THE OXHILL NEWS

September 2026 No. 622



Former Oxhill resident **Janet Gardner** was Guest of Honour at the Women's Royal Navy Service Benevolent Trust where she had a long conversation with **Princess Anne**. Read more about the event and Janet Gardner's navy exploits on page 4.

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August Rainbow. Photo by Geoff Stewart

Dear Oxhill,

Re: Oxhill Village Hall – New Committee Members Wanted

Sadly, one of our Committee members has had to stand down due to unrelated health issues and we would like to recruit one or two new members to join our happy band. The commitment **is not** huge, we have around 10 meetings a year and a similar number of events – we understand that no-one will be present at all meetings or events.

In addition, we get tremendous help from our 'Friends', villagers who are happy to provide all means of support from cooking dishes to maintaining the building to helping clear up after events.

The reward **is** huge – you are part of a team that does great things for the village; we entertain via our events, we enlighten through our 'Talks' and along with the supporters of the Church, we are part of the beating heart of our village.

If you want to know more before committing, please speak to one of us or come along to our next meeting at the Hall on 8 September at 7.00pm.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Yours very sincerely,
Derek Harbour, Sue Philpott, Ali Sayer, Sally Mannerings and Celena Mulhern.

JANET GARDNER

Most readers will remember Janet Gardner who live in Oddcot and at 103 is still doing well and living in comfort in an Old People's Home in Stratford upon Avon. Recently Janet was invited as guest of honour to the Women's Royal Navy Service Benevolent Trust annual presentation event. Her son Nick drove her up to Liverpool where the event was taking place and she was welcomed with great enthusiasm and interest, so much so that Princess Anne spent a good quarter of an hour chatting with her. The article (left) was published in the Liverpool Echo.

Grenville Moore



WREN Janet Gardner

Below are extracts from ***Janet Gardner's story*** *in the Oxhill News October & November 2020 issues, which you can find on the village website:* ***oxhillcommunity.co.uk***

I left school the summer before war broke out as my parents at that time believed that if Hitler invaded, we would be separated by the River Thames. It was very exciting as a teenager as our house was once a coaching house and a crinolined lady paced the landing every night. When we were ordered to take 36 Royal Signal lads in our attics, the old lady was unable to face the noise and she departed, never to be seen again. These soldiers worked shifts, so we had to get used to them stamping up the backstairs at midnight and 4:00 a.m. Some were thoughtful and took their boots off at the bottom of the stairs but others were awful!!

.....

On a bitterly cold day in February 1943 I joined the Women's Royal Naval Service (W.R.N.S). We were given a travel warrant to go to H.M.S. Cabbala, a land base at Lowton, St Mary for our initial training. It gave us a shock.

We did a tremendous amount of drill as well as being assessed for our particular trade. I was trained as a "Coder" which was very interesting as we got to know where all the naval ships were in the world.

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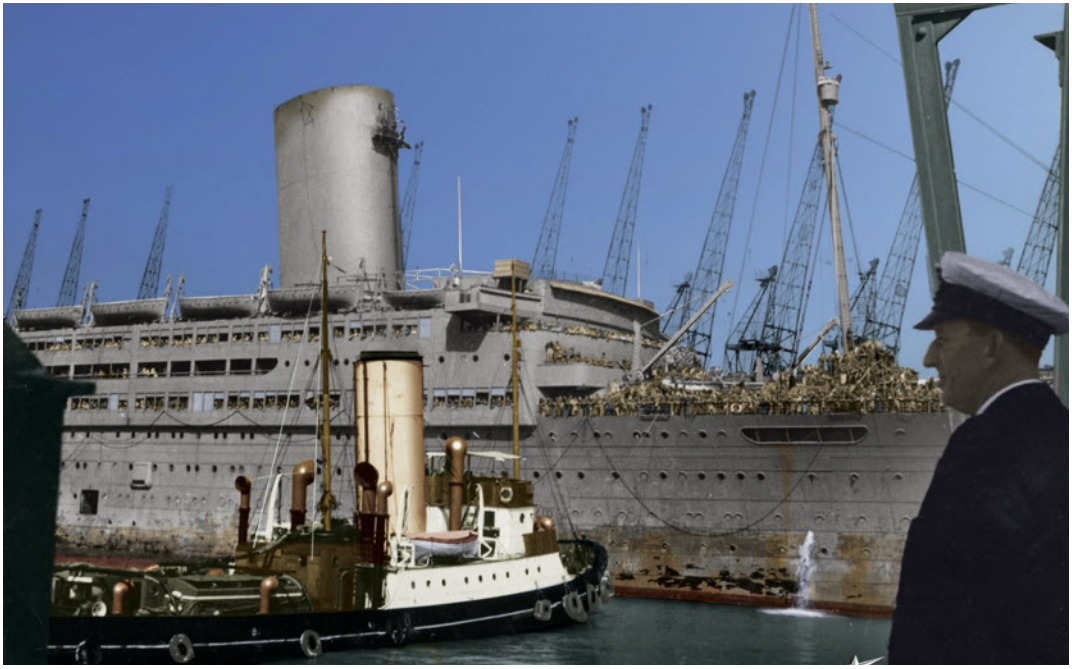
It was while we were in Liverpool at this time that Wren Coders and Cypherens (officers) were going to be allowed to go to sea to serve on troop ships for about six months at a time. Two officers and three Wrens were assigned to each ship. (I might point out that we were the only females on the ship, a French liner the Louis Pasteur with 2000 plus men!). The conditions for the men were not very good. They slept on hammocks in the bowels of the ship and when we were taking prisoners of war to America, they were kept in large cages.

