

VOL XXXIX NO 5

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 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.

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USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

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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 adam.bernstein@mac.com	01844 350440
Oxon County Council www.oxfordshire.gov.uk	01865 792422
Police-Thame (Thames Valley)	101 or 999
Poor's Hillock Allotments: Francesca Musaeus francesca.musaeus@hotmail.com	
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

Parish Clerk

Tracy Lambourne

clerk@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk

01844 353989

07971 039612

Parish Councillors:

Chairman Peter Tinson, Kingston Blount

peter.tinson@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk

01844 352817

Councillor Matthew Day, Kingston Blount

matthew.day@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk

07940752446

Councillor Steven Sowerby, Kingston Blount

steven.sowerby@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk

01844 351392

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adam.bernstein@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk

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07976 373512

Councillor John Wyatt, Aston Rowant

john.wyatt@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk

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District Councillors:

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01844 354313

lynn.lloyd@southoxon.gov.uk

Ian White

01844 352085

ian.white@southoxon.gov.uk

County Councillor

Kate Gregory

kate.gregory@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Nigel Champken-Woods

nigel.champken-woods@oxfordshire.gov.uk

MP

John Howell

01491 612852

howelljm@parliament.uk

Police Community Support Office

tel: 101

ThameHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

Village Hall Hire/Bookings

Andrea Tinson

07391 139707

bookings@kbvh.org

Play Area

Tracy Lambourne

01844 353989

clerk@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk

Aston Rowant Cricket Club Chairman

Josh Smith

07894 201 929

chairman@astonrowantcc.com

LETTER FROM JOHN HOWELL MP

I join with people from across the world to express my deep sadness at the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. My deepest sympathies to King Charles III, his Queen Consort and all of the Royal Family at their loss. The affection that Her Majesty showed to all those she met is now reciprocated in the outpouring of grief. She will be sorely missed. May she rest in peace. Long live the King.

The House returned from the summer recess on Monday 5th September. It was always going to be an historic week with the incoming of a new Prime Minister on 6th September. The fact that the resignation of one Prime Minister and the invitation to another took place at Balmoral instead of the traditional Buckingham Palace was no great surprise as we have seen the frailty of the Queen in recent months. No one questioned the decision of a lady in her 90s asking for others to come to her. Having seen these events at Balmoral only a few days before her death meant that the news of her death came all the more as a shock, her dedication to duty and her service to the nation continuing to the end.

Having had one Monarch for seven decades most of us are seeing events that have not taken place in our lifetime and indeed with the advent of television during the late Queen's reign some of these ceremonies have never before been seen by more than a few. We greet our new King and indeed, barring tragedy, it will be a King that we welcome for the foreseeable future.

In Parliament normal business was suspended as we entered a period of national mourning. The House sat for two days to enable MPs and Lords to pay tribute to the late Queen, and for oaths to be sworn to His Majesty the King. The Palace of Westminster was prepared for the Lying in State and other procedural and ceremonial events. The timing is such that following the period of national mourning we would be entering the annual period of Party Conferences. However at the time of writing it is not clear whether these will go ahead and thus what the schedule for the sitting of the House will be. By the time this newsletter is published this will have been decided.

When the House returns there will be much to do, and the new Prime Minister will be able to proceed with her agenda to address the critical issues that our country faces. It is good that she just managed to squeeze in the key announcement on the support for people in relation to the energy crisis before these historical events took place. This has been widely welcomed.

If there is an issue that concerns you please do share your thoughts. Email is the easiest way if you have access to that. My email address is john.howell.mp@parliament.uk.

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 Ministers:

Aston Rowant

The Rev'd Des Foote 01844 355945
The Rev'd Dr. Brian Griffiths 01844 355953
The Rev'd Joan De Val 01844 353404
Margaret Poole 01844 281042

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



CROWELL CHURCH

Soul Space resumed on 4 September and continues on the first Sunday of each month.

November – March services will start at 16:00 except Soul Space which will stay at 17:00.

We held special services to commemorate the life of HRH Queen Elizabeth II. These were well attended with a guest appearance from Paddington Bear.

Future work parties are planned for 15 Oct and 19 Nov both starting at 10:00. If you can spare a couple of hours then you will be most welcome. The priority tasks are to get all the ivy off the graveyard wall without damaging the wall, move two composts heaps to the new more acceptable area, remove the unsightly plastic on the heaps and start to clear the old overgrown graves. We do have a few tools for these tasks but please bring your own if you have them. If the weather is bad then we will concentrate on work needed within the church.

