## THE OXHILL NEWS

June 2025 No. 607



The VE Day 80th Anniversary Beacon Fire

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Oxhill Village Hall:	Derek Harbour - Chair Ali Sayer - Hall Hire - 0797 email: oxhillvh@gmail.com	
Oxhill Pickleball	Peter Rivers Fletcher 07730 rfn364@btinternet.com	0 800729
The Peacock Pub	01295 675019	
Tysoe Tennis Club:	Club Secretary: Carol Spen email: carol.spencer234@h	
Warwickshire Mobile Library:	01926 851031	
WOT2Grow Community Orch	ard: Miranda Forrester (6802) and Mike Sanderson (6880)	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
talkdementia.uk Carer Support Service	Paul & Heather Dowler Tysemail: talkdementia@mail.e Website: talkdementia.uk	

Tysoe Village Hall every Friday from 10am

# CAROL FOX SPOKE AT AN INTERFAITH EVENT IN BIRMINGHAM

Carol Fox was invited to speak at an Interfaith meeting held in Solihull Sunday 11th May. Her talk was about Christian festivals and celebrations in particular in relation to the Church of England. She also explained her role as Church Warden of St Lawrence Church. Suffice to say, Carol's talk was peppered with amusing historical anecdotes which everyone very much enjoyed.

Other speakers included those from the Muslim, Sikh and Quaker communities.

The meeting was initiated by the Ahmadiyya Muslim Women's Association (Solihull Branch). This organisation is very involved with promoting the advancement of women and encouraging respect and deeper understanding between faiths. Last year some members of the Solihull Branch provided a most enjoyable evening of information for Pillerton Priors Cubs and plan to do the same this year too.



#### LOCAL GCSE AND A-LEVEL TUTORING

My name is Joseph Isaac and I live with my family in Oxhill. I am a second year student of Biological Sciences at the University of Birmingham. If you would like tutoring for your child in GCSE or A-level geography or biology, do get in touch. I can offer in-person or zoom lessons at reasonable rates.

Feel free to WhatsApp me on 07955 265388.

Joseph





#### Tysoe C of E Primary School

Nurturing hearts, serving with love, growing minds.

#### TYSOE C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

We are delighted to share a summary of the outcomes from our recent SIAMS inspection.

We were visited by a SIAMS inspector on March 27th, who toured the school, spoke with groups of children, looked at books, met with staff and governors, analysed documents, observed the children at play, attended collective worship and spoke to a group of parents and carers.

The feedback we received in school from the inspector was overwhelmingly positive and Tysoe has been judged as living up to its foundation as a Church school and enabling children and adults to flourish with several strengths including a dynamic staff team who exemplify the Christian vision, resulting in a very caring and inclusive school community. The strong partnerships with the local church, trust and diocese to enrich the spiritual development of children and adults were highlighted. The inspector noted the exceptional holistic support, rooted in the Christian vision, enabling all to live well and grow together in a warm, welcoming, dignifying and equitable culture. The children share an active culture of justice and responsibility, which enables them to make wise ethical choices and to be positive agents of change. The school has a challenging and rigorous religious education and worldviews curriculum that is innovative and enables children to thrive.

We would like to take this opportunity thank the staff and governors at Tysoe. They make a fantastic team, and we are grateful for the care they put in to ensuring we create an inclusive, nurturing, and loving community. They are dedicated professionals who strive to continually improve and provide the very best for our children.

Paige Allister Headteacher Tysoe CE Primary School



# FRIENDS OF OXHILL CHURCH VE DAY 80<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY SUPPER AND BEACON

Oxhill celebrated the VE Day 80 anniversary in its usual enthusiastic manner with 35 people sitting down to enjoy a delicious wartimethemed supper, but without the corned beef. There was certainly no food rationing in the Old Chapel! After supper, we all walked up to the trig point at Kirby Farm for the Beacon Lighting ceremony, being joined by more villagers on the way. As the beacon was lit, we sang "I vow to Thee My Country" in line with the national celebrations. The weather was ideal for a beacon and, as we stood around the

beacon, we shared orange and ginger cake made using the official WI VE Day 80 recipe (see last month's Oxhill Cooks), a truly memorable evening. It was particularly uplifting to read so many lovely positive comments on the Oxhill Facebook page after the event. It makes organising such events feel worthwhile – thank you.

