

**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD AT 7.30 PM ON THURSDAY 27 APRIL 2023  
HELD AT ROWINGTON VILLAGE HALL**

**Present**

Councillor D Weir - Chairman  
Councillor A Coleman  
Councillor J Coles  
Councillor A Marsden  
Councillor T Parker  
Councillor T Remment  
Parish Clerk – Nicola Everall  
District Councillors – Councillor R Hales & G Illingworth  
County Councillor – Councillor J Cooke  
10 members of the public

The Chairman, Councillor D Weir welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked those present for taking the time to attend the meeting.

**1. Apologies**

An apology for absence was received on behalf of Councillor A Pitt.

**2. To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 28 April 2022**

It was proposed by Councillor D Weir and seconded by Councillor A Marsden that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 28 April 2022 having been previously circulated, were signed as a true record.

**3. Councillor J Cooke - Warwickshire County Council**

**Kenilworth's Talisman Theatre Company receive boost from HS2 funding**

It is great news for the arts in Kenilworth as the popular Talisman Theatre Company received a considerable cash boost from the HS2 Community & Environment Fund (CEF) The theatre company, based at Barrow Road in the town, were successful in their bid for £75,000 of funding from the CEF, which they plan to use to provide a new fringe stage, bar and reception area at the popular local theatre.

**Rogue Trader Prosecuted for £100,000 Fraud**

Darren Mitchell who traded as Stately Paving Ltd offered driveway block paving, building and landscaping work. Mr Mitchell first door knocked the elderly resident's bungalow in July 2014 and agreed to block pave his driveway and remove an old greenhouse. He returned to the property again and again together with others unknown, pressurising the resident in to paying for more work including fencing, repairs to windows, building a brick shed and laying new turf. Some of this work was never done or wasn't needed and the pensioner was charged grossly excessive amounts. A Trading Standards expert witness estimated that the true value of the work carried out by Mr Mitchell and his workmen was less than £20,000, with remedial works being required costing approximately £3,835. The victim had been charged £120,000. Over time the resident was systematically defrauded of over £100,000.

**New LCE fund will plug a gap in the loans market for small businesses**

In May 2022 WCC is launched a new loans scheme designed to help small businesses start up and existing ones to grow. The Local Communities & Enterprise Fund (LCE) helped fill a gap in the loans market at a time when mainstream lending was difficult to access.

The new scheme was part of the Council's £140million Warwickshire Recovery and Investment Fund (WRIF), created to aid the economic recovery of the county post-Covid. The fund was open to all business sectors, but priority was given to those particularly significant within the Warwickshire economy. These included Advanced Manufacturing & Engineering; Digital Creative & Digital Technologies; Culture, Tourism & Hospitality and Low Carbon Technologies.

**Homes for Ukraine Update from WCC**

As at 25th May 2022, 408 Ukrainian guests had arrived in Warwickshire (based on their visa status). A further 615 guests have been matched to hosts in Warwickshire, meaning the total number of guests could rise to 1,023. Warwickshire has a total of 396 matched hosts.

Accommodation checks: To date, 297 accommodation checks have been completed. This represents 74% of the 399 properties that had been offered to the scheme.

### **During Child Safety Week and beyond, take steps to minimise accidents**

The County Council supported the annual Child Safety Week campaign next week (6 – 12 June 2022), a national awareness campaign from the Child Accident Prevention Trust (CAPT). The 2022, Child Safety Week had a theme of ‘Safety in mind’ to make sure busy families have the ‘Safety in mind’ that really matters, especially when under pressure.

The Council shared advice and themed posts around some of the actions people can take to keep children safe.

### **Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service Consultation**

Chief Fire Officer Ben Brook launched a public consultation on the draft Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service (WFRS) Prevention, Protection and Response Strategy, asking people to take part and help influence the way the Service will work over the next five years.

WFRS has 17 fire stations across the 764 square miles of Warwickshire and employs around 450 staff. Its work in 2020/21 included attending around 3,500 incidents, taking steps to protect over 1,000 buildings and carrying out 1,500 hospital-to-home collections for the county’s most vulnerable residents.

Emergency response is now a smaller proportion of the work done by WFRS, who instead have an increased emphasis on prevention, protection and community support.

### **Funding awarded to community groups tackling loneliness**

58 groups and individuals received a total of £47,000 in grant funding, as part of a project which aimed to reduce loneliness and social isolation throughout the county.

