

# TOCKENHAM PARISH MAGAZINE



November 2023



## **From the editor**

Well, October gave many of us a smack in the face and a horrible shock when we woke up on Friday the 20<sup>th</sup> morning and found water everywhere. Those who (like me) were directly effected will know only too well how awful that feeling is when you come downstairs and find your ground floor under water. I know it effected every corner of Tockenham and one way or another. 'm sure my experience was not isolated when within an hour of discovering what was happening we had several friends and neighbours all pitching in with pumps, brooms, towels, coffee and food. I honestly don't know how I would have coped without their management, moral support and physical intervention. Thank God for wonderful Tockenham people. I'm not going to single out particular people but you know who you are. We've just got insurance company bureaucracy to deal with now so wish me luck with that.

You will see gaps in this months magazine which I hope you'll forgive me for and understand why I haven't had the time to get them filled.

## **Village Hall Coffee Morning**

Our next Coffee Morning will be held on Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> November , from 10.30 a.m. until 12 noon in the village hall.

If you are unable to join us in November, the next Coffee Morning will be on Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> December.

Please make a note of us in your diary, we meet the first Tuesday of every month from 10.30 a.m. until 12 noon in the village hall and everyone is welcome – we look forward to seeing you.

A warm Tockenham welcome awaits.

## **Gone to the dogs.**

We have received 3 complaints recently about dog-mess in the village – especially concentrated around the allotments/play area vicinity. This is something that has never really been a problem in Tockenham because our dog owners are very good - but, a gentle reminder to "pick up", and perhaps keep an eye out. If you have friends who come round to see you with their dogs, please remind them too. Lets not forget -

*Under the Road Traffic Act 1988 it is a criminal offence for a dog to be on a designated road (ie. a public road) without being held on a lead.*

## **Allotment news**

With Harvest Festival imminent, all should be 'safely gathered in' but that isn't necessarily so at the allotments. There are still potatoes and leeks, parsnips and brussel sprouts in the ground and a few will stay until Christmas. In fact some believe that a good frost enhances the flavour of parsnips and brussels. The potatoes will hopefully be removed before the frosts.

There is currently an invasion of wasps guarding my potatoes.

My plot is covered in small finger-sized holes with a few wasps in each.

Many plots are now carpeted for the winter, a trick I learnt at the National Trust garden at Avebury. We do it to deter weeds, some plots even have Axminster I've heard! Come the spring when they're lifted we find a whole menagerie under there from a vast selection of creepy crawlies to huge slugs and families of toads! I hope villagers have enjoyed our 'sharing table' this year, apparently the judges of the Best Kept Village were very impressed with it!

Helen

## Xmas Tree lights switch on. 6.30 pm Friday 1<sup>st</sup> Dec.

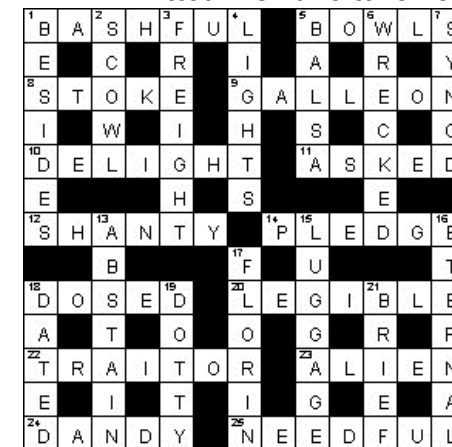
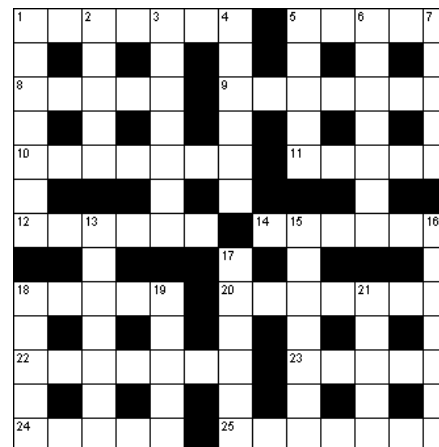
As the Festive season approaches, we will look forward to switching on the lights to the Village Christmas tree so please come along sing some carols and enjoy some complimentary Mulled Wine and Mince Pies.

