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# THE OXHILL NEWS

June 2020

No. 547



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

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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](mailto: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 will not visit Oxhill in June

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.

For further info please telephone: 01926 851031

## REFUSE COLLECTION

Recycling and green waste bins (blue and green bins) will be collected on Tuesdays June 9th and 23rd.

The grey rubbish bins will be collected Tuesdays June 2nd, 16th and 30th.

## 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](mailto:saxton@talktalk.net)

## THE PEACOCK

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



# OXHILL'S SOCIALLY-DISTANCED STREET PARTY FOR V.E. DAY

The village looked amazing on V.E. Day – everyone went to town with bunting and flags. Val Garland has to get the prize for the biggest Union Jack of the lot! We were blessed with wonderful weather and after seven weeks of Lockdown, everyone was ready to be sociable – even if it had to be at a distance.

The idea started by Elaine suggesting on the Oxhill Village Community page on Facebook that we have a “stay at home street party” with tea and cake at 4pm to lift everyone’s spirits. Several people were enthusiastic so we advertised on the Facebook page and in the Oxhill News. We made the “I spy” around the village that week – red, white and blue or a WW2 connection. Lynsey had the idea of a fancy dress parade around the village between 2pm and 4pm – one way and keeping our distance. Ruth and Elaine organised cakes for anyone living on their own.

It was a great success – there were some fantastic fancy dress costumes and the warm weather allowed us to stay outside well into the evening, with many people moving on from drinking tea to stronger stuff! People were dancing in the street on Whatcote Road and much fun was had around the village. Let’s have another village celebration soon!

*Ali Sayer*







## THANKS TO JO AND JUDY!

We'd like to thank Jo Collings and Judy Badger for all their time and effort spent applying for grants for the refurbishment of the Village Hall. It's been a painstaking and time-consuming task but will make an enormous difference in supporting the fundraising efforts in the village community and it's great to see some progress with this latest grant from A.C.R.E. Thank you Jo and Judy!

*The rest of the Village Hall Committee*



## OXHILL VILLAGE HALL



**Just when we thought it was hopeless.....**

An email dropped into my inbox on Friday evening from A.C.R.E. (Action with Communities in Rural England) to say our grant application to help with the refurbishment of the Village Hall had been successful. A staggering **£36,670!**

Over the last 18 months we have worked very hard & since planning permission was granted in December last year, have obtained cost estimates for the work & commissioned the working drawings ready to start the project once finance is available. Then after spending many hours writing grant applications to all the available sources, Covid 19 struck. The Lottery Fund, our main hope for funding, informed me that although we had got through to stage 2 of the application, no progress could be made & our application was on hold indefinitely.

The news from A.C.R.E., though only a small proportion of the money needed, has come as a huge shot in the arm for us and means we can now look again at the other applications with some optimism.

We cannot expect to raise all the money needed solely from grants, we will need the community to help by supporting fund raising events & contributing in whatever way they can, either by donations of money or skills and I hope you will give this some thought in the coming weeks. Any offers of support will be gratefully received.

It has been difficult seeing the hall closed & having to cancel all our planned events over the last few months. The Village Hall will I believe be even more important to this community when the current situation improves & we can gather together again.

In the meantime we obviously need to raise much more money before we can begin the renovations but we've made a good start under difficult circumstances and the work goes on.

*Jo Collings*  
*Chair of the Trustees OVH*

## SAINT LAWRENCE CHURCH

‘Thank you’ are arguably two of the most glorious words in the English language. It is wonderful to be thanked spontaneously, but equally good to be the one doing the thanking. Because in so doing we look beyond our ourselves to show our esteem and respect for someone else – whether it is for a something they have done, or for just being themselves.

Slowly, slowly, we are inching ourselves out of lockdown. One day, I hope (absolutely no idea when!) we will be able to have a glorious celebration when we can express our thanks publicly to each other for all that has happened in the last few months.