Work on the car park garden continues at a pace with the help of a volunteer and it is starting to return to its pre-pandemic status.

We were sorry that the planned harvest 'Bring and Share' supper had to be cancelled due to lack of numbers and understand that the notice was too short for many. We will be discussing what appropriate notice times should be with the Rector at the next PCC. We thank those who could have supported and those that were unable to do so due to prior commitments. Although still to be approved by the Rector, we are looking to plan another for the 23 Oct.

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

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

Andy & Maggs Warman

(Church Wardens)

01844 351909

themwarmans@btinternet.com





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ASTON ROWANT PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

In common with many public services and government offices, Council business was suspended during the period of mourning for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Instead, Councillors staffed sessions where parishioners could sign a book of condolences to commemorate the Queen's passing. It was an opportunity for people to reflect, and to share their emotions.

It was clear that the Queen touched all our lives – the youngest signatory is five and the oldest in her nineties. Several people arrived with notes already prepared; all expressed a sense of gratitude for the Queen's commitment and service. One person told me that, although he was not a monarchist, he wanted to sign the book of condolence to recognise Her Majesty's contribution to the country. He wrote "you were an inspiration to your nation and an example to all other heads of state". Quite frankly, she was an inspiration to us all.

In my last report, I noted the Council's disappointment that a planning application for the development of over fifty residences on the south side of the B4009 in Chinnor had been approved by the planning inspectorate. Sadly, since that application was approved, there has been another application, this time for the development of thirty two dwellings off Oakley Road. We have submitted our objection to the proposal and a substantial number of Chinnor residents have also voiced their opposition. The application is currently under consideration by the district's planning team; we await their decision with interest.


Our Parish is not immune from the planning interest. The Parish Council has been approached by a developer regarding a potential development on land to the south of the B4009 at the Crowell end of Kingston Blount. We have arranged a public meeting for 7:30pm on Tuesday 4th October in Kingston Blount Village Hall to allow the developers to present their ideas to parishioners, and for a public discussion on the proposals.

Preparation for winter

The past decade has seen more extreme weather than previous years – this year we have suffered both violent storms and drought. With winter fast approaching, there are various measures that should be taken to help reduce the potential impact of extreme weather. The Parish Council has already checked the levels of salt in the bins placed around the parish so that roads and pavements can be kept ice free.

I am sure that I don't need to remind too many people of the impact that Storms Eunice and Franklin had on households in the Parish – heavy rain and strong winds resulted in flooding and, in some cases, the loss of power for over eighty hours.

It is important to ensure that all ditches are well maintained and kept clear to reduce the risk of flooding. It is landowners' responsibility to maintain ditches that run across or in front of their property. Please ensure that all ditches and culverts are clear so that flooding does not become an issue in the Parish.

Whilst the lengthy power cut in February was caused by a failed power line across 

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open land, there is a risk that trees may interfere with power cables and potentially cause power outages. I have spoken to SSEN who have advised me that it is home owners' and landowners' responsibility to ensure that that any trees on their land are kept trimmed so that they are clear of power cables. However, where trees have grown around power cables or are touching power cables, SSEN will arrange for a tree cutter or arborist to attend the site in order to inspect the trees to at least assess the work required if not carry out the remedial work then. To apply for tree cutting, visit the SSEN website at

<https://www.ssen.co.uk/our-services/existing-electricity-supplies/tree-cutting>

or call 0800 0483516. I understand that this service is free of charge.

Finally, SSEN operate a priority services scheme for customers who may need additional support. Details are available on page 19.

Peter Tinson

Chairman

Aston Rowant Parish Council



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It certainly has been a wonderful summer for hot sunny weather. I understand the concerns with climate change but it has been good to feel the sun. It reminds me so much of 1976 but then we did not have a garden and so I was not a slave to watering. Much as I dislike wet weather it has been a boon to get back the hours I've spent with the watering can.

The hot weather has meant that very little has happened since the last parish notes and the next event will be the FAAG meeting on Tuesday Oct 18th at 7.30pm in Kingston Blount Village Hall. As was explained in the last notes this is an open meeting where we will be discussing amongst other things the future of Pleck Wood, the wood at the end of the playing field. The agenda for the meeting will be published prior to the meeting on the parish web site. I have bought some native daffodil bulbs which will be planted in the autumn and will then hopefully spread in time. If anyone has any English Bluebells that could be planted at the same time it would be greatly appreciated. The date for the planting will be set at the meeting, as will the date for the autumn Litter Pick – this is pencilled in for Nov 26th and 27th but not yet confirmed.