Around 40,000 people in Warwickshire are currently living with chronic loneliness. The Covid-19 pandemic had a profound impact on the nation’s mental health, with successive lockdowns damaging social connections, jobs and finances. In addition, it disrupted people’s ability to engage in their usual coping mechanisms and made them feel more isolated from friends and family.

### **Major funding boost to help improve safety in public spaces across Warwickshire**

Funding worth more than £350,000 was secured from the government by Warwickshire’s Police and Crime Commissioner Philip Seccombe and local partners to improve safety at four public spaces.

The money, from the Home Office Safer Streets Fund, was targeted at areas which have been identified through public feedback and intelligence data as suffering from issues such as violent crime, personal robbery, sexual assaults, drugs misuse, County Lines activity and anti-social behaviour.

### **In the Summer communities and firefighters pulled together in record temperatures**

Residents and businesses were thanked for their support during multiple heatwaves.

Warwickshire Fire & Rescue Service (WFRS) expressed its gratitude to staff and local communities for their support over the summer. Summer months saw soaring temperatures and the driest July recorded since 1885, contributing to a dramatic increase in open fires, forest fires and water rescue incidents. Firefighters, fire control operatives and supporting staff worked tirelessly to respond to these incidents, as well as raising awareness of measures to prevent them from occurring in the first place where possible.

### **Cyclists across Warwickshire saved over 3,000kg of carbon last September when they got on their bikes and chose active travel for work and leisure.**

Warwickshire County Council joined the “Love to Ride” family of partner organisations, giving residents, businesses and community groups access to the best rewards and resources that will encourage cycling for travel, not just leisure.

Cycle September is Love to Ride’s global bike-riding event, brought together riders of every level to promote the benefits of bicycles. The campaign was a great opportunity for communities, businesses and individuals to engage in a fun challenge that will help them meet their health, wellness, and sustainability goals.

### **Warwickshire County Council has approved funding of £13.4 million for the delivery of a new primary school at Myton Gardens, Warwick.**

The new school – likely to open in September 2024 - will meet the need for school places as a result of the large-scale 4,500 home housing development in the area.

Myton Gardens School is expected to provide a Two form entry primary school providing a further 420 school places in the South Leamington and Warwick area as well as an additional 32 Early Years (0-4years) places and 8-14 Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) places. It will have capacity to expand to three form entry, potentially 630 pupils.

### **Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service is urging people to take steps to prevent accidental fires and carbon monoxide poisoning as they look to keep warm and cut energy use this winter.**

The call comes following concerns from the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) that the cost of living rise will mean people turn to alternative ways of heating and lighting their homes.

As part of its campaign WFRS encouraged people to complete an online home fire safety check for themselves or their loved ones. By answering a few simple questions, it will provide fire safety advice specific to you and tips on how to keep you and your household safe from fire - [www.ohfsc.co.uk](http://www.ohfsc.co.uk).

For those most at risk of fire we offered to visit the home to provide help and advice.

#### **Warwickshire Libraries launches new Business Resources service**

Warwickshire County Council's libraries service has launched a new Business Resources webpage, which is available to access for free through the Warwickshire Libraries online catalogue.

The information and services available on the webpage have been carefully selected to provide support for anyone looking to start or develop a business, or for those who are considering self-employment, thinking about new career options, or preparing for a job interview.

The [Business Resources webpage](#) features COBRA, a brand new eResource offer by Warwickshire Libraries with more than 4,000 factsheets, market reports, contacts, and sources of funding and support. It also provides hundreds of practical guides to help start up more than 350 different types of business. See [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/librarybusinessresources](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/librarybusinessresources)

#### **Keeping Warwickshire's young people in education, employment or training**

A December publication from the Department for Education (DfE) has shown that, once again, Warwickshire was one of the most successful Counties in the country for ensuring its 16 and 17 year old residents are either in education, employment or training.

Warwickshire's numbers of young people either not in education, employment or training (NEETs) are standing at less than both the regional (West Midlands) and national averages.

This last year, Warwickshire had 1.7% of 16 and 17 year olds in a NEET situation (down from 2% in 2021) and 1.7% whose activities were not known (down from 2% in 2021). This gives a combined score of 3.4% (down from 3.8% in 2021) which compares to the West Midlands average of 5% and the England average of 4.7%. <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/neet>

#### **Welcome to Warwickshire Heritage Learning**

The Heritage and Culture Warwickshire education team launched their new and redeveloped workshops, classrooms spaces at St John's House, and loan boxes along with the launch of a new name - Warwickshire Heritage Learning.

