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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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Dial-a-ride (for people with mobility problems)	01869 327048
Highways Pothole Hotline	0845 310111
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
Chinnor u3a [Chair]	07711 337243
Village Hall Hire/Bookings: Andrea Tinson	07470 441857

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 photos 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 Aug/Sept issue is 19th July.

Email: sallyparishnotes@gmail.com

PARISH COUNCIL & LOCAL CONTACTS

Parish Website

www.astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk

Parish Clerk

Tracy Lambourne
clerk@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk 01844 353989

Parish Councillors:

Chairman Adam Bernstein
adam.bernstein@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk 07785 905120
Councillor Helen Birks
helen.birks@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk 07921 840360
Councillor Deborah Chaplin
deborah.chaplin@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk 01844 354648
Matthew Day
matthew.day@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk 01844 351300
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trelawney.hill@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk 01844 353051
Councillor Joanne Hunt
joanne.hunt@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk 07825 789251

District Councillors:

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Ed Sadler ed.sadler@southoxon.gov.uk 07842 602398

County Councillor

Kate Gregory kate.gregory@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Nigel Champken-Woods nigel.champken-woods@oxfordshire.gov.uk

MP

John Howell 01491 613088 john.howell.mp@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

The quality of the water in our rivers has been an ongoing concern for some time. It is therefore welcome news that DEFRA has announced that Wallingford Beach is to be given designated bathing waters status. Although the site is just over the bridge in the Wantage and Didcot Constituency I know that it is something that will be welcomed by people in this constituency. The site will be subject to the requirements under the Bathing Water Regulations 2013 and will be included in the Environment Agency's bathing water monitoring programme from this month. The Regulations require public information about water quality and potential sources of pollution to be available at all bathing waters during the bathing season, with local authorities in the areas responsible for providing this information. The Environment Agency will prepare a bathing water profile for the site, which will be available on its Swimfo website. They will also assess what action is needed to improve water quality to meet the standards set by the Bathing Water Regulations.

The internet is something that we have come to rely on for our daily business, for education, and for information and for leisure. However concerns to protect children have rightly been raised. In the middle of this month there was a debate in Westminster Hall on the impact of smart phones and social media on children with a call to ban smartphones for under 16s. I very much acknowledge the dangers of social media for young people and endorse the Online Safety Act which introduced measures to protect young people. However I do not agree with the proposal to ban young people from having smartphones. I believe that this is a decision for parents and not one for legislation. So rather than potentially criminalise people I think that, alongside the Online Harms Act, we should be looking to educate our young people on the risks and harms of social media. Many parents want their children to have a smartphone, as they provide benefits to children and parents, not least allowing them to stay connected while travelling alone. As this was a Westminster Hall debate it was an opportunity to formally raise the issue but there was no vote. I am sure that there will be further discussion on the issue.

There are many people in the constituency who live here on the basis of a visa. It is important to be aware that UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) are rolling out a digital immigration system which is more secure. Anyone who does not already have an eVisa will be required to have set up an online record by the end of this year. This information is also important for employers and landlords who will be able to check the immigration status of applicants much more easily.

As always I am interested to know the issues that concern constituents. The best way to contact me is via email: john.howell.mp@parliament.uk. You can find updates and replies to standard campaigns run by lobby organisations on my website: <https://www.johnhowell.org.uk>

John Howell MP

CHAIRMAN'S NOTE

No doubt residents will have noted the speed indicator devices (SIDs) around the parish – one on the M40 side of the B4009 on entry into Aston Rowant, another in Kingston Blount on the B4009 leading up to the Cherry Tree, and a third which roves around the parish. While this third SID's home base and solar panel is in Kingston Stert, it has mounts on the Stert Road on the entrance to Kingston Blount and another in the middle of Aston Rowant by Dashwood Court. There will also be a temporary mount for it applied to a pole on the B4009 at the corner of Kingston Hill - and other locations in time.

While these SIDs will never counter all those who speed – it's the reason why the top 15 percent of all readings are statistically disregarded – they do work. When last interrogated, the SID nearest the M40 noted that the average inbound speed was 31.23mph while outgoing was 31.60mph. That's an impressive result – one that was echoed by a neighbour who reckoned that it cut speeding outside his home by 80 percent.

And the data from the SID in Kingston Blount is no less remarkable with the average speed inbound being recorded as 26.80mph and 26.29mph outbound. But there were a few serious speeders with quite a number above 40mph – all on a bend up the hill to the Cherry Tree.

