

VOL XXXXVIII NO 6

DECEMBER 2021/JANUARY 2022

ASTON ROWANT, KINGSTON BLOUNT & CROWELL

# PARISH NOTES



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Information in this publication is, as far as we know, accurate. The Parish Notes however, cannot accept responsibility for the quality of the information, services or items provided by other people or organisations.

With special thanks to our team of distributors, for their continuing hard work.



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Committee Room only	£9.50 per hour
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## USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

CAB Local office <a href="http://www.adviceguide.org.uk">www.adviceguide.org.uk</a>	01844 214827
Chinnor Village Centre	01844 353733
Church Tower, Aston Rowant: R Newton	01844 352926
Dial-a-ride (for people with mobility problems)	01869 327048
Highways Pothole Hotline	0845 3101111
Highways Street Light Hotline	0800 317802
Library-Chinnor	01844 351721
Oil Syndicate <a href="mailto:adam.bernstein@mac.com">adam.bernstein@mac.com</a>	01844 350440
Oxon County Council <a href="http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk">www.oxfordshire.gov.uk</a>	01865 792422
Police-Thame (Thames Valley)	101 or 999
Poor's Hillock Allotments: Rupert Wolstenholme <a href="mailto:Rupert.wolstenholme@btinternet.com">Rupert.wolstenholme@btinternet.com</a>	07866 302697
Porch: S Thompson	01844 351334
Porch: J Rooksby	01844 352320
Post office-Chinnor	01844 351214
Schools:	
Aston Rowant C of E School	01844 351671
Icknield Community College Watlington	01491 612691
Lord Williams School Thame	01844 210510
Mill Lane School Chinnor	01844 352106
St Andrew's C of E, Chinnor	01844 351353
SODC Main Customer Services	01235 422422
SODC Refuse/Recycling	03000 610610
SODC Planning	01235 422600
Reporting Fly-tipping	03000 610610
SODC Environmental Department	01235 422403
Village Hall Hire/Bookings: Andrea Tinson	07391 139707

## KINGSTON BLOUNT VILLAGE HALL

The Village Hall is now open for bookings. The Hall operates under a set of regulations issued under guidance from the Government. These have been continually revised throughout the pandemic and it is expected that some of the procedures, particularly those relating to cleaning of the Hall and equipment by hirers, will continue for some time after restrictions have been lifted. Hirers will be advised of the cleaning requirements closer to their scheduled booking.

**Andrea Tinson**

# PARISH COUNCIL & LOCAL CONTACTS

## Parish Website

[www.astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk)

## Parish Clerk

Tracy Lambourne

[clerk@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk)

01844 353989

07971 039612

## Parish Councillors:

Chairman Peter Tinson, Kingston Blount

[peter.tinson@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:peter.tinson@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk)

01844 352817

Councillor Matthew Day, Kingston Blount

[matthew.day@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:matthew.day@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk)

07940752446

Councillor Steven Sowerby, Kingston Blount

[steven.sowerby@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:steven.sowerby@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk)

01844 351392

Councillor Trelawney Hill, Aston Rowant

[trelawney.hill@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:trelawney.hill@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk)

01844 353051

Councillor Adam Bernstein, Aston Rowant

[adam.bernstein@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:adam.bernstein@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk)

07785 905120

Councillor Matthew Priestley, Kingston Blount

[matthew.priestley@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:matthew.priestley@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk)

07976 373512

Councillor John Wyatt, Aston Rowant

[john.wyatt@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:john.wyatt@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk)

07710 232349

## District Councillors:

Lynn Lloyd

01844 354313

[lynn.lloyd@southoxon.gov.uk](mailto:lynn.lloyd@southoxon.gov.uk)

Ian White

01844 352085

[ian.white@southoxon.gov.uk](mailto:ian.white@southoxon.gov.uk)

## County Councillor

Kate Gregory

[kate.gregory@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:kate.gregory@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

Nigel Champken-Woods

[nigel.champken-woods@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:nigel.champken-woods@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

## MP

John Howell

01491 612852

[howelljm@parliament.uk](mailto:howelljm@parliament.uk)

## Police Community Support Office

tel: 101

[ThameHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:ThameHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk)

## Village Hall Hire/Bookings

Andrea Tinson

07391 139707

[bookings@kbvh.org](mailto:bookings@kbvh.org)

## Play Area

Tracy Lambourne

01844 353989

[clerk@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk)

## Aston Rowant Cricket Club Chairman

Simon Tremlin

07780 672552

## LETTER FROM JOHN HOWELL MP

Last month I said that during the parliamentary recess I would be meeting with representatives from a number of parish councils across the constituency. This proved to be a helpful use of time and whilst there were several individual local concerns there were also some key themes emerging around transport, policing, health services and planning.

