THE OXHILL NEWS

November 2026 No. 624



After sixty years of teaching dance at the Village Hall, **Mrs. Ann Precious** has retired at the age of 87. See more on page 3

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Mrs. Precious' Tedddy Bear dancers 2019.

THE TYSOE TAPPERS HAVE COME TO AN END

After sixty years of teaching dance at the village hall, Mrs Precious has finally retired at the age of 87. Tysoe Tappers has come to an end. Thank you Anne for all your hard work.

Ali Sayer

Memories

Mrs Precious and Amy taught me to do handstands, cartwheels and the splits. My favourite bit of tap is 'tap, tap, shuffle, hop.' I really like doing the butterfly at the end and teddybears picnic song. The ballet was really fun. Mrs Precious is a really nice lady and I will miss her lessons. We will miss you lots!

Love from Bea

We have some very fond memories of Tap Classes with Mrs Precious, getting to dress up in our dance outfits and being together with other kids from the village to have a boogie.

The Sayer Girls

I can remember them running down the road from our house to the Village Hall in their leotards clutching a £ coin or two 50p's!

Ali Sayer (Mum)



SINGING FOR CHRISTMAS

Our Churches have traditionally formed a Festival Choir to sing at the various carol services just before Christmas. This is for anyone who loves to sing, and would like to join in, whether you have just moved into the village, or have lived here for years. We can accommodate all levels of skill and experience – or otherwise: enthusiasm is much more important! We don't robe, and we don't expect you to make every Carol Service!

We rehearse in The Old Chapel, here in Oxhill, as below, at 3.00 pm for about an hour.

- Tuesday, 17th November
- Monday, 23rd November
- Tuesday 1st December
- Monday 7th December
- And Monday 14th December if we deem it necessary!

And the Carol Services themselves are :

- Sunday, 29th November 6.30 pm Brailes - Advent Carol Service for the whole group.
- Wednesday, 16th December 6.30 pm Tysoe Carol Service
- Tuesday, 22nd December 6.30 pm Whatcote Carol Service
- Wednesday, 23rd December 6.30 pm Oxhill Carol Service

If you would like to join us, either contact me, or just turn up on the day
Rev Jill Tucker, revjill.tucker@btinternet.com



ST LAWRENCE CHURCH FOR NOVEMBER

November is a season of remembering.

At the beginning of the month we have All Saints' Day (November 1st), when we remember the Christians down the ages, and then on November 2nd we have All Souls', when particularly we remember those whom we have known and loved and lost. We have the opportunity to thank God for their lives and all that they meant to us, and to pray for ourselves and each other as we grieve them. It gives us a chance to take the pain of such loss to a God who fully understands that pain. 'In Loving Memory' in Tysoe that day is a quiet service to allow us to do that.

Then the following Sunday (November 8th) is Remembrance Sunday. We remember those who were lost and suffered in both the World Wars, but also in more recent wars: the Falklands, Iraq, Afghanistan, Ukraine and now Iran. So many lives lost and damaged (both military and civilian); so much need for peace; and so much need for us to work out our part in that.

So, whatever you might be remembering in November, we pray that you will be able to take that to God in some way; find his peace and blessing, and look to bringing peace to our world. And remember, too, that at the very end of November we celebrate Advent – and the way that God brought light into a world that can seem very dark at times.

This is the place
where God says, 'I know'.
Where God says, 'I am here'.
Where God sheds a tear along with us.



