

RATLEY AND UPTON PARISH COUNCIL

	Minutes of Ratley and Upton Annual Parish Meeting held on 28th May 2026 in Ratley Village Hall at 7.00 pm
No	Agenda Item
1.	<p>Apologies Apologies were received from Cllr. Graham, Cllr. Mills, Cllr. Littlewood. Cllr. Hornsby did not attend.</p>
2.	<p>Present Cllrs. D Payne, , A Simpkins (Chair), A Berry and J Obbard, Clerk. 5 members of the public were present</p>
3	<p>County Councillors Report Cllr. Mills’ report which was received in advance of the meeting is shown in Appendix 1</p> <p>District Councillors Report Cllr. Littlewood’s report which was received in advance of the meeting is shown in Appendix 2</p>
4.	<p>Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd May 2025 These were proposed by Cllr. Simpkins and seconded by Cllr. Payne as being a true and accurate record of the proceedings. This was agreed by all, and the minutes duly signed by the Chairman.</p>
5.	<p>Matters Arising from previous meeting The Chair summarised the minutes from the last meeting and explained that any actions from the May 2025 Annual Meeting had been transferred to the May Parish Council meeting for a more rapid response.</p>
6.	<p>Annual Financial Statement.</p> <p>The Clerk presented the unaudited annual accounts for April 2025 to March 2026 and reminded the meeting that smaller councils such as ours, are now normally exempt from external auditing, although internal audit is still a requirement. The limitation for exemption is that neither income or expenditure exceeded £25,000 during the financial year. At the 2025 Annual meeting of the parish, I explained that we had exceeded the £25,000 expenditure threshold and therefore an external audit was required. For the 2025 – 26 financial year, both our expenditure and income were well under the threshold so we are exempt from an external audit once again.</p> <p>The Councillors will approve the accounts during the June Parish Council Meeting following results of the internal audit report. The Precept for the 2025/26 financial year was set at £17,000. – this is the element of council tax raised from residents of the Parish that is provided to the Parish for our local needs.</p> <p>The largest expenditure last year was, again, grass cutting of playing fields, verges etc., followed by Clerk’s salary, and donations to the Village Hall and Ratley PCC.</p> <p>The closing total balance for the 2025/26 financial year was £22,453 which is back close to the level we had before last year’s exceptionally high expenditure. The Parish Council have now reached a level of reserve funds sufficient to run the Parish for a considerable period in the absence of funding, should the need arise, and also to enable any significant unexpected items</p>

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	<p>of expenditure to be met. However, in order to meet the expected increase in various costs during 2026/27, the precept has been increased to £18,000 for the current financial year. This should enable the PC to maintain a sufficient balance.</p> <p>The Clerk reminded the meeting that the Parish Council accounts were public documents. The 2025/26 accounts will be available for inspection for a period of 30 working days at a time to be publicised following receipt of the internal audit report. They will also be available for inspection on the Parish Council Web site.</p> <p>The annual accounting document will be completed by the Clerk, and filed on the Parish Council web pages, in addition to various other documentation that is required to support the audit document. As we are exempt from having an external audit, the only document that needs to be sent to the external auditors is the exemption certificate.</p> <p>Jeremy Obbard – Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer</p>
7.	<p>Local Community Reports</p> <p>7.1 Ratley Village Hall. This was prepared and presented by Shona Walton and is attached in Appendix 3.</p> <p>7.2 - Ratley Parochial Church Council A report prepared by Andrea Harding-Smith was read by the Clerk and is attached in Appendix 4</p> <p>7.3 - Ratley Youth club. A verbal report was presented by Shona Walton. Owing to the number of children currently living in the parish, the viability of the youth club is difficult.</p> <p>7.4 – Tysoe School This report was prepared by Paige Allister, Head of Tysoe C of E Primary School and read by Cllr. Berry. The full report is attached in Appendix 5.</p> <p>7.5 - Welfare Trust. This report was prepared by Pete Simkin and presented by Cllr. Simpkins. The full report is attached in Appendix 6.</p> <p>7.6 – Ratley Creative This report was prepared by Adrienne Obbard and presented by the Clerk. The full report is attached in Appendix 7.</p> <p>7.7 – Ratley Tea and Chat. A verbal report was provided by Shona Walton</p> <p>7.8 – Ratley and District Flower and Produce show This report was prepared and presented by Barbara Payne. Appendix 8.</p>
8.	<p>Chairman’s Report</p>