The lack of buses was raised in several parishes. I know that this has been a concern for some time, and I have met with bus companies to discuss possible strategies. The Government has recognised the importance of the bus network and has published a National Bus Strategy which is an ambitious shake-up of the bus sector which is backed with a £3 billion fund to which local councils can bid to support local investment. I am pleased that the county council is now taking advantage of this Government Strategy and has established an Enhanced Partnership with local bus companies.

With policing there were several issues around visibility of a police officer and in several parishes it was felt that higher profile could be a helpful deterrent where there are local concerns over such issues as drugs trading. There are also several parishes in the middle of the constituency affected by leisure motorbikes with issues of speed and noise. I have met with the Police and Crime Commissioner to raise these concerns and he has committed to meet with those parishes concerned with the motorbike issues and to look into the other policing issues on our behalf.

There have been a number of concerns raised with me over local health services, particularly access to GPs which have also been picked up in the media. In response to these concerns I have recently met with some of our local doctors to understand the issues from their perspective and have a greater appreciation of concerns on both sides. I am seeking meetings with senior teams in NHS Oxfordshire to discuss what can be done.

Last but by no means least there are concerns about planning and development. I am certainly very aware of these and there is no one answer which would address many individual issues. The planning system is complex and different issues need to be tackled in different ways. I have already raised some issues with Ministers directly and in debate in the House and, along with many others, am waiting with interest to see what the long-awaited planning reforms bring forward.

If there is an issue that concerns you please do let me know. You can email me at [howelljm@parliament.uk](mailto:howelljm@parliament.uk) or write to me at the House of Commons (House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA) or my constituency office (PO Box 84, Watlington, OX49 5XD).

**John Howell MP**



# LOCAL CHURCH CONTACTS

## Rector to the United Parish

The Rev'd Dr. Jacky Barr  
The Rectory, Chinnor OX39 4DH  
01844 352027 07769 825 305  
revd.jackybarr@gmail.com

## Parish Administrator

Tricia Prescott csarc@btinternet.com  
Chinnor Church Office, OX39 4PG  
01844 352472

## Associate Clergy:

Aston Rowant  
The Rev'd Des Foote 01844 355945  
The Rev'd Dr. Brian Griffiths  
01844 355953  
Crowell  
To be appointed

## Churchwardens

Aston Rowant: Richard Boarder 07795  
681263, Jeremy Wilcock 01844 761119  
Crowell: Maggie & Andy Warman  
01844 351909

## PCC Treasurer

Michael DeVal 12 Oakley Road, Chinnor  
OX39 4HB 07807 967452

For arrangements for Baptism,  
Confirmation and Marriage please  
contact the Parish  
Administrator (see above).

Methodist Services – Station Road,  
Chinnor



# DECORATING OUR CHURCHYARDS OVER THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD

We really appreciate how well so many of the graves in our churchyards are looked after. It's brilliant to see the splashes of colour that the flowers bring.

Our churchyards are not municipal cemeteries and so we do try to stick to the rules that the Church of England sets out.

We understand that it's important for many to decorate the grave sites of loved ones particularly at poignant times of the year such as Christmas.

We would like to offer you an amnesty for putting lights on the graves of your loved ones throughout November and December. We would really appreciate it if the lights could be removed by the twelfth day of Christmas (6th January).

We would also encourage you to use decorations made from natural materials such as wreaths, wood and real plants and small trees (under 2ft). We are committed to reducing the use of plastic in our churchyards so if you can avoid plastic items we'd be very grateful.

With prayers.

## The Rector and Churchwardens

(United Parish of Chinnor, Sydenham, Aston Rowant and Crowell)

Please call the Revered Jacky if you would like to discuss this further, 01844 352027



# CROWELL CHURCH

Sunday services remain on the second and fourth Sundays at 4pm until and including March 2022.

The church will always be open when the Wardens are working in it or in the churchyard. Please call the Wardens if you would like access for private prayer at other times. We are very flexible and understand needs.

Some restrictions remain in place as agreed by the PCC. They are not based on a legal requirement but are based on government recommendations, risk assessment and common sense. The main ones are that we still require masks to be worn and to either sign in by QR code or paper register. We still recommend that distance is maintained and mutual agreement be made for people to sit together.

Soul Space has been well attended at 5pm on the first Sunday of each month (silent reflection, readings and gentle music for  $\frac{3}{4}$  hour)

A Remembrance service was held at 4pm on Sunday 14th November. This was requested by Crowell residents at the village meeting earlier in the year. It was the first for very many years and we were delighted by the number of villagers that attended. Also, members of the RBL and military attended. Refreshments were served afterwards and most stayed for a chat. The collection, as with the other 3 churches in the Parish, was donated to the RBL Poppy Appeal, who were delighted with the Crowell donation. We will plan to have another Remembrance Service in 2022 and have already been promised a RBL Standard Bearer attendance with Banner.

