

THE OXHILL NEWS

August 2026 No. 621



Talented Martha, aged 15, completed the *Draw the Other Half* from last month's issue.

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DRAW THE OTHER HALF
from the July issue of the
Oxhill News





DRAW THE OTHER HALF RESULT

Within minutes of the Oxhill News dropping through our door our grandson Rupert May completed the picture with a sharpie. ~ Fiona Franklin

A MUSTER OF PEACOCKS

What a surprise I got early Tuesday morning a muster of peacocks in the garden. When I left home at 7 am they had disappeared as fast as they had arrived! Has anybody else been visited or know where they come from?

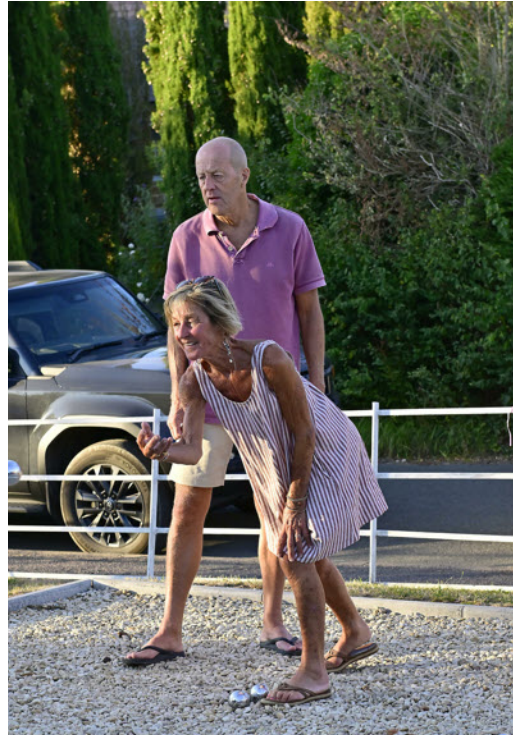
Linda Dagg



SHEEP ON WHATCOTE ROAD

Thank you to Nick Spencer who took these photos on 17 July.





OXHILL VILLAGE HALL

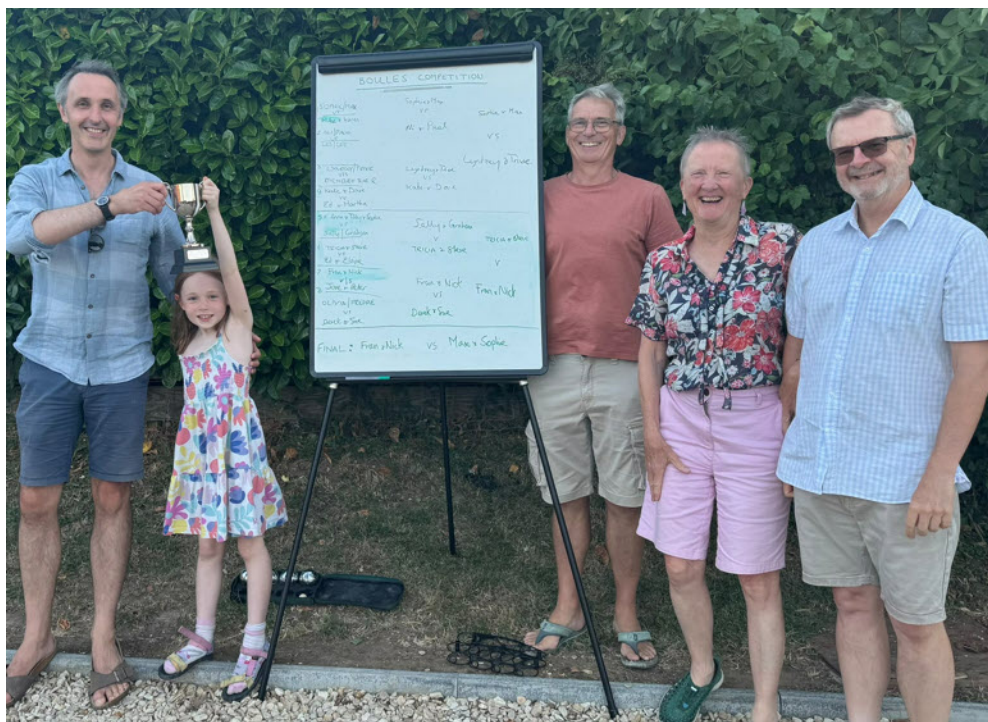
FAMILY BBQ, BOULES & GAMES

Undeterred by the heat wave, Saturday July 11th, saw nearly 40 adults and children descended upon the Village Hall for an early evening BBQ followed by a fiercely competitive Boules competition.

From the BBQ chefs came a variety of Burgers and Hot Dogs tailored to all tastes and dietary requirements, coupled with some excellent salads provided by many of the 'Friends' of the Village Hall. All of the food was washed down with a variety of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages. Thank you chefs. Cooking in that heat can't have been easy.

