

THE OXHILL NEWS

July 2025 No. 608



Carol Fox at Oxhill's Big Weekend

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CLUB & GROUP CONTACT DETAILS

St Lawrence Church,	Priest-in Charge Rev. George Heighton, 01295 680201 Rev Canon Dr Jill Tucker 07973 994800 revjill.tucker@btinternet.com
Carers4carers:	kcarers4carers@gmail.com or tel: 07947 893504
Oxhill Village Hall:	Derek Harbour - Chair Ali Sayer - Hall Hire - 07970 922352 email: oxhillvh@gmail.com
Oxhill Pickleball	Peter Rivers Fletcher 07730 800729 rfn364@btinternet.com
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)
talkdementia.uk	Paul & Heather Dowler Tysoe 688376
Carer Support Service	email: talkdementia@mail.com Website: talkdementia.uk Tysoe Village Hall every Friday from 10am

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

Your Churches Need You

We are looking for a new Secretary for our joint
PCC (Parochial Church Council)
for the parish of
Tysoe with Oxhill & Whatcote

The ideal person would be required to take minutes of the meetings,
(about 5 each year)
and
be the contact person for correspondence from
The Diocese of Coventry

Support and assistance will be given for the first year.

For more information contact Rev George Heighton
revgeorgeh@outlook.com
01295 680201



VALE WILDLIFE HOSPITAL

by Grenville Moore

Several wet cold winters ago whilst walking Finn across the fields we came across a young male buzzard stuck in the mud, his beak and claws were completely clogged with mud. I carried him home and as I came up back lane I bumped into Jane Smith who amazingly had just caught a mouse in a trap....we had some food for the buzzard. Overnight we kept him in a box in a dark room, we rehydrated him using a pipette and water and fortunately by the morning he had eaten the mouse.

As he was in a very poor state we decided to take him to Vale Wildlife Hospital near Evesham. They did a fantastic job taking two weeks to bring him back up to prime condition, they have absolutely minimal contact with the animals in order to keep them wild. Wild animals are best released in the area where they were found so we went over to collect him and as we picked up a large cardboard box we were told to be very cautious and careful releasing him as he was now a very strong wild bird.

We took him down long meadow and started to carefully open the box...BAM! the box exploded as what seemed a massive bird of prey forced his way out, as he flew off he was immediately mobbed by half a dozen crows. He took refuge in a tree, constantly mewing (the noise birds of prey make rather like a cat meowing). The crows continued mobbing him, then quite suddenly we heard mewing from fields away and within minutes two adult buzzards appeared and drove off the crows, they landed in the tree alongside the young male and the three flew off together. These were the parents and remarkably recognised their own. There were several people with tears in their eyes !



An interesting footnote here for several months afterwards if I saw a buzzard I would call the name we had used whilst he was with us, Billy, and several times the buzzard would come close and low tilting his head as we met eye to eye. Apparently many birds are very good at human face recognition.

Several times since this event members of the village have taken animals to The Vale and recently Jane Smith took a Jackdaw that had fallen out of the church tower and whilst she was there the owner told her that they are struggling to keep the hospital going because of the lack of funds. They are having an open day on the 6th July, and if you love wild animals please pay them a visit or if you are unable to do so then it would be great if you send them a donation no matter how small.

**Vale Wildlife Hospital & Rehabilitation Centre**

**£5pp**

Open Day

6th July

A FAMILY FUN DAY

11am-4pm
Vale Wildlife Hospital
GL207AN

Activities

- See inside the wildlife hospital
- Shopping stalls
- Games for all the family
- Fun dog show
- Raffle
- Food stalls
- Live music and entertainment

FREE for under 10s

The ONLY chance to see behind the scenes in one of the busiest wildlife hospitals in Britain!



**Vale WILDLIFE HOSPITAL**

Registered Charity No: 702888

Helpline number: 01386 882 288 info@valewildlife.org.uk   



Oxhill CC

June News

Completed Fixture Match Reports:

Thurs 8th May: Moreton in Marsh CC vs Oxhill CC-20 Overs:
Moreton won by 4 wickets

Team: Ed Frape, Matt Walker, Adam Jordan, Craig Walker, Mike Salmon, Adrian Duke, Will Gowers, Michael Dawes, Matt Chick, Ryan Orgill, Neil Chick

The Oxhill boys took to the field for the first time this summer in the traditional curtain-raiser against Moreton in Marsh. Oxhill batted first. Frape (20), Walker (29) and Jordan (21NO) scored well; helping Oxhill to what felt like a below-par total of 103. Moreton knocked off the score with two overs to spare. Paceman Adam Jordan was the pick of the bowlers taking 1 for 13 off 4.

Sunday 18th May: Oxhill CC vs Hockley Heath CC-35 Overs: Oxhill won by 54 runs

Team: Matt Walker, Craig Walker, Adam Jordan, Neil Chick, Will Gowers, Jon Simpson, Michael Dawes, Dave Whittaker, Robert Starton, Matt Chick, Ryan Orgill

Oxhill's first home game of the season at Radway saw the locals win the toss and elect to bat. The typically tricky batting wicket at Radway caused trouble for Oxhill's opening batsman. Oxhill were 20 for 3 early in the match. However, Will Gowers and Craig Walker salvaged the innings, putting on a much needed partnership of 123 runs. Gowers' remarkable 95 and Walker's 52 saw Oxhill reach a promising total of 196 for 5. The scoreboard pressure was too much for the away side. Hockley Heath reached a total of 142 after batting the full 35 allotted

overs. Spinner Dave Whittaker caused havoc for the Hockley Heath batsman taking 3 wickets for 20 off 7 overs.

