

# THE OXHILL NEWS

May 2026 No. 618



Quiz master Sue Philpott at the Village Hall Quiz Night

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*“Dawn raid on the pond.” Post by Phil Brennan on the Oxhill Wildlife Society (OWLS) Facebook page. Search **OWLS** on Facebook to see more Oxhill wildlife.*

# HIKING FOR HEARTS WITH MILO AND ALICE

## Saturday 16th May



Milo and one of his teachers, Alice, both needed heart surgery this year. Milo had his operation at Great Ormond Street at the end of February but Alice is waiting for hers. Together, they are raising vital funds for Great Ormond Street Hospital and The British Heart Foundation and we hope that you will consider making a donation!

We will never be able to thank GOSH enough for the incredible care they gave Milo. Having spent over three weeks in the hospital, we saw first-hand what an amazing place it is.

Less than six weeks after his operation, Milo walked the mile around the village. He is keen to organise some social walks over the summer with the first on Saturday 16th May. We hope you will join us. The exact route is to be confirmed but likely to be about 2 miles, starting and finishing in the village. All ages and dogs are welcome and please bring your own picnic.

**If you would like more information, please contact  
Jo on 07720401691**

We hope that you will donate to help raise lots of money for these two wonderful charities. The total raised will be split equally between GOSH and The BHF.

Thank you for your support.



BRITISH HEART FOUNDATION  
Charity number 225971



GREAT ORMOND STREET HOSPITAL  
Charity number 1160024

TO DONATE:

<https://gvwhl.com/0SULY> or go to [www.Givewheel.com](http://www.Givewheel.com)  
and search for Milo and Alice or Hiking For Hearts



# CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF JACKIE BEING OXHILL'S POSTIE

What started out as an idea at a Thursday pub coffee morning came to fruition on March 29th when over 80 Oxhill villagers gathered at the Old Chapel to give Jackie the surprise of her life. Having commissioned Lynsey Cleaver to produce portraits of Jackie's favourite rams, we had to get word out to the whole of Oxhill without being able to use Facebook or the Oxhill News, which was a challenge! Emails and messages were spread around the Village and I believe we managed to contact nearly everyone, although please accept our apologies if we missed you. The speed at which donations towards Jackie's present were made was amazing, and demonstrated what a highly valued member of the community she is, and has been for 30 years.

Having collected donations, set up an online card for villagers to sign and also got her a Spring planter, all we had to do was ensure she came to her surprise party, plus make sure there were enough cakes and tea to go round. Joe was confident that he could get her to the Old Chapel having also enlisted the help of Shaun and Danielle, although he spent an anxious time outside the Chapel waiting for the phone call to say they were on their way. In the end, Jackie's partner's interest in old railings got them to the Chapel, and once inside the door, there was no escape!

Due to the generosity of the village, we were able to present her with the picture, planter and a cheque for £1170 which she is going to use for a family holiday with daughter Michaela and new grandson Rupert.

Thank you to everyone who donated and came to show Jackie how much Oxhill truly appreciates her.

*Joe Costa and Ruth Mercer*



# THANK YOU

I would like to say a HUGE thank you for the lovely afternoon the Oxhill residents organised for me to celebrate 30 years of service as a postie.

I am overwhelmed by the kindness you all showed me making me feel so spoilt when I saw how many of you had signed the lovely card. Many thanks to everyone who was brought along beautiful cakes and made tea, giving up their Sunday afternoon for the occasion.

Also a special thank you to Ruth Mercer and Joe Costa for putting it all together, to Lynsey for my beautiful picture.

To Paul Roebuck for the brilliant photos and the outstanding, most generous amount you raised for me. I shall be booking a family holiday and will raise a cocktail or two!! to you all.

And you did it all without me suspecting a thing.

*Much love,*

*Jackie*





*Quiz Night photos*



# OXHILL VILLAGE HALL

## QUIZ NIGHT – 21/03/26

WOW! What a packed night it was. 60 contestants spread across 12 teams. Congratulations to those who managed to organise the hall so that everyone who wanted to could come.

A fun and wide ranging quiz set by our excellent resident quiz master, Sue Philpott, who had something for everyone. Here's a taster for next year – answers below. Remember to book early – tickets this year flew off the shelf.