Kevin Woolnough – Tockenham Parish Council



## Crossword Puzzle

Last months answers



### Across

- 1** Popular newspaper size (7)
- 5** Trembling poplar (5)
- 8** Wear away (5)
- 9** Supplement to a will (7)
- 10** Gland in the neck (7)
- 11** Prickle (5)
- 12** Intemperance (6)
- 14** Overseas (6)
- 18** Disrobe (5)
- 20** Hermit (7)
- 22** Type of crossword (7)
- 23** Mythological abode of the dead (5)
- 24** Bright, cloudless (5)
- 25** Hang (7)

### Down

- 1** Playhouse (7)
- 2** Plunder (5)
- 3** Burdensome (7)
- 4** Make up one's mind (6)
- 5** Inspect accounts (5)
- 6** Small flute (7)
- 7** Synthetic fabric (5)
- 13** Continue (5,2)
- 15** God of wine (7)
- 16** Wearing clothes (7)
- 17** Summary (6)
- 18** Religious factions (5)
- 19** Trivial (5)
- 21** Excessive (5)

## Notes from the Parish Council.

### Speed

Following our metro count results from earlier this year evidence shows that Tockenham does not qualify for either the Community Speed Watch (CSW) scheme or a Speed Indicator device (SID).

Despite the results the Parish Council still have concerns regarding Road Safety within the Village and are investigating the possible installation of a Civilian deployed Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) Camera. This will be costly and research will be thorough before any decisions are made. We are working closely with our local Police who have agreed to our requests to carry out random speed checks.

### Passing Places

We have submitted applications to Wiltshire Local Highway and Footway Improvement Group (LHFIG) for the creation of a suitable vehicle passing place on the C120 on the bend opposite Rowley Copse which would include a dual passing place and no parking sign. In addition, we have asked for these signs also to be placed at current passing places just South of Red Lion Cottage, opposite Becketts House and between Heron Pond House and Rye Cottage.

### Salt bin

You may have noticed that following requests we have made available a Salt Bin for use on Orchard Lane which does not get salted by the Council. Wiltshire Council would not deem this an area requiring a salt bin and indeed as they would be unlikely to allow us to site one on the verges it is placed just inside the allotment gate. Please use as required but please remember to shut the gate when finished. A scoop can be found inside the bin.

### Surface water drainage and pavement clearing

Our Parish Steward will be very busy this month as we task him with dealing with drainage issues along our Highways. Wiltshire Council have also been requested to clear the pavement of encroaching vegetation between Bowds Lane and Trow Lane. Requests have also been made to blast through drains on the C120 opposite Field View No.1 Tockenham and again at Mermaid Corner, junction to Preston Lane. A reminder that the drainage system here has faced considerable investigation in the last

## September 30th

### Presentation for Best Kept Small Village

Well - what a splendid occasion - and didn't we feel proud! With presentations from the High Sheriff of Wiltshire - and the Lord Lieutenant of Wiltshire! Thanks to everyone who came along.

Starting with tea/coffee and cakes in the Hall - we went into the road outside the Park (thank you for not raining!) where the Lord Lieutenant unveiled the super new sign declaring Tockenham as the Best Kept Small Village in Wiltshire. Unfortunately we only keep this one for a year! However - we do keep the two plaques (which will be fitted outside of the Hall,) and two certificates which will be displayed prominently inside the Hall.

I need to thank Kevin and Julie for all of their hard work on this project - and also Sonyia, Felicity and Ben for helping out on the day.

In my little speech, I managed to thank the various Groups who accepted the awards - The Church, the Allotment Holders (with Edd, Andrew G and Linda/Gloria/Ruth for special achievements), The Mower Men and the P C members.

Also special mentions for Julie for the beautiful village flowers and Kevin C for all of his help keeping our Play Equipment safe for the children.

But I must now apologise for a Thank-you that I forgot! To Roland and his team for sorting out the hole for our new sign.

This is typical of the help that you have all given for this event - and I repeat my thanks to you all for getting behind us and helping the village to win this award! (Two really - one for North Wilts and one for Wiltshire). Well done to everyone.

Apparently we cannot enter this competition again next year - but we can enter to win the Champion of Champions.

Might be worth a try! I am sure that we could do it. More to follow.

Many thanks

Diana Kirby Chair of Tockenham Parish Council

## Poets Corner

### Bonfire Night

I guess you will remember,  
Bonfire night on the fifth of November.  
Excitement as a child,  
It really made us all go wild.

