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# THE OXHILL NEWS

July 2020

No. 548



Just one of many lovely scarecrow  
tableaux on show in Oxhill

*Editors:*  
*Vanessa Druce & 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 [news-editor@oxhill.org.uk](mailto:news-editor@oxhill.org.uk) or place paper contributions in the box labelled 'The Oxhill News' in the village Church.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS THE 15TH OF EVERY MONTH.

## MOBILE LIBRARY

The mobile library has books with **large print**, ordinary print, picture books, children's books, paperbacks, non-fiction, novels, sagas, crime, mysteries, adventures, westerns and romance. The van has talking books, cassettes and CDs.

For further info please telephone 01926 851031.

## REFUSE COLLECTION

Recycling and green waste bins (blue and green bins) will be collected on Tuesdays 7th and 21st July.

The grey rubbish bins will be collected on Tuesdays 14th and 28th July..

## WEEKDAY WALKERS

This walking group usually walks on the 4th Friday of the month. If you are interested in joining or to find out further information, please contact Jim Saxton on 07748324934 or email [jimsaxton@btinternet.com](mailto:jimsaxton@btinternet.com)

## AT THE PEACOCK

### **Village Events**

The village coffee morning and the village lunch remain Postponed during July.



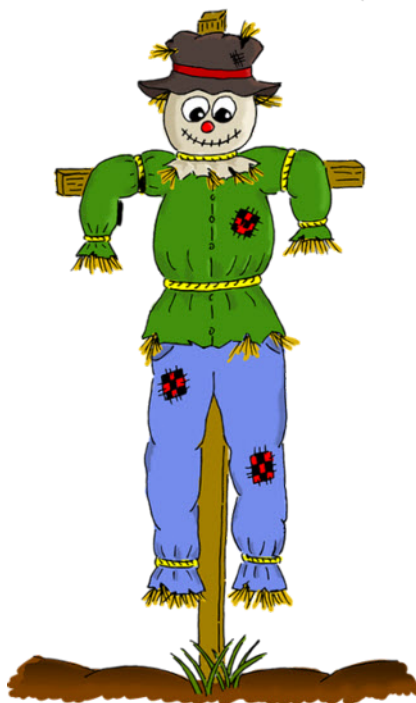
## I SPY WITH MY LITTLE EYE ...

Thank you once again to everyone who contributed to and participated in our weekly letter hunts around the village and for making some amazing scarecrows. This will be good practice for our actual Scarecrow Weekend next year!

Harry, Lily, Isabella, Jasmine, Arthur and Fraser deserve a particular mention for their enthusiasm for these letter hunts.

As people are now able to get out and about more and some of the children are back at school, we have decided to bring these hunts to an end for the time being! I think some of the adults involved are more disappointed than the children!

*Ali Sayer*



## SATURDAY 18TH JULY

### **\*\*Notice\*\***

On Saturday 18th July we are holding a small socially distant event in one of our fields just outside the village (Whatcote side)

We aim to keep the volume to a sensible level, and be finished by around 10pm. We hope not to disturb anyone.

*Many thanks, Linda Heritage*

## DEANERY NEWS

There is every chance that by the time we go to print, there will have been new news about coming out of lockdown. It's certainly proving more complex for everyone, including churches, than shutting down was.

As I write, we have permission to open for private prayer (but not for services), as long as we can do so safely. Just because we **can** open, it doesn't mean every church will though. Across the deanery, there are some that are opening (for varying times in the week) and some that can't at present. If your local church is closed but you would like to visit, get in touch with your clergy to find out which others might be.

As we begin to think tentatively about what the future might look like, we need to be asking some questions about how church might be as well. Some of the online prayer and worship around the deanery has been so helpful that we might want

to continue it in some form. We might not want to pick up exactly where we were before lockdown – God has been taking us on a journey together. Many of us have missed our buildings, but some of us have also enjoyed freedom to worship in new ways. We'll be thinking and praying as a deanery too, and sharing good practice and good ideas as we emerge and discern where God wants us to be next.