- 1) In what town is the UK Dyslexia Trust Based?
- 2) With what cheese can you disguise a small horse
- 3) What sport can only be played right handed?
- 4) How many sides does a heptadecagon have?

Many thanks to our host Iain MacPherson, who brought his usual sparkle and humour to entertain the crowd, and to all who contributed to the delicious ploughman's and, of course, the amazing selection of cakes.

It was a close run thing but the eventual prize winners, in first place after a tie break, were Speedy Exit (Ali & Paul Sayer, Sheila & Tony Wilde, Nicki & Doug Campbell). Well done all of you.

## AN EVENING WITH GIOSUÉ LARUCCI – 14/04/26

Known to many of us as “Joey” (because after several years we're still too scared to try and pronounce his actual name) Giosué, is an exciting local artist and art dealer who was willing to try something different to break the mould for a route to success in the art world. He enthralled with stories of his journey while at the same time giving us a live demonstration of his creativity.

Known for his landscapes with a focus on skies, he shared with us how he creates such captivating pieces highlighting subject, colour and the lowering of horizon lines. There were a few note takers among us, I suspect keen to try out his style.

From winning a local art competition aged 5, to his first exhibition aged 18 at Warwick School and opening his own on-line gallery, through self-belief, a massive talent and a rare determination and entrepreneurial spirit, Giosué stands out as a shining example of what young people today with a can do attitude can achieve.

We loved this talk focused on his work as an artist. We very much hope he'll return to talk to us more about his other job as an art dealer. If we all keep talking to him on his visits to Holly Blue House we should be able to keep him around here long enough for that to happen.

Thank you Giosué for sharing your inspirational story with us.



## 100 Club Winners

March's lucky winners were Sue Philpott, Dave Nash and Sally & Ian Broderick. Congrats all.

*If you'd like to **Join the 100 club** for a chance each month to win £60, contact Sally on 07769 348844 for details.*

## Annual General Meeting

**To Be Held On: 12/05/2026**

Please join us at 7 pm for a complimentary glass of wine when the committee would love to share with you details of what we've been up to this year, future plans and to hear what you'd like to see happening in the village hall in the year ahead.

The committee is a small, friendly group of Oxhillians who try their best to provide something for the benefit of the whole of our local community. We're always on the lookout for new ideas and new people to join us so please do speak to any one of the members if you'd like to take part. We'd love to have you.

Committee Members: Derek Harbour (chair), Sue Philpott (secretary), John McKail (treasurer), Ali Sayer (lettings/events) Sally Mannerings, Karen MacRae and Celena Mulhern.

## Upcoming Events

**9th June – Pasta Night** with Richard Parker *Sfoglino* - a highly skilled artisan dedicated to the Italian craft of *sfoglia*—traditional egg pasta rolled by hand into large, thin sheets using a *mattarello* (wooden rolling pin). Join Richard to hear his story, have a go at his art and a tasting. Did you know, there are hundreds of different shapes for filled pasta. Come along and try your hand at some of them with Richard's help. Doors open 6.30 pm. Glass of Italian wine & pasta tasting included in ticket price of only £14.

**20th June – Summer Soiree** – Think beer and bubbles for the summer. Get your glad rags on for an evening of drinks and canapes with friends. Doors open 7 pm.

**11th July – Family BBQ & Boules** – everyone welcome for a round of summer fun with games, burgers, sausages, salad and ice cream. Doors and Bar open at 5pm.

**Tickets for the above events from Ali on 07970 922352 or [oxhillvh@gmail.com](mailto:oxhillvh@gmail.com)**

## Quiz Answers

- 1) Reading
- 2) Mascarpone
- 3) Polo
- 4) 17



# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2026**  
**7:30-8:00pm**

**Doors open at 7pm for a complimentary drink and your opportunity to talk to the committee before the meeting**

*All welcome!*

# Shenfest

Shenington with Alkerton's Music & Literature Festival

## The 2026 Programme

June 12 - 14 2026

### Friday June 12th

**Renaissance evening with Fair Oriana** 7.30pm  
Step into the musical world of Elizabeth the First with  
Song, storytelling and the enchanting sound of the lute. Shenington Church

