# THE OXHILL NEWS

March 2018 No. 520



The dancing princesses of Mrs. Precious' ballet and tap class in the Village Hall

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

### 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 <a href="mailto:news-editor@oxhill.org.uk">news-editor@oxhill.org.uk</a> or place paper contributions in the box labelled 'The Oxhill News' in the Church.

### 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 March 2nd and 23rd. For further info please telephone: 01926 851031

### REFUSE COLLECTION

Recycling and green waste bins (blue and green bins) will be collected on Tuesdays March 6th and 20th.

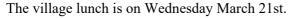
The grey rubbish bins will be collected Tuesdays March 13th and 27th.

### WEEKDAY WALKERS

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

### THE PEACOCK

The village coffee morning is on Wed. March 7th at 10:30 am.







Pub Quiz in support of the Oxhill Laaaaadieees on Sunday March 18th at 8 pm.

COME AND SUPPORT OUR LAAAAADIEEES!!



# BALLET AND TAP FOR CHILDREN VILLAGE HALL

Mrs Precious offers ballet and tap classes every Monday during term time at Oxhill Village Hall. The children who currently attend really enjoy it. There are a couple of spaces if anyone is interested in joining. Boys and girls welcome.

Monday 6pm-7pm - up to age 7 Monday 7pm - 8pm - age 7 onwards

£2.60 per child per hour

For any questions, please contact Mrs Precious on 01295 680354



### **NATURE NOTES**

About a week ago I was walking the fields with my binoculars hoping to see a hare, which will soon be pairing off. I decided to come back on a different route to my usual over heavy plough which was hard going and I thought why on earth did I come this way. Then I saw a russet shape in the middle of the plough, and raising my binoculars hoping to see a hare I was surprised to see a buzzard. You don't usually see buzzard on the plough, although worms are a major part of their diet at this time of year. As I got closer I could see the buzzard had seen me but made no attempt to fly off. I made a direct line towards it but it still didn't take off. As I reached it I could see why; his feet were the size of tennis balls caked in mud where he had obviously been trying to clean his legs. I scooped him up (quite small,

probably last year's bird, a young male) and brought him home. He made no attempt to be aggressive. He was very light and I suspect he had been down in that field for at least 24 hours.

On the way home I bumped into Jane Smith who fortunately had just caught mouse in a trap, so we now had some food for him. I cleaned him up and put him down on the grass, but he was unable to fly and was far too weak and dehydrated, so we boxed him up and eventually managed to get water into him with a small syringe. He also ate the mouse and



some worms. We put him in a dark room for the night. I had hoped he would be fit to fly in the morning, but he was still too weak, although he was much more alert. I decided to take him over the Vale Wildlife Hospital near Evesham where they have all the resources to take care of him. As I write this he is doing well, putting on weight, but still unable to fly. Fingers crossed he will make a full recovery,

Something completely different. Driving into the village last Friday evening about 6.00 pm, wandering about in Main Street were a female adult Muntjac with her young fawn. We stopped and watched as they vanished into Leys Field.

Walking early this morning I watched a Barn Owl hunting along the brook for a good ten minutes. I kept perfectly still as the owl did a large circle and came back towards me and to my utter delight landed on a post not ten feet away from me. I watched it for a while before it flew away.

### Grenville Moore





# OXHILL VILLAGE HALL UPCOMING EVENTS AND NEWS

### Coming next...

### Saturday 10 March – Big Breakfast

We have around 20 bookings so far and can take up to 48 people, so let us know if you want to come along, asap.

Remember this is the perfect opportunity to catch up with the family and friends in our friendly, characterful and ever-improving village hall (warmer, new crockery, better insulated, great service – as always!). And we use quality produce, with some sourced locally.

Breakfasts can be booked at 15 minute intervals between 9am and 11am. Full English: Eggs, 2 bacon rashers, 2 sausages, mushrooms or black pudding, beans, tomato and toast – all for £7 adults and £4 children.