Sunday services are still being supported by booklet for those who still do not feel comfortable in joining an attended service. Details at [chinnorunitedchurches.co.uk](http://chinnorunitedchurches.co.uk) or [oxford.anglican.org](http://oxford.anglican.org)

If anyone would like an e-copy of the monthly Chinnor Parish Magazine and/or the weekly Chinnor on-line service booklet then please e-mail the parish admin office at [csarc@btinternet.com](mailto:csarc@btinternet.com)

Maggs has been busy planting for next year in the carpark garden and that is ongoing. Some real maintenance is going to be required in the carpark drive-in shortly. We need to replace the gravel and tamp it down.

Please stay safe and continue to consider others who may still feel vulnerable.

**Andy & Maggs Warman**

(Church Wardens) 01844 351909  
[themwarmans@btinternet.com](mailto:themwarmans@btinternet.com)





# ROWLANDSCAPES

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# DECEMBER & JANUARY SERVICE ROTA

	<b>ST ANDREW'S</b> Chinnor	<b>ST PETER AND ST PAUL'S</b> Aston Rowant	<b>ST MARY'S</b> Sydenham	<b>BVM</b> Crowell
<b>1st Sunday</b> 5th Dec 2nd Advent	10.30am Holy Communion	4pm Christingle service	9am Holy Communion BCP	
<b>2nd Sunday</b> 12th Dec 3rd Advent	10.30am All age worship	9am Holy Communion	4pm Xmas carols	4pm Evening Prayer with Holy Communion
<b>3rd Sunday</b> 19th Dec 4th Advent	10.30am Holy Communion  6pm Nine lessons and Carols	3pm Nine Lessons and Carols	No evensong At St Mary's	
<b>Thursday</b> 23rd Dec				4pm Crib Service
<b>Christmas Eve</b>	4pm Crib Service  11pm Midnight Mass	4pm Crib Service	4pm Crib Service  1130pm Midnight Mass	
<b>Christmas Day</b>	10.30am Holy Communion Jacky	10am Holy Communion	9am Holy Communion	
<b>4th Sunday</b> 26th Dec	10.30am Holy Communion			
<b>1st Sunday</b> 2nd Jan	10.30am Holy Communion	4pm Evening Prayer	9am Holy Communion BCP	
<b>2nd Sunday</b> 9th Jan Epiphany	10.30am All age worship	9am Holy Communion		4pm Evening Prayer with Holy Communion
<b>3rd Sunday</b> 16th Jan	10.30am Holy Communion	9am Morning Prayer	4pm Christingle	
<b>4th Sunday</b> 23rd Jan	10.30am Holy Communion	9am Holy Communion		4pm Evening Prayer with Holy Communion
<b>5th Sunday</b> 30th Jan	United Parish service 10.30am St Andrew's			

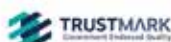


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## ASTON ROWANT PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

There have been a number of developments regarding traffic calming and speed monitoring measures in the past two months. I am pleased to report that the Highway Management Committee of Oxfordshire County Council met in October and recommended that both the proposed chicane on the B4009 in Aston Rowant and the introduction of a 20mph speed limit in Aston Rowant village be approved. The Parish Council will continue to work with the County Council to implement these measures. Our thanks to Councillors John Wyatt and Matt Day for their work on these measures.

Oxfordshire County Council has launched its much-anticipated new 20mph policy. The policy changes the Council's approach and acceptance of 20mph restrictions will enable a much greater coverage across Oxfordshire. We are now investigating how we can introduce further 20mph restrictions in the Parish following the recommendation for a 20mph limit in Aston Rowant village.

A number of parishioners have joined the Parish Community Speedwatch scheme. As noted in the last edition of the Notes, we are looking for volunteers to help monitor speed throughout the Parish. Volunteers need to register on the Community Speedwatch website (<https://www.communityspeedwatch.org/>), complete training on the code of conduct and health and safety measures and join the Kingston Blount Aston Rowant group.

I am pleased to report that Openreach has confirmed that the scheme to bring FTTP (Fibre to the premise) to the parish has been approved by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. Residents now need to confirm their interest by pledging their commitment to Openreach. We are grateful to Councillor Adam Bernstein for his work in coordinating this work. Adam has given details of the next steps on Page 17.

Unfortunately there have been a number of incidents recently where dogs have bitten people, attacked other dogs or caused alarm amongst the public. The picture shows the aftermath of 90 minutes of procedures with the plastics team after an incident where a dog owner intervened when his dog was being attacked by another. Clearly the vast majority of dogs are well behaved but even a friendly dog running up to a nervous person can cause alarm. Whilst the parish council has no jurisdiction (it is a matter for the Police), we would ask that dog owners remember their obligation to keep their dogs under control at all times when in a public space. The Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 covers not just situations where a dog has bitten someone, but also where it causes someone to have a 'reasonable' fear they could





be injured. No-one wants to see a situation where action is taken against a dog owner in our Parish.

A number of parishioners responded to my plea for volunteers to help organise celebrations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. As is often the case, the team are looking for more volunteers; if you are able to help, please contact Kathi Davis at [platinumjubilee2021@gmail.com](mailto:platinumjubilee2021@gmail.com).

