

THE OXHILL NEWS

March 2026 No. 616



A wonderful evening with a Talk by Glenn Crouch at the Village Hall.

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Main Street 1910

Brightly Beams Our Father's Mercy



Brightly beams our Father's Mercy
From his lighthouse evermore,
But to us He gives the keeping
Of the lights along the shore.

Refrain:

Let the lower lights be burning!
Send a gleam across the wave!
Some poor, fainting, struggling seaman
You may rescue, you may save.

Dark the night of sin has settled,
Loud the angry billows roar;
Eager eyes are watching, longing,
For the lights along the shore.

Let the lower lights be burning!
Send a gleam across the wave!
Some poor, fainting, struggling seaman
You may rescue, you may save

Trim your feeble lamp, my brother,
Some poor sailor tempest tossed,
Trying now to make the harbor,
In the darkness may be lost.

Let the lower lights be burning!
Send a gleam across the wave!
Some poor, fainting, struggling seaman
You may rescue, you may save

JACKIE HATTON

CONGRATULATIONS ON 30 YEARS OF SERVICE WITH ROYAL MAIL

I first started working for the Royal Mail in September 1991, covering the deliveries when the then post lady had annual sick leave. I was seven months pregnant at the time with my daughter Michaela. I worked out of the post office, now known as the Old Post Office for Mr. Day. After Michaela was born, Mrs. Day would come to my house to look after her while I delivered the mail.

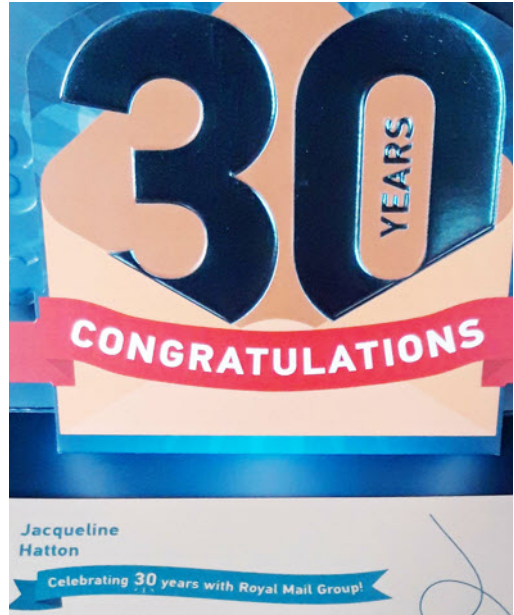
I became full time in January 1996. When Michaela started school and the post lady moved away. Back then I had a pushbike for the village and used my Daihatsu 4 track for the surrounding farms (which came in handy on snowy days for fetching groceries and prescriptions for the villagers who couldn't get out). Although on numerous occasions I had to hold on tight to the bike and mail if I got in the way of Mr. Groves crossing the road from Oxhill House to the fields with his cows, or Tom Heritage moving his sheep!!

After Mr. and Mrs. Day retired and Lilian Welsby took over the post office at Binswood Cottage. I was moved to Kineton post office where I was given a van and also given extra deliveries in Little Kineton and Butlers Marston. Occasionally we had a manager visit to check our boots were polished and tie done up straight.

In 2002, I bought a collie puppy, Moss, who came with me daily in the van until 2014 when he passed away, and yes he was black and white.

In 2000 the Royal Mail decided to close a lot of the sub-sorting offices, so I moved again into Warwick delivery office, where I am today.

I have seen a lot of people move in and out of Oxhill. All the children grow up and move on and some dear elderly residents pass away, one of several fond memories I have is of Dorothy Simmonds from 3 The Leys watching me cycle down the Whatcote Road and when I got to her, she would have a cup of coffee ready with a piece of homemade cake, made by her daughter Barbara Shephard. I could always stay and chat longer, if Bert Bloxham opposite had to fix my punctures or oil my bike chain.



Now in 2026, I have just received my 30 years service award, and I await the birth of my first grandchild, a boy in March. However, I'm not planning on retiring just yet, so you've got me for awhile longer, and I consider you are to be not just my customers but also friends.