Tony Philpott organised the Boules competition in a knock-out format that involved most of the attendees of all ages and abilities. New residents, Nick and Fran, fresh from Australia, cruised through the early rounds on one half of the competition as did Max Helmore and his Daughter, Sophie, on the other. They met at a closely fought final. The Aussies efforts were not quite up to those of the Helmore's who retained the cup for the second year running. Congratulations Max & Sophie.

A great evening was had by all and there was still time to see England beat Mexico on the other side of the planet!



PROGRESSIVE SUPPER

With August off for a bit of a break, our next event is the always exciting **Progressive Supper** on **Saturday 12th September 2026** at **6.30 pm**.

For those unfamiliar with the format, think of it as a surprise dinner party – ie., you don't know who's coming to dinner.

The evening begins with a welcome drink in the village hall where we'll discover who will be hosting us for a starter and who we'll be sharing our table with. Once starters are finished we'll then learn where next for the main course, then back to the village hall for deserts. The bar will be open.

Year on year our volunteer hosts put on an excellent spread, which makes this always a very popular event, so get your tickets early. Tickets cost £25 for guests, which includes drinks and a three course meal. Buy these at www.oxhillvh.co.uk or contact Ali on 07970 922352 or at oxhillvh@gmail.com. Hosts are free.

This year's theme is Greek – but please, no crockery smashing!

OKTOBERFEST

New for 2026, Oktoberfest is coming to Oxhill Village Hall on **Saturday 10th October 2026** when, for a ticket price of just £17.50, we'll be hosting an Oompah night with flight of German beers or wines along with German themed canapés and snacks. All our welcome so please do come along and join in the fun.

Doors and bar open at 7pm. Get your tickets at www.oxhillvh.co.uk or contact Ali on 07970 922352 or at oxhillvh@gmail.com.

100 CLUB WINNERS

Lucky players for June were Hugh Rowse (£60), Jane & Duncan Harper (£30) and Michelle Hardiman (£10). For your chance to win, renew or join at www.oxhillvh.co.uk. Annual subscription is £60.





TO BAKERS AND OTHERS.

OXHILL

3 miles from Kineton.

**FREEHOLD PROPERTY,
Cob, Baker's Carts, and Effects.**

BOSLEY & HARPER

(LATE FRANK PARSONS & Co.)

have received instructions from Mr. W. G. SUMMERTON, who is giving up the Baker's Business,
to SELL BY AUCTION, on the Premises,

ON MONDAY, APRIL 4th, 1921

at 3 o'clock precisely, and subject to Conditions of Sale to be then produced:—

ALL THAT BRICK-AND-STONE BUILT AND THATCHED

DWELLING HOUSE

with COTTAGE adjoining, large GARDEN at rear, also capital timber-built and galvanised TRAP SHED and Coal Hovel, brick built and slated 2-stall STABLE with Loft over, 2 Pigsties, and Outbuildings, in the occupation of Mr. W. G. Summerton.

The House contains:—Capital Bakehouse with Oven, Sitting Room, Pantry, Wash-house with boiler, and 4 Bedrooms.

A Successful Bakery Business has been carried on for the past 60 years, and the GOOD WILL of the Business, also 2 Elm Dough Kivers in Bakehouse, will be included in the purchase.

POSSESSION MAY BE HAD ON COMPLETION.

The following will be sold immediately after the Sale of the Property:—

Bay Cob Mare, aged; capital Covered Baker's Cart, Spring Trap, 2-knife Chaff Machine, Wheelbarrow, Ladder, a few lots of surplus Household Furniture and Bakers' Utensils, &c.

Further particulars may be obtained of the Auctioneers, Shipston-on-Stour; or of the Vendor's Solicitor,

F. B. HANCOCK, ESQ., Shipston-on-Stour.

C. G. COLEMAN, Printer, High Street, Shipston-on-Stour.—2103

RESULT OF AUCTION

Several bids were received during June and £110 raised for Oxhill Village Hall.

The poster is staying in the village as the highest bid was received from Will & Clare who live at Boxwood, Green Lane, this will compliment the other posters they acquired at the Charity Auction in Shipston at the end of March.

THE QUEEN MOTHER AND CECIL BEATON

The Editors thought it might be a nice idea for readers to send a chapter/paragraph or extract from any book that has amused, shocked is funny, curious, interesting or downright rude (censorship may prevail).

This is an extract from *Fashioning the Crown* by Justine Picardie, it relates to Queen Elizabeth and the society photographer Cecil Beaton during WW11;

One of Beaton's self- portraits appeared in the Sketch, posing as an ARP telephonist on duty, and he photographed a number of small children who had lived in Wiltshire as evacuees. But he could not help fretting about the fate of images of Queen Elizabeth, which he feared would not be published in wartime. 'The public is in need of a fillip,' he noted in his journal. 'and these pictures would be a sop if they were allowed, but taken in all the full regalia they are very grand and do not look like wartime pictures as indeed they were not meant to be. By this point, the portraits were in private circulation: on 2 October, Elizabeth replied to a letter from her friend Prince Paul of Yugoslavia, who had mentioned that he would like one of the prints. She promised to send this, and in doing so, revealed her own view of the photographer. ' Mr Beaton, who is mincing away at some light war work, will execute my order as soon as possible. I believe he is a telephone operator. Can you not imagine him saying "Number darling? 2305? Oh divine, my dear."

