

THE OXHILL NEWS

September 2025 No. 610



The Oxhill team that won the Oxhill/Tysoe cricket match on Sunday 17 August. Oxhill Cricket Club has 15 members that play on rotation according to availability.
Read more on pages 3-5.

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CLUB & GROUP CONTACT DETAILS

St Lawrence Church,	Priest-in Charge Rev. George Heighton, 01295 680201 Rev Canon Dr Jill Tucker 07973 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
Oxhill Pickleball	Peter Rivers Fletcher 07730 800729 rfn364@btinternet.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:	Miranda Forrester (680265); Paul Sayer (680451); Sue and Mike Sanderson (688080)
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**



Oxhill CC

August News

Completed Fixture Match Reports:

Thurs 24th June: Oxhill CC vs Welford CC-20 overs: Oxhill won by 6 runs.

Team: Will Gowers, Andy Teesdale, Will Connor, Mike Salmon, Adam Jordan, Matt Chick, Jamie Farris, Mike Bridgman, Ryan Orgill, Jack Teesdale, Neil Chick

One of Oxhill's youngest sides of the season took to the field against Welford at Radway on the 24th June. Oxhill's matches against Welford have been close in the past and this year's game proved no different. Oxhill batted first and scored 128-5. Opener Gowers and fourth bat Salmon both scored particularly well reaching 25 and 30 respectively before retiring. Welford ran the home side close yet fell 6 runs short by the end of their 20 overs; for the loss of 7 wickets. Paceman Adam Jordan bowled 3 tidy overs, taking 2 wickets for a measly 3 runs. Fellow speed-merchant Will Connor also bowled well knocking over 3 for 5 off 3 overs.

Thurs 31st July: Bodicote CC vs Oxhill CC-20 overs: Oxhill won by 68 runs.

Team: Matt Walker, Craig Walker, Mike Salmon, Dave Whittaker, Will Gowers, Neil Chick, Jon Simpson, Adam Jordan, Matt Chick, Will Connor, Ryan Orgill

Oxhill's cricketers travelled to the excellent facilities at Cropredy to play their away fixture against Bodicote. Oxhill expected a tougher test than

that which Bodicote provided in the meeting of the two sides earlier in the season; which Oxhill won comfortably.

However, this was not to be the case. Walker and Walker opened the batting. Both scored very well. Walker junior hit a stylish 35 before losing his wicket. Walker senior made a classy 50 and then retired.

Salmon, batting 3, also retired after scoring an unbeaten 52 and Dave Walker, batting 4, hit 22 not out. The away side's batsmen reached an ultimately unassailable 174-1. Bodicote showed resilience at times, yet fell way short after their 20 overs; making 106 runs for 5. Left-arm seam bowler Jon Simpson did the bulk of the damage finishing with outstanding figures of 3 wickets for 5 runs off 4 overs.



Thurs 7th Aug: Oxhill CC vs Norton Lindsey CC-20 overs: Norton Lindsey CC won by 16 runs.

Oxhill CC came up against a young and useful Norton Lindsey side for their last Thursday 20-20 game of the season. Norton Lindsey won the toss and chose to bat.

This turned to be a fortuitous turn of events for them.

Oxhill's bowling and fielding was sound and they thought they had limited the away

side's scoring to an achievable 117. Gowers, Salmon Jordan and Orgill took a wicket each. The batting started well for Oxhill. Teesdale's 12 and Frape's 18 got the home side off to a decent start. Power hitter Matt Walker top scored again hitting a quick 29. However, quick bowlers and the diminishing light engineered a batting collapse that saw Oxhill's last 6 wickets fall for just 20 runs. A somewhat disappointing end to what has been a largely successful 20-20 season for Oxhill.



Sunday 17th Aug: Tysoe CC vs Oxhill CC-20 overs: Oxhill won by 12 runs.

Team: Matt Walker, Craig Walker, Mike Salmon, Neil Chick, Will Gowers, Michael Dawes, Matt Chick, Ed Fox, Mike Bridgman, Jon Simpson, Ryan Orgill