Jackie



Jackie wearing the old style summer (top) and winter uniform (bottom)





OXHILL VILLAGE HALL

An Evening with Glenn Crouch, 10th February

How does one even begin to condense thirty years into ninety minutes? How does one remember the key names and dates, find and bring along a host of memorabilia, pick out just ten tracks from the thousands that were important to you during those decades, prepare a timetable, script and presentation, help with advertising, and pull together a selection of unique raffle prizes? And how does one make the final product fascinating, titillating, shocking, and informative?

I suppose if anyone can, it would be someone who rose from a lowly warehouse operative to a senior product manager for several of the world's biggest music artists. After all, a talk at Oxhill Village Hall surely can't be as difficult as a demanding Sharon Osbourne? (Or, worse, her father!)

The mind boggles at how much work Glenn must have put into this packed-out event. And all to give back to the village where he spends his free time and to help the village hall pay its many bills.

We are incredibly grateful Glenn.

Talks@OVH

As you will remember, the second of this year's talks was on 24th February which falls just after the deadline to get our entry in for March's edition of the Oxhill News so I'm afraid you'll have to wait a while to hear about Colin Hales' talk. No doubt it was good though! If



it's anything like last year's talk, the audacious aircraft engineer and pilot will have stunned the audience with some truly unique adventures.

Our final talk will be on **Tuesday 14th April** when professional artist **Giosué Larucci** will be joining us. To summarise, the evening will be about life as a landscape artist. More specifically, you can expect to learn about Joey's career, what he does, how he does it, what his inspiration is, and why he paints the way he does. You'll learn how to look at a landscape art in a whole new way!

Joey's event is sure to sell out quickly so please get in touch with Ali to book your seats as soon as possible. You can reach her on 07970 922352 or oxhillvh@gmail.com.

100 CLUB

January's winners were Sheila Wilde, Rachel Beesley and, drum roll, please... me (woohoo!). Would you like to be in with a chance to win this month? Email Sally at oxhillvh@gmail.com for more information.



The poster features a dark blue background with vibrant neon pink and cyan light effects. At the top center is a circular logo for Oxhill Village Hall with a stylized sunburst and the text 'OXHILL VILLAGE HALL for our community'. Two glowing lightbulbs are positioned on either side of the logo; the left one contains a brain, and the right one contains a question mark. The central focus is a large, glowing pink and cyan speech bubble containing the words 'QUIZ NIGHT' in bold, block letters. Below this, the event details are listed in various colors: 'SATURDAY 21 MARCH' in white and cyan, 'DOORS OPEN 7 PM' in white, 'TICKETS £12.50' in yellow, and 'include a ploughman's & puds' in yellow. A cyan line separates the ticket price from the inclusion details. Below that, 'Maximum team size of 6' is written in cyan. At the bottom, contact information is provided in white: 'Book your seats with Ali Sayer 07970 922352 or oxhillvh@gmail.com'. The entire design is accented with various starburst and spark effects.

OXHILL VILLAGE HALL
for our community

QUIZ NIGHT

SATURDAY
21 MARCH

DOORS OPEN 7 PM

TICKETS £12.50
include a ploughman's & puds

Maximum team size of 6

Book your seats with Ali Sayer
07970 922352 or oxhillvh@gmail.com

THE MARCH QUIZ!

Fun, head scratching, debate, and a lot of laughs along with a plentiful Ploughman's and delicious desserts on **Saturday 21st March**. Not sure who to come with? Don't worry, we'll make sure you have a place. Get in touch with Ali to book your tickets. They're only £12.50 per person. Doors open at 7pm.