Thursday 22nd May: Oxhill CC vs Quinton and Meon Vale CC-20 overs: Oxhill won by 90 runs

Team: Tom Wood, Will Gowers, Neil Chick, Mike Salmon, Adrian Duke, Jon Simpson, Adam Jordan, Ed Frape, Matt Chick, Mike Bridgeman, Ryan Orgill

Oxhill won the toss and elected to bat against an under-strength Quinton and Meon Vale side. Wood and Gowers got the home side off to a good start with Wood reaching a classy 51 (ret.). Oxhill progress to a total of 131 for 7 off their 20 overs. This always looked like a challenging score and proved to be so. The Quinton and Meon Vale bats only managed 41 all out. Dukey sadly caught one on the end of the little finger early in the innings causing a fracture; ruling him out for 6 weeks. However, a wonderful evening for the Oxhill bowlers saw Mike Bridgeman take 3 for 10 off 3 and Mike Salmon finish with the ridiculous figures of 3 wickets for 0 runs off 1.5 overs. Salmon and the Radway wicket conspired to produce an unplayable worm-burner to dismiss the last Quinton and Meon Vale batsman.

Thursday 29th May: Oxhill CC vs Bodicote CC-20 overs: Oxhill won by 9 wickets

Team: Jon Simpson, Matt Chick, Ed Frape, Ryan Orgill, Neil Chick, Dave Whittaker, Mike Bridgeman, Robert Starton, Matt Walker, Craig Walker, Adam Jordan

Bodicote normally field a useful side but came unstuck at Radway against the Oxhill lads. Put into bat, the visitors made a miserable 20 runs all out. Adam Jordan, Matt Chick, Matt Walker and Mike Bridgeman shared the wickets. Oxhill knocked off the total in three overs. The match finished at 19:17, leaving plenty of time for beers in the sun outside the pavilion.



Sunday 8th June: Hook Norton CC vs Oxhill CC-35 overs: Oxhill won by 63 runs

Team: Adam Jordan, Dave Whittaker, Neil Chick, Andy Teasdale, Mike Salmon, Matt Walker, Will Gowers, Matt Chick, Michael Dawes, Craig Walker

Oxhill batted first again on a chilly Sunday afternoon in Hook Norton. The away side batted well. Opener, Dave Whittaker scored a sophisticated 56, supported for much of the innings by Teasdale who finished on 37. Walker and Gowers added a useful 21(NO) and 23(NO) respectively off the final overs. Oxhill finished on 184 for 5. The game seemed very much in the balance mid-way through the Hook Norton innings. Two useful batsmen were well-set until Craig Walker took an impressive reflex catch in the slips off the bowling of Mike Salmon. Dave Whittaker dismissed the other set batsman shortly after. Hook Norton then struggled, reaching a total of 121 for 9. Salmon took 4 for 22 off 8 and Whittaker finished on 3 for 11 off 5.



Thurs 11th June: Chipping Campden CC vs Oxhill CC-20 overs: Oxhill won by 5 wickets

Team: Olly Simpkins, Matt Walker, Ed Frape, Jon Simpson, Archie Raisbeck, Dan Morbey, Mike Salmon, Will Gowers, Matt Chick, Neil Chick, Dave Whittaker

Oxhill won the toss and put Campden into bat on an excellent batting wicket. Campden scored soundly, making 119 for 7 off their 20 overs. Part-time spinner Gowers bowled well, taking 2 for 20 off 4. Dave Whittaker was the pick over the bowlers, however, taking 2 for a measly 4 off 2. The capacity home crowd, there for a vintage car meet (not the

cricket) as it transpired, were in boisterous mood when Oxhill went out to bat. Simpkins and Frape batted well, each retiring after scoring over 25 runs. The match was finely poised with 3 overs left and Gowers and Salmon at the crease. Both batsmen were struggling to score off the Campden paceman. However, Gowers was able to get after Campden's spinner; hitting a succession of increasingly big sixes to the leg side to take the game away from Campden. Salmon scored the necessary runs to take Oxhill to a five-wicket victory in the final over of play.



Upcoming fixtures: Thurs 19th June: Meon Vale and Quinton CC (away), Thurs 26th June: Snitterfield CC (away), Sun 29th June: WCC CC (away), Thurs 3rd July: Claverdon CC (away), Thurs 10th July: Hook Norton CC (home), Sun 13th July: Oxford University CC (away), Thurs 17th July: Ebrington CC (away), Thurs 24th June: Welford CC (home), Sunday 24th July: Hockley Heath CC (away), Thurs 31st July: Bodicote CC (away), Thurs 7th Aug: Norton Lindsey CC (home), Sun 17th Aug: Tysoe CC (away), Sun 24th Aug: Long Compton CC (home), Sat 6th Sept: Bridgtown CC (away), Sun 7th Sept: Lynton and Lynmouth CC (away). All home games are played at Radway.

Thursday games (20/20) start at 6pm. Sunday games (35/40 overs) start at 12pm or 1pm. Spectators are always welcome!

Will Gowers.



OXHILL VILLAGE HALL

Paella Night

The weather was against us so we had to cancel our plans to have Chef Derek and the paella pan outside, but the mouthwatering smell of seafood and chicken simmering in spices and rice was a wonderful accompaniment to pre-dinner mingling and our first glasses of tinto de verano* and celebratory fizz as we all sang Happy Birthday to Elaine Morgan. It was one of those evenings that everything came together beautifully: the paella, the conversation, the amazing desserts, and a true sense of community and friendship.

If you missed this event, why not join us for the next? Advance tickets and information are available from oxhillvh@gmail.com or have a chat with any of the committee members.

**Did you know that sangria is almost a dirty word in many parts of Spain? Generally based on leftover, cheap wine or coming straight from a bottle, apparently no self-respecting Spaniard ever asks for it. Instead they drink tinto de verano ('summer wine') - good red wine mixed with their choice of fizzy fruit drink (typically lemon) served with ice and fruit.*



100 Club

May's winners were Peter Taylor (£60), Tricia Harbour (£30), and Anne Marshall (£10). The June draw will take place on Friday 20th, at the Summer Soirée. The annual subscription renews in September so after the June draw there will be two draws left this 100 Club year. If you'd like to join, please contact Sally at oxhillvh@gmail.com or ask anyone on the committee to have Sally get in touch with you. £70 will enter you for the remaining two draws and the whole of next year, and you'll be doing your bit to support your village hall.





Planters

As many of you know, the two large planters that were outside the village hall were recently stolen. These have now been replaced with an extra large, L-shaped planter that is impossible to fit in a transit van! The new design frames the patio and is looking quite lovely. We are very grateful to everyone involved in installing it. In particular, we would like to thank the Garden Club for donating the plants.