Spectators and players alike were blessed with glorious weather for the big Tysoe/Oxhill post-Flower Show clash. Oxhill won the toss and stand-in captain Gowers elected to bat on what looked to be a difficult batting wicket. The away side got off to a decent start. Talismanic Matt Walker scored 32 before retiring. However, Oxhill lost a handful of quick wickets and the game seem to be rapidly moving out of sight of the Oxhill lads after 12 overs. Ed Fox and Mike Bridgman batting 8 and 9 were able to steady the ship somewhat; making 15 and 7 respectively before being dismissed by the useful Tysoe bowling unit. Jonny Simpson, batting 10, and the returning opening batsman Walker, scored an indispensable 29 additional runs at the end of the Oxhill innings. Walker finished on 40 n/o and Simpson on 21. At tea, the Oxhill lads were satisfied with what seemed like a decent score of 123 on a tricky batting tack. And so, it proved to be. The Oxhill bowlers took full advantage of the challenging batting conditions and severely limited the number of scoring shots that the home side were able to play. All 10 of Oxhill's bowlers bowled well. Salmon, Walker and Dawes took a wicket each. Gowers went for a stingy 5 runs off his two overs and Walker a tight-fisted 8 off his. Plaudits also go to Mike Bridgman and, particularly Matt Chick, who bowled the final 4 overs. They conceded 18 runs between them and with Tysoe chasing 12 runs off the final over, Chick was able to produce an outstanding wicket maiden to bring the game home. Oxhill were in jubilant mood after winning an exciting and, at times, tense match.

The team wish to extend their thanks to the opposition captain Robert Startin for organising the game and to his wife Kate for putting together the excellent tea.

Upcoming fixtures: Long Compton CC (home), Sat 6th Sept: Bridgtown CC (away), Sun 7th Sept: Lynton and Lynmouth CC (away). All home games are played at Radway.

Thursday games (20/20) start at 6pm. Sunday games (35/40 overs) start at 12pm or 1pm. Spectators are always welcome!

Will Gowers.

ST LAWRENCE CHURCH FOR SEPTEMBER

The seasons seem to be racing ahead at the moment. Suddenly it is turning cooler, with the odd spot of rain; leaves are beginning to fall; blackberries are awaiting picking, and the nights are slowly drawing in. Autumn is beginning to show its face; but before it really arrives the children go back to school, and teenagers go to college, which may well mean new beginnings for many of them, and then we celebrate harvest. After a challenging summer, some may feel they have less to celebrate than in previous years, but there is still so much to thank God for. As a village we will mark harvest at the Harvest Celebration in St Lawrence on Sunday, September 28th at 3.30 pm – followed by tea. All are invited to join us.



Services in September

Sunday, September 7 th	9.30 am	Holy Communion	George Heighton
Sunday, September 14 th	9.30 am	Holy Communion	Susan Bowden-Pickstock
Sunday, September 21 st	9.30 am	Holy Communion	Susan Bowden-Pickstock
Sunday, September 28 th	3.30 pm	Harvest Celebration	Jill Tucker



SEASONS

I whispered in winter
and did not disturb
the deep white silence
of the snow.

I sang in the springtime
with the feathered choir
of birds in concert
in the trees.

I whistled in summer
and the sunshine's rays
danced on the waters
to my tune.

Autumn made me quiet.
Crispness and colours,
sunset and stillness
calmed my soul. *Irene Howat, in Autumn.*



OXHILL VILLAGE HALL

Many congratulations to our July 100 Club winners Ros Arthur and Lee Robinson who both won prizes for their second time. And to our August winners: Karen Barker, Graham Mannerings, and Jeremy Franklin.

Sally Mannerings is busy assigning numbers for the coming year so if you would like the chance to join next year's winners' roll from the very beginning, please get in touch with her before the first draw on 19th September. Already a subscriber and would like to renew? The simplest way is to use BACS to pay your annual subscription directly into the village hall bank account. Subscription remains at £60 per number. You can email Sally at oxhillvh@gmail.com or give her a call on 07769 348844.



100 CLUB LOTTERY 2024-2025 WINNERS

Ros Arthur • Karen Barker • Sarah Bracher • Sally & Ian Broderick
Katy Dowding • Jean Duffy • Roger Goodman • Jeremy Franklin
Derek Harbour • Tricia Harbour • Dave Hawtin • Kay Hawtin
Eileen Macpherson • Morna Macpherson • Graham Mannerings
Anne Marshall • John McKail • Grenville Moore • Ed Morgan
Dave Nash • Steve MacRae • Tony Philpott • Sue Robbins
Lee Robinson • Paul Sayer • Julia Sibun • Richard & Hilary Stait
Peter Taylor • Anonymous

WILL YOU WIN IN 2025-2026?

oxhillvh@gmail.com

PROGRESSIVE SUPPER, Saturday 13th September, 7pm

It's hugely popular, but oh so complicated to organise so please let Ali Sayer know if you'd like to host or attend this event as soon as you possibly can. Tickets are free for hosts and £25 for guests. This covers a drink on arrival at the hall, a three course meal, and drinks during the first two courses. Not sure what hosts do or how it all works? Want to book, but need to know if you can come on your own? Give Ali a call on 07970 922352 or email your questions to her at oxhillvh@gmail.com.

OTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 11th October at 7pm: Pies & Puds

Saturday 22nd November at 7pm: Curry Night

Tuesday 9th December at 12.30pm: Seniors' Christmas Lunch

Friday 19th December at 7pm: Beer & Bubbles

Karen MacRae

**Saturday
11th October
7pm**

PIES & PUDS

OXHILL VILLAGE HALL
for our community

Ali Sayer 07970 922352 or oxhillvh@gmail.com



CARIBBEAN PROGRESSIVE SUPPER

Saturday
13th September
7pm

Three courses
Drink on arrival
Drinks at hosts' homes



Tickets £25
(free for hosts)

Contact Ali on 07970 922352 or oxhillvh@gmail.com

JOIN US!



CCOTS

Community Choir of Oxhill, Tysoe and Shenington

Wild about singing

Everyone is Welcome, No experienced required!

We perform, raise money for charity, support local community events and host social evenings. All while we learn a range of popular music, Some of our most recent repertoire: Mr Blue Sky, And so it goes, Les Miserables and Viva La Vida.

Soprano, Alto,
Tenor and Bass.

Your first 2
sessions free
& Low cost!

Practice tracks
provided!

Every Wednesday,

7.45pm to 9.15pm

(Warwickshire school term time only)

Starting 3rd September

**Oxhill Village Hall, Main St, Oxhill
CV35 0QU**

There are no auditions and our only ask is for a sense of humour
and a willingness to learn and have some fun!



Visit our Website or Facebook page:

<https://www.ccots.org.uk>



Or email us at: treasurer@ccots.org.uk



Oxhill Parish Council
Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting
Held Tuesday 8th July 2025 at 7.30pm
in The Village Hall

Councillors Present

Cllr Robertson (Chairperson), Cllr Hobill, Cllr Rivers-Fletcher and Cllr Shepard

Mrs C Coles (Parish Clerk), County Cllr C Mills (arrived after another meeting) and one villager

25/48. Apologies for absence

District Cllr M Littlewood (personal)

25/49. Co-option of new Councillor

Following the recent resignation, Jon Mercer was co-opted onto the Parish Council. Proposed by Cllr Rivers-Fletcher and seconded by Cllr Shepard. Jon signed the Acceptance of Office form and will complete a Register of Interest form. He was welcomed onto the Parish Council.

25/50. To receive Declarations of Interest under the Council's Code of Conduct relating to business on the agenda

Cllr Hobill declared an interest in item 25/55, 25/01125/COUQ, Change of use of two barns to four dwellings, including necessary building works at the barn adjacent to Stonecroft House.

25/51. To approve and sign the minutes of the meetings held on 30th May 2025

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

25/52. Public Participation Session

A villager asked if there was an update to the defibrillator runner scheme. The Parish Clerk had invited the Shipston First Responders to a meeting but not heard back. Tysoe were setting up a scheme but the Parish Council do not have an update of how the scheme is running.

Action: Cllr Shepard to chase Shipston First Responders and speak to Tysoe about their scheme. The Parish Clerk to make this a future agenda item.

25/53. To receive a report from the County and District Councillors

The report from County Cllr Mills included the following main points:

Social care/direct payments, Warwickshire's Children's disability and additional needs register, Centres support local families, Childhood immunisation, Help shape Autism support in Coventry and Warwickshire, Household Support Fund, Does your child need to change school in September, Have your say on local transport services, HAF, Pay and Display machine scams (fake QR codes when parking) and County Councillor Grant Fund (which close on 20th July 2025).

The report from District Cllr Littlewood including the following main points:

Private Management Companies operating Public Open Spaces, Flood Alleviation Schemes and Estate roads, Local Government Reorganisation and Devolution, South Warwickshire Local Plan (SWLP) and Ellen Badger Hospital.

Both reports are available to read on the village website www.oxhillcommunity.co.uk.

25/54. To discuss the emptying of waste bins

There are three waste bins which should be emptied weekly. The one on the layby seems to get missed and is full again. It does get used more by drivers who pull in to park.

Action: The Parish Clerk to speak to SDC.

25/55. To receive an update on planning

- 25/01125/COUQ, Change of use of two barns to four dwellings, including necessary building works at the barn adjacent to Stonecroft House. This was a notification for prior approval and not a formal planning application.
- 25/01587/TREE, Cut back trees, no longer impede use of the road. T1 - Ash - Crown Lift roadside to 5 metres T2 Damson - Take back to the kerb T3 - Holly - Take back to the kerb T4 - Cherry - Crown lift to 5 metres T5 - Fir - Crown lift to 5 metres - take back to the kerbside at the Old Church House, Main Street. It was agreed to write no objection.
Action: The Parish Clerk to respond to SDC.

25/56. Financial Report

The following payments were approved under statutory powers:

£300.00 to Zurich Insurance *

£23.00 to Parish Clerk (SLCC membership)

*The insurance premium has doubled due to the old insurance premium no longer being available. The Parish Clerk contacted another company to get a quote but Zurich are still competitive.