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	The Chair presented her annual report of the activities of the Parish Council and the community. This is shown in Appendix 9.
9.	Any Other Business No items were raised
	The meeting closed at 19:40

Signed (Chairman) _____

Date _____

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Appendix 1 – County Cllr. Chris Mills Report:

Ratley & Upton Annual Parish Meeting 28th May 2026

Warwickshire County Council approved its budget for 2026/27, alongside the medium-term financial strategy for the next five years.

The budget includes a 4.4% increase in Council Tax, including the 2% adult social care precept. This is lower than the maximum permitted increase of 4.99%, reflecting the Council's wish to support residents with cost-of-living pressures. The medium-term financial strategy also sets out a programme of efficiency savings and investments to maintain the Council's strong focus on prevention to help reduce future demand on services.

For a Band D property, the overall increase in the Council Tax bill will amount to an additional £1.56 per week.

SEND provision

Warwickshire County Council has approved additions to the Education Capital Programme 2025/26 to expand specialist resourced provision for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities to allocate over £320k from the High Needs Provision Capital Allocation. £110.5m per year spent on SEND

Adult Social Care Service Rated 'Good' by CQC

WCC is celebrating a positive outcome from the Care Quality Commission's assessment of Adult Social Care which recognises the county as a high performing on Adult Social Care needs. Adult Social Care is the largest expenditure for Warwickshire County Council @ £310m per year. As an example, in 2024 The average cost of a local authority-funded care home place for someone aged over 65 was £951 a week and the costs are rising. 80% of Council budget on Adult Social Care.

Home to school transport

Home to school transport is another big spend for WCC at over £46m per year. Total home to school transport costs have more than doubled from £17m in 2018.

Total Expenditure budget for Warwickshire County Council @£700.2m

However, we are Recalibrating Warwickshire and Fundamental changes are coming.

We are focused on the future and have set out our objectives for the next four years in our draft Council Plan which details our purpose and direction for our residents, partners, businesses and staff.

The plan outlines our mission to improve services, build a new, better form of local government, and transform for the future – ensuring that Warwickshire remains a place where people are safer, healthier and able to thrive. Severe financial pressures on the Home to School Transport Budget and SEND are being addressed by the continuing expansion of 'resource provisions' in schools, which allows children with special educational needs to attend a specialist resource within a mainstream school, facilitating greater inclusion and making it easier for all children to attend a school local to them.

Families are experiencing the benefits of new Warwickshire Child and Family Wellbeing service

Since launching in December 2025, Warwickshire Child and Family Wellbeing (WCFW) meet the evolving needs of families through an integrated 'whole family' approach, ensuring that public health nursing across Warwickshire is accessible, responsive, and focuses on local communities.

With emphasis on prevention, early intervention, and community partnership, the service also ensures that children, young people, and families receive the right support, at the right time, and in the right place.

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WCFW teams have already been integrated across Warwickshire's Health Visiting and School Nursing services, with staff continuing service delivery at the same bases across the county and having a strengthened presence in schools to promote good health, spot concerns early, and support children's wellbeing. WCFW has also been bringing professionals together to share knowledge, strengthen collaboration, and provide more seamless and accessible support for children and families within their local communities.

Unitary Authority

Warwickshire County Council submitted its plan for a Single Unitary Authority. The plan indicated that a saving of over £18m per year would be made

Warwickshire County Council

Our plan is to deliver improvement for the people of Warwickshire. Rising demand for children's services and adult social care and a SEND system are under pressure.