Continental: Croissant, pain au chocolat, toast and juice – all for £3 adults and £2 children

Drinks: Pot of tea £1.50, Coffee cafetiere £2.50

To book your tickets and time slot please call Jay Roberts on (01295) 680030

### Coming soon...

### Friday 20 April - Paella Night

Our paella making evening, using our specially bought pan and tools to make the perfect Spanish dish, has been a hit when we have run it. So here's another opportunity to enjoy more, great company over a community organised meal using fresh, quality ingredients.

The cost is £12.50 per person.

Tickets are now available from Tricia Harbour on (01295) 680676.

### **Annual General Meeting in April**

Just a heads up to let you know our Village Hall AGM will be on April 10th. There will be committee positions to fill, in officer and non-officer roles.

If you have never been on the committee before or are new to the village and want to get involved in village life, why not give it a go? We are a very friendly bunch and are supported, not least, by some fabulous friends of the village hall.



## THE 'OXHILL LAAAAADIEEES' ARE AT IT AGAIN

Last year, we conquered a fairy sizeable chunk if the Cotswold Way on foot. This year, we want to continue the amazing things we can achieve as a group, so we are dusting of our bicycles and heading to London to cycle 100km through the night.

On Saturday 5th May 2018, we will be taking part in 'Women V Cancer Ride the Night' - officially the largest female-only cycling event in the UK. The challenge is to cycle 100km throughout the night on a circular route. The route – starting and finishing at Windsor Castle - will take us into London past famous landmarks including Westminster Abbey, Trafalgar Square, Buckingham Palace and many more! It will be a challenging ride that is achievable with plenty of training beforehand.

By kind permission of Mark and Sarah, the 'Oxhill Laaaaadieees' will be hosting another spectacular pub quiz at The Peacock. The quiz will be on Sunday 18th March, kicking off the first round at 8pm. Teams of 4, £5 per player. As before, please enter your team prior to the event. We will be hosting a small raffle on the night – any donated prizes will be gratefully received!

Please contact Lucy Mercer 01295 680407



### OXHILL VILLAGE HALL BURNS NIGHT REPORT

In a beautifully decorated Hall (Thanks, Jude MacDonald & Tricia Harbour) some 30 plus people enjoyed an excellent, traditional supper of tasty homemade Scotch Broth (Thanks, Pat Crowther) Haggis, Neeps and Tatties (Thanks, Tricia & Karen Barker) a Whiskey laced Dessert (Thanks, Stuart W) plus Cheese and Biscuits accompanied by traditional/modern speeches and entertainment.



Katy Dowding master-minded the build-up to the event and Derek Harbour was the MC and oversaw the proceedings for the evening. The Address to the Haggis was superbly delivered by Eileen MacPherson, then Iain MacPherson, with assistance from Duncan Harper and Stuart Barker, provided a thought provoking and informative Immortal Memory and tribute to Robbie Burns. Iain also provided his very amusing address to the Lassies and Katy Dowding replied with a robust 'Toast to the Laddies'.

Then, we were most fortunate to have a guest appearance from Dr Finlay (Roger Goodman)



and his Housekeeper, Janet (Gill Stewart) that was highly entertaining and had everyone in tears of laughter. Well written Roger and well performed by the pair of them.

It was a wonderful evening – where were you?

### AFTERNOON TEA AND PROSECCO

# How does that sound for spending a pleasant Sunday afternoon in April?

Well, come along to the Old Chapel on Sunday 15th April where you will be entertained to a scrumptious afternoon tea produced by the excellent cooks on our social committee. Scones. small cakes. meringues and dainty sandwiches accompanied by Prosecco or a great cup of tea or coffee.

More details will follow in the form of poster and fliers. So mark it in your diary or on your calendar. Proceeds to St. Lawrence Church.

Carol Fox 01295680223

We have a **32 inch Sony TV** in working order going spare, if anyone would like it (free, gratis, for nothing) please ring 680564.

Thanks, Deb and Mike Collins



# FREE LEVEL 2 YOUTH WORK TRAINING (worth over £450)

Are you interested in working with young people in your local community? Do you have some spare time or fancy a career change?

Are you aged over 18 and living in Warwick or Stratford Districts?

Warwickshire County Council is funding an opportunity for you to gain a Level 2 Award in Youth Work Practice. The training will take place in Leamington Spa 1 day a month over 4 months beginning in April 2018 and is accredited by ABC Awards.

