THE OXHILL NEWS

October 2026 No. 623



Mixed doubles tournament at the Tysoe Tennis Club and Oxhill's own Tony Wilde (far left) finished number one on the men's table. See more page 3

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Sweat alone buys no lasting crown,
For the masses toil until the sun goes down.

The world weighs not the hours you bleed,
But the singular shape of the value you seed.

Effort alone may turn the heavy key,
But only the rare step walking free.

Forge yourself into a blade so few,
That none can strike the blow but you.

~ Calling

Tysoe Tennis Club
www.tysoetennisclub.co.uk

TYSOE MIXED TENNIS TOURNAMENT

RAIN DOESN'T STOP PLAY

Sunday saw the annual end of season social mixed doubles tournament at Tysoe Tennis Club. There was a good turnout and players of all abilities took part. After a five-minute delay at the start due to rain, the weather played along as well.

Players switched partners at the end of each round, and everybody mixed in to play pairings of a similar ability over the best of five games. There was plenty of good tennis played and 75% of the matches were very close being decided by a score of 3 -2.

After 24 matches the game scores were added up to decide our 4 finalists. After a 3-way tie at the top for the men Tony Wilde finished number one in the men's table on countback. He played in the final with Carol Spencer who finished second in the women's group after a big win in her final match. Lou Kramer finished 1 point ahead of Carol to win the women's group. She played in the final with Mark Little, a new member, who after losing his first match 5 -0 came back strongly to make it through.

Lou and Mark played well to win with Carol and Tony finishing second.

It was a great way to spend a Sunday morning with good company and close competition and of course a sizable and tasty buffet to keep us all going.



ST LAWRENCE CHURCH FOR OCTOBER

October seems to have totally crept up on us unawares. It is the month in which Autumn really sets in; it is a time of real transformation in the countryside around us, and it can seem as if everything is dying. But in reality the falling leaves and the berries are making way for new life: through their dying will come new shoots and new hope. Things begin to rest for the winter.

For us too, it can be a time of rest, and a time to slow down and reflect on all that God has given us this year. All too soon, it will be Advent and Christmas, as we reflect anew upon the new life that was the greatest gift of all. Before that we shall remember those we have lost, both at All Souls and Remembrance Sunday, but for now we can rest, knowing that underneath it all, God's life is sustaining us, and that his new life is coming.



As the autumn butterfly
seeks a hiding place to begin its winter rest:
so may we find a refuge in God.

As the autumn tree
sheds its leaves to begin its long sleep:
so may we lay down the labels we bear
and rest in the arms of God.

As the autumn seeds
falls into the earth that will nurture its growing:
so may we give ourselves to the God who brings life.

As the autumn day grows short
bringing us hours of winter dark:
so may we know the near companionship of God through
the night. *Simon Taylor, Autumn*

Church Services in October

Sunday, 4th October

There is no service, instead you are invited to Whatcote's Harvest Celebration at 3.30 pm, to Brailes' Harvest Celebration at 11.00 am, or Evensong in Sutton at 6.30 pm

Sunday, 11th October

There is no service, instead you are invited to Tysoe's Harvest Celebration at 11.00 am, or to Holy Communion in Sutton at 9.30 am

Sunday, 18th October

6.30 pm	Evening Worship	Jill Tucker

Sunday, 25th October, Bible Sunday

9.30 am	Holy Communion	George Heighton

Jill Tucker



"Tysoe from the south at 1000' on the autumn equinox. Ridge and furrow in sharp relief."
Photo on Tysoe Village Noticeboard Facebook page by Dominic Connolly

LITTLE BIRD BABY BANK AFTERNOON TEA

A big thank you to all those who baked, served, sat down to tea and washed up!

We raised a fantastic £450 for the Stratford Baby Bank! What a lovely sunny relaxed afternoon in the garden with friends!

Liz Finlyson















OXHILL VILLAGE HALL

Oxhill Progressive Supper – Saturday 12th September

There was a Greek theme to the Progressive Supper this year – the village hall was decorated accordingly and as we all met up there you could almost imagine you were on a Greek island! After a glass or two of Ouzo, Prosecco with Limoncello, lager etc we split up into five groups for starter around the village, where we were treated to tzatziki, whipped feta, spanakopita and other delicious fare. At the end of that course the hosts opened their envelope and told their guests where they were heading for main course - five different groups where more Greek food was on offer – moussaka, kebabs, pastitsio, salads to name but a few. Needless to say both courses were accompanied by generous amounts of wine, chatting and laughter! We met back at the village hall for desserts – for those who had any room to eat them.

