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# THE OXHILL NEWS

November 2019

No. 540



The Progressive Meal held on September 28th attracted a record number of participants.

*Editors:*

*Vanessa Druce & Roger Goodman*  
*news-editor@oxhill.org.uk*

## 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. Please email [news-editor@oxhill.org.uk](mailto:news-editor@oxhill.org.uk) or place paper contributions in the box labelled 'The Oxhill News' in the village Church.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS THE 15TH OF EVERY MONTH.

## MOBILE LIBRARY

The mobile library has books with **large print**, ordinary print, picture books, children's books, paperbacks, non-fiction, novels, sagas, crime, mysteries, adventures, westerns and romance. The van has talking books, cassettes and CDs.

The library van will continue to visit Oxhill, stopping at the Village Hall at 14:30, staying there for 30 minutes. The van will visit us on Friday November 8th and 29th.

## REFUSE COLLECTION

Recycling and green waste bins (blue and green bins) will be collected on Tuesdays 12th and 26th November. The grey rubbish bins will be collected on Tuesdays 5th and 19th November.

## WEEKDAY WALKERS

This walking group usually walks on 2nd and 4th Friday of the month. If you are interested in joining or to find out further information, please contact Jim Saxton on 680645 or email [admin@jimsaxton.co.uk](mailto:admin@jimsaxton.co.uk)

## AT THE PEACOCK

### **Village Events**

The village coffee morning is on Wednesday 6th November at 10.30 am.  
The village lunch is on Wednesday 20th November at 12:30pm.



## **NEWS FROM ST. LAWRENCE CHURCH**

November is marked by looking back and Remembering, and by the first glimpses of looking forward to the time God came to live among us. It is a time when we claim God's love and grace; to help us in the hard times of loss, and to discover it anew in the waiting for the God who comes.

**Sunday, 3rd November 9.30 am In Loving Memory**, a Service of Remembering those we have lost. This will not be communion service, instead Jill will lead a time of peace and quiet reflection, and a chance to light a candle in memory of a loved one, as we commend them to God and thank him for their life. There will be a list at the back of the church for any names you will like us to read out, even if you cannot be there, or you can email me with any names.

**Wednesday, 6th November 10.00 am Informal Holy Communion**  
at Oddcot

**Sunday, 10th November 9.30 am Remembrance Sunday Service**  
(Jill Tucker)

**Sunday, 17th November 9.30 am Parish Communion** (Tom Moffatt)

**Sunday, 24th November 6.30 pm Evensong** (Jill Tucker)

**Sunday, 1st December 9.30 am Advent Sunday, Parish Communion** (Jill Tucker)

There are always refreshments after our services, and a warm invitation to stay awhile and talk.

Also:

**Saturday, 9th November, Quiz Night in The Old Chapel, 7.00 pm, in aid of church funds. £7.50 per person for quiz and food. Do come either as a team or individuals – just let Ruth know. Tickets from Ruth Mercer, [ruthc.mercer@btinternet.com](mailto:ruthc.mercer@btinternet.com) 07400 615999**

**Saturday, 30th November, Pop up Crafts for Christmas, 10.00 am – 4.00 pm in The Old Chapel.**

Oxhill is full of hidden talents – craft makers, knitters, artists, jam makers and bakers – and the list could go on. So if you are a maker or a baker, and would like to make or bake things for sell ahead of Christmas, bring them along to The Old Chapel on Saturday, November 30th. So whether you make cards, Christmas Tree decorations, jam, mince pies or book marks, this is for you: get busy, and a special invitation to the children to make things and bring them along. (If you want ideas, Google Christmas Crafts!)

And if you would like to buy home made things for Christmas, come along and shop. And for everyone, there will be tea, coffee and cake all day long.

Donations are invited if you manage to sell anything: donations are invited for tea.

If you are wanting to sell, could you let either Ruth Mercer or myself know?

[ruthc.mercer@btinternet.com](mailto:ruthc.mercer@btinternet.com) 07400 615999

[revjill.tucker@btinternet.com](mailto:revjill.tucker@btinternet.com) 01295 688193

*Jill Tucker*

# CHURCH FUNDRAISING

## Autumn Supper - held on October 5th

The Old Chapel was full of Autumn cheer on October 5th when over 40 people sat down to enjoy a delicious hot meal. There was plenty of choice of both main course and dessert, including for gluten-free diners, and we received many compliments on the quality of the catering.