Article from Liverpool Echo

Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal joined former Wrens, serving personnel and guests at HMS Eaglet in Liverpool for the Women's Royal Naval Service Benevolent Trust (WRNS BT) Annual Presentation, to update members on its work in 2025 and to celebrate the remarkable contribution of generations of women who have served in the Naval Services.

The event brought together members of the WRNS family from across the UK, recognising the enduring legacy of the Women's Royal Naval Service and the continuing work of WRNS BT in supporting former Wrens in their time of need and preserving their heritage.

Among the distinguished guests was Janet Gardner, aged 103, one of the remaining Second World War WRNS veterans. Janet joined the WRNS in 1942 and served in the coding office, making dangerous Atlantic crossings aboard the *SS Pasteur*, handling vital coded communications between Allied vessels. During the war she travelled to New York and South Africa, with instructions to destroy sensitive code books should the ship come under attack from German U-boats.



SS Pasteur with troops

LITTLE BIRD BABY BANK

WWW.SUABABYBANK.CO.UK

All proceeds go to support struggling families with young children

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Charity Afternoon Tea



Join us for a delightful afternoon tea and homemade treats while supporting local families in need.

£10 ADULTS | £5 CHILDREN
(PRE BOOKED)

SUNDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER

BOOK AN AFTERNOON TEA BETWEEN 2PM – 5PM

– or –

JUST TURN UP FOR TEA AND CAKE!

BLACKFORD HOUSE
Main St, Oxhill,
Warwick, CV35 0QR



TEA & COFFEE | SCONES & CAKES | HOMEMADE TREATS | GOOD COMPANY GREAT CAUSE

CONTACT US VIA EMAIL
lfinlyson@live.co.uk

CONTACT US ON
07796 264358

OPTIONAL CROQUET

THANK YOU FOR HELPING US SUPPORT LOCAL FAMILIES

CHARITY AFTERNOON TEA

IN SUPPORT OF LITTLE BIRD BABY BANK

SUNDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 2026

BETWEEN 2PM - 5PM

BLACKFORD HOUSE
MAIN STREET
OXHILL
CV35 0QR

I am hosting the below event to raise funds for the Stratford Baby Bank which supports families struggling to purchase essential items for their children. It has just received a 'Changemakers' award from the High Sheriff of Warwickshire.

Menu
Ribbon Sandwiches
Smoked Salmon and cream cheese
Egg mayonnaise
Ham and mustard
Cheese mini quiche
Meringues
Tiffin
Scones with jam and clotted cream
Cherry flapjack
Strawberry and Prosecco jelly
Tea/ filter coffee

Children's Tea Box
Choice of fruit
Crisps
Juice box
Cheese or ham sandwich
Smartie cook
Cup cake

Please book ahead if you would like afternoon tea or simply turn up on the day for tea and cake!

Look forward to seeing you on the day.

If any of the excellent Oxhill bakers have time to make a cake for our afternoon tea it would be much appreciated. Please ring or mail Liz on lfinlyson@live.co.uk / 07796 264358.

Thank you!

Liz Finlyson

MODEL RAILWAY EXHIBIT IN OXHILL

Oxhill previewed a new model railway depicting Gloucester station (below) built by Oxhill resident Carl Woodwards. The first official outing for the layout will be at the International 'N' Gauge Show at the Warwickshire Exhibition Centre in September. It will then go on to appear at model railway exhibitions around the country. Members of the Leamington & Warwick Model Railway Society were on hand to talk about the club and the model of Kineton station (right) also on display. Friends of Oxhill Church provided refreshments.











