

VOL XXXXX NO I

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2023

ASTON ROWANT, KINGSTON BLOUNT & CROWELL

# PARISH NOTES



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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 <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

## 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.

**Copy deadline for the April/May issue is 15th March.**

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

# 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

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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

I agree with the Prime Minister when he said that New Year should be a time of optimism and excitement and yet many look ahead to 2023 with apprehension. There are indeed many concerns at home and abroad. The concerns that dominate for each of us will vary according to our own circumstances and needs. Over the Christmas and New Year holiday period I had several conversations on the fallout from the pandemic with many people feeling that the negative effects, particularly in relation to mental health and well-being, are still taking their toll. The nervousness at the news that China would reopen its borders is an example of the fear that lingers, not only in relation to physical health, but also over the dread that life could be restricted once again. However we must remember that we are in a very different place to where we were at the start of the pandemic with knowledge, vaccines and medicines available to help prevent such devastating measures being taken again.

For those concerned at the continued cost of living issues I was pleased to see the Government announcement of further support this year for pensioners and those on low incomes. It is also good to see the continued support in relation to energy costs for business and non-domestic customers. This is subject to on-going review in a fast-changing situation.

I know that many constituents are concerned over issues relating to Thames Water. I have written previously on my concerns on storm discharges. I have also raised a number of other specific concerns with the company over time. I was saddened, although not entirely surprised, to read in the Ofwat annual assessment of water company performance that Thames Water fell amongst the worst performers. I am in touch with the Chief Executive of Ofwat on this.

Another concern that also tends to arise with the new year is changes to bus services when timetables are reviewed. Having investigated some of the concerns I understand that for bus companies there are many issues to consider when looking at the sustainability of services. In some cases it is simply a matter of low passenger numbers that makes a route unsustainable, and the companies need to divert resources to other routes where there is greater usage to keep these running. However sometimes the issues are wider. For example on one route up for change the bus company wanted to use double decker buses across the whole route and some of the rural roads included in the journey were not suitable for such vehicles. Whilst the Government does have a National Bus Strategy the challenges in rural areas are many.

There are, of course, many big issues which affect us all which are well rehearsed in the national media and which the government is already working to address. If there is a particular issue that concerns you, please do share your thoughts. My contact details are on my website - [www.johnhowell.org.uk](http://www.johnhowell.org.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 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





# CROWELL CHURCH

Happy New Year to you all.

What a great Christmas the church had and it stayed warm and welcoming.

A service of carols and readings followed by mulled wine and mince pies, was very well attended on Friday 23rd December. A full church with a great social afterwards. On Sunday 1st January we hosted a United Parish Service, this was also well attended.

The next work party will be February 18th, then March 18th and then the 3rd Saturday of each month at 10am. Depending on the weather we may well concentrate on the inside of the church. There is a great need to remove many cobwebs, clean up the Vestry and generally give some TLC to all the nooks and crannies.

Despite the weather, the car park and graveyard are looking good and standing up well. Although the hedge at the car park entrance has been cut back we still need to cut it back further to get a proper view of oncoming traffic – for safety.

A couple of the hawthorn trees on the B4009 edge of the car park appear to have died. These will need cutting down to prevent them falling. We have managed to grow some cuttings, so we may be able to replace the dead ones.

The Quinquennial Inspection is due and we are awaiting a date from the architect. An architect has been appointed to oversee the damaged window repair and he will also be investigating the viability and cost of connecting mains water and sewerage with a view to building an extension to the North wall adjoining the Vestry for a kitchenette and toilet. Grants are available for some of this cost.

Soul Space has been rescheduled to the 3rd Sunday of each month and so the next Soul Space will be 19th February then 19th March, both at 4pm.

This has allowed St Andrew's to restart a Taizé Service at 6pm on the 1st Sunday of each month. The 1st service will be Sunday 5th February.

Details of all services can be found in the Parish Magazine and on the Parish website.

The United Parish Annual Parochial Church Council meeting will take place on 22nd March. Location to be advised. You need to be registered on the church electoral roll to attend this part. The APCM is preceded by a Vestry meeting to confirm and/or vote into place the Church Wardens. You have to be registered on the civil voters register to attend this.

Full details will be posted on the church porch notice board or main door when available.