To discuss the transfer of money from the Community Account into the Deposit account

It was agreed to move £13,000.00 from the Community Account into the Deposit Account to continue earning interest each day. The Chair gave some background to new Councillors on the level of reserves currently being held. Money has accumulated over time to purchase a village asset. The land has a restrictive covenant on it. The covenant would not apply if the Parish Council purchased the land to protect it. The discussions are currently on hold.

Action: The Parish Clerk to action the transfer of funds.

25/57. Councillors Reports

Cllr Shepard reported that some trees planted for the Silver Jubilee have dead branches.

Action: The Chair to speak a local tree surgeon.

Cllr Rivers-Fletcher gave the following update. Speeding continues to be a problem and it took a while to hear back from Warwickshire County Council (WCC). The county view is that VAS signs do not work although other villages have them. A speed survey has not been done in a while and would cost £130.00. The survey would be in place for seven days, 24 hours a days and record different data.

Action: Cllr Rivers-Fletcher to make contact with Mr Rogers, Localities Officer at WCC and arrange a speed survey for September/October time.

New Councillors have shown an interest in planning training.

Action: The Parish Clerk to check the WALC website.

25/58. To note next meeting date and time

9th September 2025 at 6.30pm (earlier start time). Cllr Mills gave his apologies for this meeting. The third Tuesday night may be considered for 2026 so that Cllr Mills can attend. The Parish Clerk to check if the village hall is free.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.20pm.

VJ DAY

LIFE AND MUSIC IN CHANGI PRISON CAMP

By Ros Henry

Most people think of VE Day (8 May 1945) as the end of WW2 and thereby the most important day. But to me and my family, VJ Day (15 August 1945) was more important because my father was imprisoned in a Japanese POW camp in Singapore called Changi and for three and a half years we had no communication whatsoever from him.

My father, Samuel 'John' Harper Ball, was a manager at a rubber estate in Malaya. Rubber production had become an expanding business since the invention of the pneumatic tyre, and by 1920 Malaya was producing half the world's supplies. My father joined the firm Sime Darby in 1919 as the manager of a rubber estate in Johore, Malaya. My mother, Irene, joined him in the same year, they were married in the Singapore Cathedral in 1920.

In the period between the wars life in Malaya was good for Europeans and their families, socially and economically, while politically the rule of the Sultans, with British advice, seemed to work well in the context of the times.

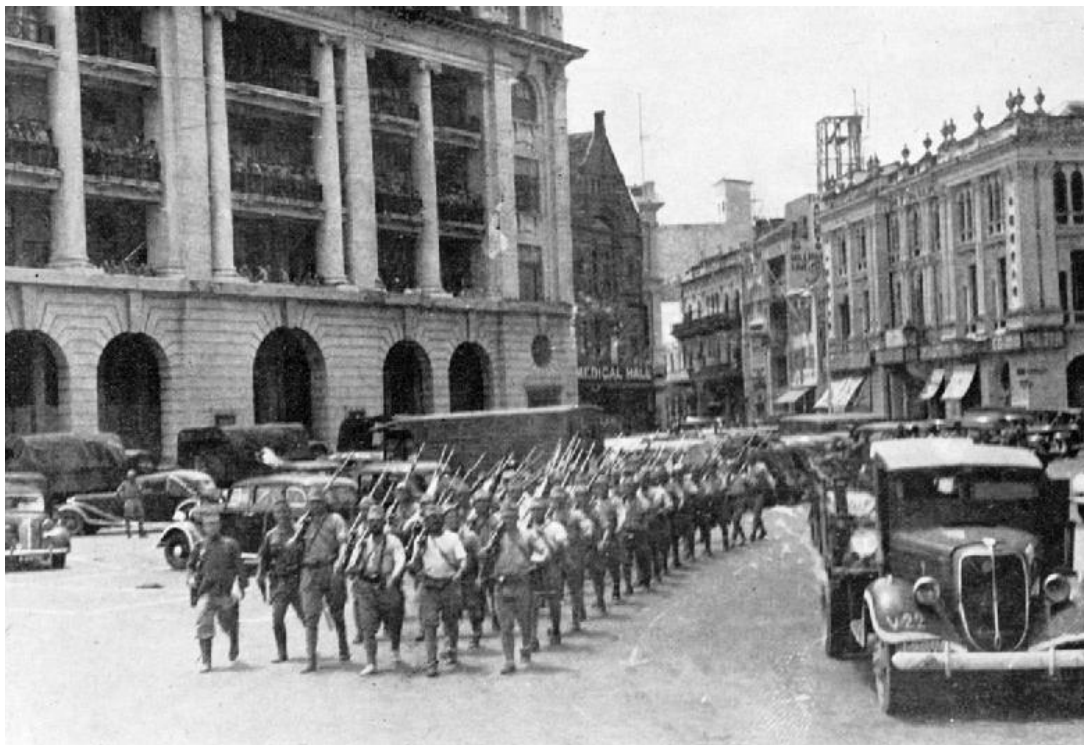
However, by 1941 the threat from the Japanese was increasing and Volunteer Forces were mobilised throughout Malaya and Singapore. In April 1941 the Johore Defence Corps was established with 'men of all races' invited to join with my father in command with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

