

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

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: Francesca Musaeus <a href="mailto:francesca.musaeus@hotmail.com">francesca.musaeus@hotmail.com</a>	
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 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

Josh Smith

07894 201 929

[chairman@astonrowantcc.com](mailto:chairman@astonrowantcc.com)

## LETTER FROM JOHN HOWELL MP

Having been through a rather turbulent period I am pleased that we now have Rishi Sunak as our Prime Minister. He has had my support over the months, and I believe that he will be the person to get to grips with the key issues that we face.

It is interesting to reflect on the issues that have been before us in recent months and also the reactions that come forward. Understandably there are strongly held views and in this time of Remembrance it seems to me that there is plenty of room for shared understanding, moderation and mutual tolerance.

Take for example the attendance of the Prime Minister at COP27. Within a few days of taking office his initial response was that he could not attend due to needing to focus on the immediate national issues before him. He faced a backlash on that and, once he had been able to assess the workload on his desk, agreed that he could go. However rather than this being seen as a decision based on assessment of the situation it was dubbed as a U turn. If politicians 'stick to their guns' they may be accused of not listening. If they give serious thought to an issue and have a change of heart they are accused of a U turn. Either way there is an accusation to face.

It is good that the Prime Minister has pledged to return to the 2019 manifesto which was supported through the General Election. It promised an ambitious environmental programme with robust action on climate change and nature loss. It is important to note that protecting our environment does not mean sacrificing economic growth. Green measures can reduce the cost of living, create employment, investment and export opportunities, and safeguard our long-term prosperity and security. It is also important to ensure that measures taken are affordable and encourage people to make environmentally friendly decisions. It is precisely this need to bring people with us that protest groups overlook. It is not about who shouts loudest or makes the grandest gestures but about how we work together to resolve the important issues of our time.

Let us also consider the issue of storm discharges where untreated sewage is released into rivers. I completely agree that sewage pollution is not acceptable but when these discharges of untreated sewage are released into a river it is when water levels are exceptionally high and there is risk of flooding to properties. If you live in a property which would be flooded with raw sewage this might have a strong influence on your view and the realistic timescales for improvement.

If there is an issue that concerns you, please do share your thoughts. If you would like to know more about my work please do look at my website. The address is [www.johnhowell.org.uk](http://www.johnhowell.org.uk). My contact details are also on the website.

**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:

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

### Churchwardens

Aston Rowant: Richard Boarder  
07795 681263  
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).

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# CROWELL CHURCH

Soul Space is on 4th December, nothing in January, and resumes 5th February, then 1st Sunday of each month. All at 4pm until April when all services return to 6pm.

There is a United Parish Service at Crowell at 4pm on Sunday 1st January. The only one in the Parish that day. On Sunday 29 January at 10:30am at St Andrew's Chinnor, another United Parish Service, this time led by Gavin, Bishop of Dorchester.

Details of other services for December and January can be found on p13.

Don't forget the Christmas Tree Festival at St Andrew's and other festive activities across the four churches in the Parish. All on the website and in the Parish Magazine.

Work on the carpark garden continues apace with the help of a volunteer and it is starting to return to its pre-pandemic status. The graveyard is steadily improving with more and more tended graves. Thank you to those who are looking after their family graves.

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](mailto:csarc@btinternet.com)

## October Work Party

Thanks to everyone who turned out and worked very hard on a pleasant day. Andy got dragged out of bed as we needed his chainsaw to make an impression on the ivy. What a star. Ivy was also removed from the west wall of the church and some graves tidied.

The November work party was not so well attended but again a lot of clearing done and more graves tidied.



Val, Jo, Andy W, Liz, Andy, Diana, Fifi

Depending on weather and how the winter goes, the next work party will be February or March, 3rd Saturday of each month at 10:00am.