This plan sets out how we will recalibrate Warwickshire, to make sure that the people of Warwickshire get a better deal. We will: Put residents of our County and their interests first in everything that we do. From planning decisions to how we allocate school places and design social care, we will fight for the best interests of local people.

Support residents who need help to make sure they don't get left behind. We will do this by putting a new focus on prevention, personal responsibility. Our towns and villages are the lifeblood of our economy, heritage and culture and we must do all we can to support them.

We will do this while keeping council tax increases as low as possible, to recognise the financial pressures faced by all the residents of Warwickshire, always remembering that every pound we spend needs to deliver for you, the taxpayer. The plan outlines our mission to improve services, build a new, better form of local government, and transform for the future – ensuring that Warwickshire remains a place where people are safer, healthier and able to thrive.

Chris Mills
County Councillor
Ratley & Upton

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Appendix 2 – District Cllr. Chris Mills Reports:

County Council Ward Member Annual Report – Malcolm Littlewood – May 2026

Is it already another year gone by, and what a year for Stratford on Avon District Council. My focus as Ward member has and always been on residents. I have been active supporting residents in their problems with Planning, Housing Associations, Severn Trent Water, and Highways (potholes etc.). I have attended as many Parish Council and Parish Meetings as I have been able to, in line with my Role and Responsibilities as your Ward Member. For those interested a full description of the role and responsibility of a District Councillor can be read at [Ward Councillor](#).

After the General Election in 2024, the new Labour Government started a range of democracy changes including Local Government reform abolishing County, District, and Borough Councils replacing them with Unitary Authorities (UA's). At the moment, these changes are planned to take effect after the next elections for the current Authorities in May 2027.

When SDC is abolished, a new shadow authority will be established. Wards are likely to disappear, and the old County Divisions, or close to those boundaries, replace them. This would reduce democratic representation significantly, so I think it is likely that the 'new divisions will have two councillors, but this is yet to be determined. For Town and Parish Councils this will mean little change.

This change coincides with the need to produce a new Local Plan which was started before 2023 by SDC and Warwick District Council; known as the South Warwickshire Local Plan (SWLP). The SWLP is now almost ready to be agreed and move to Regulation-19 by the end of 2026; the major step in its progress to planning and development policy. Sadly, in December of last year the current Local Plan – the Core Strategy – was found to be not fully up to date because an Inspector found that SDC's Housing Land Supply was only 2.7 years and not the required 5 years.

This means that local communities have come under increasing pressure from housing developers who wish to build in our rural communities because of the higher housing value and increased profitability. Rural communities need housing to meet local needs, but these are not the dwellings that developers want to build necessarily. To help rural communities protect their settlements, I successfully put down a motion (seconded by Cllr. Anne Parry Wellesbourne North and Rural) to provide funding for Town and Parish Councils to bring up to date existing Neighbourhood Development Plans and help to fund new NDP's. When 'made' an NDP has equal planning weight with the Local Plan and forms part of local planning policy.

At the same time as introducing Planning and Local Government Reform, the Government has required the new UA's to come together to form Mayoral Strategic Authorities with populations around 500,000 with mayors. Strategic Authorities will take on the role of Police Authority, Fire Authority, and Highways and receive additional funding it is promised. The new Mayoral Strategic Authorities are supposed to geographically match with Police and NHS organisations, whilst at the same time looking to reduce the number of Police authorities significantly, so this latter responsibility is proving almost impossible to incorporate into strategy planning!

Our Ward has seen significant planning applications. Here are a few of the current proposals:

- 1,150 houses off Fell Mill Lane Honington
- Solar Farm proposal off Fell Mill Lane Honington
- Travelling Snowpersons' Site proposal Pillerton Priors/Hersey

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I will continue to represent all residents in the Ward to the best of my ability, and remain available to help, signpost and advise as well as I am able.