Upcoming Events

The next event in the village hall calendar is the Family Barbecue on Saturday 12th July from 5pm. Tickets are £8 for children and £15 for adults to include quality burgers, sausages, and salad. There will also be ice cream for dessert. There will be toys and games for the children to enjoy and a boules tournament for both children and adults. Everyone is welcome, with or without children or other family members in tow, so why not join us even if it's just to see if you can win the boules cup! Contact Ali for tickets on 07970 922352 or oxhillvh@gmail.com.

The next event after this will be the Progressive Supper in September. Look out for posters or look in August's Oxhill News for all the details.

Karen MacRae

FAMILY BBQ



Adults
£15

Children
£8

SAT 12TH JULY
5PM-9PM



Tickets from Ali
07970 922352
oxhillvh@gmail.com

Burgers • Salad • Sausages
Ice Cream • Full Bar

CHAIR'S REPORT TO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF OXHILL VILLAGE HALL, 27TH MAY 2025

In the year from May 2024, continued progress has been made on the village hall renovation project, including delivery of our new car park. As you can see we are fully open for business! We would like to acknowledge the time and effort put in by many volunteers this year to bring the building to this point, especially the Building Group's key members: Lee Robinson, Graham Mannerings and Tony Philpott.

Events since our last AGM were a Family BBQ, a fabulous make-up demonstration and talk by Val Garland, our new Summer Soirée evening party, the Progressive Supper, Curry Night, the Seniors' Christmas Lunch, and Beer & Bubbles, all of which were very well received and attended. In 2025, we have had the very successful Auction of Promises, a new St. Patrick's celebration supper and a Quiz Night that filled the hall. The new 'Talks' events held in the first four months of this year proved to be of great interest and were very well attended. We plan to run a further series this coming winter.

The ever-popular Plant Sale organised by the Garden Club took place on 14th May and raised £127 for the hall, for which we are grateful.

Lettings have increased year on year, with the extra space and new facilities at the hall being regularly enjoyed by Tysoe Tappers, several fitness classes, CCOTS choir, Knit & Natter, and the Art Group. The hall has also been let for several business meetings, birthday parties and family parties. All of the participants have praised the hall and its facilities.

We have continued to receive generous donations from members of our community, for which we are extremely grateful. A commemorative plaque to those who contributed to the renovation fund was installed in November 2024.

In order to boost our fund-raising efforts, the committee started a 100 Club. Its successful launch has made a significant contribution to the running of the hall.

Events in the coming year will include the return of the Summer Soirée and Family BBQ, the Progressive Supper, a new Race Night in October, Curry Night and the usual Christmas events. The committee continues to look for new ideas and welcomes any suggestions for events that our community would enjoy.





My huge thanks to the committee for all of their support and helpfulness. Sue Philpott is our hard working, scrupulously attentive Secretary who is always looking ahead to future challenges. Ali Sayer is our ever-active event manager and vital to achieving great turnouts. Karen MacRae has worked tirelessly and creatively on our communications with Oxhill and beyond. And John McKail has been ever-present with his own unique Treasurer's outlook. During the year Rachel Beesley stepped down from the committee due to work pressures and we were fortunate to recruit Sally Mannerings and bring her fantastic financial skills to the team. Sarah Bracher, after many years on the committee, has decided to 'bring the curtain down' and instead become a Friend due to the success of her curtain-making business. Kay Hawtin and Steve MacRae also stepped down this year due to other responsibilities. I thank all of those who have moved on for their considerable contribution to our ongoing success. Our newest committee member, Celena Mulhern, joined us just this month. We welcome her insightful inputs and look forward to working with her.

Thanks must also go to the Friends of Oxhill Village Hall for their support during this past year, especially for their generous culinary donations and unstinting help at events. We hope to continue to receive your support as our events would not be anywhere as enjoyable or successful without you.

Lastly, I would like to express our thanks to the community for their ongoing patronage. We look forward to enjoying with you the events and activities that our village hall is renowned for.

Derek Harbour
Chair of Trustees, Oxhill Village Hall





FRIENDS OF OXHILL CHURCH

OXHILL'S BIG WEEKEND, held on the weekend of **June 14th and 15th** was exactly as billed – a Big Weekend in Oxhill. There was plenty to do and see around the village and the sun shone as promised. There was a fantastic array of locally produced arts and crafts for sale in the Village Hall: the Pimms available in the afternoon definitely encouraged visitors to stay! The Church was beautifully decorated with planters and flowers, with the planters being sold at the end of the event. In front of the altar, visitors could make a bee hotel too. The Churchyard looked glorious with its wildflower meadow and planting at its best. Following the wildlife

treasure trail took people to the Open Garden at the Old House and then across the field to the Classic Vehicle display by the Manor. Back across the fields led to the final destination for many – the Old Chapel and superb examples of Oxhill's bakers' finest. Again, the Ploughman's lunch was extremely popular, so much so that it sold out by 2pm on Sunday afternoon, disappointing a few people that had spent too long drinking Pimms. The Tombola and raffle were also very popular with no Tombola prizes left. I'm sorry that I can't bring you a final figure for how much money was raised yet but I expect it to be over £2300, a fantastic result.

In the end, the most important thing was that visitors and villagers enjoyed the Big Weekend so it's lovely that all the comments I received have been positive. We were able to welcome plenty of visitors from outside the village including 28 members of the Girls' Friendly Society who enjoyed Afternoon Tea on the Saturday after a service at Honington Church for their founder. On Sunday morning, we welcomed Shipston Cycling Club members who made us their coffee stop for their Sunday morning ride. They had enjoyed using our 2023 Big Weekend as their coffee stop so much that they were very keen to repeat the experience, something to do with the size and quality of the cakes...