Our thanks are particularly due to those for whom this lockdown has been the most extreme, and for whom it may last the longest: it is incredibly tough to be isolated, emotionally and psychologically. In doing so they are giving others the chance to get on with their lives, and we owe them an enormous debt. May our support in every way continue for as long as it is needed.

As well as thanking each other, it is good also to thank God for all that He gives us: for each other, for this fabulous place to live, for the meeting of our material needs. There is a modern hymn which opens with the words ‘Give thanks with a grateful heart’, and ends with the words ‘Let the weak say I am strong, let the poor say I am rich, because of what the Lord has done for us’.

Three hundred years earlier Joseph Addison had written, ‘There is not a more pleasing exercise of the mind than gratitude’, and then continued in a verse that may be familiar:

‘When all thy mercies, O my God,  
My rising soul surveys,  
Transported with the view, I’m lost  
In wonder, love and praise.’

‘Wonder, love and praise’ might be good words to ponder on when we finally can get together.

*Blessings, Jill*





## DEANERY NEWS JUNE

Since we have been in lockdown, our church buildings have had to remain closed. But around the deanery, the church has been alive and well and often busier than usual. It has been encouraging to hear how in our villages, because the church is already so embedded in the community, it has been able to be at the centre of caring for the vulnerable. Different benefices have embraced online church in different ways, depending on their context. In our deanery we have livestreams, recordings to YouTube and websites, deliveries of worship ideas by post and lots of zooming.

Some of us have found the new situation has helped us build new relationships and talk about faith in new ways. But we are all aware that many of us are also feeling isolated and far from our friends and even from God. It's not always easy to keep up a rhythm of prayer in times of stress and trauma. Bishop John is holding an online retreat for anyone who wishes to join on Saturday 3rd June, so keep an eye out for more information.

As the nation begins, tentatively, to look at a way out of lockdown, the churches remain closed for public worship. Weddings have been postponed, and funerals happen at the graveside or crematorium. It's going to be a while before we can get back fully into our buildings, and so that gives us time to consider what might have changed and what we might do when the time comes. As we begin to think, I was promoted by a colleague to ask, **“What are you learning about God in this time? What is God saying to you?”**.

As we begin to reflect on those questions individually and as churches, my prayers continue to be with each of you at this difficult time.

*Sarah Edmonds*  
*Area Dean*





## I spy with my little eye ...

Thank you to everyone for participating in our weekly hunts around the village, by placing an object or picture in your window, hedge or fence! Your enthusiasm has been amazing! A particular mention for Joanna and Darcey and their 101 (well almost) dalmations! Well done to Harry, Lily, Isabella, Jasmine, Arthur and Fraser for finding all 45 objects beginning with the letter Cc. I wonder if anyone will find all 51 objects beginning with Dd.



As we have had to cancel Scarecrow weekend this year, we have decided that the week beginning 2nd June we are going to put out scarecrows or pictures of scarecrows (no theme or letter - just a scarecrow) We will leave them up for two weeks to make sure everyone has a chance to see them.

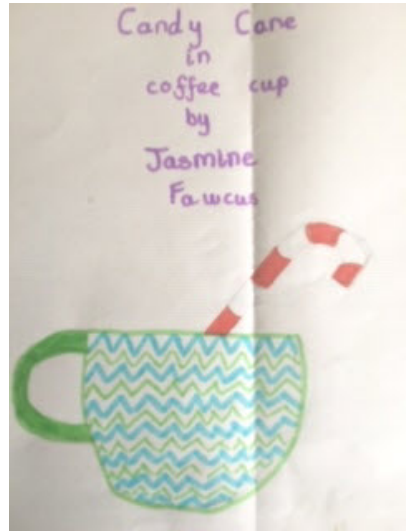
Enjoy your creating and happy hunting!  
Ali Sayer



Children's drawings who completed the letter



challenge



## SHIPSTON FOOD BANK



The Food Bank in Shipston is open to anyone who finds they might be in need of a bit of help to tide them over.

We know there may be people who need something at the moment, but who have never accessed help before.

That's fine, you're not alone.

And you don't need a referral or a voucher. Just come along on a Tuesday or Saturday morning between 10 and 12. We operate out of St Edmund's Church (opposite the chip shop). You can come as often as you need.

