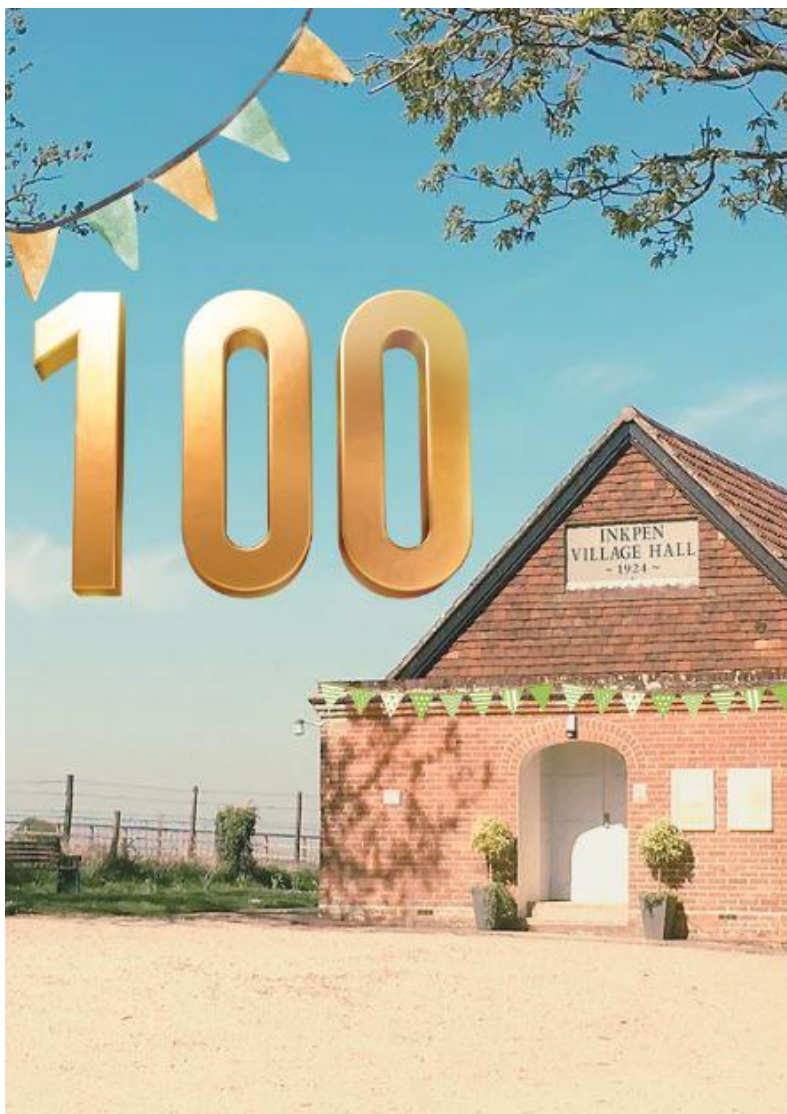


INKPEN AND COMBE BULLETIN

July and August 2024



CHURCH LETTER

We are introducing an occasional healing service in Kintbury. One of the gifts that our new curate brings with her is that she led a regular service of healing in her previous benefice. She will be leading the services along with Bridin Warner one of our Lay Leaders who runs the Friendship Café in Kintbury, and who had a career as a nurse.

These are Bridin's initial thoughts about being invited to co-lead the new service.

“I had never heard of a service of healing until recently, while attending the lay leader's course. I was interested. It was felt that I would be a good person to help lead these services.... I felt privileged.

I have known about Jesus all my life. As a child, I listened to the stories in the New Testament about the miracles Jesus performed and how he helped people, the wonderful story of Christmas which has always fascinated me, and parts of the Old Testament. I remember feeling great sorrow hearing about the crucifixion. How could anyone suffer all that pain? I also felt guilty that He died for me. I didn't always understand it all, but unknowingly it was what probably influenced me to become a nurse. I wanted to help people.

I am not sure what a healing service would be like but am willing to learn. I would like to hope that people will gain some comfort and peace from the service and know they are not alone.

Faith is very personal and complex. I love God and try to serve Him the best way I can, but I have a lot more to learn about Him.’