But what was most surprising was the number of vehicle movements. Taking the data and extrapolating to a year, we have around 1.756 million vehicle movements (both directions combined) along the B4009 per year. That's 146,333 a month or nearly 4810 a day.

While not everyone was or is in favour of the traffic calming measures taken by the parish council, we had to do something. In fact, the parish council is hopeful that Oxfordshire County Council will make Kingston Blount a 20mph zone – including the B4009. While not everyone will stick to 20mph it is hoped that the move will bring the average speeds down.

On another matter, the council had a number of nominations for Parishioner of the Year for both categories – under and over 18s. Calum Lambert won the former for his help in maintaining the flowerpots at the Village Hall and ensuring the community herbs established and thrived, while Laura Purse won the latter for her efforts in leading the committee that raised the monies needed for the renovation of the play area. Notably, the council has now had formal notification from SODC that the very large grant of £20,315 (subject to the Parish Councils acceptance in writing of the Terms and Conditions) had been approved. Both nominees will be receiving a gift of £50 from the parish.

Lastly, the parish council still needs a seventh person to make up its number.

There are few qualifications needed to be a parish councillor other than being objective when it comes to making decisions – especially in relation to planning – and a general willingness to 'get stuck in'. In terms of time commitment, the council meets 11 times a year on the second Wednesday evening of each month (but not in August). There are some tasks that councillors need to undertake, but they really aren't that

onerous. Councillors are recognised as volunteers and are not expected to be experts; they just need to do their best for the good of the community.

If you're even the slightest bit interested, contact the clerk, Tracy Lambourne via clerk@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk. There's no obligation to take the matter any further, but at least you'll find out either way.

Come along to a parish council meeting to see how it operates. We're in Aston Rowant Church from April to September (no meeting August) and October to March in Kingston Blount Village Hall. Meetings start at 19:30hrs and are generally over by 20:45hrs.

Adam Bernstein

Chairman, Aston Rowant Parish Council

adam.bernstein@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk

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ASTON ROWANT PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

Parish Council meetings were held on Wednesday 10th of April and Wednesday 8th of May where the planning applications detailed below were discussed.

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday 12th of June.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

P24/S0725/HH Replacement shed & new greenhouse at Little Gables The Green KB. NO OBJECTION.

P24/S1017/LDP Replacement of existing external windows and doors with uPVC double glazed units designed specifically for use in Conservation Areas and constructed to maintain existing visual appearances at: The Old School House, School Lane, AR. Discussion on use of plastic in a conservation area & feeling that should be like-for-like (ie: wooden frames). SUPPORT, but with appropriate comment made on materials.

P23/S2490/LDE Development work at the following location: The Storeground Aston Hill near Aston Rowant. Additional information received 2 April 2024 – revised usage plan and statement by applicant. We had no objection to original version.

P24/S1198/LDP Erection of Oak-framed outbuilding replacement of existing at Icknield Place, Aston Rowant Road, Aston Rowant. SUPPORT.

P24/S0885/HH Creation of outdoor pool and associated landscaping works at The Malt House, Church Lane, Aston Rowant. Site visit 26/Apr arranged with applicants where concerns raised about level of proposed lighting and applicants urged to reconsider this aspect. OBJECTION (in current form).

P24/S0975/HH Two story side extension at Selloana, 1A Old Croft Close, Kingston Blount. Concerns about over-development of site and affect on neighbours, plus insufficient parking for size of proposed property. OBJECTION.

P24/S1317/LB Replace 19 modern soft wood windows with double glazed hard wood windows. Repairs to existing dormer windows. Increase insulation in the roof from 25mm to 100mm by insulating between the rafters, whilst reusing the existing red roof tiles at Ferndale House, High Street, Kingston Blount. SUPPORT.

P24/S1195/TCA Tree work (removal) on laurels by footpath at the rear of 7 Old Croft Close, Kingston Blount. Section 211 Notice issued by SODC 30/Apr. No comments required.

P24/S1131/HH and **P24/S1133/LB** Proposed alteration at first floor & insertion of one new window to match existing in rear elevation of the house; Changes & extensions to existing garage & workshop outbuilding, and replacement of two existing attached sheds with one new summerhouse building of similar dimensions at: Old Croft, Pleck Lane, KB. SUPPORT.

WITHDRAWN APPLICATIONS:

None.

PLANNING DECISIONS OF SODC:

P24/S0679/AG Erection of grain store at Hill Farm near Stokenchurch HP14 3YJ. GRANTED.