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Appendix 3 - Ratley village Hall annual report

Annual Report from the Trustees of Ratley Village Hall to the Parish Meeting 28th May 2026

Registered Charity Number: 533987

Maintenance

Trustees are relieved to report that the investment of the last two years in the heating and decoration has paid dividends in maintaining the attractive appearance of the Hall, though wear and tear requires constant attention to the wall-finish in particular. For ad hoc and unforeseen technical maintenance, we are indebted to Adrian Berry for his constant vigilance, expertise and prompt fixes of any problems. We are also grateful for the security of the annual grant from the Parish Council which enables us to plan routine maintenance with confidence and promptness, rather than rely on the uncertainty of hiring income and charitable grant funding.

Hirings

Following the impact of lockdown, I am pleased to report that hiring activity has increased slightly this year, and income is up 13% on last year without any increase in fees. Our biggest single hirers are the National Childbirth Trust and weekly yoga sessions. Both these regular users value the quality of the floor finish and general cleanliness, for which we are sincerely grateful to our regular team, Marzana and Wieslaw.

Hiring income from outside users is unpredictable and somewhat precarious but is currently sufficient to enable us to maintain fees for another year.

We are delighted to hold the monthly Film Club sessions, with huge thanks to Manny and Alison Puro, and encourage all our neighbours to join up for the screenings of very current releases that support the Hall, works out very much cheaper than commercial cinemas, has no travel costs, and you get to meet your neighbours.

Manny and Alison also gave us the most successful and well-attended fund-raising events since before lock-down, with the Great Ratley Quiz events. These were planned and promoted in conjunction with the PCC of St Peter ad Vincula, with which the proceeds were shared, in the spirit of true community collaboration.

The village is also indebted to Angela, Adrienne and the baking team who open the Ratley Cafe every third Friday of the month for afternoon Tea and Chat, which offers the opportunity for neighbours to meet for the most wonderful home-made cakes and a sociable catch-up. All are welcome for the best bargain in Banburyshire.

During the summer last year, the Hall hosted a series of Friday evening food van events, offering the opportunity for neighbours to gather together at the end of the working week, and put the world to rights. They raised essential income of £335 by opening the Hall as a pop-up restaurant and running a raffle.

As a public service, the Committee organised a series of training sessions with the aim of ensuring wider confidence in the use of the defibrillator equipment provided by the Parish

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Council and hosted by the Hall. This was attended by a reassuring number of neighbours who are now trained in its use.

Trustees are keen to remind our community that we have excellent catering and audio visual facilities, disco equipment, convenient parking, and lovely loos. We particularly value family events: when the bouncy castle van arrives, I always make sure that I nip in to check that the kids are having fun - and to see if there might be cake...

Heating and electricity

Thanks to Adrian Berry's creative initiatives and regular monitoring, the complex and environmentally-friendly heating system is working optimally and efficiently in maintaining comfort levels and the fabric of the building. Our energy costs are thus as low as is practicably possible whilst maintaining the fabric and comfort of the building.

Website and wi-fi

We continue to be grateful to Peter Owen for his management of the Hall's website, which is our only show-case. If anyone has social media skills that could help promote the Hall, Trustees would be interested in making contact. The Hall still benefits from free wi-fi provided by Voneus, for the coming year at least.

Finances

Having had several years of complex improvements, we look forward to a period of 'steady-state' and can turn our attention to promoting the Hall and building up our reserves. Our fees are pitched to be affordable, but we adhere to the principle that they will not be subsidised by fund-raising - income must ensure that the Hall 'washes its face'. We are however, grateful for grants from the Parish Council, and the proceeds of the Village Lottery managed by our Treasurer, which give reassurance that fixed costs such as rates and insurance can be supported, regardless of hiring income, which is subject to the vagaries of external circumstances.

Social responsibility

The Reading Room was created generations ago to support improvement for the minds of the local residents. This year, it has operated as a repository for the collection and repacking of charitable donations of knitting from all over the UK, which are destined for Rwandan refugee camps. So far, over fifty large sacks of children's garments have been despatched by couriers organised by our local partner charity Compassion Direct.

Trustees

I am pleased to report that the Hall has two new committee members since last year: in addition to Trustees Sue Flintoff, Lisa Curtlin and myself, supported by Karen Darby, we have also been joined by Helen Walter and Penny Maynard, who bring new ideas and enthusiasm to the task of maintaining and improving our provision for social and community development.