The event raised over £560 for the church, which was a fantastic result.

None of this would be possible without the hard work of the Fundraising Committee and our band of helpers so thank you to Carol, Carol, Helen, Gaida, Jerry, Diane Harper and family, Alice and Jon. Additionally, thanks to Lucy for cooking a giant lasagne at short notice.

So many people helped us clear away that we had the Chapel straight very quickly after the event: thank you to all helpers.

## Quiz Night - Saturday 9th November, 7pm in the Old Chapel



Oxhill is full of fine minds but can they take on the challenge of our quiz?

As the nights draw in, join us at the Old Chapel for an evening of interesting questions and food of course (this is Oxhill: nothing happens without food).

The quiz writer has promised to produce a quiz that will have something for everyone, suitable for all ages of adults and won't feel like you are sitting an interminable and impossible all night exam (yes, I've been to quizzes like that).

We anticipate teams to be made up of 4 members but will be happy to see teams with anything from 1-6 members. Don't worry if you want to come but don't have a team: let me know and I'll act as the Oxhill quiz team matchmaker.

Tickets are £7.50 per person and will include buffet refreshments in the middle of the evening. There will also be a donations bar offering wine, beer and soft drinks.

Call me soon as this event is proving very popular: I've received a good number of bookings already!

Ruth Mercer

[ruthc.mercer@btinternet.com](mailto:ruthc.mercer@btinternet.com) 07400 615999

## **BIG CHURCH CLEAN**

November 30th. Big clean up ready for Advent/ Christmas season. All help appreciated with brooms, dusters, polish etc. Together we can achieve a beautiful sparkling church ready for the Candlelit Carol Service on the 19th and Christmas Day.

*Carol Fox*

## LILIAN WELSBY



Very sadly, we have just heard that Lilian died in the early hours of this morning (Sunday, 20th October).

Lilian was a huge part of life in Oxhill, living in the cottage next to the Village Hall for very many years: from its garage she ran the village Post Office for some years.

She was a faithful member of the church family here, and a member of the Fundraising Committee for, we think, about 23 years; even after she moved to Brailes she continued in that capacity, always present at any church event.

She was a florist, and had never stopped doing flowers for the church and making wreaths for us all at Christmas.

We are going to miss her dreadfully.

At the time of writing, details of her funeral are not know: as soon as they are, we will let everyone know.

*Jill Tucker.*

## OXHILL GARDEN CLUB - NEWS

Despite being somewhat poorly attended, the October meeting was entertained by a fascinating presentation of vintage garden tools by John and Carol Matthews of the Vintage Garden Store in Redditch. We were shown lots of examples of various tools, many from the Victorian era, and all much better made than most current versions. Different types of forks, spades, and various unusual devices, all of which you could purchase, and which would last you a lifetime .In fact most of them had lasted a lifetime already !

Please don't miss our next meeting on Thursday 14th November. ( 7.30 pm or before for a glass of wine). Prominent historian Bill Laws is talking about 'The Curious History of Vegetables'. Those of you who are not yet members will be warmly welcomed !

A final note for all members, our Christmas Party is on Thursday 12th December at the Old Chapel. Please put it in your diary.

*Peter Rivers Fletcher*

### **CARERS4CARERS MONTHLY MEETING. FRIDAY 22ND NOVEMBER 10.30 – 12 NOON:**

Please note that *the venue has changed just for our November meeting* and will be at Kineton Methodist Church Hall, Southam Street, Kineton.

Please join us for coffee, biscuits and chat! Gillian and Val will be helping us with "Finding reliable medical information".

Please let us know in advance if you would like us to look after your loved one in our Companionship Group.

For more details, including help with transport, please phone Gillian on 01926 640203/07947 893504.

## WOT2GROW COMMUNITY ORCHARD



Autumn is the most amazing season in terms of what weather we get and how the orchard fares!!

This year has been very different from the last few and the amount of rain we can only hope will provide us with a bumper fruit crop next year. We

have had a very reasonable crop of top fruit compared with a lot of people but we do have a vast number of varieties, in excess of forty, and one hundred and eighty plus trees, a bit bigger than most people's orchard!! The high winds have meant a lot of windfalls and the slugs have had a field day but some of the fruit is in good condition and absolutely full of flavour and juiciness. The cider apples in particular have been heavy croppers and we will wait a while to make sure they are ready for production.