Karen MacRae







AN EVENING WITH
LANDSCAPE ARTIST
GIOSUE LARUCCI

Tuesday 14th April 7pm

Tickets £8
from Ali on 07970 922352
or oxhillvh@gmail.com



CHURCH SERVICES THIS MONTH



Sunday, March 1 st	Second Sunday of Lent	
9.30 am	Holy Communion	George Heighton
Sunday, March 8 th	Third Sunday of Lent	
9.30 am	Morning Worship	George Heighton
Sunday, March 15 th	Mothering Sunday	
3.30 pm	Family Service for Mothering Sunday	Jill Tucker
Sunday, March 22 nd	Fifth Sunday of Lent	
6.30 pm	Evensong	George Heighton
Sunday, March 29 th	Palm Sunday	
9.30 am	Holy Communion	Jill Tucker

Every blessing, Jill

SEVERN TRENT WATER

I have been worried about the chlorine taste and smell of our tap water and I was horrified when Alistair showed me the sewage in the field at the Manor.

I have written to the Chief Executive of Severn Trent and then we emailed a copy of my letter to our MP and the Council asking them to help resolve the situation.

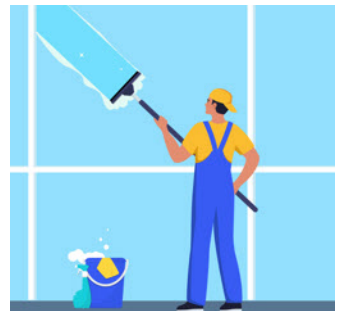
Let's hope they can sort this out so the wildlife at the Manor stays safe.

Milo Sweby

WINDOW CLEANER

Window cleaner Jon comes to Oxhill regularly to clean windows. If you would like your house windows cleaned please contact Jon to schedule a clean.

Jon 07904 618818



ST LAWRENCE CHURCH FOR MARCH

March this year is totally contained within Lent: from beginning to end we are journeying with Jesus as he goes from the desert to the cross. It is a time when we are invited to draw closer to God, to rediscover his great love for us, and to find what stands in the way of our doing so.

On the way there are two particularly significant Sundays: March 15th is Mothering Sunday, originally a day honouring our mother churches, where one is baptised and becomes "a child of the church", dating back to the 16th Century. In our services today we honour all those who 'mother' us and care for us, whether in our families or in our communities. So all are welcome: there will be flowers for all, and tea for all.



And the end of the month, as Easter Day approaches, we celebrate Palm Sunday on March 29th. Jesus, the Son of God, came into Jerusalem, not riding a king's white stallion, but a humble donkey: not to rule, but to die. He came as the Servant King. The palm crosses we give out that day are symbols of that final entry into Jerusalem, a reminder of what he is about to do for us all.



LA PIRIDES SCLAMABVNT

The Entrance Of Christ To Jerusalem by Hypolithe Flandrin, 1844

FRIENDS OF OXHILL CHURCH



SATURDAY 7TH MARCH

6:30PM THE OLD CHAPEL

£13 INCLUDES A
BUFFET SUPPER

DONATIONS BAR

BOOKING ESSENTIAL, CONTACT
RUTH MERCER 07400 615999

SCRABBLE

Rummikub

Cluedo

MONOPOLY

Articulate!

FRIENDS OF OXHILL CHURCH

GAMES NIGHT

***NEW DATE* SATURDAY 7TH MARCH**

6.30 P.M.

Don't worry, you haven't missed Games Night as we postponed it for four weeks, due to the date clashing with other commitments for too many people. Join us at the Old Chapel on March 7th at 6.30pm where there will be a large selection of board games to choose from and packs of cards available or bring your own favourite games. I think we all discovered some new games last year. There will be a delicious two course buffet for you to enjoy between rounds of games plus a donations bar to oil the little grey cells. Tickets cost £13 to include supper. Please book in advance, as long in advance as possible!

Thank you for supporting our fundraising efforts. Money raised will be used to continue the Church reordering project.

Ruth Mercer

07400 615999 or ruthc.mercer@btinternet.com

DATES FOR YOUR 2026 DIARY:

SUNDAY 12TH APRIL: TREASURE HUNT AND AFTERNOON TEA

Test your Oxhill knowledge as you walk round the village on a treasure hunt and then join us for Afternoon Tea in the Old Chapel. Alternatively, skip the walking part and just come for tea! More details to follow in April's Oxhill News and on the Oxhill Community Facebook page.

Please book in advance.