The Malayan campaign was a disgraceful and humiliating defeat. This was not the fault of the troops, British, Indian, Gurkha and Australian, who were unprepared for jungle warfare and who had been subjected to ridiculous propaganda dismissing the fighting capabilities of the Japanese.

The Japanese army was superior in numbers, battle-hardened from the Chinese campaigns, and had far better air support. From the first Japanese landing at Kota Bahru, swiftly overcoming the airfield with support of air cover from across the Thai border, the descent southward down the peninsula was fast, forcing withdrawals again and again.



Samuel 'John' Harper Ball



The fall of Singapore 1942

The last and disastrous campaign, in the last days of January 1942, centred on the Layang Layang area, my father's estate. By the 27/28th of January the Japanese were advancing down the railway which ran through the estate, and in the confusion of the orders for withdrawal an entire Indian brigade became lost in the jungle paths to the west of the railway. On the 28th the Japanese were north of the village and on the same day the remaining troops, British and Australian, were ordered to retreat and evacuate the mainland by dawn on the 31st January. The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders were the last to cross over the causeway to the sound of the pipes. The causeway was then blown up and the siege of Singapore began.

My mother was evacuated from Singapore on 31st January 1942 on the newly-arrived troopship *Empress of Japan* (later re-named *Empress of Scotland*) taking with her only a suitcase and her sewing machine.

About 1200 other women and children were crammed in so, when warm enough, Irene slept on deck for some space, and also made herself useful in the sick bay with her V.A.D. (Voluntary Aid Detachment) experience.

The ship was lucky to escape bombardment unlike so many others and eventually reached England in April. The ship took the long sea-route round the Cape calling at Durban, where women without children were ordered to disembark. She hid until the ship was underway again, anxious to see her children again.



The bombing of Singapore 1942

For the next fortnight before the surrender on February 15th my father was in Singapore under continuous bombardment and observing huge palls of smoke rising from the burning oil reserves at the Naval Base.

On the 15th of February General Percival finally admitted defeat and surrendered.

All European civilians were ordered to assemble on the *padang* in front of the Singapore Cricket Club with enough clothing and possessions for nine days. After many hours in the extreme heat without food or water they were marched off. Women and children also. Sir Shenton Thomas, the Governor, ked the men to various holding camps six miles away, and after three weeks or so, another six miles to Changi Prison.

Changi Prison was a grim place, built entirely of concrete, to accommodate some 700 prisoners, and now being made to hold 3000, the population of a small town. The men were in Blocks B, C and D, while the women were completely separate in Block A. The cells measured 9 by 12 feet with a concrete block in the centre, used as a bed (known as the sarcophagus). There were three men in each, while others filled in all other available space, i.e. the workshops. No bedding or any furniture of any kind being provided; some had carried mattress rolls on the march, other gradually acquired them on outside fatigues.



Behind the walls of Changi Prison

My father shared a cell with his friend Bill Gibson, a fellow planter (oil-palm) and a young seaman, Bill Taylor, from the troopship *Empress of Asia*, bombed on arrival at Singapore. Bill had jumped off the sinking ship and managed to reach shore on a raft.

The camp had its own hierarchy of officials, with each block having a Commandant and committees, necessary for the organisation of a such a heterogeneous collection of people of every background, profession and trade. The camp also had its library, dispensary, disciplinary board and hospital.

No lists of internees were issued by the Japanese authorities and it was not until a year later when a radio message was picked up in Australia from the International Red Cross that any names were known.

Conditions were basic in the extreme and the prisoners had to do everything for themselves, all cooking, cleaning, digging of any available ground to produce sweet potatoes, tapioca and green vegetables. Trees had to be felled to produce wood for the stoves. The cooks – mostly

from the *Empress of Asia* – did their best with limited resources. The daily diet was extraordinarily meagre; three meals a day – a plate of rice porridge and tea without milk or sugar for breakfast, watery so-called vegetable soup for lunch and dinner of one cup of rice mixed with powdered milk to make a sort of rice pudding, flavoured sometimes with 4 cubes of tinned pineapple, sometimes with a share of a tin of sardines or corned beef, 8 men to a tin, sometimes part of an egg. For tea a small scone (made of rice) with a scrape of jam and margarine or butter, and the same milkless tea. Sometimes palm ground nuts or soya was added to the *kunji*, or porridge, to give some much-needed vitamins. The diet could be supplemented by funds from the International Red Cross enabling prisoners to buy food outside the prison, and there was a regular trade in black market goods. Although Red Cross parcels were regularly sent, only two were ever received. In the first instance the parcel had to be shared among several men, the second among two. Individual parcels were sometimes handed over for the benefit of photographers and immediately taken back by the guards.