## Andy & Maggs Warman

(Church Wardens)

01844 351909

[themwarmans@btinternet.com](mailto:themwarmans@btinternet.com)

# ASTON ROWANT PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Many communities depend on volunteer run centres to provide additional care and support for a wide range of community groups. We are fortunate to have the Chinnor Village Centre in our region. The Centre is a focal point for a variety of activities and support groups allowing all from Chinnor and the surrounding parishes (including Aston Rowant and Crowell) to connect and socialise, building a community spirit and a sense of belonging and homeliness. The Centre relies on volunteers to keep it running and to raise funds to meet its ongoing costs. However, the Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdowns greatly disrupted business streams and fundraising activities during 2020 and 2021. This, together with inflation and the withdrawal of most support from local government, has left a significant hole in the Centre's finances. The Trustees are actively seeking new sources of funding to secure the future of the Village Centre. The Parish Council has agreed to increase the grant it provides to the Centre in recognition of the support it provides to our parishioners and the Centre's value to the community. In addition, the Centre has launched a crowd funding appeal to raise funds to secure the immediate future of the Village Centre. If you would like to donate, please visit [www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/thevillagecentre](http://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/thevillagecentre).

Whilst the Village Centre in Chinnor is predominately used by the older members of the Parish, the playground at Kingston Blount is a well used facility by those under 11. Much of the equipment in the playground is now reaching end of life; the activity centre has had to be modified to remove the bridge between the two sections and the climbing net has also had to be removed. Both the Parish Council and a number of parents have recognised that the playground needs significant investment to continue to be a valuable asset to the community. I would like to thank Laura Purse for taking the lead on reforming a committee to raise funds to refurbish the playground area. We, as a Parish Council, recognise that the Playground is a major asset for the Parish and needs a reserve for the ongoing maintenance. Consequently, we shall be adding a line item to the Parish accounts to build that reserve. We are grateful to Laura for taking on this role. That said, if you are interested in helping out raising funds to refurbish the playground and have not already expressed an interest, please contact the Clerk at [clerk@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk).

Moving away from parochial issues, it is clear that the country as a whole needs to generate more sustainable power. There are a number of outline plans for solar power farms along the M40 corridor between junctions 6 and 7. The Parish Council recognises the need for the UK to generate more power in a sustainable way but also there is a balance between the need to generate power and the need to maintain farmland to reduce our dependency on imported food. We are engaging with our neighbouring parishes to ensure that we have a coordinated approach to sustainable energy.

I was pleased that there was a good turn out for the defibrillator training at the start of the month. Whilst we continue to invest in installing defibrillators across the Parish, the training on how to respond to a potential heart attack or seizure will increase the effectiveness of that investment and, hopefully, reduce the likelihood of

a fatality in the Parish. Whilst we will continue to invest in this equipment, it is one investment that we hope will never be utilised.

Finally, we are at the stage where we are considering the budget for the coming year. As you may have noted, I have talked about increasing expenditure in a number of areas to support activities both within and outwith our parish that benefit our parishioners. We are conscious that there may be some that are struggling to meet their bills as inflation and the increased cost of energy starts to take effect. Consequently we are working to set a budget that does not increase the Parish Council aspect of your Council Tax bill or, if this cannot be achieved, a budget that increases that contribution by less than the current inflation rate. If you are struggling to make ends meet, Oxfordshire County Council has compiled a web page to bring together advice from local and national organisations on saving energy and cutting costs – see [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/living](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/living).

I wish you all the best for Christmas and the New Year.

**Peter Tinson**

Chairman

Aston Rowant Parish Council



# **MICK HOBDELL**

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## DECEMBER & JANUARY SERVICE ROTA