Hold those accents in your mind as you read this !

Grenville Moore



Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother and Cecil Beaton



Oxhill CC

August News

Tales from the Crease: Oxhill CC's Rollercoaster Season So Far

Dust off your whites and hide the tea sandwiches, the Oxhill CC match reports are in. It has been a season of blistering centuries, legendary run-outs, masterful bowling, and the occasional, deeply traumatic batting collapse. Here is how the action unfolded.

The Great iPad Disaster

Vs. Moreton-in-Marsh (Away, 20/20) – 7th May

The season opened in traditional fashion at Moreton-in-Marsh, though you'll have to take our word for it. In a shocking display of modern tech failing traditional sport, the scorecard was permanently swallowed by some sort of digital black hole on an iPad. What the author's traumatised memory *can* recall is a distinct layer of winter rust. Several catches were dropped, Moreton batted beautifully, and Oxhill definitely lost. Let's blame the Apple corporation and move on.

The Historic Run-Out and the Great Collapse

Vs. Oxford University Club CC (Away, 35 overs) – 17th May

A trip to Oxford saw the hosts post a daunting 207 off 35 overs. It could have been much worse, had paceman Adam Jordan not pulled off a piece of pure cricketing wizardry in the first over. Jordan ran out Oxford's "gun" opener before the man had even faced a ball. To put this in perspective: this bloke had batted for 70 consecutive overs prior to this match without losing his wicket once. Welcome to Oxhill, sir.

Jordan backed this up with a fine 2 for 35, supported by off-spinner Dave Whittaker's sneaky 3 for 44. Oxhill's chase started like a dream. The Teesdale brothers got the away side off to a solid start. Then Chris

Fensome, walking out at number 3, absolutely obliterated the Oxford attack, smashing 111 off just 80 balls. We were cruising. Victory was ours.

And then, the wheels didn't just come off; the entire wagon disintegrated. Oxhill somehow managed to lose their last 7 wickets for just 17 runs, falling 52 runs short. A famous victory slipped through our fingers, but what a ride.

Radway Rules

Vs. Hook Norton (Home, 20/20) – 21st May

Back on the sacred turf of Radway, Oxhill set a target of 119. Chris Fensome picked up right where he left off, causing absolute carnage with a swift 35, while Matt Walker chipped in with a handy 19.

Hook Norton, evidently unfamiliar with the unique quirks and vagaries of the Radway wicket, completely unravelled for a disappointing 70. The bowling figures read like a dream: Will Gowers took an incredibly stingy 2 for 3 off 2 overs, Adam Jordan claimed 2 for 11, and Dave Whittaker clean-bowled the tail with a beautiful 3 for 7.

Revenge is Best Served on a Home Turf

Vs. Moreton-in-Marsh (Home, 20/20) – 28th May

With the sting of the opening day still fresh, Moreton arrived at Radway. Openers Ed Frape (27) and Matt Walker (25) set a glorious platform, before Craig Walker strode out to hit 24. Craig notoriously knows the Radway track better than his own back garden, and it showed. Neil Chick then provided the perfect cameo, walloping 10 runs off just 4 balls to get Oxhill to 114.

Moreton started well, but they were no match for the Oxhill bowling machine. They were bundled out for 93 in the 19th over. Whittaker helped himself to 3 for 19, Gowers took 2 for 14, and Jordan bagged 2 20. Revenge was sweet.

The Economical Masterclass

Vs. Hook Norton (Away, 35 overs) – 7th June

If you like defensive bowling, this was your Glastonbury. Hooky batted first and were choked out to a mere 130 for 5. Adam Jordan gave away a ridiculous 8 runs from his 7 overs. Not to be outdone, Craig Walker went full Scrooge, taking 1 for 5 off his 7 overs; which included four maiden

overs in a row! Will Gowers also bowled well for his 2 for 28, even if 21 of those runs came from his final two overs when he presumably got bored.

Oxhill knocked off the total in 28 overs flat, thanks to a group effort from Andy Teesdale (20), Will Connor (28), and a redemptive 23 from Gowers.

A Bad Day in the Cotswolds

Vs. Chipping Campden (Away, 20/20) – 17th June

Every team has one, and this was ours. Campden batted first and pillaged their way to an unassailable 183. The less said about the Oxhill fielding, the better, let's just say gravity won most encounters. Jonny Simpson was the lone hero with the ball, taking Oxhill's only two wickets 2 for 46.

In response, we limped to 113. Ollie Simpkins was comfortably the pick of the batsmen, carrying his bat for a defiant 43 not out. Otherwise, a definitive "bad day at the office."

Rain, Rain, Go Away (But Thanks for the Win)

Vs. Hook Norton (Away, 20/20) – 30th June

Hooky came to town and put up a respectable 120. In a tactical masterstroke, regular wicketkeeper Matthew Chick hung up his gloves and took the ball for his first bowling spell of the season. The result? A spectacular 2 for 11 off 4 overs. Jordan kept it tight at the other end with 2 for 22.