So many people helped make this event the success it was so please forgive me if I don't name everyone. Firstly, thank you to everyone who donated Tombola and raffle prizes and baked cakes for the refreshments at the Old Chapel. An amazing amount of great prizes kept arriving on our doorstep! A special thank you to Jack and Layla at The Peacock for donating such a generous first prize for the raffle. Thank you to all the movers and shifters for their sterling effort in furniture relocation. Thank you to all the volunteers who ran the raffle, Tombola and plant stall all weekend. Thank you to all who did a shift in the Old Chapel kitchen: the refreshments wouldn't have run half so smoothly without all the fantastic tea ladies and gentlemen who worked so hard in hot weather. Thank you to the lovely flower ladies for decorating the church so beautifully on a shoestring budget. It looked amazing. Thank you to the people who looked after the church and helped visitors make bee hotels. Thank you to everyone who brought a Classic Vehicle to add to our display. Thank you to the makers and crafters who made our Artisan Market such a delight. Thank you to the Village

Hall Committee for the use of the hall and for running the Pimms bar. I'd have liked to sample it but I had to rush off to deal with the developing cheese shortage at the Old Chapel.

Without Alastair and Debbie Welford's permission and support, we wouldn't have been able to run the treasure trail across their land nor had the Classic Vehicle display. Thank you for allowing us to use your land and offering a wildlife walk and talk, and thank you to Grenville Moore for his walk and talk. Thank you to Phil Brennan for painting the treasure trail boards so wonderfully. Both children and adults enjoyed them. Thank you to Jill and Colin Tucker for opening their garden and also allowing us to use the Old Chapel. It is much appreciated. A massive thank you to Lynsey Cleaver for organising the Artisan Market – it was a weight off my mind! The planters were painted and filled beautifully by Jude MacDonald and Kate Nash – thank you! The Churchyard doesn't just look wonderful by itself – Jane Smith works hard all year long, tending to the beds and the wildflower meadow. Thank you, Jane!

There is one man who deserves a huge thank you for all that he did for the Big Weekend – Jerry Webb. The great thing about this man, apart from the fact he doesn't run away when he sees me, is that he just says "Yes, I can do that." He made 20 wooden planters that Jude and Kate then filled so prettily. Not satisfied with that, I asked him if he could make a bee hotel. After a few prototypes, we agreed the design and he made 20. When I suggested that 40 might be a good number, he went on holiday, came home and two days' later, he'd produced another 20. On top of all that effort, he spent most of the weekend washing up. Thank you for everything, Jerry, but now you need to make yourself a superstar badge. Thank you also to Roger Wixey for donating pallets to make all these things.

Finally, I owe my Friends of Oxhill Church team a huge debt of thanks. They bake and then bake some more, along with putting up with my madcap ideas; then they spend every event working hard. Carol Fox, Carol Beasley, Gaida Webb, Lis Stuart, Linda Synge, Kay Hawtin are the core team, but for this event we also welcomed Gaynor Fila as lead Sunday tea lady and Jude MacDonald as Church Decoration lead. These events just wouldn't happen without you all. The core team also rope in their husbands and family so thank you to Adrian Stuart for furniture moving, James Synge for organising the Classic Vehicles, Jerry Webb (as mentioned previously), Alice Mercer for all the artwork and design and finally Jon for everything he did and does, but especially for the risk assessments.

The Friends of Oxhill Church are now taking a break – next event **Quiz Night on Saturday 25th October**. You don't need to book just yet, although I will take bookings as soon as you like!

Ruth Mercer
ruthc.mercer@btinternet.com 07400 615999





ST LAWRENCE CHURCH FOR JULY

It is midsummer, and it is hot. The Big Weekend is behind us, and was absolutely wonderful, huge thanks to a very large number of people who exhausted themselves working for it non-Thank you everyone, who helped, came and supported it.

Now, rest, and enjoy the summer, like the dragon flies

The Lake

The lake was still, tranquil in the morning light.
I too was still, watching and listening.
What would God say to me today?

A dragonfly danced and darted,
then rested beside me,
amber-iridescent in the sun.
Being not doing.

God said I could be like that,
being not doing,
receiving his love. *Hilary Allen, in Bare Feet and Buttercups.*



Church services in July

Sunday, 6th July 9.30 am Holy Communion
George Heighton
Sunday, 13th July 9.30 am Morning Worship
George Heighton
Sunday, 20th July 9.30 am Holy Communion
George Heighton
Sunday, 27th July 6.30 pm Evening Worship
Jill Tucker

Blessings, Jill

*PS the work in the church is all but finished,
and it does look wonderful!*

OXHILL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

HELD ON FRIDAY 30TH MAY 2025
IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30PM

Present: Cllr Stuart, Cllr Rivers Fletcher and Cllr Robertson

Christine Coles (Parish Clerk) and four villagers

Welcome and Apologies

Cllr Stuart welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from County Cllr Chris Mills and District Cllr Malcolm Littlewood.

To receive a report from the Parish Council

Cllr Stuart read the following report.

This year has been another busy year for the Parish Council. Speeding remains a concern in the village and is still very much on the Parish Councils radar in the safe hands of Councillor Rivers- Fletcher. The issues with the sewer across the Manor fields and consequent pollution of the fields has been a major factor this year. Councillor Robertson has worked with the landowner, his agent and Severn Trent, attending meetings, writing letters and liaising on various matters. Work to rectify the issues have been carried out by Severn Trent and the village saw tankers working from the pumping station to the treatment plant during wet periods. Only heavy rain in the future will test whether further work is needed to solve the problem.

Other areas of work have included continuing to support the footpath group keeping the local footpaths open and easy to access, with a replacement bridge to Nolands Road and more sawdust being spread in muddy areas along the footpath by the Church. Thank you to Councillor Chris Mills for providing the finances and supporting the project to replace the footbridge and to Councillor Conolly for his persistence in getting this project over the finishing line. Reported damaged or missing road signs, potholes and subsidence on the parish's roads alongside other issues have also featured.

The Parish Council has supported the local community again this year providing donations to Oxhill Village Hall for the carpark refurbishment, Shipston First responders, Shipston Nursing Home and the Community Choir.

The Parish Council has continued to provide the Community Website and has been able to re-direct several history queries to people who can help, and assisting with finding lost relatives. The website provides a platform for local information, alongside the Oxhill News which is co-ordinated by the brilliant editorial team.