As usual, these events just don't happen by themselves. A massive thank you to the amazing team that I am lucky to work with: their culinary skills know no bounds! Thank you to Linda, Kay, Carol F, Carol B, Lis for decorating the Old Chapel, cooking, serving, and clearing away. Thank you to James for running the bar and thank you to Gaida for going well beyond the call of duty by cooking and freezing food for the event even though she was going to be away. Thank you to Jon for his continuing support with everything. Thank you to Jill and Colin for the use of the Old Chapel. Finally, there would have been no beacon without the willingness of Thomas Fox to host it. Thank you, Thomas and all at Kirby Farm, for building and managing the beacon, as well as welcoming the village. Nobody does it better!

Ruth Mercer

ruthc.mercer@btinternet.com 07400 615999















#### A selection of Oxhill Community Facebook comments:

Thank you for a wonderful evening. Superb food, the very best company and a fitting tribute to mark the occasion. ~ Ian Wright

A really lovely evening. A big thank you to Ruth Mercer and everyone who prepared the supper. A special thank you to Thomas Fox for the lighting of the beacon which was very emotional.  $xx \sim Karen Barker$ 

Many thanks yet again to Ruth Mercer for organising this evening's memorial event! And what a great beacon too. "Lest we forget" ~ Geoff Beasley



Well done Ruth and team and Thomas Fox and team. ~ Carol Taylor

A big thank you to Ruth and Team! We really enjoyed our wartime food. Also a big thank you to Thomas Fox for organising the lighting of the Beacon to mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day. Great atmosphere and a very memorable occasion enjoyed by everyone.  $\sim$  Elaine Morgan

Thank you to all the photographers who shared their wonderful photos of the event with the Oxhill News.  $\sim$  ed.









#### **HOMITY PIE**

Continuing last month's wartime theme, this recipe was originally devised by Land Girls working on farms in the Midlands during the Second World War. At one point, the cheese ration was only 1 oz per week, but this recipe is definitely not the original wartime version, as there is plenty of cheese and a bit of cream. It is made using wholemeal pastry, but standard shortcrust would work too. For ease of slicing, I made it in a narrow rectangular flan tin, but it can be made in a regular round tin. It tastes much better than the sum of its ingredients! We served it at the VE Day 80 Beacon Supper and it was so well received, I even had requests for the recipe, so here goes.



Homity Pie photographed when it was served at the VE Day 80 Beacon Supper.

## Ingredients Pastry:

4 oz / 100g plain flour

2 oz / 50g wholemeal flour

½ tsp salt

3 oz / 75g butter or hard margarine

1 egg yolk

1 tbsp cold water

#### Filling:

12 oz / 350g waxy potatoes eg Charlotte (I used Vivaldi which worked fine)

½ oz / 10g butter

1 tbsp vegetable oil

2 onions, sliced (I used red as that's what we had grown)

2 leeks, sliced

1 garlic clove, finely chopped

6 oz / 175g Cheddar cheese

1 tbsp chopped parsley

1 tbsp thyme

1 tbsp double cream

3 tbsp breadcrumbs

1 ½ tbsp grated Parmesan

Salt and pepper

An 8" / 20cm round tart tin or sandwich cake tin, about 1 ½" / 4cm deep, preferably loose-bottomed