Oxhill's chase flew out of the blocks. Fensome smashed 21 off just a few balls, Simpkins was looking solid on 17 not out, and Andy Teesdale had just settled in with a boundary when the heavens opened. Luckily, the calculators came out, and Oxhill were ahead on Duckworth-Lewis-Stern (DLS). Hooky beaten for a third time!

The Stoneleigh Nail-Biter

Vs. Stoneleigh Abbey (Away, 40 overs) – 19th July

After a few weeks of cancellations, Oxhill returned to a tricky, undulating wicket at Stoneleigh Abbey. Openers Fensome (52) and Whittaker (43) handled the unpredictable bounce with absolute aplomb. Josh Walters chipped in with a stylish 28, guiding Oxhill to a competitive 197.

Stoneleigh's reply started terribly. Oxhill had them rocking at 3 for 24. But, as village cricket dictates, a massive partnership brought them right back

into the game. It all came down to the final over: Stoneleigh needed 8 runs; Oxhill needed a hero.

Step forward, Ryan Orgill.

The pressure was immense. Orgill conceded 5 runs off the first 3 balls. Stoneleigh needed 3 runs from 3 balls. Then, the magic happened: Wicket. Dot ball. Wicket.

Oxhill won by just three runs in a grandstand finish! Honourable mentions must go to Whittaker 3 for 26, Jordan 2 for 21, and Gowers 2 for 19 for setting up a brilliant victory.



Upcoming fixtures: Welford (home) 23rd July, Ebrington (away) 30th July, Norton Lindsey (home) 6th August, Tysoe (away) 16th August, Leek Wootton (home) 30th August, Somerset and Devon Tour 5th – 6th September.

Up the Oxhill!



RESCUED OWLET AND MORE!

by Tom Heritage

While looking round the sheep Rosie found an owlet on the ground just below an owl box we put up several years ago. She took it home and gave it a warm up and then some chopped meat, No mice to hand !!

Then Rosie took it back and popped it back in the box, waited a little while and it did not jump out again. She visited it evening and morning for several days and it's still in there.

We have 6 owl boxes around our farm and every year we have 2 or more families hatched. I have been told by ornithologists that the female owl lays about 4 eggs and starts brooding immediately after the 1st egg is laid resulting in them all being different sizes. Then if there is a lack of mice etc., the smaller ones perish. Is this correct Grenville ?

We do not often see the owls but it still gives you a thrill when you are lucky enough.

There are quite a few little owls in the wood that make a lot of noise in the evening and night, but again you don't see much unless you live in it.

This year I heard a curlew while near Red Wing and I have been told they have a nest on land between Lower Tysoe and Oxhill. The farmer has had a fence erected round it to stop the badgers and foxes finding it, they are the reason ground nesting birds are having a hard time.

Update and more...



The owl seems to have settled in, no sign of it. We are not allowed to open the box and handle the chicks, you have to have a licence to do that. The quieter they are kept the better.

On April 10th there was a bird in my utility room. I quietly caught it, it was a swallow. It flew away happily, that is the earliest in the year I have ever seen one.

This year we have more swallows than for many years. They are my favourite birds, being such marvellous fliers

In April my son-in-law, a doctor / teacher from France, was staying and he had an app on his phone that identifies birds by their songs. It recorded dozens, most of which I knew and among them was a song thrush. I had not seen or heard one for a year or two, but 20 minutes later one hopped up the lawn probably saying, 'Yes I'm Here'.

Then a several weeks later there was a fluttering in the garage window which I could not get to. Luckily Paul walked in and caught the bird. It was a 1/2 grown thrush which he took to the door and it flew away.

Such simple things make me very happy.

EDITORS FOOTNOTE

Yes Tom you are correct about Barn Owls, they usually have just one brood a year and lay 4-6 eggs but they lay them over a period of about a week or more so the chicks will vary in size and if food is scarce the smallest will perish, interestingly if food is in very short supply then they will lay no eggs, this also applies to swifts who will not even nest if there is a short supply of winged insects. Barn owls typically successfully rear two or three young.

The App you spoke about is Merlin Bird ID and is a free download, easy to operate and identifies bird calls/songs, I can't recommend this App too much, certainly one of the best nature Apps to date.

~ Grenville Moore

Retired America military man and England World Cup team bus driver, Michael Chandler, wrote this poem and gave it to Jude Bellingham after England lost in the the semi-final.

“Over the past few weeks I was fortunate to be the dedicated team driver for the England National team in the 2026 FIFA World Cup. The experience inspired me to document the Three Lions matches in poetry.”

THE LIONS WAY

By Michael Chandler

The Lion does not boast aloud,
Nor chase the praise of every crowd.
He knows the roar that shakes the night,
Is born when fear is met with might.

The match is not with foe alone,
The truest pitch is self unknown.
Before one pass is struck with grace,
The heart must first have won its race.