	ST ANDREW'S Chinnor	ST PETER AND ST PAUL'S Aston Rowant	ST MARY'S Sydenham	BVM Crowell
<b>1st Sunday</b> 4th Dec 2nd Advent	8am Holy Communion  10.30am Holy Communion	10.30am Christingle service		
<b>2nd Sunday</b> 11th Dec 3rd Advent	10.30am Christingle Service	9am Holy Communion	4pm Carols	4pm BCP Holy Communion
<b>3rd Sunday</b> 18th Dec 4th Advent	10.30am Holy Communion  6pm Nine lessons and Carols	3pm Nine Lessons and Carols	6pm BCP Evensong	
Crowell Carols Friday 23rd December 7pm (with mince pies and mulled wine)				
<b>Christmas Eve</b>	5pm Crib Service  11pm Midnight Mass	4pm Crib Service	4pm Crib Service  10.30pm Midnight Mass	
<b>Christmas Day</b>	10.30am Holy Communion Jacky	10am Holy Communion		
<b>1st Sunday</b> 1st Jan	4pm United Parish Service BVM Crowell Ministry team			
<b>2nd Sunday</b> 8th Jan Epiphany	10.30am All age worship	9am Holy Communion	10.30am BCP Holy Communion	4pm BCP Holy Communion
<b>3rd Sunday</b> 15th Jan	10.30am Holy Communion	9am Parish Worship	4pm Christingle	
<b>4th Sunday</b> 22nd Jan	10.30am Holy Communion	9am Holy Communion		4pm Evening Prayer
<b>5th Sunday</b> 29th Jan	United Parish service 10.30am St Andrew's Bishop Gavin (Bishop of Dorchester)			

# ASTON ROWANT PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

Parish Council meetings were held on Wednesday 12th October 2022 and Wednesday 9th November 2022 where the planning applications detailed below were discussed.

**(The next meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday 14th December 2022).**

There was no meeting in August.

September's meeting was cancelled due to the death of Her Majesty the Queen.

## PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

**P22/S0907/LB** Planning application amendment (no. 1), on application P22/S0907/LB, for development work at Chalford Manor Farm, Chalford. **INFO ONLY.**

**P22/S1021/HH** Planning application amendment (no. 1), on application P22/S1021/HH, for development work at Chalford Manor Farm, Chalford. **INFO ONLY.**

**P22/S2759/HH** Single storey rear extension at Avila, 4 Plowden Park, Aston Rowant. (Response submitted 24/Aug) **FULLY SUPPORT.**

**P22/S2853/DIS** Discharge of conditions 3 (Schedule of Materials) 4 (Landscaping including hard surfacing and boundary treatment), 5 (Tree Protection), 6 (Surface Water Drainage), 7 (Foul Water Drainage), 10 (South Newt condition 2), 12 (Energy Statement), 16 (Obscure glazing), 18 (External Lighting) on planning application P21/S1458/FUL (Wayside, Kingston Stert). **INFO ONLY.**

**P22/S2580/HH** Single storey rear extension, new roof to existing rear extension, replacement garage/outbuilding at Aston Park House, Church Lane, Aston Rowant. **FULLY SUPPORT.**

**P22/S2984/FUL** Removal of existing buildings from the site, including two residential units and construction of three new dwellings at The Stone Ground, Aston Hill. Extension agreed to 24/Sep. Response submitted after email consultations due to cancellation of September meeting. **SUPPORT**, but with reservations over potential removal of boundary trees and hedging.

**P22/S3046/DIS** Discharge of conditions 3 - schedule of materials, 4 - energy statement verification, 5 - landscaping (incl. hard surfacing and boundary treatment), 6 - tree protection, 7 - biodiversity mitigation and enhancement strategy, 8 - surface water drainage works & 9 - foul drainage works on application ref. P21/S2755/FUL The erection of a new detached dwelling and carport at Queensgate, Butts Way, Aston Rowant. **INFO ONLY.**

**P22/S2580/HH** Amendment (no. 1) for development work at the following location: Aston Park House Church Lane Aston Rowant (per 30-page bat survey received 28/Sept. **INFO ONLY**

**P22/S3691/HH** Raised flat roof to portion of existing rear extension, four roof lights to pitched roofs at rear, two rooflights to raised flat roof at rear, enlarged window and door to rear, two reduced size windows to front, plus other works to front and rear at Vine House, KB. **FULLY SUPPORT.**

## **WITHDRAWN APPLICATIONS:**

**P22/S2984/FUL** Removal of existing buildings from the site, including two residential units and construction of three new dwellings at The Stone Ground, Aston Hill.  
Withdrawn by the applicant – no reason given and no further action will be taken.