Last Christmas the country was in lockdown with visits to and from friends and family severely restricted. Hopefully this year we will be able to meet and gather in larger numbers to celebrate over the festive season. I wish you all the best for Christmas and the New Year.

### **Peter Tinson**

Chairman – Aston Rowant Parish Council



## **PLESTED BUTCHERS**

20 CHURCH RD, CHIINNOR, OX39 4PG  
01844 353432

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**MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR**

# ASTON ROWANT PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

Parish Council meetings were held on Wednesday 13th October and Wednesday 10th November 2021 where the applications detailed below were discussed.

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday 8th December

## PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

**P21/S1458/FUL** Amendment (no. 2) for development work at: Wayside Stert Road K.Stert, per information received 23 September 2021 (Ecology Report/Bat Survey).

**P21/S3989/HH** Single storey side extension and first floor side/rear extension to existing house at: 9 The Rise KB.

## WITHDRAWN APPLICATIONS:

**P21/S1890/HH** New roof over existing garage at Belvedere Cottage Pleck Lane KB. Withdrawn by applicants.

## PLANNING DECISIONS OF SODC:

**P21/S2922/HH** Single storey extension to the rear at 1 Bennetts Yard KB. GRANTED.

**P21/S3385/HH** Single Storey Rear & Two Storey Side Extensions at Chilterns Edge Chinnor Road AR. GRANTED.

**P21/S2755/FUL** (Land adjacent to Queensgate, Aston Rowant) Erection of a new detached dwelling and carport (amended plans received 8th August 2021 relocating proposed car port, together with an additional planning statement. Further arboricultural information received 12th August 2021. Energy statement received 10th September 2021. Revised energy statement submitted 20th September 2021. GRANTED.

## PLANNING DECISIONS MADE SINCE THE LAST MEETING:

None

## PLANNING INSPECTORATE APPEAL:

**APP/Q3115/W/20/3263533** Aston Cottage Church Lane, Aston Rowant

### UPDATE ONLY, APPEAL DECISION STILL AWAITED ###

Please note that all Planning Applications for the Parish can be found on the Parish Council Website: <http://www.astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk> under 'Parish Council' and then 'Planning'.

All past minutes of Aston Rowant Parish Council (Including the Annual Parish Meeting) can be found under: <http://www.astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk> under 'Parish Council' and then 'Meetings'.

Occasional updates concerning the Parish are added to the Parish Council's website and Facebook pages as well as the Kingston Blount/Aston Rowant (KBAR) Facebook page.

**Tracy Lambourne**

Clerk to Aston Rowant Parish Council



# THE COUNTRY WORKSHOP



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Based locally in Kingston Blount, near Chinnor and serving all of the Chilterns area

The scheme to bring FTTP to the parish has been approved by DCMS and “declared active” by Openreach. It can now start to process applications for each resident.

Residents need to visit [www.openreach.co.uk/connectmycommunity](http://www.openreach.co.uk/connectmycommunity). Ignore the name ‘Aston Park’; that will be corrected. The link will ask for your details for the pledge. This will be passed to DCMS which will email directly to verify the voucher. Openreach will submit the pledges in batches so don’t be surprised if there’s a delay between your pledge going onto Openreach and DCMS making contact.

**We have until 13 February 2022** to get all the pledges in. If we don’t get enough then the scheme will not go ahead.

The link above will only permit addresses from our community to access and register. Also, be aware that once you pledge, and the install goes ahead, you have two months to sign up for FTTP with the ISP of your choice. **If you do not, then Openreach may reclaim costs from you.** Remember, you can choose any provider you wish – BT, Sky, Talk Talk and so on. Once Openreach has all the vouchers validated, and returned, and the gap cost is covered by funding, it should then be able to proceed forward to delivery.

As for cost of a fibre service, Openreach doesn’t set the pricing – that’s down to your chosen ISP and the package you select. However, you can expect to pay in the range of £30-60 per month. That said, you can make a huge saving by cancelling your landline **\*\*unless\*\*** your package contractually requires you to have one. Naturally, it’s up to each resident to check their contract before cancelling.

In an age of mobile telephony many rarely use a landline to make calls. But for those that want to keep their landline number, it’s perfectly possible that an ISP will let them port their landline number to a VOIP service (Voice over Internet Protocol – think internet phone... see <https://techterms.com/definition/voip>) for a minimal charge.

Remember, fibre isn’t wholly about speed (although that’s a key reason), it’s also about stability and reliability. Don’t misunderstand me, fibre isn’t perfect, but it’s a whole lot more reliable than a copper wire.

Lastly, can I ask that you all **let me know when you’ve made your pledge** via the email address below. I’d like to keep close tabs on the process.

**Adam Bernstein**

[adam.bernstein@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:adam.bernstein@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk)

## CITIZENS ADVICE INFORMATION ON VANISHING ENERGY SUPPLIERS

Many people have had the disconcerting experience of seeing their energy supplier break up and go out of business during the recent energy price fluctuations. It sounds pretty drastic, but the situation isn't as bad as it seems.

