislation granting the bird unique status as Crown property. Hopefully Oxhill may have its first resident mute

swan; a young male (cob) has appeared on the pond at the Manor. As I write this he has been here about three weeks, but of course that doesn't mean he will stay. He will now start looking for a mate and they do favour rivers or large lakes and of course they mate for life. The name Mute swan only appeared in 1785, when the name replaced 'tame swan'. In Anglo Saxon 'swan' means 'sunder' (sound, sonnet), which refers to the spine-tingling southing of its wings as it flies. Some folklore beliefs say these sounds are the 'travelling spirits', the souls of the dead who are transported by swans and they accompany the spirits to their resting place. It was also widely held that to kill a swan would bring bad fortune, even death. In Celtic and Gaelic folk tales there are stories of the swan maiden, in which virgins are turned into swans after death. Perhaps that is why swan numbers are falling!

All across Britain there are a large number of pubs named after swans. In 2005 the ornithologist Steve Shaw assembled a list of 770 pubs with the name 'swan' in the title. Some of the more unusual ones are: Swan and Pyramids, Weeping Swans, Swan and Railway, Black Swan, Swan and Sugarloaf, Swan and Hoop, and the Swan with Two Necks, (a corruption of nicks) a reference to the ancient practice of cutting a nick on the beak to identify the bird. There is also a pub called the Swan and Peacock, so if Oxhill eventually has a pair of resident swans, who knows ....?



*A young male swan by the pond at the Manor*

*By Ruth Mercer*

Although this year is very different from any other year, as the weather gets colder and damper, and the clocks go back, my thoughts turn to Bonfire Night and hot mugs of soup. There is nothing better than homemade soup, and a particular favourite of ours is Celery and Stilton soup. It will keep quite happily in the fridge for a few days if it doesn't get eaten all in one go. Recently, I substituted the Stilton for Roquefort, purely because Aldi was out of one but had the other, and I can report that it was an excellent substitution! Full disclosure, I love most cheese. I make soups in a pressure cooker but there is no need to if you don't have one: a pressure cooker just gets it cooked quicker. I also blend it with a stick hand blender in the pan as it's less of a faff than using a liquidiser or food processor.

## **CELERY AND STILTON SOUP**

25g butter or 1 tbsp cooking oil  
1 head of celery, sliced thinly  
1 onion, chopped  
600 ml stock (I use stock cubes and water)  
1/2 tsp dried thyme  
Salt and pepper  
2 tsp cornflour  
600ml milk  
125g Stilton, chopped or crumbled (cheddar or other cheese can be used)



1. Melt the butter or heat the oil in a large saucepan or pressure cooker.
2. Add the celery and onion and fry until transparent. Add the stock, salt and pepper and thyme.
3. Bring to the boil. Simmer for 50 minutes with the lid on, stirring occasionally. (If using a pressure cooker, seal and heat to high pressure. Cook for 10 minutes, then reduce pressure quickly.)
4. Blend, liquidise or process to a smooth liquid. Mix the cornflour with the milk, starting with a little milk at first.
5. Add the milk-cornflour mix into the soup and return to the boil, stirring until thickened. Turn the heat down.
6. Stir in the crumbled cheese and reheat gently, being careful not to boil it.

Another favourite for dark winter days is ginger cake, Parkin being the traditional Bonfire Night cake. I like to serve mine with a lemon icing, which sounds slightly weird but tastes delicious. This recipe is called Gingerbread but it is a cake, definitely not something you could make a house out of! I tend to mix the cake in a stand mixer which produces a light cake.