The Parish Council provided defibrillator training for the village and was able to accommodate the majority of those interested across the two sessions, totalling approximately 40 people who are now confident to use the defibrillator if needed. Alongside this, the Parish Council continues to fund the defibrillator making sure that it passes its health and safety checks and that is in good working order.

I would like to thank my fellow Parish Councillors this year who have given their time to the Community and provide a strong team. Also, those who have decided to move on, I would like to welcome the new members to the team and hope that they enjoy their time on the Parish Council.

I would also like to thank our dedicated Parish Clerk who does a fantastic job keeping us all in check and finding information about some of the strange and wonderful topics that arise from time to time. I would also like to thank our District Councillor and our Ward member for their continued support and for keeping us up to date with news from Stratford District and beyond.

Presentation of unaudited accounts for year ending 31st March 2025

The accounts were presented. Income was £12,155.00 and expenditure £7922.60. This leaves an end of year balance of £34,894.00. Part of the reserves is being held in a high savings account. It was agreed by a previous Parish Council that money be held to one side to purchase a village asset if it becomes available. The reserves would pay for the purchase with monetary support from the village and future maintenance.

To receive a report from the County and District Councillors

County Council report

The following report was received from Cllr Chris Mills.

2024/25 has been a challenging year for the majority of Councils across the UK with a few going into bankruptcy, but this is not the case for Warwickshire County Council. With good financial management we have been able to increase our investments in key areas to protect our vulnerable people in Warwickshire. The Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy includes significant investment over the next five years in key areas such as support for vulnerable adults and elderly citizens.

Adult Social Care supports over 8,000 Warwickshire residents with over 5,700 of them supported to remain in their own homes. Warwickshire County Council will continue to support our most vulnerable residents across the County.

We have also invested in Child's Social Care Services including home-to-school transport particularly for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). 70% of the Warwickshire County Council's budget is allocated to Social Care, the remaining 30% is earmarked for Warwickshire County Council's other services, which include maintaining our highways.

2024 has been another successful year for the Children & Families Service. Warwickshire was successful in its application to the Department of Education to join Wave 2 of the Families First for Children Path Finder Programme. This has resulted in Warwickshire County Council to be at the forefront of this once-in-a-lifetime reform to Children's Social Care. Our main focus over the following year will be to continue the increase of the number of children receiving Early Help Support.

Warwickshire County Council will continue to support our most vulnerable residents across the County. To enable us to help protect our vulnerable residents has come at a cost to our

residents resulting in an increase to the council tax. The council tax increase was capped at the Governments national limit of 4.99% from April 2025. This resulted in an extra £1.67 per week on Band D property. Anyone struggling to pay their Council Tax is encouraged to contact their local District or Borough Council to explore potential discounts or exemptions.

Investment

The Coventry and Warwickshire area attracted a total of 54 foreign investment projects. These projects resulted in the creation and safeguarding of 2,717 jobs which goes to show that Warwickshire is a good place to invest in.

Unitary Authority

Following the Government's publication of the English Devolution White Paper on 16 December 2024 regarding the implementation of a Unitary Authority, the Minister of State for Local Government and English Devolution wrote to the leaders of the six councils in Warwickshire to invite them to develop a joint submission proposing local government reorganisation in the county. This invitation set out guidance for the development of any proposals and the criteria against which proposals will be assessed, along with a timeline for this work to be completed. An interim plan was required by 21 March 2025, with full proposals submitted to Government by 28 November 2025. Should the proposals for Unitary Authority be accepted, it will eventually result in the dismissal of all District and Borough Councils, bringing all Councils under one umbrella. There is a lot to do and therefore, a decision for a Unitary Authority may not be until 2027/28. ***There is no Public Consultation.***

Summary

Warwickshire County Council is in a relatively good financial situation which enables us to make sure Social Care a priority for our most vulnerable residents in Warwickshire.

What is Devolution?

In England, devolution is the transfer of powers and funding from national to local government. It is important because it ensures that decisions are made closer to local people, communities and businesses.

Through the white paper the Government aims to establish [devolution deals](#) for all areas in England.

In March 2024 Warwickshire County Council become one of only four councils to secure a Level 2 Devolution Deal (the Deal). The Deal included the transfer of three key sets of functions and funds:

- responsibility of allocating Adult Skills Fund delivering 19+ further education and skills provision from August 2026 onwards;
- planning and delivery of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund from April 2025 onwards; and
- devolution of Homes England compulsory land assembly/purchase powers to be concurrently held with and exercisable by Homes England.

What is LGR?

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) is the process in which the structure and responsibilities of local authorities are reconfigured. The Government has set out plans to move away from the current two-tier system of district and county councils in England. This is relevant to Warwickshire County Council and the five District and Borough councils in the county (Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council, North Warwickshire Borough Council, Rugby Borough Council, Stratford District Council, and Warwick District Council). The Government has indicated that for most areas this will mean creating councils with a population of 500,000 or more, but there may be exceptions to ensure new structures make sense for an area, including for devolution, and decisions will be on a case-by-case basis.

What are the various layers or tiers of local government?

In Warwickshire, democratic representation and responsibilities for delivering services are split across a range of councils. These are sometimes referred to as tiers of local government.

1. Parish and town councils

The first tier is that of parish and town councils. These councils may maintain local amenities such as recreational areas, footpaths and cemeteries, organise events or operate public conveniences. Parts of Warwickshire, but not all, are covered by this tier.

2. District/ borough councils

The second tier is that of district/borough councils. These organisations deliver services such as housing, environmental health, planning, waste collection, licensing and elections. Warwickshire has five district/borough councils, which collectively cover the whole county. They are Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council, North Warwickshire Borough Council, Rugby Borough Council, Stratford District Council, and Warwick District Council.

3. County councils

The third tier is that of county councils. These organisations deliver services such as adults and children's services, highways and transport, waste disposal, libraries, public health, fire and rescue and trading standards. Warwickshire County Council covers all of Warwickshire.

4. Combined or strategic authorities

The fourth tier is that of combined authorities. A combined – or strategic – authority is a legal body that enables a group of two or more councils to collaborate and take collective decisions across council boundaries.