P23/S2490/LDE Mixed use of part of site for residential use, workshops and storage at The Storeground, Aston Hill, OX49 5SG. Certificate of lawful use or development issued on 26/Apr/24.

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

THE UNITED PARISH TEAM

Rector

Rev'd Dr. Jacky Barr 07769 825305
rector@unitedparish.church
01844 352027

Associate Priest

Rev'd Joan DeVal 01844 353404

Licensed Lay Minister (L.L.M)

Margaret Poole 01844 281042

Retired Priests

Rev'd Des Foote 01844 355945

Rev'd Dr. Brian Griffiths

01844 355953

Rev'd Tony Whittaker

01844 352472

United Parish Office

Tricia Prescott 01844 352472
office@unitedparish.church

Parish Safeguarding Officer

Jane Tucker 07890 346781
safeguarding@unitedparish.church

Churchwarden at Aston Rowant

Richard Boarder 07795681263

Vacancy

Churchwardens at Crowell

Andy Warman 01844351909

Maggis Warman 01844351909

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ARPC FOOTPATH AND AMENITIES GROUP

At last, we have some sunny dry weather, which after the rain of the spring is such a joy.

Firstly, our apologies to all who had volunteered to help in the Spring Litter Pick – the decision to postpone the pick was taken very late. But the length of the grasses on the verges meant that it would have been impossible to pick the litter up and more importantly it was not safe. We will rearrange the pick for a time after the verges have been cut. Next year we will arrange the pick earlier in the year. No mow May does not help.

I have been asked about the siting of benches in the parish now that the weather is improving and more people are getting out on walks. For anyone who doesn't know there are benches in the following places – Kingston Blount playing field, the cricket club, the church yard and Fiveways. If you think we should look at siting others in the parish please let us know – they could be memorial benches if you wish.

Please see Peter's note re the Parish Walk (p20) and Mike's Fiveways report (p17).

In other news, the moors path entrance from Stert Road will be repaired in the school summer holidays – we will also repair the path where entrance from the farm has damaged the path. We are also trying to co-ordinate an improvement to the Moors Path between the cricket club and the school. This will involve scraping the mud from the path and adding more plannings. Hopefully we can have the trees cut back and repair the fence at the same time. If we can co-ordinate the work it will be done in the school holidays too. The bridge at Fiveways has been repaired again – we are now looking to replace the bridge as the cost of repairs is beginning to outweigh the replacement cost.

We are also looking for volunteers to work alongside the 2 Mikes on the maintenance and improvements to Fiveways. None of us are getting younger and if you enjoy walking down to Fiveways or just the Duck Race we will welcome any assistance – be it on a one off or regular basis. If you are interested, please contact either myself or Tracy, the parish clerk.

A date for your diary is the 16th Feb 2025 which is the date of next year's Duck Race.

Finally, walking around the parish you may have seen the streams in both villages foaming with the effects of detergents that are getting into them. Please be careful if you are washing cars or patios etc – the detergents do cause damage to the plants and creatures in the streams and no-one wants to see that.

Enjoy the sun – it is always so good to see so many people out walking and enjoying the wonderful scenery in the parish.

Steven Sowerby

Chair of Footpaths and Amenities Group

stevensowerby@hotmail.com

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CROWELL CHURCH

The churchyard and car park garden are showing their true colours. A couple of work parties have begun to make a real difference to tended areas and the weather has been kind to us.

Both mowers are in need of repair so grass cutting is restricted to the main path and paths to tended graves. At the end of 'no mow May' the big strimmer will be put to work.

Work parties will continue on the 3rd Saturday of each month commencing at 10:00, until and including November – missing July and August. Inside and outside tasks are carried out. Anyone who can spare a couple of hours would be most welcome.

The old compost heap by the horse field and damson tree has been moved to stop ingress onto graves which was causing concern. The new compost/green heap is up by the Lych-gate towards the Old Rectory fence and will be signposted. Two black wheelie bins of plastic rubbish has been removed from the compost heap – how unthoughtful some people are.

The Rectors Ramble in aid of fund raising for the four churches will be on Sunday 30 June starting at St Andrew's Chinnor at 10:00, visiting NBVM Crowell then onto St Peter & St Paul, Aston Rowant – pausing for lunch. After lunch, on to St Mary's Sydenham and then back to St Andrew's to finish. Please come and join us for all or part of the ramble. All donations welcome.

A Chinnor Churches Goes Wild bird and butterfly walk will take place on Saturday 22 June starting at 16:30 at St Mary's Sydenham. This is in collaboration with Berks, Berks & Oxon Wildlife Trust (BBOWT)

A prayer group was started at Easter and will continue each Tuesday 17:30 at Crowell.