ST LAWRENCE CHURCH FOR SEPTEMBER

September (and early October) means Harvest Festivals, suppers, lunches and teas – but this year is one of huge challenges. Much of the harvest is already gathered in, with at times a significantly smaller yield. Fruit and vegetables are variable – some are struggling, some are prolific. But as ever at Harvest-time, we will thank God for all that he has given us – not just the produce, but the skills, determination and sheer grit of the farmers and gardeners, with all their associated trades, who work really hard to put food on our plates.

Of course we are not alone in this: so, we continue to pray that, across the world, conditions will improve, food will be produced, skills will be honed, and hungry people fed, wherever they are.



Let us, this harvest time
give thanks to our Creator for the gifts of creation.
Let us remember with gratitude
the hard work of men and women all over the world
that brings us this rich bounty.
May we learn to work together
so that all God's children
may enjoy the fruits of creation. Amen.
Elizabeth Clark, Autumn.

Church Services in September

Sunday, September 6th	9.30 am	Holy Communion	George Heighton
Sunday, September 13th	9.30 am	Holy Communion	Sue Bowden-Pickstock
Sunday, September 20th	9.30 am	Holy Communion	Jill Tucker
Sunday, September 27th	3.30 pm	Harvest Celebration	Jill Tucker

Jill Tucker revjill.tucker@btinternet.com



OXHILL CHURCH BIOBLITZ

By Grenville Moore

I'm sure many of you will remember that last July members of The Churchyard Biodiversity and Heritage Project plus a handful of village folk turn out to do a Bioblitz on our churchyard. The idea was to find, identify, count and record all the flora and fauna within the churchyard and I'm assured a splendid and successful day was had by all with a total count of over 210 species. There were some uncommon and interesting finds, obviously too many to list here.

Question, what do Labyrinth, Common Fox, Garden Cross, Cucumber Green, Dwarf and Comb Footed all have in common?....answer at the end.



Emperor Dragonfly



Marbled White Butterfly



Pyramidal Orchid



Skin of a Barred Grass Snake



Large Red Damselfly with a captured Harvestman Spider

There were 7 species of butterfly and 3 dragonfly recorded including the spectacular Emperor Dragonfly and the beautiful Marbled White butterfly (one of my favourites). Gwynne's Mining Bee was one of three identified, along with Potter Spider Wasp and Marmalade Hoverfly; there really are some wonderful and unusual names given to fauna and flora. How about the Fairy-ring Longhorn Beetle. Approximately 170 plus plants were also identified and if you would like the full list (including all Latin names) either contact Jane Smith or myself.

Perhaps, for me, the two best finds were a single Pyramidal Orchid (only the second orchid I have ever found in Oxhill the other being an Bee Orchid but not in the churchyard), the other was a sloughed (shed) skin of a Barred Grass Snake. A Barred Grass Snake I hear some of you say. This snake (Natrix Helvetica) was only identified as a separate species from the Common Grass Snake (Natrix Natrix) in 2017 and is identifiable by the strong coloured bars along its flank and its colour grey/dull green, also the yellow neck isn't as quite pronounced. The Common tends to be a more smudgy pattern and brighter green or brown, with a very pronounced yellow collar. Neither are poisonous and are quite harmless but please don't handle, they can squirt a foul smelling liquid under stress.

I have included 2 photographs taken in our garden this summer, quite gruesome in a way…but nature; a Large Red Damselfly that wizzed past my head whilst I sat under our quince tree and captured a Harvestman Spider from just above my head and proceeded to munch on it. The second is a Goldenrod Flower Crab Spider that pounced on an unsuspecting Hoverfly.

Answer; they are all spiders.







From top to bottom: Goldenrod Flower Crab Spider with captured Hoverfly; Cucumber Green Spider; and Fairy-Ring Long Horn Beetle







Friends of Oxhill Church

BARN DANCE AND PIG ROAST

Nothing was straightforward about organising the Barn Dance and Pig Roast. First, we had the pig roast sorted but no venue; then we had a venue but the pig roast man could no longer come. In the meantime we had found a caller but it wasn't until Joe Costa told us that he knew where there was a pig roaster just waiting to be brought back to life that we felt there was any chance of the event happening. Finally, we had to wait for enough people to commit to coming so that we could order a pig. As usual with Oxhill, three days before the final booking date, 14 people had reserved a ticket. In the end, 75 people joined us and a good time was had by all.