The Healing Yard

HOLISTIC THERAPY
SPORTS AND CLINICAL
MASSAGE THERAPY
YOGA AND PSYCHOLOGICAL
WELLBEING

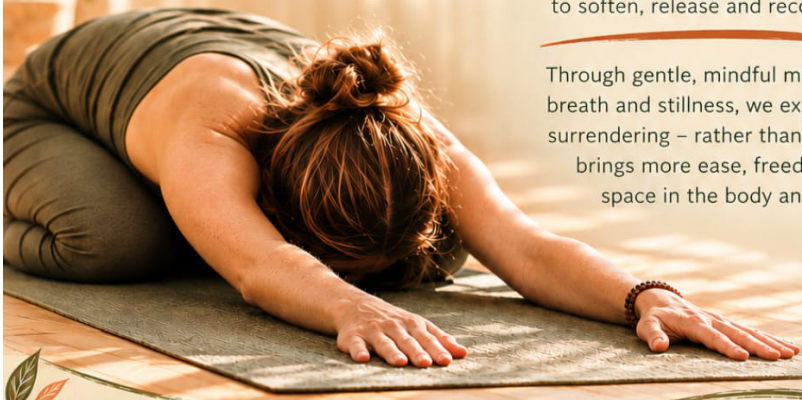
YOGA SERIES

Surrender

When we surrender the body, we find more ease.

This 6-class yoga series invites you to soften, release and reconnect.

Through gentle, mindful movement, breath and stillness, we explore how surrendering – rather than striving – brings more ease, freedom and space in the body and mind.



Thursdays
6:30 – 8:00pm
22 October – 3 December 2026
(6 classes over 7 weeks)
No class 5th November

Oxhill Village Hall

Scaravelli-inspired yoga
ALL LEVELS WELCOME

Book your place

Book the full series
thehealingyard.as.me/SurrenderYogaSeries

Pay as you go
thehealingyard.as.me/SurrenderYogaSeriesPayAsYouGo

thehealingyard@gmail.com

MOVE • BREATHE • BE

Church Services in November:

Sunday, November 1st		**All Saints Day**	
9.30 am	Oxhill	Holy Communion	George Heighton
Monday, November 2nd		**All Souls' Day**	
6.00 pm	Tysoe	In Loving Memory	George Heighton
Sunday, November 8th		**Remembrance Sunday**	
3.30 pm	Oxhill	Remembrance Service	Jill Tucker
Sunday, November 15th			
9.30 am	Oxhill	Holy Communion	Susan Bowden-Pickstock
Sunday, November 22nd		**Christ the King**	
6.30 pm	Oxhill	Evensong	Geoge Heighton
Sunday, November 29th		**Advent Sunday**	
6.30 pm	Brailes	United Churches Advent Carol Service	

Rev Jill Tucker



POPPY APPEAL

A small team will going around the village in early November supporting the Poppy Appeal.

The Poppy Appeal relies on cash donations in the traditional manner so here is a "heads up" for our kind fellow villagers to have some spare coins by the front door would be a real help.

Planning for Later Life:

Wills, Care Fees, and What You Need to Know

Join us at Kineton Manor for an informal evening exploring some of the things that are worth thinking about when planning for later life. Wine & cheese provided!

When? Monday 23 November from 5:30pm
Where? Kineton Manor Nursing Home
Manor Lane, Kineton



Tony Morris from Belvedere Wills & Estate Planning will talk about the Law of Intestacy, Lasting Power of Attorney, when you may not need a will, and more.

Jack Josypenko from Jamieson Christie Wealth Management will talk about who pays for care, what resources are available to support you, and more.



Everyone is welcome, no booking required!

RVSPs appreciated for catering purposes.

To RSVP or for more information contact Emily on **01926 641739** or **marketing@kineton-manor.co.uk**

Kineton Manor Nursing Home
Care, Comfort and Companionship

Pantomime time is nearly here - oh no it isn't!

One of the highlights of the winter is a trip from Oxhill to the last night of the pantomime at the Belgrade Theatre in Coventry. The panto is written and directed by Oxhill resident Iain Macpherson (also known as Iain Lauchlan), who stars as the pantomime dame. This year Iain's daughter Morna, also an Oxhill resident, has a lead part in the show.

Ian has reserved 100 tickets for the performance of **Beauty and the Beast** at **7pm on Saturday 2nd January, 2027**. As in previous years, I have organised a coach to leave the village 5.15- 5.30pm and arrive in time for a drink at the theatre before the performance. You would get back to Oxhill 10.30-10.45pm. The cost of the panto tickets is £41.50 for adults and £36.50 for children. The cost of the coach depends on how many people use it (last year the coach was £8.50 a seat & £5 for children)

Please contact Ali Sayer on 07970 922352 or ali.sayer@btinternet.com if you would like tickets for the panto and if you would use the coach. **I will need a definite commitment and payment by 30th November.**



Understanding Sight Loss

An evening with WARWICKSHIRE VISION

Join us for an evening with Martyn from **Warwickshire Vision Support**, exploring how sight loss can affect everyday life and the practical and emotional support available to people living with sight loss.
Wine & cheese provided!