The major event will however be the long-planned improvement of the 'Lanes' in Kingston Blount which will continue at the end of October. I will be double checking with the householders who back onto the 'Lanes' before we start as this will be a one-off task.

In terms of the grass cutting, our contractor of the last few years has given notice and we will be looking for another contractor next year to take over the cutting and maintenance of the lanes in both villages. I would like to thank George Stevens and his team for the help and guidance they have given to the committee in total and myself in particular. Good luck to them in the future, they have set a high bar to follow.

Finally, the people with good memories will recall that Mike Smith kindly built 2 owl boxes for the parish. We will be putting them up over the winter, one is for Fiveways but the other is still not finalised, any suggestions?

So after a quiet period in the summer, it's going to be a busy autumn.

Steven Sowerby

Chair of Footpaths and Amenities Group

steven.sowerby@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk

01844 351392



NEWS FROM FIVEWAYS

At the time of writing we have finally had some rain. The Jubilee Mulberry has survived well with regular watering of muddy water. It is a black Mulberry from Shakespeare's garden in Stratford, raised with great difficulty from seed and is 5 years old. There are two more black mulberries on the site and a white one by the signpost. They are slow growing and take a decade to fruit. There are a few wild flowers to be seen especially the yellow toadflax – there are pink and purple variants as well, but the yellow one seems to be the one that spreads by underground roots.

Changing the subject to Church Lane, there have been several incidents this year which have damaged the track due to large modern farm equipment driving down the lane. In the most recent incident, at the lower end by the copse, there appears to have been a fire which fortunately did not spread – it could have been a serious fire with the drought. In most cases the culprit has not been identified. The damage will worsen when the stream flows again!

On the subject of Church Lane I recently had a chance to look carefully at the early map which hangs in the church – sadly I cannot reproduce it here for copyright issues! It clearly shows what I have long suspected – that the original course of the stream was down the southwest side of the Church Lane track – not on the northeast as now. The stream went across the track (wet in winter) where the Winterbourne (winter only stream) and the Holbrook meet at the junction. The point can be identified now by a pile of farm concrete. It continued to Fiveways in the overgrown hedge on the southwest side and if you look carefully you can see the course of the stream, now a shallow ditch. At some point ca 1800 the present deep ditch was dug out and a pipe put in under Church Lane at Fiveways – this has kept the lane dry – except in times of flood. It is also the reason there is a wildlife corridor following the lane to the SW – it is used by deer, foxes and badgers.

The early map also shows two long church houses on the northeast side of Church Lane. No traces of them remain. The two small cottages at this point on the SW side on the map can be seen today in field markings. It is possible this stream was used for metal work or milling as we find lots of small pieces of iron when we drag a magnet through. There is also a structure hidden in the bank at the top end.

I reported earlier that we had seen sticklebacks return this year and I am hoping they have survived the low water, helped by the fish sanctuaries that we put in.

It will soon be time to tidy up for the winter. There are three small dead trees to



remove but fortunately the undergrowth and brambles haven't gone mad this year. The main work will be pre-duck racing – should it ever happen again!

There are otters in the area again so watch out for your fish. I am concerned at the prospect of the new houses at Chinnor as they will be close to the sources of the Crowell stream which runs towards Sydenham. I would like to think that damage to these chalk streams will be protected by the authorities, but I know that there is no effective control of waste water.

I still have some free bat boxes left if anyone would like one. The PC have funded the purchase of more wild daffodils and they will be planted in the Autumn.

Mike Eaton

mike.eaton@btopenworld.com

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PRIORITY SERVICES REGISTER FOR ELECTRICITY SUPPLY

Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks, who provide the electricity supply to the area, operate a priority services scheme for customers who may need additional support. Those who may be eligible for the Priority Services Register (PSR) include those who:

- Are deaf or hard of hearing;
- Have a disability;
- Live with children under five;
- Are blind or partially sighted;
- Have a chronic illness;
- Use medical equipment/aids reliant on electricity;
- Are over 60;
- Would benefit from PSR services for any other reason, even if temporarily.