They cover issues that require strategic oversight of the entire region and have responsibilities, and funding, to deliver economic development, strategic planning and transport, adult education, local growth plans and other functions.

In mayoral strategic authorities, mayors will have significant powers over housing and planning, including the ability to develop and propose the spatial development strategy for their areas, working alongside other members of the strategic authority.

Warwickshire County Council is currently a non-constituent member of the West Midlands Combined

District Council Report

The following report was received from Cllr Malcolm Littlewood.

The last 12 months has seen some very significant changes in terms of service delivery and local government.

Stratford on Avon District Council is responsible for the following services.

- Social Housing
- Planning Applications
- Council Tax Collection on behalf of Warwickshire County Council
- Waste Collection
- Environmental Health
- Leisure Facilities
- Parks & Open Spaces
- Local Economic Development.

SDC owns a very small number of dwellings which are mainly used to reduce the cost of placing homeless families into B&B accommodation, but the Council works closely with the Housing Associations in order to place families into permanent rented accommodation as quickly as possible. Note that SDC does not have any statutory powers to force Housing Associations to house anybody but does work in close cooperation and provides lists of families on a waiting list through Home Choice Plus.

In addition to Planning & Building Control, SDC's planning policies require a developer to include a mix of homes of varying sizes. Where developers decline to provide Social Housing mix on their sites SDC secures funding for Social Housing from developers through Section (S)106 contributions.

SDC is responsible for waste collection but not waste management which is the responsibility of the County Council. SDC do however own a share in a recycling company based in Coventry. This handles all of the District's recycled waste and receives a return on the joint investment with several other authorities through the sale of the processed material.

Local Government Reform and Devolution

Under this Government's Local Government Reform described in the English Devolution White Paper (December 2024), the five District and Borough Councils will be merged with Warwickshire County Council (WCC) by the target date of 2028/29. This should create a single "Unitary Authority" which will assume the above responsibilities along with those of WCC. The consequences for SDC are that this tier of Local Government will be abolished, and a new Unitary Authority will

replace both the County Council as well as District and Borough Councils, and it is possible that it will be necessary to join more than one Local Authority with parts of Warwickshire; Worcestershire for example is one option, as a new Unitary Authority. The Government has required all authorities to propose a mutually agreed plan which may come into being by 2028/29. Much has to be worked through, and nothing is either set or fully explored at this stage. If agreement across the six Warwickshire authorities cannot be achieved, the White Paper suggests that a plan will be imposed. A working Group has been set up at SDC to explore the options, and I am a member of that group. I will try to keep you all informed as far as I am able.

SWLP

A recent review of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) has created a need for the current Planning Core Strategy to be reviewed and replaced before 2031. Consultations have been carried out and responses being assed with a view to report findings this summer. This has required a rework and update of the current Core Strategy. The new document is called the South Warwickshire Local Plan (SWLP). The South Warwickshire Local Plan is now at Regulation 18 and in consultation. The consultation period ended on the 7th March. Responses are being evaluated.

Your Parish may, or may not be earmarked for development or have potential developments earmarked close to you. The issue as I see it is that the proposals to substantially increase the residential populations will impact on already struggling public services and the general infrastructure of South Warwickshire. The Government's new instruction on calculating Housing Need has increased the annual house building target in the district by 104%, i.e. doubling it.



SWLP

Acceptable or Inappropriate Development?

- Climate Change & Pollution.** Is this a sustainable site remote from services and retail in open countryside along rural roads? Is the site located remote from employment centres and would increase traffic volumes along that route contrary to Climate Change Net Zero Policies.
- Flood Risk.** Is the location regularly flooded regardless of the out of date current designation. Development means additional hard standing and roofing will increase the rate of Surface Water Run Off (SWRO) which in turn will increase the downstream risk of flooding.
- Biodiversity, Flora, Fauna and Geodiversity.** Is this proposed development in Open Countryside and would it impact severely nature and the wild life of the site and beyond it due to increased vehicular and human activity?
- Landscape.** Is the site in open countryside. Would any excessive domestic development cause harm to the landscape and the character of the area? Would the development initiate consequences of communities and reduce the feeling of wellbeing for those who already reside in the location?
- Culture Heritage and assets.** Will the proposed development result in adverse effects on heritage sites and assets?
- Natural Resources.** Will the proposed development result in adverse impacts of natural resources limiting access to sand and gravel deposits for example?
- Waste.** Mixed development will increase the volume of waste. Can services cope?
- Housing.** How housing stock is needed. What is the local need and is this being prioritised?
- Impact on human health and wellbeing.** Is Healthcare going to be overwhelmed by the proposals?
- Accessibility.** Is accessibility to shops is very restricted? How far would it be to walk to retail services?
- Education.** What local capacity in local schools is there? How far will pupils and students need to travel for primary and secondary education?
- Economy.** How far will people need to travel for work? Road capacity? Pollution?

Write your comments in an email and send to: www.swlp@stratford-dc.gov.uk
Complete the survey at: <https://www.southwarwickshire.org.uk/swlp/>

Open Forum

A villager spoke about the South Warwickshire Local Plan and green living/sustainability which are not mentioned. The Chair replied that the Parish Council produced an Action Plan a few years ago and some actions have been carried out. There is a big weekend coming up on 15th and 16th June. The wildflower areas in the churchyard are supported. Tysoe started a Womble Scheme which improves the community and environment. They carry out a litter pick and have a footpath group.

It would be nice to get the footpath group restarted in Oxhill as more people walk now. A lot of work was done previously by a small group of people who looked after the local footpaths. Some paths on the definitive map are missing and it is not clear where other footpaths are.

There being no other business the meeting finished at 8pm.