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.

Copies of the United Parish Magazine are available in the church porch and inside the church. If anyone would like an e-copy of the monthly United 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)

**Andy & Maggs Warman**

(Church Wardens) 01844 351909

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

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## ASTON ROWANT PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The December Council meeting is where the precept and budget for the coming financial year are discussed and agreed. The Councillors recognised that the cost of living has increased substantially over the past six months and so agreed not to increase the precept (the charge levied by the Council to allow it to operate) this year. Although the Parish Council component of your Council Tax is very small in comparison with the other elements, the Councillors felt it was important to recognise the challenges some will be facing and not increase the precept.

In my previous piece for the Parish Notes, I highlighted the challenges being faced by the Chinnor Village Centre. As I mentioned in that article, the Council has agreed to increase its contribution to the Village Centre to £1000 in recognition of the support it provides for members of our community. In addition, we have increased the amount given in grants to Aston Rowant Church and the Thames Valley Air Ambulance. We have managed to increase the support we give others without increasing the overall precept by reducing the budget in areas where there has been a consistent underspend and by transferring amounts previously allocated for capital spend to recurrent items.

Since the last edition of the Parish Notes, two new speed indicator devices (SIDs) have been installed on the B4009 in Aston Rowant and Kingston Blount. I am pleased to say that we have received many positive comments from parishioners about both the installation and the impact they appear to be having on traffic passing through the Parish. We are able to collect data from the two devices; these indicate that the vast majority of traffic passing the two SIDs is travelling within the 30mph speed limit. We are considering purchasing an additional SID which can be moved between locations within the Parish to provide an additional deterrent and further speed monitoring. The two SIDs and the vehicle activated sign on the B4009 heading towards the M40 in Aston Rowant are all solar powered. During winter periods of few sunlight hours combined with heavy cloud cover, the demand for activation can outlive the on-board battery supply of power. The consequence of this is that there are occasions when the device does not display anything and so appears not to be working. This is normal operation – the devices will reset themselves automatically once the required battery charge levels are restored.

The combination of wet weather followed by freezing conditions often causes road surfaces to fail and potholes to be formed. I am pleased that a good number of parishioners are using the FixMyStreet app to report the existence of potholes within our Parish. Once reported, Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) investigate the report and usually repair a short time afterwards. Whilst most potholes are an inconvenience, there are some which are large enough to cause damage to vehicles that strike them. OCC will mark these as a priority once investigated but the volume of reports means that there is often a delay in the initial investigation taking place. If a pothole has caused damage to a vehicle it should be reported to the Police by calling the 101 phoneline. This expedites the repair. ►

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The cold spells either side of Christmas caused icy patches on many of the roads within the Parish. Whilst the B4009 is gritted on most occasions when there is a risk of ice, the same cannot be said of the other roads in the Parish. The Council has sought to provide salt bins at points where the roads are known to be icy but the recent freezing weather has highlighted a number of additional places which are not currently near a salt bin. We have reviewed the coverage of salt bins and have agreed to purchase a further five bins to improve road safety in the parish.

Finally, this May sees elections for the Parish Council. There was not an election for the current Council; the number of nominees matched the places available and so an election was not required. However, whilst this is convenient, it is disappointing that only seven people out of an electorate of over 1000 were prepared to put themselves forward. I would encourage individuals to consider putting themselves forward to stand for the Parish Council. Councillors have the opportunity to influence the spend within the community, to represent the Parish on wider groups and to represent your community. If you would like to know more about what being a Councillor involves, please contact the Clerk in the first instance.

### **Peter Tinson**

Chairman

Aston Rowant Parish Council



Photo: Carol Cross

# ASTON ROWANT PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

Parish Council meetings were held on Wednesday 14th of December 2022 and Wednesday 11th January 2023 where the planning applications detailed below were discussed.

(The next meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday 8th of February 2023).

## PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

**P22/S2853/DIS** Amendment (no. 1), on application for development work at: Wayside Kingston Stert, as amended and amplified by information received 28 October 2022 (conditions 4,5,6,7, 12,16 & 18). FYI only, no decision required.

**P22/S3046/DIS** Amendment (no. 1), on application for development work at: Queensgate Butts Way Aston Rowant as amended by revised arboricultural information and plans received 11 November 2022 (conditions 3,4,5,6,7,8 & 9). FYI only, no decision required.