Sadly there have been a couple of funerals since the last report. We are most grateful for some tidying of the churchyard that was carried out by both families.

Following on from our architect led inspection relating to the fabric of the church, we have now had our Area Deans inspection relating to the administration of the church. We have a couple of minor things to address from the latter and several small to medium jobs to carry out from the first. Including;

- Rebuild the south-west buttress base.
- Remove ivy from boundary walls.
- Investigate and repair the bell cot to bring the bell back into use.
- Rebuild fallen section of north boundary wall.
- Check options for east boundary wall and fallen section.
- All the church windows are about to be cleaned and the roof cobwebs removed.

Should anyone wish to sponsor any of the repairs (or parts of) then donations would be gratefully received.

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.

Andy & Maggs Warman

(Church Wardens) 01844 351909 themwarmans@btinternet.com



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The first Spring flowers – daffodils, snowflakes, wood anemones and fritillaria have come and gone. The bluebells are going over now – I have not had time to check them out and weed out the Spanish ones. The superior English bluebell is under threat from its aggressive Spanish look-a-like which is paler and stronger. It gets worse as there are Spanish/English hybrids too due to cross breeding! There are websites on this problem which you can look at.

The greater stitchwort is spreading – it will probably take a decade to settle in. The seed originally was collected by me in Cumbria. In the summer I fish for salmon in Scotland where there are both greater and lesser stitchwort on the banks of the River Dee. Why is there room for both? I don't know... but wild flowers seem to mutate quite commonly.

The wild garlic has done well and is also spreading slowly along the stream. No wild garlic soup quite yet – perhaps in five years time! The white wild roses are Burnet roses or Scotch roses and the hips can be made into rose hip syrup amongst other things. The purple vetch planted a few years ago by the seat is doing well.



I have finally spotted fish several times in the Dog Pool. I believe them to be Bullheads which are common in the area. They are small, flattened and prefer to come out at sunset when the light is going.

To spot them you can't have a dog! Creep slowly downstream at Fiveways by the gorse bush, watching the Dog Pool exit where it is deeper. If there are any near the bridge they will go through your line of sight very fast indeed. They live in the deeper water downstream where it is overgrown and impossible to wade! Their spines are unpopular to birds – and myself when I was a young angler.

The Jubilee tree is coming into leaf and is looking strong. Mulberries are always late getting going but hopefully it will make a lot of growth this year.

Mike Smith and I in the colder months planted many Yellow Monkey Musk. They come up from seed extremely quickly and grow dramatically fast before winter sets in. We had failed to establish them the previous year. Their habitat requirements are exacting and are planted in the margins of the stream which can be a problem as the Holbrook does rise and fall dramatically. However watch out for them in the next few months. They are not easily seen at present!

Some of you may have noticed that the bridge was broken again. This has now been repaired but a more permanent solution is being discussed.

Mike Eaton

mike.eaton@btopenworld.com

NOTICEBOARD

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

Parish Walk

The next Parish Walk will be along our very own Aston Rowant Discovery Trail. It starts at the Leathern Bottel in Lewknor at 10.00 sharp on 7 July. It is 6m and we should be finished by 13:00 in time to have a drink, snack or meal in the pub.

It is a circular route passing Woodway Farm, NT Juniper Bank, and through Aston Woods. We take in the view and have a short stop on top of Beacon Hill in Aston Rowant Nature Reserve and then descend to the Ridgeway, Hill Road and Lewknor. One hill and no stiles.

Please bring some water and a snack. Also wear walking boots or walking shoes. Dogs on leads are allowed. This is a joint venture with Thame and Wheatley Ramblers. They, along with Natural England, National Trust, OCC Countryside Access, Aston Rowant Parish Council, the Trust for

Oxfordshire's Environment and u3a all helped with designing and selecting the route, surface improvement for some of the paths, information boards, sign posts, and publicity.

If you have never heard of it just search for Aston Rowant Discovery Trail on the internet, and come and join us on 7 July. There is no charge, you don't have to be a member of Ramblers, no need to book, and there is no limit on numbers. We will have a back marker and no one will get lost.

When we launched the trail about 8 years ago we had 40 people walk the route together. Let's see if we can beat that number. And please put any comments on Tripadvisor after you get home.

Peter Hetherington

07767 647714

Nettlebed Art & Craft Show 2024

Nettlebed Community School Hall on Saturday 3rd August 12 – 6pm
and Sunday 4th August 10am – 5pm.

