THE OXHILL NEWS

January 2025 No. 602



CCOTS choir singing carols outside the Peacock pub.

Photo by Tricia Harbour

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

ARTICLE	PAGE	
Christmas Tractor Run Photos	3	
St Lawrence Church for January	4	
Village Hall	6	
Oxhill Parish Council Needs You!	11	
Christmas Advent Windows	12	
Funny Pet Pictures	14	
Life Poem from Sally	16	
Oxhill Cooks: Chocolate Hazelnut Babka	17	
Church Fundraising: Made In Oxhill	20	
Big Church Clean	22	
Christmas Tree Collection	22	
Oxhill Parish Council Meeting Minutes November	23	
One Day Road Closure	26	
Where is the cat?	27	

CLUB & GROUP CONTACT DETAILS

St Lawrence Church,	Priest-in Charge	Rev. George	e Heighton,	01295 680201

Rev Canon Dr Jill Tucker 0973 994800

revjill.tucker@btinternet.com

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 Paul & Heather Dowler Tysoe 688376

Carer Support Service email: talkdementia@mail.com

Website: talkdementia.uk

Tysoe Village Hall every Friday from 10am

If you would like to list your club or group in the Oxhill News please send details to oxhill.news.editor@gmail.com

CHRISTMAS TRACTOR RUN PHOTOS

Photos by David Hawtin











ST LAWRENCE CHURCH FOR JANUARY

During Advent, Christmas, and into this New Year, events have been marked by a series of journeys. It began with our journey through Advent, from darkness to light, then the long journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem to be counted, and the birth of the holy child. In due course they will flee into exile for the sake of the safety of that child – a journey echoed by countless millions across the world today. And as we enter the journey of this New Year, we encounter the journey made by the Wise Men, following a summons they could not resist, to find and pay homage to that Holy Child.

What was is that urged them to take that journey, one that would last months, and take them away from all that was familiar? They would look in the wrong place, ask the wrong people, have their presumptions challenged. But when they got there, their lives would be changed – having met God in person, they would never be the same.

Our journeys are not unlike that: something draws us towards God, and may lead us to strange places, with many questions on the way. But when we have met him, our lives are transformed – God is with us, and we are never the same.



Harsh is the way, very long is the journey, crossing the borders of custom and doubt; seeking a new prince, not found in a palace, what has this pilgrimage been all about?

Led to the stable, they're filled with elation: God is revealed in a small baby's face. Humbled, they're kneeling in silent devotion, sensing within an outpouring of grace. Avis Palmer, Winter.

CHURCH SERVICES IN JANUARY

Sunday, January 5th Epiphany

9.30 am Holy Communion Jill Tucker

Sunday, January 12th

9.30 am Morning Prayer George Heighton

Sunday, January 19th

9.30 am Holy Communion George Heighton

Sunday, January 26th

6.30 pm Evening Worship Jill Tucker

Every blessing, and best wish for a Happy New Year,

Jill revjill.tucker@btinternet.com

If you would like to be kept up to date about events in our churches, please email me and I will put you on our Grapevine emailing list.



'The Journey of the Three Kings' (1825) by Leopold Kupelwieser



Email oxhillvh@gmail.com to reserve your ticket



CHRISTMAS LETTER FROM THE CHAIR OF OXHILL VILLAGE HALL

It has been my privilege to Chair the OVH Committee since March. I was, and continue to be, impressed by the talent and camaraderie of the team and so, as we approach the end of the first year of events in the renovated village hall, I thought that I would take the opportunity say thank you to the committee and to share our year with you.

One of the committee's key roles is to provide opportunities for Oxhill to come together socially. To this end, we delivered a number of new events in 2024 on top of the usual favourites starting with a great Burn's Night at the end of January. A sell-out Pies and Puds followed in April after which we hosted Thai 'pop-up' Kan's Kitchen for the first time. Next came a very well-attended Annual General Meeting in May at which we were delighted to welcome new Friends of the Village Hall and a new committee member, Sally.