**P22/S4147/DIS** Discharge of condition 5 (Tree Protection) on planning application P22/S2580/HH at Aston Park House Church Lane Aston Rowant. FYI only, no decision required.

**P22/S4318/DPO** Discharge of legal obligations relating to S.106 Agreement (in the Schedule) dated 7th May 2004 between South Oxfordshire District Council and The Blue Cross at Little Cross, Lower Icknield Way, near Lewknor, OX49 5RY. FYI only, no decision required.

**P22/S4440/S73** s73 application to vary condition 2 (approved plans) under application reference number P21/S0146/HH (Proposed two storey side extension, single storey rear extension, internal and external alterations and swimming pool. New entrance gates and boundary wall) - due to the manufacturing tolerance of joinery. Wych Elm, Chinnor Road, Aston Rowant, OX49 5SH. FYI only, no decision required.

## WITHDRAWN APPLICATIONS:

**P22/S2291/FUL** Demolition of No.53 Oakley Lane, Chinnor and the construction of a residential development of 32 houses and apartments with access from Oakley Lane, Chinnor. Associated infrastructure and landscaping (as amended by energy strategy report and floor plan received 03 August 2022). Withdrawn by the applicants.

## PLANNING DECISIONS OF SODC:

**P22/S3691/HH** Raised flat roof to portion of existing rear extension, four rooflights 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. Other works to front and rear at Vine House Park Lane Kingston Blount OX39 4SL. GRANTED.

## PLANNING DECISIONS MADE SINCE THE LAST MEETING:

None

## PLANNING INSPECTORATE APPEAL:

None

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



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## PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE



The Aston Rowant Parish Council website is the place to find out what's going on at the Parish Council for Aston Rowant, Kingston Blount, Kingston Stert and Chalford. It gives easy access to the dates of council meetings, minutes, agendas, planning applications, etc. There are links to the District and County Council websites for access to the wealth of information that these provide. There's also a weekly newsletter with links on recent developments in the parish.

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

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# ARPC FOOTPATH AND AMENITIES GROUP

Firstly, Happy New Year to everyone.

We would like to thank everyone who participated in the autumn litter pick – we will repeat the exercise later in the spring – and also the walkers who turned out for the Parish Walk in January. Both days were affected by the awful weather but they both remained enjoyable mornings.

By the time the Notes are published the work in the lanes in Kingston Blount should be finished. If you have an idea for the next project, please contact either Tracy Lambourne or myself, our contact details are in this magazine.

Oxford County Council officer's visit to Church Lane to review the damage caused to the ditches was postponed due to illness, hopefully the visit will be rearranged shortly.

On Sunday February 19th we are delighted to co-host Snowdrop Sunday with Aston Rowant Church. This will consist of Duck Racing on the Holbrook Stream at Fiveways and cream teas in the Church from 2pm to 4pm. It is the first time in three years that we have been able to host this and we are conscious that there have been a large number of parents and children who have moved into the area in that time. If you have not been down to Fiveways before, the snowdrops and other spring flowers should be out. It is a special place, particularly at this time of year. Please remember your boots/wellies. If you have been to Fiveways but not to the Duck Races before please come and observe/take part. It is impossible to come away without a smile on your face. The cream teas are also excellent.

The next meeting for the FAAG group is on Tuesday 21st Feb 2023 in Kingston Blount Village Hall, which is an open meeting. As we have explained in previous editions of the Parish Notes 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.

The competition to rename the group into something more relevant remains open, but we do have some entrants. 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 of 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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# CAN YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Local elections will take place on Thursday 4th May 2023 and Aston Rowant needs to recruit some councillors. Could this be you?

## **Do you want to:**

- Get involved with your community
- Have a say about the local issues people care about
- Influence local service delivery
- Decide how local money is spent to improve your community
- Bring about improvements through local projects
- Work in partnership with other parishes and agencies

Councillors will work closely with the Clerk, who is an employee of the Council as a whole, in delivering the agreed vision.

## **How much time does it take?**

We meet formally eleven times a year on the second Wednesday of the month (except August) at 7:30pm for about two hours. You may also need to give time between meetings for 'ad hoc' tasks e.g. responding to emails, additional occasional meetings for committees or working groups etc.