SUNDAY 14TH JUNE: TBA OXHILL'S LITTLE WEEKEND??

FRIDAY 21ST AUGUST: TBA BARN DANCE??

There are upfront costs involved in organising a Barn Dance so it would be extremely helpful to know how many people might be interested in such an event. Please email me!

SATURDAY 7TH NOVEMBER: QUIZ NIGHT

Ruth Mercer

07400 615999 or ruthc.mercer@btinternet.com

MEMORIES OF OXHILL VILLAGE LIFE

by Tom Heritage

Vanessa, congratulations on finding some interesting articles to make the Oxhill News so good each month. While the two articles on the development of the Parish Council were very interesting, being old enough to remember some of the facts so must correct a few of them.

The January picture of ‘Heritage Homestead – Church Farm’ is a lovely picture of my old house taken from the Tysoe Road in about 1970. Church Farm is the house and the Homestead is the field by the church gate down to the brook.

At what date the Brailes R.D.C was amalgamated with the Shipston R.D.C. I do not know but I had the honour to serve on the Shipston R.D.C. for many years until it was amalgamated with the Stratford D.C. in, I think, 1972 as new councillor Bill Fallkner of Butlers Marston and I were welcomed by the chairman with the words, “You are entitled to claim expenses but so far no one ever has.” So, nor did we!

The village school closed just after the end of the 2nd World War; my elder sister and brother having attended it. My parents knew it was closing so I was sent to Stratford instead in the public bus from Pillerton at 5 years old, having cycled to Pillerton and put my bike in Mrs Blackford’s shed. I can’t imagine that these days.

The retiring headmistress, Miss French, lived in ‘Merrilees’ for many years after that, and most of the Oxhill children went to her Sunday School.

The water for the village was taken from the brook using the steps in the Homestead field and near the Old House. Villagers had to carry the water in buckets, so they used a lot less than now. When piped water came in the early 1930s it was not immediately connected to the houses, but to about 4 stand pipes along the village street.

The water came from the lake at Compton Wynates via Whatcote and was not completely reliable in very dry summer. Some of the old 2” galvanised pipes have been recycled as fencing after the present supply was connected.

The photo of the Beech Row thatch shows an old village stand pipe (not a fire hydrant) to serve the houses around the Peacock. I can well remember them but by the late forties most of the houses were connected to the mains supply.

Sorry this is a bit rambling, it is just as it came to my mind.

[Editor: Tom has asked me to inform the village that the hedge across from their farm on the Whatcote Rd. had to be cut down by order of the Stratford D.C. for better visibility. It was not Tom’s decision or choice to cut down the hedge. Tom has planted a new hedge 2 to 3 metres back from the road.]

SHIPSTON-ON-STOUR RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

27th March, 1974



“Some of the Oxhill residents who have lived here for 30 years might remember some of them, John Findon (4th from left, back row) for one who became our Stratford District Councillor and owned what is now Wickham’s Garage at Pillerton and his fleet of recovery vehicles.” Tom Heritage (far left back row with a beard)

REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 1162586

SHIPSTON HOME NURSING

CHARITY BIKE RUN



LOCATION

REVS AUTOMOBILIA
THE FOSSE
GL56 9RE



SUNDAY 28TH JUNE

10:00AM

CONTACT : LES HARDIMAN
07830223846



START at Revs

£20 PER BIKE

ALL BIKES WELCOME

FREE CUPPA AT START



SCAN FOR DETAILS

PARISH COUNCIL HISTORICAL MINUTES

WARWICKSHIRE EMERGENCY PLAN

Some of you may remember in the late 70's and 80's the unease felt about the possibility of a nuclear attack. The Government produced a public information campaign on civil defence between 1974 and 1980, in response to this unease, it intended to advise the public on how to protect themselves during a nuclear attack.

The campaign materials were made available through newspaper adverts, radio broadcasts and public information film and a pamphlet (Protect and Survive) published in 1980.

WARNINGS

There were several warning signals:

An attack warning - sirens sounding rising and falling note as well as warnings by radio.

