

THE OXHILL NEWS

May 2024 No. 594



The late, great Myrtle. Find out more about Myrtle and the hot tub on page 12.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

ARTICLE	PAGE
In the Wilds	3
Afternoon Tea & Bubbles at the Old Chapel	4
Church Fundraising Team Events	5
Oxhill Garden Club Spring Plant Sale	6
Oxhill Garden Club Private Garden Visit	7
Oxhill Garage Sale	7
Joanna's Caribbean Inspired Takeout	8
Oxhill Cook: Blueberry & Lemon Ring Cake / Lining Paste	9
Pop Up Thai Street Food Take Away	11
Myrtle at Hay	12
Dementia Awareness Week Local Roadshow Events	13
St Lawrence Church	15
Village Hall: We're Open	16
Shipston Flower Club	20
Wot2Grow Community Orchard	21
Tysoe Tennis Club	22
Nicodemus Charity	24
Music at the Manor	25
Stour Singers Spring Concert	26
Puns	27

CLUB & GROUP CONTACT DETAILS

St Lawrence Church,	Priest-in Charge Rev. George Heighton, 01295 680201 Associate Minister Rev. Heather Parbury, 01608 685575
Carers4carers:	kcarers4carers@gmail.com or tel: 07947 893504
Oxhill Village Hall:	Derek Harbour - Chair Ali Sayer - Hall Hire - 07970 922352 email: oxhillvh@gmail.com
The Peacock Pub	01295 675019
Tysoe Tennis Club:	Club Secretary: Carol Spencer email: carol.spencer234@hotmail.co.uk
Warwickshire Mobile Library:	01926 851031
WOT2Grow Community Orchard:	Liz Atkinson (680045), Paul Sayer (680451), Sue & Mike Sanderson (688080) www.wot2grow.co.uk
talkdementia.uk Carer Support Service	Paul & Heather Dowler Tysoe 688376 email: talkdementia@mail.com Website: talkdementia.uk Tysoe Village Hall every Friday from 10am

I love wildlife, all wildlife, but I have to admit to having some concerns when I spotted a weasel no more than a few meters away from my back door. They might only be 20cm long, but they have a reputation as a fearsome predator. Solitary creatures that fiercely defend their territory, they'll fight any weasel that wanders into their domain and even take on cats and dogs if they're provoked. And woe betide anything that threatens their young!

In the Wilds

Steve MacRae
(wordsmithed by *Karen MacRae*)

Weasels, *Mustela Nivalis*, are the UK's smallest predator. They're related to stoats (with which they're often confused), polecats, ferrets and otters, all of which have that distinctive long, slim shape. For weasels, this means they can fit into the burrows of their favourite prey: mice and voles, both of which we have in abundance in Oxhill. They don't stop at the smallest rodents, though, as their agility and strength allows them to also go after rabbits and rats, and happily raid a bird's nest.

When food is plentiful, weasels can have two broods of 4-6 kits in one year which will be hunting for themselves when only 8 weeks old. When food is scarce, weasels have to hunt further afield than their usual mile or two and even resort to eating insects, but their numbers tend to decline dramatically.

I'm by no means an expert on weasels so I can't tell you if I caught a male, female, young or old weasel with this shot. What I can tell you is that it put on quite a show for me as it pursued a mouse for more than 20 minutes up, down, in, out, through and over a stack of pallets and wooden sleepers, flower beds, and long grass. Ever the fan of the underdog, I confess to being pleased when the mouse managed to confuse its nemesis and get away, but I did feel sorry for the weasel as it had to go straight back to work - it needs to eat around half its body weight a day to survive!



PS Karen insists that I point out that The Paddocks is still work in progress. It'll look much better in 2025 :)

Afternoon Tea & Bubbles at the Old Chapel

Saturday
4th May
3pm

*Scrumptious
sandwiches
and delectable
home baked
cakes*

£12 Adults
£5 Children
£30 Family Ticket

To book, contact
Ruth Mercer: 07400 615 999



St Lawrence's Church, Oxhill Fundraising Committee

CHURCH FUNDRAISING TEAM

Afternoon Tea with Bubbles Saturday 4th May, 3pm

As the Oxhill News goes to print, there are still some tickets left for the Afternoon Tea. It has been two years since the last one so please call or email me to reserve your places as soon as possible! There will be plenty of freshly prepared sandwiches and savouries, homemade scones and cakes, all for the most reasonable price of £12 per adult ticket to include a glass of sparkling wine, £5 for school age children and free for under 5s. We are also offering a £30 family ticket to include 2 parents and all their children under 12. Gluten free options will be available if requested in advance.