Schools can experience a brand-new way of learning with a range of immersive and creative workshops that will inspire students and bring the past to life. The subscription loan box service combines real museum objects and virtual learning workshops, making classrooms part of Warwickshire Museum, with the children as the curators of the museum.

Along with the new drama-based workshops, schools will enjoy their school trips in new look spaces at St John's House, Warwick. The first floor has been redeveloped into fantastic learning spaces, with digital resources, along with two dedicated lunch rooms. <https://heritage.warwickshire.gov.uk/heritagelearning>

#### **New partnership to create 2,000 homes for Warwickshire**

Warwickshire County Council and its property company Warwickshire Property & Development Group (WPDG) announced a major new joint venture which will see 2,000 new homes created across the county.

Develop Warwickshire will help bring sites forward for housing over the next 30 years, with three being taken forward for development within the next 12 months.

The partnership with WPDG and leading developer Countryside Partnerships, which will see £2.5 billion of developments completed, is part of the County's drive to realise the potential of its development sites.

#### **'Gold Medal Award' for the Hospital to Home team at Warwickshire Fire & Rescue Service**

The Warwickshire Fire & Rescue Service (WFRS) Hospital to Home (HTH) team was delighted to receive a 'Gold Medal Award' from the Emergency Care Improvement Support Team, NHS England, presented by Amanda Pritchard, Chief Executive Officer of the NHS, on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at Warwick Hospital.

The award is in recognition of the innovative service HTH provides in helping elderly and vulnerable patients return home safely after hospital stays. The team works across Warwickshire to transport patients home and help them settle back in.

This might include making a cup of tea, putting the heating on or getting a food shop in. They also carry out Safe and Well checks for the resident, which involve looking for potential fire and safety hazards and ensuring working smoke alarms are installed.

#### **4. District Councillors G Illingworth & R Hales**

Without all the complications of Covid this has been a much simpler year for us. We have attended your Parish Council Meetings in Rowington and Lawsonford whenever possible and provided the usual support to all matters involving the District Council.

Although councillors of both Warwick and Stratford District had agreed to agree a merger to form one large District Council, for various reasons the proposal was abandoned.

However the liaison which had built up, particularly among the officers has led to greatly increased cooperation between the two Councils and also helped us save taxpayers money, by sharing a number of services. As hopefully you are aware, we have managed to freeze the part of your council tax that we take as a council this year, by using reserves and also selling our Head Office in Leamington, as well as managing to give the local foodbanks £1,000 per week for this coming year. We appreciate all the challenges residents are facing presently and was why we felt that freezing our part of your council tax for a second year in a row was important for us to do, as well as supporting the foodbanks.

We have also recently starting supporting residents with a new government energy grant, for those that are not connected to the main gas or electrical supply, and if you do have any questions please let us know.

The main change this year has surely been the introduction of the new 123+ collection system for recycling, refuse and garden and food waste. Although there were some early problems this seems to have settled down well. There were issues in some isolated areas but we hope these have all been resolved. Questions have been asked for the efficiency of the food waste collection, but the Government now requires a weekly collection to be provided, so we have no discretion.

A general planning matter has been the latest steps in the new Local Plan for South Warwickshire. We have drawn the Parish Council's attention to some aspects affecting the area.

Your District councillors will be standing for election this May. John Cooke and Richard Hales will be standing again, but George Illingworth will be retiring due to advancing years. Although you have only seen him for four years he has been a councillor for twenty years. He has greatly enjoyed representing this Arden area. Janet Gee, currently Chair of the BHHW Parish Council, is standing in place of George.

## **5. Chairmans' Report**

Good evening residents, members and officers. Welcome to the Annual Parish Meeting.

It has been an honour to preside as Chairman of Rowington Parish Council for the last year, a role which I have enjoyed immensely.

Of all the work the Council has undertaken in the last 12 months, remaining works include the installation of the new play area and path at the Recreation Ground. Once the play area has been installed, the Council will consider planting of hedgerow and a grant has been applied for to fund the hedgerow.