You can also get help by asking your local vicar, who can get in touch with us.

Donations for the Food Bank can be left in the porch of St Edmund's between 9 and 5 Mon-Sat. We are especially in need of tinned potatoes, fruit juice and spreads (jam, marmite etc).











*1953 OS Map of Oxhill*

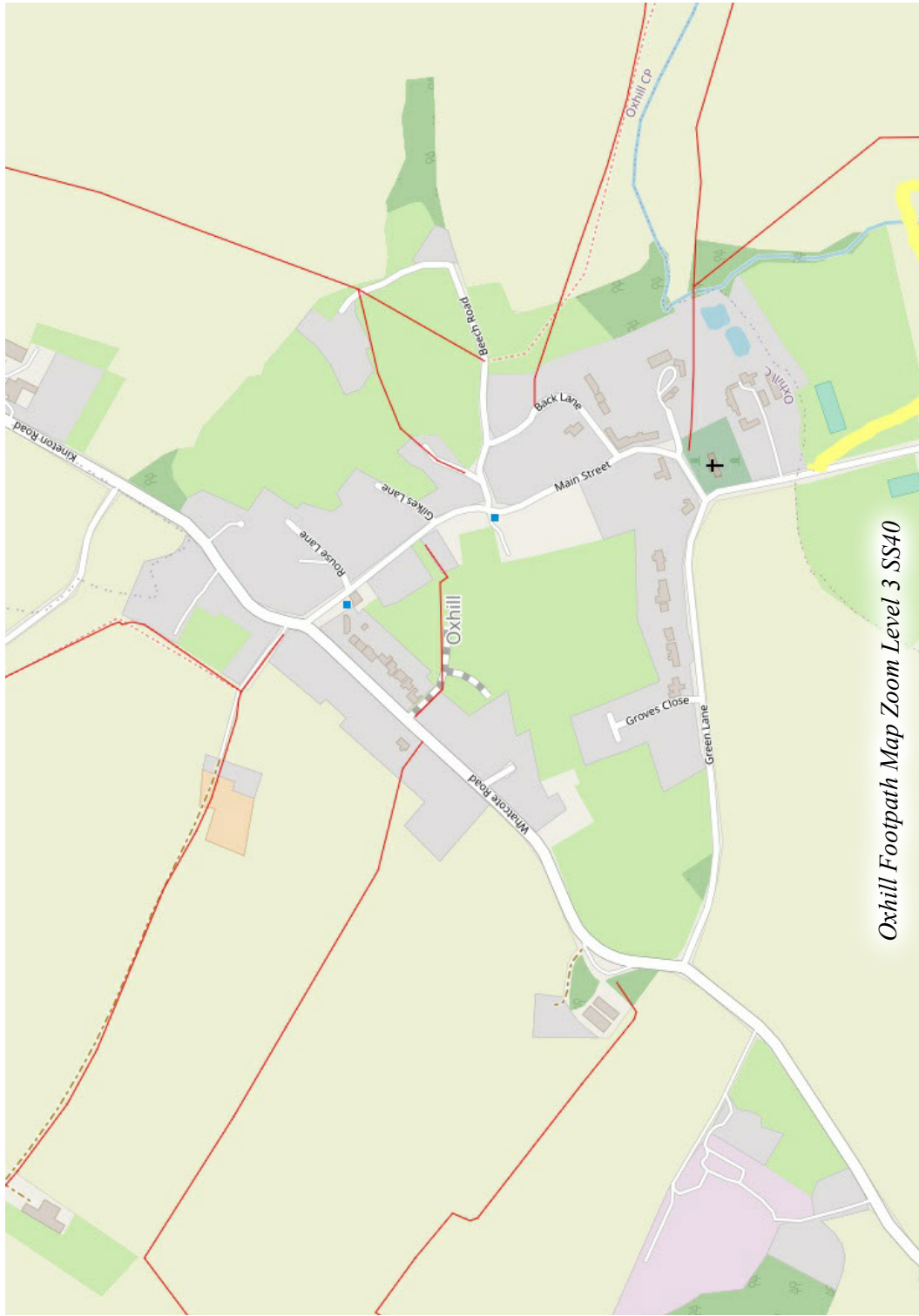
## **OXHILL FOOTPATHS - TAKE TWO!**

Last month we published the official Definitive Map of footpaths in the Oxhill area provided by Stratford District Council, but sadly the image resolution wasn't up to print quality so we've decided to reprint this month with some clearer maps. As always if you have any questions please contact your Parish Council team.