I've had lots of positive comments from people who attended. A big thank you to all the hosts who provided a Greek-themed starter, main course or dessert and to everyone who helped with setting up and clearing up!

Ali Sayer



100 Club

To renew subscriptions or join in please visit our website at oxhillvh.co.uk. Annual subscription is £60 for a chance every month to win prizes of **1st)** £60, **2nd)** £30 & **3rd)** £10. Good luck all and thank you for supporting us.

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

Oktoberfest – Saturday 10th October 2026

Join us for a celebration of German wine and beer with German themed canapés and snacks accompanied by traditional Oktoberfest music and some entertaining games to take part in. All for a ticket price of just £17.50. Doors open at 7pm

AI: Mind the Gap – A talk by Paul Roebuck – 13th October 2026

What will undoubtedly be an interesting and informative discussion about artificial intelligence led by Paul Roebuck, author of The Last Gap and Mind the Gap. If you're curious about where it all started, how it works and some of it's impact for us in everyday life, then this an event not to be missed. Tickets are just £8 and doors open at 6.30 pm.

Curry Night - Friday 20th November 2026

Always a popular event with a choice from an array of curries: the mild mannered to the blow your head off! Tickets just £22 for a starter, main and a sweet treat to finish.

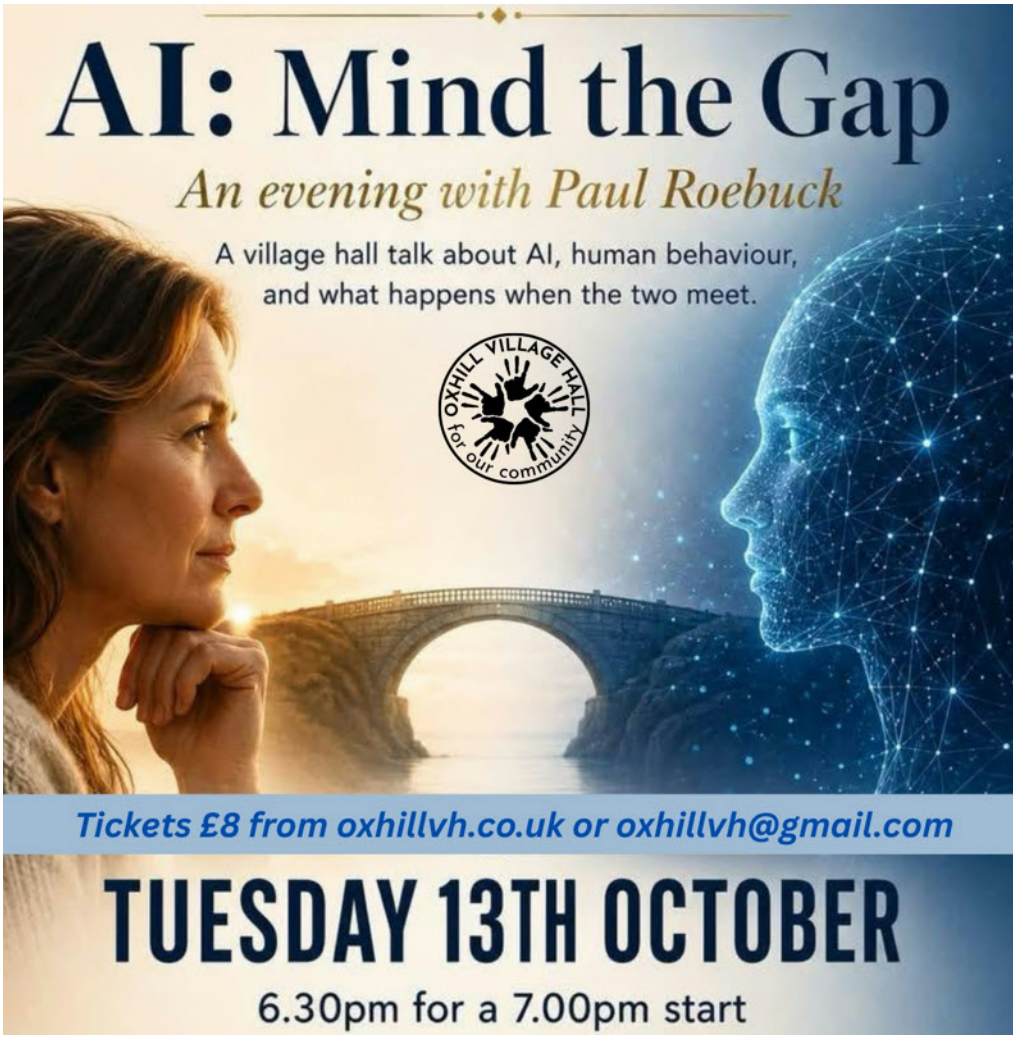
Save the date: Beer and Bubbles - Friday 18th December 2026.








