

kirtlingtonclerk@gmail.com

From: kirtlingtonclerk@gmail.com
Sent: 27 April 2022 10:15
To: 'judith vickars'
Subject: Parish Council Report from Allotments

Hallo, Judith

Thank you! You will now have seen the circular email confirming the date and time of the Annual Parish Meeting.

Am glad the allotments are still so popular and I have a feeling the high level of interest will continue.

Best wishes

Ruth.

01869 350995

From: judith vickars
Sent: 26 April 2022 19:42
To:
Subject: Parish Council Report from Allotments

Hi Ruth

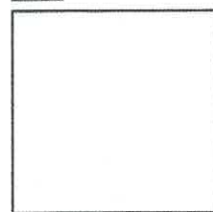
Here is the report from Kirtlington Allotment Association

Kirtlington Allotments has thrived throughout the last two years with many people finding the extra time during lockdowns coincided with the start of the growing season in 2020. We had many new plot holders and enquiries and currently have just one half plot vacant and waiting for someone to take it on. We currently have 47 plot holders and of the 68 half sized plots there are currently two 1/4 sized plots vacant.

We have an orchard area, rainwater harvesting facilities and wildflower margins. We held sales of surplus produce and the money from this funded some allotment projects plus supported the reaching out community with funds towards their Christmas Lunch. We were unable to hold allotment get togethers but hope to start that up again this year.

Judith Vickars

judith vickars - Chat @ Spike



KIRTLINGTON WILDLIFE AND CONSERVATION SOCIETY

REPORT FOR MAY 5 2022 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Meetings

Our meetings began on Zoom and, from January, then went “hybrid” i.e. in person in St Mary’s Church and on Zoom. Our speakers in the hybrid talks either Zoomed in from a remote location or Zoomed out from the Church. The programme has been as follows:

- October: *The Spirit of Shackleton – South Georgia* by Dr Graham Lenton
November: *Slime Moulds* by Professor Mark Fricker
December: *Bringing Beavers Back to Britain* by Mark Elliott
January: *Members Evening – BBOWT* by Estelle Bailey and *Wildflowers in the Kirtlington Community Orchard* by Dr Ian Stone
February: *The Wonderful World of Flies* by Dr Erica McAllister
March: *25 Years of the BTO Garden Bird Watch* by Rob Jacques
April: *Reptiles* by Neil Clennell

Activities

Activities have been less curtailed as a result of the pandemic easing, with the following having happened in the year.

Pond: the dredging of the main pond finally happened towards the end of last summer and was a very major exercise for KWACS. It happened in two final stages i.e. the replacement of the pipes draining the adjacent pond, and then the dredging. KWACS has now settled back into its more conventional programme of ongoing maintenance.

Churchyard: the normal activities in the Churchyard have continued i.e. the scything of the grass in mid to late summer, insect recording and wildflower recording. An unusual toadstool, likely to be a Blue Roundhead, and a Great Crested Newt were also recorded. Two extra work parties were organised to cut out the area of dead Viburnum and brambles.

Butterflies and Moths: we have recorded 1760 butterflies of 25 different species in the Kirtlington parish during 2020-2021. Moth recording continues, and so far we have recorded 338 different species.

Scything / Community Orchard: while the Community Orchard has its own steering group, there is a significant cross-over between the groups and KWACS has supported the orchard with scything and a base line survey of wildflowers found there. Scything has also extended to other areas of the village, not just the Churchyard, to promote wildflower growth.

Hedgehog Street: a recovery was seen in the village’s hedgehog population last year, but anecdotal observations suggest not to the level prior to their disappearance in the early days of the pandemic. There are reports this season of them in two areas of the village i.e. South Green and Gossway. There was one rescued in mid-winter that was out in the day and too small to survive. Strong media interest continues and the outreach HH lecture programme has been busy.

KGB Survey: having just completed its 25th year, this continues as previously. Interestingly, some similar trends are seen in the KGB data as presented by this season’s BTO speaker. More ‘spies’ to participate in the recording would be welcome.

Other News and Activities: this year, very sadly, saw the passing of Mike Bramwell (KWACS’s inaugural Chair), we began some Junior KWACS activities, and we organised a visit to Tackley to a KWACS member’s cottage garden full of ponds and then on to Crecy Hill Local Nature Reserve.

Thanks

Thanks is extended to (i) all members from the village and further afield for their regular support and attendance, (ii) our speakers for an excellent series of talks, and (iii) committee members for organising and publicising meetings, providing the Zoom facility and managing KWACS’ work around the parish.

Neighbourhood Watch 2022

During the last two years there has been an improvement in the problems of crime within the village.

In 2020 (in the first year of the pandemic) you will recall that there was drug taking in Mill Lane, the quarry and near the village hall. The Police did attend on various occasions and make arrests on more than one occasion.

The Police also confirmed Kirtlington is covered at least once on every shift and that officers from Witney and Bicester have also attended following calls.

Last year in 2021, such incidents were reduced although there were repeated problems of vandalism at the quarry which became most frustrating to villagers.

However, on the positive side with the full cooperation of the Police I formed a village WhatsApp group named "Kirtlington Watch" and invited villagers to join. This enables any problems/suspicions throughout the village to be passed on to everyone on the list. We now have 73 members on this group and I would welcome any additions. I am also on the Oxfordshire Rural Crime Group which has 145 members which is very informative.

Tony Summerfield

via Tony Summerfield

St. Mary the Virgin Church – Kirtlington – 2022

The last year has been strange in many ways with the gradual emergence from Covid having an effect on attendances in church throughout the country with numbers being reduced. However, here in Kirtlington we were pleased with the numbers attending the Remembrance and Carol Services both of which were held outside. Throughout the pandemic we had zoom services which have now stopped but they had proved invaluable when the church was closed. Now, there has been an increase in the number of enquiries for weddings and baptisms.

As in other years the church needs refurbishment as you would expect for such an old building and the PCC have now created a committee to prioritise the various aspects that need attention.

Firstly, work will be carried out on the porch to replace a lintel and other ancillary work, followed by cleaning and replacing where necessary the clerestory windows. Work is needed in the Dashwood chapel and we plan to clean and reseal the floor. Repairs to the guttering on the chancel roof should commence quite soon.

As you will know plans are progressing, albeit slowly, to extend the churchyard onto the sports field and the gates are being replaced on to Church Lane in the next six weeks.

As ever I am extremely grateful to my ministry team and of course to my Church Warden, Ann Mowat and members of the PCC.

The Rev'd Gareth Miller

The School Endowment Trust - Report for 2021

The Trustees of the School Endowment Trust are Sam Eeley and David Grimshaw.

In the year ending 31 December 2021 the Trust had an income of £1,352 and paid to Kirtlington School during the year a grant of £1,300.

No expenses were incurred.

1 May 2022

Sam Eeley

The Fuel and John Wicker Trust - Report for 2021

The Fuel and John Wicker Trust had an income of £1,933 in 2021 and paid out £1,620 in grants. The Trust had no expenses. It paid £900 by way of Christmas donations of £50 to 18 parishioners. It paid £500 to be used under the Kirtlington Good Neighbour Scheme and it paid £220 to Kirtlington School for a particular cause.

The trustees remain Sam Eeley, Ann Mowat and the Rev Gareth Miller. We are proposing to put an article in the next edition of the Village News explaining the circumstance in which the trustees can consider making a grant to a parishioner.

1 May 2022

Sam Eeley