Similarly, very few letters were passed on. My father only received two postcards during the whole period of captivity; one was to inform him of the death of his son in the Middle East.

The camp ran its own newspaper, the *Changi Guardian*, appearing twice-weekly, giving notices of forthcoming events, lectures, matches and any other activities organised by the prisoners. This also gave opportunity for articles written with grim humour and in satirical style which the guards could not possibly understand. In 1942 the words of a bitter Christmas carol appeared in the *Guardian*.

My father led the camp orchestra. He had managed to retrieve his precious 18th century from the repairer while on a rice fatigue. The orchestra was composed of instruments as varied as the musicians themselves. Some were professional musicians, Robert Eisinger, a classical pianist, and Farrell, a clarinettist. ‘Stan’ Cottrell, the trumpeter and tenor in the choir, was a member of the Salvation Army Band. Kanuff, the bass player, had been in the Raffles dance band.

The accomplished amateurs included Sidney Chapman, an accountant on drums and violinist Roan Akill, a police superintendent, Ross of John Little’s department

From the *Changi Guardian*, Christmas 1942

No room for God within the inn
He sleeps where oxen bide
While Man rears up a Calvary
For Man at Christmastide.

No room for all the heavenly host
No space for them to sing
While Spitfires ‘*in excelsis*’ drone
A ruthless carolling.

No room for one bright star to shine
No sages come to kneel
Incendiaries fill the sky
The houses dance and reel.

No room for loving friends to meet
No roof to cover them
Save in the quiet breast that holds
The crib at Bethlehem.



Dan Hopkins' Band, 1933, at Raffles.

Left to right, back: Bob Kauff, Dan Hopkins, Enrico Dallio; centre: Unidentified (?) Jan Kleinman, Carl Marrachek, Trevor Mays; front, alone: Buster Johnson.

By courtesy of Henry Stonor and Joe Speelman

The Singapore Raffles Hotel dance band photographed in 1933.

store and J. L. Waters, an import manager. Loveday, another violinist, was a surveyor and G. D. Candioltis, one of the accordion players was a Greek masseur, and the other, G. J. Merrifield was a prison officer. The conductor, A. W. Crofts was the band master of the FMS Police.

There was also a choir and a Glee Club, and regular concerts were given. The women's camp had its own choir and accompaniment. The concerts were one of the few times the women could join the men and have contact with their husbands

Music was in short supply and often had to be improvised. The musical programmes were necessarily of a light nature or even improvised but carefully chosen to annoy the guards.

The grand piano from Government House was also 'collected', taken apart and hidden under rice sacks, and then reassembled.

Wednesday, November 25th, 1942 at 7.30 p.m.

A Changi Mixed Grill SPECIALLY SELECTED FOR THE LADIES AND THE
LITTLE ONES.....

1. March. "Under Freedom's Flag (F. Nowowiejaki)
The Changi Orchestra.
2. Songs. Stan. Cottrill.
3. ~~Stuff & Nonsense~~ "Dance Apache"
~~"Bones" Kirby. B. Theine~~
4. Vocal Selections. "Go down Moses." (Negro Spiritual)
"Lullaby" (D.B.Soul)
"On the Lagoons" (Medelssohn)
"The Hunters Farewell" (Mendelssohn).
"The Huntsmans Chorus. (Weber).
The Camp Choir.
5. "With Annie Laurie Round the World".
A Musical joke by R.E.
~~Performed by Messrs Bolton, De Broise, Jennings,
Ricketts, Sharman and Symons~~
Performed by Messrs Chapman, Cottrill, Davidson
Eisenger, Farrell, Kauff, Merrifield, Ross and
Waters.
6. Singing Lesson. "Our Gang".
Performed by Masters Bolton, De Broise, Jennings,
Ricketts, Sharman and Symons.

"Popeye" Mr. Crawshaw.
"Donald Duck" Mr. Carter.
7. Suite - "Orientale" (Popy)
1. Les Bayaderes. 2. Reverie.
3. Les Almees. 4. Patrouille.
The Changi Orchestra.
8. ~~Russian Ballet.~~ ~~Mr. Gurnitzkaya.~~ ~~Mr. Goodrytzki.~~ "Bones" Kirby.
~~Stuff. Nonsense~~
9. Vocal Selections. "Stenka Razin."
"Evening Bells."
"Song of the Volga Boatmen. " Russian Folk Song.
The Camp Choir.