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We would be very happy to receive further offers of support from people who have other perspectives - some men, for example?

Shona Walton Chair Ratley Village Hall

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Appendix 4 – Ratley PCC Report

St Peter ad Vincula Church, Ratley

Report to the Parish Church Council for 2025 – 2026

Organisation:

Our Churchwarden remains Thelma Grinnell-Moore; this past year (I understand) the formalities of appointment were carried out online, so I believe she is ‘official’ this year! Her experience in church matters remains invaluable. Elaine Atkinson, Michael Parkes and Keith Smith continue as members of the PCC and this year Julia Lambert has joined them on the committee. She has agreed to take on the role of treasurer, and during the past few months we have been working on transferring things into her name and her hands. She is now operating the ‘ExpensePlus’ software to monitor and document the accounts although the Bank mandate is still being processed. We await its confirmation eagerly!

We still have no official secretary, although notes (minutes!) of each PCC meeting are taken and filed.

Shona Walton attends PCC meetings with an eye to many Safeguarding matters.

Andrea Harding-Smith attends meetings to give updates on building and church fabric matters.

Meetings:

Last year the PCC met five times. Each meeting typically included updates and discussion on Safeguarding, Worship matters and planning outreach and special events, finances, the Church fabric and future dates and events. The APCM (Annual Parish Church Meeting = AGM!) will take (/took!) place on 17th May 2026, at which the reports are received and the accounts signed off and appointments to various positions made.

Worship:

There are still three services in most months – Holy Communion on the first and third Sundays at 10.30 am and 6.30pm respectively and a lay-led Compline usually held at 6pm on the fourth Sunday - with extra services and occasions for Christmas, Easter and Harvest in particular.

Special services and events:

In the past year the Harvest Festival Service was allied to a Harvest Supper. This was very successfully headed up by Elaine, to whom thanks were and are given, as well as to all others who shared the work. Christmas included the annual Carol Service, for which thanks – as ever – must go to the Festival Choir and to Shona (and Lisa!). Another very successful Crib Service was held on Christmas Eve, led once again by Rev. Matthew Arnold. There was also a Christmas morning service. Easter was joyful but a less well-attended occasion. Again, the choir led the singing.

Elaine, as you will know, with the considerable help of the Village Hall Committee - and from Quizmaster(s) Manny and Ali - set up and ran a Quiz Night both last year and this, which was both very enjoyable and successful in raising funds for both buildings.

There were two weddings during the past year and one is booked for August this year. There were several funerals and interments of ashes. The staff of the benefice continue to offer their support to all inhabitants of the parish in the event of bereavement, not just church members or adherents. The Book of Remembrance has been updated and new entries made. This is on permanent display in the church.

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Electoral Roll:

The Church Electoral Roll was renewed last year. The final total was of 22 people, one of whom suddenly died less than a month after its completion! So at present there are 21 official names on the roll, although a few other people occasionally or fairly regularly attend services.

State of the Church building:

The condition of the church carries forward from that reported last year. There remains a serious concern about the considerable damp problem on and in the north wall beside the Entrance Porch. It has been somewhat improved in that an effective repair was carried out to mend the broken parts of the hopper and downpipe, and the upper part of the wall now remains pretty dry – even through the past very wet winter!

A new ‘Inspection team’ has been recruited to carry out the monitoring of the church’s condition and so far the reports and suggestions have been helpful – and have helped share the task of getting through and keeping up with this! For example, Terry Moran (gutters and drainage) has come up with an example from another fairly local church as to how guttering on the porch might successfully be added which would allow us to drain the rainwater from the roof away from the wall and (hopefully) reduce the ingress of water to that wall, which is still green with mould inside and outside the church. The next step will be to look into getting the permission/s for this, although the job itself looks fairly straightforward and simple.