While the role is voluntary/unpaid, you are an elected member of the Council and will be offered training and guidance on the role.

## **Are you eligible?**

To be a councillor you must be;

- UK, Commonwealth or EU citizen
- at least 18 years old
- an elector of the parish (or in the past 12 months occupied land) or
- other premises in the parish or
- work in the parish or
- living within 3 miles of the parish boundary

## **Interested?**

Contact Tracy Lambourne  
(Clerk) for details: [clerk@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk)





## NEWS FROM FIVEWAYS

At the time of writing (8th January) the Holbrook at Fiveways is finally flowing, at least well enough for ducks! However the Woodway Winterbourne running down Church Lane has not run all year. It will not run until its reservoir in the Chilterns is full. All of the Chiltern springs are triggered by a higher or lower water level under the Chilterns. If the Winterbourne is running at the start of Winter there is a risk of flooding when the winter rains come. I know because dedicated folk in Watlington study these springs all year!

This is the time of year when I look for spawning trout in Lewknor where I fish. Sometimes the brown trout can be seen spawning under the bridge in Nethercote Lane. I was not pleased to see an otter chasing the trout this year near Nethercote Lane. The trout native to this stream are much more endangered than the otters. I have not seen a trout at Fiveways for some years and I am awaiting a sighting of sticklebacks who should be building underwater nests around now. They are the only UK fish to build nests with the full involvement of the male, who changes to full spawning colours. They are normally first seen in the dog pool near the signpost.

I am also hoping that a birdwatcher can tell me if we have lesser or greater spotted Woodpeckers in the dead tree at Fiveways.

The wasps finally disappeared and the Forest School had a great time in the stream wading and using the magnet – some slept in hammocks and all enjoyed it apparently. As usual a few got wet but they just got on with it. A new activity was net fishing for shrimps which they were happy to have crawling on their hands.

I saw the first flower of the year, a very early primrose the other day. The snow drops are emerging and may be nearing their final flowering at duck racing which is on Sunday 19th February. The ducks are keen to go after three years cooped up in my garage. The church will be open as usual for a warming cuppa and a piece of cake. The daffodils are also up under the leaf litter and may even be showing colour by then. Everything seems to get earlier and earlier. The Fritillarias should be interesting providing the mice have not eaten them all, despite the chilli powder protection. There is an unknown tree near to the bench with red tape on it which I couldn't identify even when it had leaves. We will have to wait and see.

In my greenhouse I have chicory seedlings grown from seed collected near Watlington. Chicory has many variants and this is a shrubby variant different from the non-shrubby chicory found at the top of Church Lane. The pale blue flowers look identical - look out for them late summer.

**Mike Eaton**

[mike.eaton@btopenworld.com](mailto:mike.eaton@btopenworld.com)

## NEWS FROM ARCC

Happy New Year to players, officials and supporters.

Whilst there is no activity on the field, off the field there is a lot happening. We are an entirely volunteer led club, which is becoming increasingly unusual for clubs of our size. This is part of what makes this club so special, and something we never want to lose. It's only made possible by the continued selfless contributions of all of our members. There are a few specific areas we'd like to take the opportunity to highlight where we really need some additional help in 2023:

### **Consistent and purposeful communications for members, parents, locals and sponsors.**

We hold our hands up and admit that despite our best efforts our communications were not as consistent or informative as we would have liked them to be and this is one area that we're intent on improving in 2023.

**Overseas Player Accommodation** – Ben Le Bas will be returning for his second year at the club. Unusually quiet and well-mannered for an Aussie, Ben would make a model lodger so please let us know if you might be able to help out.

**Umpires** – As usual we are struggling to cover umpires for the 3 Cherwell league teams for the 18 weeks as we have lost a few umpires. We need to supply 3 umpires per week for the whole season, and if we don't points are deducted from the team. All you need to do is the Level 1 course online, and you would then be able to umpire the lower divisions and also mid-week junior matches. This would be great for a parent of a young player as you could then have the best seat in the house! Please contact Colin Muttitt for any information, his email is [crmuttitt@aol.com](mailto:crmuttitt@aol.com) or call 0774 8633069.