I am indebted to so many people who have gone above and beyond to enable the Barn Dance to happen. Firstly, we'd have been nowhere without a barn to accommodate the pig and the 90 people who were there on Saturday. Thanks to Robert Fox, we had a fantastic venue with plenty of space for dancing, eating and pig roasting.

To dress the barn, we needed some small hay bales to sit on which Michael Gibbs of Tysoe generously lent to us. Not many people make small bales nowadays so we were very lucky that Michael not only lent them to us but also delivered and collected them from us.

Ian Broderick very kindly installed lighting to every corner of the barn so that we weren't dancing in the dark. Thank you, Ian, we appreciate it's a lot of work, especially on your own.

A barn comes with few amenities and a toilet was not one of them. For everyone's comfort, we hired a Portaloo and are extremely grateful to Thomas Fox Landscaping for covering the cost. Thank you, Thomas!



When the pig roaster was pulled out of storage and taken to Lis and Adrian's a few days before the event, it became very apparent that time had not been kind, and it needed substantially more than a good clean. The trailer jockey wheel was terminally corroded, and the pig roaster itself was sitting on rotted tyres. The gas hoses were severely perished and the copper pipes damaged. However, our pig roaster restoration team of Adrian, Joe and Jon set to work. Trips to source wheels, gas and hoses were made, car batteries were borrowed and charged (thank you Jerry Webb!) but we were struggling to acquire about a foot of small copper pipe to connect it all up. John Nicholls Plumbing Merchants in Shipston could only sell us 10m at great expense. They tried their hardest to find us a short length but, in the end, plumber Tom Daniell saved the day, for which we are hugely grateful. Finally, with less than 24hrs to go, the pig roaster was ready to fire up and move to the barn.



As usual, the Friends of Oxhill Church worked their socks off. Barn sweeping started on Tuesday, continued on Wednesday and on Friday chairs and tables were collected from the Chapel (thank you to Jill and Colin for their loan). Saturday started early as the pig needed fetching from Mickleton then 8 hours minimum supervised roasting. Desserts were prepared, the bar set up and we were ready for the dancing to commence. Thanks to Edd Fox for coming to carve the pig. Many, many thanks to Gaida and Jerry, Linda and James, Lis, Kay, Carol B and Carol F for all their hard work preparing the barn, serving food and drink in challenging conditions and clearing up on Sunday. Extra special thanks to Team Pig Roaster, Adrian, Joe and Jon. As usual at our events, Jon also oversaw our risk assessments, ensuring that all people and property were kept safe. Thank you, Jon, for your considered diligence. Even more thanks to Joe for enabling us to have a pig roast, teaching us and overseeing the whole operation – we are greatly indebted to you, Joe.

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

Coming soon!
Quiz Night
Saturday 7th November

Please reserve a table for your team as soon as you like. There will be a hot supper and a donations bar. More details in next month's Oxhill News.







URGENT !

WE ARE IN **NEED OF HELP WITH ARRANGING FLOWERS IN CHURCH,** PARTICULARLY WITH THE **HARVEST FESTIVAL AT THE END OF SEPTEMBER.**

We are not looking for professional help, but if you like putting flowers in vases and enjoying fresh flowers in you home, maybe you could help.

If you can help please contact Jude McDonald on 07894 084058 or Carol Fox 07966 059597





Dry August in Oxhill

The Oxhill vs Tysoe cricket match on 16 August with no. 10 from Oxhill batting. (top photo by Nick Spencer). Golden Field in Oxhill. (Bottom photo by Jane Smith).

Oxhill CC August News

The Short-Fall Special

Vs. Welford-on-Avon (Home, 20/20) – 23rd July

Winning the toss and electing to bat first at Radway usually brings a swagger to the Oxhill step, but this turned out to be a classic game of two halves. Jack Armstrong certainly got the Memo of Intent, stroking a fine, fluent 33 before politely retiring to give the middle order a hit. Unfortunately, the rest of the batting lineup was far too generous; wickets tumbled with alarming regularity as Oxhill stumbled to a decidedly under-par total of 102.

Defending 102 in T20 requires early wickets and endless luck. Regrettably for the home faithful, Welford were having absolutely none of it. They cruised along at a casual jog, knocking off the required runs in the final over without ever looking particularly troubled. Edd Fox was the clear standard-bearer for the Oxhill attack, turning in a wonderfully frugal, miserly spell of 1 for 13 off his 4 overs, but Welford coasted home with overs and nerves to spare.