Units covered include:

- The Theory of Youth Work
- Safeguarding in a Youth Work Setting
- Young People's Development
- Engaging and Communicating with Young People

These 4 days of training are accompanied by a portfolio of written and practical work and followed by at least 6 months of paid or voluntary work with young people (2-3hrs a week).

We will help you to identify a suitable placement if you are not currently involved in one and support you to find paid employment where appropriate on completion of the course.

For an application form please contact Rachel at Young People First on 01926 450 156 or by emailing: Rachel.woodbridge@youngpeoplefirst.org.uk

In order to make the future of youth work as sustainable as possible we are aiming for a wide geographical spread of applicants from across South Warwickshire.

Application deadline: 12.00pm noon on Thursday, 1st March 2018



### OXHILL PARISH COUNCIL CLERK / RFO

Oxhill is in Stratford on Avon District

Oxhill Parish Council are seeking a Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer to the Council (The Parish Clerk). Oxhill PC is a small Parish Council and Councillors meet on the 2nd Tuesday of every other month with occasional additional meetings. The Clerk would be expected to attend all meetings.

### **Brief Job Description**

- Ensure statutory running of the Council
- Administer all aspects of financial accounting and reporting
- Maintain, develop and control effective security measures and systems for Council records. Reasonable, basic IT skills are required
- To prepare Agendas and take Minutes of the meetings
- To receive correspondence and documents and bring to the attention of the Council
- To receive and report on occasional invoices for goods and services to be paid for
- To ensure accounting dates are met on time and in accordance with mandates and procedures
- To maintain and upload documents to the website as required

The post is 10 hours per month - primarily working from home. Salary for the post would be in accordance with the current National Joint Salary Scale LC1, salary points 15 to 19, ie £1200pa.

Applications are invited from suitably experienced people. Alternatively, applicants who are able to fulfil most of the items shown above and are willing to undertake training will be considered. The post is open to Oxhill residents and others and is being concurrently advertised.

**Please apply** via e-mail with accompanying CV to our present clerk Ms Lis Stuart via e-mail: <a href="mailto:lis.stuart@outlook.com">lis.stuart@outlook.com</a>

Closing date for applications is Friday 16th March, 2018



### PANCAKE SUPPER

A big thank you to all who supported the Pancake Supper on Pancake day. Special thanks to Gaida and Carol B. for their wonderful help and to all the pancake makers. And last but not least Gerry Webb for doing all the washing up. Brilliant. Not sure yet how much was raised.

### Carol Fox

P.S. Our plans for a Spring Lunch have been changed into a Summer Lunch possibly on a Sunday in June.











### ST LAWRENCE CHURCH DIARY DATES FOR MARCH AND EASTER DAY

We are now in Lent, that time of waiting with Jesus in preparation for the events of Good Friday and Easter. In Oxhill our services and events are:

- Sunday, March 4th 9.30am, Holy Communion, with Rev George Heighton
- Wednesday, March 7th 10.00am, Informal Holy Communion at Oddcot
- Sunday, March 11<sup>th</sup> 9.30 am, Mothering Sunday, special service for Mothering Sunday, with posies all round, with Rev Jill Tucker
- Sunday, March 18<sup>th</sup> 9.30 amPassion Sunday, Holy Communion with Rev Jill Tucker
- Sunday, March 25th 3.30 pm Palm Sunday, Family Service
- Wednesday, March 28th 7.30 pm Holy Week Compline, with Rev George Heighton
- Friday, March 30<sup>th</sup> 10.00 am 12 noon Good Friday, Messy Easter in The Old Chapel: making the Easter display, with Hot Cross Buns
- Friday, March 30<sup>th</sup> 7.30 pm Good Friday, Music, Meditation and Prayer in Tysoe Church, involving the Benefice Choir
- Friday, Sunday, April 1st 9.30 am Easter Day, the great celebration of Holy Communion for Easter Day, with Rev Jill Tucker

We hope you can join up on the journey!