We have taken advantage of the license to reprint from FootPathMaps.co.uk and include various zoom levels of the local countryside herein. Please refer to the keys noting that only the red routes represent public footpaths. Dotted lines are private tracks or farm paths and often near livestock, so please stay away.

As this version of the map does not have the official footpath references on them we have shaded the disputed SS40 footpath in yellow for clarity. We would also like to remind everyone that just because a footpath appears on the map it does not guarantee they are being maintained to a safe standard.

Please always ensure you know your route, you have an up-to-date O/S map and if a stile or bridge looks dangerous or is overgrown with brambles, please exercise discretion and return the way you came. Please also note that many walking routes are unsuitable for dogs unless you can lift them over high fences.



*Oxhill Footpath Map Zoom Level 3 SS40*







SS14 is one such example leading out to the fields from the back of a house on Whatcote Road. While the home owner is more than happy for anyone to pass through their property to the stile in the garden, a number of subsequent stiles are impassable and looping back onto SS14a for Oxhill Farm is very challenging.

As the situation improves with Coronavirus we will be forming a group of ramblers who would like to help resolve issues with the footpaths and potentially maintain some of them. If you are interested then please email [oxhillpc@btinternet.com](mailto:oxhillpc@btinternet.com) and we will add your name to the list of those who have already volunteered.







All images copyright (c) OpenStreetMap contributors.