For strength is more than driving speed,
Or planting firmly every cleat.
It lives within the iron will,
To climb again the steeper hill.

The body tires. The lungs grow tight.
The legs grow heavy in the fight.
Yet steadfast minds refuse retreat,
They drag the weary to their feet.

Endurance is a faithful friend,
It walks beside you to the end.
While others yield to pain's command,
It whispers low, “Hold your stand.”

The clever mind outplays the strong
Who rush with fury all day long.
A patient pass, a measured pace,
Will forever conquer reckless haste.

The hawk may see the pitch above,
The lion wins through steadfast love
Of every movement, every run
Where many minds become but one.



For tactics are not tricks concealed,
But wisdom sharpened on the field.
To know when pressing serves the day
And when restraint becomes the way.

The storm may rage. The crowd may cry
The score may refuse the sky.
Yet none of these command the soul
Whose purpose governs every goal.

No referee can steal your choice
No hostile song can drown your voice.
The world may shake, the night may burn
Your answer shapes the final turn.

England wore Three Lions bright,
Not chasing glory's fleeting light.
They sought instead a nobler prize,
To master self before men's eyes.

They trusted feet that years had trained
They trusted minds that calm had gained
They trusted hearts that would not bend
Though every minute neared the end

One perfect move
One selfless pass
One moment born from countless tasks

The net gave way
The crowd arose
The thunder rolled through friend and foe

The victory belongs to those
Who rule themselves before the blows
And therefore earned a greater name
Than those who merely play the game

The whistle blew
The contest done
Three Lions work had been won.

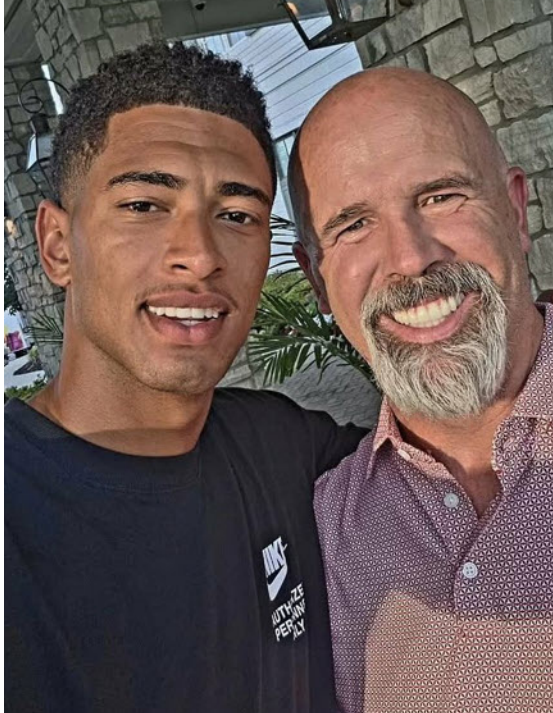
Victory now was the score
lifting gold evermore
But greatest triumph, clear to see
was quiet self mastery.

For trophies tarnish
And crowds grow still
Time itself outlasts all the skill.

But those who govern both heart and mind
Leave fear and doubt far behind
So walk the Lion's ancient road
Carry calmly every load
Meet each trial firm and true
Let discipline be the strength in you

For fortune favors not the loud,
Nor always crowns the largest crowd.
She often walks beside the one
Whose hardest battle has been won
Not on the pitch beneath the lights
But deep within, through sleepless nights

And when the final whistle sings
And victory lifts its golden wings
The truest roar will still be heard
A soul made strong. A soul assured.



Jude Bellingham & Michael Chandler

OXHILL PICKLEBALL

The Oxhill Pickleball group has been going for more than a year now at Newborough House and is always happy to welcome new members. Tuesday afternoons at 2.30pm is the regular time and we usually have sufficient numbers to give everyone a rest between games. In the Summer we can use the outside court with always the option of the inside court if the weather is not right. Most communication is done on our WhatsApp group. £3 a time supports the Oxhill Village Hall. If you can vaguely hit a ball, this a great way to have fun without getting too serious.

Peter Rivers Fletcher



ST LAWRENCE CHURCH FOR AUGUST

It's August – school is out, holidays are happening, and harvests are happening. But each of those present their difficulties.

It is still warm and sunny, but that increasingly is becoming a challenge for farmers and gardeners. Yields vary, but some are really poor. School and college terms have ended – which for some means an anxious wait for exam results, or the challenge of a new school or college in the autumn. Or perhaps the challenge of not knowing what comes next. Children have to be cared for all summer – which means juggling jobs and rotas, and possibly involving grandparents and other carers.

So as we enjoy the summer and its last days of warmth, we pray for farmers, who increasingly struggle with the weather; for children and young people facing change and perhaps uncertainty, and for all those charged with the precious task of childcare over the summer. And we pray that all of us may have the deep rest that summer offers.

May God our creator hold all creation in his arms:
the farmers and those who tend his soil and his animals;
the children and those who watch over them;
May God bless us in all our loving and serving;
May God fill us with his rest and renewal,
and touch our lives with his beauty.