Oktoberfest
Saturday 10th October
Doors open at 7pm
a flight of beer or wine
£17.50
canapés & snacks
OXHILL VILLAGE HALL
for our community
Get your tickets
online: oxhillvh.co.uk
by email: oxhillvh@gmail.com


AI: Mind the Gap
An evening with Paul Roebuck
A village hall talk about AI, human behaviour, and what happens when the two meet.
OXHILL VILLAGE HALL
for our community
Tickets £8 from oxhillvh.co.uk or oxhillvh@gmail.com
TUESDAY 13TH OCTOBER
6.30pm for a 7.00pm start

Oxhill CC Sept News



The first week of September saw the Oxhill boys head to Devon for the now mandatory end-of-season tour.

Devon Sunshine and Free-Hit Freaks

Vs. Barnstaple (Away, 25 overs) – 5th September

The Devon tour kicked off under glorious blue skies, with Oxhill electing to bat first against Barnstaple. The Walker brothers laid down a solid 45-run opening platform, with Matt retiring on 31 and Craig following suit on 30. Matt Chick then stroked a tidy 27. Adrian Duke made a useful 9 before splintering his beloved Kookaburra and Ed Frape walloped a handy 15 off 12 balls at the death. The innings, however, was stolen by pure comedy: Will Gowers managed to get run out at the non-striker's end off a *free hit* after Chick smashed a straight drive into the bowler's hand, who parried it onto the stumps. Only village cricket could yield a run-out off a free hit! Oxhill finished up on 152 for 4.



Defending a good score, Oxhill started brightly. Ryan Orgill bowled a miserly spell of 0 for 9 off 3, while Mike Salmon tore through the top order with a jaw-dropping 3 for 21 off his 4 overs. However, the game completely drifted in the middle overs as Oxhill shipped runs in short order, leaving Barnstaple needing a very manageable chase with 5 overs remaining.

To make matters worse, with Barnstaple 8 wickets down, Oxhill were terrified of taking any more wickets and triggering the return of their dangerous retired batsmen. Step forward the Walker brothers for a masterclass in tactical bowling. Matt's 3 overs went for just 15, while Craig conceded a mere 7 runs from his 2 overs (snagging a sneaky wicket along the way). Both brothers spent the closing overs firing ball after ball consistently down a fourth-and-fifth stump line, starving the batsmen of boundaries, avoiding the dreaded 9th wicket, and sealing a chaotic 8-run victory!

Valley of the Rocks, Valley of the Runs

Vs. Lynton & Lynmouth (Away, 40 overs) – 7th September



The second fixture of the tour saw Oxhill roll into the breathtaking Valley of the Rocks, where the home side's bowlers were promptly met with an absolute barrage. Batting first, Oxhill compiled a mammoth total of 244, with virtually the entire lineup helping themselves to a piece of the pie. Opener Ed Frape set the pace with a crisp 33 before a momentary lapse in concentration saw his stumps reconfigured. Mike Salmon chipped in with a neat 31; though he was quietly disappointed not to replicate his monstrous 170-odd on the very same strip back in 2023. Matt Chick (24) and Matt Walker (21) kept the scoreboard ticking, but the starring role belonged to Will Gowers. Making up for a somewhat lacklustre season with the willow, Gowers played a beautifully assured knock to reach 50 before retiring to warm applause.

Defending 244, Oxhill's bowling attack proved just as lethal as their batting. Adam Jordan set the tone with an extraordinarily tidy 1 for 25 off his 8 overs, while Craig Walker was equally miserly, taking 2 for 23 off his 8. The remaining wickets were shared around like tea sandwiches, with Matt Walker, Matt Chick, Ryan Orgill, Dave Whittaker, and Mike Salmon all getting in on the act. In the end, Lynton & Lynmouth collapsed well short of the summit, handed a crushing 132-run defeat in one of the grandest settings in village cricket.