### Saturday June 13th

**Open Garden and Flower Arranging Workshop** Noon till 3pm  
Please book workshop places in advance Cotman House

**Little Shenfest. BYO family picnic on the Green.** 1pm till 3pm  
**Legolab from 1pm**, kindly organised by Simon Porter Green, Village Hall

**Daisy Allsop ... in conversation with Emily Lawson** 4pm  
The award winning film producer talks about her career Alkerton Church

**Sarabanda** 7.30 pm  
An evening of joyful and energetic Cuban music and dance  
from this highly rated band – fresh from Ronnie Scotts Shenington Church

### Sunday June 14th

**Shenington Sloggers vs Gold Bats cricket match** 2pm  
A match with the P.G. Wodehouse Society cricket team Wroxton ground

**Book Talk on the Boundary – Ollie Randall** 3.30pm ish  
Ollie's book, *Writers In Whites*, is a history of The  
Authors cricket team and the various characters  
involved. Wroxton cricket  
ground

### Shenfest Fringe

80's covers from **Fade to Grey** at The Bell - 9pm on Friday June 12th

### Entry for all events

**FREE** – thanks to our costs already being covered by the generosity of our  
sponsors. Donations will be requested at each event and all funds raised will go  
to help maintain our two fine Norman churches, fund humanitarian aid in  
Ukraine and to help BYHP (Banbury Young Homelessness Project)

### Places

To help us plan seating please let us know which events you would like to attend  
- [mark.petterson@warwickenergy.com](mailto:mark.petterson@warwickenergy.com) or call 670934

## ST LAWRENCE CHURCH FOR MAY

Spring is literally bursting out all over: the vine that looks dead every spring has shoots everywhere, blossom is in full force, courgettes are sprouting all over the greenhouse, and the air is alive with the sound of birdsong and lambs (not to mention ploughing and children playing outside!).

That new life and energy is a sign what Easter has promised: now in May we celebrate the time when Jesus, his work done, finally returns in glory to his Father, Ascension Day, and the gift of the Holy Spirit is poured out upon all believers, Pentecost Sunday. Jesus' work is finally complete - he has defeated death, given new life and hope to us all, and given us the gift of his presence and power for all time!

Wild Spirit of God,  
come and refresh us!  
Blow through our tiredness,  
disturb our dull routines,  
awaken our expectations,  
alert us to your presence,  
excite our faith,  
until the fire of your love  
takes hold in us again  
and your Pentecost light  
warms every hear  
and draws others to you,  
the source of all life and joy.

*Louise Gough, Summer*



## CHURCH SERVICES IN MAY

**Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>** 9.30 am Holy Communion Susan Bowden-Pickstock

**Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup>** Joint Service in Tysoe, George Heighton  
11.00 am Holy Communion followed by APCM

**Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup> Ascension Day**

Deanery Ascension Day Service, 6.00 pm in Butlers Marston Church.

**Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>** 9.30 am Holy Communion Susan Bowden-Pickstock

**Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup> Pentecost Sunday**  
6.30 pm Evensong George Heighton

*Jill Tucker*



## CHURCHYARD BIODIVERSITY

If anyone is interested in Biodiversity in and around our church, we are setting up a group who will be kept informed of what's going on.

We are hoping various events and activities will result in the church being awarded the silver eco church status. The first planned event is a moth count on May 22/23 followed by a breakfast.

If you'd like to join us, please let me know. There will be no compulsion to work.

*Jane Smith*



# FRIENDS OF OXHILL CHURCH

## TREASURE HUNT AND AFTERNOON TEA

After a very slow start with bookings, there was a very late surge in demand, leading to an excellent turn-out for the Afternoon Tea and optional Treasure Hunt. A good proportion of Afternoon Tea partakers arrived at the Old Chapel around 1.30pm to start the Treasure Hunt, despite the heavy rain that started falling minutes earlier. The wiser treasure hunters waited to set off until the rain stopped as the printed question paper was definitively not waterproof. Not only were there questions for the whole family to answer and clues to find around the village, but there was also a collecting activity for younger treasure seekers. Everyone enjoyed themselves even if they returned to the Old Chapel in a somewhat soggy state. In the end, the prize for the most correct answers was hotly contested, with the Bodycote family triumphing over Sue and Tony Philpott by one point. In third place was the other Groves Close team, Deborah and Ian Holroyd. Congratulations to everyone who took part.