The Council listens and pays attention to the needs of its community whilst following protocols and rules. This may, on occasion appear to be non-action and progression may on occasion prove to be slow, but the Council continues, as always, to ensure its decisions are the right ones for the community as a whole. This requires working closely with Warwick District Council and Warwickshire County Council to achieve a common goal, but Rowington Parish Council remains autonomous in its decisions.

During my term in Office the Country came together to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II's reign of 70 Years and the Council hosted a 'Jubilee Event' on Sunday 5th June 2022 at the Rowington Cricket Club Cricket Ground. Thank you to Brian Taylor for his assistance with the arrangements at the Cricket Ground. It was wonderful to see so many members of the community celebrating and enjoying time together outdoors in the fresh air; a time to pause and reflect. The Parish Council worked with local community groups to organise the Jubilee Event which was a great success despite heavy rain the previous day. It was with great sadness Rowington Parish Council heard of the demise of her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on the 8th September 2022, the Council and its parishioners were united in their grief and residents at the jubilee event were asked their views by ITV local television who were in attendance at the event.

Future celebrations are planned in recognition of King Charles III's Coronation, and an event will be held at Lawsonford Village Hall. A commemorative bench has been purchased which will be installed at the Recreation Ground.

I was honoured to represent the Council at the Remembrance Service on Sunday, 13th November 2022, along with other members.

### **1. Planning**

The Parish Council continues to consider planning applications within the parish. Consideration of planning applications is one of the most important issues dealt with by the Parish Council and can often produce lengthy debates on the merits of the various submissions. The Parish Council has established a Planning Committee to meet between parish council meetings to consider any planning applications which arise between meetings.

## 2. Playing Field

The equipment on the playing field to the rear of St Laurence Close continues to be inspected on a regular basis. A laypersons inspection is undertaken by councillors on a rota and a professional inspection is conducted annually. Planned maintenance is regularly undertaken and remedial work as required. Thanks go to volunteers Bob Greenaway and Sue Beard for the work they undertake at the recreation ground.

There have been delays with installation of new play equipment and it is hoped that this can be installed by the summer.

## 3. Local Infrastructure

The Parish Council often acts as a focal point for the reporting of local issues which are then re-directed to the appropriate department at the District or County Council. Problems constantly arise in relation to potholes, damaged verges, blocked gulleys, damaged signage street lighting and bonfires. If you have any issues that should be reported, contact the County Councils Highways Department or our Clerk Nicola or one of your local councillors. Following complaints by members of the public regarding speeding traffic on Old Warwick Road in the vicinity of St Lawrence Church, the Parish Council raised this with Warwickshire Police and the County Council and as a result of our representations, additional signage is planned by the County Council which it is hoped will deter the continued speeding of vehicles.

Following a request by Rowington Cricket Club the Parish Council has arranged for dog bins to be provided at the cricket ground. The Parish Council has also dealt with work required to Bridge 41 which is an important asset and a listed monument. The Parish Council has worked hard to secure the safety of bridge 41 at Lowsonford. It has been a long & persistent struggle at times. Briefly, the burst water pipe through the bridge in 2019 dislodging mortar suggested a difficulty.

On closer investigation, a principal survey had taken place in 2016 suggesting a weight limit restriction and this necessitated under water investigation. Further it suggested that the road surface needed to be fully repaired, to avoid water pouring through the structure. After considerable correspondence Warwickshire County Council repaired the surface of the bridge. The Parish Council has recently been informed that the Canal and River Trust state that the bridge does not need a weight restriction, that they have completed a laser survey.

Again, thank you to Councillor Jane Coles for her work regarding the condition of this listed monument.

## 4. Parish Website

The Parish Council website provides contact details for councillors and details for local interest groups, societies and organisations who wish to use this facility. The Parish Council has a statutory obligation to make certain information available to the general public and all of these documents can be found on the Parish Council website. It is a very useful communication tool, especially for a parish as widespread as Rowington.

Following resignations from the Parish Council it has since welcomed new members Mrs Tricia Parker, Tim Remnant and Mrs Allyson Coleman to its ranks.

During the next financial year, the Parish Council hopes to introduce monthly coffee afternoons to bring members of the local community together.

I would like to thank our Clerk Nicola, representatives from the community and members for their commitment and continued support. Also thank you to our District and County Councillors, John Cooke, Richard Hales, and George Illingworth for their assistance on numerous occasions over the past 12 months.