The Family BBQ in July attracted younger members of our community and it was wonderful to see children playing inside and outside the hall. August proved to be a busy month with a fantastic Evening with Val Garland, a return visit of Kan's Kitchen, and another new venture: our fun Summer Soiree. The next big event was the ever popular Progressive Supper which was followed soon after by a talk from Roland and Shirley Cherry retelling Roland's survival from a harrowing attack by an African hippo. The programme continued in November with a very busy Curry Night during which we unveiled a plaque commemorating all those who 'bought a brick' to support the hall's renovation.

December saw the annual return of the Senior's Christmas Lunch, this year with the support of our Friends and wonderful chefs Joanna Griffiths and Kim Fowler who wowed us all with exceptional turkey and top notch trimmings.

Last but not least in 2024 will be the effervescent Beer & Bubbles party on 20th December at which we will be celebrating Christmas and the way in which the committee and all of our supporters pulled together to deliver a first-rate events programme this year.

Another key role for the committee is to ensure the hall is properly maintained for the use of the community. This means that we need a regular income and so fundraising is an ongoing necessity. I am pleased to report that this year has seen more lettings, improved income from the events programme, and the autumn launch of our '100 Club'. We now have 51 subscribers to this, allowing us to offer a bumper festive pay-out of £100 to each of the three winners in December.

The committee is also responsible for finishing the renovation. As we are not construction experts, we appointed a Building Team at the beginning of 2024 to complete the works, improving still further the experience for all who use the hall. The biggest of the









outstanding jobs is to update the car park and, thanks to our improved income and the generosity of new donors, a contractor is scheduled to begin this work in the spring of 2025.

In summary, it has been an interesting and successful year and I am optimistic about 2025 as we will once again have an excellent team in place, and a full schedule of events including more guest talks and the return of the Great British Breakfast.

The challenge for the new year is to find a couple of new people to join us in making sure that the hall continues to thrive so please get in touch if you would like to join the team.

With my thanks to the Oxhill Village Hall committee: Rachel Beesley, Sarah Bracher, Sue Philpott, Karen MacRae, John McKail, Sally Mannerings, and Ali Sayer.

Derek Harbour



OXHILL SENIOR CHRISTMAS LUNCH

'WHAT A WONDERFUL AFTERNOON!'

The Oxhill Christmas Lunch for the more senior members of our community was held on Tuesday 10th December, and what a fabulous treat it was for everyone. We even remembered to take some photos!

With thanks to the Village Hall committee and friends for all their hard work, to CCOTS choir for the festive entertainment, and to the cooks: Joanna Griffiths, Kim Fowler, Hugh Rowse, Barbara Shepard, Elaine Morgan, Sheila Wilde, and Michelle Hardiman.

2025 EVENTS PROGRAMME

In this month's issue, you'll see a list of events scheduled for 2025 which we hope you will find helpful. We will do our very best to stick to these, but a date or two may have to move







as circumstances demand so please keep your eye on the village Facebook page and for posters at the usual sites around the village. Tickets and more information can be had from Ali at oxhillvh@gmail.com or 07970 922352.

BURNS' NIGHT, SATURDAY 25TH JANUARY 2025, 7PM

Tickets for the annual homage to Robert Burns are available to purchase from Tricia Harbour for £22 per person. Why not join us for a four course meal, a healthy dram of whisky, lots of laughs, and excellent company? Tartan is encouraged but not essential! You can reach Tricia on 01295 680676 or 07812 200516, or by emailing oxhillvh@gmail.com.

OXHILL PARISH COUNCIL NEEDS YOU!

Next May there will be 4 vacancies on the Parish Council, for various very good reasons several of the existing Councillors will be stepping down from the Council. This will only leave 1 remaining Councillor.

The Parish Council cannot operate without 5 Councillors, if new Councillors are not found to replace those that are leaving the statutory duties will be carried out by Stratford and the Parish will be charged for their services.

This means as a community we will not have any say in how the Parish money is spent and will not have a representation in any planning proposals within the Parish or any other issues that affect the Parish.

As a Parish Councillor there is a small commitment to consider planning proposals and other information and requests and a commitment to attend 6 meetings a year (every other month).

If you feel that you might be interested in becoming a Parish Councillor, please have a chat with one of the existing Parish Councillors including myself.