*Revd Sarah Edmonds Maguire, [rector@shipstonchurch.org](mailto:rector@shipstonchurch.org)*

**OXHILL PARISH COUNCIL**  
**ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD**  
**13.05.20**  
**DRAFT PRECIS OF MEETING**

The meeting was held remotely due to Government restrictions.  
The Annual Parish Meeting has had to be postponed until further notice.

**Elections**

Cllr Harbour was voted to be Chairperson. Cllr Stuart was voted to be Vice-Chairperson.

**To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

These were both approved.

**Matters Arising**

The litter pick did not happen due to the Covid-19 outbreak.

The visit from Highways did not happen either. It will be rearranged with the Chair.

Flooding – A notice was put in the last newsletter. There were no responses to signs or sandbags so this matter will be closed now.

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

Cllr Williams had circulated a detailed report. The main points included Coronavirus, The County Council, Highways, HS2, Fire Service, Education and the year ahead. There is more detail in the minutes.

**Vermin in Leys Field**

Rats are more visible in the village and have been disturbed by recent work. It was agreed that Cllr Connolly can co-ordinate action as an individual. The Parish Council will get involved if the situation worsens.

**To consider a contribution of £400.00 to the cost of a refurbished kitchen grill for the pub to support takeaway business**

This was discussed but not taken any further as the pub have successfully applied for a business grant.

**To receive an update on footpath repairs and stiles**

The following footpaths were reported by Cllr Stuart as needing repair.

SS17, Bouncy bridge and hole

SS35, Large hole in the bridge and subsidence

SS35, The stile has no legs and is unstable

SS36A, Damage to the surface and side of the bridge

SA14, Impassable due to brambles

SS15, Inaccessible due to flooding/poorly maintained adjacent flood and ditch. Overgrown small trees and brambles.

SS15, Rotten stile.

Signage is generally in poor condition or illegible or missing. It was noted that there were volunteers who were keen to walk the paths and check their condition. This will be revisited now.

*Action: The Parish Clerk to pass the list of footpath repairs and stiles to Cllr Williams who will report.*

**To receive an update on planning**

*APP/J3720/W/19/3242235, Church Farm, Whatcote Road. Appeal dismissed. SDC Enforcement are fully aware of the current situation.*

*Action: The Parish Clerk and Cllr John Feilding to make contact with SDC again following the appeal dismissal.*

*20/01021/FUL, Garden store to rear at Oakwoods House, Green Lane. Supported by PC.*

*20/01024/LBC, Replacement of existing structurally unsound window at Oxhill Manor, Beech Road. Supported by PC.*

*20/00985/FUL, Provision of hardstanding to side of driveway and double gate at 11 Leys Field. No objection with comments by PC.*

*20/00633/FUL, Demolition of existing storage building and the erection of a replacement storage (B8) building at Windmill Farm, Red Horse Vale Ltd. Supported by PC.*

20/00566/LBC, Repair of Corner Post at The Hollies, Rouse Lane.  
Supported by PC.

20/00637/LBC, Proposed ancillary accommodation in existing detached outbuilding at The Old Rectory, Main Street. Supported by PC.

19/02378/FUL, Demolition of existing garage and construction of new outbuilding at Auchneiven House, Whatcote Road. Granted by SDC.

20/00458/TREE, Tree application at Gilks Cottage, Gilks Lane.  
No objection by SDC.

The contents of the letter from SDC re Cariad, Green Lane were discussed. SDC noted in an email dated 7th April that the new hedge has not been planted due to hoardings at the adjacent site. Cllr Stuart has prepared a response as there is nothing obstructing the planting at the rear. Cllr Feilding noted that landscaping has to be maintained for five years.