## **PLANNING DECISIONS OF SODC:**

**P22/S0907/LB** Listed building consent for multi-renovation works at Chalford Manor Farm, Chalford, OX39 4NH. GRANTED.

**P22/S2759/HH** Single storey rear extension at Avila, 4 Plowden Park, Aston Rowant. GRANTED.

**P22/S2580/HH** Single storey rear extension, new roof to existing rear extension, replacement garage/outbuilding at Aston Park House, Church Lane, Aston Rowant. GRANTED.

## **PLANNING DECISIONS MADE SINCE THE LAST MEETING:**

None.

## **PLANNING INSPECTORATE APPEAL:**

**P21-S5321-O** - 54 Dwellings at Crowell Rd, Chinnor – SODC refusal overturned at appeal despite objections to the previous Cala Homes decision still being relevant.

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

## **Jones Garden Care**

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## ARPC FOOTPATH AND AMENITIES GROUP

It seems incredible with all the rain we have had in the last few weeks that the hosepipe ban is still in place, but if you walk onto the Nature Reserve at Chinnor you will see that the main lake is still over a metre down on its usual levels. It is a very clear indication of the effect of the drought we had earlier in the summer and the effects of global warming.

In terms of the FAAG group, by the time that the notes are published we will have finished the autumn litter pick and can we thank all the volunteers who will have helped. We would also like to thank the residents of Aston Rowant who are keeping the litter on the B4009 in check by picking the litter themselves.

Also, the long-awaited work to reduce the bushes and trees in the Kingston Blount 'Lanes' will be underway. We will take out the overhanging and therefore potentially unsafe branches and bushes from the 'Lanes'. Hopefully this will also allow more light into the 'Lanes' which in turn may allow dormant bulbs to grow.

We have planted 200 daffodils in both the Fiveways Nature Reserve and Pleck Wood – this will be start of an annual planting exercise which will next year include the 'Lanes'.

Oxford County Council officers are visiting Church Lane to review the damage caused to the ditches by vehicles – we will update when a decision on the remedial action is agreed.

In terms of future events, we have the parish walk on Sunday 8th Jan 2023, details of which are in Peter Hetherington's notes (see p21). On Sunday February 19th we are delighted to co-host Snowdrop Sunday with Aston Rowant Church – please note the date, there will be more details in the next Parish Notes.

The next meeting for the group is on Tuesday 21st Feb 2023 in Kingston Blount Village Hall, which is an open meeting. In last July's notes we explained that whilst the maintenance of the parish footpaths will always be an important part of our activities it is not the only part of the group's work. We would like to expand the activities and also encourage more people to join us, the visits to 5 Ways by the Forest School are part of this increasing the awareness.

The competition to rename the group into something more relevant is still open. First prize is £25 of vouchers with another £25 for the best name from anyone under 16. Should the winner be a junior the first prize will be £50.

Anyone wishing to enter should again contact either myself or Tracy Lambourne the parish clerk.

### Steven Sowerby

Chair of Footpaths and Amenities Group

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

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## NEWS FROM FIVEWAYS

We have had a big issue with active wasps nests this Autumn at Fiveways. There were four nests until well into November when you would expect all wasps to have disappeared. We worked hard to move them as we were expecting a visit from Forest school but we didn't manage it in time. Finally I think they have now gone and we can hopefully rearrange the visit. The ground obviously stayed very warm and it is still dry a few inches down. The ground is extensively tunnelled which is good for wasps seeking a winter home.



The stream bed, you will notice, has been cleared out and the fish refuges (clay pipes) are now visible – please do not move them about! In recent months we have removed all the dead hazardous trees plus some ivy.

The date for duck racing in the new year is the 19th February from 2pm to 4pm - sadly this has been cancelled in the last few years, although there was one participant last year. Let's hope there are no storms, flooding or pestilence!

A small group have planted the area with more daffodils and fritillaria. The daffodils (100+ of both native species) went in easily. Mice won't eat them as they are poisonous, unlike the fritillaria which are rodents' favourite food. We planted 200 of them four inches deep and coated them in chilli powder as a deterrent. This turned out to be more poisonous for my wife, as despite gloves she got chilli in a cut. Some daffodils also went into Pleck Wood. Be very careful if buying bluebells as they could be alien Spanish ones like most of those in local gardens.