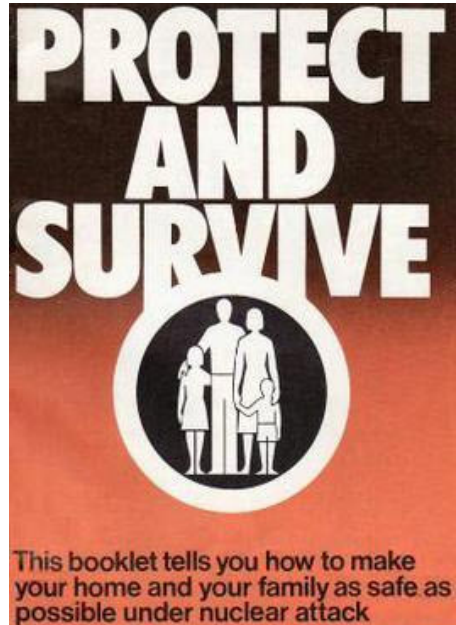
A fall out warning - three loud bangs (from maroon rockets), gongs or whistles in quick succession.

The immediate danger passing - would be notified by sirens sounding the all-clear by a steady note.

The village of Oxhill was asked to set up response to the Warwickshire Emergency Plan. The Parish Council minutes record that:

9th July 1979 Warwickshire Emergency plan. This had been passed around the Councillors. The Chairman plus two others to be appointed who could be contacted in case of emergency. Mary Badger was proposed by George Adams and seconded by George Dale. There was a vote in favour of Tom Heritage being appointed.

14th April 1980 Civil Defence (Annual Parish meeting). The Parish Council had completed the Emergency Plan Folder for the W.C. Council. There was a telephone link with the Thames Constabulary on T. Heritages telephone, and a siren was fitted outside his farm for warning purposes. Following general discussion Mr J Findon said that from meetings he had attended it was understood that a 10-day warning would be given for a nuclear attack and information available through the media, radio television etc. Following this at the Parish Council meeting Mr Heritage reported that his telephone had been out of order for a week. Which incorporated the emergency phone link with Thames Constabulary with ref to the emergency plan. It was proposed by G Adams and seconded by M.Badger that we notify the authority of this.



Protect and survive

What you have read so far tells you how to prepare to face a nuclear explosion.

What follows tells you how to use the protection you have provided.

First – Know the Warning Sounds:

THE ATTACK WARNING

When an air attack is expected the sirens will sound a rising and falling note.

The warning will also be broadcast on the radio.

THE FALL-OUT WARNING



When there is danger from fall-out you will hear three loud bangs or three whistles in quick succession.

THE ALL-CLEAR

When the immediate danger from both air attack and fall-out has passed, the sirens will sound a steady note.

What to do on hearing an Attack Warning:

At home

If you are at home you should:

Send the children to the fall-out room.

Turn off the gas and electricity at the mains; turn off all pilot lights. Turn off oil supplies.

Close stoves, damp down fires.

Shut windows, draw curtains.

Go to the fall-out room.

Switch off battery radio until after attack (to avoid damage).

At work or elsewhere

If you can reach home in ten minutes try to do so.

If you are at work, or elsewhere, and cannot reach home within ten minutes, take cover where you are or in any nearby building.

In the open

If you are in the open and cannot get home within ten minutes, go immediately to the nearest building. If there is no building nearby and you cannot reach one within ten minutes, use any kind of cover, or lie flat (in a ditch) and cover the exposed skin of the head and hands.



Light and heat from an explosion will last for up to twenty seconds, but blast waves may take up to a minute to reach you. If after ten minutes there has been no blast wave, take cover in the nearest building.

Monday 12th May 1980 Emergency Link Telephone The clerk was asked to contact the W.W.C Emergency Plan Office about this.

16th June 1980 Emergency Link Telephone. T Heritage agreed to report the delay in repairing his telephone to the Thames Valley Authority.