We are also looking into a way to set up some sort of toilet facility at the church. This has been ‘on the list’ of desirable improvements since the Restoration Project Group was set up some ten years ago, and has become even more pressing since the closure of the pub in 2024. As ever, cost and permissions are the two most influential factors affecting progress, but we are hoping that we might move forward on this in the next few months.

Thanks!

As ever, heartfelt thanks should be offered to everyone who contributes to the continued existence of Ratley Church both as a building and as a functioning place of worship. There are more quiet, unheralded contributions than can properly be recognised and recorded, but together they are vital and greatly appreciated.

We remain concerned about the cost of maintaining the church, as outlined in last year’s report. We are fortunate in that we have just been able to sign up to the ‘Try before you buy’ scheme run by the Diocese, which loans and sets up a contactless device in a church for a few months so they can find out whether it is a useful item to invest in. Our trial run has only just begun – donations have been made, but we have yet to see how successful overall this is for us - and then we will have to decide whether to buy the necessary hardware. However, this alone is unlikely to fill the black hole in meeting the running expenses, although we all hope it will be a step in the right direction.

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Appendix 5 - Report from Tysoe C of E Primary School

Tysoe CE Primary School

Parish Council Report May 2026



Tysoe C of E Primary School continues to thrive and our pupil numbers continue to increase.

We have seen some slight staffing changes as I have been supporting at one of our other Fosse MAT schools while my friend and colleague has been on leave due to ill health. This has only been possible due to the dedication of the staff team to ensure the children receive the very best education and care.

We continue to ensure all children have access to fun and exciting trips and visits to enhance their learning. These trips and visits are supported with funding from the Friends of Tysoe School and Tysoe Utilities Fund, for which we are very grateful.

We are always eager to welcome parents and family into school and are grateful for their support at our church services, theme days, World Book Day, our fourth annual Science Fair (that is so large now we have to have it spread even further across the school!) and other events.

We were delighted to receive a Platinum OPAL Award for our outdoor play in June 2025. Only 2% of OPAL schools receive a Platinum Award. Our children enjoy very active and creative lunchtimes filled with play. They are also experts in writing risk benefit analysis of new play activities introduced to our playground.

The pupil led Collective Worship Group regularly lead church services and worship and our choir regularly perform at church services, our school services and the Dementia Café. It has been lovely to see so many parents, carers and family members joining us for our services.

The Local Governing Committee (LGC) continues to support and challenge the school. The LGC supported the introduction of wraparound childcare at Tysoe and this has become a very successful feature of the school.

The Friends of Tysoe School have continued their hard work and fundraising this year, running several successful fundraising events; helping with the rising costs of trips and transport. Their project to refurbish the kitchen is ongoing.

Fosse MAT continues to support the school with the building issues at Tysoe and we are pleased that vital work will soon be completed to the doors and windows, ensuring the building is kept safe, secure and in good repair. We hope to have repairs to the gable wall underway soon.

Perhaps the biggest change at Tysoe this year has been the introduction of a Specialist Resourced Provision for ten children with communication and interaction needs. The Grove opened April 2026 and we are delighted to welcome new staff and children to the Tysoe family.

It continues to be a privilege for me to lead our wonderful school.

Paige Allister
Headteacher

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Appendix 6 - Ratley & Upton Welfare Trust Report

RATLEY AND UPTON WELFARE TRUST Charity Commissioners Registered No. 217491

Trustees:

Mr Keith Smith
Mrs Claire Brown
Mr Mike Parkes
Mrs Terry Walters
Mr John Walters
Mrs Andrea Graham

Secretary:

Mr Pete Simkin
Rutland House, Chapel Lane,
Ratley. OX15 6DS
Tel. 07918340774
Email: psimkin6@gmail.com

Report for the Annual Parish Open Meeting May 2026

The Trust generates income on the rent it receives from the 3 paddocks and the allotments; I am pleased to report that all the paddocks and all the allotments are currently tenanted, and we currently have a waiting list of 2.

The surplus income continues to be available to support either significant village or individual needs. In the past 12 months we received no requests for funding so now have a healthy bank balance.