### **CARERS4CARERS**

Friday 23rd March 10.30 – 12 noon: Carers4Carers meeting at Kineton Village Hall. Come and join us for a cup of coffee and a chat. There will be a chance to find out more about the "Five Ways to Wellbeing". 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.



Be Part Of It

The 2017 St Lawrence Electoral Roll comprises 40 persons – not a large number considering the general regard in which the Church is held by those residing in the village.

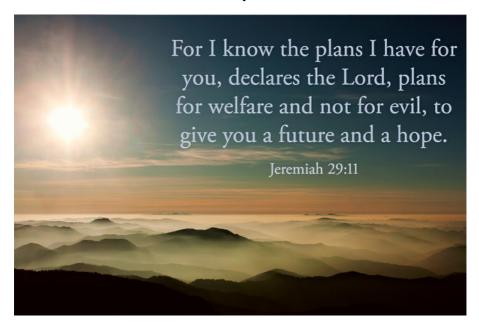
As an architectural feature and landmark the church is an integral part of Oxhill – indeed the activities that take place there, be they the weekly services or less frequent christenings, weddings and funerals, are part of village life. Occasional secular / fund raising events such as scarecrow weekends, lamb and curry lunches and barn dances. (now often joint ventures with the Village Hall) bring villagers together to enjoy one another's company and help give Oxhill its unique character. The PCC would like to have a buoyant Electoral Roll – eligibility for inclusion thereon is simply a matter of having been baptised, considering oneself to be 'C of E', and being resident in the parish of Oxhill.

If you've not been inside St Lawrence's recently, drop in and enjoy a few moments' tranquillity – and maybe, as a friend of the church, pick up a form to complete and be part of the 2018 Electoral Roll. Completed forms, please, to the undersigned by 3rd April.

Douglas Nethercleft
Electoral Roll Officer

### MORNING PRAYER

Come join us on Monday mornings at 8:30 at St Lawrence's church for morning prayer. Morning prayers can refresh and recharge our souls as we get ready to take on the tasks and stresses of the day and the week.



Notice is hereby given that the *Electoral Roll of the Church of St Lawrence* is open for revision according to the following timetable:

The existing (2017) parish Electoral Roll will be on display on the Church notice board on or before 6th March 2018.

All persons who wish to have their names entered on the roll and who are not already included thereon are asked to complete an application form (available at the back of the Church) and return it to the undersigned prior to 3rd April on which date the new (2018) roll will be published and put on display.

The (normally very brief) St. Lawrence Church Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) to which everyone is invited is scheduled to take place at 7.30pm on Tuesday 17th April. From 7.00pm wine will flow and cheese (etc.) be made available to encourage participation in this special gathering of friends of St Lawrence.

Douglas Nethercleft Electoral Roll Officer

### **DEANERY NEWS**

As I write this, Shrove Tuesday, Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday are all behind us, and the **Deanery Lent Services** are about to begin, this year, as it is the Centenary Year of the Diocese, we are basing our course on the Cathedral's Lent Course on Reconciliation, and we are looking forward to welcoming several of the newcomers to our Deanery to be our speakers. As ever, all services begin at 7.30pm. with coffee and tea afterwards.

20th February		Components of Reconciliation hn Witcombe, Dean of Coventry
27 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>Ettington</b> Rev. George H	
6 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Tredington</b> Rev. Sharon G	Justice and Peace Goble
13th March	Whichford Rev. Ben Dyso	, .
20th March	<b>Tysoe</b> Rev. Sarah Ed	2
27th March	<b>Newbold</b> Rev. Canon D	Eucharist r. Jill Tucker

Looking ahead a little, some notes for your diaries: 2018 is our Centenary Year as a Diocese, and we are delighted that Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury, will be visiting Coventry between May 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. In particular you might like to note Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup> when there will be a special all-day celebration at the Cathedral, for the whole family, to which everyone is invited.

Immediately after that, **May 10th** is Ascension Day, and there will be special **Deanery Ascension Day Service at 7.30 pm in Preston Church.** Revd. Canon Christopher Lamb will be our preacher.

Looking even further ahead, on **Tuesday, May 22nd** there will be another **Deanery Quiet Morning**, this time in The Free School, Brailes. It will be led by Jane Smith, whose husband Richard was Rector of the SW7 Benefice for some years: there will be coffee available from 9.30 onward, and a light lunch available at 1.00 pm for those who are able to stay.