WHAT TO DO

When hearing the warning signals if people were at home or nearby, they should send any children to the fallout room first, turn off services like gas water and electricity, close stoves and damp down other fires, shut their windows and draw the curtains before making their own way to the fallout room. If they were not near home they should go to a nearby building for shelter or if not near a building they should take some other kind of shelter for example, lying flat in a ditch and covering their hands and head.

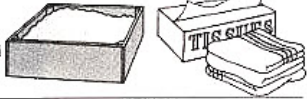
It was claimed that once an attack had ended there would be a short period of time before fallout started. During this time mains water was to be used to put out fires and for topping up water reserves and then to be turned off. Toilets were to be left unflushed and were to have their chains removed and their handles taped up so that the water in their cisterns was retained.

Any structural damage was to be temporarily repaired by using curtains or sheets to cover up holes and broken windows. A survival kit should be kept, if possible, in the fallout room. You could help the neighbours if the fallout warning had not already sounded.

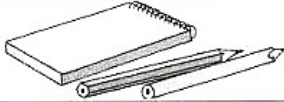
12. First aid Kit – with household medicines and prescribed medicines. And at least Aspirins or Codeine tablets, adhesive dressings, cotton wool, bandages, disinfectant, ointment, including 'Vaseline'



13. Box of dry sand, cloths or tissues for wiping plates and utensils



14. Notebook and pencils for messages



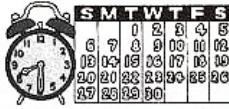
15. Brushes, shovels and cleaning materials, rubber or plastic gloves, dustpan and brush



16. Toys and magazines



17. Clock (mechanical) and calendar



You will need special sanitation arrangements because there will be no water to waste in lavatories.

Keep these items in the Fall-out Room:

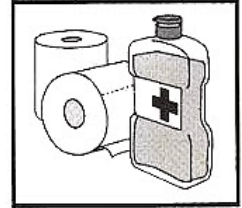
Containers such as polythene buckets, fitted with covers and – if possible – improvised seats.



Polythene bag linings for emptying the containers.



Strong disinfectant and toilet paper.



When the fallout warning sounded, anyone left outside needed to take cover, wiping as much dust off themselves as possible before entering the building. People were advised to stay in the fallout room for 48 hours, after this the radiation risk would be less, but it was stressed that exposure could still be lethal and that people should stay at home until the radio announced that it was safe to leave.

Once the fallout risk was acceptably low, people could leave the house for a few minutes to complete essential tasks (to be done by those over 30 if possible). To avoid bringing radioactive dust into the house, it was advised that people used separate shoes for outdoor use.

Casualties were to be treated at home initially. Radio was to be monitored by the emergency services and if possible medical services might be available to be treated if urgent. If anyone died while in the fallout room, their body was to be placed in another room and covered as securely as possible with identification attached. If no instructions were received the body should be buried in a temporary grave as soon as it was safe to leave the house.

Once the all-clear had sounded, there would no longer be any immediate danger and people could continue their normal activities.

I was unable to find a copy of the Warwickshire Emergency plan that the Parish Council was asked to read and comply with. Having read the advice from Protect and survive it seems incredible that some of the things were suggested including lying in a ditch to protect yourself.

SOUTH WARWICKSHIRE AND NORTH COTSWOLDS

HIGHLY IMPORTANT SALE OF AUCTION POSTERS

ROBERT GARNE HARPER

Formerly a Member of the Chartered Auctioneers & Estate Agents Institute

Will sell by Auction, all Proceeds for Shipston Home Nursing, Save Our Shipston,
Shipston Educational Society, Shipston Museum and other worthy local causes.