By 3pm, the Old Chapel was starting to fill with people ready to enjoy the excellent variety and quality of cakes and sandwiches on offer. Glasses were filled with Prosecco and teapots were delivered to the tables, while everyone present loaded their plates with plenty of lovely sandwiches and cake. The sandwiches once again appeared to be very popular and we ended up with some spare cake. The offer to fill a box with cake for £5 went down very well too! Thanks to all who supported the event, we managed to raise over £600 towards the continuing Church reordering project.

No Church Fundraising event would be possible without the tireless work of the dedicated team of volunteers. Special thanks go to Gaida Webb, Linda Synge, Lis Stuart, Carol Beasley, Carol Fox, Kay Hawtin and Jon Mercer for working so hard making sandwiches, baking cakes, preparing scones, serving drinks and cakes, washing and clearing up, donating items for the raffle prize and shifting chairs and tables. We are fortunate that our very small Friends committee has more friends in the wider community who help us out at events: thank you to Celia Fawcus and Alice Mercer for baking excellent cakes. Thank you also to Jill and Colin Tucker for giving us the use of their lovely Old Chapel.

Finally, the Treasure Hunt was the brainchild of Lis Stuart, who deserves many thanks for setting entertaining questions, making collection boxes, providing the prizes and running it on the day, with help from Adrian. If you missed out on the Treasure Hunt at the Afternoon Tea but would like to have a go at bettering the Bodycotes' score, well, it's your lucky year as it will be available to buy at Oxhill's Little Weekend, see below for more details.....

## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

### **Oxhill's Little Weekend**

**Sunday 14th June**

Planning is well under way for Oxhill's Little Weekend. We will be serving hot and cold drinks, cake and Ploughman's lunches all day at the Old Chapel, which will also be the venue for a Tombola and raffle plus the annual Garden Club plant sale. There will be another opportunity to complete the Treasure Hunt (see above) and we are hoping for the return of the half-size steam engine, last seen pulling Santa around the village in December. The Artisan Market will be in the Village Hall as it was at last year's Big Weekend. There are still two pitches available at the Artisan Market. If you would like to book one, please contact me as soon as possible.

We are also hoping to run some children's games at the Village Hall but, as ever, this will depend on having enough helpers. If you are able to help with refreshments or on a stall for an hour or so, it would be greatly appreciated; please contact me with your availability. We would also welcome donations of prizes for the Tombola and Raffle, as well as home-baked cakes. Thank you for your support.

### **Friday 21st August: TBA Barn Dance**

We still have no venue but are keen to go ahead if at all possible. Please email me if you think you can help with a venue.

### **Saturday 7th November: Quiz Night**

Always very popular but no need to book just yet!

*Ruth Mercer*

*07400 615999 or [ruthc.mercer@btinternet.com](mailto:ruthc.mercer@btinternet.com)*

## *Electoral Roll / Friends of St. Lawrence*

As of 26th April, the 2026 Electoral Roll for St Lawrence, Oxhill has been on display in the church porch. Villagers are welcome to be included on any subsequent Roll following completion of the necessary form which may always be found at the back of the church.

Combined with the Rolls of St. Mary's, Tysoe and St. Peter's, Whatcote the 2026 Parish Roll will be presented to the Annual Church Parochial Meeting (APCM) following the 11am service Sunday 10th May at Tysoe. All Oxhill villagers are invited to attend.

*Douglas Netherclef*

Electoral Roll Officer, St. Lawrence

# OXHILL'S

# LITTLE

# WEEKEND

## 14<sup>TH</sup> JUNE

FOR OXHILL CHURCH

10AM - 4PM

ADMISSION - FREE

### AT THE CHAPEL:

PLANT SALE

TOMBOLA & RAFFLE

CHILDREN'S WILDLIFE TRAIL

FAMILY TREASURE HUNT

PLOUGHMAN'S LUNCHES

TEA & CAKES

### AT THE CHURCH:

WILDFLOWER MEADOW

### AT THE VILLAGE HALL:

ARTISAN MARKET





## **ARTHUR & CELIA TAKE ON OSCAR'S NINE EDGES CHALLENGE**

On Sunday 3rd May, my Mum and I are walking 23 miles over the Peak District's Nine Edges. Here is a photo of us on a training walk.