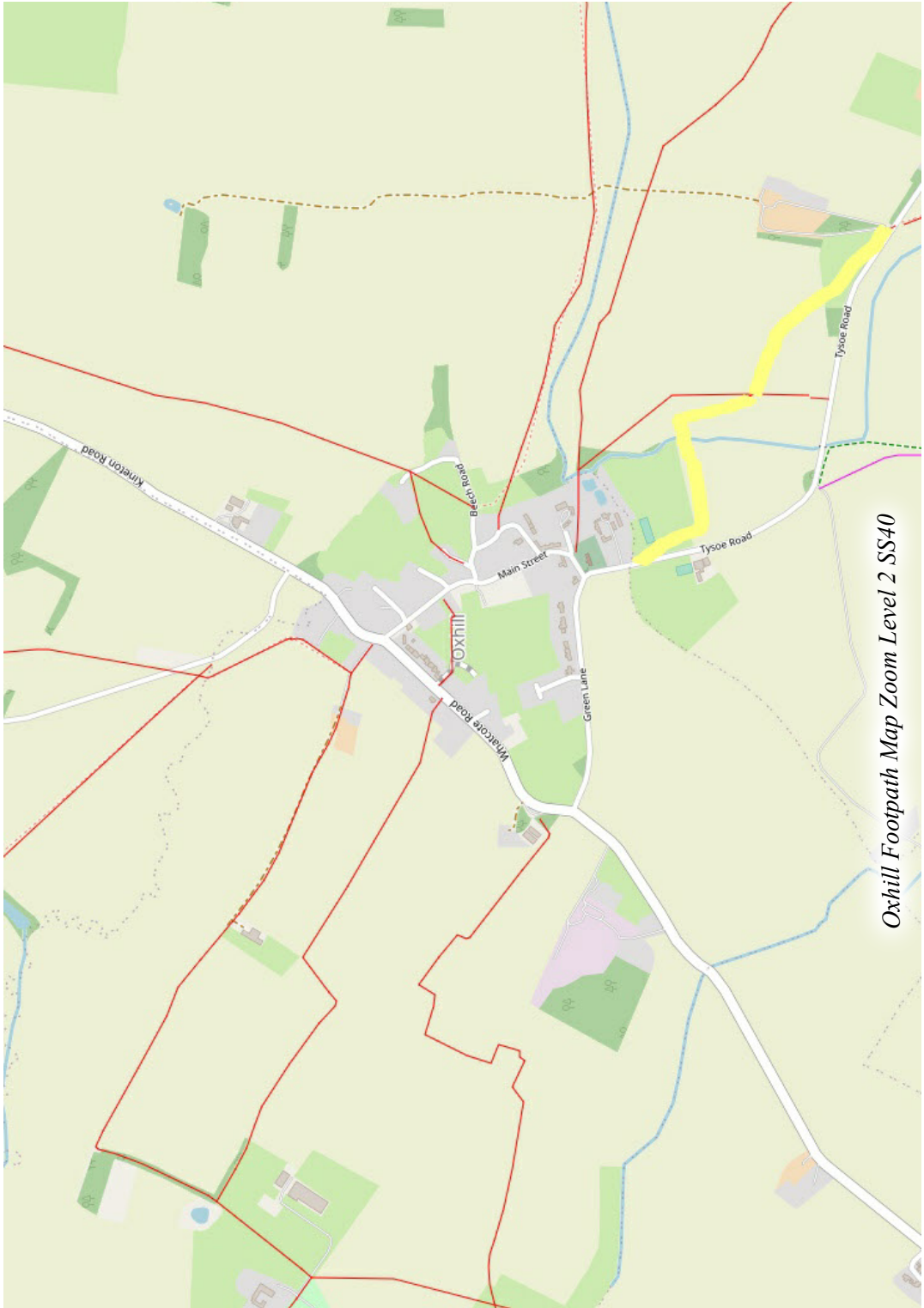
## Map Key

### Standard

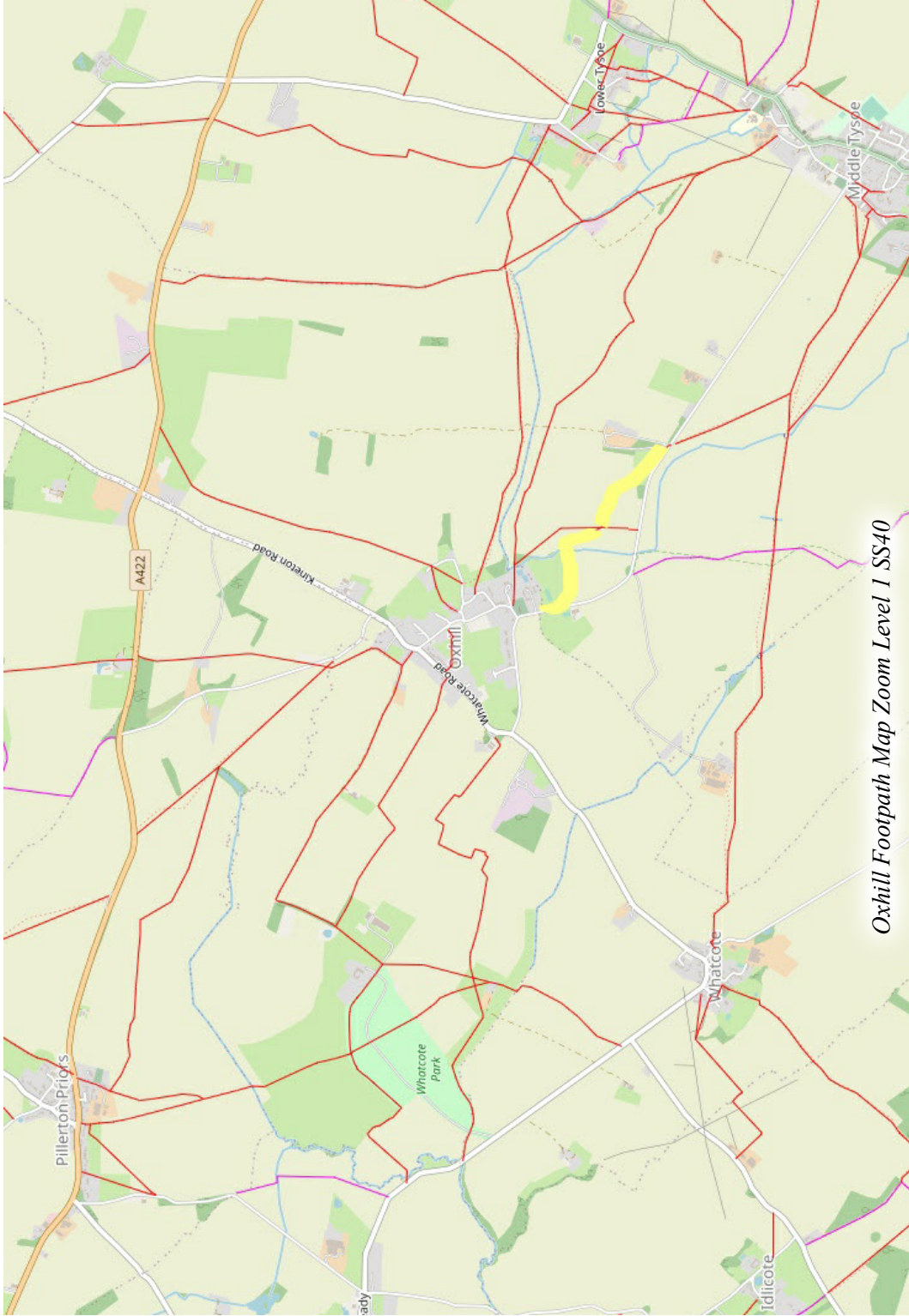
	Footpath (England & Wales), Core Path (Scotland)		Bridleway
	Restricted Byway		National Trail / Coastal Path
	Byway		Location / Orientation