AT 5:00 PM FOR SIX O'CLOCK IN THE AFTERNOON

ON TUESDAY 31st MARCH 2026

AT THE GEORGE HOTEL, HIGH STREET, SHIPSTON-ON-STOUR

TWENTY FIVE LOTS

OF

EARLY 20TH CENTURY

HIGHLY COLLECTABLE

AUCTION POSTERS

INCLUDING ONES OF FREEHOLD PROPERTY, ANTIQUE FURNITURE, LIVE AND DEAD
FARMING STOCK ETC. FROM VARIOUS LOCATIONS INCLUDING ARMSCOTE,
BATSFORD, BLOCKLEY, BROADWELL, BOURTON-ON-THE-HILL,
BOURTON-ON-THE-WATER, CHELMSCOTE, CHIPPING CAMPDEN, CONDICOTE,
COMPTON VERNEY, DARLINGS COTT, EBRINGTON, EVENLODE, HONINGTON,
IDLICOTE, ILMINGTON, KINETON, LOWER BRAILES, LOWER TYSOE, LONGBOROUGH,
LITTLE COMPTON, LITTLE ROLLRIGHT, MORETON-IN-MARSH, RADWAY,
SHIPSTON-ON-STOUR, WILLINGTON, STOW-ON-THE-WOLD AND UPPER BRAILES

CONDITION IN ACCORDANCE WITH AGE

CATALOGUES AVAILABLE PRICE £2

FROM LOCAL HOSTELRIES AND WHERE THIS POSTER IS DISPLAYED

COMMISSION BIDS WILL BE ACCEPTED

SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS PRINTED IN CATALOGUE



THE AUCTIONEER BEGS TO INFORM YOU OF THE SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE OF
THIS UNIQUE COLLECTION OF AUCTION MEMORABILIA



Auction sponsored by The George Townhouse, High Street, Shipston on Stour.

THE AUCTION WILL COMMENCE AT 6.00PM TO THE MINUTE

Oxhill Parish Council
Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting
Held Tuesday 20th January 2026 at 6.30pm
in The Village Hall, Main Street

Councillors Present

Cllr Robertson (Chairperson), Cllr. Mercer, Cllr Rivers Fletcher and Cllr Shepard

Mrs C Coles (Parish Clerk), County Cllr C Mills, District Cllr M Littlewood and three villagers

The Chair thanked everyone for attending.

26/01. Apologies for absence

Cllr Hobill (personal)

26/02. To receive Declarations of Interest under the Council's Code of Conduct relating to business on the agenda

No interests were declared.

26/03. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 11th November 2025

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

26/04. To receive an update on progress from previous minutes (for report only by the Chair/Parish Clerk)

The IT Policy which was approved at the last meeting is on the website.

26/05. Public Participation Session

A member of the public asked if meetings could be advertised on Facebook as a lot of villagers use it. It was agreed it could.

Action: Cllr Shepard to add it on.

A member of the public reported another large tree being cut down without permission in Church Orchard.

Action: The Parish Clerk to report to SDC and copy Cllr Littlewood.

26/06. To receive a report from the County and District Councillors

A report was received from Cllr Mills and put on the village website. The main points included:

Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service Commend public hero, WCC's final proposal for Local Government Reorganisation (LGR), 5500 miles of Warwickshire's roads gritted, Children's chicken pox vaccinations, Grant fund to support local youth projects, Parking

text scam, Avian influenza confirmed by Defra in Warwickshire. Cllr Shepard has put up the Avian flu posters on the noticeboard.

The Chair spoke about ongoing problems with Severn Trent. There are lots of potholes and the road is constantly flooded. A proposal was suggested for a parking bay for the tankers but there has been no formal resolution yet. The traffic lights are often not working. There is some acceptance that the pump is inadequate.

Action: Cllr Mills to speak to Mike Rogers at Warwickshire County Council (WCC).

A report was received from Cllr Littlewood and put on the village website. Work is ongoing with moving to a unitary authority. A Strategic Unitary Authority can appoint a Mayor and there would be additional funding for the Police and Fire authorities as PCC Commissioners will be scrapped in 2028. A single authority are not allowed to have a Strategic Authority. 87% of the population voted in South Warwickshire for a unitary authority. There is a Public Open Spaces consultation to respond to. The budget has been finalised and will increase by £5 per household. Villagers are being asked to keep an eye on their neighbours following the recent cold weather.

26/07. Funding Requests

To consider a request to purchase a VAS. A funding request form had been completed by Cllr Rivers Fletcher. The cost is either £450.00 or £2K. It was agreed to purchase the cheaper sign. Proposed by Cllr Rivers Fletcher and seconded by the Chair.