## 6. Reports from Organisations

### Cricket Club – Brian Taylor

The cricket club is in good health as we approach the start of our 136th season.

Again we enter 2 teams in to the Cotswolds Hills League on Saturdays, one in division one and one in division 4.

Our Friends day for the Friends of Rowington CC and villagers will be held on Sunday 9th July.

All are welcome with the game coming to a conclusion around 3pm when wine and nibbles will be served.

We always need new players and help on the ground. Please email [brian@briantaylor54.plus.com](mailto:brian@briantaylor54.plus.com) for further information.

We have over 60 juniors of ages 6 to 11 ready to start being coached on Friday Evenings. It is a joy to see them enjoying themselves. We are grateful to the Parish Council for agreeing to source dog poo bins to be placed around the cricket ground.

### Lapworth & Rowington Royal British Legion – Robert Blyth

The first AGM since 2019, due to Covid, will take place on Friday 28 April at 7.30pm at Rowington Village Hall and everyone is welcome to attend. We welcome new members to keep this branch healthy.

### Old Folks Party Fund - Anne Pitt

Throughout the year we enjoyed inviting villagers to our fund raising events

The Tea and cake event at Wren Hall raised £585.00, and our All Sorts Sale £420.00, an excellent result.

We held our Christmas luncheon at Rowington village hall, and welcomed 82 guests, again, it was lovely to see so many of our friends and neighbours attending. Our funds were boosted by extremely generous donations from Jane Ryland Trust and Rowington Parish Council, as well as many private donations from villagers.

At our first Committee meeting of 2023, on 25<sup>th</sup> January, our chairman Heather Cole provided us with the dates for this years events.

We will start with an enjoyable afternoon Summer tea event, inviting all those 65 years or over, who live in Rowington Parish

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June Summer afternoon tea event

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September Wren Hall Tea and cake event

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October All Sorts Sale

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Luncheon

### Rowington Neighbourhood Watch - Anne Pitt, Rowington Co-ordinator

Neighbourhood watch is the largest community safety organisation in the Country.

Warwickshire police recognises the importance of the scheme, making communities feel safer, our Warwick Rural West team is made up of officers and PCSOs based in our area, at present these are;

Sergeant Beverley Wallington, Constable Jo Whittaker

PCSOs Jack Power & Marie Gisbourne-Hanks

It helps cut crime and the opportunities for crime and encourages neighbourliness.

As the days get longer and warmer, Warwickshire Road Safety Partnership is asking both cyclists and drivers to check their knowledge of the Highway Code to ensure they understand their responsibilities to be considerate of each other on the roads

### Jane Ryland – Stephen Williams

During the past 12 months the Charity has provided financial assistance to a number of individuals and local bodies, including: -

1. Lowsonford Village Hall to assist with its relaunch.
2. The Old Folks Party Fund for the Christmas lunch.
3. Chiropody for a number of elderly residents.
4. Substantial grants to two students for foreign trips of a charitable nature.
5. Christmas cheques and additional payments to help with the spiralling cost of living and heating.

Alison Caldwell retired from the board of trustees after 25 years valuable service; we are pleased to announce that Ros Holmes has taken her place.

The Charity has substantial funds available to assist residents of Rowington Parish with recreation and leisure-time activities, educational costs, health support and general expenses.

Further information can be found on Parish notice boards.

### Rowington Village Hall

I was delighted to take on the role of Chairman of the Management Committee at our AGM in June 2022 and our thanks went to Stephen Williams who has held the role for the past 15 years. I am grateful that Stephen remains on the Committee, so we can continue to benefit from his experience and advice and his ongoing support with the co-ordination of maintenance projects as required.

Following the previous couple of years impacted by the pandemic, I am pleased to report that 2022/23 has been a full and busy year for the Hall.

It has been an excellent year for bookings with income from hall hire back to pre-pandemic levels. Thank you to Nicola Everall for her excellent work during the year as Bookings Secretary. We are lucky to benefit from regular repeat bookings for various classes and meetings as well as private events.

The Social Committee, under the stewardship of Shirley Lowe, has been active in the year and we have enjoyed a number of successful events including the "Autumn Parade of Fashion" and the "Simple Supper" in October, the hugely successful and well attended "Christmas Dinner Dance" in December, the "Pudding Club" charity event in January and the "All Sorts Sale" in March. Our grateful thanks go to the Social Committee for all their hard work which raises vital funds for the Hall.