If you are one of those affected, remember these key facts: first of all, the gas or electricity supply itself won't be interrupted, so don't be concerned about that. Next, you should know that Ofgem, the industry regulator, will automatically move you to a new supplier. This usually takes a few weeks.

Wait for your new supplier to contact you. They will explain what will happen with your new account. But contact the new supplier yourself if you haven't heard from them within two weeks. You can check on [www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk) ("check who's taken over your energy supply") if you're not sure who your new supplier is.

While you're waiting to hear from the new supplier, it's a good idea to take meter readings (and a photo of the readings) as they might prove useful later. Make a note of your account balance too. Keep any old bills you have, as these can help prove your payment history, credit balance or debt.

If you aren't happy with your new supplier or tariff, you can switch suppliers. Look at "switch energy supplier" on our website or ring the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on 0808 223 1133.

Many people are seeing their energy bills increase significantly. If you are one of them, and worried about being able to meet these higher energy payments, please contact Citizens Advice on our Adviceline number 0808 278 7907.

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## ARPC FOOTPATH AND AMENITIES GROUP

The autumn season is now fully with us, the sight of the wonderful colour in the turning leaves is amazing, and walkers can kick through leaves all pretending we are children again. It is a wonderful time of year.

But the leaves do cause problems, so can I respectfully ask all landowners to ensure their grips are clear and that all householders keep the ditches open so we don't have the flooding issues of last winter. This is especially relevant in Aston Rowant - can I thank you in advance for your work.

Walkers going down Church Lane will see that the first phase of the upgrade has been completed, as the scalplings have been put down. George Stevens will fill in the potholes that are left before the winter. Can I thank both the parish council for funding the work and George for his help and advice.

Mike Eaton will comment on the work done on the stream at Fiveways in his report. We have been in contact with both SODC and OCC with reference to the project to improve the lanes in Kingston Blount. I have also spoken to the majority of the householders whose properties back onto the lanes and there is a consensus emerging of what we want to do, but as it is within the conservation area we must consult and get agreement from SODC.

Whilst researching the lanes I have come across a reference from 1988 which refers to the lane running between the High Street and Brook Street as 'Messums Lane'. In my 20 years in the village I have not heard of this name - if anyone can pass on any information on this name, I would be very grateful

Can I once again repeat the request from previous notes - if you have an idea or a project you would like us to consider please contact me? As a group we will meet in February to discuss next year's objectives. If you would like to join the group, again please get in touch.

Finally, there are 2 dates for your diary.

**Jan 9th 2022** annual New Year parish walk, see Peter Hetherington's article for details. Thanks again to Peter for organising and leading this walk.

**Feb 20th 2022** Snowdrop Sunday, and Duck Races down Church Lane and Cream Teas in Aston Rowant Church - more details to follow.

### Steven Sowerby

Chair of Footpaths and Amenities Group

[steven.sowerby@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:steven.sowerby@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk)

01844 351392

## NOTICEBOARD

What's going on in Kingston Blount,  
Aston Rowant & nearby



## USED POSTAGE STAMPS

A big thank you to all the people who have put their used stamps through my letterbox. I do not always see who is the deliverer so please accept this as a personal thank you. For anyone new to the Parish, I collect used stamps and take them to the Sobell Shop in Thame. The volunteers there are very grateful for them as they raise funds at just a little effort and at no cost to us. More stamps always welcome at:

Meadow Vale, Pleck Lane. The bungalow behind the picket fence.

**Shirley Smith**

On behalf of Sobell House

## POOR'S HILLOCKS GARDENS KINGSTON BLOUNT

There are some vacant allotment plots in Kingston Blount available to rent. You do not have to be a resident of Kingston Blount to lease a plot. The rent for a 5 pole plot is £5.50. There is an additional fee of £4 per Annum to the National Allotment Society and Insurance. If you would be interested in renting one of the vacant plots and/or would like more information, please contact Fran at: francesca.musaeus@hotmail.com

## PARISH NOTES

Please get in touch if you have anything you think we could feature in future issues of the Parish Notes: If you have a new neighbour, or would like to announce any births, marriages or deaths. Maybe you have an interesting story about the area or someone who lives in the area: It would also be great to feature photos and illustrations – I'm always looking for pictures to add to the pages! All ideas welcome.

If you have anything you'd like to see in the next issue please get in touch anytime.

**Copy deadline for the February/March issue is 15th January.**

Email: sallyparishnotes@gmail.com

## TRADITIONAL NEW YEAR PARISH WALK

**Sunday 9th January 2022 10am**

Meet at Lambert Hotel for a 6.2 mile walk. Parking available either to the left side of the minor road to Lewknor near the hotel or on the right hand side of Butts Way. The walk will follow the Aston Rowant Discovery Trail (to see the route online go to [www.chilternsaonb.org/ccbmaps/1607/137/aston-rowant-discovery-trail](http://www.chilternsaonb.org/ccbmaps/1607/137/aston-rowant-discovery-trail)). Lewknor, Hill Road, Ridgeway, Aston Rowant Nature Reserve and Beacon Hill, National Trust Aston Woods and Juniper Bank, returning via Woodway Farm.