The spotted woodpeckers in the dead tree are a new sighting - they are shy but very noisy when woodworking. There is a video on the parish website. There is also a video of big American Signal Crayfish in the Church Lane stream. Ideally as an alien species they should be despatched. They were not in Aston Lake but it may only be a question of time. They do shed their shells from time to time and are then vulnerable to carp. A big problem is the tunnelling into banks which starts leaks.

The Footpath and Amenities Group are proposing the following names for the bigger streams crossing our parish but are open to any other suggestions. In the longer term they are best protected if they are named. Streams which flow only in Winter are called winterbournes.

Watercourse	Location	Coordinates EA Statutory River map
Woodway Winterbourne	Woodway Farm to Church Lane	472,856.454 198,647.813
Holbrook	Aston Lake to Fiveways onwards	472,984.380 199,053.949
Stad Way Brook	Stad Way to Holbrook	472,336.414 200,095.351
Aston Ford Brook	School to Aston Ford to Holbrook	472,994.051 199,840.280

*continued on p20*

Kingston Brook	Brook Street to Ford	473,686.203 199,614.326
Sewell's or Crowell Brook	Lower Icknield Way to Kingston Stert	474,114.035 200,570.003

Could I remind people that the streams provide drinking water for animals – rubbish and manure should not be put in dry ditches or watercourses. All our streams go, via Thame Park, into the River Thame. It is likely that any ditches are the legal responsibility of the adjacent landowner who is responsible for their maintenance. They are not for garden rubbish.

I am looking for one or two oak saplings (less than 1metre) and hollies (1ft) but not from the wild, for planting in the parish if anyone knows of any.

**Mike Eaton**

mike.eaton@btopenworld.com



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# ASTON ROWANT NEW YEAR WALK

Sunday 8th January 10.00 from Kingston Blount Village Hall Car Park OX39 4SW, 6.5 miles. Leisurely.

After the huge success of last year's New Year's walk we are extending an open invitation for Chinnor Pump and Aston Rowant Parish Notes readers to join us again. Exact route to be decided according to the conditions underfoot. All the circular walk will be within Aston Rowant Parish. Please wear walking boots and bring a snack. We will aim to finish by 13.00. All welcome.

No dogs except guide dogs please. Booking not required and no charge. And no one will be left behind! We will have a good backmarker!

Walk organised jointly by Aston Rowant Parish Council and Thame and Wheatley Ramblers.

**Peter Hetherington**

07767 647714



**USED POSTAGE STAMPS**

A big thank you to all the people who keep a steady flow of used stamps either through my letter box or in the box in Aston Rowant Church. I do not always see who the deliverer is 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 near Waitrose in Thame. The volunteers there are very grateful for them as they raise funds with just a little effort and at no cost to us. More stamps always welcome:

People are using fewer stamps so this means that every one is of value.

**Shirley Smith**

Meadow Vale, Pleck Lane. The bungalow behind the picket fence.  
On behalf of Sobell House

## NEWS FROM ARCC

Can we start by wishing seasons greetings to everyone associated with the club.

There can be no doubt that 2022 has been a memorable year both for Aston Rowant and the England t20 team. If the success of the national team has inspired anyone to want to play cricket you are most welcome to join us when training starts next year. Details are available on our website [astonrowantcc.com](http://astonrowantcc.com) and we will give more details in the post-Christmas Parish Notes.

Now at the start of winter very little is happening at the club, but it is the time to reflect on what was a memorable season, the highlight of which was the first team winning the Home Counties Premier League but there were many other both individual and team performances. Here is the full list of awards for the season.