So, what is a healing service all about?

It is a special time when we come together to seek God's healing and comfort. It's designed to support those who are struggling with physical illness, emotional pain, or spiritual difficulties. But there are ways in which we all could benefit from requesting God's healing power.

When you arrive, you'll be greeted warmly. The atmosphere will be calm and serene, with gentle music playing in the background to create a peaceful space where everyone feels comfortable and supported.

The church will be set up with soft lighting, candles, and perhaps some flowers to create a soothing environment and the service will begin with a short introduction. The leaders will clarify the purpose of the service and set the tone explaining that this is a safe space for everyone. Short passages will be read from

the Bible that focus on healing, hope, and God's love, reminding us of God's power to heal and His deep compassion for all of us.

There will be moments of prayer throughout the service including prayers for specific needs, for the congregation, and the wider community. You may be invited to offer your own silent prayers or to join in spoken responses. We may sing hymns or listen to uplifting music to help us feel connected to God. The music chosen to reflect themes of healing and peace.

One of the central parts of the service is the laying on of hands. You may want to come forward to receive a prayer for healing. A priest or other leaders may gently place their hands on you and pray for God's healing touch. Occasionally you may be offered anointing with oil as a sign of God's blessing and healing.

There might be a time when you can light a candle or simply sit quietly in reflection to connect with God in your own way; a moment to rest in God's presence and to listen for His guidance and comfort.

The service concludes with prayers of thanksgiving and blessing, and the leader will ask for God's continued presence and healing for everyone. After the service, you are invited to stay for further prayer or to talk if you need more support.

The goal of a healing service is to provide a space where we can experience God's love and healing power. It's a time to bring our burdens to God, find peace, and receive encouragement. Whether we are seeking healing for ourselves or praying for others, these services are designed to help us feel God's compassionate presence and to remind us that we are not alone in our journey. Please look out for them and I hope you will join in.

Love and prayers.
Revd Annette

CHURCH SERVICES FOR INKPEN AND COMBE

JULY

INKPEN

Sunday 7th July – Holy Communion at 9.45am

Sunday 14th July – Holy Communion at 8.30am

Sunday 21st July – Compline at 6pm

WEST WOODHAY

Sunday 14th July – Holy Communion at 11.15am

AUGUST (please be aware that services in August are subject to change).

INKPEN

Sunday 4th August – Holy Communion at 9.45am

Sunday 11th August – Holy Communion at 8.30am

Sunday 18th August – Compline at 6pm

WEST WOODHAY

Sunday 11th August – Morning Prayer at 11.15am

Sunday 25th August – Morning Prayer at 11.15am

CHURCH CONTACTS

Benefice Administrator: Tamara Laing, part-time at the **Benefice Office** Email: wbb.office.contact@gmail.com **07359 327072.**

Churchwardens:

Inkpen: Charlotte Bampfyld (inkpenchurch@outlook.com)

Combe: Tina Fiertz (tel. 668529), Katherine Astor (katherine@kirby-house.co.uk).

CHURCH SERVICES AT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN HUNGERFORD

Our Lady of Lourdes, Priory Road, Hungerford RG17 0AF

Parish Priest - Fr Zbigniew Budyn 01635 40332

Sunday Mass - every Sunday at 9.00am

Weekday Mass - every Wednesday at 10.00am

INKPEN PLAYING FIELD & PAVILION IMPFT REPORT FOR 2024

The Parish Council are both the Corporate & Custodian Trustee of the Inkpen Memorial Playing Field Trust. As trustees it is our responsibility to maintain the playing field facilities as set out in the deeds of 1946 and 1952 to enable all residents of Inkpen to enjoy the physical and mental well-being provided by sporting and community activities.

The facilities at the playing field have seen a complete transformation and renovation in recent years. This not only includes the pavilion itself but also

extends to the adjacent playground as well as the tennis courts to name just a couple.

For all of this we are exceptionally grateful, and it is now our task to ensure that the facilities are utilised to their fullest extent and sustainably so, in order that residents can enjoy the resources for many more years to come.

To make the pavilion more sustainable and limit running costs, we have embarked on a number of initiatives including the installation of solar panels. These are not only sustainable they feed surplus energy back into the grid, providing a modest return and paying back the initial investment.