Jumping Jacks which landed anywhere,  
Catherine Wheels pinned to posts over there.  
Fountains sat upon the fence,  
With lovely colours and sparkles oh so dense.

Roman Candles upright stand,  
And lovely rockets which make a sound.  
The louder the crack the better it was as it echoed around the  
hills,  
For everyone to hear just fitted the bill.

Handling sparklers and twisting around,  
So much happiness did abound.  
The bonfire glowing with flames so bright.  
Made this time a great delight.

Ernestine

couple of years and its geographical situation means it will occasionally flood but should drain quickly. Regular blasting will help.

### **Railings**

The railings at the main culvert between Greenway and Mermaid Corner were finally recently replaced only to suffer vehicle damage within days of their installation. We await another re-fit.

### **Community Emergency Plan**

Working with Wiltshire Local resilience forum we are currently putting together a Tockenham community emergency plan whereby we will have procedures in place to deal with emergency situations that may affect our community, for example a pandemic, flooding, severe weather or utility failure. To help us achieve this we have recently been successful in our application to Scottish and Southern Electricity for a grant to buy two large generators at a cost of £1797.58. These would be used in the Village Hall and would provide us with power for hot refreshments, use laptops, charge mobiles and provide some lighting. We will update you on this and procedures as we progress.

## **Benefice Services, November 2023**

### **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November:**

Communion, **Hilmarton**, 2.00pm

### **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November:**

Communion with Commemoration of the Departed ,

**Broad Town**, 10.30am

All-Age Service, **Lyneham**, 10.30am

Commemoration of the Departed, **Lyneham**, 3.30pm

### **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November Remembrance Day:**

Communion, **Clyffe Pypard**, 8.00am

Remembrance Service, **Lyneham**, 10.45am

Remembrance Service, **Tockenham**, 10.50am at the War Memorial

### **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November:**

Communion, **Lyneham**, 10.00am

### **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November:**

Communion, **Lyneham**, 10.30am

Morning Prayer, **Tockenham**, 10.30am

### **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November:**

Patronal Festival, **Broad Town**, 10.30am

### **Harvest Thanks**

Many, many thanks to all those who contributed, helped and joined in with all the harvest celebrations in the village. It was a truly affirming week-end with so much generosity, community spirit and joy celebrating and sharing all that we have to be thankful for from the created world.

The bread making workshop culminated in two wonderfully fragrant, light and sweet tasting Ukrainian loaves shared at the Harvest Supper. The church looked amazing and welcomed a large congregation to sing, pray and reflect on the social and emotional support that bread and sharing food symbolises in so many ways. Finally, the Harvest Supper with wonderful food and iconic auction finished the celebration off in style.

Through these celebrations we also reached out to others, collecting several boxes of food for the Swindon Food Collective and making £768.60 for St Giles ensuring upkeep of our ancient and lovely church building and continuing the church's pastoral work and outreach into the community.

### **Future Dates**

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November:** Remembrance Service at the War Memorial followed by refreshments kindly offered by Geoff and Bridget Cowling

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December:** Return of the Christingle Service

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December:** Carols by Candlelight

Church contacts are: Reverend Rachma 01793 731134 or Mandy Cook 01793 853504

### **From the Reverend Rachma**

In these late autumn days and as the season of Remembrance approaches, throughout the ages the church has offered a variety of ways for those who have been bereaved to remember those who have died and to reflect on the impact of grief on our own lives. If you weren't able to attend the recent service in Tockenham and would like to mark the season and remember loved ones, the following may be of interest to you:

#### **Sunday 4 November at St Michael's Lyneham at 3.30 Commemoration of the Departed.**

This service will include the reading of the names of those for whom we have taken a funeral in the last 3 years as well as other names.

#### **Sunday 5 November at Christ Church, Broad Town 10.30 Communion**

This service will include prayers for those who grieve, the reading of the names and a focus on the resurrection hope offered by faith in Jesus.

I am also including a link to the short video service that we created during the covid season.

It will also be available on our Facebook page (Benefice of Lyneham and Woodhill) and on the website ([www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com)).

The video link is: <https://vimeo.com/637535423>

You can be assured that wherever you are all of you will be in our prayers and thoughts over this late October and November season of All Saints and Remembrance.

Rachma