The Oxhill lads would like to extend their utmost gratitude to Adam Jordan for organising the tour, the rest of the seasons fixtures and somehow pulling off the miracle of getting 11 blokes to turn up at the right time in the right place every week.

Roll-on next summer!



Up the Oxhill!



KNIT AND NATTER

After an amazing Summer, were now back heading towards Autumn and starting Knit and Natter again.

Our first meeting will be in the village hall on 1st Oct at 2.00pm £3 includes a cuppa and biscuit.

Everyone welcome.

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 will organise 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.**



WOT2 GROW COMMUNITY ORCHARD

APPLE DAY 2026
SATURDAY 10TH OCTOBER 1 -4PM

Everyone is welcome to this year's Community Orchard Apple Day - you don't have to be a member to join in the fun! There will be lots of apples to chop and press - please bring your own clean containers to take the juice home in. You are welcome to bring your own apples to press. Two of our members recently took twelve crates of orchard apples for professional juicing and bottling, which means the juice lasts much longer than the freshly pressed juice. This will also be for sale on the day.As always there will be lots of yummy cakes for sale - some made with ingredients from the orchard - along with tea, coffee and, of course, apple juice!



The photo shows members looking and discussing as the plum trees were pruned this month.

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

STOUR HEALTH AND WELLBEING PARTNERSHIP UNVEILS A PACKED AUTUMN PROGRAMME

From a fast-growing racket sport to family sessions and friendly community cafés, residents in and around Shipston-on-Stour have plenty of opportunities to get active, connect with others and access local support this autumn.

Free Pickleball Sessions Launch in Shipston and Ettington

The Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership is introducing new weekly pickleball sessions at Townsend Hall, Shipston-on-Stour, and Ettington Community Centre. Whether you're picking up a paddle for the first time or already know the game, everyone is welcome.

Shipston: Tuesdays, 6.00pm to 7.00pm (starting 6 October)
Ettington: Fridays, 10.30am to 12.30pm

The sessions will be free during the first few months, giving residents the opportunity to try this increasingly popular sport in a friendly community setting. A small charge will be introduced later to help cover hall hire costs.

Falls Prevention Talk: Thursday 24 September at 10.30am

Join our falls prevention talk with our Seated Exercise Instructor, Sarah Chapman, and learn how exercise, good vision and hearing care, and simple safety measures can help you maintain your independence and prevent falls as you age. Ellen Badger Hospital, free parking.

Toy Library Welcomes More Families

The Stour Toy Library continues to attract young families and grandparents keen to borrow toys for children under four. The service provides children with new opportunities to play while helping families save money and reduce waste.

Sessions take place:

- **Tuesdays:** 9.30am to 11.00am
- **Thursdays:** 11.00am to 12 noon

There is no membership requirement to attend sessions, while annual borrowing membership costs just **£5**.

A special session for older siblings will also take place during the October half-term at the Ellen Badger Community Hub, from **9.30am to 11.00am**, creating an inclusive morning for the whole family.

Regular Activities at the Ellen Badger Community Hub

The programme at the Ellen Badger Community Hub combines affordable activities, practical support and opportunities to meet others.

Community Hub

Open every **Monday and Thursday from 10.00am to 12 noon**, the Community Hub offers a welcoming space for refreshments, conversation and information about local services and support.



New Seated Exercise Class

An additional seated exercise class now runs every **Monday at 9.30am**.

The class focuses on **strength, balance and falls prevention** and includes a combination of seated and standing exercises. It is designed to help participants maintain mobility, confidence and independence in a supportive environment.

Places must be booked in advance. To book, contact **Rowena** at **rowena@shwp.org.uk**.

Parent Carers Support Group

Held on the **last Tuesday of each month**, from **9.30am to 11.00am**, this informal group offers parents and carers of children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) the opportunity to share experiences, make connections and access support.

Singing Down Memory Lane

Taking place on the **last Friday of each month**, from **11.00am to 12 noon**, this friendly session brings people together through music, memories and conversation. No singing experience is required.

Repair Café Back in Action

Following its summer break, the Repair Café has returned and continues to attract strong community interest.

The next session will take place on **Saturday 10 October**, from **10.00am to 2.00pm**, with final repair bookings accepted until **1.00pm**.