Michelin Cider Apple



Kingston Black

We have had an autumn visit from Tysoe School which is always a joy and such fun!!! This time it was Reception/Year1 and Year 3 so we had children who had been to the orchard previously and it was great to see their enthusiasm and to welcome them to a different scene. We walked around and saw the "Cat's Bottom" fruit (Medlars) which produced much hilarity and each child picked a Kidd's Orange Red apple from a tree to

take away for their healthy snack. They also looked for all the different colours in the fruit and trees and we look forward to their next visit in the Spring!

The bees are quiet, the grass is slowing down and we are preparing for winter which is another busy time!

Your Community Orchard just behind the allotments on the Shenington Road in Tysoe!

More information?

Liz Atkinson (680045), Paul Sayer (680451), Sue and Mike Sanderson (688080)

or see the website [www.wot2grow.co.uk](http://www.wot2grow.co.uk)

## **VACANCY ON THE PARISH COUNCIL**

There is a vacancy on the Parish Council for another Councillor and we are looking for a volunteer.

The commitment is not huge, we meet every other month and in addition there are obviously Planning proposals to be considered and potentially commented upon. However, the role is not only about Planning, any issue that affects the village can be discussed and appropriate action taken. Your PC has recently acted on Traffic Calming and previously brought the Smartwater security marking to the village and been responsible for the installation of the Defibrillator.

We do have limited funds to enable us to bring about improvements to the village and the role is both challenging and often satisfying.

We do have quite a lot of village life experience in our Councillors so this could be an opportunity for one of our new residents?

If you want any more detail, please contact me and I will do my best to answer your questions.

*Derek Harbour (Chair) 680676*

## **OWLS (OXHILL WILDLIFE SOCIETY) MEETING 15 OCTOBER 2019**

Apart from ongoing work on the churchyard, OWLS has been fairly dormant for the last twelve months, and with the increased interest in wildlife extinction and climate change, it was decided to have an open meeting to see if there were other residents who would like to get involved and bring some fresh ideas. I am pleased to say that seven new members came forward, pushing our number up to 18. OWLS was formed ten years ago and was then technically affiliated to the Parish Council. A call had gone out to all Parish Councils to explore the possibility of forming parish groups to help carry out a nationwide Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP). This aimed to improve, preserve or re-establish all forms of fauna and flora and try to link up wildlife corridors between parishes. Unfortunately, most of the funding was withdrawn and the scheme virtually died. However, many parishes carried on with the general aims of the plan.

Oxhill Wildlife Society (OWLS) was born out of this and some of the projects have been a village wildlife survey, a bat walk, a nature walk, amphibian and reptile pond dipping, kestrel and owl boxes erected, bug hotels built, and wildflower planting leading to management of part of the churchyard for wildflowers and insects.

We had a productive meeting with some good ideas being put forward. It is our intention to see more trees planted in and around the village and to get children involved, so that each child could plant and 'own' a tree. We will aim at having Forest Schooling for the youngsters as there are local people trained and qualified in this field(!) of education.

The group unanimously agreed we need to encourage more wildflowers in gardens and verges. The Parish is charged for the Council to mow our verges. If the village could manage this ourselves then we would get the money back. This has been done in Whatcote. We will do a survey around the village to look at this possibility.

Owls are hooting again!

*Grenville Moore, 01295 680664*

# OXHILL VILLAGE HALL NEWS AND EVENTS CALENDAR

## NEWS UPDATE

The exhibition of draft plans over 3 days at the end of August drew more than 50 people to the Hall, the overwhelming majority of whom were enthusiastic about the scheme. After making some amendments, that scheme has now been submitted to Stratford District Council as part of an application for planning permission, and is available to view on the Council website (Application Ref. 19/02884/FUL). If you don't have access to the Internet, or feel happier seeing the plans on paper, please contact Gill Stewart, whose contact details appear below.

## THE VILLAGE BREAKFAST

It was 'all hands on deck' on October 5th to cook and serve over 50 breakfasts for villagers. It provided an opportunity for people whose paths don't usually cross to sit and chat, and it was especially good to welcome several young families, including some new to the village. Jo and Derek were chef and sous-chef (I'm not saying which was which) and special thanks go to Karen Barker, Carol Taylor and Barbara Bicknell, all non-Committee members, whose help on the day was invaluable in keeping the show on the road.