*Action: The Parish Clerk to respond to SDC and copy Cllr Feilding.*

### **Financial Report**

*The following payments were approved:*

- £19.76 to L Stuart (website)
- £18.00 to SLCC (membership)
- £159.23 to Zurich Insurance (insurance)

### **To authorise changes to the banking arrangements**

The bank mandate has been changed to remove two old signatories and add the Parish Clerk and Cllr Robertson. Then online banking can be set up.

### **To receive the following correspondence**

- Severn Trent, Sewer in Green Lane
- Oxhill PCC, Thank you letter

One item of correspondence was highlighted:

Severn Trent, Sewer in Green Lane. The sewer was cleaned before Christmas and no defects were found. They noted the importance of reporting issues so they can capture the events and investigate.

## **To receive Councillors Reports**

Speeding was discussed briefly. Warwickshire County Council will not allow vehicle activated signs as Central Government say they are not effective. The Parish Clerk noted that another village in a neighbouring county have recently got a grant through their PCC to get a VAS. Cllr Rivers Fletcher will take the matter further with the police and the local MP.

Councillors discussed the Covid19 and the longer lasting effects. There will be long term impacts for the elderly, hospitals, care homes and carers and financial pressure on everyone.

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

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2020 at 8pm



Looking back towards Oxhill from Nolan's Lane



## **OXHILL VILLAGE HALL**

As lockdown restrictions begin to be lifted the Village Hall Committee are looking ahead & the first event is to be our Family Garden Fete rearranged for Saturday 5th September at Newborough House, off Nolan's Lane by kind invitation of Michael & Karen Perry.

We hope villagers will come along to have some fun, enjoy a cream tea & a variety of stalls including Bric-a-Brac, tombola, cake stall, children's games, book stall, classic car display & lots more.

This is of course a fund raising event to support our plans to renovate the Village Hall.

Last month I reported that we had received over £36,600 from ACRE. This month we have received another £10,000. This has been awarded to all village halls as a gesture of support during the Coronavirus crisis. Needless to say it is a welcome addition to our funds.

From mid July we anticipate the Village Hall will be open again for bookings. All events will have to be compliant with current regulations.

Please save the date for our Family Garden Fete and watch out for more details in the August Oxhill News.

If you would like to make a booking please contact Ali Sayer on 07970 922352 or [ali.sayer@btinternet.com](mailto:ali.sayer@btinternet.com).

*Jo Collings*



Seen in the Garden

## OXHILL SCARECROWS 2020

Myself and Lucy Mercer had a fantastic morning wandering around the village the other weekend judging all the Oxhill scarecrows. Considering the obvious restrictions on getting hold of materials at the moment and the lack of theme, this years entries were incredibly inventive and showed off the Oxhill residents' outstanding creativity and fun.

With the kind donations of straw at either end of the village we had a great turnout of scarecrows.

Many were topical like Jane Smith's scientist working on the cure on Beech road and Helen, Adam, Lillian and Elsie's fantastic Boris Johnson with his 'Cummings' and goings.

Ironically he had been replaced at his plinth by a wheelie bin on the morning of judging.



Not far away, there were some more fine scarecrows



and on Main Street the staycation, complete with sandcastles, at Oxhill on Sea, a favourite of my girls.



We had Paul Hollywood and Prue Leith dishing up rock cakes on the Whatcote road (how many people checked the bag of self raising flour only to be disappointed by gravel).



We were spoilt for winners with fantastic racing drivers, Harry Potter and the golden snitch, Miss Muffet, patchwork hobby horses, and the tiniest scarecrow ever to appear in a scarecrow weekend at Nolands Farm among many, many others.



We had another great contribution from Ed and Elaine Morgan, a second instalment in their Aardman animation tribute with a fabulous Shaun the Sheep and parachutist, along with our lockdown pub mascots Wallace and Gromit.



After much deliberation and a socially isolated cinnamon bun care of the Mercer dynasty of cake makers, we chose our favourites:

In third place Adrian Stuart's brilliant life sizes Alpaca on Green lane,



We had a few scarecrows holidaying in Oxhill including the gorgeous ‘camping le Jardin a Oxhill’ campsite in Groves Close complete with retro cardboard campervan. With which Aaron Bodycote and family’s entry took second place.



and our Winner the fantastic Pied Piper also on Green Lane by Jim and Ann Saxton with the most inventive use of a trainer and sink plunger.