- 1. Make the pastry by putting the flours and salt into a bowl, add the butter and rub in until the mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs. Add the egg yolk and the water and mix until the dough begins to stick together. Knead gently until it forms a smooth ball. Wrap in cling and refrigerate for at least 30 minutes, while you make the filling.
- 2. Peel the potatoes and cut into 3/4" (2cm) chunks. Cook in salted boiling water until tender and leave to cool (mine took 10 minutes).
- 3. Heat the oil and butter in a large frying pan, then add the onions and leeks with a pinch of salt and cook gently until soft. Stir in the garlic and remove from the heat.
- 4. Place the potatoes in a large bowl, along with the onion and leek mixture. Add the Cheddar, parsley, thyme, cream and seasoning and stir together.
- 5. Place a baking sheet big enough for your flan dish to stand on inside the oven. Turn the oven on to 200C / Gas 6.
- 6. Lightly flour the surface and roll out the pastry to fit your tin, about 3mm thick. Line the base and sides of the tin and trim off the excess. Spoon the filling carefully and evenly into the pastry case. Mix the breadcrumbs and Parmesan together and sprinkle over the top.
- 7. Place the tin on the baking tray in the oven and bake for 40 minutes until the pastry is cooked through and the topping is crisp and golden brown. Remove from the oven and leave to stand for 5-10 minutes before serving. You can also serve it cold if preferred.











#### GARDEN CLUB PLANT SALE

The May plant sale to support the Village Hall enjoyed a sunny Saturday morning and a good number of plants , most of which got sold and resulted in £127 for the Village Hall funds. Thanks to all those who supplied the plants , any of which remaining went to the Shipston Home Nursing sale.

Peter Rivers Fletcher





#### ST LAWRENCE CHURCH FOR JUNE

June sees several key celebrations:

On June 8th, we mark Pentecost, or Whitsunday, which marks the birthday of the church. God breathed his Spirit on his disciples, giving them his power, wisdom and energy to be his people. Those same gifts he pours on us today, giving us hope, light and guidance for our futures as we walk together in his presence.

The following weekend, June 14th and 15th we mark Oxhill's Big Weekend, when many of the gifts he gives us are seen in all their fullness. Those who have the energy are invited to join us for a Quiet Evening Worship, when we can finally rest in the peace of his presence.



Cantamus Choir singing in St George's Church in Brailes 22 June at 6pm

On June 22nd you are also invited to pop over to St George's, Brailes, at 6.00 pm, when Cantamus are singing the Byrd Mass as part of their 900th anniversary. This is a Communion Service, at which I am presiding (hoping I get my words right!), and all are very welcome.

Finally, June 29th is St Peter's Day, and is therefore the Patronal Festival for St Peter's Church, Whatcote – so we are all invited to share that special day with them at 11.00 am.

#### **Church Services in June**

Sunday, June 1st 9.30 am Holy Communion George Heighton

Sunday, June 8th Pentecost Sunday

9.30 am Holy Communion George Heighton

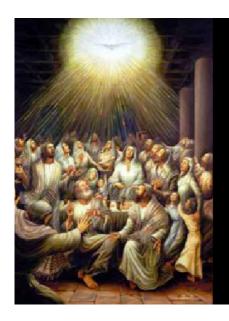
Sunday, June 15th	<b>Trinity Sunda</b>	y	
	6.30 pm	Evening Worship	Jill Tucker
Sunday, June 22 <sup>nd</sup>	9.30 am 6.00 am	Morning Worship Byrd Mass in <b>Brailes</b>	Jennie Rake Jill Tucker
Sunday, June 29th	<b>9.30 am</b> 11.00 am	St. Peter's Day United Benefice Comm to mark their Patronal 1	nunion Service in <b>Whatcote</b> Festival

Let us give thanks for a brand new day, a festival day, a holy day, a restful day, a Pentecost Day.

Let us give thanks for renewal, regeneration, revival.

Let us give thanks for inspiration, hope, love and praise.

Let us give thanks for the Holy Spirit, God's gift to us on this special day. John Murning, Spill the Beans, in Summer



'A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you,' says the Lord God; 'I will put my spirit within you and you shall live.'