Breaking the Ebrington Curse

Vs. Ebrington (Away 20/20) – 30th July

Historically, playing Ebrington goes about as well for Oxhill as a chocolate teapot in a microwave. We simply do not beat them. Ebrington took first strike on a highway of a surface, scrapping their way to 139; a total that felt distinctly under-par against an Oxhill bowling unit firing on all cylinders. Will Gowers led the charge with a sublime spell, taking 2 for 18 off his 4 overs and keeping their big hitters quietly frustrated.

What followed in the chase was pure, unadulterated demolition. Oxhill's top order treated the Ebrington bowling with utter disdain. Opener Matt Walker set the tone by bludgeoning 31 off just 8 balls (a strike rate that had the scorers reaching for fresh pencils) before retiring. Chris Fensome joined the party, effortlessly stroking his way to 30 before stepping aside, and debutant Ruben capped off a dream start by retiring on 31. Oxhill blew Ebrington's total out of the water in just 16 overs, shattering the hoodoo in glorious style.

The Walker Express & The Generous Guests

Vs. Norton Lindsey (Home 20/20) – 6th August

Norton Lindsey arrived at Radway with an enviable display of patience, batting out their overs to post a very respectable 131 for the loss of only two wickets. Adam Jordan kept things remarkably tight with 1 for 15 off 3, while Matt Walker snared 1 for 10 off 2. It was a disciplined effort from the visitors, but on a decent Radway deck, 131 always felt like a total Oxhill could sink their teeth into.

Oxhill chased down the target inside 16 overs thanks to two key contributors: Matt Walker, and Norton Lindsey's complete inability to bowl between the lines. Walker was once again in a hurry to catch last orders, smashing a blistering 51 before retiring undefeated. But the true unsung hero of the Oxhill innings was 'Extras', who put on a magnificent display to finish as second-top scorer with an eye-watering 27 runs. Between Walker's fireworks and the opposition's gift of wides, Oxhill coasted home with 4 overs to spare.

The Great Marton Heartbreaker

Vs. Marton (Home, 35 overs) – 9th August



The season reached a dramatic climax at Radway with a 35-over thriller against Marton. Electing to bat first, Oxhill posted a colossal 229; a mountain of runs built on pure batting class. Chris Fensome continued his summer-long reign of terror over local bowlers, effortlessly making 50 before retiring. Mike Salmon

matched him shot for shot, also bringing up a brilliant 50 before taking a well-earned rest, while Dave Whittaker added a crisp 29 to push the score past the 220 mark.

When Marton began their chase, Oxhill appeared to have them in a vice. Gowers 3 for 18, Jordan 2 for 24, and Simpson 3 for 45 systematically dismantled the middle order to leave Marton 9 wickets down. However, village cricket rules decreed that Marton's two previously retired batsmen had to return to the crease. What followed was an agonizing final chapter: Marton's set batsmen launched a furious rearguard counter-attack. Try as they might, Oxhill simply could not find that single, elusive final wicket, letting Marton snatch an unlikely victory right from the jaws of defeat.

Vs. Tysoe (Away, 25 overs) – 16th August

Tysoe won the toss and promptly inserted Oxhill on a pitch that behaved less like a cricket wicket and more like an active minefield. Deliveries were either spitting at throats or scuttling along the grass, making survival an absolute lottery. Dave Whittaker showed supreme grit to top-score with a hard-fought 28, but once again, the true hero of the innings was 'Extras', who ended up as top scorer overall to help Oxhill scrape together 146 off their 25 overs.

When Tysoe stepped up to bat, the pitch appeared to miraculously calm down; a classic bit of away-day luck. The hosts batted with impressive composure, steadily knocking off the runs to reach the target in the 23rd over. Craig Walker was the pick of the Oxhill bowling attack, taking 2 for 19 off his 3 overs with his usual accuracy. It was a tough, bruising encounter on enemy soil, but the local rivalry remains as fierce and entertaining as ever.



Upcoming fixtures: Leek Wootton (home) 30th August, Somerset and Devon Tour 5th – 6th September.

Up the Oxhill!


The Oxhill
GREEK
Progressive
Supper
Saturday
12th September
6:30pm
Tickets £25*
for a free drink, two courses with wine, and dessert back at the hall
oxhillvh.co.uk
oxhillvh@gmail.com
OXHILL VILLAGE HALL
for our community
*Tickets are free for hosts

OXHILL VILLAGE HALL

August is traditionally a quiet month for the village hall and so it has been this month. The committee have been recharging their batteries ready for the start of another 11 months of talks and events we hope you'll all enjoy.