Our kids winner was Emily Harper's Star Wars themed Yoda scarecrow on the Whatcote road.



Thank you to all who contributed scarecrows this year and, not for the first time during lockdown, bringing a sense of fun and community to our little village in a time of worry and isolation.

Thanks once again goes to Ali Sayer for her constant ideas on how to keep us and the kids of Oxhill entertained. We very much look forward to Scarecrows 2021 and hope we can make it the best year yet !!

*Lynsey Cleaver and Lucy Mercer*

## **FEEDING OF HEDGEHOGS, BIRDS AND OTHER LESS DESIRABLE ANIMALS**

Looking back through the Oxhill News articles on Hedgehogs in the last three years it is clear they are one of the nation's favourite animals and quite rightly so in my opinion! They are facing a tough time with their natural corridors being blocked and many of our villagers are helping to feed and look after them.

During the Corona crisis the roads and footpaths have been quieter and the wildlife has been getting bolder, coming closer to houses and gardens. In many cases this is a wonderful thing and many of us have been seeing



mammals and birds that are typically hidden away from us. This is to be celebrated and long may it continue after things return to whatever is now normal.

While the support of creatures struggling by the hand of man is very noble, the unfortunate side-effect of helping one particular animal is that we might also be helping others that we would prefer not to, such as the brown rat. Rats are extremely common but usually confine themselves to nocturnal activity.

In recent weeks a number of us in the village - particularly around the Leys Field - have been observing uncharacteristic rodent activity in our gardens and public spaces during daylight hours. While no reason to panic I am personally aiming to get ahead of the issue with some responsible use of suitable control measures. In the meantime if you are feeding hedgehogs or birds you can also help:-

**Please bring in all uneaten hedgehog food at night.** Hedgehogs are intelligent enough to learn daily routines and once they realise food is not being left overnight they will simply come earlier. This reduces the opportunity for rats to take their food and continue to increase the strength of their colony.

**Take precautions to prevent bird feed falling on the ground.** As with leftover hedgehog food, excess bird feed can attract rodents to your garden. Use catchers to prevent waste feed hanging around and also try to place feeders such that they cannot be accessed from the ground (easier said than done!).

**Do not put any waste meat or bones in your compost.** Rats are attracted by decaying flesh and will happily make a home in your composter if it is a source of nutrients. Waste vegetables might be better in your green waste bin or you can buy mesh bases for composters to prevent subterranean access.

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/green-waste/composting/8>

**Try to avoid scattering rat poison pellets in open areas.** The same high carbohydrate load that attracts rats to pellets will attract cats, dogs,

hedgehogs and other mammals. They can be just as deadly to non-rodents so please only use indoors and preferably only within cat and hedgehog-proof bait boxes.

There is always the risk of secondary poisoning from house pets eating previously poisoned rodents, which can be a tragically sad occurrence for anyone involved. When I lay the professional pest control rat boxes I will be coordinating with direct neighbours via the community Facebook page to make them aware.

**Please note:** if you feed the hedgehogs using small cat food tins and have noticed them disappearing then be aware they are turning up by the river in the Manor fields. The most likely explanation is that they are being carried there overnight by rats, so please avoid leaving the tins out as with all other food.

Although I grew up in the Shropshire farming community I do not count myself as any form of wildlife expert, but I do know that Leptospirosis from rats nearly killed our neighbouring dairy farmer and while quite specific high risk circumstances, we really do not want to be encouraging growth in the rat population.

Given other responsibilities I have not had as much time to research this topic as I would have liked before the editorial deadline, so please, if anyone would like to get in touch to discuss the complex issues surrounding mammalian lifecycles then please do. Further viewpoints are welcome but if you want expert advice on pest control then I have been recommended the following:

Paul the Pest Controller: 07947 160798.