All of this has meant that we have been able to pursue an active schedule of maintenance and continued investment in the facilities at the Hall. Maintenance items have included the roof clean and moss removal, exterior painting, replacement of internal lighting to more cost-efficient LED in the meeting room, kitchen and bar area, and the main hall floor clean and polish. In terms of investment, we have upgraded the storage room floor, installed a new external floodlight to the parking area, purchased wireless microphones to use with the AV equipment, replaced a new cooker and water heater and sourced new tables to replace those that had seen a better day. As a result, we are proud to continue to offer a fantastic facility for the benefit of the residents of the Parish.

During the year, two long standing members of the Committee stood down. John Hale, who was a previous Chair and instrumental in securing the development of the meeting room, kitchen and bar area all those years ago, moved to Somerset to be closer to his family. We were delighted to recognise John's contribution by commemorating the meeting room in his name. Also, Kathleen Chambers retired from the committee and left with our heartfelt thanks for her service over many years. As a result, like other local organisations, we are actively looking to welcome new committee members. Finally, I would like to take the opportunity to thank the other members of the committee not already mentioned in the report, namely Ian Wilson (Treasurer), Joan Shepherd (Secretary), Anne Pitt, Linda Williams and Diane Weir, for the hugely valued contribution and support during the year.

#### Allotment Association – John Greenaway

I am pleased to report that we now have a full and active membership. This means we have thirteen plot holders. Two have a whole plot and the other eleven are half plots. The poly tunnel takes up the remaining space. All members are keen to cultivate their ground and together with family and friends we have a great group of keen horticulturists.

We endeavour to keep our expenses as low as possible as allotment holders have traditionally paid very little ground rent for their plots. Our allotments now cost £35 for a full plot and £25 for a half plot. Once our rent is paid to the Parish Council of £273 we have a balance of £72. This is not sufficient to pay our annual expenses so it is often necessary to take up a further collection later in the year.

When plots become available we have a short waiting list from which we interview potential new members. There are various criteria that new members need to meet, Rowington residents first before other local villages etc but it is always difficult to know for sure that applicants are fully aware what having an allotment actually means and how much work is involved. A plot became available at the beginning of last year and the two women whose turn it was seemed more than keen and promised that this little half plot was no problem for them and we were to be amazed at the wondrous things that they would produce from it. So began the saga of Pippi Long. When after several weeks we hadn't seen anyone on the plot I emailed to ask if all was well. Over the next few months there followed various excuses, they had been abroad, they had sickness in the family, the cat had died etc. Then one day I received a phone call from a lady who told me that she owned the house that Pippi Long had given as her address. She proceeded to tell me a long and sorry story of how Pippi Long and her family had rented her house whilst she was abroad and when the lease was up refused to move out. They demanded £30,000 to leave. After many months of legal battle it cost the owners £15,000 to get them out and it appeared they were doing the same thing to another house owner in the area. Well! Can you imagine what a situation this was for our little association; we had an international group of professional con men (allegedly) renting a piece of ground on our allotments. What could they possibly want it for? It sure as hell wasn't for digging. Perhaps they would put a shed on it and demand 30 grand to move out! I quickly checked and found that she had signed her licence agreement so I knew that all would be well!! For a time I pretended that I knew nothing of her situation and she continued to promise that she would have a team of professional gardeners digging away tomorrow. I soon tired of this and as it turned out I didn't have to evict her with the help of the trusty licence and she just was never seen again.

We had, for the first time in three years, an Allotment Association meeting. It was held in Rowington Club, I find that this tends to encourage attendance. In fact nearly all our plot holders came along some with family members. One of our main tasks was to appoint officials, I remain as chairperson with Richard Watson as assistant chair and Louise Bowe as secretary. The meeting went very well with lots of input and discussion from members. Various issues were debated and resolved with a few action points for people to address at a later date. It was agreed to hold another meeting at the end of the season. One particular issue that members were happy had been solved was the supply of horse manure. Properly seasoned horse poo is most important to allotment holders and without a regular supply they become most agitated and unruly. Sue in the past used to bring bags of it in her car from the stables where she had her horse. She now has a newish Honda Jazz and was determined not to mess it up with bags of dung. Members had heard of this and although they knew that soon the Honda Jazz would be as messy as her last car, they arranged an alternative supply. Garth Cooper will kindly deliver us a load when asked so special thanks to Richard and David for sorting that out. I did however hear that a bag of muck had appeared on the ground the other day so it looks like we might have two suppliers after all.