We are fundraising for Oscar's paediatric brain tumour charity. If anyone would like to support us, that would be brilliant. We will let you know how we get on in the next edition!

*Thanks*

*Arthur (age 12)*

[www.justgiving.com/page/celia-fawcus-1?utm\\_medium=FR&utm\\_source=CL&utm\\_campaign=LFCFRUK\\_Day11\\_SelfDonateSameDay](http://www.justgiving.com/page/celia-fawcus-1?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL&utm_campaign=LFCFRUK_Day11_SelfDonateSameDay)

OR just search Just Giving Celia Fawcus and the link will come up. I'll also post on the village Facebook group.

## STAY WILD

Spring is with us summer is approaching and we've all started mowing our lawns and tidying our gardens but please think about our wildlife. Many of our once common birds are dramatically declining, House sparrows, greenfinches, starlings and song thrush are seeing numbers dropping by nearly half and those wonderful summer visitors swifts, swallows and house martins are becoming scarce some numbers dropping by 66% since the 90's. Loss of habitat but more importantly loss of insects are the crucial factors but we can help by leaving small areas of our gardens wild and even by creating 'dry hedges' don't chop all those small branches and twigs up start laying and piling them up to form a hedge, this will provide habitat and encourage insects.

As many of you are aware with the help of OWLS our Church has won a Bronze award for Greening and becoming an Eco Church , the next stage is to achieve The Silver award, with this in mind we will be running several eco events, the first is a moth survey which will take place on the night of the 22nd May and we will have a coffee and pastry breakfast at 7.30am on the 23rd to open up the traps to reveal what moths visit the church yard. If you would like to attend this event or get involved with developing and caring for the churchyard please contact Jane Smith, 07530629114, [smithje@btinternet.com](mailto:smithje@btinternet.com).

*by Grenville Moore*





## HISTORICAL PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES CORONATION CELEBRATIONS IN OXHILL

*by Lis Stuart*

All dates, names and references to places in the village have been taken from the extracts of the Parish Council minutes as recorded at the time.

It was interesting to read Oxhill's plans for the Coronation Celebrations in 1937. It is striking how similar they were to our recent celebrations but also to note the changes in society and the costs of holding an event. I wondered if anyone still has a Commemorative mug, metal or photos from the Celebrations.

In January 1936, King George V passed away, and his eldest son, Edward VIII, ascended the throne. However, Edward's desire to marry Wallis Simpson, an American socialite who was twice divorced, created a constitutional crisis. The Church of England, of which the King was the head, did not permit remarriage after divorce if the former spouse was still living. This situation led to significant public and political opposition to Edward's plans to marry Simpson.

On December 11, 1936, facing mounting pressure and the unlikelihood of being able to marry Simpson while remaining king, Edward VIII abdicated the throne. His abdication was a historic moment, as he was the first British monarch to voluntarily relinquish the crown in over 300 years. The 1930s saw the coronation of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, which took place at Westminster Abbey on May 12, 1937. This event was a significant moment in British history, marking the ascension of George VI to the throne and the coronation of his wife, Elizabeth. The ceremony was a public spectacle, with the return procession being over six miles long and attended by over 32,000 soldiers and sailors. The coronation was commemorated by official medals, coinage, and stamps, as well as numerous unofficial celebrations. The event was broadcast on television and radio, marking the first major outside broadcast and the first coronation to be filmed.

1937 -The meeting went on to consider the arrangements for the Coronation on May 12th.

It was proposed by Mr C, Gilks, seconded by Mr Valender and carried unanimously that the Village Fund be used for the Coronation celebration. The Village Fund amounted to £25 “7s” 0.7d.

The nature of the celebration was then considered. Mr H. Simmonds proposed that the celebration begin with a cold dinner for the adults and children at 1pm. The Chairman proposed an amendment, that the Coronation follow the same times as the Jubilee, starting at 1 o'clock. Mr F Simmonds seconded this, and it was carried.

It was proposed by Mr C Gilks, seconded by Miss French and carried that there be sports for adults and children during the afternoon.

Mr Valender proposed a tea at 6pm for the adults and children this was seconded by Mr S. Heritage and carried.

Mrs C Gilks proposed and Mr Valender seconded that there should be a bonfire. This was carried.