Ish at Banbury Pest Control: 07838 368700.

<https://directory.warwickshire.gov.uk/service/pest-control>

*Reuben Connolly*

## MYRTILLA'S GRAVE

Recently Saint Lawrence Church was visited by a member of the press from the Stratford Herald.

The focus of the visit was to discover information about the grave of Myrtilla who was buried there in the early 1700s.

The picture below shows the photograph being taken.



The gravestone's inscription reads:

HERE LYETH THE BODY OF  
MYRTILLA, NEGRO SLAVE  
TO MR THO BEAUCHAMP  
OF NEVIS  
BAPD OCT the 20TH  
BURIED JAN the 6TH  
1705'



## **TYSOE TENNIS CLUB**

Yippee! We are now able to play doubles at last, albeit adhering to new lockdown rules. We have to use our own marked balls, not touch another players' balls and change ends clockwise keeping a safe distance. None of these rules proved difficult to follow and lots of members have now been using the courts. We now need the weather to stay fine for us. Summer club sessions are Sunday mornings from 10.30. Please visit the website to find out more or contact our Secretary.

### Junior Tennis

The lockdown has meant that playing tennis has not been an option since March, However, the LTA have now agreed that coaching can take place with up to five children and doubles can be played as long as social distancing is followed.

We are therefore hoping to see our junior members playing again and will be organising a session for them. We also hope to generate some interest from new players by running our free sessions on a Sunday morning between 9.30 and 10.30 during late July and August.

The LTA have provided clear guidance on how to play safely and we will explain the rules to all our young players. Anyone interested in more details please contact Nicki Campbell on 01295 680772 or [nicki@tysoe.net](mailto:nicki@tysoe.net).

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 Tennisolutions. Please check on the Club website for updates.

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)

## CALLING ALL YOUNG TENNIS PLAYERS

Are you bored of being at home?  
Fed up with doing the same things?

The good news is Tysoe tennis courts are open and available for play. If you are interested, please contact Nicki as there are some rules that need to be followed to keep you safe. These are also displayed on the clubhouse windows.



We are also making plans for the summer and hope to have:

- a junior club session from 4 - 5pm one evening
- coaching sessions if enough people are interested
- perhaps a mini tournament for you to play with an adult

We will also be running 6 free sessions for children aged 5 and upwards on Sunday mornings from 9.30am to 10.30am. You do not need to be a member to come along and equipment can be provided. We will post dates on the Tysoe Tennis Club website/ Tysoe Noticeboard Facebook page nearer the time. The LTA guidelines on safe play will always be followed.

If you are missing your tennis, then the LTA have some fun activities for 4 - 7 and 8 -11-year olds that can be played at home. See <https://www.lta.org.uk/play-competes/lta-youth/tennis-at-home/>



If you would like any further information, please contact Nicki Campbell on 01295 680772 or via email on [nicki@tysoe.net](mailto:nicki@tysoe.net).

## THE PEACOCK, OXHILL, 01295 688060

### Take away Menu

#### Starters

BLACK TIGER PRAWNS ON TOAST	£6
DEEP FRIED SQUID with Garlic Mayo/sweet chilli and lemon wedge	£6
CHICKEN WINGS with BBQ sauce (Gf)	£5
LOUISIANA STYLE HOT CHICKEN WINGS (Gf)	£5
BREADED SCAMPI with Tartar Sauce & Lemon Wedge	£6
BREADED FRIED BRIE with cranberry jam	£6