Ezekiel 36:26; 37:14



# To The Committee

#### OXHILL VILLAGE HALL

This month has been a quiet one at the Village Hall so there's only Belinda Marklew's talk to review. But, boy, what a talk! As some of you already know, Belinda used to work for Norwich Union and had the gumption to sign up for a chance to work a leg of 'The World's Toughest Yacht Race' in the year that they sponsored the event. What you may not

know is that Belinda had to put in weeks of demanding training and compete with many other employees in various physical and mental events before finally learning that she'd just missed out on a spot. With little expectation of ever receiving a call, she nonetheless accepted one of only two reserve 'Legger' spaces and joined the rest of the business in following the race and cheering on the *Norwich Union*, the company's eponymously named yacht. It was a total surprise, therefore, when she was asked to join the boat in Sydney as the crew was down two. With only two weeks until it upped anchor, there was little time to do anything but say yes and frantically get organised to leave home for two months. She had no idea that others had refused point blank to have anything to do with this leg - the toughest leg of the world's toughest yacht race!

A week later, the skipper opened his door with a smile for the only person willing to step up to the job. Unfortunately, his eyes were looking ten inches above Belinda's head - instead of an Amazon, here stood a petite young woman with a kit bag nearly as big as herself. Having heard what was in store, I reckon the Captain's 'Oh!' was pretty tame.

Imagine an empty ocean of wild, freezing, mountainous waves that to fall into was to die. Imagine at least two weeks of appalling sea sickness, surviving on nutritious but near-inedible food, being battered, cut and bruised every single day. Imagine losing twenty percent of one's body weight in six weeks. Imagine having only two showers in that time and having to brace both legs and both arms against the walls to just about be able to sit on a loo in a cubicle



with only a frantically swaying curtain for privacy. Imagine being totally cut off from the world and having no option to leave.

Imagine the stunning isolation and beauty of an ocean almost entirely without land and other ocean-going vessels, where the 'Screaming Sixties' winds drown out the irrelevancies of normal, everyday life. Imagine the experience of a lifetime and a chance to work out what's really important.

Imagine doing it again? No, says Belinda.

Imagine myself doing it? Hell, no!



#### **100 CLUB**

April's winners were Julia Sibun (£60), Tricia Harbour (£30) and Paul Sayer (£10). May's draw is scheduled for Friday 23rd with winners to be announced on Oxhill's Facebook page and in next month's Oxhill News. If you'd like to sign up for your chance to win or are curious and would like to know more, please contact Sally Mannerings on 07769 348844 or oxhillvh@gmail.com.

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Tickets from Ali at oxhillvh@gmail.com or 07970 922352

- Friday 20th June will see the return of the **Summer Soirée**. Tickets are £15 and include canapés and two drinks so why not pull out a floaty number or your favourite shorts, cross your fingers for fabulous weather, and join us at 7pm in the Village Hall? The company, the conversation and the canapés are bound to be fantastic.
- Our **Family Barbecue** follows on 12th July and everyone is welcome, including children and grandchildren. Tickets for burgers, sausages, salad, and ice cream are £15 for adults and £8 for children. Doors, games, and the bar will open at 5pm.

#### Karen MacRae



#### **SPRING IN OXHILL**

photos by Grenville Moore and Lis Stuart











#### FRIENDS OF OXHILL CHURCH

**Oxhill's Big Weekend**, to be held on the weekend of **June 14th and 15th** is approaching fast! This year, as in 2023, the theme is sustainability and the natural world. There will be plenty to see at various locations around the village.

#### Around the village:

- Buy a programme and follow the wildlife treasure trail around the village.
- Visit the lovely garden at The Old House

#### At the Church:

- The church will be decorated with flowers and filled planters, which will be available to reserve and buy.
- The wildflower meadow in the churchyard will be looking fabulous.
- Children (or adults!) can build their own bee hotel.

#### At the Manor:

• Visit the Classic Vehicle display.

#### At the Village Hall:

- The wonderful local Artisan Market will be at the Village Hall all weekend.
- Have a glass of Pimms while you are there (afternoons only).

#### At the Old Chapel:

- Enjoy a drink with a fantastic selection of home baked cakes or stop for a Ploughman's lunch.
- But some raffle tickets and try your luck on the tombola.