## GINGERBREAD WITH LEMON ICING

225g hard margarine or butter  
225g soft or dark brown sugar  
225g black treacle  
325g plain flour  
2 eggs, beaten  
2 tsp ground ginger  
2 tsp cinnamon  
Pinch of salt  
2 tsp bicarbonate of soda  
250ml milk

1. Turn the oven on to 170 C or 160 C fan oven. Line the base of a 10" square cake tin with baking parchment or greaseproof paper and grease the sides well.
2. Place sugar, treacle and margarine/butter in a suitable bowl and microwave until the fat has melted (around 2 minutes in my vintage microwave). Alternatively, heat in a saucepan. Leave to cool slightly.
3. Add the beaten eggs.
4. Sieve the flour, salt, ginger and cinnamon into the melted mixture and mix well.
5. Warm the milk and stir in the bicarbonate of soda. Add this to the mixture and mix together.
6. Pour into the prepared tin and bake in the oven for 1 to 1 1/4 hours, testing with a cocktail stick, which, when inserted into the middle of the cake, will come out clean when the cake is cooked.

## LEMON ICING

15g butter  
45ml lemon juice  
175g icing sugar

Place the butter and lemon juice into a small microwaveable bowl and heat for 30 seconds, until the butter has melted. Sieve the icing sugar into the bowl and beat until smooth.

Once the cake has cooled, pour the icing over the top.



# WHERE THERE'S A WILL THERE'S A WAY

*(published in its original form in the Oxhill News, June 2014)*

*by Carol Clark*

Most Oxhillians will be well aware of the slave's grave in our churchyard. It is fairly common knowledge that Myrtila was probably brought to England from Nevis in the West Indies by one Thomas Beauchamp, who was married to Perletta Meese, twin daughter of the then Oxhill rector, Walwyn Meese. However, I believe little else has been documented about these families, apart from the baptisms of Perletta's siblings in the Oxhill registers, and some details about Perletta's brother, Walwyn, who was the rector of Holy Trinity, Stratford-upon-Avon. So one wet weekend, I decided to see if anything of interest was available on the internet.



*Myrtila's journey: The island of Nevis in the Caribbean to  
St Lawrence's Church in Oxhill*

Almost immediately I scored a result, with the discovery of the will of Perletta Beauchamp (Thomas' widow), proved in September 1750. This makes reference to her two daughters, Finetta and Martha, as well as her late son, Meese Beauchamp. Perletta was then living in Greenwich, London, which is interesting as it may indicate the trade associated with the plantations on Nevis was using London as a port.

On a roll, the same website then came up with wills for other family members. Out of all of them, though, my favourite has to be Robert Meese, Perletta's older brother, who was apparently a member of the legal profession in London. Not only does he seem to have a wry sense of humour (most unusual to find this illustrated in an 18th century will), but also humility. In his will of 1740, he says:

*"...I give to my good sisters Madam Duncomb (Margaretta, Perletta's twin) and Mrs Beauchamp (Perletta) all my household goods now in their custody at Greenwich to be equally divided between them and I give them besides a guinea ring to each to keep if they please in remembrance of their dear departed brother whom they have always used with as much or more decent respect and kindness than they thought an elder brother deserved and hope they will not take it in ill part that I give them no larger legacys in regard they both enjoy ... plentiful estates ..."*

And further on,

*"... I give to the poor of Oxhill where I was born twenty pounds ... for I prefer these small charitable legacys much before a gaudy funeral earnestly desiring that mine may be very private and with as little expense as may be ..."*



*Market Cross at the top of Bridge Street, Stratford-upon-Avon decorated for the Garrick Jubilee, 1769.*

Recently, I tracked down Thomas Beauchamp's family after they left Oxhill. They moved to Little Bourton, Oxfordshire, and at least two younger children were baptised in Cropredy in 1716 and 1717. However there's also evidence in the Cropredy registers of Thomas' fall from grace. In 1723, there's the following entries penned by the less-than-impressed incumbent:

*Thomas the Reputed son of Mr Thomas Beauchamp of Little Bourton begotton & born in fornication of the body of Elizabeth Hazlewood of Cropredy was baptised on the 20th day of March 1723*

And two days later, emphasising his opinions:

*Thomas the reputed son of Mr Thomas Beauchamp of Little Bourton begotton & born in fornication of ye body of Elizabeth Hazlewood of Cropredy was buried on ye 22nd day of March 1723*

# OXHILL VILLAGE HALL

## Seniors Christmas Take Away Lunch

**Tuesday 8th December**

This traditional Christmas lunch is open to anyone in the village who is 65 or over & their spouse/partner whatever their age. It's funded by the Village Hall committee but donations are of course always welcome.