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- Priority treatment during planned and unplanned power cuts;
- Connection to local emergency services;
- Emergency power supplies; and
- Safety advice tailored to individuals' needs.

To register for priority services

- Call: 0800 294 3259
- Or: 0800 316 5457 via textphone
- Online at ssen.co.uk/psr
- Or: interpreternow.co.uk/ssen

Peter Tinson

Chairman

Aston Rowant Parish Council

CHILTERN WALKING FESTIVAL

We are delighted to announce the 10th Chilterns Walking Festival will take place 15-30 October. It will feature a programme of over 50 walks and events throughout the Chilterns. A chance to enjoy the autumn splendour, the golden beech trees and hedgerows bursting with colour. We have a number of new walking experiences on offer celebrating autumn in the Chilterns.

Here is a flavour of what's on offer:

- Join Pipsticks walks on the day before All Hallows Eve for a **spooky walk along the River Thames** and lots of ghostly tales from the Riverbank! Or take a **Walk on the Dark Side** with an exhilarating stroll through Bones Wood and Crowsley Park, tuning into the sounds and sights of the night, and ending at the pub for hot chocolate.
- **Foraging walk** amongst the magnificent sweet chestnut trees to learn about and enjoy the bountiful autumn 'fruits of the forest'.
- Literary walk discovering **George Orwell's 'golden country'** in south Oxfordshire including the house where he once lived.
- Discover and walk some of the **ancient routes** which criss-cross the Chilterns, exploring Drovers routes and the 'Slow Ways' historic routes.
- **Nature walk** at Aston Rowant National Nature Reserve to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of National Nature Reserves. Join the Natural England rangers to see the wildlife that makes them so special, finishing with tea & cake.
- **Lacemaking and cream tea experience** in Marlow – tour guide Bobbie Latter will take you on a guided walk around historic Marlow, followed by a hands-on lace-making experience and a delicious afternoon tea.

plus map reading courses, pub walks, local produce tasting, historic garden tours and much more.

Listings are now live on our website: www.visitchilterns.co.uk/walkingfest

To keep updated join our Chilterns Walking Festival facebook page:
www.chilternsaonb.org



NOTICEBOARD

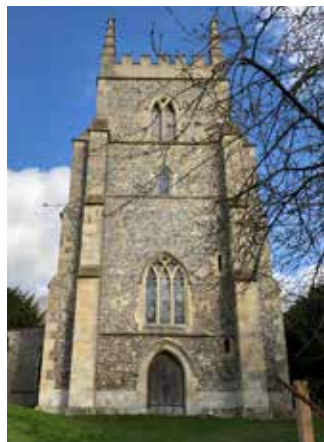
WHAT'S GOING ON IN KINGSTON BLOUNT, ASTON ROWANT & NEARBY



News from Aston Rowant Tower

It was with great sadness we learned that Queen Elizabeth II had passed away on Thursday 8th September. To honour and thank her for the service and dedication she had given over the past 70 years a single bell was tolled on the Friday for half an hour by Paul Smith who was assisted by Shirley Smith. Our tower also rang a quarter peal, lasting for 45 mins, on the following Tuesday evening in place of the normal practice night.

Thanks to all the ringers, especially Shirley Smith. The bells were half muffled on each occasion.



Wendy Hawkins

Watlington Gardening Club

We meet on the 1st Wednesday of each month at the Sports Pavilion, Watlington at 7.30pm, starting with tea and biscuits, for a 7.45 talk. Guests: £5. Members: only £22 for the whole year.

Our next speaker is on 5th October: Carolyn Foster – Ornamental Grasses in the Garden.

2nd November: Chris Day – Growing Houseplants Successfully – including Orchids.

7th December: Tea Break Gardener Katharine – Snowdrops - What's all the Fuss About?



Christine

01844 353283

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NEWS FROM ARCC

By the time these notes are published the 2022 cricket season will have finished and the pavilion will be closed for the winter. We would like to thank everyone who has supported the club this season. Whether you are a member, supporter, sponsor or just someone who uses the bar – thank you so much. The success on the field is built on the success off the field.

As many of you will know the first team ended the season as Home Counties Premier League champions – this was achieved with a win on the last day against a High Wycombe side who were still in the running for the title. This is the first time we have won the trophy and is the most significant win in the club's history. To win the league we beat teams from the likes of High Wycombe, Banbury, Oxford and Henley and we are the seventh different team to win this league.