1st Team Player of the Year	HAYDEN ROSSOUW
2nd Team Player of the Year	ANTON EISNER
3rd team Player of the Year	BEN KNOWLER
4th Team Player of the Year	FINLAY LITTLE
U19 player of the Year	TRISTAN ROSSOUW
Mike Eaton Team of the Year Shield	1st TEAM
The Roy Blake Cup (the player who has done most off the field to help the club)	BEN LE BAS
The Dudley Lambourne Cup (the best junior in adult cricket)	TRISTAN ROSSOUW
The John Pearce Cup for Sportsmanship	KARL PENHALE
The Committee Cup (non-playing member who has helped the club)	JONNY LITTLE
The Paul Humphries Cup (the junior who has had the most impact on the club)	LEWIS NORTH
The Eric Lambourne Bowling Award	MAX MANNERING
The President's Cup	CLAIRE NORTH & FAMILY
The Outstanding Performance Shield	MAX MANNERING
The Outstanding Contribution from a Colt	LIAM HESTER
Most ducks award	CHRIS NORTH
	LEO BETHELL

By the time the notes are published the club AGM will have been held and the new Committee will have been voted in, details of which will be in the next edition.

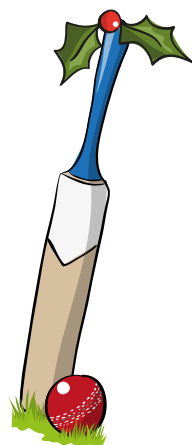
## OTHER CLUB NEWS

The new league season will start on May 6th with the first team away to High Wycombe.

We are delighted that our last season's overseas player Ben Le Bas has agreed to re-join next year. As well as his considerable efforts on the playing field he was very popular and an integral part of our junior training programme.

We continue to progress the work on providing a new small pavilion for the bottom field which will be used mainly by our junior teams and the 3rd and 4th teams. Hopefully this will lead to plans being available for discussion in the new year.

Finally, as we do every year, we are always looking for new players and officials. In particular we are looking for umpires and scorers – training which the club will pay for is available over the close season. If you are interested, please contact the club through the web site.



**Steven Sowerby**

Aston Rowant CC

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## LETTER FROM THE HEADTEACHER

One of my highlights of our Christmas celebrations at school is when we all gather in the parish church for our Christingle Service. We usually hold it right at the end of term as we come together as a whole school family to look forward to the Christmas celebrations in the days ahead. Christingle is a joyful celebration that brings families and communities together as we light our Christingle candles to celebrate the light of Jesus and spread a message of hope.



Each child from reception through to Year 6 makes their own Christingle in school. Each element of a Christingle has a special meaning and helps to tell the Christmas story:

The orange represents the world

The red ribbon (or tape) symbolises the love and blood of Christ

The four cocktail sticks represent the four corners of the world

The sweets and dried fruits represent all of God's Creations

At the end of our service, each child takes the Christingle that they have made. They line the central aisle and the candles are all lit to create a warm, magical glow symbolising the light of Christ and bringing hope to people living in darkness. There is something truly inspiring about seeing the children's faces lit by candlelight and hearing them sing our final carol.

Whatever you are doing this Christmas I wish you peace and joy and hope for the year ahead.

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

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## TESSA WYATT'S COUNTRYSIDE DIARY

**Sept 17th** We are now desperately short of grazing due to the drought. The field next door is being harrowed and rolled in an attempt to aerate it and encourage the grass to grow before the horses are turned out in it for the winter. We should start to get some proper dew around now, which might help bring the grass on. Meanwhile, the scent of crushed grass added to the fragrance of a fresh delivery of hay is so heavenly it should be bottled and sold as a perfume. I would wear it every day

**Oct 14th** The wind has brought down a huge amount of leaves which I'm collecting in bags to put around the base of some of my plants and our baby Amalanchier (sic) tree as a mulch. Dear Tinker our beloved cat is "helping", by sitting on the remaining empty bag washing her bottom. I gave her a nudge in the hope she would move, only to be met with a glare and a miaow which had it been translated, would have turned the air blue. Time for coffee I think ...

**Oct 17th** Apparently, people use bleach to preserve the colour in their pumpkins after carving them and placing them on display. Our wildlife is very fond of pumpkin. Birds, mice, squirrels, bunnies and beetles all have a taste for it, so please, don't Harpic the poor things, add vinegar instead, which is harmless, but will have the same preserving effect.