We continue to improve and maintain the allotment grounds at Clear up Days and during the year. We now have a group of pro active plot holders who are well able to identify jobs that need attention and get on with them. Grass cutting is done regularly with members helping each other out when necessary. I would personally like to thank all those who take on tasks before asked particularly as I sometimes struggle to get to the allotments as often as I would like.

We believe that the allotment grounds are an extremely important part of our village life and are grateful for the continuing support of the community and the Parish Council in ensuring their growth and continuation.

For any further information or to be added to the waiting list please contact either John or Sue on 01564 784352.

#### The Churches of St. Luke & St. Laurence

April - Primrose Cafe on Easter Monday raised £300 towards the DEC humanitarian appeal supporting those affected by the conflict in Ukraine.

April - 22 September - we continued in interregnum (i.e. no vicar following Keith's retirement) with Kemble Everitt and visiting vicars supporting us for services and worship - many thanks for their support, in particular to Kemble. Re-launched Parish Magazine under new editorship continues to go from strength to strength. Huge thanks to Yvonne and Graham Harrington.

June - Rowington Parish Festival Week - Circle Singers of Leamington Spa Summer Concert, Icon Centre Open Day, Prayer Walk and Coffee & Cuppa Cafe. Started with a special service to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee - beautiful flowers from our festival flower team.

August - Lammastide service on first Sunday where we celebrate 'the first loaf from the first grain harvest' with our service done seated around a table in the nave, sharing bread and giving thanks for the harvest - so important to us as a rural Parish. We also hosted the Warwickshire Geological Society as they visited St. Laurence as part of their walking tour as the vicar here in 1855-97 was the famous Geologist Rev Peter Bellringers Brodie.

September - we opened our doors on a number of evenings and afternoons for people to gather, reflect and give thanks for the life of Queen Elizabeth II. We welcomed our new Rector Rev Ann Peachy at the end of September, alongside her husband Will and the family with a wonderful installation service at Hatton - with all the Churches in the Benefice playing a part - St. Laurence led on hospitality (with the presentation of a personalised teapot for Ann!) and creativity with artist brushes gifted from the Icon Centre.

October - we hosted a visit from the Granddaughter of David Parr who painted the North Chapel ceiling during repair works - he was also an illustrator with William Morris and has his own museum in Cambridge, David Parr House [www.davidparrhouse.org](http://www.davidparrhouse.org)

November - Our Icon Centre needed to move to an alternate venue for the winter as the heating system vagaries + cost of heating was making the Lady Chapel a challenging environment. More work was undertaken to improve the heating system. We hope to have the Icon Team back with us in the summer. It was hugely impactful having all the various services and groups join us for the Remembrance Day Service this year at St. Laurence.

December - Carol Concert with The Circle Singers of Leamington Spa and a wonderful set of donations for the Baby Basics team in Warwick once again. Rowington Parish Quiz returned post Covid break and moved to its new home at The Tom o The Wood. A massive thank you to the Rowington Club who hosted us for many years and now have a regular (professional!) quiz established.

The Parish quiz will plan to run post Easter, Summer Festival Week, Autumn (Harvest) and Christmas - each time we operate a collection for Warwick Foodbank alongside this. February - work completed on the church clock so it is now mechanised and no longer needs winding each week. A huge thanks to all those in the village who have helped wind over the years - please note a mechanised clock still stops when jackdaws try and make a nest in it!!

Massive burst in the heating pipes.....the ones hidden under the altar steps - all now fixed and supported by our insurers. A huge thanks to Treasurer Roger Shepherd for leading on this. A number of Baptisms, weddings, funerals and burials of ashes continued throughout the year - a huge thank you to Di and David Dillon who have led on the organisation for these. St. Laurence continues to be central to our community, providing God's blessing at those key life stages - new life, families coming together, and giving thanks for great lives, well lived.



Our popular Bring & Buy Book Sales returned to the Tom o The Wood in March, July, October and January. With Rev Ann on board, we are now settling into a steady routine at St. Laurence for services: 1st Sunday - 6.00pm, Holy Communion 4th Sunday - 11.00am, Morning Praise 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 5th Thursdays - 7.30pm Compline Where there is a 5th Sunday, we now work together as a Benefice with Hatton, Haseley and Honiley and take it in turns to host this service - with St. Laurence hosting the first of these in January.