Invitations to all those invited last year will be distributed at the beginning of November, but it's not too late to be added to the list if you are new to the village. We aim to deliver to houses if required & hope that, if permitted at that time, groups of up to 6 will get together to make it a festive occasion.

If you are or know of anyone who is new to the village who is eligible please contact Jo Collings [itsjocollings@gmail.com](mailto:itsjocollings@gmail.com) or 01295 680215

## Village Hall Building Fund

We've had some success over the last 6 months with grants from Heart of England, ACRE, The Bernard Sunley Fund & SDC but we still have only a third of the funds needed to do the work necessary to update & extend the hall.

Our grant application to Severn Trent went to the third & final stage but then was turned down by a consumer panel due to high demand.

Our application to the Lottery fund was through to the second stage just before lockdown when all applications were suspended indefinitely.

All these applications take a lot of time & commitment & it's very disappointing that we have hit such a difficult year for grants. However, we will keep trying to raise the funds needed.





## **OXHILL PARISH COUNCIL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 08.09.20 DRAFT PRECIS OF MEETING**

The meeting was held remotely due to Government restrictions. All Councillors attended the meeting with Cllr Chris Williams, Cllr John Feilding and a guest speaker.

### **To approve the minutes of the meetings held on 7<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

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

### **Matters Arising**

Rats - Various members of the community have tackled localised issues at their properties and the issues seems to be under control. Pest controllers have advised that membership of the public do not deploy their own control measures, such as poisons, as these can have an impact on local wildlife etc.

Planting at Cariad – An email was sent to SDC informing them the property has been sold. SDC will contact the new owners at the appropriate time. Planting can happen in September/October time.

Church Farm, Whatcote Road – This is ongoing. It is on the SDC action list for formal action but currently low priority.

Waste on lane next to Oxhill Farm - Cllr Feilding visited the area with Cllr Stuart. The Environment Agency have been involved before. More waste has been added recently. Cllr Feilding advised that the NFU give free legal advice.

### **Guest Speaker, Daniel Jackson of Sheldon Bosley Knight**

Daniel Jackson (DJ) attended the meeting and acts for the owners of Windmill Farm. It is a jointly owned business and he has been involved for some time. Previous applications have included a new shop and office space. This application is for one new dwelling. He explained the set up of the business and agreed to circulate the plans.

### **To receive a report from the County and District Councillor**

Cllr Williams had provided a detailed report. The main subject headings were an update on Covid 19, Unitary Authority and the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of community grants.

Cllr John Feilding gave the following report:

There is an ongoing discussion with regards to the Boundary Commission report. SDC are looking to save costs by unifying with Warwick District Council. A Covid 19 update was given. The current total of confirmed cases is 553 with a current average of 1 case per day being confirmed.

### **To discuss a constrained winter in the village due to C-19 and how to plan for it**

The pandemic is weather dependant as can be seen in Australia now. November to February will be a very difficult time. Previously people talked and helped out neighbours. This should be monitored if there is a second wave.

### **To discuss the financial contribution given to the PCC for grass cutting**

The PC can no longer give any contribution to the PCC for grass cutting. It is the separation of church and state.

### **To discuss the positioning of the new waste bins**

Two new waste bins were purchased and installed by WCC. Various comments have been received about both bins. The bin by the Old Rectory is on the service strip. Highways take precedence and are allowed to position signs or bins on that strip.

### **To receive an update on the new bus shelter**

Work is progressing. Highways have waived their fee.

### **To discuss the Leys Field lower corner footpath**

One of the residents of The Leys has been approached by the VHC about access to the village hall corner from the Leys. This was removed from the original agreement and supported at the time by the Parish Council. The Village Hall are currently applying for grants to do building work.