We have also introduced a new keycard system with the idea here being that we can link access and manage the heating remotely, only bringing the building up to temperature when needed. The next stage is to install a highly cost-efficient air source pump to both heat and cool the pavilion as required.

To this end, we have been successful in obtaining a local grant to supplement the funding of these initiatives. We are further exploring the possibility of installing two 50KW EV chargers. The chargers will not only provide those travelling to Inkpen in an EV with peace of mind that they can fast charge, but additionally, the charger supplier typically pays an annual rental for the hosting of the charging unit. This provides additional income for the charity.

Although the pavilion is well used by Inkpen Primary School, footballers, cricketers, tennis players, visitors to the drop in café as well as for private events and functions, we still need more for it to be truly viable. So, we therefore ask residents to use the facilities wherever possible (particularly during the week & evenings) and indeed promote it as a wonderful venue for all occasions.

We have compiled a short questionnaire asking residents what clubs they might attend and whether they, or others would like to run a club at the pavilion, so please give us your feedback to see what we can collectively do.

As we are all volunteers and are truly grateful to those that have helped maintain the facilities in the past including the late Bob May, Richard Bampfylde, Mark Ingvorsen and Jo Kempster to name just a few, we really do need a few more as many hands really do make light work. So, if you are willing and able to give up a little of your time to support the Playing Field trust it would be very warmly received – do let us know.

Inkpen has a remarkable facility, envied by many and one that we can all be very proud of.

Please actively use it and encourage others. Whilst we operate as a “not for profit charity,” we do need your continued support. To this end we will maintain and further improve the facility together to ensure it is enjoyed by all local residents now and for generations to come.

Thank you.

INKPEN STITCH AND KNIT

Our July meeting is on Wednesday 3rd July at 7.30pm in Inkpen Village Hall. There is no particular activity planned so please just bring along anything you are currently working on and we can have a relaxed evening. Although the polling booths will be in the village hall ready for the next day the subject of politics will be banned! In August we meet on Wednesday 7th - same time - same place.

We are growing in numbers which is great but there is always room for more so please come along and give us a try. £3 for the evening which covers the hall hire and tea/coffee and biscuits. For further info please email me

jan@honeydesign.co.uk

THE CROWN AND GARTER

Do please come and join the quiz nights every last Wednesday of the month plus all England's matches in the Euros (we hope this remains relevant by the time the Bulletin goes to print..). We have started doing BBQs on some weekends which we announce on our social media. Keep an eye on Instagram or call us on 01488 668 325 for more information.

INKPEN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Inkpen School Early Years Outside Play Area £5,000 Match Funding by Greenham Trust

Inkpen School PSA are thrilled that Greenham Trust have Granted them £5,000 match funding to support their campaign to raise the funds to improve the outside play area for early years. We just need to raise £5,000 by December to ensure we get the £5,000 granted.

The outside area is much loved by the children, but the flooring is uneven and very tired, and the equipment needs updating. Whilst this area is essential in



Inkpen School_Play space upgrades 3D Sk002



the education of the early year children – research show that play improves the cognitive, physical, social and emotional well-being of children – this is something very low on the list of funding by the education department and so our fund raising is essential to make this improvement.

If you can support our fund-raising campaign on The Good Exchange with any funding please do visit our funding page, every £1 raised will be doubled with a £1 match funding by Greenham Trust.

The link to our page is:

<https://app.thegoodexchange.com/project/20445/inkpen-county-primary-school-psa-association/early-years-outside-play-area>

or simply Google the Good Exchange, click on the heading Charitable Projects and Search for 20445

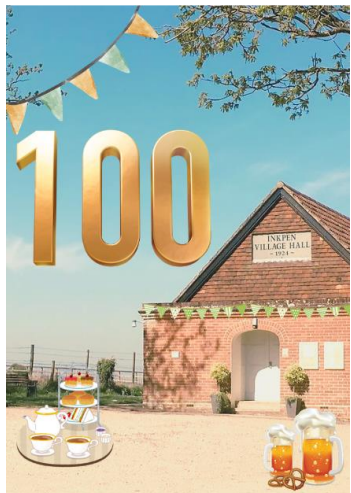
If you have any events planned like a cake sale, coffee morning or bridge event or a challenge do please consider raising funds for our school which is so important to Inkpen.