For entry forms to show paintings or to have a craft table email: nettlebedas@gmail.com

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Friday Coffee Mornings

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June 7th and 21st

July 5th and 19th

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BIRD AND BUTTERFLY WALK

Who : All ages
Where : St Mary's Church, Sydenham
Date : Saturday, 22 June : 4.30 – 6.30 pm

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ROWACHELLA

Rowachella returns to the fields of Aston Rowant Cricket Club for its third instalment this Saturday 15th June and we are so excited to welcome you to our event. We've put together a programme of excellent local musicians across our main stage and dance tent. Kingston Blount's very own Beth Wackett will be kicking off the festival on the main stage, whilst Bloc off the Wall are headlining with a high energy set packed with dance anthems. Festival favourites and long-time friends Houseology are hosting Angie's House, our dance tent, with support from DJ Anna Kiss and Reece Richards amongst others.

A trio of gorgeous food vendors will be catering to your tastebuds' demands, with pizzas by Dyllie's, Indian street food from Vegan Indian and the return of our much loved Rowachella BBQ with all meat supplied by Charlie's Butchers of Chinnor. Not to be forgotten, Astore and Sons will be providing traditional Italian ice cream throughout the event.

To quench your thirst and keep you dancing into the night we will be serving up a delicious selection of beers and cider from our Beer Tent, sponsored by locals Renegade Brewery, and cocktails from the Rum Shack with soft drinks and alcohol free options available throughout the night.

The event starts at 5pm on Saturday 15th and will finish at 1.30am. Tickets can be purchased via our website (<https://rowachella.co.uk/tickets>) or by scanning the QR code in the advert below. A small number of additional tickets will be available on the night for any last minute guests you'd like to bring along! Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and TikTok to keep up to date with the latest information.

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Saturday 15th June 2024

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ALL FRESH MEAT – LOCALLY SOURCED

The cricket season is up and running and to start it we have a new website address. It is now astonrowantercricquet.co.uk. If you use the old address, you will be diverted to the website. The website is the same – it is just the address that has been changed.

On the field we have had a mixed start, all four senior teams have the same league record, played 2: won 1 lost 1. But now Oxford United have played at Wembley we will have stronger teams out for the rest of the season. In cup competitions we have unfortunately been knocked out of both the National and Village Knockouts, but the 3rd team are through to the semi final of their competition the Airey Cup.

We are very proud to report that the new pavilion on pitch 2 is now up! We are still in the process of finishing the interior but first fix plumbing and electrics went in this week and have been connected up to the solar panels on the roof. We are aiming for the building being fully operational by the end of May. Massive thanks to everyone who donated to the project, we managed to raise £10,780 (£12,655 with gift aid) from the Crowdfunder page – which is still open incidentally so if you'd like to contribute it's not too late again – this can be done via the website. There are too many people to thank who have helped on the project but we would like to personally thank Phil Brooks now as he has been instrumental in bringing everything together – what a club legend!

Junior cricket at the club seems to have completely exploded and it's been truly wonderful to see so many down on Friday nights again! The senior teams have really benefited from the strong junior section and we're seeing more and more players in the seniors and they're certainly not there to just make up the numbers. The BBQs on junior nights are a great way to keep everyone fed and James Lee would massively appreciate a few more volunteers to share the load of managing the BBQ on Fridays. If you reckon you can spare an hour once or twice a year to flip burgers on a Friday then please do get in touch with James as he'd really appreciate the extra help every once in a while, (james@itsthelees.com).

Can we also remind everyone that membership is still available, especially the 1881 club – for social members, it is £60 but that qualifies you to get a copy of the club newsletter and a 20% discount at the bar.

Rowachella

This year we're holding it a little earlier on June 15th. (See p21 for more details.) We've sold over 600 tickets so far for this year's event so if you haven't got yours yet I'd highly encourage you to get online now and book through the club website. We are also on the hunt for volunteers and are massively grateful for the 20 who have signed up already. Free tickets go to those who sign up to more than one shift and discount tickets to those who can pitch in for the one shift.

Finally, a huge congratulations to young(est) Kaian Eaton on his senior league debut on merit at 12 years old. He bowled, fielded and batted brilliantly and we are all looking forward to his contributions across the coming months.

Steven Sowerby

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LETTER FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Anyone who has ever hosted a ‘sleepover’ when their children were young knows how exhausting it can be. I used to call them ‘stayovers’ as it seemed that very little sleep was to be had by anyone! So, imagine multiplying that exponentially and taking a group of excited Year 5 and 6 children on a residential trip! Why on earth do we primary school teachers do it?