If you are able to help on the day with setting up, serving tea or clearing up, please contact me.

Ruth Mercer
07400 615999 or email ruthc.mercer@btinternet.com

D-Day 80 Beacon Supper Thursday 6th June

National plans are well under way to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of D Day in June this year. In Oxhill, we are planning to serve a two course Beacon Supper in The Old Chapel from 6.30pm on Thursday 6th June. There will be plenty of French and English dishes to eat plus a donations bar. Tickets are £12.50 for adults and £7 for children of school age. Beacons across the country will be lit at 9.15pm so we intend to walk to the beacon from 8.45pm.



Ticket numbers are limited so please book early to avoid disappointment.

Ruth Mercer
07400 615999 or email ruthc.mercer@btinternet.com

Autumn Quiz: Saturday 19th October

Made in Oxhill: Friday 29th and Saturday 30th November



OXHILL GARDEN CLUB

SPRING PLANT SALE

**Village Hall
Tuesday 14th May
6.00 - 8.00 pm**

Please put the date in your diary

The sale is a 'bring and buy' event, so please start to think about any plants you can raise from seed or dig up and divide to bring along. All contributions welcome.

All proceeds will go to the Village Hall

Kate Nash





OXHILL GARDEN CLUB

PRIVATE GARDEN VISIT

FALCUTT HOUSE (NN13 5QZ)



2.30PM THURSDAY 13 JUNE

OPEN TO ALL

We have been able to secure a personalised visit to this large private garden which is between Banbury and Brackley. Although organised by the Garden Club this is open to all Oxhill residents and will include a guided tour and tea and cake. Numbers will be limited and the cost is £12 per head. We usually try to have an optional lunch on the way there. Details will follow.

Please let us know if you want to come.

Peter Rivers Fletcher
0773 0800729



OXHILL GARAGE SALE

On Sunday 23rd June, we are planning a Garage Sale for the whole village to take part in. We are raising funds for Shipston Home Nursing so are asking for donations of £10 to host a stall in your garage or garden and to feature on the map that will be given out to visitors. We will promote the event locally. If you would like to host a stall or need more information,

please contact Jo at josweby@hotmail.co.uk or 07720401691. Please also get in touch if you would like a stall but don't have room as we can share some spaces.

We hope lots of you will take this opportunity to have a clear out and join us for what should be a fun day raising money for Shipston Home Nursing.

Tea, coffee and cake will be available at the Village Hall. If you would be up for helping at the Village Hall that day or making a cake, please contact Ali Sayer.



Jo and Morna



Joanna's Caribbean Inspired takeout



Joanna's Caribbean Influenced Brown Stew £10

A full flavoured sweet and mildly spicy chicken stew marinated in brown sugar and authentic Caribbean spices along with Peppers, Onion, Ginger, Garlic and the infamous chilli

Accompanied with Slaw, Cocunut Rice and Fried Plantain

Caribbean Inspired Beef Patties £1.50 each

Contact Joanna on 07932 636144

18.5.2024

**Orders will have 15 min booking slot for
collection**



by Ruth Mercer

I am probably the last to discover this amazing baking trick, but it has transformed my baking life. I have a lovely fluted Bundt cake tin which was supposedly non-stick. Sadly, it was a constant disappointment as every cake reliably stuck to the tin. Not any longer since I started making lining paste to brush in the tin! Every cake has come out so easily and I am now using it to line all cake tins instead of using baking parchment. Once you have made a batch of lining paste, put it in a jam jar in the fridge and it will keep for a few months. Don't forget to take it out of the fridge before you need it so it can get to room temperature before using it (or microwave it for a few seconds).



BLUEBERRY AND LEMON RING CAKE (PLUS THE BEST BAKING HACK EVER – LINING PASTE)

The cake is simple to make as everything goes into the mixing bowl together.

Lining paste

50 g vegetable shortening or hard margarine
50 g plain flour
50 ml vegetable oil

Whisk together the shortening/marg and flour until you have a thick smooth paste, then add the oil gradually and whisk until smooth. Brush onto your cake tins before baking to save paper lining.