Compere - Noel Rees.

Orchestra.

Violins. Messrs Akrill, Brown,
Harper Ball, Loveday, Ross
and Waters.

Clarinet. Farrel.

Sax. Harrison.

Trumpet. Cottrill.

Piano. ~~Eisenger.~~

Accord's. Merrifield & Candiliotis.

Bass. Kauff.

Drums. Chapman.

Choir.

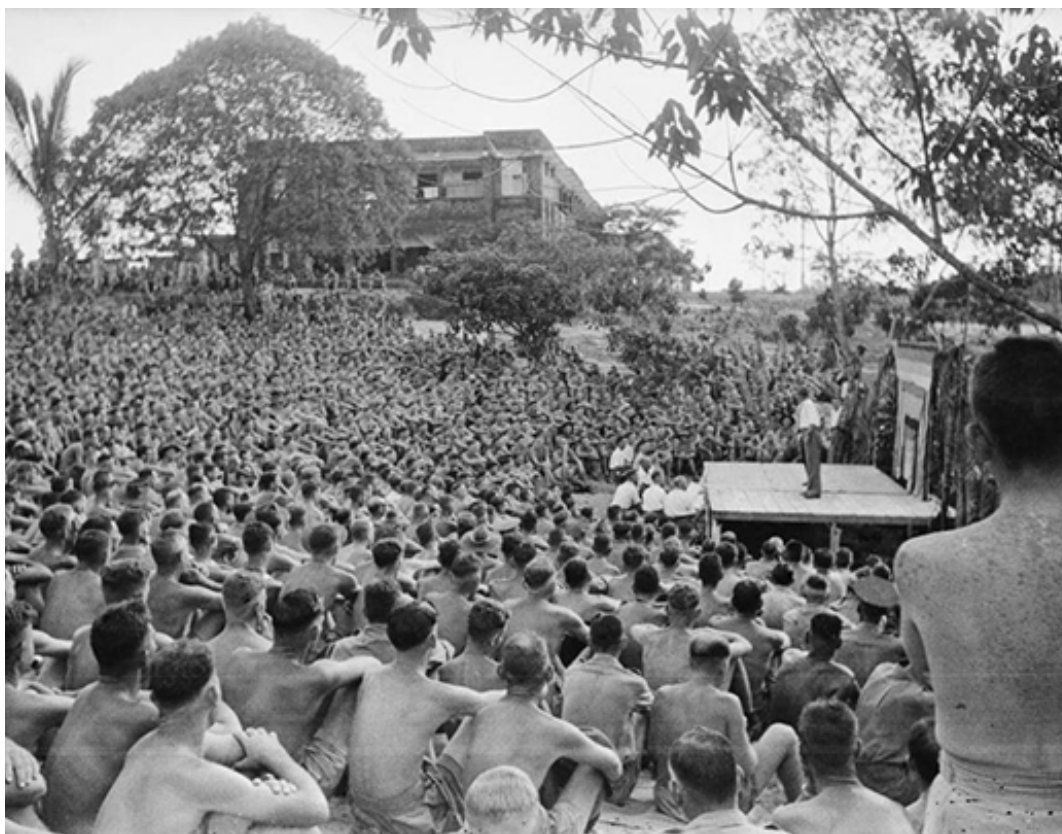
Tenors. Messrs Bonwick, Chegwin, Cherrig-
ngton, Cottrill, Cowgill, Ellis, Haines,
Hallard, Hilton, Holmes, Kool, Mollison,
Morris, Pash, Peck, Poulain, Price,
Shannon, Soul, Syer, Taylor & Thompson.
Basses. Anderson, Baughman, Carter,
Cassels, Coney, Coulson, Dant, Davidson,
Duff, Garcia, Geeke, Grove-White, Harrison,
Hockenhull, Hodge, De Jager, Llewellyn
Murray, Osborne, Pendlebury, Smith, Spragg,
Thamsen, Thomas, Thomson, Waters
and Wright.

Conductor. W. Crofts.

Conductor. C. Van Hien.