**Scorers** – with the 3rd team now requiring a scorer we're really desperate for another couple of people to put their hands up to help for next season. Even if you can do just a couple of games per season it's an easy way to earn £40-£50, and of course bottomless tea and biscuits will be a standard part of your contract!

**Sponsorship** – generating leads and keeping our sponsors happy is an essential role and we'd love to hear from you if you can spare a couple of hours in your week to help out. Thad Cooper will happily show you the ropes and do it with you but it's a two person job so please consider if you can help out on this one.

**Pavilion & Ground** – The Pavilion has been the biggest question on everybody's mind for many years now. As the off-field operations have returned to running (fairly!) smoothly post covid and our on-field facilities are in a good place we can now fully turn our attention to making significant progress on the changing facilities on both grounds.



Our first steps are to come up with some viable options and present them to our members in order to get your opinions and the go-ahead to progress one of the options.

**Groundstaff** – we're also on the lookout for people who have time to assist with the ground. We have an amazing group of volunteers who have done it for decades so if you've always wanted to learn how to operate a heavy roller or drive a tractor then we'd love to hear from you!

**AGM honours list** – We were very pleased to announce that Chris Hutton and Jerry Smith have been offered life membership of the club for their services over the years and that Wesley Morrick and Mandy Brine were made Vice Presidents (Honorary 1881 Member) of the club at the AGM.

Final thank yous... There are a number of thank yous that we must make. We are reducing the size of the committee to allow us to move faster and align roles more accurately with how the committee functions. It does mean we have a number of people from the 2022 committee who will not be continuing, although in many cases they will continue to do the same (or similar) roles without being on the committee; Jerry Smith, Dominic Whatman, Wes Morrick, Gordon Harris, Karl Penhale, Simon Tremlin and Mandy Brine; thank you for all the hard work and countless hours you've put in to ensure the club continues to go from strength to strength. It's been a fantastic year, the club is in a very healthy position but there's a lot that we can do better, and we are looking forward to getting stuck in to planning for 2023.

Best wishes,  
Josh Smith and Thad Cooper  
(Chairman and Vice Chairman of ARCC)

**Steven Sowerby**  
Aston Rowant CC

## 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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## OIL SYNDICATE

There's an oil syndicate that serves the parish and surrounding area with the sole aim of saving members money on heating oil.

The syndicate covers Aston Rowant, Chinnor Hill, Christmas Common, Crowell, Kingston Blount, Lewknor, Milton Common, Postcombe and Tetsworth – and further if there's a need.

It costs nothing to join or be a member of, carries no obligation to buy, and there are no fees or commission added to the price.

The process runs in November, January/February (depending on the weather) and June.

All that is needed to join is a full postal address, email address and phone number. Householders are asked for the maximum volume of oil required. The overall total is collated and suppliers negotiated with. Householders pay the oil company directly and only for the oil that is delivered.

To illustrate the savings, for the top up that ran in January, the syndicate rate was 77p/ litre plus VAT from Lovells. However, just buying 500 litres would have cost between 84.20p/litre plus VAT from Sweetfuels and 85p/litre plus VAT from Lovells.

To join the syndicate email [adam.bernstein@mac.com](mailto:adam.bernstein@mac.com) or call 01844 350440.

## SALT BINS

There are numerous salt bins that the parish council has provided, with five more on the way.

Each has, or should have, a shovel and gloves and is refilled once a year free of charge by Oxfordshire County Council and when necessary, by the parish council.

It would help the parish council if residents could take it upon themselves to spread grit on roads and junctions near them when needed; the council is not in a position to lobby residents to undertake this duty.

Please note that the grit salt provided is for public roads and pavements only; it must not be used on private drives and paths.

If bins are empty or missing a shovel or gloves, please email [adam.bernstein@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:adam.bernstein@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk) and this will be dealt with.

As before, please help us to help you.

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## HUNGER LUNCH

On 27th February there will be a Hunger Lunch in Aston Rowant Church in aid of The Porch Charity from 12.30-2pm. There's no charge for a simple bowl of soup but donations of cash, tinned and dried foodstuffs and adults' clothing will be very welcome.

The Porch is a charity for the homeless in Oxford originally known as The Steppin' Stone Centre and a stepping stone from homelessness to a settled life is exactly what it is. It gives access to computers and to social services as well as supplying basic human needs.