Ingredients

Cake

225g/8oz baking spread straight from the fridge
225g/8oz caster sugar

275g/10oz self-raising flour
2 level tsp baking powder
4 free-range eggs
4 tbsp milk or 2 tbsp milk and 2 tbsp lemon curd
2 unwaxed lemons, finely grated zest only (juice needed for icing)
150 – 200 g blueberries, washed, dried and lightly dusted with flour

Lemon icing

15 g butter
45 ml lemon juice
175 g icing sugar, sieved

1. Preheat the oven to 180C / 160C fan.
2. Brush a 23 cm / 9” Bundt ring tin with lining paste, ensuring that all the flutes are well-painted.
3. Measure all the ingredients except the blueberries into a large bowl and beat for 2 minutes, or until well blended.
4. Stir in the blueberries, then pour the mixture into the prepared tin and level the top.
5. Bake for 35–40 minutes, until the cake has shrunk a little from the sides of the tin and springs back when lightly touched with a fingertip in the centre of the cake.
6. Leave the cake in the tin for 10 minutes and then turn out onto a cooling rack to finish cooling.
7. Make the icing by melting the butter with the lemon juice (I use a microwave), then stir in the icing sugar and beat until smooth.
8. When the cake is cool, drizzle the icing over the cake and decorate with a few blueberries.



MENU



POP UP THAI STREET FOOD TAKE AWAY 8.6.2024

Green Thai Chicken Curry **£10**

Freshly made green Thai chilli paste marinated chicken with french beans, coconut milk, coriander, lemon grass and lime leaves 🌶️🌶️

Coconut Rice **£2.50**

Super tasty coconut rice finished with fresh chillies and coriander

Thai Green Papaya Salad **£5**

Made with fresh green papaya, tomatoes, chillis, long beans, lime and topped with roasted peanuts

Spicy Thai Crackers **£1**

TO ORDER YOUR TAKEAWAY

PLEASE CONTACT:

KIM 07968554996

Orders will have 15min booking slot
Please contact with dietary requirements





Carol Taylor, Jane Moore, Rosemary Collier and Judy Badger at the Hay Festival.

MYRTLE AT HAY

by Carol Taylor

The photo above was the usual crew for Hay. It varied but was always organised expertly by Judy Badger and included Myrtle, Jane Moore and myself.

We did it four years running 2016-2019 with 2020 booked but cancelled because of Covid.

Rosemary Collier from Tysoe always came. We went for four days at the end of the festival and three of the four years it included Rosemary's birthday so we'd go out on the Saturday for a slap up meal and Rosemary would buy the wine. One year her birthday fell the day after we got back so no excuse for a meal out except.... Rosemary very modestly told us she had just been made a Professor so we went out and celebrated that instead.

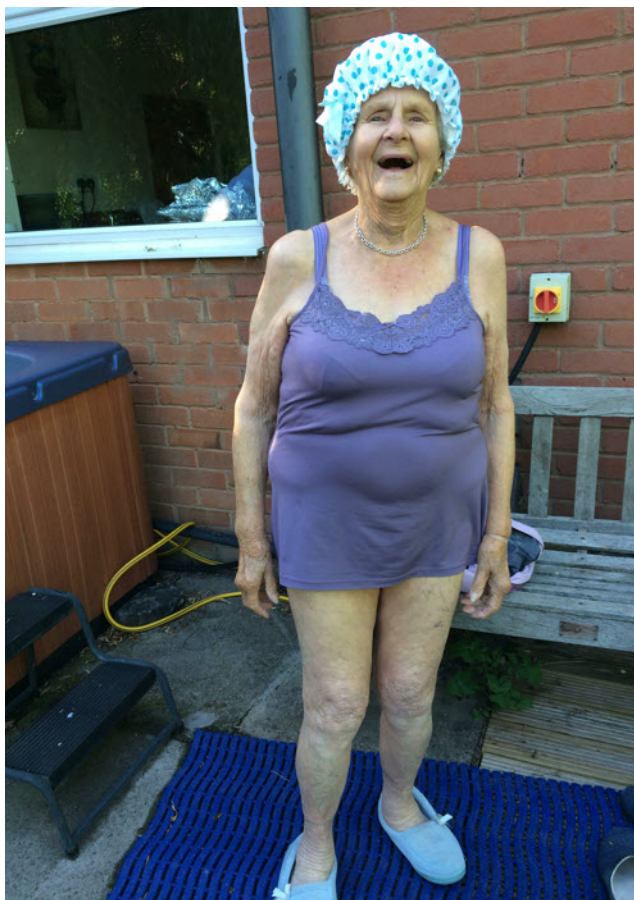


Myrtle enjoying the views by our cottage.