## **SATURDAY 16th NOVEMBER CURRY NIGHT**

You were warned! At the time of going to press, this event is SOLD OUT. But Ali Sayer is running a waiting list so you may be lucky in securing a cancellation. Do let Ali (07970 922352 or [ali.sayer@btinternet.com](mailto:ali.sayer@btinternet.com)) know as soon as possible if you need to cancel your booking for any reason.

## **MONDAY DECEMBER 9th OVER 65s CHRISTMAS LUNCH:**

This ever-popular event is open to anyone in the village who is 65 or over, and their spouse/partner whatever their age, and is funded by the Village Hall Committee. Donations are by no means expected, but are of course welcome.

Invitations to those who were invited last year will be distributed at the beginning of November, but it is not too late to be added to the invitation list if you are new to the village. Let Gill Stewart know as soon as possible if you would like an invitation. Contact details: [gill@northside.me.uk](mailto:gill@northside.me.uk) or 01295 688199 or 07836 375161.

Drinks are served on arrival, followed by a traditional 3 course Christmas Lunch, followed by mince pies and entertainment.

Last year, this event was over-subscribed and in our enthusiasm to accommodate everyone, the Hall was full to capacity and a little beyond. This year the serving arrangements will be a little different and everyone should be more comfortable. We will take bookings on a first-come, first-served basis, so contact Gill (contact details above) to secure your place. When booking, tell her about any Special Dietary Requirements.

**A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY: Friday December 20th: Beer and Bubbles** Self-explanatory really! A pre-Christmas Black Tie and Posh Frocks event, with canapés, to get in the Christmas mood.

## TYSOE CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL – OCTOBER UPDATE

The busy start to the term at Tysoe CE Primary School has continued! We welcomed Ofsted for an inspection at the end of September. We await the publication of the report but we were all extremely proud of the children and the positive way they spoke about their school. The staff were recognised for their team work and dedication.

Recently there has been a special focus on literary events in school. Willow Class has been reading Shakespeare and visited the Swan Theatre in Stratford to watch the RSC production of *The Merchant of Venice*. The children were enthused by the trip and enjoyed the performance.



Oak Class have been reading *The Rabbit Problem* by Emily Gravett and presented an amazing assembly all about rabbits. They researched interesting facts and shared their writing alongside some fantastic art work.

Once again some of our older pupils will be taking part in this year's Primary Maths Challenge in November. The children have been working hard on their maths skills and we are sure they will perform well. Good luck!

We are most grateful to generous funding from Tysoe Utility Estate. This has provided funding for swimming lessons and enabled us to continue to offer a huge range of curriculum opportunities, including many visits and creative experiences such as Ryton Pools, All Things Wild and a visit from The Space Dome. With this additional funding, the range of activities has been extensive.

The Friends of Tysoe School are hosting their annual Christmas Fayre on Saturday 7th December in Tysoe Village Hall 12pm to 3pm. Please join us!

If you are a prospective parent and would like to visit, please contact Mrs. Horrocks on 01295-680244.

Paige Neale  
Head of School

## **KADS November Production**

### **The Wellesbourne Tree by Robert Leach**

A short musical documentary play about local hero Joseph Arch who died 100 years ago in Barford.

Come and hear about the life and times of this social reformer, founder of the first union for farm workers and Member of Parliament.

A light hearted play with songs takes the audience on a journey through the history of Mr Arch's life set in this part of Warwickshire.

**Performances on November 21st, 22nd & 23rd 2019 8pm**

**Tickets are £7.50. Concessions £6.00 Thursday/Friday only.**

**CONTACT 01295 680487 to book your tickets.**

**Kineton Village Hall.**

## **DOG POO IN OUR GARDEN AND AROUND THE VILLAGE.**

I was absolutely appalled by what we found in our garden, on the morning of Sunday the 29th September; we're very proud of our garden and have worked extremely hard to make it beautiful.

We live by a footpath, so we expect to see walkers, they're usually village regulars, exercising their dogs and often we'll have a chat with them. Our front garden is open, so anybody or any animal can walk in.