The allotment site continues to thrive. Break-ins continue to be a problem, but everyone has learnt to leave sheds unlocked and not to leave anything of value on the site.

Overall, The Trust continues to prosper; our remit and intent is to serve our community, and we are always happy to consider any ideas or requests for financial support.

Pete Simkin
On behalf of Ratley & Upton Welfare Trust

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Appendix 7 – Ratley Creative Report

Ratley Creative Craft Group 2025-2026

Sadly we still only have four members of our village craft group and for this reason our meetings are few but we do still exist!

On Saturday 22nd November last year we held our Christmas craft fair in the village hall. We a lovely selection of items for sale along with some lovely refreshments and a raffle with some great prizes. We advertised far and wide and the event was well attended.

On Friday 28th November we organised our Christmas wreath making class which seems to have become a yearly event and is always very popular. The workshop is run by Nicky Jones from The Craft Studio in Kineton and everyone who comes has a lovely evening and takes home a very classy wreath!

If anyone would like to join us at our meetings (usually a cafe somewhere!) or events they would be most welcome and we are very open to any new suggestions or ideas.

Anyone interested in the wreath making class or/and craft fair the dates are as follows.

- Wreath workshop Friday 27th Nov 2026 7-9pm
- Craft Fair Saturday 28th Nov 2026 (times to be confirmed)

For further information please contact Adrienne Obbard by email adruob@aol.com or phone. 01295 670314

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Appendix 8 – Flower and Produce Show Report

Treasurer's Report AGM 3rd March 2026

Firstly, I'm sure we would all agree that the committee, one and all contributed to the very successful Show last year.

We had excellent prizes, excellent advertising and an excellent Auction courtesy of Stewart. We also optimised the other income sources of Entry fees and Cakes and Teas monies, culminating in a cash figure of £489.50 which has been paid in to Lloyds Bank.

The Bank statements are available for everyone to peruse.

Adding to this sum, the square reader payments of £166.40 less the fees charged and a kind donation of £50 from Lisa the Final Total of monies for the day stands at £705.90 which is amazing.

After deducting this year's costs of £351.83 and after the Parish Council have given us their donation of £242.50, the overall figure will be £596.57. In addition, the Floats, Prize Monies and Honoraria are already reserved

The balance of the bank account today, currently stands at £1842.49 after bank charges. These monies will ensure a Flower Show this year and for some years to come.

This is a far cry from previous years when we were worried about the Show's prospects, but the wonderful donations, the economy of changing the trophy system to save the engraving costs and the good prizes and advertising has proven to be really effective.

It has been a surprise that in such a lean Produce and Flower season we managed to achieve a great Auction result, and it must be attributable to Stewart's enthusiasm and Parish neighbours who have made all the difference.

Finance alone though didn't just make the Show successful, the atmosphere was so great with everyone enjoying the day – so thanks to all committee members and loyal helpers.

BMP Treas

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Appendix 9 - Chairman's Report

Chairman's Report May 2026

Ongoing since last May are the constant updates on the Quarry. New signs have been erected with weight limits, but we still have lorries coming through both Edgehill and Ratley.

It's been a busy year on the Rec – the playground has had a tidy and refurbishment. There are new tables and benches. Adrian has been busy repairing and I have done some painting.

The wildflowers planted and watered, but we had a long hot summer, so the expectations were not high – but look at them today!, it looks lovely. We are going to wait for the Yellow Rattle to come out in case we need more.

We have had all the usual planning applications, and nothing too controversial.

The new Alkerton Tip rules have been quite a big thing in the lives of local people , but Oxfordshire doesn't seem to want to review and change its rules as yet.

We are looking into speed guns for Edgehill and need volunteers to carry out surveys.

We are in the process of buying two new trees for Grange Close – A quince has been planted and we hoping to buy a Medlar which was not available last year.

But as you know, I have been ill for 6 months so have been out of the loop for the past two meetings.

Lastly, thank you everyone on the Council for your hard work and dedication to the village, and thank you for asking me to be chairman for this last year.