Every blessing for a Holy Lent, Jill

### OXHILL SUNDAY WALKING GROUP

On Sunday 11th Feb the Oxhill Sunday Walking Group enjoyed a lovely and not too muddy 6 mile walk circular walk from Oxhill to Pillerton lead by Hugh. This was followed by our annual tasty home cooked 4 course lunch in Oxhill Village Hall.











# Oxhill Garden Club

On Thursday 16th February members were treated to a double act of Yorkshire humour interspersed with tried and tested tips from our speaker Ken Whittaker and his wife who is very much part of the nursery business that they run together. Ken enjoys his gardening and was determined that his audience would too!

The tips that he shared are too many to mention but included:

- If starting a 'new build' garden from scratch, start at the far end and work back to the house this hopefully avoids an unsightly 'builders' yard' that never gets cleared;
- If taking over an established garden, wait twelve months to see what comes up / into flower;
- Add a tablespoon of Epsom salts to a packet of Miracle Grow to get even better results;
- Check the 'sell by' date on bags of compost the content degrades over time:
- Only buy plants in flower if it is their proper season a plant forced to flower early will take a long time to recover / resume its natural cycle;
- Cut flowers for the table after 7.00pm and before 7.00am to avoid 'airlocks' in the stems and a consequent shorter life;
- Hormone rooting powder only has a shelf life of 12 months anyway, dip semi-hardwood cuttings in vinegar for just a few seconds to get an even hetter 'take'.

Despite having a Yorkshireman's natural disinclination to spend money, Ken was a firm believer that you only get what you pay for in life - cheapest isn't always the best.

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Our next meeting is the Garden Club's AGM on Thursday 22nd March. 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start in Oxhill Village Hall with these, hopefully brief, proceedings followed by 'nibbles' and social. Annual subscriptions, £10, will be due and meetings will, thereafter, revert to our normal 'second Thursday in the month' routine.

Douglas Nethercleft



### TYSOE CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

It has been another eventful half-term. The older children dressed up in Victorian costumes for a day of old-fashioned teaching with very strict teachers! Girls were taught separately from boys and they had a range of subjects from handwriting to maths, with addition of pounds, shillings and pence! Children also had PE drills and made cross-stitch samplers. The formal layout of the classroom, the dunce hat and the cane were harsh reminders of Victorian schooling. However, everyone enjoyed the old-fashioned playtimes with hoops and skipping ropes.

We have enjoyed a creative week writing poems and spells about nature. The stimulus was a demonstration given by Falconry UK.

brought five Jason beautiful birds: owls. falcon and a kookaburra. enthralled which the children. He said it was a joy to come to Tysoe and how interested and wellbehaved the children were (a real commendation as he does over 200 talks every year!) This was followed up by classes using the book. The Lost Words. The title is based on words which are now being



A White-faced Scops Owl

lost from the children's dictionary, like conker, acorn, kingfisher and starling. Classes have written amazing poems and spells which were illustrated in various artwork.

Sport and keeping fit is important and all of the children from Year 2-6 have taken part in a running challenge, aiming to run a marathon over the course of the term. Several children have already run at least a half marathon! The increase in fitness helped performance at the Sports Hall Athletics Competition when the team came second and won through to the finals. We have also had twelve children who passed their Bikeability cycling course despite freezing conditions.

Prospective parents are always welcome to visit, just contact the office on 01295-680244.

Jenny Coates, Head of School



For more information please see our website at www.shipstonhomenursing.co.uk



Hospice at Home

Nursing for families in Shipston, Wellesbourne, Kineton and surrounding villages

> www.shipstonhomenursing.co.uk Registered Charity No.1162586



The aim of GAME SAFE is to help protect young people from potential harms of online gaming/technology use. Issues such as bullying, harassment, grooming but to name a few will be addressed.