We expect to be back by 13.00.

Please wear boots and bring a snack and water.

Do not park in the Hotel Car park unless booked in for lunch.

Everyone is very welcome, it is free of charge and we walk at a leisurely pace and stop from time to time to look at the scenery and talk about some of the history of the area.

Hope you can join us.

**There is no need to book for the walk.**

This is a joint event organised by Aston Rowant Parish Council with Thame and Wheatley Ramblers.

**Peter Hetherington**

Walk leader

07767 647714

## THE 'CHRISTMAS BOOK FLOOD'

One tradition that could help with some much needed space creation is the Icelandic notion of Jólábókaflód or the Christmas Book Flood.

Every Christmas Eve Icelanders will give each other a book, which is meant to be read immediately, cosied up with cocoa and situated by a roaring fire if possible.

Why not initiate a Jólábókafló and gift those tomes you know you'll never read (or have already read) to a needy friend or relative?





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## NEWS FROM FIVEWAYS

With a small band of helpers we have cleared the stream and cut back the growth on the banks in preparation for the duck racing, hopefully on 20th February 2022. The growth was excessive this year. There remains more to do as the ducks try to hide when released into the vegetation that has grown into the stream. They are rescued by my band of young helpers on the day with various tools.

Keen observers will note that the track has been partly resurfaced and “regripped” to run the water off. Thanks go to the Parish Council for funding it. Please do not put garden waste in the ditches for the PC to clear for you! The stream exit from Fiveways has been dug out to try to stop flooding.... we will see if it works. This reminds me that the stream downstream of the central bridge is advanced wading only! It is easy to get stuck in there because of the build up of fine silt. If you go in you will likely need help to get out , especially if you stop. I speak from experience. Others have taken it as a challenge.

There were winners and losers amongst the plants this year. The Burdocks did very well as did the wood anemones and daffodils but the bluebells made no progress. The yellow toadflax expanded its range significantly but flowered very little by comparison to last year. Another success is the holly which is starting to line the track as intended, but sadly essentially berry free for Christmas. The Holm oak which is a neophyte i.e. an introduced species (ca 1600) is making substantial growth near the signpost. The Footpath group has learnt that it is better to plant small and wait - large plants and trees look good but die when not watered in the Summer.

The sycamore trees at Fiveways are problematic as many are diseased, as is common across the country. I am not certain however what the particular problem is and would appreciate advice if anyone knows.

Fiveways is probably the most popular dog walking route in the parish and I thank owners for keeping it mainly poo free. Please feel free to feed the water shrews with fallen apples - they appreciate them and they are eaten in a few days (see picture opposite). They mainly live on the far bank.





It has come to my attention that some of our local youth have discovered the pleasures of crayfish fishing in our streams. I will not mention the best places as it will lead to overcrowding. Please be mindful of hazards. There are no crayfish in Aston lake - it could be the fish are eating them. They are very vulnerable when moulting and are a favourite of carp.

I would be interested to hear of any fish seen in the local streams. The trout migrate upstream to spawn in the coming months when the water is high. They are seen in Lewknor but absent here in recent years.



**Mike Eaton**

mike.eaton@btopenworld.com

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# NEWS FROM ARCC

May we offer early best wishes and seasonal greetings to everyone connected with the club whether they be members or spectators.

As usual at this time of year there is little activity at the club, the most important event being the club AGM which will be held on December the 7th on zoom .

Another date for your diaries is Sunday December the 19th when we will once again be holding the traditional pre-Xmas Cheese and wine get together at lunchtime. This year we will also be able to see the fantastic Thame tractor run, so come along and watch in safety whilst enjoying a drink from the bar.

We have good news from Australia where Linsey Smith and Maia Bouchier are both playing for Melbourne Stars in the Women's Big Bash League, which is live on Sky but it is in the early hours of the morning. Also, both Will Hammersley and Casper Mason are furthering their cricket education by playing in South Africa this winter. Good luck to all of them.