One of John's roommates at Changi Prison was a seaman Bill Taylor. Bill kept a diary during his time at Changi. Here is the extract for Christmas 1942:

Christmas 1942 came and went. We put on shows for entertainment so we had some amusement. Being one of the youngest I was asked with a friend to play the part of girls, in one show and do the Can-Can as per the Montmartre. The woman's camp lent us a couple of skirts and we used two halves of coconut shells as busts along with a cotton top. We put turbans on our hair and when you looked at us we looked like girls. We did our part and were a great success, as we had a captive audience of over three thousand. We were waiting back stage when two Jap officers came along and started talking to us. I explained we spoke a little Malay. They started fussing as it was obvious they thought we were girls, so we kidded them along and asked for cigarettes, which they gave each of us a packet. (English from Red Cross parcels). We said we had to leave but would come back later. Out of sight we took off laughing our heads off. At least we had got some cigarettes. We never received a Red Cross parcel all the time I was a captive, but the Japs were always smoking English cigarettes.



Large crowd of prisoners at a concert in Changi Prison Camp 1942.



John depicted on a postcard playing his violin. The humid climate caused damage and the neck had to be reattached to the body by a piece of tin-can beaten flat.

In all, there was a very well-organised cultural and educational aspect of life in the camp. There was no lack of people able to give classes in almost any language of academic subject, as well as those of a technical or professional nature, and all practical skills were useful and much ingenuity was used in improvising basic equipment.

In August 1945 the war in the East was speedily brought to a conclusion with the dropping of atomic bombs at Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and the process of repatriation could begin. Leaflets were dropped against overeating.

My father left Singapore on the *SS Antenor* on the 25th of September arriving in Liverpool in November. At Port Said the Red Cross issued the men with clothing as they had none. John was emaciated but in good health and spirits.

After a short time at home in Wales with the rest of the family, he returned to Singapore where he was a chief witness in the War Crimes Trials in Singapore. He gave evidence on the brutality of the Japanese guards, officers and governor of Changi Prison.

Mrs Griffith-Jones, who had been the the principal of the boarding school I went to when I was six in Malay, led the women's section of the camp. When she was asked if she could forget and forgive, she replied that she could never forget, but could forgive except for one thing, the discovery of a large supply of insulin which had been denied to the prisoners.

My mother returned later in the year to Singapore in a 'flying boat', but this time to a larger estate, Craigielea, near Muar.



OXHILL COOKS

by Vanessa Druce

This is a **very quick and delicious meal**. Tonight I was running late editing the Oxhill News and forgot about dinner. Luckily we had a courgette in the fridge and my husband found a few young yellow courgettes in the garden. In the time it takes to cook the pasta, the meal is ready. The lemon juice freshens the dish, it is a great addition.

COURGETTE AND LEMON PAPPARDELLE WITH PINE NUTS

200g (7oz) dried pappardelle (pasta)
1 tablespoon olive oil
1 onion, sliced lengthwise
2 medium courgettes (or equivalent),
grated
2 tablespoons pine nuts (or to taste)
2 lemon, juiced or 1 tablespoon juice
2 tablespoons olive oil
Generous pinch of salt and pepper



1. Cook the pappardelle in large saucepan of boiling water as per instruction on packet.
2. In the meantime, heat the olive oil in a large frying pan over low-medium heat.
3. Add onion and pine nuts to the pan, fry until golden.
4. Add courgette and fry until reduced. Stir frequently to avoid burning. Cook for 4-5 minutes.

5. Add lemon juice.
6. Add salt and pepper.
7. Drain pasta and place on plates.
8. Top with courgette mixture.
9. Serve immediately.



OXHILL'S CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS AND LIGHTS



After several years of fantastic Christmas advent windows, this year it has been agreed to change the format. Focusing on 4 dates in December with a village walk about to see the lights and decorations and then a focus as follows:

6th December Made in Oxhill in the Chapel from 5.30pm

13th December ? TBA (suggestions welcome)

20th December A grand tour of the village by Father Christmas and his sleigh, finishing on Leys Field.

Christmas Eve Nibbles and drinks at Oak View, Green Lane from 7pm.
(More details to follow)

It would be brilliant if you could join in by decorating a window, your garden or putting up lights for 1 of the 4 dates. If you could let me know if you would like to take part and which date you would like to join in, I will compile a list for each date so that people walking around don't miss any.

Looking forward to seeing another bright and cheerful Christmas decorated village and all your ideas.

Lis

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Can you spot the Snow Leopard?

Answer on back page



WHAT'S ON IN & AROUND OXHILL

SEPTEMBER

Sat 13th	19:00	Caribbean Progressive Supper
Sun 14th	14:00-16:30	The Biennial Radway Village Fete
Wed 17th	14:30-14:50	Mobile Library outside Village Hall
Every Thursday	12:00	Coffee Morning, Peacock Pub

PC MEETINGS

The date of the Annual Parish Meeting at **Tuesday, 9th September 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.

Snow Leopard Location



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 18th of each month for publication in the following month. Please email: oxhill.news.editor@gmail.com



BIN COLLECTION CALENDAR

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	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				

- Food waste
- Recycling
- General refuse
- Garden waste