It is a magnificent result and all credit is due to the captain Karl Penhale and his players. It has been a wonderful team effort with all the players contributing, but special mentions to the batsmen Joshua Smith and Hayden Rossouw who finished third and fourth highest run scorers in the league. With the ball, the vice-captain Max Mannering finished top wicket taker with 41 wickets including a wonderful 7 for 39 in the last game to clinch the title – Max also finished third in the league wicket takers.

But it is not just about the first team, the second team finished level on points with the Cherwell League Division 1 champions Banbury 2nd's but finished second on the number of wins achieved. To do so well in their first season in League 1 is a great result. Captain Tim Morgan finished as top run scorer with Anton Eisner taking most wickets.

The 3rd and 4th teams finished the league season strongly and will both look to do better next year.

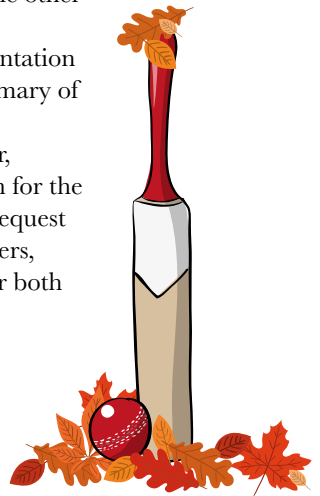
The final event of the year was President's Day and our thanks to Angie Murray and Harry Shepherd for organising the day. The two games played on the day had close finishes with one game tied by a 6 off the last ball and the other game being won by the President's team off the last ball.

This was followed by the end of the season ball and presentation night, details of which will be in the next notes, as will a summary of the successful junior teams performance this year.

The club will now spend the winter planning for next year, hopefully we will have news on the proposed wooden pavilion for the bottom field in the next notes. Also, can I repeat my annual request for people to come forward to train as both umpires and scorers, both roles are paid for by the club and training is available for both roles.

Steven Sowerby

Aston Rowant CC





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LETTER FROM THE HEADTEACHER

As a school family we have been remembering together Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Not only was she our Queen, as Head of the Church of England she was also head of our church schools. In her life of service she embodied the Christian values which we embrace in school life.

We have marked Her Majesty's reign in many different ways. The day after her death was announced we began the school day with an act of Collective Worship. The whole school family was there, even Reception Class for whom it was only their third day in school. The sensitivity, maturity and respect demonstrated by each and every child in the school was humbling and made all of the staff here proud. At 12 noon pupils and staff went out on the playground to join with the country to ring out our own bells to mark the sad occasion.

Each class has a book of condolences for children to write thoughts, prayers, poems and reflections in or draw pictures. In our lessons we use 'I Wonder...' questions to give us chance to explore our ideas and thoughts. Within this we have reflected: *I wonder – is it always easy to serve and think of others? I wonder – if the Queen always found it easy to keep her promise to serve all those who she reigned over? I wonder – where might we draw strength from to reflect the qualities and the virtues of servant leadership which the Queen has modelled throughout her reign? I wonder – have you ever been given responsibility – a special task or role? I wonder – if you think of a time when you demonstrated these qualities we have seen in the Queen?*

Her Majesty the Queen said, "Each day is a new beginning, I know that the only way to live my life is to try to do what is right, to take the long view, to give of my best in all that the day brings, and to put my trust in God."

As a school we have mourned the loss of the Queen, but we are inspired by her example and faith. We too take each day as a new beginning, a chance to do what is right and to give of our very best. For as our school vision states: 'Growing together we inspire each other to achieve our full potential as life-long learners'.

Mrs Helen France

Headteacher,
Aston Rowant School



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

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WARM HOME DISCOUNT RULES UPDATED FOR 2022-23

As winter approaches, many people will be nervously anticipating the cold weather and its inevitable effect on their heating bills. The Warm Home Discount (WHD) was introduced by the government in 2011 to offset some of this burden.

For 2022-2023 there have been a couple of significant changes to the WHD: the number of energy suppliers participating in the scheme will increase, and those on disability benefits who don't have low incomes nor high energy costs will not receive the WHD.

The value of the WHD payment is currently £150. Nobody needs to apply in order to receive it, with the exception of those living in mobile homes on a park home site (see below). The payment is credited automatically to the consumer's electricity supply account (or credit is directly applied to a pre-payment meter), and energy suppliers have to make this payment by 31 March each year at the latest.