**KINETON AMATEUR
DRAMATIC SOCIETY PRESENTS:**



SUMMER ENTERTAINMENT



**SAT
12
JULY**

**2-COURSE MEAL &
2 ONE-ACT PLAYS &
BAR ALL EVENING**

**KINETON
VILLAGE
HALL**

**DOORS
AT 7PM
(7:30PM
START)**



**TICKETS £15 AVAILABLE AT KADS.ORG.UK
OR CALL 01295 680487 OR EMAIL
YVE@RIVERS-FLETCHER.COM. BOOK BY
JULY 5TH + MENTION ANY DIETARY
REQUIREMENTS WHEN YOU BOOK.**

Oxhill Parish Council
Minutes of an Annual Council Meeting
held Friday 30th May 2025 at 7.30pm
in The Village Hall

Councillors Present

Cllr Robertson (Chairperson), Cllr Rivers-Fletcher and Cllr Stuart

Clerk to the Council, Mrs C Coles and four villagers

25/30. Elections

Election of Chairperson and signing of Acceptance of Office form

It was proposed by Cllr Stuart and seconded by Cllr Rivers-Fletcher that Cllr Robertson be Chair. He signed the Acceptance of Office form.

Election of Vice-Chair.

It was proposed by the Chair and seconded by Cllr Stuart that Cllr Rivers-Fletcher be Vice Chair.

25/31. Co-option of two new Councillors

Barbara Shepard and Sarah Hobill were co-opted onto the Parish Council. They signed acceptance of office forms and will complete ROI forms within 28 days.

25/32. Apologies for absence

County Cllr C Mills and District Cllr M Littlewood

25/33. To receive Declarations of Interest under the Council's Code of Conduct relating to business on the agenda

Cllr Stuart declared an interest as a Governor at Tysoe CE Primary School.

25/34. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 11th March 2025

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

25/35. Public Participation Session

No matters were raised.

25/36. To receive a report from the County and District Councillors

The report from County Cllr Mills included the following main points:

Disposable Vape ban, Knife Crime Awareness week, Warwickshire SENDIAS, Supporting young peoples mental health, Warwickshire Supported Employment Service, Families to benefit from active partnership, Free Support for families with Warwickshire's Living Well website, Building Suppliers rogue trader warning. The full report will be available to read on the village website www.oxhillcommunity.co.uk.

25/37. Administration

- *To approve the Clerks Contract of Employment.* The Parish Clerk has worked for Oxhill Parish Council since 2018 and been a Clerk for other parishes since 2001. She holds the CILCA qualification and the pay award agreed earlier in the year reflects her experience and knowledge. It was agreed to approve the Contract of Employment and it will be signed.

- To discuss new .gov.uk email addresses for the Parish Clerk and Councillors. The Parish Clerk now has a new email address which was provided free of charge by Parish Online. A further chargeable upgrade includes new email addresses for Councillors.

25/38. Governance

To approve Model Standing Orders and Financial Regulations. Updated documents were circulated before the meeting and approved. Proposed by Cllr Stuart and seconded by Cllr Shepherd.

Action: The Parish Clerk to add both documents to the website.

To approve the following policies

- Biodiversity. This is a new policy and was approved.
- Training and Development. This is a new policy and was approved.
- Equality and Diversity. This is a new policy and was approved.

Action: The Parish Clerk to add the policies to the website.

25/39. Highway matters

- To receive an update on speeding
Work continues on speeding. Cllr Rivers Fletcher has a new contact and is waiting to hear back from them. A new pole on Whatcote Road is the ideal location to place a speed sign. Cars do speed along Whatcote Road and parts of Green Lane. New speed signs are able to collect data, but Warwickshire County Council and the police do not like speed signs.

- To discuss subsidence on Whatcote Road and potholes on Kineton Road

Action: Cllr Stuart to take photos for the Parish Clerk to report to Highways.

25/40. To receive an update on the works of reparation to the access strip used by Severn Trent to access the Manor land for the sewer relining

The Chair gave the following update. Severn Trent claim that no damage has been done, that the area was in poor condition to start with. There is building work taking place at the property next door. Once this is complete the area will be revisited to see what needs doing.

25/41. To receive an update on planning

Older

- 24/03140/FUL, Proposed alterations and extension at 4 Peacock Cottages, Main Street. Granted by SDC.
- 25/00590/TREE, Fell 1 x holly at The Old Post Office, Main Street. Support by PC and no objection by SDC.
- 25/00967/FUL, Proposed construction of small front extension to replace bay window, construction of front porch, construction of new garage with solar panels at Merrydown, Green Lane. Supported with comments by PC.
- 25/00907/FUL, Remove existing outhouse extension and construct new single storey rear kitchen extension at Briars Meadow, Blackford Way. Supported with comments by PC. Granted by SDC.

25/42. Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2024/25

The internal audit has been carried out and signed off. The documents listed below had been circulated before the meeting.

- To approve and sign the Certificate of Exemption. It was accepted and signed by the Chair and RFO.
- To approve and sign Section 1. It was accepted and signed by the Chair and RFO.

- To approve and sign Section 2. It was accepted and signed by the Chair and RFO.
- To note the date of Exercise of Public Rights. The dates are 9th June to 21st July 2025.

Action: The Parish Clerk to submit the Certificate of Exemption and Exercise of Public Rights notice to the External Auditor and place the documents on the website before 30th June 2025.

25/43. Financial Report

The following payments were approved under statutory powers:

£831.60 to Tysoe Childrens Group (copying of newsletter)

£268.46 to SDC (emptying of bins)

£28.80 to TEEC (planning tracker on website)

£30.00 to John McKail (internal audit)

£182.00 to WALC (membership)

£52.00 to ICO (Data protection fee renewal)

25/44. To receive the Tysoe CE Primary School Report May 2025

Cllr Stuart read out the following report.

After an excellent Ofsted inspection in January 2024, Tysoe has moved from strength to strength; most recently receiving overwhelmingly positive feedback from our SIAMS inspection in March 2025. The children, staff, governors, and families spoke so positively about our school and the inspector noted that our vision of 'Nurturing hearts, serving with love, growing minds' drives everything we do.

Pupil numbers have remained stable and the school remains in a stable financial position. We have welcomed new staff members and our school dogs, Rex and Sadie, continue to be valued members of our school team.

With welcome support from Tysoe Utilities and the Friends of Tysoe School, we have maintained our programme of trips and visits to enhance the children's learning. We are keen to welcome parents and family into school and are grateful for their support at our church services, theme days, World Book Day, our third annual Science Fair (that becomes bigger and better each year!) and our our new 'Chance to Chat' sessions.