The photos of Myrtle on the cover and below were taken in the first year in 2016. There were six of us and it was cramped. Only one person had a proper bedroom, two shared a twin attic room, one on the landing, one on a z- bed in the hallway and Myrtle on a daybed in the dining room.

Not being an early riser Myrtle would still be in bed as the rest of us breakfasted; we'd pass her whatever she fancied. Being our first year she was uncertain what the Festival would offer in the way of lunch so she came prepared. A loaf of sliced bread and a tube of shrimp flavoured Primula spread lived at the bottom of her bed. Each morning we enjoyed the spectacle of Myrtle making her sandwiches sitting up in bed. Classic Myrtle.

This memory was eclipsed in Classic Myrtle terms however by year two. A more modern property, a bedroom each and a surprise hot tub. I'd always do the first supper and was busy in the kitchen when Myrtle, 89 by now, walked through bare legged in her anorak, slippers and sporting her shower cap. Stopping only for a photo opportunity she whipped off the anorak to reveal her very fetching matching underwear and she was up the steps in a trice, into the tub and sipping an appetite sharpening glass of fizz.



Dementia Awareness Week Local Roadshow Events

Even the word "dementia" can be daunting, but we believe it's better to know

It means you can get the practical advice and emotional support you need

So if you're concerned about yourself or someone close to you, why not call in for a chat over a coffee?

Drop-in between 1.30pm and 4pm at these venues on these dates

Tuesday 14th May - Ettington Village Hall CV37 7SX

Wednesday 15th May - Wellesbourne Village Hall CV35 9NH

Thursday 16th May - Brailes Village Hall OX15 5AS

Friday 17th May - Kineton Village Hall CV35 0LA



**Alzheimer's
Society**



**Caring
Together**
Warwickshire

talkdementia.uk

Organisier's contact: Paul & Heather Dowler 01295 688376

ST LAWRENCE CHURCH

Those of you who were at Myrtle's funeral will have heard reference to her riding a quad bike. Giles, her son, has now sent me the photographic evidence! We shall indeed miss her!



In the Church's year, May sits between Easter, and the resurrection, and the Ascension, when Jesus finally ascends, returns, to his Father. This is followed by Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit was poured out on the early church.

The days between Ascension and Pentecost have become for us the season of Thy Kingdom Come – a global prayer movement when we are encouraged to pray for each other, each in our own way. There are some wonderful resources, with amazing art such as this, which represents the God who speaks: so if you see one in our churches, do pick it up, take it away and make use of it.

Church services in May, in St Lawrence Church unless otherwise stated.

Sunday, 5th May 9.30 am Holy Communion (George Heighton)

Thursday, 9th May **Ascension Day**
7.30 pm Deanery Service in Butler's Marston

Sunday 12th May 9.30 am Morning Worship (George Heighton)

Sunday 19th May **Pentecost**
9.30 am Holy Communion (George Heighton)

Sunday 26th May **Trinity Sunday**
6.30 pm Evening Worship (Jill Tucker)

Breath of God,

your soft kiss touches us gently as we sleep,

your howling gale rattles at our windows.

You blow where you will, often in unexpected places.

You encircle us with the whirlwind of your love.

Liz Delafield, Summer, Wild Goose



WE'RE OPEN!





MORE SPACE



New kitchen & bigger bar



Full cinema sound and vision



Suitable for all events, meetings & clubs

BUY A BRICK!