### **To receive an update on planning**

One new application had been received since the last meeting:-

- *DISCN/00185/20 and DISCN/00186/20, Discharge of Conditions at Fithers Field, Whatcote Road.* No comments.

Two applications were received after the agenda had been issued:

- *20/02196/FUL, Demolition of existing detached garage and construction of replacement detached garage, to match original, on new piled foundation. Works due to garage suffering from subsidence related damage at 2 The Sett.* Under consideration. Comments to be in by 1<sup>st</sup> October.

- *20/02373/TREE, Remove 1 Cedar and 1 Birch at Old Barn Cottage, Main Street.*

Under consideration. Comments to be in 25<sup>th</sup> September.

### **Financial Report**

*The following payments were approved:*

£480.00 to the Parish Clerk (hours)

£120.00 to HMRC

£30.00 to WALC (Training - DH)

£60.00 to WALC (Training- MR)

£19.76 to L Stuart (website)

£600.00 to Oxhill Village Hall (grant)

*To discuss ideas on how to spend the CIL money*

The Parish Council have received CIL money from SDC from the new properties built in Green Lane. There will be more to come as new houses are built. SDC have confirmed how the CIL money can be spent.

### **To receive Councillors Reports**

The condition of Gilks Lane was reported to WCC Highways. They have advised that a structural engineer will look at the road.

Cllr Stuart gave an update on the website. There is a legal requirement to make the website accessible to all. Cllr Stuart will attend a webinar to gather more information. It may be that a new website provider has to be found.

Cllr Connolly gave an update on footpaths. One slat has been replaced on the large bridge in Fithers Field. The beam underneath is rotten. Rails have been added to the bridge behind the church by Grenville Moore. This has improved safety. There is another bridge which needs to be reported.

### **Date and Time of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2020 at 8pm

# COUNTRY WAYS

We are very lucky to have such open country side around us in Oxhill. However, land owners in the local area have been experiencing several problems with people not respecting their land.

## Ditch and Hedge

It is an old law that where the boundary to land is edged with a ditch both the ditch and the hedge belong to the land owner on the hedge side of the ditch as ditches were dug on the outer boundary and the hedge planted on the inner side on the mound of soil from the ditch digging. If you look closely at the hedges today you will see that many of them still sit on a mound



*Ditch and Hedge Illustration: The presumed boundary in this image is shown as a red line on the far side of the ditch from the hedge.*

Vowles and Miller 1810: In his judgement, Lawrence J quoted:

*"The rule about ditching is this. No man, making a ditch, can cut into his neighbour's soil, but usually he cuts it to the very extremity of his own land: he is of course bound to throw the soil which he digs out, upon his own land; and often, if he likes it, he plants a hedge on the top of it. Therefore, if he afterwards cuts beyond the edge of the ditch, which is the extremity of his land, he cuts into his neighbour's land, and is a trespasser."*

The ditch and hedge rule applies as much today as it did in 1810.

<https://www.boundarydisputes.org/boundary-articles/ditch-and-hedge/>

There have been several cases where this ruling has been upheld in recent years e.g. Parmar and Others V Upton 2015 – Court of Appeal and Alan Wibberley Building Ltd

V Inasley 1999 -House of Lords. In all cases the court ruled in accordance with the 1810 ditch and hedge rule.

Before hedges are cut or ditches filled/ dug out the land owner should be contacted for permission.

### Hedge cuttings/ other green waste

This should not be thrown into fields as this is a form of fly tipping and can be dangerous to any live stock that are in the fields and can be fatal. Brambles can become entwined into sheep's wool and can be difficult to remove, if left can dig into the flesh and cause infections.

### Dog mess

As with the streets and other public areas dog owners are responsible for cleaning up after their dogs on agricultural land, we now have a network of bins that means we are never far away from a receptacle. It is very frustrating for land owners who have foot paths crossing their land and enable all of us to walk in open spaces to find that it is littered with dog poo. This can also be dangerous to live stock and unpleasant for anyone following the offending dog.