Thank you to everyone who has already offered to help over the Big Weekend. I will be sorting out rotas for helpers very soon, but we really need more volunteers to ensure the weekend is a success. It is definitely an event where many hands make light work! We will need lots of cakes baked and tea servers throughout the weekend, plus people to run the Tombola and raffle. We also need plenty of Tombola and raffle prizes. Please contact me if you can help in any way.

Thank you.
Ruth Mercer
ruthc.mercer@btinternet.com 07400 615999



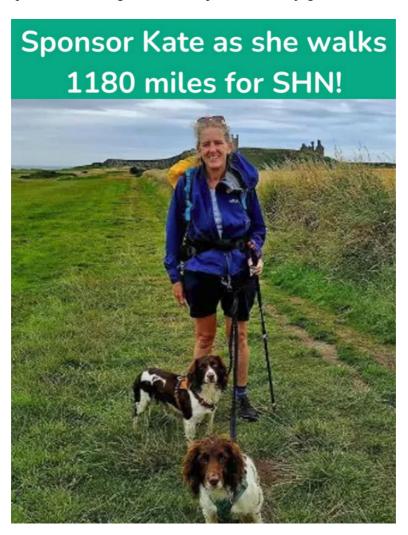


#### WALKING LANDS END TO JOHN O GROATS FOR SHN

Many you will have already read about Kate Allen's amazing fundraiser for SHN. From the 9th May, and over approximately 96 days, Kate will walk the 1180 miles between Lands End and John O Groats (LEJOG). Kate will be accompanied by her 2 Springer Spaniels (Sushi and Skittle), her friend Dana, from the States, and most importantly by her

husband Jonathan, who will be driving their motor home.

Kate will be raising money for Shipston Home Nursing, and we can't thank her enough. We'll be keeping up with her along the way and letting you all know how she's getting on. If you would like to sponsor her on this amazing adventure, please visit her fundraising page on our website: shipstonhomenursing.enthuse.com/pf/kate-allen-lejog



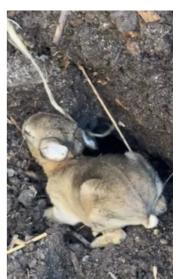


#### OWLS OXHILL WILDLIFE SOCIETY FACEBOOK GROUP

The OWLS Facebook page is treasure trove of photos and videos of amazing wildlife in and around our village. The photos below are snapshots of all you can see on the OWLS facebook page. Come join and see more!

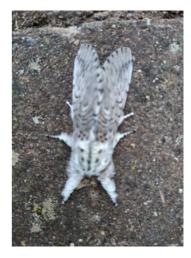




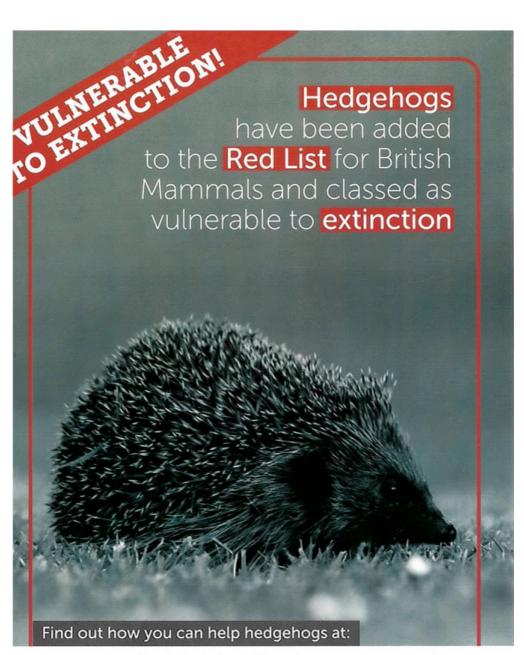


#### **TUSSOCK MOTH**

The moth is a pale Tussock Moth seen on the 16th April. Found in bushy or tree - filled places e.g. hedgerows and gardens. The adults emerge in spring and can be seen flying in May and June. Often attracted by lights, with the males sometimes turning up in large numbers. Caterpillars feed on a variety of broad leafed species including blackthorn, hawthorns, hazels crab-apple and birches. They spend the winer as a pupa amongst their feed types of in the leaf litter. Widespread through England and Wales, wingspan 42-62mm.