**Nov 1st** Found on another post, but I have long loved the verse below. It takes me back to a time long gone, though within my lifetime, and whenever I read it I sometimes weep for those lost days, before computers, the internet, mobile phones and the Woke society. Life then was closer to the earth, closer to nature, closer to the things that matter; nature, and our connection to her. Somehow Autumn is the time of returning. To old familiar places, old values, old loves. My pony came in to have her teeth done today, and a monsoon level rain storm fell on us as I was turning her out afterwards. She walked patiently by my side going back up the hill to her field, when normally she would be grabbing at the grass by the track, but today she didn't, and I felt something given to me, a love and an understanding of my love for her. In her pony way she was acknowledging our relationship, and it was beautiful. Soaked to the skin as I was, I couldn't have been happier, walking across the field in the rain, the scent of wet earth, crushed grass and at the top, in the woods the wonderful fragrance of the trees. These are the values that count, that we should protect, so that we always have them to come home to. Here are the lines I love:

*"All things on earth point home in old October: sailors to sea, travellers to walls and fences, hunters to field and hollow and the long voice of the hounds, the lover to the love he has forsaken."*

~Thomas Wolfe, "Of Time and the River"

**Nov 4th** Mushrooms! I found a lovely crop of Parasols growing in Katie's field, so I've harvested them before she kicks them to bits. The woods are full of all kinds at the moment, all brought to life by the rain. I found some lush field mushrooms and even a few Lawyers Wigs which are also good to eat when young. A lovely fry-up with a little garlic on hot toast coming up! Be careful though, you do need to know the



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difference between the edible, the nasty and the downright poisonous! Get a good book on them – Mitchell Beasley do a good one in a pocket size.

**Nov 12th** Most of our pollinators are now either dead, their work done, or hibernating. Friends with beehives are feeding their honeybees to keep them going through the winter. Queen wasps will be seeking somewhere to sleep, perhaps in the roofspace of houses or sheds, and meanwhile, a few inches below the earth, or under a pile of leaves in a sheltered spot, bumblebee queens will be curled up, fast asleep. Hedgehogs will have found a cosy spot in the piles of leaves too. So be careful when clearing up in the garden! For me it's a great excuse to only sweep up the leaves on the lawn, leaving the rest to rot down and feed the soil, protect the plants in the flowerbeds from frost, and offer shelter for the dozens of small creatures that are all around us. I can almost hear the sound of tiny snores ....



**Tessa Wyatt**

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Energy suppliers are legally obliged to negotiate repayment plans with customers who are falling behind on their bills, but many suppliers are ignoring this requirement and proceeding with installing pre-payment meters - or, for customers with smart meters, remotely switching them to prepayment.

If you are one of the many people who are confronting this problem, or are generally floundering amidst your finances, worried about the future, or want to discuss your problems in confidence, get in touch with Citizens Advice on Adviceline 0808 278 7907. You can also telephone the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on 0808 223 1133 or the Citizens Advice Debt Helpline on 0800 240 4420. Our website has lots of helpful information: <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk>

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# CHRISTMAS 2022 IN THE UNITED PARISH

## **3rd-11th December – Christmas Tree Festival**

2pm-5pm St Andrew's, Chinnor

## **Sunday 4th December – Christingle**

10:30am St Peter & St Paul's, Aston Rowant

## **Sunday 11th December – Nine Lessons and Carols**

4pm St Mary's, Sydenham

## **Sunday 18th December – Nine Lessons and Carols**

3pm St Peter & St Paul's, Aston Rowant

6pm St Andrew's, Chinnor

## **Friday 23rd December – Carols and Readings**

7pm BVM, Crowell

## **Saturday 24th December – Crib Service**

5pm St Andrew's, Chinnor

4pm St Peter & St Paul's, Aston Rowant

4pm St Mary's, Sydenham

## **Saturday 24th December – Midnight Mass**

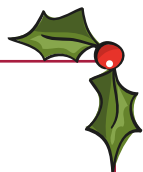
11pm St Andrew's, Chinnor

11:30pm St Mary's, Sydenham

## **Christmas Day – Holy Communion**

10:30am St. Andrew's, Chinnor

10:30am St Peter & St Paul's, Aston Rowant



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After 7 years of the same price and in the face of rising printing costs we regretfully have to raise our advertising prices. 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](mailto:jknight652@aol.com)

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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)