Eligibility for the WHD is ascertained by means of data-matching between energy suppliers and government departments. There are three eligible groups of consumers: low-income pensioner households; low-income people on some means-tested benefits; and households with high energy costs. This last criterium is determined by the type of property you live in, especially its age and its floor area (based on information supplied by the Valuation Office Agency or the Land Registry).

There is an alternative form of WHD for those living in mobile homes on park home sites. For more information about this, visit www.gov.uk and search for "Warm Home Discount". Also see the information under "Check if you'll get the Warm Home Discount in 2022" on <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk>. The Citizens Advice consumer helpline is 0808 223 1133 and our Adviceline is 0808 278 7907 if you have other concerns about energy costs.

Citizens Advice

ADVERTISING IN THE PARISH NOTES

The Parish Notes are an excellent and affordable way to advertise locally. They are published every two months and delivered to every household in the area. Please email Julian Knight if you are interested in advertising: jknight652@aol.com

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CHINNOR CHURCHES GO WILD!

Chinnor Churches Go Wild! are hosting a talk on Monday 24 October in St Andrew's Church starting at 7pm entitled "Wildlife on the Chilterns" and we're delighted that naturalist and expert Ian Gamble from A Rocha will be sharing his knowledge of the flora and fauna of this beautiful area.

The talk will be accompanied by slides of flowers, birds, butterflies, etc., that can be seen in the Chilterns. Light refreshments will be served with a Q&A session at the end.

Ian was born and grew up in Leicestershire. His father was a naturalist who taught him from a very early age about plants and animals. He has travelled widely during his life studying wildlife on six continents. Since his marriage to Pamela in 1991 he has lived in the Chilterns and enjoyed studying its unique wildlife.

This is a free event. St Andrew's Church will be open from 6:30pm to find a pew – no reservations required.

www.chinnorunitedchurches.co.uk



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This is a charity set up to assist financially and to promote the education of young people in the Parish of Aston Rowant.

Since 1992 over £71,000 has been granted to both the school and to individual residents under 25. These grants are used to provide education, social and physical training.

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

01844 352617

1 Old Croft Close, Kingston Blount

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HEDGEHOG FUNDAYS

The parish held two hedgehog Fundays in July, one at Aston Rowant churchyard and another at Crowell churchyard. On both occasions, hedgehog tunnels were laid. The object was to see if there were any hedgehogs in the churchyards since the numbers have declined over the last few years.

The photographs show the steps in setting up the hedgehog tunnel at Crowell.

The tunnel insert is prepared by smearing vegetable oil with soot onto one of the pads.

This is placed on the insert and the tunnel is put together. The food is placed in the centre of the board which is then placed into the tunnel and placed in a selected site. On checking several days later there was no evidence of footprints but the food had gone. The food was replaced but unfortunately a few days later, there was no evidence of hedgehogs in the form of little footprints.

After a week there were still no footprints but, like Crowell, all the hedgehog food had been eaten.

So far none of the hedgehog tunnels laid at the four churchyards have produced any evidence of hedgehogs. However, we do know that there are hedgehogs in the gardens of parishioners who live close to the four churches. A tunnel was laid in one of these gardens and footprints were found.

Evidence that hedgehogs have been found in Chinnor gardens has been independently corroborated by the hedgehog sighting website: <https://bighedgehogmap.org/holes-for-hedgehogs-home/map-hedgehog-sighting>. Interestingly, there have been eight logs just for Chinnor village.

If you dear reader have evidence of hedgehogs in your garden, please would you inform one of the Chinnor Churches Go Wild team?



Brian Griffiths, Maggs Warman and Gilly Lawther

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

OCT

- 2 Soul Space, NBVM Crowell (p9)
- 4 Planning public meeting KB Village Hall 7:30pm (p11)
- 12 Parish Council Meeting KB Village hall 7.30pm
- 24 Chinnor Churches Go Wild! "Wildlife on the Chilterns" talk
St Andrew's Church 7pm (p29)

NOV

- 6 Soul Space, NBVM Crowell
- 9 Parish Council Meeting KB Village hall 7.30pm

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. All ideas welcome.

If you have anything you'd like to see in the next issue please get in touch.
Copy deadline for the December/January issue is 15th November.
Email: sallyparishnotes@gmail.com



Photo: Carol Cross