Our Outdoor Play and Learning project has continued providing increased opportunities for play and transforming our lunchtimes.

The pupil led Collective Worship Group regularly lead church services and worship and our choir regularly perform at church services, our school services and the Dementia Café. It has been lovely to see so many parents, carers and family members joining us for our services.

The Local Governing Committee (LGC) continues to support and challenge the school. The LGC supported the introduction of wraparound childcare at Tysoe and this has become a very successful feature of the school.

The Friends of Tysoe School have continued their hard work and fundraising this year, running several successful fundraising events. This year the Friends have been able to contribute toward the transport costs of trips and visits, new library books and are fundraising to refurbish the kitchen.

Fosse MAT continues to support the school with the building issues at Tysoe and we are pleased that vital work will soon be completed to the doors and windows, ensuring the building is kept safe, secure and in good repair. We hope to have repairs to the gable wall underway soon.

As always, it is a privilege for me to lead such as dedicated staff team and wonderful school of children. We are proud to support everyone in our school community to thrive.

Paige Allister
Headteacher

25/45. Councillors Reports

There has been no further progress on a defibrillator runner scheme. More understanding of the process and benefits are needed.

Action: The Parish Clerk to invite the Shipston First Responders to a PC meeting.

25/46. To note a Councillor resignation

Lis Stuart resigned from the Parish Council. She has served for eleven years both as a Clerk, Councillor and Chairperson. She thanked the Councillors and Parish Clerk and it was noted she has missed just two meetings in eleven years. She has shown great dedication and service to the village. The Chair thanked Lis for all her work over the years and said they are sorry to be losing her.

Action: The Parish Clerk to notify SDC of the vacancy.

25/47. To note next meeting date and time

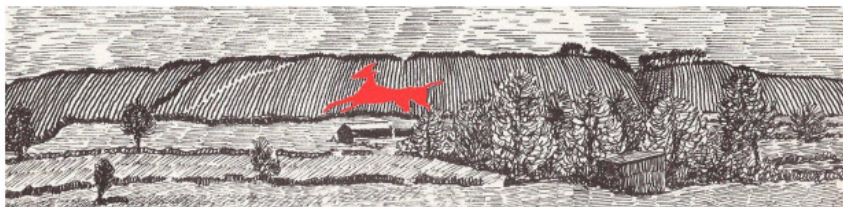
8th July 2025 at 7.30pm

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.05pm.

RED HORSE – Myth, History and Landscape

Saturday 19 July 9.30-13.00

Tysoe Village Hall



**What do you know about the famous Red Horse of Tysoe?
Tysoe Heritage Research Group (THRG) is planning an
exhibition and a series of talks to reveal the full story on
Saturday 19th July. Free Entry**

- 9.30am doors open
- 10.00-11.00 } a series of 8 short talks about the history and
- 11.30-12.45 } context of the Red Horse in Tysoe
- 11.00-11.30 tea, coffee and cake available from Tysoe WI

**In reality the horse could have been created for any number
of reasons. What was going on that led to the Red Horse
being created? And where was it located?**



**Prize winners of the Short Story competition to
be announced at 12.45pm**

Sponsorship by

RED HORSE VALE





We're hiring!

Nursery practitioners

Full or part-time,
Rota basis 7.45am - 6pm

Early years practitioner Level 2/3 Apprentice

Office assistant

Part-time

Join our lovely team at our village
based nursery in Tysoe, Warks.

Competitive pay

Apply via

tysoechildrengroup.co.uk/careers-2/



WOT2 GROW COMMUNITY ORCHARD

JUNE 2025 NEWS

It's not all good news at the community orchard this month. We have had some disappointments recently as birds stripped the red and white currants before the fruit cage was erected and something has attacked the gooseberries, with broken branches and most of the unripe fruit on the ground. Also a large section of an apricot tree split and is on the ground; laden with fruit for the first time but not ripe enough to pick unfortunately.

The good news is that the apple and cherry trees are doing well with lots of blossom, and the cherries have had their net sleeves fitted, so hopefully these will bear a good crop later in the year. This is, of course, reliant on good weather conditions which includes plenty of rain!

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)



WHAT'S ON IN & AROUND OXHILL

JULY

Sun 6th	11:00-16:00	Open Day, Vale Wildlife Hospital & Rehab Centre
Sat 12th	17:00-21:00	Village Hall Family BBQ
Sat 12th	19:00	KADS Summer Entertainment, Kinton Village Hall
Sat 19th	9:30-13:00	Red Horse- Myth, History & Landscape, Tysoe Village Hall
Wed 23rd	14:30-14:50	Mobile Library outside Village Hall
Every Thursday	12:00	Coffee Morning, Peacock Pub

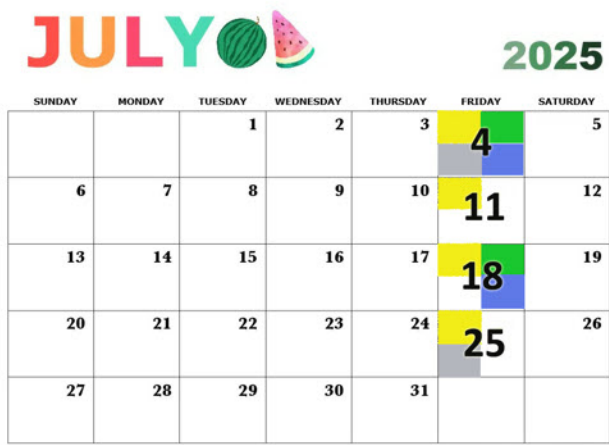
CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE OXHILL NEWS

The editors welcome any pictures, photographs, drawings, poems, puzzles, recipes, announcements or items of local news for possible inclusion in The Oxhill News. Submissions must be received by the 18th of each month for publication in the following month. Please email: oxhill.news.editor@gmail.com

PC MEETINGS

The date of the Annual Parish Meeting at **Tuesday, 8th July 2025 at 7.30pm,**. This 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