PROGRESSIVE SUPPER - Saturday 12th September 2026 at **6.30 pm.**

This year this ever popular event has a Greek theme. Start with a welcome drink in the village hall from where we'll leave for starters and mains at various houses around Oxhill hosted by our wonderful volunteers. On arrival at the village hall your host for the starter will be announced and you'll get to find out where to go for the main course at the end of the starter. Then it's back to the village hall for desserts. The bar will of course be open.

This is always a great event so sign up for your tickets asap. Tickets cost £25 for guests, which includes a drink on arrival, a three course meal, and drinks with the starter and main. Buy these at www.oxhillvh.co.uk or contact Ali on 07970 922352 or at oxhillvh@gmailcom. Hosts are free.

OKTOBERFEST - Saturday 10th October 2026

Ticket price of just £17.50, which includes a flight of German beers or wines along with German themed canapés and snacks. **Doors and bar open at 7pm.** Get your tickets at www.oxhillvh.co.uk or contact Ali on 07970 922352 or at oxhillvh@gmailcom.

Lederhosen not necessary but if it's your thing then that's ok.

CURRY NIGHT – Saturday 21st November 2026. Pop it in your diary and full details will follow soon.

100 CLUB WINNERS

Lucky players for July were Lee Robinson (£60), Katy Dowding(£30) and Jeremy Franklin (£10).


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

100 CLUB LOTTERY

The lottery is due to renew once again for the 3rd year on 1/9/26.

Firstly, the chairman and trustees would like to thank you for your support over the last 12 months .The funds have helped with the ongoing village hall running costs, remedial work and our solar panel installation. We have paid out £1200 this year to our lucky winners.

I do hope we can rely on your continued support for the coming year. Annual subscription is just £60.

Renewal can be made by bacs transfer to:-

OXHILL VILLAGE HALL
40-41-26
91036890
£60

Alternatively, you can renew via our website at oxhillvh.co.uk "100 Club Subscription".

If you're not yet a subscriber and would like more information or to take part please contact me on 07769 348844 or email oxhillvh@gmail.com.

Any queries please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Sally Mannerings
Trustee

A SATURDAY MORNING AT SHIPSTON FOODBANK

By the time most of us are enjoying a leisurely Saturday breakfast, volunteers at Shipston Foodbank are already hard at work.

9.00am



The first deliveries begin to arrive: surplus fresh produce from local supermarkets, store cupboard essentials, toiletries and household items, together with fresh vegetables and eggs from our much-loved local greengrocer.

Every tin, packet and carton is checked, labelled with its best-before date and carefully sorted. Before long, the rear of the church is a hive of quiet activity as donations are unpacked and organised.

9.30am

Essential food bags are assembled, each containing everyday staples such as rice, pasta, tinned food and toilet paper.

Nothing is wasted if it can be avoided. Food with the shortest shelf life is packed first, while anything close to, or just beyond, its best-before date is placed in a box in the church entrance for anyone to take. Good food should never go to waste.

10.00am



Fresh fruit and vegetables are arranged on tables in the foyer. Every week is different, depending on what has been donated. Customers are encouraged to choose what they can use, whether that's cooking it that day or freezing it for later. Volunteers are always happy to share ideas for making the most of unfamiliar ingredients.

10.30am

The doors open.

People are welcomed into the waiting area and invited through two at a time, creating a calm, friendly atmosphere where everyone is treated with dignity and respect.

Each household receives up to two bags of essential groceries, together with any additional items they need, such as shampoo, coffee or cooking oil. They

are also free to choose from the fresh produce available that morning.



The Foodbank offers more than food. Revd Sarah can help people access a range of grants and emergency funding, while Cllr Jo Barker can put people in touch with local support services and help them find longer-term solutions to the difficulties they are facing. Sometimes the most important thing we can offer is simply someone who will listen.

As the morning continues, volunteers keep a running shopping list of items that are running low and note any special requests, particularly for families with young children or those with allergies and other dietary requirements.

12 noon

The doors close and the tidying begins. Remaining non-perishable stock is counted and stored, while surplus bread and vegetables are collected by a local farmer to feed their chickens, ensuring as little as possible goes to waste.