CHURCH SERVICES IN AUGUST

Sunday 2 nd August	9.30 am	Holy Communion	George Heighton
Sunday 9 th August	9.30 am	Morning Worship	George Heighton
Sunday 16 th August	9.30 am	Holy Communion	George Heighton
Sunday 23 rd August	6.30 pm	Evensong	George Heighton
Sunday 30 th August	11.00 am	United Holy Communion	George Heighton

Every blessing,

Jill Tucker

FRIENDS OF OXHILL CHURCH

SATURDAY 22ND AUGUST BARN DANCE AND PIG ROAST 7PM AT WILLOUGHBY GROUNDS BARN

Come and join us for a pig roast with salads (vegetarian or GF option available) and homemade desserts, along with an evening of barn dancing. Tickets are £20 for adults and £10 for children under 12.

Thank you to everyone who has already reserved their tickets for the Barn Dance and Pig Roast. If you haven't done so already, time is running out! Please buy your tickets **before August 4th** as we will need to order the correct size of pig. **Tickets will NOT be available after that date as the event can only go ahead if we have enough support to make it viable.**

To book, please call or email Ruth Mercer **now!**

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





WOT2 GROW COMMUNITY ORCHARD

July 2026 News

This month in the orchard volunteers have been hard at work picking delicious cherries, raspberries (although the numbers have been low due to dry weather and disease), lots of blueberries, blackcurrants and blueberries. As the cherries are now finished one of the next jobs is pruning the trees for an abundant crop next year.

The orchard is also abundant in wildlife and a hedgehog tunnel has been installed to see how many are using the hedges surrounding the orchard and allotments. Blackbirds have been enjoying the fruit as well and a young one was seen helping itself to some juicy loganberries!

Having access to this wonderful homegrown fruit (instead of shipping from across the world) is a privilege as well as a pleasure, and can support local biodiversity in the process, with the dead hedge, pond and wildflower area supporting lots of wildlife.

The orchard is next to the allotments on the Shenington Road in Tysoe. For more information about membership please email: mirandawot2grow@gmail.com.

Allie Aves

Contacts: Miranda Forrester (680265); Paul Sayer (680451); Sue and Mike Sanderson (688080)



Hedgehog tunnel

HEDGEHOG UPDATE

Update on the hedgehog rescue on Green Lane:

Approximately one month after taking the hoglets to the rescue I had a message to say they'd done very well and achieved target weight for release quickly. One had gone from 150g to 900g!!! This was good news as the rescue was full and needed to create space for other hogs in need of help.

We picked them up in two expertly packed wine boxes and waited for dark to release them at the base of a hedge in our garden. We were advised just to open the box and then leave them be, likely finding empty boxes in the morning.

One popped out fairly quickly and the other was gone by morning. We've heard plenty of snuffles at night in that part of the hedge so hopefully they've settled in well.

Clare Storey





Stour Community Awareness Network (SCAN)
presents:

"The Life of an MP"

Manuela Perteghella

Member of Parliament, Stratford-on-Avon

Tuesday, 4 August 2026

10:00am - Free refreshments

10:30am - Talk begins

12:00 noon - Finish

Townsend Hall, 52 Sheep Street,
Shipston-on-Stour, CV36 4AE

Come and join us!

We're a friendly group that meets every other month to share ideas and learn more about our local community services. Contact Laurie Grove, Chairman, on 07779 151947 to find out more.

Next date: Tuesday 8 September
"Local Government Reorganisation"



Scan for more info
on SCAN



STOUR HEALTH AND WELLBEING PARTNERSHIP (SHWP) STRONGER COMMUNITIES, HEALTHIER LIVES

Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership (SHWP) aims to improve the health and wellbeing of all residents in the Stour area by working in partnership to deliver activities that support longer, healthier and happier lives.

On 16 May, SHWP delivered its first Dying Matters event, attended by more than 40 people. The morning formed part of a national awareness week led by Hospice UK and focused on encouraging open conversations about death, dying and planning ahead. Information was shared through panel discussions; information stands and a dedicated booklet highlighting local partner services. Feedback indicated the event was well received, with attendees reporting increased understanding and confidence to discuss end-of-life wishes.

"Never been to a meeting like this before that addresses such difficult and emotional issues, to the benefit of us all." "What a phenomenal idea. We should all talk about the inevitable."

SHWP also provides ongoing support through a monthly drop-in **Bereavement Café**, held on the first Tuesday of each month at Ellen Badger Hospital. The café is open to anyone experiencing the loss of a loved one, including family members, friends or pets, and offers a welcoming space to talk, listen or simply spend time with others. A free Resource Library, including personally recommended books for adults and children, is also available to borrow.

The organisation also continues to develop its offer for families. The Stour Toy Library now runs on Tuesdays alongside a Stay and Play session from 9:30am to 11:00am, providing a regular space for parents, carers and young children to meet and engage. It remains open on a Thursday from 10:00-11:00am.