Mr Heritage, the Chairman, proposed a souvenir mug for the children up to 14 years of age. This was seconded and carried unanimously.

What should be put in the Parish in memory of the Coronation was discussed, but it was decided to postpone the decision until it was known what money would be available.

The Chairman proposed and Mr B Groves seconded that a Coronation Committee be elected. The following were then elected:

1. Mr F Simmonds.
2. Mr C Gilks
3. Mr S Middleton
4. Mr J.B. Heritage
5. Mr Valender



*King George VI and Queen Elizabeth in their coronation robes, 1937*



*Decorated float in Coronation Celebration in Stratford upon Avon. 1937*

6. Mrs Heath
7. Miss French
8. Mrs S Middleton
9. Mrs K Gardner
10. Miss Gladys Parker.

The Chairman asked the Rev H. Brayne to report on the proceedings of the Committee meetings.

Mr Winsor proposed and Mr S. Heritage seconded that another public meeting be called to confirm the Committee's arrangements for Coronation celebration, the date of such a meeting being left to the Committee to fix when ready.

12th March- Mr J.B. Heritage outlined the proposals for the Coronation Committee and after discussion the following programme was finally adopted

1. Divine Service in Church about 10.30.  
This is to be followed by the planting of a red chestnut tree.
2. Dinner for children, to which all parents may come at 12 o'clock.
3. Dinner for adults at 1pm.
4. Children's sports in the afternoon.
5. Children's tea at 4pm to which mothers are invited.
6. Adults' tea at 5.30 pm
7. Adults' sports in the evening consisting mainly of competitions.

After discussion it was decided to drop the bonfire. During the meeting it was decided to ask Mr Winsor to order the Red Chestnut tree from the same firm in Warwick from which the Jubilee tree was procured. The cost to carry out the programme was estimated to be £21"0s."6.d. leaving a balance in hand of £4"7s. "1d.

Miss French kindly promised to give the Coronation mugs. The Coronation medals were also promised anonymously.

It was decided to spend 30/\_ on prizes for adults (ladies and men), and 30/\_ on children's prizes, which latter were to consist of new shillings, if possible, in the new currency. The sum of £2 was allocated to the instalment of the red Chestnut tree. The Secretary was instructed to invite Mr. S Taylor of Kirby Mr Sheperd and Mr Lewis to the Coronation Celebration. Mrs F Gilks was added to the Coronation Committee.

A meeting of the Coronation Committee was held on Wednesday May 26th at 7pm.

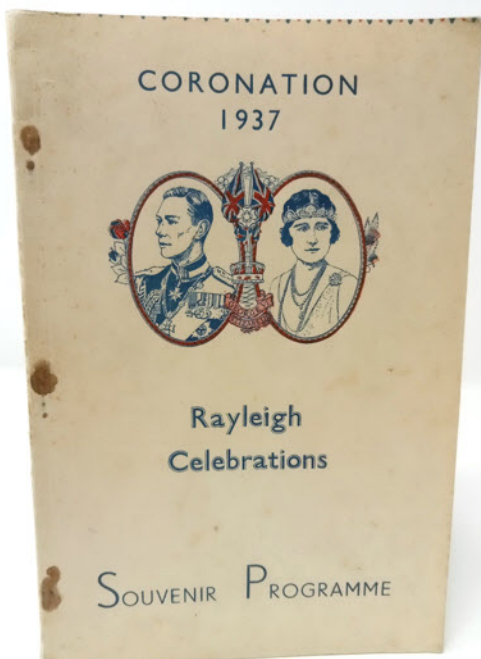
The balance sheet of the Coronation Celebrations was presented. This showed the amount in the Village Fund to be £25"7"7

Others assets amounted to 19" 81/2.

Thus the total amount of the money in hand amounted to £26"7.s." 3 ½ d.

The total cost of the Coronation Celebrations amounted to £21"15.s"7 ½ d leaving a balance in hand in the Village Fund of £4"11.s"8d. it was pointed out that the cost of the new flag staff for the Church Tower had been overlooked and had not been met out of the Village Fund.

3rd March 1938 - It was proposed by Mr Winsor and seconded b Mr. H Simmonds that another Coronation tree be planted in place of the one of the which had died. This was carried unanimously Mr Winsor was instructed to order the same kind of tree from the same firm as soon as possible.