### Shutting gates

When walking the fields there are often gates that are left off the latch. It is important these are shut even if no livestock are in the fields. A farmer will not always be able to check all gates from the footpaths when releasing animals. Not only is it important that gates are closed but it is good manners.





# Carers4Carers

Finding support through supporting each other

Carers4Carers is a self-help support group for carers living in Kineton and the surrounding villages and rural area.

Our next virtual coffee morning will take place on Friday 27th November at 10:00 am. Look out for joining instructions in our monthly email or contact the number below. New and existing members are welcome.

To find out more about our work, take a look at our website [www.carers4carersonthefosse.org.uk](http://www.carers4carersonthefosse.org.uk), email us at [kcarers4carers@gmail.com](mailto:kcarers4carers@gmail.com) or call 07947 893504.

*Lisa*

*Carers4Carers*

*Lisa Barnett – Assistant Coordinator*



*Enjoying coffee outside the Peacock Pub on a Thursday morning.*

*Photo by Ruth Mercer*



# Tysoe Tennis Club

www.tysoetennisclub.co.uk

Well done to the Ladies A Team who have just completed their last season's two matches with wins. This means that they have now gained promotion in the Stratford and District Winter League, so congratulations to all who played. A shortened season of matches is proposed and hopefully will start in November subject to Covid-19 regulations. Two mixed teams have been entered in the Banbury and District Winter League as well as a Ladies B Team in the Stratford and District League.

Any budding players who would like some competitive play or just want to play to keep fit are more than welcome to join the Club. Please come along to the Sunday club mornings at 10.30 and give it a go.

## JUNIOR TENNIS

Tots' Tennis – You are never too young to start playing and, along with Tennisolutions, younger players can have a fun 30-minute session on Sunday mornings from 9.00 to 9.30 am. Important skills such as balance, coordination and agility are taught alongside basic racket skills.

Coaching – The older children continue to enjoy their Sunday mornings from 9.30 to 10.30 am with tennis coaches Tom and Luke. After October half term coaching will be available on Friday afternoons from 4.30 pm onwards, depending on age group.

Junior tennis:  
Debbie at [admin@tennisolutions.co.uk](mailto:admin@tennisolutions.co.uk) or  
Nicki Campbell on [nicki@tysoe.net](mailto:nicki@tysoe.net)

Club Secretary – Carol Spencer 07708 412767  
[carol.spencer234@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:carol.spencer234@hotmail.co.uk)







## WOT2GROW COMMUNITY ORCHARD

What a good month with the later apples and pears all coming along and providing some delicious fruits for the members!

The main activity is the ongoing pruning and with the masses of growth this year large quantities of prunings are being piled up ready to be burnt, that should produce a delicious aroma from the apple wood.

We are lucky this year to have Joe Harper from Oxhill doing his volunteering for his Duke of Edinburgh award. He is learning how to prune and is doing a great job especially with a pruning saw so is really a very welcome volunteer!

Our usual volunteers are busy weeding and dealing with our hedges and windbreaks, there is always plenty to do!!

The Community Orchard is just behind the allotments on the Shenington Road in Tysoe.



Liz Atkinson (680045), Paul Sayer (680451), Sue and Mike Sanderson (688080)  
website [www.wot2grow.co.uk](http://www.wot2grow.co.uk)



*Volunteer Pruning!*



*Pruning with a Saw*



# Tysoe

Church of England Primary School



## OPEN MORNING

**Saturday 14th November**  
**9.30 – 11.30am**

By appointment. Please call the school.



Tysoe C.E. Primary School, School Lane, Tysoe, Warwick CV35 0SD Tel: 01295 680244

## **TYSOE CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Willow Class went on a walk round Tysoe to investigate the local bedrock as part of their science learning. They also looked at how different rocks were used around the village and for evidence of erosion.

### **KS2 Rock Stars**

The children in KS2 have been working hard on learning their times tables using Times Tables Rock Stars. The first children to be placed on the leader board were awarded their certificates last week and I am looking forward to giving out more certificates as the children improve their rock status.