At present we have not looked at plans for St. Luke in Lowsonford which has not re-opened yet post Covid. An enormous thank you to our PCC members, flower arrangers, bellringers, safeguarding leads, baptism/wedding/funeral coordinators, Parish Mag editors, contributors, readers, deliverers and general wrangling and negotiating to make it all happen, churchyard angels, wheelie bin movers, wine donators for Christmas Do, Raffle Prize givers, bring & share cookers of nibbles, 300 Club administrators and supporters, Quiz supporters and hosts, book sale supporters and hosts (including lift and shift and storage), facebook supporters (@stlcrw - 189 followers), regular givers, Icon Centre worshippers, Baby Basics and Foodbank donators and everyone who has contributed to ensuring St. Laurence continues to be the heartbeat of active, community ministry and love in so many ways across our Parish.

### WI

Rowington WI has 40 members, and its meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month in Rowington Village Hall. Prospective members are always welcome to attend.

During the past twelve months the following meetings and events have taken place:

10 May 2022: Speaker - John Butterworth - 'Hotel with a famous guest list'

5 June 2022: Tea and cakes were provided at the Cricket Field as part of Rowington's Platinum Jubilee celebrations for HM Queen Elizabeth II (1952-2022)

14 June 2022: Garden meeting with delightful refreshments kindly provided by Lynette Sahota and her team

12 July 2022: A visit to Kiftsgate Gardens had to be cancelled due to excessively hot weather

6 August 2022: A stall offering useful items was manned at the Annual Village Show in the grounds of Shakespeare Hall, Rowington Green

9 August 2022: A walk through the canals and fields to Baddesley Clinton followed by lunch at the Tom 'O' the Wood

13 September 2022: Speaker - Lynne Stubbings - former chair of WFWI and then National Chair - 'The highs and lows of chairing the largest women's organisation'.

11 October 2022: AGM followed by speaker - Betty Webb (aged 99) who worked at Bletchley Park

8 November 2022: 56<sup>th</sup> birthday meeting. Speaker - Trevor Langley - 'If Warwick walls could talk'

13 December 2022: Christmas meal at the Punch Bowl, Lapworth

10 January 2023: Quizzes and table games with fizz and savouries

14 February 2023: Surprise speaker: Trevor Langley 'Music and Films of the 1940s'

14 March 2023: The Reverend James Holden: 'Climbing Mount Kilimanjaro'

11 April 2023: Commemorative tree planting in grounds of Rowington Village Hall; Jane Neary talking about therapy dogs accompanied by her Chihuahua called Harry Potter

### Rowington Almshouse Charity

At the time of the Parish Council 2022 AGM there were 2 properties vacant, these were subsequently upgraded prior to being occupied by newcomers Maggie and Shelia.

New porch roofs using new fibre technology, have been completed on all the properties. The continuing upgrade of all the properties is now in place, We are also having to implement the new building regulations that are coming into force as Landlords.

After over twenty years Yvonne and Michael Wade have ceased to be Trustees, they both contributed in time and a considerable amount of knowledge to the day to day running of the Charity. It was Michael's research into the use of heat pumps which resulted in the trust installing them in all the properties.

The Charity welcomed the new Vicar Ann Peachey, the Churchwarden Jude Palmer along with Richard Watson as trustees.

### Tennis Club – Joan Shepherd

The tennis club is working well to recover from the effects of the covid restrictions. Our membership numbers are pretty stable, but of course we welcome new players. With well over fifty per cent of our members living in Rowington we feel this is a good representation and shows the importance of the club within the village. Obviously, we welcome members from elsewhere as they have always played an important role in the wellbeing of the club.

We hope the courts are maintained to your satisfaction. Our maintenance team work hard to combat the moss problem, whenever the weather allows. Our aim is to put an amount into the contingency fund towards resurfacing the courts when necessary, however with increased expenses it is increasingly difficult to save a significant amount.

We look forward to the coming season, hoping for good weather and hope the Parish Council realise the important contribution the tennis club makes to village life.

Next year - 2024 will be the 100 anniversary of the formation of Rowington Lawn Tennis Club, which we intend to celebrate.

**7. Public Forum**

No matters were raised.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm.

Signed.....Designation ..... Date.....