Developing New Activities in Local Communities

SHWP is keen to work with parish councils, community groups and local residents to develop new health and wellbeing opportunities across the communities surrounding Shipston-on-Stour.

If your village has ideas for physical activity, social connection, learning or wellbeing initiatives, SHWP can help explore opportunities, build partnerships and support local action.

To discuss community development opportunities, contact **Claudine Pearson, Community Builder**, at **hello@shwp.org.uk**.

Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership
Stronger Communities, Healthier Lives

Find out more at www.shwp.org.uk





A message from our Executive Director

Thank you for helping us continue to provide compassionate end-of-life care to people in our community, in the place they feel most comfortable - at home.

You may have seen reports of the financial pressures facing hospices, which have forced some to reduce their services. I was recently asked whether we face similar challenges and might need to scale back our care or introduce waiting lists. Although we are not immune to financial pressures, two principles help us protect the services we provide. First, we stay focused on our mission - to provide high-quality end-of-life care for adults at home, alongside support for their families. Second, we use the generous support we receive from our community and grant-making partners carefully, keeping non-essential spending to a minimum and directing our resources where they make the greatest difference.

Your generosity, together with this careful approach, helps us sustain our care. We never take this generosity for granted. Every donation, fundraising effort and gift of time helps us continue to care for local people, their families and carers.

Thank you for helping us to be there when we are needed most.
Andrew

Forthcoming Events



WALTON HALL 10K FUN RUN / WALK

Run or walk through the beautiful grounds of the Walton Hall estate with medals and bacon/veggie rolls at the finish line!

VENUE: WALTON HALL
DATE: 18TH OCTOBER
TIME: REGISTRATION FROM 8.45AM



CHRISTMAS GIFT FAIR

We'll be back at Ettington Community Centre for our Christmas Fair. If you have anything to donate to our tombola please email fundraising@shipstonhomenursing.co.uk

VENUE: ETTINGTON, CV37 7SX
DATE: 17TH & 18TH NOVEMBER
TIME: 3:30PM - 7:30PM & 10AM - 3PM



SAVE THE DATE...

We'll be back at St Mary's Church in Ilmington for an evening of festive cheer with Anton Lesser and Julian Harris.Tickets are now on sale.