## 2021 Club Awards

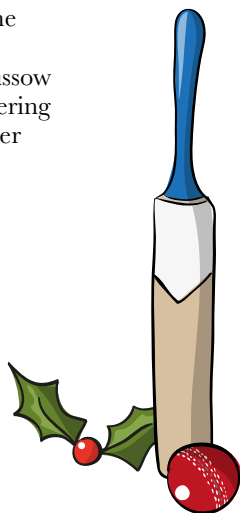
Following the recent club awards nights the award winners for 2021 are:

### Seniors

1st team player of season:	Tom Condon
2nd team player of season:	Will Dobson
3rd team player of season (Ron McQueen Trophy):	Tim Foster
4th team player of season:	Dave Ridgely
Team of the year:	2nd Team
The Roy Blake Trophy (player who has done most off the field to help the club)	Jamie Revill
The Dudley Lambourne Trophy for best junior player (in adult cricket)	Tristan Roussow
The John Pearce Trophy for Sportsmanship	Will Dobson
The Committee Cup for a non-playing member who has really helped the club during the year	Mandy Brine
The Paul Humphreys Trophy (for the junior who has the most impact on the club on or off the pitch)	Tristan Roussow
The Eric Lambourne: Bowling Award	Max Mannering
The Presidents Cup:	Thad Cooper

### Juniors

U15	
Player of Year:	Oli Veal
Most Improved Player:	Lewis North
U13	
Player of Year:	Finley Little
Most Improved Player:	Charlie Lippett
U11	
Player of Year:	Otto Norris
Most Improved Player:	Niamh Rogan



U9

Player of Year: Teddy Frieda

Most Improved Player: Freddy Rowland-Clark  
Girls

Most Improved Player: Lily Cooper

Congratulations to all who won this year.

One of the things we can do in the close season is to prepare for next season in terms of training. Should anyone wish to learn how to coach, score or umpire then training courses are available which the club will help with the costs. If interested please contact myself or any of the club members.

Finally, as a club we would like to thank Simon Tremlin who is stepping down as Chairman after 3 years. It is impossible to describe in these few words the impact Simon has had on the club but it is no exaggeration to say that many of the changes seen at the club in the last few years would not have happened without him. Simon remains on the committee and so we will still be able to tap into his amazing cricket knowledge. Thanks again Simon for all your hard work.

**Steven Sowerby**

Aston Rowant CC

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## MARK LORD, LOCAL PHOTOGRAPHER

Many of you may have met Mark during his doorstep project in 2020 when he photographed the residents of Kingston Blount & Aston Rowant to mark 75 years since VE Day. In all Mark photographed 75 households on their doorsteps during lockdown 1 & last Summer. The images will be on display in the village hall soon. Mark has lived in Aston Rowant for almost ten years & is often seen out with his camera photographing his clients using our lovely local countryside as a backdrop. Book Mark to photograph your family & you will meet at his home in Aston Rowant before walking down towards Fiveways. A relaxed family shoot, the walk helps everyone unwind, interact & Mark will capture some beautiful images which your family will treasure for years to come. After the shoot you will receive a secure online gallery from which you can choose digital files, prints or he also has some stunning wall products to choose from. Portrait shoots from Mark's home are £25, or a shoot can be arranged at your family home if you prefer.

Please contact Mark for more information.

[info@marklordphotography.co.uk](mailto:info@marklordphotography.co.uk)

01844 351218



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# LETTER FROM A HEADTEACHER

## **Small School, Big Impact**

Education is an essential factor in the ever more urgent global fight against climate change. Knowledge regarding this phenomenon helps young people to understand and tackle the consequences of global warming, encourages them to change their behaviour and helps them to adapt to what is already a global emergency.

Benjamin Franklin once wrote: 'An investment in knowledge pays the best interest' and this is pertinent to all environmental matters and especially anything related to climate change. At Aston Rowant School we believe that education is all about preparing children for the future and climate change is a key element within that. Our children are actively encouraged to think about what they can do to make the world a better and safer place for their generation. We run our Forest Friday programme for every child each week using our fabulous outside space as a classroom, we have an Eco Warriors group and set weekly Climate Warriors challenges in our newsletter.

In the summer term all of our KS2 children joined in a national competition run by The Rotary Club to design a climate change poster which would convey their message to the world on what needs to be done to make the world a better and safer place for their generation. Of the thousands of posters designed across the UK the top 20 which went on display at the COP26 conference, included 2 from Aston Rowant School. I am proud to say that in the final stage of the competition one of our Year 6 children was runner up.

We may be a small school but designing posters for the COP26 Conference on Climate Change, running Forest Friday and having our Eco Warriors is how we make a big impact on the world!

## **Mrs Helen France**

Headteacher,  
Aston Rowant School



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# CLARE'S LONDON MARATHON



My marathon journey started all the way back in April 2019 when I entered the 2020 London Marathon after feeling inspired by watching it on TV and knowing I would be 40 for the 40th Marathon in London. I had been through a terrible time that year mentally and suffered quite badly with anxiety brought on by various incidents. Running was my escape from my thoughts and helped me so much.

Then in the October I received the newsletter saying 'You're In'!! I thought it was a joke, but it definitely wasn't and I got through first time into the ballot!! As it wasn't a charity placement and I wanted to give something back to a charity that had helped me, I decided to raise money for MIND.

My training was soon underway but then Covid 19 shook everyone's world and we were told the race couldn't happen in April 2020 but would become a virtual event in October 2020. I did it around the surrounding villages on the worst day in October where paths were flooded and the wind cut through you. With the support of friends and family I completed 26.2 miles in 5:15. Keeping a base line fitness level and fast forwarding to 2021, we were told the Marathon would go ahead in October, in London, under strict rules.