Well - that morning, a small dog with a tummy problem defecated on our front lawn near to the back border. Rather than attempting to pick it up, it's owner took a handful of our woodbark chippings and placed them on top of the poo.

Working in our garden, Ed saw the pile of woodbark, not knowing what was underneath, kicked it back into the border and consequently his boot was covered in extremely smelly poo.

Our Cottage backs onto Oxhill Manor fields so we can see which people pick up after their dogs. Having been a livestock owner in my previous life, I know how important it is for dog poo to be picked up in fields. Farm animals can contract dreadful diseases caused by dog poo, vaccinations do not immunise your dog from several diseases. The two diseases of particular concern that can be presented as a result of dog faeces on open land are neosporosis and sarcocystosis and can be fatal to live stock. Please pick up after your dog, it could save another animals life. Humans can also get diseases from dogs faeces, children are so vulnerable, they don't always wash their hands after playing with a ball on open land.

I know we are not the only people who are experiencing this problem. Walking down Main Street this morning I saw two front gardens where dogs have done their business and the owners haven't picked it up. I was talking to Jackie our postie when I noticed another deposit of poo in somebody's front garden. Jackie said that our village has a huge problem with dogs' poo and she sees it on the pavements all the time. This is not something that we can be proud of, let's change that!

I know that this subject has been in the Oxhill News many times in the past, but please when ever your dog defecates, whether it be in my garden, in a field, or on a pavement where a someone could step on it; please be responsible for your dog's bowel movements and pick it up at all times. Please don't leave a bag full of poo hanging in the tree or leave it by the gate. If you do pick up your dog's poo then please make sure that you take it home and dispose of it sensibly.

It is illegal to let your dog roam free on the streets unleashed, so please keep your dog on the lead, then you will be able to see when they have done their business.

I have asked the Parish Council if it would be possible to erect some poo dispenser bags in the village, although I would've thought all dog owners would carry their own bags.

I love our village and I'm very proud to be part of this wonderful community. Let's all be proud of our village and keep it dog poo free.

Many thanks. Elaine Morgan, Appletree Cottage

## **DENE VA LLEY U3A**

**Dene Valley U3A** will host a presentation by David Templeman on "Lady Arabella Stuart - The Queen that Never Was ". David will describe how Arabella, the niece of Mary, Queen of Scots, was brought up with the intention of being Queen after Elizabeth 1st but this was confounded by a combination of exploitation, politics and religion which ultimately led to her daring escape to France.

The presentation will take place at St Peter's Church, Wellesbourne, on Tues 10th December starting at 2.30pm. Non-members are welcome to attend at a nominal charge of £2 which includes refreshments. If you would like to know more about us and possibly even consider joining our organisation, then please visit our website at <http://www.denevalleyu3a.btck.co.uk> or go to our Facebook page.

**Please Note:** On the 2nd Tuesday of every month Dene Valley U3A hosts a presentation on a topic of general interest starting at 2.30pm in St Peter's Church, Wellesbourne. All welcome. Non members £2 which includes refreshments.

# **TYSOE TENNIS CLUB NEWSLETTER**

The Ladies A is in Division 5 this year and the B Team in Division 6 of the Winter League this season, so fortunately we won't meet. However, it was not not a good start for the Ladies A as we lost 4-0, despite many tie breaks, on an horrendously windy day at Wildmoor Spa, Stratford. Well tried though ladies – the conditions on those courts were not easy. The Ladies B also did not fare well and lost 4-0 to Berkswell, who are fast climbing up the ladder so, again, well tried.

The first mixed match of the Banbury Town League Mixed Winter League was a battle between the A and B Teams as we are in the same Division. It was a very hard and long-fought match, but the A Team came out winners 3:1, with the B Team putting on an excellent fight and should be justly proud of their performance. Well done everyone!

## **Junior Activity**

We are very pleased with the response to our free summer tennis at Tysoe. We have been welcoming junior players to the courts on a Sunday morning to 'give tennis a go'. The ages have ranged from 4-12 (not forgetting the brave parents who have joined in!) We are thinking about continuing to have a junior social tennis session on Sundays 09.30-10.30 for those who decide to join the Club.

If you would like to become a member and/or are interested in junior tennis sessions on Sunday mornings for your child, please get in touch.