SHWP will host its third **Repair Café** as part of Great Big Green Week, one of several events taking place across Shipston. The Repair Café runs from 10am to 2pm, with last items accepted at 1pm. Volunteers are available to support a wide



range of repairs of everyday household items, including bicycles, clothing and small electrical items.

Weekly Community Hubs, held on Mondays and Thursdays, remain a core part of the programme. These sessions held from 10:00-12:00 noon provide a welcoming space for a range of activities, including cooking sessions and seated exercise. Residents can also access services such as banking support, Citizens Advice and a frailty nurse.

SHWP has also benefited from the recent donation of café tables from NFU Mutual. The seating has been particularly welcome during the warmer weather, inviting visitors to take the time to enjoy views across the wildflower meadows and riverside setting.

May concluded with a **Spring Lunch** for 50 local people, cooked by the skilled chefs from Thomas Franks Foundation and Sibford School. Raffle prizes donated by Lou Harvey rounded out the event alongside the distribution of table posies to attendees.

Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership continues to work collaboratively with local organisations to provide accessible, community-based support and plans to build on this programme in the coming months.

For further information, please contact Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership.

If you'd like to know more about our work or set up similar initiatives in your area, contact Claudine at hello@swhp.org.uk.



Repairing a child's bike at the Repair Cafe.

MEETING ROGER MOORE

After Roger Moore, passed in 2017, Marc Haynes told his story meeting Roger Moore as a 7yr old boy:

“As a seven year old in about 1983, in the days before First Class Lounges at airports, I was with my granddad in Nice Airport and saw Roger Moore sitting at the departure gate, reading a paper. I told my granddad I’d just seen James Bond and asked if we could go over so I could get his autograph. My granddad had no idea who James Bond or Roger Moore were, so we walked over and he popped me in front of Roger Moore, with the words “my grandson says you’re famous. Can you sign this?”

As charming as you’d expect, Roger asks my name and duly signs the back of my plane ticket, a fulsome note full of best wishes. I’m ecstatic, but as we head back to our seats, I glance down at the signature. It’s hard to decipher it but it definitely doesn’t say ‘James Bond’. My granddad looks at it, half figures out it says ‘Roger Moore’ - I have absolutely no idea who that is, and my hearts sinks. I tell my granddad he’s signed it wrong, that he’s put someone else’s name - so my granddad heads back to Roger Moore, holding the ticket which he’s only just signed.

I remember staying by our seats and my granddad saying “he says you’ve signed the wrong name. He says your name is James Bond.” Roger Moore’s face crinkled up with realisation and he beckoned me over. When I was by his knee, he leant over, looked from side to side, raised an eyebrow and in a hushed voice said to me, “I have to sign my name as ‘Roger Moore’ because otherwise...Blofeld might find out I was here.” He asked me not to tell anyone that I’d just seen James Bond, and he thanked me for keeping his secret. I went back to our seats, my nerves absolutely jangling with delight. My granddad asked me if he’d signed ‘James Bond.’ “No”, I said. “I’d got it wrong”.

I was working with James Bond now.

Many, many years later, I was working as a scriptwriter on a recording that involved UNICEF, and Roger Moore was doing a piece to camera as an ambassador. He was completely lovely and while the cameramen were setting up, I told him in passing the story of when I met him in Nice Airport. He was happy to hear it, and he had a chuckle and said “Well, I don’t remember but I’m glad you got to meet James Bond.” So that was lovely.