When? Monday 23 November from 5:30pm
Where? Kineton Manor Nursing Home
Manor Lane, Kineton



We'll be fundraising for Warwickshire Vision Support throughout the evening, including a **Christmas Hamper raffle!**



Everyone is welcome, no booking required!

RVSPs appreciated for catering purposes.

To RSVP, for more information, or to buy raffle tickets contact Emily on **01926 641739** or **marketing@kineton-manor.co.uk**

Kineton Manor Nursing Home
Care, Comfort and Companionship

WOT2GROW COMMUNITY ORCHARD

A big thank you to everyone who helped to make this year's Apple Day such a success.

Lots of apples were chopped and pressed, lots of cake and cups of tea were consumed and the sun shone on us for most of the time.

Other news is that, thanks to a generous donation by the Tysoe Flower Show, we have purchased four more water butts that are being installed next to the blueberry cages. With more hot and dry summers to come, the water collected in these will be essential for keeping the soft fruit growing well over the summer months.

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)



OXHILL VILLAGE HALL

Oktoberfest – 10th October 2026

This month saw us try something a little different at the village hall, as we held our very own Oktoberfest. There were no takers to audition for an oompah band and the pros were beyond our finances but thanks to some brainstorming and hard work by the committee the hall was decked out with Bavarian bunting, long tables were stacked with a Bavarian feast and there was plenty of German Beer flowing. The music in the end was courtesy of Spotify.

Thanks to the imagination and creative talent of Oxhillians there was some superb traditional Bavarian attire on show. Helen West, Lisa, and Mike Bridgman looked fab., as did Ali Sayer, Sally Mannerings, Sue Philpott and Tricia Harbour. The prize for the best dressed though had to go to Reuben and Lisa Connolly who together had absolutely nailed the theme. Well done you two.

Games were held throughout the evening with Lisa Connolly also winning 1st prize in the alcohol free version of beer pong and Karen and Stuart Barker taking 1st in the pretzel throw. The German/Oktoberfest trivia quiz was won by Stuart & Karen, Belinda, Roger and Tricia. Well done all.

The laughter and enthusiasm from those who took part made this a really fun (and pretty late) evening. Thank you everyone who attended the event but also to all of the village hall committee who worked really hard as usual to make it the success it was, along with support from Helen West who provided us with some delicious ginger bread biscuits.




German Brewers
Oktoberfest
12 BEERS FROM BAVARIA


Mauserl
Prost!
Herzerl
I mog Di
Mauserl
Prost!
Prost!
Küss mich
I mog Di
Küss mich
Mauserl
Herzerl
Mauserl
Schatz
Prost!
Spatzl
Mauserl
Küss mich


Push bar to open





AI – Mind the Gap – 13th October 2026

A fascinating and entertaining evening involving a presentation and talk by Paul Roebuck on AI, human behaviour and what happens when the two meet. There was a broad range of knowledge and experience of AI amongst the audience, from those of us who know nothing and never use it, to others who use it a bit (booking holidays and the like) all the way through to those who had or do currently work within the technology industry. This talk was so well put together there was something in it for everyone.

With help from his AI assistants, Issac and Bob, Paul showed us where AI came from and how it works: Alan Turing 1950 to learning through games to the 2020 cracking of a 50 year puzzle about proteins. We learned about the gap between what we do as humans and what it, the AI, does: we know what an egg is, it doesn't. It's read everything ever written about an egg but it's never seen or held one. And, sometimes AI can hallucinate, lie or just plain get things wrong – so we'd better make sure we check.

Having seen how it does what it does we had a glimpse of what it could be asked to do next. Maybe that's one for another time and we do hope Paul will come back to give us a 2nd talk to further our understanding.

Paul is the author of several books delving into this topic which I'd recommend to anyone wanting to know more. Many thanks Paul for the evening. We very much hope you'll return.