Well, residential trips offer children unique educational and experiential opportunities they we just can’t give them in school. They provide our pupils with a chance to learn outside the traditional classroom setting, engage in hands-on activities, and deepen their understanding of various subjects.

Participating in a residential trip can also encourage personal growth and social development in children. It helps them to build resilience, independence and problem-solving skills. Being away from home and around other children helps them to navigate unfamiliar situations and make decisions on their own, which in turn can boost their self-esteem and confidence.

Taking a child on a residential trip can be an opportunity to build trust and confidence. By enabling them to explore the world beyond the confines of their home, they are empowered to develop a sense of independence - a solid foundation as they move through different stages and ages.

Residential trips are great for creating lasting memories for children. It’s a time to build friendships and practice teamwork which can enhance communication skills. Children have to engage in memorable experiences, form strong bonds with their friends and create a bank of cherished memories that they’ll remember for years to come.

So, for the first week in June we are heading off to the heart of the Welsh Valleys, just south of Merthyr Tydfil. We will be staying at Rock UK’s Summit Centre where we will be enjoying a fun-packed week testing our nerves and enjoying a range of adventurous activities from water sports to abseiling, bushcraft to archery, not to mention half a day hill walking in the beautiful South Wales valleys and a full day caving exploring the subterranean world below.

The Calpol, anti-histamine and travel-sick tablets are all packed. The First Aid kit is fully stocked. The camera is fully charged. Who needs to sleep for a week?

Helen France

Headteacher

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CHINNER CHURCHES GO WILD! - SURVEYS

This is an information update on the churchyard surveys the churches have been doing over the last several years.

The Chinnor Churches Go Wild (CCGW) group have been doing surveys of: grasses, flowers, trees, birds, hedgehogs, reptiles, bats, butterflies and moths. These surveys haven't been willy-nilly but rather guided by our partners, both individual and corporate. Of the kind individuals who helped us, Tim Arnold deserves a special mention. Of the corporate organisations, two are notable: A Rocha and The Bucks and Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust (BBOWT).

A Rocha UK is a Christian charity working to protect and restore the natural world and committed to equipping Christians and churches in the UK to care for the environment. The Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust (BBOWT) works across the UK. Using a science-led approach, BBOWT protects and restores natural habitats.

So, these partners have been advising us on our surveys. However, we want to do more than just count or record things for our own benefit and interest but try to help others too. Thus, the partners have introduced us to the national archive data base called 'iRecord'. This is the UK repository for wildlife and eco sightings. Its goal is to help bring together sightings from many sources, so that they can be made available to support research and decision-making. It is operated by the Biological Records Centre (BRC) as part of the work of the UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (UKCEH). iRecord thus allows our wildlife sightings to be collated and made available at local and national levels. The results can be explored by graphical displays such as maps, graphs and mathematical analysis, thus making a contribution to the analysis of UK science and conservation.

We are in the process of uploading the results of our surveys to iRecord so that nature strategists across the UK can benefit from the ECO-work we are doing in Chinnor, Crowell, Sydenham and Aston Rowant.

Brian Griffiths

brianjgriffiths@yahoo.co.uk





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Helen Marshall | Director

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

JUNE

- 1 Sydenham Fayre 12.30pm to 4pm
- 1/2 Chinnor Open Gardens
- 7 Coffee morning, KB Village Hall (p21)
- 12 Parish Council Meeting, KB Village Hall 7:30 pm
- 15 Rowachella, Aston Rowant Cricket Club 5pm (p18)
- 21 Coffee morning, KB Village Hall (p21)
- 22 Chinnor Churches Go Wild walk, St Mary's, Sydenham 4.30pm (p20)
- 30 Rector's Ramble, St Andrew's Chinnor 10am (p15)

JULY

- 4 General Election
- 5 Coffee morning, KB Village Hall (p21)
- 7 Parish Walk, Leathern Bottel, Lewknor 10am (p20)
- 10 Parish Council Meeting, KB Village Hall 7:30 pm
- 14 Tower Tours and Cream Teas, St. Peter and St. Paul's Church 2pm-4pm
- 19 Coffee morning, KB Village Hall (p21)
- 21 Music for a Summer Afternoon, St Andrew's Church 3pm (p19)



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

Copy deadline for the Aug/Sept issue is 19th July.

Email: sallyparishnotes@gmail.com

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