### **Open Morning for Prospective Parents**

We are hosting an Open Morning on Saturday 14th November for prospective parents of children due to start Reception in September 2021. If you have any family or friends in the local area with a child due to begin Reception next September please pass on the details, we would be happy to book an appointment for them.

The closing date to make your child's primary or infant school application is **15 January 2021**.



*Willow Class investigating local bedrock*

If you have an email address, the easiest way to apply for school places is online.

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/applying-school-place-reception/apply-school-place-reception/1>

Thank you to the Friends of Tysoe School for the new wellie racks and covers to keep the children's boots dry and easily accessible. The children are already making good use of these.



# SHIPSTON HOME NURSING



Our supporters are helping us, thank you Deborah and Tania. We also have a new collection of our popular notelets, which we can all use to be writing to our friends and relatives even if we cannot see them, do go to our website to order these or purchase from the usual outlets in Shipston.

*Thank you,  
Rebecca Mawle, Head of Community Fundraising*

## TULIPA ARMSCOTE

ARE NOW AVAILABLE FROM...

Whichford Pottery, The Richard Harvey Collection, Talton Mill, Taste of the Country  
[www.armscotemanor.co.uk](http://www.armscotemanor.co.uk) and [www.shipstonhomenursing.co.uk](http://www.shipstonhomenursing.co.uk)  
 Height: 40cm • Blooms in: April-May • Bulb size: 11-12cm

**PRICE PER PACK OF BULBS**

6 for £6.50 • 12 for £12.00 • 24 for £22.00  
 • 36 for £31.00 • 48 for £40.00

For more information please call Rebecca Mawle on 01608 674929 or Armscote Manor on 01608 682375

End of Season

# SALE

Up to

## 50%

off

PLEASE USE CODE 'SHN10' AT CHECKOUT TO ENSURE THAT 10% OF YOUR ORDER GOES TO SHIPSTON HOME NURSING. THIS WILL ALSO GIVE YOU FREE DELIVERY TO THE UK.

# AUTUMN NOTELETS

12 CARDS  
(2 OF EACH DESIGN) WITH ENVELOPES

## Only £6

Our thanks to Cambridgeshire based artist Jenny Wilson for allowing us to use her artwork.  
 Notelets are available from local Businesses in Shipston

To order please visit [www.shipstonhomenursing.co.uk](http://www.shipstonhomenursing.co.uk) or contact Rebecca Mawle on  
 T: 01608 674929 E: [rebecca.mawle@shipstonhomenursing.co.uk](mailto:rebecca.mawle@shipstonhomenursing.co.uk)

All proceeds from the sale of these cards go to Shipston Home Nursing

GO TO [WWW.TANIALLEWELLYN.COM](http://WWW.TANIALLEWELLYN.COM)

# Keeping Connected

"I am so happy to have a new friend.  
We all need friends."



**Are you a caregiver, or someone who has lost a loved one?  
Perhaps you're living with an illness that means you can't  
get out as much as you'd like.**

We have telephone befrienders and pen pals who can offer  
regular, meaningful conversation and companionship.

At Omega we understand the importance of meaningful  
relationships for health and wellbeing, but we also know  
how difficult it can be to meet new people or maintain  
connection with those around you.

Our telephone befriending programme, Chatterbox  
Action Against Loneliness, and our pen pal service, A  
Letter from Louise, are both completely free. If you'd like  
to find out more, please contact us at:

**01743 245 088 or [info@omega.uk.net](mailto:info@omega.uk.net)**



Omega, the National Association for End of Life Care | Registered Charity No. 1120322  
[www.omega.uk.net](http://www.omega.uk.net)