100 Club

Lucky winners for September were Jeremy Franklin(£60), Phil Brennan(£30) and Richard & Hilary Stait(£10). For your chance to win, renew or join at oxhillvh.co.uk. Annual subscription is £60.

XMAS TREE DONATION

A big thank you to Mike and Suzy of Warwickshire Xmas Tree Farm for once again inviting us to choose one of their beautiful trees to be enjoyed by us all at Xmas within the garden of the village hall. It was a sunny October morning that Fiona, Fran and Tricia accepted the invitation. There were so many beautiful trees to choose from it did make their task quite challenging. We look forward to it's arrival during the festive season.





Friday 18th December 7pm

Tickets £17.50

include canapés and first two drinks

Beer & Bubbles

bow ties & ballgowns
cocktail dress & chinos
shorts & stilletos

OXHILL VILLAGE HALL
for our community

oxhillvh.co.uk oxhillvh@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

Tickets for all events listed below can be bought on line at oxhillvh.co.uk or requested by email to oxhillvh@gmail.com

Curry Night - Friday 27th November 2026

Note the change of date for this one. It was to take place on 20th November but has had to be moved and will now take place on 27th November.

Enjoy a three course Indian inspired meal with accompaniments. There's something for all tastes with a choice of mild and hotter curries. Always a popular event so book tickets early. Only £22 for a starter, main and a sweet treat to finish.

Doors Open: 7.00pm

Beer and Bubbles - Friday 18th December 2026

Xmas comes to the village hall with our annual festive event. An opportunity to dress up and have a good time with friends old and new over a glass of Prosecco (or whatever else takes your fancy) and some delicious canapes. **Ticket price of only £17.50** includes your first 2 drinks. For the rest, the bar will be stocked and open.

Doors open: 7.00pm



Ali 07970 922352
oxhillvh@gmail.com

OXHILL VILLAGE HALL
for our community

Seniors' Christmas Lunch

Had your invitation?
Please RSVP by the 1st
Invitation not arrived?
Please get in touch

Tuesday 8th December
12:30pm

WHAT'S ON IN 2027

JANUARY	Talk
FEBRUARY	Talk
MARCH	Talk
APRIL	Quiz Night
MAY	Sausage and Cider Night Annual General Meeting
JUNE	Summer Soireé
JULY	BBQ & Boules
SEPTEMBER	Progressive Supper
OCTOBER	Oktoberfest!
NOVEMBER	Curry Night
DECEMBER	Seniors' Christmas Lunch Beer & Bubbles

OXHILL VILLAGE HALL for our community


QUIZ
NIGHT
THE OLD CHAPEL, OXHILL
SATURDAY 7TH
NOVEMBER 7PM
£15 PER PERSON
TWO COURSE
SUPPER INCLUDED
DONATIONS BAR
TEAMS OF 1-6
TO RESERVE YOUR TEAM'S PLACE,
CONTACT RUTH MERCER: 07400 615 999
IN AID OF THE CHURCH OF ST LAWRENCE, OXHILL

FRIENDS OF OXHILL CHURCH

Quiz Night

Saturday 7th November
7pm

Please join us at the Old Chapel for an evening of interesting questions and good food – nothing happens in Oxhill without food. The question writer aims to produce a quiz that is enjoyable for all ages of adult with no impossible questions. We anticipate teams of 4 members but will be happy to see teams with anything from 1-6 members. Don't worry if you want to come but don't have a team: let me know and I'll try to be the Oxhill quiz team matchmaker. Included in the ticket price is a two-course supper (vegetarian and gluten-free options will be available if requested at time of booking).

We are changing the format of the evening this year as dinner was getting later and later, so we will be serving the meal as soon as you arrive to reduce the risk of hangry quizzers. The quiz will start after everyone has finished their first course. There will also be a donations bars, well stocked with beer, cider, wine and soft drinks, plus a raffle, so even if you don't win the quiz, there's a chance of taking home a prize! Tickets are £15 per person.

As of writing in mid-October, we still have a few tables available, but our Quiz Night is usually fully booked ahead of the date so book your places now to avoid disappointment!