To consider a request for solar panels/batteries for the village hall. This request will be carried forward to the March meeting as planning permission is needed.

26/08. To set the precept for 2026/27

Money has been set aside for the possible purchase of the Chapel Field, should it become available, which is considered an important space in the village, and one of few possibilities for a communal village green. The purchase is remains uncertain, on both availability and affordability grounds. Whilst it would not of course be used by everyone, it has received good support in the past. The village hall is a big asset but lacks outside space. It was agreed not to increase the precept this coming year as reserve levels are sufficient and in an interest bearing account. Current income is sufficient for projected expenditure in the year 2026/2027. It was agreed to maintain the precept at the same level as last year at £12,763.00.

Action: The Parish Clerk to reply to SDC.

26/09. To receive an update on planning

New

- *25/02523/TREE, Tree work at The Old Rectory, Main Street.* No objection by SDC.

An additional application was received after the agenda had been issued.

26/00024/CDUQ, Change of use of barn to two dwellings at barn adjacent to Stonecroft House. *Action: Councillors to look at the papers.*

26/10. Councillors Reports

Cllr Shepard had attended a meeting with Ziggy Isaacs about a defibrillator runners scheme. She is keen to get one set up and wants this county to be the best. Everyone on the list will have to be trained to use the defibrillator and be DBS checked. The phone system will incur costs and checks. They will look at the cheapest way to set this up.

Cllr Mercer spoke about Leys Field. Photos have been sent to the SDC Enforcement Officer. Top soil and edging has been delivered to the site. There is no committee at the moment but there will be one when the land is handed over.

Action: Cllr Mercer to reach out to them.

An article about removal of the dead tree on Whatcote Road was put in the last newsletter.

Cllr Shepard suggested another idea for spend. There are no benches in the village and one could be placed in the layby on Whatcote Road with wildflowers or opposite the pub although there are underground services nearby.

The Chair gave an update on the sewers and work being carried out by Severn Trent. There is a new Chief Executive who has been in place for six weeks, and a single project manager appointed to liaise and progress a scheme for the resolution of the constant sewage eruptions on the Manor field.

The Project Manager is focussed on resolving issues and knows a lot of history in the village. There are serious issues where sewage is erupting on private land, and also complaints about the level of noise at night time.

Action: The Parish Clerk to contact SDC Environmental Health.

26/11. To note next meeting date and time

17th March 2026 at 6.30pm

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.00pm.



WOT2GROW COMMUNITY ORCHARD

WORKING WITH NATURE

Following participation in the Big Tysoe Wildlife Gathering in January, members of the orchard proposed some new measures to support wildlife in the orchard. These include:

- A nursery bed within the orchard to grow on bushes and trees for transplanting into hedgerow gaps around the village. An area has been identified for this at the top of the orchard.
- A dry hedge which will mean fewer bonfires.
- Visits by school children to participate in nature related events.

Other suggestions were less mowing, and initiatives to help hedgehogs such as allowing rough grass areas and installing log houses. We already have a pond that is getting established and wildflower areas.

In the meantime members have been busy pruning the fruit trees so that we have a good crop in the autumn. So more apple crumbles and apple flapjacks!

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

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

Allie Aves



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:

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

MARCH

Sat 7th	18:30	Games Night, the Old Chapel
Wed 11th	14:30-14:50	Mobile Library outside Village Hall
Sat 21st	19:00	March Quiz, Village Hall
Tues 31st	17:00	Sale of Auction Posters, George Hotel, Shipston
Every Thursday	12:00	Coffee Morning, Peacock Pub

APRIL

Sun 12th		Treasure Hunt & Afternoon Tea, the Old Chapel
Tues 14th	19:00	An Evening with Giosue Larucci, Village Hall

PC MEETINGS

The date of the next Parish Council meeting is **Tuesday, 17th March 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 18th of each month for publication in the following month. Please email: oxhill.news.editor@gmail.com

MARCH 2026						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

BIN COLLECTION CALENDAR

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

Food waste Recycling

General refuse Garden waste