*1937 Coronation Souvenir Programme (above) and medal (below).*

# ART WORKSHOPS *for Adults*



Join local Artist Lynsey Cleaver for a fun half-day workshop creating rockpool imagery or a wildlife portrait of a Fox or Owl using monoprinting techniques on a gelliplate combined with hand painting. Both workshops are perfect for artists of all levels and promise creativity and inspiration in a friendly atmosphere. Materials and Gelliplates will be provided along with refreshments.



## **Creating Rockpools Using Gelliplate Monoprinting**

**Saturday 18th April 1 - 5pm**

**Oxhill Village Hall**

**only a few spaces left!**



## **Wildlife Portraits Using Gelliplate Monoprinting**

**Saturday 9th May 1 - 5pm**

**Oxhill Village Hall**

**Book online @[www.lynseycleaverartist.co.uk/book-online](http://www.lynseycleaverartist.co.uk/book-online)  
or contact Lynsey on 07960783080 for more information  
Only a few spaces left !**



## **THE RETURN OF THE OTTER: A VISITOR TO OXHILL**

There was considerable excitement in Oxhill recently with the arrival of an otter on the village brook. Remarkably, we were able to capture footage of it entering and leaving what appears to be a holt - the name given to an otter's den, typically located underground. Otters may also rest in a 'couch', an above-ground nesting site.

Although this sighting felt special, it is not entirely unexpected. Otters have been known to visit the area for years. Around a decade ago, they were recorded on a lake in Ettington and had also been spotted along the River Stour. This marks a striking turnaround from the mid-20th century, when otters were considered almost extinct in Britain during the 1950s through the 1970s. Today, they are once again widespread, having recolonised much of the country.

### **Remarkable Travellers and Hunters**

Otters are extraordinary animals, both on land and in water. Overland, they travel in what is known as a 'romp', covering distances of 10 to 18 miles, often following brooks and waterways. This means the Oxhill otter could have journeyed from quite far afield.

In water, they are equally impressive. Otters are powerful swimmers, capable of holding their breath for up to eight minutes and diving to significant depths in pursuit of prey. Their high metabolism requires them to consume around 25% of their body weight each day, which explains their need to travel extensively in search of food.

## **Family Life and Behaviour**

Otters have their own distinctive terminology. A male is known as a boar or dog, while a female is called a sow or a bitch. Their young are referred to as kits or pups. Although pups may stay with their parents for up to 12 months, otters are ultimately solitary animals, with individuals dispersing to establish their own territories.

## **A Night-Time Discovery**

Recent wildlife surveys in the area have shed further light on the otter's presence. Volunteers have been conducting night-time observations of ponds to monitor great crested newts, partly in connection with concerns surrounding the Severn Trent sewage system.

On one such evening, the team encountered a dramatic and rather sobering scene. Frogs were moving en masse towards the ponds, but signs of predation were everywhere. Frog skins littered the ground, and one severely injured frog had to be humanely put down. This behaviour is characteristic of otter, which often consume the bodies of amphibians while discarding the less palatable skin.

Further evidence came in the form of otter spraint (droppings), which contained small white fragments - tiny pieces of bone - confirming that frogs had been part of the otter's recent diet. Otters are also known to prey on newts, raising concerns that local populations of great crested and smooth newts may be affected.

Studies support this observation. Research conducted on the Gower Peninsula found that a single otter had consumed at least 31 great crested newts, based on spraint analysis.

## **A Balanced Perspective**

The return of the otter brings mixed feelings. On one hand, it is a welcome sign of biodiversity and a reminder of nature's resilience. On the other, otters are a formidable predators. They are known to take ducklings and, in some cases, even larger birds. Footage has recently circulated showing an otter successfully attacking and killing a cormorant after a prolonged struggle.

Ultimately, the presence of otters reflects the complexity of a functioning ecosystem. Predation, while sometimes unsettling to witness, is a natural and necessary part of ecological balance. Their return may indicate improving environmental conditions, as otters typically require abundant food and relatively clean water.

However, it would be premature to draw firm conclusions about water quality. It is equally possible that pollution in larger rivers is pushing otters into smaller, cleaner waterways like those around Oxhill.