#### Mains

FISH&CHIPS with tartar sauce and mushy peas	£13
HOMEMADE CHEESEBURGER with chips, salad, tomato & house relish sauce	£12
"The Lockdown" DOUBLE CHEESEBURGER with maple cured bacon, red leicester & cheddar cheese, egg, lettuce, tomato, house relish sauce	£15
SPICY BEEF BURGER (Jalapenos, Red Leicester Cheese, hot burger sauce) with chips	£13
CAJUN SPICED CHICKEN BURGER with chips	£12
CHICKEN BRIE & CRANBERRY BURGER with chips	£13
PULLED BBQ PORK BURGER with lettuce and apple sauce	£12
VEGGIE BURGER with chips	£10
HUNTSMAN (chicken breast, cheddar, gamon, bacon, bbq sauce) with chips	£13
SLOW COOKED 11 hours Baby Back Pork RIBS topped with BBQ sauce, with chips	£14
SLOW COOKED PORK BELLY served with mash potato, gravy and garden peas	£13
BEEF LASAGNE with garlic butter toast	£10
BEEF & ALE PIE with Vegetables and Creamy Mash	£11
SHEPHERD'S PIE with cheese mash potato and seasonal vegetables	£12
WILD SALMON FILLET with mash and vegetables	£13
28 days Dry Aged British 6 Oz RUMP STEAK Grilled with Chips, Mushrooms and grilled tomato (Gf)	£9
28 days Dry Aged British 10 Oz RUMP STEAK Grilled with Chips, Mushrooms and grilled tomato (Gf)	£12
28 days Dry Aged British 8 Oz SIRLOIN STEAK Grilled with Chips, Mushrooms and grilled tomato (Gf)	£15
28 days Dry Aged British 8 Oz FILLET STEAK Grilled with Chips, Mushrooms and grilled tomato (Gf)	£26
8 Oz Cotswold Grilled Lamb Rump with chips, mushrooms and grilled tomato (Gf)	£16
1/2 Spit Roasted Shropshire CHICKEN with BBQ sauce and Chips (Gf)	£12
Wild mushroom Risotto (wild mushroom, parmesan cheese, spinach and truffle oil)	£13
Seafood Risotto (prawns, calamari, mussels, cod fish, garden peas)	£16

#### Sides

Chunky chips/ Small House Salad/ Mixed Vegetables	£2
Beef gravy/ Veg Gravy/ GF Gravy/ Peppercorn sauce	£1
Bacon	£1
Cauliflower cheese	£3

#### Desserts

Spanish Churros with chocolate sauce	£6
New York Cheesecake & strawberry coulis	£5.5
Chocolate Fudge Cake	£5.5
Sticky Toffee Pudding with custard	£5.5
GF Salted Caramel Brownie with vanilla icecream	£6
Black Forest Gateau	£6
White chocolate raspberry panna cotta	£6

#### KIDS MENU

Fish&Chips with chips and peas	£7
Sausage & chips with baked beans	£6
Chicken Goujons with chips and peas	£6

Key: V - Vegetarian, Vg - Vegan, Gf - Gluten Free

FOOD ALLERGIES - Unfortunately, we can't guarantee that any of our food is 100% allergen free  
If you have a food allergy please let us know and consider carefully if you'll order with us.



# JULY "SOCIALLY DISTANCED" WALK AT BLACKBERRY FARM

## Walking in July

Price: £5 per adult  
6 people at a time

**Children FREE**

Through July you can book a time to walk around Blackberry Farm's uninterrupted views across the Stour Valley, for a "socially distanced" walk. This stunning location situated between Honington & Halford, takes you through fields with well marked paths on a search for beautiful butterflies and stunning sculptures. Donations welcome

Please call Richard Gray to book your individual slot at a time to suit you & him on 07977 587911

**Blackberry Farm, Halford, CV36 5DL**

For more information please call Rebecca Mawle on 01608 674929

Many thanks to Richard Gray for his support



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## WHAT'S ON IN & AROUND OXHILL

### JULY 2020

Tuesday 7th Green and Blue Bin Collection

Tuesday 14th Grey landfill Bin Collection

Tuesday 21st Green and Blue Bin Collection

Tuesday 28th Grey landfill Bin Collection

### SEPTEMBER

Saturday 5th Family Garden Fete at Newborough House,  
Nolan's Lane

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**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.**