There will be 3 online gaming safety sessions (1.5 hours each one) - 10.30 - 12.00, 13.00 - 14.30 and one between 18.00 and 19.30 pm. The Breck Bedner Foundation will be in attendance to deliver the sessions, the Breck foundation was formed after a 14 year old called Breck was groomed through online gaming and was subsequently murdered. Schools, parents, teachers and anyone else interested are invited to attend to find out more about what you can all do to help safeguard young people from the potential harms of online gaming.

There will be an opportunity for attendees to talk to local contacts, groups and organisations about keeping safe as well as positive opportunities available for those interested in technology.

If any of you personally are interested as parents or those that work with young people, please take up the invitation and book places at one of the three sessions that are offered.

### WE HAVE 900 SPACES SO DON'T BE SHY!

To register your interest please email Sam Slemensek from our Cyber Crime: samslemensek@warwickshire.gov.uk

Mobile: 07557 166524 Tel: 01926 412261







## **WOT2Grow Community Orchard**

Another great Wassail event at the orchard, with dry but cold weather, and a very big thank you to everyone who came along but especially to those who did all the hard work and did the preparation/organising. It might seem a simple event but it needs quite a lot of effort to make it work. People were most complimentary and said they really enjoyed it. It was good

to have visitors from far afield, Banbury and Northampton but best of all Birmingham!!

This year we followed a slightly different format with a shorter ceremony around the Wassail tree and more time eating, drinking and singing round the magnificent bonfire!

Duncan, our Wassail Master, led us all with his usual good humour and presence and got the children enthused doing their bit around the tree.



The Fire Master and his Blaze!

The Fire Master managed a wonderful blaze even with wet material and the guns were present frightening away any bad spirits!



Donald playing to a young visitor!

Donald played his accordion and it made for a great atmosphere and helped the singing greatly. He enjoyed our efforts at doing a traditional Wassail, he visits many and raises money for charity so worth having him in attendance.

Again Kineton scouts provided much welcome hot drinks and food alongside the cider (from the orchard cider apples), mulled cider and spiced apple juice we provided. Hopefully it helped their fund raising.

If you didn't make it you missed a special event so do come along next year!!

Since then we have completed the pruning of the apple and pear trees as well as the black currants. Plenty more to do so why not come and help us?

Contact one of us for more information Liz Atkinson (680045), Paul Sayer (680451), Sue and Mike Sanderson (688080) or see the website www.wot2grow.co.uk



Stocking up with food and drink.

## WHAT'S ON IN & AROUND OXHILL

### March

Thursday 1st	14:00	Knit & Natter, Village Hall
Friday 2nd	14:30	Village Hall - Mobile Library
Monday 5th	8:30	Morning Prayer, St Lawrence Church
Monday 5th	10:00	Aerobics Village Hall
Tuesday 6th		Green & Blue bin collection
Wednesday 7th	n 10:30	The Peacock - Village Coffee Morning
Friday 9th	9:30	Weekday Walkers
Saturday 10th	9:00-11:00	Big Breakfast, Village Hall
Monday 12th	8:30	Morning Prayer, St Lawrence Church
Monday 12th	10:00	Aerobics Village Hall
Tuesday 13th		Grey landfill bin collection
Thursday 15th		Oxhill News submission deadline
Thursday 15th	14:00	Knit & Natter, Village Hall
Sunday 18th	20:00	Pub Quiz at the Peacock Pub
Monday 19th	8:30	Morning Prayer, St Lawrence Church
Monday 19th	10:00	Aerobics Village Hall
Tuesday 20th		Green & Blue bin collection
Wednesday 21s	st 12:30	The Peacock - Village Lunch
Thursday 22nd	19:00	Garden Club's AGM
Friday 23rd	9:30	Weekday Walkers
Friday 23rd	10:30-12:00	Carers4Carers Kineton Village Hall
Friday 23rd	14:30	Village Hall - Mobile Library
Monday 26th	8:30	Morning Prayer, St Lawrence Church
Monday 26th	10:00	Aerobics Village Hall
Tuesday 27th		Grey landfill bin collection
Thursday 29th	14:00	Knit & Natter, Village Hall

## April

Tuesday 10th	Village Hall AGM
Sunday 15th	Afternoon Tea & Prosecco, Old Chapel
Friday 20th	Paella Night, Village Hall