My training started again, running through summer days and nights, trying not to get heat stroke (like the previous year) and with so many villagers shouting out kind encouraging words, I was more determined than ever to beat my previous year's time.

Finally when race day came, my husband and I made our way up to London. Even writing this, I am getting emotional!

He dropped me off at the start and made his way to his (first of many) viewing areas around London.

Due to covid restrictions, everyone had to go off in waves; set times based on your predicted finish time. As mine was the 5hr mark, I ended up being with all of the runners that dress up. The race started and the crowds were out of this world. So many people, so many signs, so much noise and support, it was incredible. I literally did not take the smile off of my face the whole way around! Actually that's a lie... at mile 18-19 when I hit a low point and my body was asking me what the hell I was doing and I saw my husband and broke down in tears.

A few people happened to be in London and came along and cheered as they were tracking me on the app. When you hear your name it sends tingles through you and gives you that extra push you need, especially at mile 21 when the heavens opened for 20mins.

I finished the run in 4:56 and was ever so chuffed. After the past two years it was a long time coming and I am left with a memory that I will never forget, a jaw ache from smiling so much, a very large medal taking pride of place with my previous years one and an experience of a lifetime. Do it, enter the marathon, you'll thank me after!

I raised over £1000 for MIND after doing two marathons in two years.





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- working with the headteacher to deliver continuous improvement for the educational performance of the school and its pupils;
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At Aston Rowant Primary School, we have completed two years of a five-year programme to improve the quality of teaching, increase pupil numbers and develop the long-term viability of the school. But we need more help to do more if we are to achieve our goals.

We meet every term to oversee school performance and progress of improvement action plans. In between meetings, we gather and review details of the numerous topics and issues which contribute to the everyday activities of a school, such as safe guarding, health and safety, finance, teaching and learning.

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- a chance to develop skills in strategic management;
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Are you hoping to go to university or college in 2022? Will your child be moving up to secondary school in 2022? Is there a school trip you can't afford or are you looking at doing the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme? Grants are available to help with these costs.

For more details or to apply please contact the administrator:

## **Peter Lambert**

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Address: 1 Old Croft Close, Kingston Blount

Email: [peter.lambert123@btinternet.com](mailto:peter.lambert123@btinternet.com)

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Managing the council's finances and preparing the annual accounts.

Previous experience in a similar role would be an advantage but not essential as training will be provided if this is not the case.

If you would like to apply for this post, please send a brief resumé by email to [clerk@tetsworthparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:clerk@tetsworthparishcouncil.co.uk) by 31st December 2021. If you would like more information first or have any questions, contact Paul Carr at [paul.tetsworthpc@gmail.com](mailto:paul.tetsworthpc@gmail.com) or on 07523 907741 or 07545 323317



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## CHRISTMAS WISHES FROM JOHN HOWELL MP

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all constituents a peaceful Christmas and to send my best wishes for the year ahead. I am sure that we all hope it will be a happier and easier one than this year has been. I know that for some the pandemic and bereavement have left life forever changed. No words can ease that and I offer my deepest sympathies to all of you who face such loss. For others the struggles have been different with livelihoods and mental health challenged. I cannot list all of the difficulties that people have faced but for all I do sincerely hope that the peace of the Christmas season may bring some comfort.



Whilst next year will bring its own concerns I am optimistic that the tide is turning. May I take this opportunity to pass on my heartfelt thanks to all who have worked in these times to ease the problems of others - those in our health services and many beyond in our communities who have worked supporting others. Thank you all.

Whatever your beliefs may I wish you the peace and joy of the season.

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# *Christmas in the United Parish*

**4th December-12th December Christmas Tree Festival**  
2pm-5pm St Andrew's Chinnor

**Sunday 5th December**  
4pm St Peter & St Paul's, Aston Rowant

**Sunday 12th December Nine Lessons and Carols**  
4pm St Mary's, Sydenham

**Saturday 18th December Carols and Readings**  
7pm BVM, Crowell

**Sunday 19th December Nine Lessons and Carols**  
3pm St Peter & St Paul's, Aston Rowant  
6pm St Andrew's, Chinnor

**Thursday 23rd December Crib Service**  
6pm BVM, Crowell

**Friday 24th December Crib Service**  
4pm St Andrew's Chinnor  
4pm St Peter & St Paul's, Aston Rowant  
4pm St Mary's, Sydenham

**Friday 24th December Midnight Mass**  
11pm St Andrew's, Chinnor  
11.30pm St Mary's, Sydenham

**Christmas Day Holy Communion**  
10am St. Andrew's Chinnor  
10am St Peter & St Paul's, Aston Rowant

If you have anything you'd like to see in the next issue please get in touch.

**Copy deadline for the February/March issue is 15th January.**

Email: [sallyparishnotes@gmail.com](mailto:sallyparishnotes@gmail.com)