Oxhill's Christmas Cracker

The Old Chapel
Saturday 5th December
11am – 3pm

This is a new addition to our fundraising programme, taking the place of the traditionally annual Made In Oxhill event. There will be locally made crafts and produce available to buy, including jams, honey, chutney and fudge. Knit and Natter will also have a stall selling knitted and crafted items. We will also be running stalls including a raffle, bottle Tombola, and a craft table where adults and children will be able to make some Christmas-themed decorations themselves.

This is very much a social event where you can come for a drink, homemade soup and cake, meet up with friends and neighbours and pick up a few gifts at the same time. We do hope you enjoy it!

To help make our Christmas Cracker a success, we are looking for raffle prizes and bottles for the Tombola. Please contact Lis Stuart or me if you have anything to donate.

Thank you!


OXHILL'S
CHRISTMAS
CRACKER
Coffee, cake, crafts & chat
SATURDAY
5TH DECEMBER
11AM–3PM
THE OLD CHAPEL
OXHILL
CRAFT ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS
CARDS AND GIFT STALLS
JAMS, CHUTNEY, HONEY
HOMEMADE REFRESHMENTS INCLUDING SOUP AND CAKES
FRIENDS OF OXHILL CHURCH

Future Dates for your 2027 Diary

Winter Saturday Social

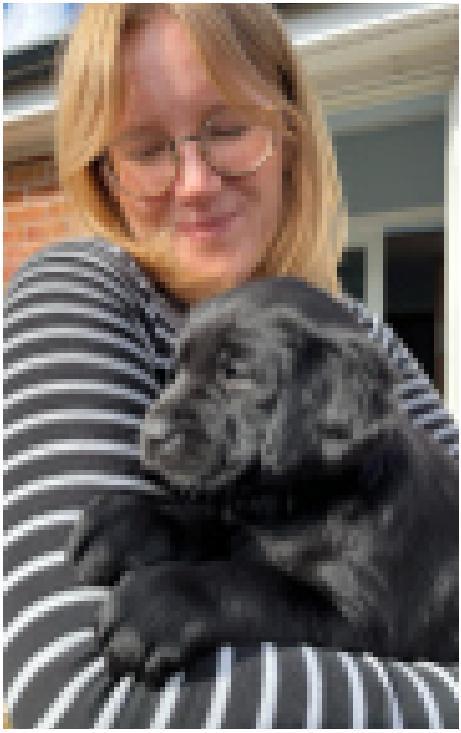
Saturday 16th January
2pm – 4.30pm
Escape from winter hibernation and come to the Old Chapel for tea, coffee, and cake plus a post-Christmas catch-up with your village friends and neighbours. More details in the next Oxhill News.

Games Night

Saturday 6th March

Ruth Mercer
ruthc.mercer@btinternet.com 07400 615999








WILD



ABBY'S FIRST LITTER OF GUIDE DOG PUPPIES

For those who don't know us, we started volunteering for Guide Dogs in 2007 when we became Breeding Stock holders for Yarna, a yellow Labrador Guide Dog mum. Yarna was just the start of our Guide Dog puppy adventures and we now have retired Guide Dog mum Dora and our fifth Guide Dog Mum, Abby, who moved in with us at the end of November last year, both Golden Retrievers. Retired Guide Dog mum Rhoda also lives in the village with our daughter Lucy.

On September 2nd, Abby whelped her first litter having been mated with a black Labrador called Otley. It was also his first mating so we were happy that together they produced 10 healthy puppies, 6 yellow and 4 black. With every litter, we mark the puppies with nail varnish as soon as they are born so we can identify each puppy and track their weight gains and progress. During their time with us, it is important that the puppies are exposed to usual household noises, music and being handled by different people so that they turn into resilient, sociable dogs with every chance of being trained successfully as a Guide Dog. By the time they leave us, we are preparing and serving them each four meals a day which works out as 280 a week with 10 puppies! Abby's puppies are now heading off to their Puppy Raisers, 3 to Scotland, 2 to the North West, 3 to the North East and 2 staying in the West Midlands area. This is the 15th litter to be born for Guide Dogs in our house; in total, we've sent off 115 of our Guide Dog Mums' puppies plus 9 foster puppies to start their journey to become Guide Dogs.