For now, cautious optimism seems appropriate. The return of the otter is both a symbol of recovery and a reminder of the delicate balance within our natural world.

*Grenville Moore*

Well at last! I've waited and watched for years and finally this morning walking down Beech Lane I stopped on the bridge looked up the brook and I spotted him/her a lovely Otter, I watched and filmed for some time and gradually he worked his way down towards me and turned to go back the way he came . He then went back up the bank to the big pond I followed but lost track.



*Facebook post on the OWLS page by Grenville Moore*



# WOT2GROW COMMUNITY ORCHARD

## SPRING 2026

Spring is coming! Members have been working on weeding the soft fruit, feeding and mulching. And the pear and cherry trees are looking beautiful. The cherries are delicious and we now have special covers for the fruit to stop the birds enjoying them as well!

Exciting news is that we now have a page on the Tysoe Village website, with information on the history of the orchard and membership details.

<https://tysoe-pc.gov.uk/wot2grow-community-orchard/>

The orchard is next to the allotments on the Shenington Road in Tysoe. For more information about membership see above or please email: [mirandawot2grow@gmail.com](mailto:mirandawot2grow@gmail.com).

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

*Allie Aves*







**Sunday 3rd May 2026**

**7pm for 7.15pm start at Tysoe Village Hall**

**Test your wildlife knowledge with this fun quiz!**

Tickets £6 per person, tables of 4 or 6 - includes nibbles.

There will be a bar to buy drinks and a wildlife themed raffle.

Raising funds for Tysoe Wildlife.

Purchase tickets online at [tysoevillagehall.org.uk](http://tysoevillagehall.org.uk)

or from Tysoe Post Office



Fundraising to support Tysoe's Wildlife Friendly Parish. Supported by St Mary's Church, Tysoe & District Record and Tysoe Parish Council.



# USEFUL VILLAGE CONTACT DETAILS

## **Oxhill Parish Councillors:**

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

## **Oxhill Village Hall:**

Derek Harbour - Chair  
Ali Sayer - Hall Hire - 07970 922352  
email: [oxhillvh@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:revjill.tucker@btinternet.com)  
Churchwarden: Verena Rogers  
email: [rogersvm37@gmail.com](mailto:rogersvm37@gmail.com)  
mobile: 0759 248 5016 landline: 01295 574 323

## **Friends of Oxhill Church:**

Ruth Mercer 07400 615999 or  
[ruthc.mercer@btinternet.com](mailto:ruthc.mercer@btinternet.com)

## **Carers4carers:**

[kcarers4carers@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.ccots.org.uk)  
Email: [membershipsecretary@ccots.org.uk](mailto:membershipsecretary@ccots.org.uk)

## **Oxhill Pickleball:**

Peter Rivers Fletcher 07730 800729  
[rfn364@btinternet.com](mailto:rfn364@btinternet.com)

## **talkdementia.uk:**

Carer Support Service: email: [talkdementia@mail.com](mailto:talkdementia@mail.com)  
Website: [talkdementia.uk](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:oxhill.news.editor@gmail.com)**

# WHAT'S ON IN & AROUND OXHILL

## MAY

Sun 3rd	19:00	Wildlife Quiz, Tysoe Village Hall
Wed 6th	14:30-14:50	Mobile Library outside Village Hall
Sat 9th	13:00-17:00	Wildlife Portraits, Village Hall
Sun 10th	11:00	Electoral Roll Presentation, Tysoe Church
Tues 12th	19:00	Village Hall AGM
Sat 16th		Hiking for Hearts with Milo & Alice
Tues 19th	18:30	Parish Council Meeting, Village Hall
Every Thursday	12:00	Coffee Morning, Peacock Pub

## JUNE

Tues 9th	18:30	Pasta Night, Village Hall
Fri 12th - Sun 14th		Shenfest, Shenington
Sun 14th		Oxhill's Little Weekend
Sat 20th	19:00	Summer Soiree, Village Hall

## PC MEETINGS

The date of the next Parish Council meeting is **Tuesday, 19th May 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](mailto:oxhillpc@btinternet.com)) at least 10 days prior to the meeting to ensure that it is included on the publicly visible Agenda.

MAY

2026

## BIN COLLECTION CALENDAR

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

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

Food waste  Recycling

General refuse  Garden waste