Thank you Lis Stuart Chairperson



CHRISTMAS ADVENT WINDOWS

Thank you to everyone who took part in the Christmas Windows this year. It was lovely to see all the designs and to hear how much people enjoy seeing them and how they brighten up the Christmas period. It was also great to see so many people out and about viewing the windows and to chat to everyone.

Lis Stuart







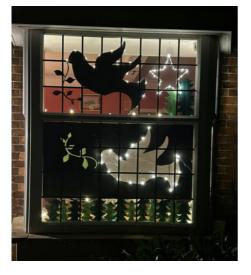














FUNNY PET PICTURES

This month we have a funny-face pony named Star from Ellie, Minnie the Newfoundland in her Christmas jumper and Mabel, a dog who regularly donates blood to help other dogs. If you have any pictures of your pets (and we know you do) that would bring a smile to others, please share them with us.

Ed.



This is my pony, Star. \sim Ellie



Minnie I took a few years ago for a Xmas competition at work... she looks very unimpressed

~ Mark Blundell



Mabel is 7 years old and been donating blood for the last 5 years. She has donated 16 times and with each unit of blood being used in up to 4 operations she has potentially helped to save 64 lives.

If anyone is interested in learning more please go to pet blood banks website donors are always needed



Life can't be counted in candles or measured in number of years, it's counted in small joys and good times and laugh lines, as well as in heartaches and tears.



Life can't be counted in candles,
but in things done with effort and pridewith dreams followed boldly
and hopes kept alivein times when we've failed--but tried.

Life can't be counted in candles
or measured in years that have flownit's counted in kindnesses,
close friends, and loved ones,
and in all the sweet blessings we've known.

My dear aunt Sally, still lovely at 92 years old, enjoys reading the Oxhill News at her home in Florida. She kindly sent me wonderful poem which I hope you enjoy this Christmas.

Vanessa, ed





by Ruth Mercer

Some years ago, I included an apricot couronne recipe in Oxhill Cooks. If you made that recipe, this one has a similar rolling and twisting technique but is filled with dark chocolate and hazelnuts and baked in a 2lb loaf tin instead of in the shape of a crown. It is a bun/cake/loaf which is best eaten fresh, although will last for a few days. If not quite fresh, warm a slice in the microwave for a few seconds and it revives beautifully. Serve with a good cup of coffee, if you like that sort of thing.



I made it recently intending to serve it during our annual family wreath-making session, which was happening in the morning, so I prepared the babka the night before, putting it in the fridge overnight. We got it out of the fridge first thing in the morning but it was a cold day and the dough just wouldn't rise until we put it in a warm place (on top of our boiler). By the time it was risen and cooked, it was well past elevenses, so we had some after lunch!

CHOCOLATE HAZELNUT BABKA

Ingredients

For the filling

65g blanched hazelnuts

75g butter

100g caster sugar

75g dark chocolate (doesn't have to be 70% dark as the cocoa makes it stronger)

35g cocoa

For the dough

275g plain flour

5g fast-action dried yeast

25g caster sugar

 $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp salt

2 eggs, beaten

50ml full fat milk (I use semi-skim with a dash of cream)

80g butter, cubed and softened

For the syrup

4 tbsp golden syrup 4tbsp hot water

- 1. Line a 900g (2lb) loaf tin with baking parchment, making sure the paper stands slightly higher than the tin sides.
- 2. Prepare the filling. Preheat the oven to 200C / 180C fan. Put the hazelnuts onto a baking sheet and roast in the oven for 4-5 minutes, turning occasionally until light golden. (I do this in an air fryer as it saves preheating the oven). Cool on a chopping board and then chop so that there are some finely chopped pieces and some slightly larger pieces easy to do in a food processor or perfect in a mini processor.
- 3. Melt the filling butter, sugar and chocolate gently, either in a pan on the hob or in the microwave, stirring until smooth and combined. Add the cocoa and mix, then allow to cool.
- 4. Make the dough. Put the flour into the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with a dough hook, add the yeast to one side of the flour and the sugar and salt to the other. Make a well in the middle of the flour and add the eggs, milk and butter. Mix at a low speed for a couple of minutes until the butter has been thoroughly combined with the other ingredients, increase the speed to medium and continue mixing until the dough turns smooth, silky and shiny.
- 5. Flour your work surface (I tend to use a piece of baking parchment or washable baking tray liner on my work surface) and roll the dough into a rectangle measuring 40cm x 30cm, with the longer edge closest to you.
- 6. Now spread the filling evenly all over the dough, leaving a 1cm border all around the edges. Sprinkle the chopped hazelnuts on top of the chocolate filling. (See photos below as they show stages 6 to 9).
- 7. Starting from the long edge nearest you, roll up the dough into a tight spiral, finishing with the seam underneath. Turn the roll clockwise by 90 degrees so that the roll now extends away from you. Using a pizza wheel or a sharp knife, cut the roll along its length so you are left with two long half rolls and adjust so the cut sides are facing upwards.
- 8. Press the top end of the strands together and then lift the strand on the left side over the strand on the right. Lift the