If you are interested in volunteering with Guide Dogs, a variety of roles are available - details are on the website www.guidedogs.org.uk/how-you-can-help/volunteering/

Jon and Ruth Mercer

LESSONS FROM FLORIDA

by Vanessa Druce

’ve spent almost a month in Florida. In fact, as I write this my hair is wet from pool aerobics this morning and I’m sitting at a dining table with the hot sun pouring in. My aunt lives in a golf course community, mostly populated by retirees. They come from America and Europe. They come for the good life.

I’ve had the opportunity and honour to speak to some of them. Like my hero, Studs Terkel, I love hearing their stories. I should have brought my tape recorder. In the pool, I met a woman who was at Woodstock in ’69. At dinner I met a German woman, one of 16 children, who lost everything in WWII. At the same table was a Dutch who had been a teenager in a prison of war camp in Japan. I’ve met a Vietnam vet. I met an Iraq vet who cycled the Camino de Santiago on a mountain bike.

So many stories. So many adventures, both intentional and circumstantial. I am humbled by the fortitude of those who have suffered, enamoured by tales of great adventure and most especially, inspired by those who have willingly taken on the yoke and burden of others.

I am in love with humanity and human beings. We can be great and good when called upon. We learn from our mistakes, even if it means we have to make the same mistakes over and over again. We love to laugh. We love to love. We love to be loved. We are connected more than we know. We are more similar than we believe.

I’ve learned getting old is hard. It is best shared with others who understand your pain and limitations – even when you prefer your solitude. Life slows down, TV becomes a companion and a phone call from a loved one can make your day.

I hope I am becoming better and kinder as I get older. I pray I am more worthy of the life that God gifted me.

My 94 year old gave me a book called *Up With Aging: The Art of Growing Old With Zest* by Liz Waring. Here is an excerpt from the book about growing old with optimism:

People with more positive feelings about aging tended to live 7.5 years longer than those with less positive feelings, discovered researchers at Yale’s department of epidemiology and public health. And the effect of positive attitude was even greater than having low blood pressure or low cholesterol and more significant than lower weight, exercise, and a smoke free lifestyle.

Furthermore, optimists have higher levels of natural killer-cell activity, and a lower level of the stress hormone cortisol, so they are more capable of fighting disease, according to Richard J. Davidson PhD, professor of psychology and psychiatry at the University of Wisconsin in studying the biology of optimism.

Dr Martin Seligman, author of *Learned Optimism*, suggests the traditional view of health is flawed because it seeks to explain illness in terms of physical factors. As Director of the

University of Pennsylvania Positive Psychology Centre, he explains that attitudes of optimism and pessimism have a profound effect on physical health and we each have a much greater degree of control over our physical health than we suspect. He provides the following examples:

- The way we think about health changes our health.
- Optimists catch fewer infectious diseases than pessimists.
- Optimists have better health habits than pessimists.
- The immune system works better when we are optimistic.
- Evidence suggests that optimists live longer than pessimists.



WHAT'S ON IN & AROUND OXHILL

November

Sat 7th	19:00	Quiz Night, the Old Chapel
Fri 27th	19:00	Curry Night, Village Hall

December

Sat 5th	11:00-15:00	Oxhill's Christmas Cracker, the Old Chapel
Tues 8th	12:30	Seniors Lunch, Village Hall
Fri 18th	19:00	Beer and Bubbles, Village Hall

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE OXHILL NEWS

The editors welcome articles, photographs, drawings, poems, puzzles, recipes or notices for inclusion in the Oxhill News. Submissions need to be received by the 20th of each month for publication in the following month's issue.

Please email us at: **oxhill.news.editor@gmail.com**

RUBBISH COLLECTION DATES FOR NOVEMBER

Your collection dates

	 Food waste (food waste caddy)	 Recycling (blue-lidded bin)	 Refuse (grey bin)	 Garden waste (green / green-lidded bin)
Friday, 06/11/2026	✔	✔		✔
Friday, 13/11/2026	✔			
Friday, 20/11/2026	✔	✔	✔	✔
Friday, 27/11/2026	✔			