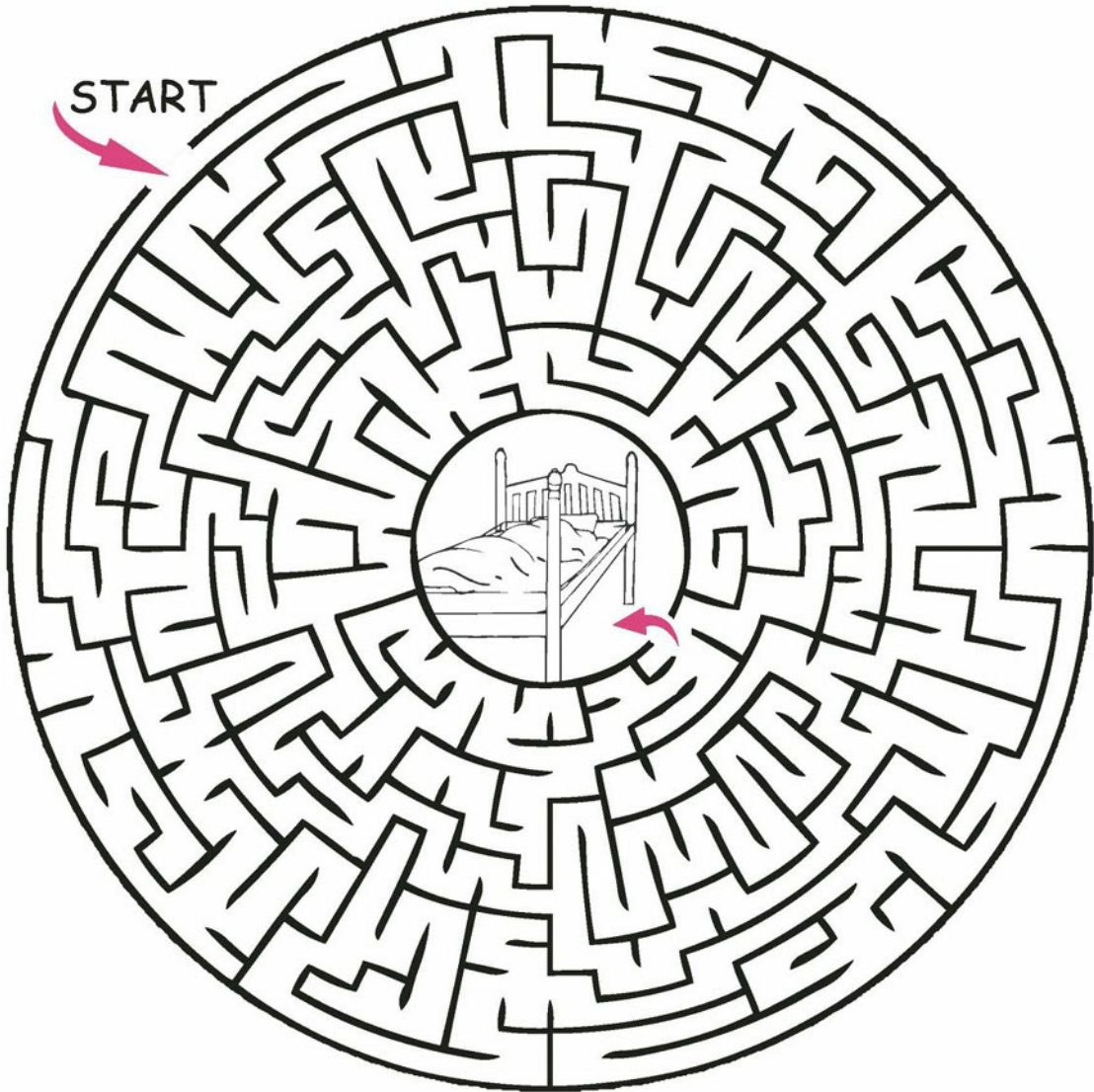
And then he did something so brilliant. After the filming, he walked past me in the corridor, heading out to his car - but as he got level, he paused, looked both ways, raised an eyebrow and in a hushed voice said, “Of course I remember our meeting in Nice. But I didn’t say anything in there, because those cameramen - any one of them could be working for Blofeld.”

I was as delighted at 30 as I had been at 7. What a man. What a tremendous man.”



MAZE

Can you solve the maze?



USEFUL VILLAGE CONTACT DETAILS

Oxhill Parish Councillors:

Malcolm Robertson: chair@oxhillparishcouncil.gov.uk
Jon Mercer: cllr.jon.mercer@oxhillparishcouncil.gov.uk
Peter Rivers Fletcher: cllr.peter.rivers-fletcher@oxhillparishcouncil.gov.uk
Sarah Hobill: cllr.sarah.hobill@oxhillparishcouncil.gov.uk
Barbara Shephard: cllr.barbara.shepard@oxhillparishcouncil.gov.uk

Oxhill Village Hall:

Derek Harbour - Chair
Ali Sayer - Hall Hire - 07970 922352
email: oxhillvh@gmail.com

St Lawrence Church:

Priest-in Charge Rev. George Heighton, 01295 680201
Rev Canon Dr Jill Tucker 07973 994800
revjill.tucker@btinternet.com
Churchwarden: Verena Rogers
email: rogersvm37@gmail.com
mobile: 0759 248 5016 landline: 01295 574 323

Friends of Oxhill Church:

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

Carers4carers:

kcarers4carers@gmail.com or tel: 07947 893504

Community Choir of Oxhill, Tysoe and Shenington (CCOTS):

Rehearsals Oxhill Village Hall 7.45- 9.15 pm every Wednesday term time only.
Website: www.ccots.org.uk
Email: membershipsecretary@ccots.org.uk

Oxhill Pickleball:

Peter Rivers Fletcher 07730 800729
rfn364@btinternet.com

talkdementia.uk:

Paul & Heather Dowler Tysoe 688376
Carer Support Service: email: talkdementia@mail.com
Website: talkdementia.uk
Tysoe Village Hall every Friday from 10am

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)

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

WHAT'S ON IN & AROUND OXHILL

AUGUST

Sun 16th		Oxhill v Tysoe Cricket Match, Tysoe Playground
Sat 22nd	19:00	Barn Dance & Pig Roast, Willoughby Grounds Barn
Wed 26th	14:30-14:50	Mobile Library outside Village Hall
Every Thursday	12:00	Coffee Morning, Peacock Pub

SEPTEMBER

Sat 12th	18:30	Progressive Supper, Village Hall
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PC MEETINGS

The date of the next Parish Council meeting is **Tuesday 15th September 2026 at 6.30pm**. The 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.

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 20th of each month for publication in the following month. Please email: oxhill.news.editor@gmail.com

AUGUST 2026

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	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