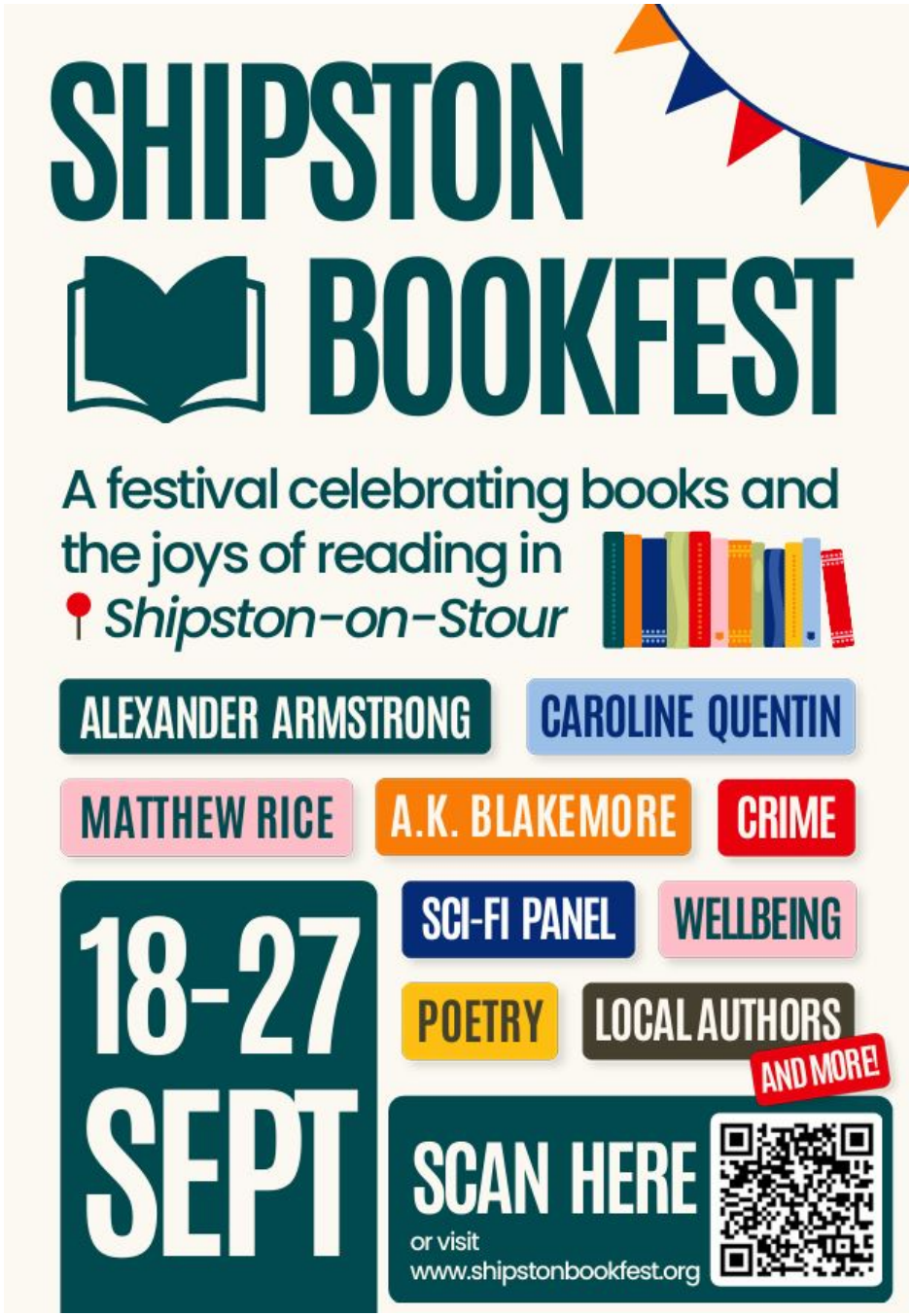
Any remaining short-dated food is once again placed in the church entrance for anyone who can make use of it.

Another Saturday morning draws to a close. Behind the scenes, dozens of volunteer hours have been given freely, generous donations have been shared wisely, and several households in the Shipston area can face the week ahead knowing they will not go hungry.

One thing that makes Shipston Foodbank different is that **we do not require referrals or vouchers**. If you need help, whether it is a one-off emergency or support over a longer period, please come and see us.

We do ask that the Foodbank is used as an emergency top-up rather than as a family's complete weekly shop. Our catchment area is Shipston on Stour and the surrounding villages. Please encourage neighbours who are struggling to seek our help, and suggest that friends or relatives living further afield contact their own local foodbank so that our supplies remain available for local people in need.