We hope that you can join us!

**Rona Knight**

351315

## ASTON ROWANT SCHOOL HOUSE EDUCATIONAL TRUST

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

peter.lambert123@btinternet.com

# CHINNOR VILLAGE CENTRE CROWD FUNDING CAMPAIGN

Happy new year to everyone in our community. Hoping you all had a good festive season and wishing you all the happiness and best of health in the coming year. It's been wonderful seeing so many of our customers returning to the centre, volunteers coming back to help, and new customers visiting for the first time. The success of our Christmas lunches was outstanding, and almost fully booked up. The Chinnor Village Centre is beginning to thrive again, so please continue your support.

Remember every cup of tea, piece of cake, lunch, breakfast or tea is a contribution to support the centre. We are a not-for-profit charity in your community, and by using our facilities you are putting back into the village and supporting those in need. Our heartfelt thanks to all of our wonderful Volunteers, our Coffee shop could not run without your help.

As with many Charities, grants are vital in supporting the financial needs of the organisation.

In the last two years, succeeding with an application has become an increasingly more difficult task, with further reductions in funding opportunities. We are however pleased to announce, that so far in this financial year, we have secured in excess of £22,000.00, to help with our outgoings. This support has come from very generous donations from Rugby Benevolent Fund, Chinnor Parish Council, SODC, Chinnor Beerfest, Unity Health, Aston Rowant Parish Council and the Co-op, plus all those that generously donate anonymously. Thank you so much

In addition to this, we would like to thank Swish Fibre, for sponsoring the £4,141.69p payment, for the installation of the new kitchen extract system and their ongoing support for the centre.

We would also like to welcome the Fight Bladder Cancer who are now occupying one of our rooms. It was great to be able to offer them our facilities when their lease came to an end at the old Lloyds Bank premises – they were keen to stay in the village and this seemed a good fit.

We still have some grant applications in process, and we have now employed the services of a professional grant seeking organisation, who are working on our behalf, which we hope will secure further funding.

Any financial support to keep our vital resource going would be gratefully received, so if you would like to sponsor anything, please contact Andy Bennett on 07951 215659. Thank you.

We continue to be very active with our fundraising, and would love to hear from you with ideas of fundraising events, maybe you would like to do a run for the CVC or cut your hair, organise a fund raising event at the centre, or put on a new activity on a regular basis – our room hire is very reasonable and affordable for all groups. Rooms are warm and comfortable and of course you have the added advantage of an onsite coffee shop. Free Wifi throughout the building.

Following the leaflet drop in Chinnor and surrounding villages and BBC South News item which appeared in December we have had a wonderful response to our Crowdfunding Appeal. Many generous donations have been made for which we are so grateful, we are making very good progress against our target of £10,000. If you would still like to donate, please go to [www.justgiving.com/campaign/chinnorvillagecentre](http://www.justgiving.com/campaign/chinnorvillagecentre) “

You can also become a member for only £15 per year or and join our One Lottery raising money for the centre, Volunteer opportunities in all sections for the centre, from a couple of hours to an afternoon.

Our next open meeting is on Wednesday 1 February 2023, so please do come along - it starts at 7.30pm. Everyone is very welcome. Find out more about your community centre, meet the trustees and some of the volunteers.



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# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

## FEBRUARY

- 8 Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm
- 18 Crowell work party (p9)
- 19 Soul Space, NBVM Crowell 4pm (p9)
- 19 Duck Racing at Fiveways (p17)
- 21 FAAG meeting (p17)
- 27 Hunger Lunch. St Peter & St Paul's, Aston Rowant 2.30-2pm (p29)

## MARCH

- 3 The Big Quiz. KB Village Hall 7.30pm (p19)
- 8 Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm
- 18 Crowell work party (p9)
- 19 Soul Space, NBVM Crowell 4pm (p9)
- 26 British Summer Time begins

## ADVERTISING IN THE PARISH NOTES

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)

1/4 page – £12 for one issue or six issues for £50

1/2 page – £17 for one issue or six issues for £70

Full page – £32 for one issue or six issues for £130

## 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.

**Copy deadline for the April/May issue is 15th March.**

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