### Agricultural and / or forestry roads

	Track - Solid surface		Track - Mostly soft surface
	Track - Mostly solid surface		Track - Soft surface
	Track - Even amount of solid and soft materials		Track - Unknown surface type



*Oxhill Footpath Map Zoom Level 2 SS40*



*Oxhill Footpath Map Zoom Level 1 SS40*



## Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose

These are the Orders issued by the Lord Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London in 1665 to combat plague:

### ORDERS CONCERNING LOOSE PERSONS AND IDLE ASSEMBLIES

That all plays, bear-baitings, games, singing of ballads, buckler-play, or suchlike causes of assemblies of people be utterly prohibited, and the parties offending severely punished by every alderman in his ward.

That all public feasting, and particularly by the companies of this city, and dinners at taverns, ale-houses, and other places of common entertainment, be forborne till further order and allowance; and that the money thereby spared be preserved and employed for the benefit and relief of the poor visited with the infection.

Despite these measures the London plague lasted for 18 months and around 100,000 people died.









# Tysoe Tennis Club

[www.tysoetennisclub.co.uk](http://www.tysoetennisclub.co.uk)

In line with LTA guidelines some individual coaching will be taking place on the courts for junior players on Wednesday and Friday afternoons run by our coaching partner Tennissolutions. Please check on the Club website for updates.

LTA guidelines stipulate that, unless it's with members of your own household, you can only play singles. You must only touch your own marked balls, not change ends, keep social distancing, use hand sanitiser, clean and wipe down equipment, etc. and not use the Clubhouse or Pavilion. Again, please check on our website for full details. Most of us ladies (and maybe some men too) don't play singles so we can't wait to play doubles again.

Contact:

Club Secretary – Carol Spencer 07708 412767 /

[carol.spencer234@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:carol.spencer234@hotmail.co.uk)

Website – [www.tysoetennisclub.co.uk](http://www.tysoetennisclub.co.uk)





**Alan Willis** ► **Memories of Leamington and Warwick and surrounding areas**

23 Apr at 11:02 · 📷

Some sad news / details

The local D J Johnny Thurstans died during Easter. Many will remember him from discos at The Crown. The Cavalier, Drumbeat, Guys hotel and Chesford Grange as well at Lanchester Polytechnic

John Thurstans died on Monday 13th April at West Cornwall Hospital. husband of 60 years to Rita. Father of Lee and Jay.