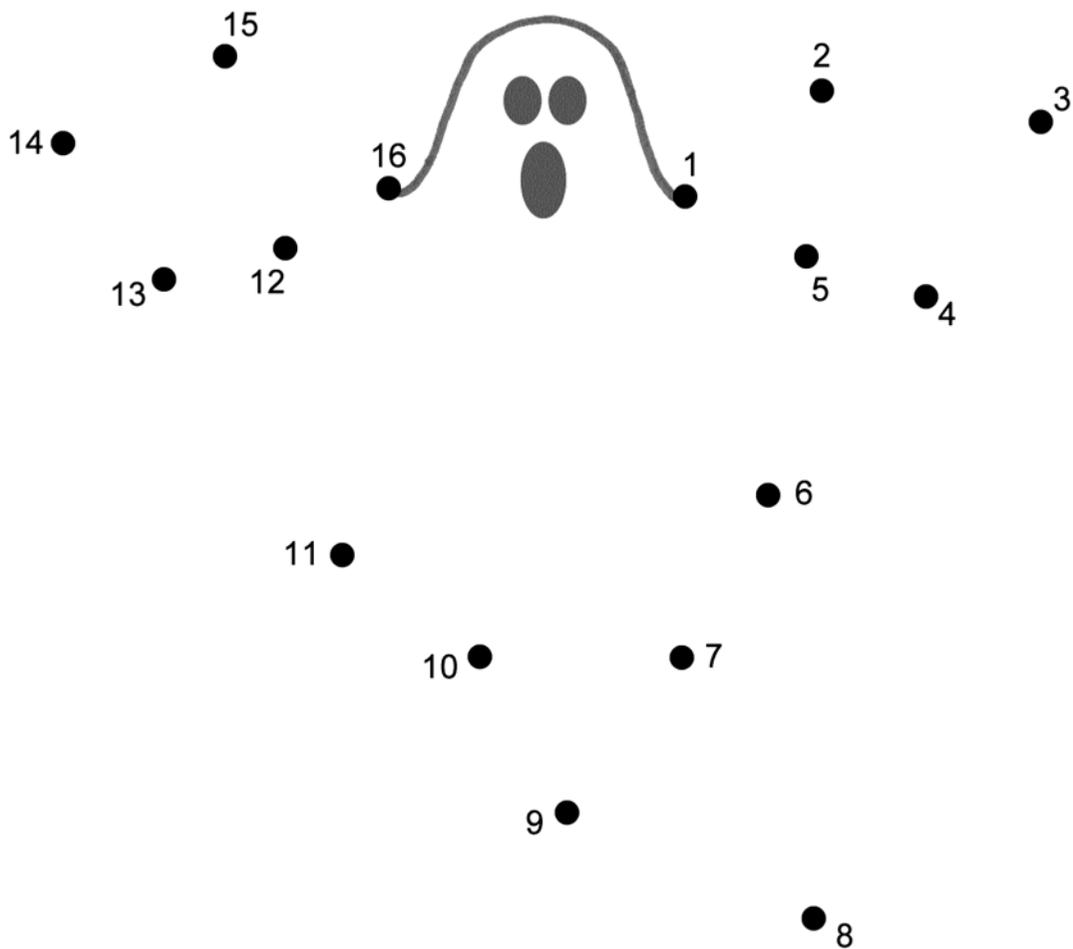
Find us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram at @OmegaConnected   