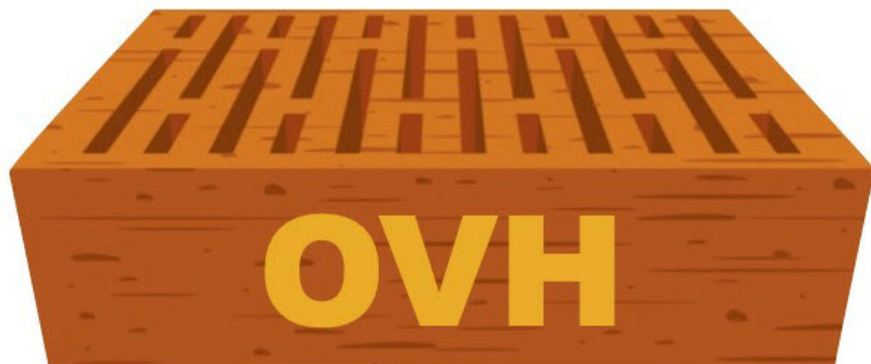
There's still work to do at the Village Hall, especially outside. And, what with the price of everything these days, we're still fundraising!

If you would like to help with a donation or to sponsor a particular job on our to do list, please contact Karen on 07808 586838 or email oxhillvh@gmail.com.

Those who donate £50 or more can choose to have their name added to the Buy A Brick plaque recognising those who supported the renovation. Names are being sent to the engraver at the end of May so please don't delay!

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

We will be holding the AGM on Thursday 30th May from 7-8pm. This is your chance to make suggestions, share ideas, and maybe join the committee if you'd like to take an active role in running the hall. If you don't have the time to be a committee member, maybe you'd like to be a 'Friend of Oxhill Village Hall' and help with events or just make yourself known as someone to call on should we need an extra pair of hands? No time to spare to volunteer? No problem! Come along to the AGM for a free glass of wine and a chat.





SHIPSTON FLOWER CLUB

Presents

From Seed to Vase - Growing Flowers for Cutting and Arranging

a short demonstration by

Debbie Smith
Bumblebee Blooms

Followed by the AGM

on

Tuesday 14th May, 2024
7.00pm for 7.30pm start

at

Shipston on Stour Primary School,
Station Road, CV36 4BT

Visitor Entry £6.00



WOT2 GROW COMMUNITY ORCHARD

If you walk around the community orchard you may have noticed that there are some beehives near the nut glade by the shed. Bees need water and the original little pond had disappeared. So at the beginning of April some kind volunteers, who had some spare pond liner, installed a new one, which will also serve other wildlife in and around the orchard.

A suitable space was found between two laurels at the far end of what used to be the sensory garden. This area had sadly become very overgrown over the pandemic and had almost disappeared except for some large sage bushes. Three large ash saplings were removed, and the pond dug out and lined; then the liner was weighted down with some rocks. Some large slabs were placed in the pond at one end to enable any wildlife to escape from the water. There are plans to insert a fence around the bee/pond area for safety.

The orchard is next to the allotments on the Shenington Road in Tysoe. It is a beautiful and peaceful place abundant in wildlife, as well as bountiful fruit throughout the summer and autumn. We are privileged to have such a wonderful community resource in the village.

Allie Aves

Find out more from the contacts below or message us via the website: www.wot2grow.co.uk

Miranda Forrester (680265), Paul Sayer (680451), Sue and Mike Sanderson (688080)





Tysoe Tennis Club
www.tysoetennisclub.co.uk

Winter leagues end.... summer league are here!!

Never before has a winter schedule taken such a battering, as we all have, from various named storms !-It has played havoc with trying to fulfil all fixtures.

The ladies doubles teams play in the Stratford District Leagues-the “A” team finishing mid table with 5 wins and 5 defeats whilst the “B” team managed 1 victory and 4 draws, but were spared propping up the table by Littleton who lost more games

The “mixed “teams play in the Banbury Winter league . The “A” team had a strong season, sitting in second position-however not all teams in the league managed to complete their fixtures because of the weather .The “B” team took the honour of being the “most supportive “ team, with the other teams above them !!

We do debate whether we can put two teams in both winter leagues but it does allow more club players to participate in competitive matches with other clubs and therefore allows everyone the opportunity to play some league tennis.



Pete and Shirley in action.

“Summer” starts with a bang!!

Our Summer league season has started with a very hard fought win against Hook Norton , on a “balmy” April evening with play going on until 930pm!

The Tysoe team of Julie Smart, Nicki Campbell , Shirley Cherry, Pete Stubbs, Tony Wilde and Colin Wilson battled through to the final match with the contest poised at 4-4.

Nicki and Colin had to win their match to clinch victory , and managed to hold their nerve and do so to secure the first victory of the new season.

The steady stream of spectators (mainly Labradors, Spaniels and Terriers) seemed to enjoy proceedings.