VENUE: ST MARY'S CHURCH, ILMINGTON
DATE: 19TH DECEMBER
TIME: 7.30PM

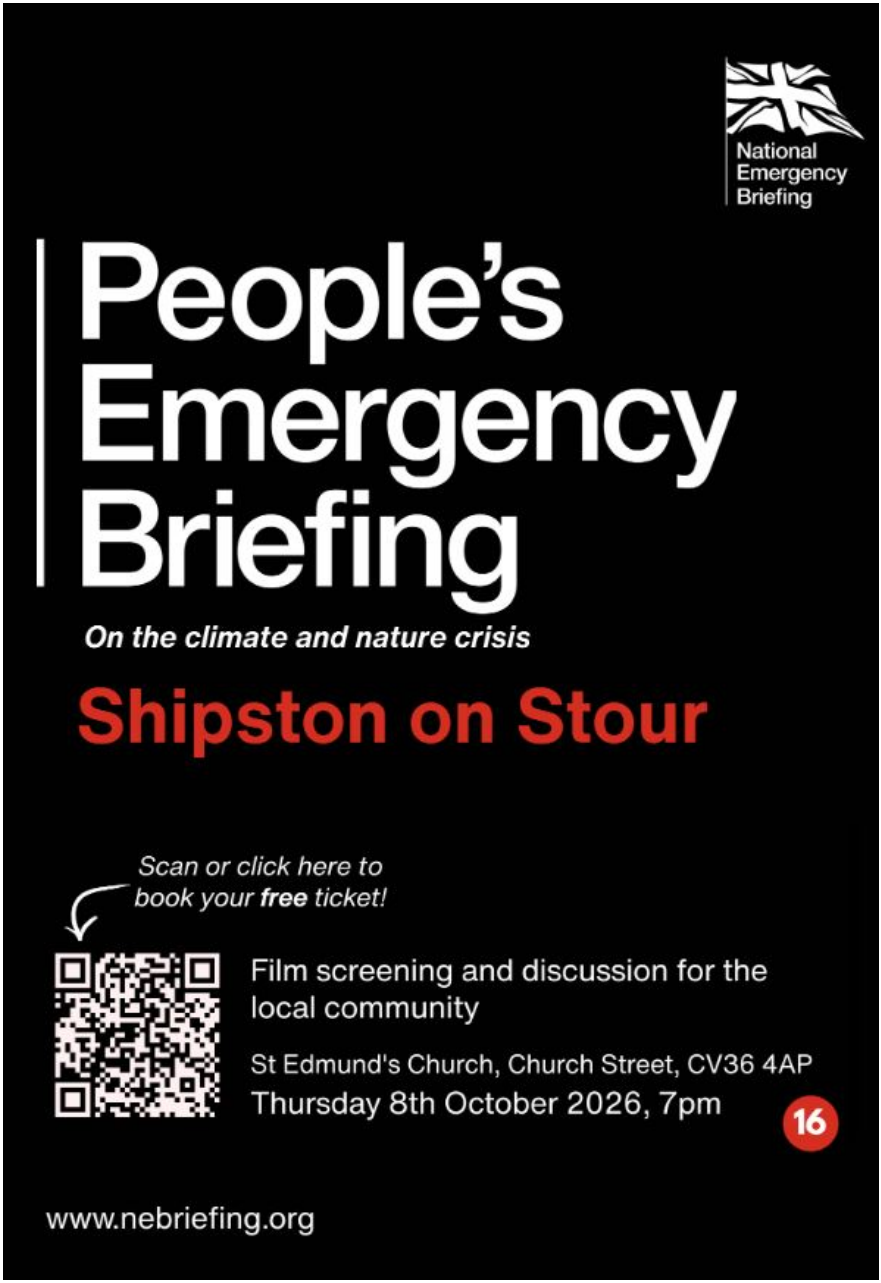
NEW FISHMONGER IN AREA

We now have a new fishmonger delivering to our area on Tuesdays. Leigh will be at the White Bear car park in Shipston on Stour from 11:30 am until 12 noon. Then he visits Brailes Village Hall car park from 12:30 pm until 12:50 pm. It's an excellent opportunity to get good quality fresh fish.




IF PLEASED WITH SERVICE TELL OTHERS, IF NOT TELL ME.
DEGRADABLE
FOOD HYGIENE RATING
0 1 2 3 4 5


Fresh
Grimsby
Fish
NEW CUSTOMERS WELCOME
North London


National Emergency Briefing
People's Emergency Briefing
On the climate and nature crisis
Shipston on Stour
Scan or click here to book your free ticket!
Film screening and discussion for the local community
St Edmund's Church, Church Street, CV36 4AP
Thursday 8th October 2026, 7pm
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www.nebriefing.org

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@oxhill parish council.gov.uk
Sarah Hobill: cllr.sarah.hobill@oxhillparishcouncil.gov.uk
Barbara Shephard: cllr.barbara.shepard@oxhillparishcouncil.gov.uk

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

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

Friends of Oxhill Church: Ruth Mercer 07400 615999 or
ruthc.mercer@btinternet.com

Carers4carers: kcarers4carers@gmail.com or tel: 07947 893504

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

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

Oxhill Pickleball: Peter Rivers Fletcher 07730 800729
rfn364@btinternet.com

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

The Peacock Pub: 01295 675019

Tysoe Tennis Club: Club Secretary: Carol Spencer
email: carol.spencer234@hotmail.co.uk

Warwickshire Mobile Library: 01926 851031

WOT2Grow Community Orchard: Miranda Forrester (680265); Paul Sayer (680451); Sue and Mike Sanderson (688080)

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

WHAT'S ON IN & AROUND OXHILL

OCTOBER

Thurs 1st	14:00	Knit & Natter, Village Hall
Thurs 8th	19:00	People's Emergency Briefing, St Edmunds Church, Shipston on Stour
Sat 10th	13:00-16:00	Apple Day. Wot2Grow Community Orchard, Tysoe
Sat 10th	19:00	Oktoberfest, Village Hall
Tues 13th	18:30	AI: Mind the Gap Talk, Village Hall
Sun 18th	8:45	Walton Hall Fun Run / Walk
Wed 21st	14:30-14:50	Mobile Library outside Village Hall
Every Thursday	12:00	Coffee Morning, Peacock Pub

NOVEMBER

Fri 9th		Curry Night, Village Hall

PC MEETINGS

The date of the next Parish Council meeting is **Tuesday 17th November 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.



BIN COLLECTION CALENDAR

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

Food waste
Recycling
General refuse
Garden waste