# DOT TO DOT

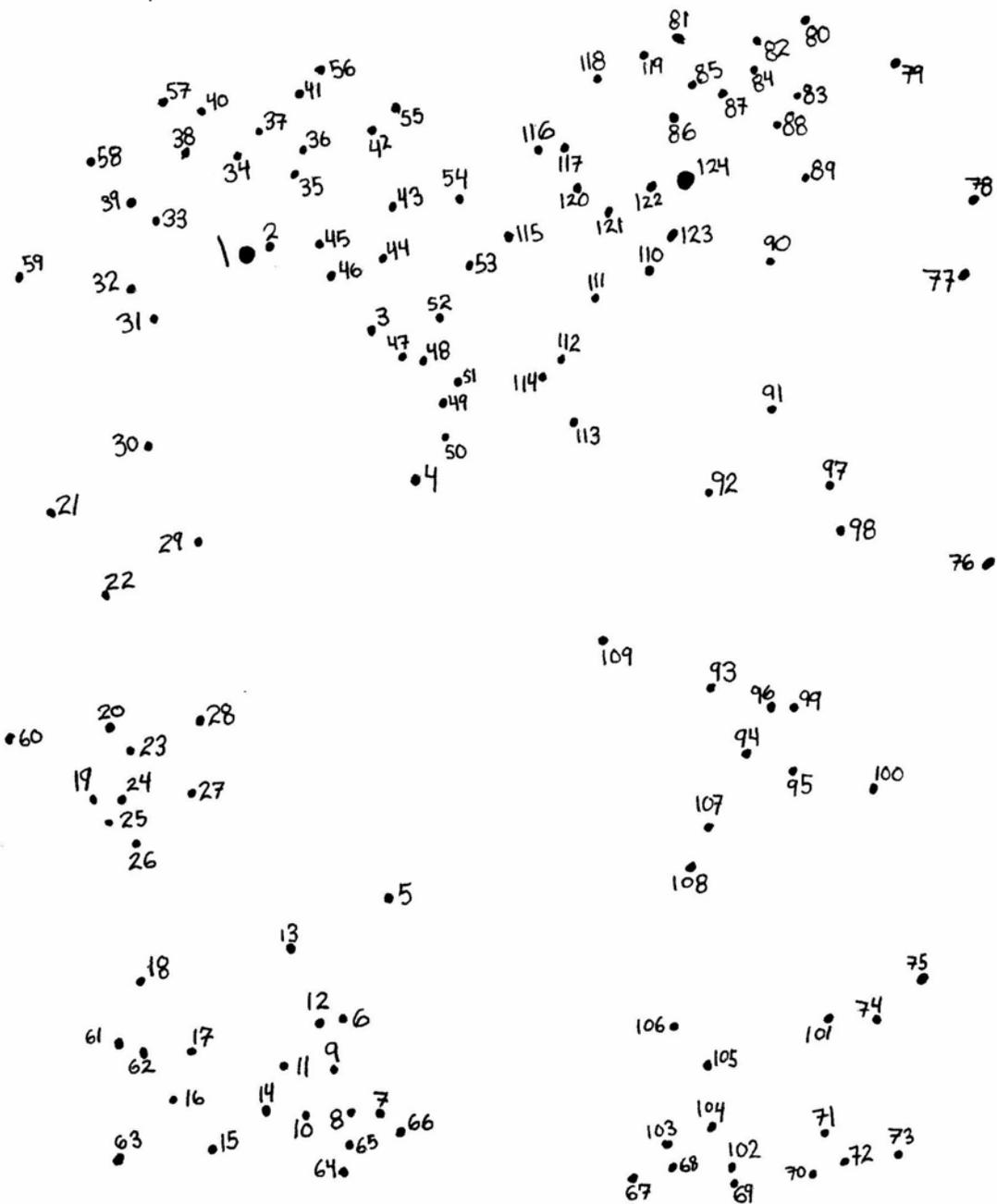
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What is on the picture?

Connect the dots and find out.



# DOT TO DOT



## WHAT'S ON IN & AROUND OXHILL

### November

Tuesday 3rd		Grey landfill bin collection
Tuesday 10th		Green & Blue bin collection
Tuesday 17th		Grey landfill bin collection
Tuesday 24th		Green & Blue bin collection
Friday 27th	13:15 - 13:30	Mobile Library, outside Village Hall
Saturday 28th	11:00 - 15:00	Made in Oxhill Pop-Up, Peacock Garden

The date of the next PC Meeting is Tuesday, 10 November at 8.00pm. It is unclear, at present, whether this meeting will be held at the Village Hall or virtually by Zoom. More details will be in the Agenda for the meeting which will be shown on the PC Website or a physical copy will be displayed on the Notice Board by the Peacock a few days before the meeting.



*Thank you to all the creative villagers who put up wonderful Halloween decorations. I apologise if your spooky display didn't make it into the News. There were too many ghostly ghouls and not enough pages for them to haunt.*

*~ Vanessa, editor*