Private cremation only but donations in lieu of flowers accepted on behalf of Sennen Cove RNLI ( c/o w C Matthews & Son, Funeral Directors, Rhoc, Maria's Lane, Sennen Cove, Penzance TR19 7BU)



👍 Like

💬 Comment

👍👍👍 Jay Thurstans and 72 others

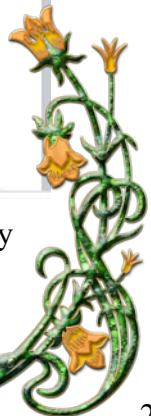
[View previous comments...](#)



**Sheila Ronney**

RIP.

1 d Like Reply



Some in the village may remember our old Oxhillian Johnny Thurstans. Sadly Johnny passed away on April 13th.

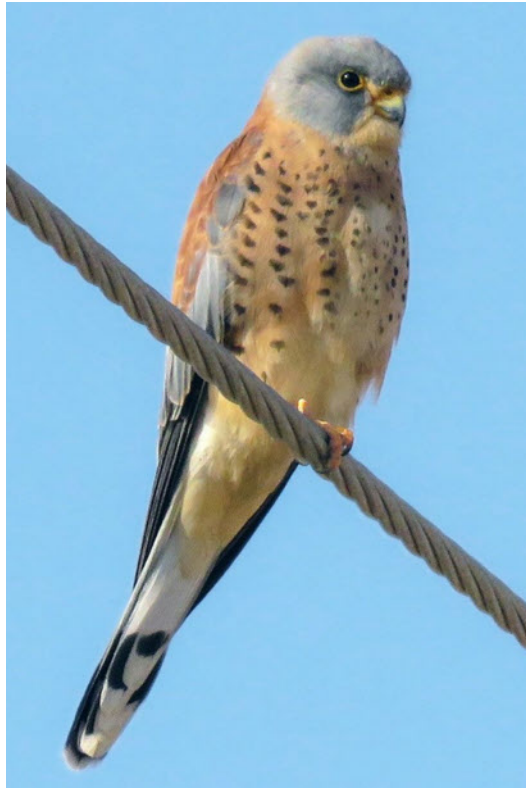


## THE OWLS FAMILY COUNTRY QUIZ

While the weather is so good and us lucky folk can go for a walk on the footpaths in the parish or on the permissive footpaths round the Manor try this quiz.

All these birds should be easy to see if you keep your eyes peeled, see if you can name them, try to do it without looking on Google and see how many you can get:





# NOW HERE'S SOME MULTIPLE CHOICE NATURE QUESTIONS



1. What is a badgers home called: a. Den, b. Sett, c. Burrow
2. What is the name given to a female fox: a. Doe, b. Vixen, c. Kit
3. Which animal has velvety fur that brushes smoothly in both directions:  
a. Deer, b. Mole, c. Mink
4. There are three native snakes in the U.K.; Adder, Grass and:  
a. Brown, b. Python, c. Smooth
5. What name is given to baby hedgehogs: a, Hoglets, b. Piglets, c. Kit
6. There are three species of deer to be seen around Oxhill, Roe, Fallow and:  
a. Red, b. Sika, c. Muntjac
7. There are two types of toad in the uk common and;  
a. Red Spotted, b. Green, c. Natterjack
8. Which tiny rodent has a tail that can be used as a fifth limb;:  
a. Harvest Mouse, b. Dormouse, c. Field Mouse
9. Which owl has a white heart shaped face: a. Tawny, b. Long Eared, c. Barn
10. What name is given to baby red squirrels: a. Kittens, b. Pinkies, c. Leverets
11. A skulk is the collective name for which group of animals: a. Otters, b. Foxes, c. Mice
12. Peacock, Meadow Brown and Ringlet are all what: a. Birds, b. Bugs, c. Butterflies

*Post your score... remember no cheating.*

*Answers: Q1, b. Q2 b. Q3 b. Q4 c. Q5 a. Q6 c. Q7 c. Q8 a. Q9 c. Q10 a. Q11 b. Q12 c.*





# Carers4Carers

Finding support through supporting each other

Unfortunately, our meeting on Friday 26th June will be cancelled due to the continued situation with Covid-19. We wish our members well and look forward to seeing you again soon.