Every donation, every volunteer hour and every act of kindness helps ensure that no one in our community has to face hunger alone.


SHIPSTON
BOOKFEST
A festival celebrating books and the joys of reading in
Shipston-on-Stour
ALEXANDER ARMSTRONG
CAROLINE QUENTIN
MATTHEW RICE
A.K. BLAKEMORE
CRIME
18-27 SEPT
SCI-FI PANEL
WELLBEING
POETRY
LOCAL AUTHORS
AND MORE!
SCAN HERE
or visit
www.shipstonbookfest.org

SHIPSTON BOOKFEST RETURNS FOR SEPTEMBER 2026

Shipston Bookfest, the book festival held across the town of Shipston-on-Stour, returns from 18–27 September 2026 for its third year — with its biggest programme yet, with 19 events across 11 venues, including St Edmund's Church and the Townsend Hall to the town's library, high school, pubs and independent businesses.

This year's line-up includes broadcaster and author Alexander Armstrong, actress and author Caroline Quentin, and award-winning novelist A. K. Blakemore, alongside:

- Thrillers with Kate Riordan and Claire Quinn
- A Crime Panel, featuring Tim Sullivan, Guy Jenkin and M.R.G. Davies
- A Local Author Showcase and Community Book Swap, chaired by local publishing veteran and author Peter Buckman
- A Sci-Fi Panel, with Peter F. Hamilton, Christopher Ruocchio and Adrian Tchaikovsky
- "Poetry Live!" with Bassie Gracie: An electric evening of poetry and spoken word
- A Writing Craft Workshop with Lucy Parrott
- Free events for children and families, including a Bookfest-special Calypso Kids session and Nicola Baker with her *Whistledown Farm* adventure series

Tickets for individual events start from £5, with several free events for children and families throughout the festival, including some run in partnership with local organisations and businesses (i.e. Warwickshire Libraries, Stourvale Action For the Environment (S.A.F.E.), Shipston Museum).

For the full programme, ticket information, and the latest updates, visit www.shipstonbookfest.org or follow Shipston Bookfest on social media.

About Shipston Bookfest

Shipston Bookfest is the north Cotswolds' own celebration of books, stories, and the joy of reading. Founded in 2024 by a small group of local book lovers, it has quickly grown into a highlight of Shipston-on-Stour's cultural calendar, bringing nationally recognised authors to its events alongside local talent, and welcoming readers of all ages.

It is a volunteer-run, not-for-profit festival rooted in its community: alongside its adult programme, it runs free events for children and families, and visits local primary and secondary schools to put authors in front of young readers who might not otherwise get the chance to meet them.

Over its first two years, the festival has welcomed authors including Prue Leith, Adele Parks, Ben Miller, Simon Mason and David Larbi and worked with publishers such as Penguin, HarperCollins, Bloomsbury, Picador, Orion, and Simon & Schuster.

FUNCTIONAL FITNESS

New class at Oxhill Village Hall starting on Wednesday 2nd September

Functional Fitness with Camilla 9.15-10.15 Wednesdays

7 weeks for £70

Suitable for all ages/abilities

Drop Camilla a message to book 07940 525609



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

SEPTEMBER

Sun 6th	14:00-17:00	Afternoon Tea, Blackford House, Main Street
Sat 12th	18:30	Progressive Supper, Village Hall
Fri 18th-Sun 27th		Shipston Bookfest, Shipston-on-Stour
Wed 23rd	14:30-14:50	Mobile Library outside Village Hall
Every Thursday	12:00	Coffee Morning, Peacock Pub

OCTOBER

Sat 10th	19:00	Oktoberfest, Village Hall

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE OXHILL NEWS

The editors welcome any pictures, photographs, drawings, poems, puzzles, recipes, announcements or items of local news for possible inclusion in The Oxhill News. Submissions must be received by the 20th of each month for publication in the following month. Please email: **oxhill.news.editor@gmail.com**

PC MEETINGS

The date of the next Parish Council meeting is **Tuesday 15th September 2026 at 6.30pm**. The meeting will be held in the Village Hall. The minutes and agendas will be posted on the Parish Council part of the Welcome to Oxhill Notice board, not the one by the pub.

If you want any request to be included for consideration at the above meeting please send details to the Clerk (oxhillpc@btinternet.com) at least 10 days prior to the meeting to ensure that it is included on the publicly visible Agenda.



BIN COLLECTION CALENDAR

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

Food waste
Recycling
General refuse
Garden waste