The season is underway!!

Colin Wilson



Julie and Nicki.

NICODEMUS

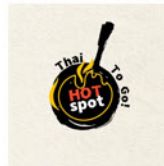
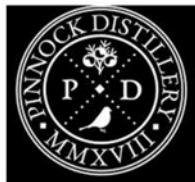
TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES

Nicodemus Charity was created 12 years ago by Alastair and Debbie Welford with a key focus of supporting young vulnerable people within the UK and 11 Latin American and Caribbean countries. Nicodemus trains and supports young people with mentoring skills and works alongside local community groups and churches to reach out to those in their communities that need help. Many ongoing and much needed projects include a protection home for severely abused teenage girls, a street rescue project and a school for children who would otherwise be working on the local rubbish dump in Guatemala. These projects have had such a huge positive impact to young people's lives that some of the young people, having had Nicodemus support, now work or volunteer into these projects and have trained to become mentors, passing on the help they received to others in need.

For more information please go to: www.nicodemuscharity.org.uk



Support us to support young people by joining us at Music at the Manor 2024 along with our local suppliers on the day....





Join us

MUSIC AT THE MANOR

*An afternoon of live entertainment
set in the grounds of Oxhill Manor*

www.nicodemuscharity.org.uk
Celebrating young talent, Supporting young people

12noon until Late

SATURDAY 10TH AUGUST

FOR TICKETS GO TO OUR WEBPAGE OR USE QR CODE BELOW

www.nicodemuscharity.org.uk/music-at-the-manor

Tickets £15 per person, £10 under 14 years, Under 5yrs go FREE

**A full day of amazing performances from local musicians,
bands and solos artists**

*Bring your chairs, gazebos, family and friends and be prepared to be
thoroughly entertained*



A fundraising event to support

NICODEMUS

STOUR SINGERS

SPRING CONCERT

featuring

Haydn: Nelson Mass

Mozart: Dixit & Laudate Dominum

Purcell: Te Deum & Jubilate

with

Louise Wayman *soprano*

Judith Le Breuilly *mezzo soprano*

Matthew Pochin *tenor*

James Birchall, *bass-baritone*

and

The Royal Birmingham Conservatoire Orchestra

Saturday, 18 May 2024 at 7.30pm

St. Edmund's Church, Shipston on Stour

Tickets £16 (accompanied children free)

available from ticketsource.co.uk/stour-singers

or on the door



www.stoursingers.org.uk

Solo artists appear by arrangement with
Ann Ferrier Artists - Concert Directory International

PUNS

Will glass coffins be a success? Remains to be seen.

I went to find some camouflage trousers, but couldn't find any.

What do you call a bee that can't make up its mind? A maybe.

I tried to sue the airline for losing my luggage. I lost my case.

A cross eyed teacher could not control his pupils.

My wife still misses me but her aim is improving.

The guy who invented the door knocker got a Nobel Prize.

What do you call a super articulate dinosaur? A Thesaurus.

I went to an antique show and they were bidding on me.

WHAT DO YOU GET WHEN
YOU CROSS A SNOWMAN
AND A VAMPIRE?



FROSTBITE

WHAT'S ON IN & AROUND OXHILL

MARCH

Sat 4th	15:00	Afternoon Tea, the Old Chapel
Tues 14th	18:00-20:00	Spring Plant Sale, Village Hall
Tues 14th	19:00	Shipston Flower Club
Sat 18th	19:30	Stour Singers, St Edmund's Church, Shipston
Sat 18th		Joanna's Caribbean Takeout
Every Thursday	11:45	Coffee Morning, Peacock Pub

PC MEETINGS

The date of the next PC Meeting is **Tuesday, 7th May 2024 at 7.30pm**. This meeting will be held in the Village Hall. The Agenda for the meeting will be shown on the PC Website or a physical copy will be displayed on the village Notice Board, on the wall of the Peacock, a few days before the meeting.

If you want any request to be included for consideration at the above meeting please send details to the Clerk (oxhillpc@btinternet.com) at least 10 days prior to the meeting to ensure that it is included on the publicly visible Agenda.

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.

May 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

BIN COLLECTION CALENDAR

Check the date on the calendar to identify which bins go out for collection.

-  Food waste
-  Recycling
-  General refuse
-  Garden waste