In the meantime, we welcome all those interested in our work to take a look at our website [www.carers4carersonthefosse.org](http://www.carers4carersonthefosse.org), email [kcarers4carers@gmail.com](mailto:kcarers4carers@gmail.com) or call 07947 893504 for more information and to request a copy of our newsletter. For online support you may also wish to take a look at the Carers UK forum at [www.carersuk.org/forum](http://www.carersuk.org/forum) and the local Carers Trust website [www.carerstrusthofe.org.uk](http://www.carerstrusthofe.org.uk).

Thank you so much,  
*Lisa*  
*Carers4Carers*



*Socially distanced beer takeaways....*







# WOT2GROW COMMUNITY ORCHARD

**May 2020**

A strange time for all of us but the orchard carries on with blossom and leaves emerging unaware of the confusion all around!

It is nine years since we first established the orchard so the trees are capable of looking after themselves for a season, any problems can be looked at later in the year and rectified if serious.

Some volunteers have made it to the orchard and there has been continuing work on the soft fruit, especially with watering the blueberries which require a fair amount of rain water as they are bog plants. The grass has been cut and the first dandelions despatched and also a lot of strimming in between rows and around the soft fruit has been done. The bees have also had attention so looking forward to some honey later on!



*Blueberries in Flower*



*Cherry Blossom*

**June 2020**

No sessions organised at present but the orchard is open to enjoy and walk around. But please do clear up after your dogs, there has been plenty of mess around which is unpleasant for others using the orchard.

What a roller coaster of weather we have had in the last month! It was so good to get the warmer days and lots of sunshine even if it meant watering the blueberries

more frequently. Then the brutal few nights of frost which took its toll on various plants at the orchard as I am sure it did in your gardens. Hopefully the plants and trees are strong enough to withstand such a set back, we shall see. However as we move to June we can look forward to warmer days and nights and the ripening of the soft fruits, we usually pick the first of them at the beginning of July so it will be interesting to see if this year is as previous ones.

There are the usual problems with peach leaf curl and mildew on some of the gooseberries along with aphids on the trees but in general everything is pretty healthy and looking good!

The volunteers have been amazing with their visits to maintain the orchard. The grass cutting, strimming between the rows of canes and bushes and also round the trees has been nothing short of fantastic! The sensory garden is coming along nicely and the overgrown herbs are being reduced so the new growth can come through. Of course the volunteers have been maintaining social distancing but luckily quite a few are couples so they have been able to work without worrying about that!!

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](http://www.wot2grow.co.uk)



*Perry Pear Blossom*



*Weeding all the Gold*



**Thank you** to everyone who took part in the wonderful VE Day celebration and allowed me to take their picture. Thank you to Ali Sayer and Reuben Connolly for contributing wonderful photos to this bumper issue of the Oxhill News.

I apologise if your photo does not appear. This is the largest issue I have ever put together and still, I could not fit everyone in.

I love participating and chronicling our village events and I look forward to many more.

*Vanessa Druce, editor*



# WHAT'S ON IN & AROUND OXHILL

## June

Tuesday 2nd	Grey landfill bin collection
Tuesday 9th	Green & Blue bin collection
Monday 15th	Oxhill News submission deadline
Tuesday 16th	Grey landfill bin collection
Tuesday 23rd	Green & Blue bin collection
Tuesday 30th	Grey landfill bin collection

The date of the next PC Meeting is Tuesday, 7 July 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.

If you need to contact the PC please call Derek Harbour on 01295 680676 or e-mail [oxhillpc@btinternet.com](mailto:oxhillpc@btinternet.com)