Lis Stuart



### www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk

British Hedgehog Preservation Society, Hedgehog House, Dhustone, Ludlow, Shropshire, SY8 3PL Tel: 01584 890801

Registered Charity Number 1164542

# ATTENTION

DID YOU KNOW WE HAVE HEDGEHOGS IN OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD?



Hedgehogs are in decline so we are very lucky to have prickly visitors!

We can all help our local 'hogs by ensuring easy access into gardens (13cm square gaps are perfect) & creating wild areas! Hedgehogs travel about a mile each night so we need to link our gardens to provide enough habitat for them!

Make sure clean water is always available, & if you'd like to supplement their natural diet you can offer meaty hedgehog, cat or dog food or cat biscuits. Who knows, we could soon hear the pitter patter of tiny 'hog feet!

If you spot one, please log your sighting at www.bighedgehogmap.org





Find out what else you can do to help our prickly pals at www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk



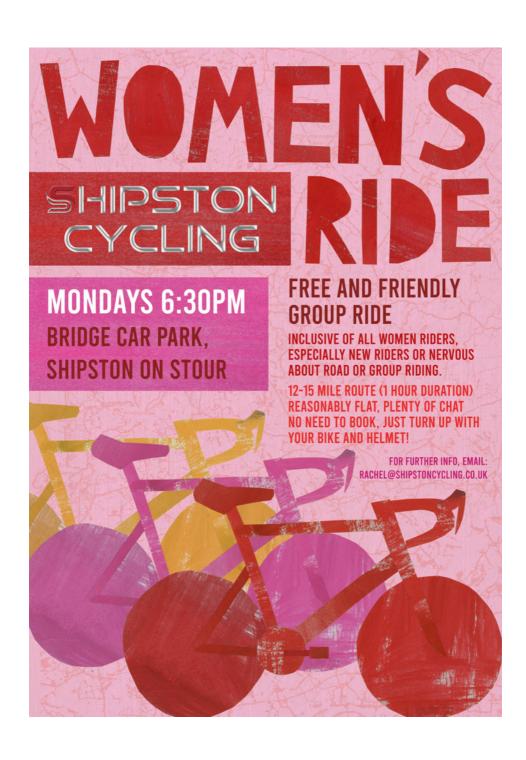
The British Hedgehog Preservation Society, Hedgehog House, Dhustone, Ludlow, Shropshire SY8 3PL Tel: 01584 890801 E-mail: info@britishhedgehogs.org.uk www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk





📵 @thehedgehogsociety 📢 🕅 @hedgehogsociety 🍴 🖸 British Hedgehog Preservation Society

Reg Charity No. 1164542



#### 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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



KINETON AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY PRESENTS:

# SUMMER ENTERTAINMENT

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

KADS

SAT 12 JULY

KINETON VILLAGE HALL

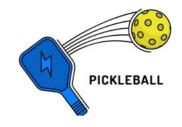
DOORS AT 7PM (7:30PM START)



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 PICKLEBALL

Due to the generosity of Mike and Karen Perry, the Oxhill Pickleball group is now well established and playing once a week on Tuesday afternoons. This is currently raising £100 per month to support the Village Hall.



Newcomers always welcome. Any questions, please ask me.

Peter Rivers Fletcher 07730 800729



#### WHAT'S ON IN & AROUND OXHILL

#### JUNE

Sun 8th	13:30-17:30	Honington Open Gardens
Sat 14th & 15th		Oxhill's Big Weekend
Fri 20th	19:00	Summer Soiree, Village Hall
Wed 25th	14:30-14:50	Mobile Library outside Village Hall
Every Thursday	12:00	Coffee Morning, Peacock Pub

#### **JULY**

Sat 12th	17:00-21:00	Village Hall Family BBQ
Sat 12th	19:00	KADS Summer Entertainment, Kineton Village Hall
Sat 19th	9:30-13:00	Red Horse- Myth, History & Landscape, Tysoe
		Village Hall

#### **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.



General refuse Garden waste