## **Membership Fees:**

Junior (under 16) £18

Student (over 16 in full-time education) £21

Adult (over 18) £75

Family (up to 2 adults plus children under 16) £150

## **Contacts:**

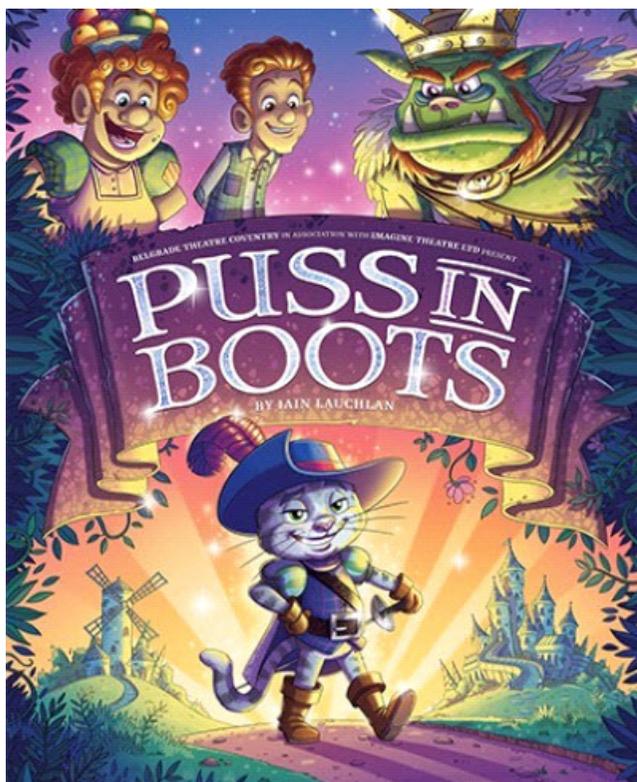
Club Secretary – Carol Spencer 07708 412767 /  
carolspencer234@hotmail.co.uk

Junior Tennis – 07796264358 / lfinlyson@live.co.uk

Website – [www.tysoetennisclub.co.uk](http://www.tysoetennisclub.co.uk)

## PUSS IN BOOTS PANTOMIME

It has become tradition for a group of people from Oxhill to go to the last night of the pantomime in Coventry, which is written and directed by Oxhill resident Ian McPherson (also known as Ian Lauchlan). Ian also stars in the show as the pantomime dame! Ian has reserved 90 tickets for the performance at 7pm on Saturday 11th January. Coaches will be organised to leave the village about 5.30 and return around 10.30. The cost of the panto tickets will be approximately £24 and the cost of the coach is not yet known (last year the coach was £7.50 a seat.)



Please contact Ali Sayer on 07970 922352 or [ali.sayer@btinternet.com](mailto:ali.sayer@btinternet.com) if you would like tickets for the panto and if you would use the coach.

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## WHAT'S ON IN & AROUND OXHILL

### November

Mon	4th	10:00	Aerobics, OVH
Tue	5th		Grey Bin Collection
Wed	6th	10:30	The Peacock - Village Coffee Morning
Fri	8th	14:30	Mobile Library - OVH
Sat	9th	19:00	Quiz Night at the Old Chapel
Mon	11th	10:00	Aerobics, OVH
Tue	12th		Blue and Green Bin Collection
Thu	14th	19:30	Oxhill Garden Club, OVH
Sat	16th		Curry Night, OVH
Mon	18th	10:00	Aerobics, OVH
Tue	19th		Grey Bin Collection
Wed	20th	12:30	The Peacock, Oxhill Village Lunch
Thu	21st to Sat	23rd	KADS Play at Kineton Village Hall
Fri	22nd	10:30 - 12:00	Carers4Carers at Kineton Methodist Church Hall
Mon	25th	10:00	Aerobics, OVH
Tue	26th		Blue and Green Bin Collection
Fri	29th	14:30	Mobile Library - OVH
Sat	30th	10:00 - 16:00	Pop Up Crafts for Christmas Old Chapel
Sat	30th	10:00	Big Church Clean, St Lawrence

### December

Tue	3rd	20:00	Parish Council Meeting, OVH
Mon	9th		Over 65s Christmas Lunch, OVH
Thu	12th		Oxhill Garden Club Christmas Party Old Chapel
Fri	20th		Beer & Bubbles, OVH

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**Next Parish Council Meeting is:**

**Tuesday, 3 December at 8.00pm in the Village Hall**