- strand that is now on the left over the right and repeat until you have created a two stranded plait. Press the ends together.
- 9. Now place the plait in the prepared tin. Don't worry if it is longer than the tin, just place some in the tin and then shuffle it up to fit the rest in.
- 10. Cover with a tea towel or plastic bag and place in a warm room for 2 hours until it's doubled in size. (Alternatively, place in the fridge overnight and then let it rise in the morning but allow time for the dough to warm up.)
- 11. Near the end of the proving time, preheat the oven to 190C / 170C fan. Bake the babka for 15 minutes and then reduce the oven temperature to 170C / 150C fan and cook for a further 25-30 minutes until a skewer inserted into the middle comes out clean, apart from the obvious chocolate!
- 12. While the babka is baking, prepare the syrup by mixing the syrup and hot water together. Drizzle the syrup over the babka when it comes out of the oven and leave it in the tin until cool enough to lift out onto a cooling rack

















CHURCH FUNDRAISING

MADE IN OXHILL

Made In Oxhill Arts and Crafts Pop-Up Shop opened in the Old Chapel at the end of November for shopping on the Friday evening and during the day on Saturday. These were the same opening hours as last year, yet even the draw of mulled wines and mince pies didn't attract as many visitors as last year's Friday opening. Saturday saw visitors travelling from far and wide to enjoy the variety of arts, crafts and home produce created in such a small village as Oxhill. They also enjoyed the delicious home-baked cakes, cheese scones and, new for this year, fresh homemade soup. Thank you to everyone who supported the event. Not only do you help local artists and makers, but this year the Knit and Natter stall raised £372 towards naming Oxhill's second Guide Dog puppy. The money raised by the sale of refreshments goes towards the upkeep of Oxhill Church, along with donations from the Stallholders.

Thank you to everyone who donated freshly baked cakes, scones and biscuits to keep our visitors well-refreshed. We are well aware that many of our visitors come especially for the cake! This event (and others) just wouldn't happen without the commitment and hard work of the Church Fundraising Team and additional volunteers. Special thanks to Gaida and Jerry Webb, Linda Synge, Carol Beasley, Lis Stuart, Carol Fox, Kay Hawtin, Rowena Foster, Alice and Jon Mercer for working tirelessly during the weekend and giving so freely of your time and enthusiasm, particularly this year when I could only lend one hand.





CHURCH FUNDRAISING 2025

We have a couple of events planned for 2025, but what sort of event would you like to support? We always welcome suggestions or requests for a repeat of an event you enjoyed. Email or text me with your ideas, please!

Ruth Mercer ruthc.mercer@btinternet.com 07400 615999

BIG CHURCH CLEAN

Due to the gales we did not complete the big clean. Thank you to those who did brave the elements on Friday and Saturday 6th and 7th. Obviously we still need to complete the exercise so can we please try again on **11th January** when we can attack the major part of the clean.

Happy New Year to All.

Carol Fox 680223

Christmas Tree Collection

Thomas Fox Landscaping, supporting Shipston Home Nursing, will collect your real tree from outside your property

- · £10 minimum donation per tree
- Maximum of three trees per property
- Collection from outside your property w/c 6th January 2025
- · Your donation will help to fund hospice care at home
- Trees are chipped and used to create a nutrient rich compost, which will be used on local fields

Please check our website for the collection areas

Book online at

www.shipstonhomenursing.co.uk/event/treecollection











Oxhill Parish Council Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held Tuesday 12th November 2024 at 7.30pm in The Village Hall

Councillors Present

Cllr Stuart (Chairperson), Cllr Connolly, Cllr Robertson and Cllr Storey

Clerk to the Council, Mrs C Coles, County Cllr Mills, District Cllr Littlewood and five villagers

24/83. Apologies for absence

Cllr Rivers-Fletcher (personal)

24/84. To receive Declarations of Interest under the Council's Code of Conduct relating to business on the agenda

No interests were declared.

24/85. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 10th September 2024

The minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed as a true and accurate record.

24/86. To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on this agenda

There were no matters arising.

24/87. Public Participation Session

A member of the public was at the meeting and he had previously reported blocked access on local footpaths. Some recent walkers who experienced problems when walking, said that had they been able to carry on they would have visited the local pub. They will not be returning to the area. One letter has been sent to a local landowner but there has been no response. There is limited time and resource within the local footpath team at WCC. The matter will be taken up with Clir Chris Mills.

24/88. To receive a report from the County and District Councillor

The report from Cllr Mills included:

Specialist support for children with SEND, Supported internships in Warwickshire, Impact film wins 'Best Overall Film' at festival, New role to lead the development of supported internships in Warwickshire, Support for male victims of domestic abuse, Highlighting the power of fostering, Council commits to raising awareness of Pension Credit, Warm and well this winter, Water Beads, I need support now, Getting money advice, Mature driver safety, World Day of Remembrance For Road Traffic Victims Service, Police antisocial behaviour patrols, Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Services Chief Fire Officer selected to lead West Midlands Fire Service, Saturday working on Stratford's Birmingham Road, Enjoy free parking at Stratford Park and Ride this November. The full report can be read on the village website www.oxhillcommunity.co.uk.

The report from Cllr Littlewood included:

The application for the Anaerobic Digester at Tysoe which has been withdrawn by the applicant, Welfare and Support and Homelessness, Resettlement and Asylum in SDC.

suspicion that the pump at the pumping station is not adequate. A member of the public noted that the road closure sign is not helpful for people visiting relatives or friends in Oxhill. However this is necessary as there is a large hole on Whatcote Road. The

24/90. To receive an update on the replacement bridge off Nolands Road

of concern. It was noted it is important to look at the overall value of a plan and not the cost. A Parish Plan was prepared a number of years ago and led by a villager who was an ex planner.

24/91.

24/92.

24/89.

who may be interested in sitting on a working group.

Highway matters To receive an update on the cattle grid on Nolands Road

This has been reported several times but not been fixed. To discuss subsidence in the layby on Whatcote Road

25 reported outstanding footpath issues within Oxhill.

There is subsidence opposite the layby on Whatcote Road.

Action: The Chair to send a photo to the Parish Clerk who will report on FMS.

To receive an update on the current situation of sewage on Manor Fields and the village Cllr Robertson noted that there is nothing new to report tonight. He had asked Severn Trent (ST)

The matter has been reported to the Environmental Dept at Stratford District Council.

The roadworks on Kineton Road continue, workmen had arrived yesterday morning and dug a bigger hole in the road. The sewer is running at full and over-capacity and the drains are really no longer fit for purpose. Tankers have been on site during periods of heavy rain to carry away excess sewage to avoid the drains erupting and spilling raw sewage across the Manor fields, Willow Mead garden and on Kineton Road, but are barely sufficient to cope with the water volume. The Parish Council are exerting as much pressure on ST as possible, to implement a plan to resolve the issue. ST acknowledge that it's a serious problem. There is a continuing

The bridge kit has been made and the installers are ready. They are waiting for an official PO from WCC. The total price of the work is £3K (down from £10K). Frustration was expressed as

The Parish Clerk is working with another village and a planning consultant. They are preparing a Neighbourhood Plan from scratch and are having a Feasibility Study done first to identify areas

Action: The Chair to send the Parish Plan to a member of the public who was at the meeting and

resourced. A majority of the spend is allocated to Adult Social Care and SEN children. There are

DBS check which can be expensive and time consuming. Tysoe are currently having one set up.

this has been ongoing since September. This will be raised with Cllr Chris Mills.

To receive an update on producing a Neighbourhood Plan and consultant costs

for a report prior to this meeting but had not receive a reply.

problems will continue to flare each time there is heavy rain.

Councillor Chris Mills arrived after attending another council meeting. Footpaths were discussed and if the Parish Council can influence funding at County level. The department is under

It was agreed to see how their scheme goes before progressing with one here.

Action: Cllr Chris Mills to speak to the Footpath Officer. Cllr Connolly to send the full list to Cllr Mills.

24/93. To discuss setting up a defibrillator runner scheme The cost to set up the scheme is £120.00 per annum and each person will have to undertake a

24

24/94. To receive an update on the Climate Change Action Plan

The action plan was circulated. Most actions have been carried out and some are ongoing. Councillors to think about next steps and it will be updated.

24/95. To receive an update on planning

One application had been received.

24/02518/FUL and 24/02519/LBC, Part-conversion, alterations and extension to garage
to provide additional accommodation and carport, proposed roof light over main house
landing, replacement of staircase and new glazed screen to landing bedroom, reordering
of former bedroom to provide an ensuite and dressing area, and part rebuilding of
boundary wall following collapse at The Old Post Office, Main Street. No objection.

24/96. Financial Report

To note the Pay Award for the Parish Clerk in line with the Local Government Services Pay Agreement 2024/25

Councillors discussed the pay award and agreed to get further advice from WALC.

Action: The Chair to contact WALC.

24/97. Councillors Reports

Work is ongoing with the VAS. Permission is needed to use the pole.

The 30mph road sign on Green Lane has been knocked and turned round. It will be reported on FMS.

An email was received about the unacceptable behaviour of the Warwickshire Hunt recently.

Action: The Parish Clerk to send them a letter.

24/98. To note meeting dates for 2025

14th January, 11th March, 13th May, 8th July, 9th September and 11th November.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.30pm.

ONE DAY ROAD CLOSURE

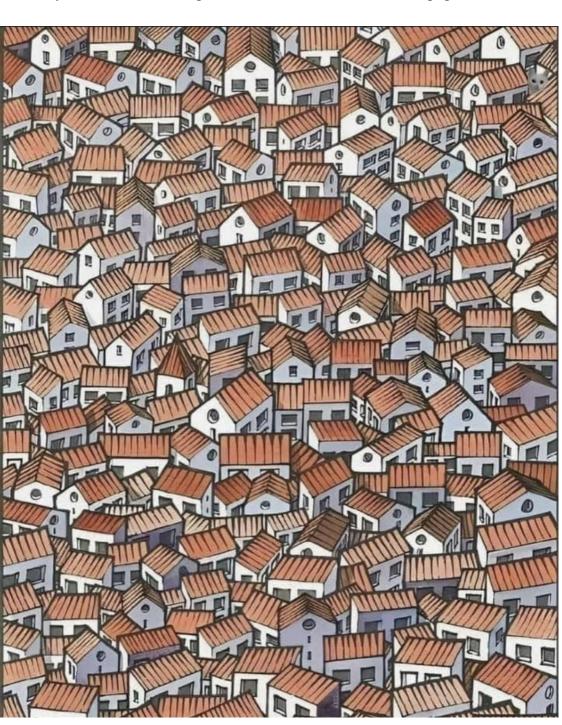
26/01/2025

Shipston Running Race



WHERE IS THE CAT?

Can you find the cat amongst the houses? Answer on the back page.



WHAT'S ON IN & AROUND OXHILL

JANUARY

Wed 8th	14:30-14:50	Mobile Library outside Village Hall
Sat 11th		Church Clean Up, St Lawrence Church
Tues 14th	19:30	PC Meeting Village Hall
Sat 25th	19:00	Burn's Night, Village Hall
Every Thursday	12:00	Coffee Morning, Peacock Pub

PC MEETINGS

The date of the next PC Meeting is **Tuesday**, **14th January 2025 at 7.30pm**. This meeting will be held in the Village Hall. The minutes and agendas will be posted on the Parish Council part of the Welcome to Oxhill Notice board, not the one by the pub.

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.