If you don't want to donate via the Good Exchange, get in touch with

claire@clairejjones.com for other ways to donate.

Thank you so much in advance for your support.

THE VILLAGE HALL



You are cordially invited to join us for a quintessential English celebration to mark 100 years of the Inkpen Village Hall! To commemorate this milestone, we're hosting an afternoon of indulgence and nostalgia.

On Sunday 29th September, noon – 4pm, come and enjoy a vintage high tea, complete with delicious finger sandwiches, scones, and sweet treats.

But that's not all... Our outdoor Beer Marquee will be brewing with a selection of local ales and snacks. Anyone wishing to help on the bar, do let us know. Also, if there are any local acoustic musicians (young or old), that would

like to perform a number or two to add to the buzz, do let us know. We'll provide cover, a mic and and amp.

Weather permitting, we'll have some outdoor games for children to play with so we hope this will be a lovely event for all.

You'll also be able to stroll down memory lane and to that end, we're inviting the community to **share a photo and a memory of their time at the hall** to help us mark this special milestone. Whether you're a past resident, a current member, or simply have fond memories of visiting the hall, we want to hear from you. Please submit your photo and story to be included in our special commemorative book and exhibition.

This cannot happen without you so please do dig out your photos and share your favourite memories of weddings, parties, community events, or simply hanging out with friends at the hall. A small paragraph describing your photo would be fabulous. If you have a memory but no photo, please do submit that too. Help us celebrate 100 years of history, laughter, and community spirit.

If you have something you'd like to share, please do so by emailing inkpenvh@gmail.com or call / text on 07568284750. We look forward to hearing from you. Helen

REGULAR EVENTS



Inkpen Village Hall - Regular Clubs & Activity

Carpet Bowls	Thursday afternoons	1.30-4.30pm	Sandy Wilson, 01488 668336
Darts Social Club	Monday evenings coming late summer	TBA	TBA
Guitar Tuition	Tuesdays	4-8pm	Russ Timms, 07860 830515
Pilates	Thursday mornings	11.45am	Caroline McCord, 07817 503546
Market	3 rd Sundays	10-12.30pm	Christine, Email: inkpenmarket@hotmail.com
Stitch & Knit	1st Wed every month	7.30pm	Jan Honey, 01488 668222
Table Tennis for Fun	Wednesday afternoon	4pm-6.30pm	Linda Pateman on 07774 775599
USA Table Tennis	2 nd & 4 th Mondays	1.30-4pm	Linda Pateman on 07774 775599
Yoga	Tuesday mornings & Thursday evenings	9.30am	Olivia Boydall Tel: 07554 446502



DARTS – COMING SOON...



Aiming to start **Monday 30th September (evening)**

We're excited to announce the launch of a new social darts club at Inkpen Village Hall. This club is open to everyone in the community, regardless of your skill level. Whether you're a complete beginner curious to try your hand at darts or an experienced player looking to share your expertise and enjoy some friendly competition, we'd love to have you join us.

Our aim is to create a relaxed and welcoming environment where people can come together to enjoy the game of darts, make new friends, and have a great time.

We plan to start our gatherings on Monday evenings, but we're open to adjusting the schedule to suit the preferences of our members. Once we have a better idea of what works best for everyone, we'll finalise the meeting times. Refreshments will be organised too.

If you fancy yourself as the next Luke Littler, or perhaps you're more of a "crafty cockney" type, this is the perfect opportunity to get involved. Whether you're interested in playing regularly or just dropping in occasionally for a social evening to meet fellow villagers, we'd love to hear from you.

For more details or to express your interest, please send us an email at inkpenvh@gmail.com.

THE INKPEN HISTORY SOCIETY

We had a good turn-out for our first dowsing day on the 22nd June, and the weather was surprisingly kind apart from being a little blowy. We're hoping to repeat the event, possibly at Walbury Hill, in late August or early September.

The results of the dowsing are being analysed and compared with the geophysics results obtained last autumn. The full analysis will be presented at the next history group meeting, expected in September.

You can find out more and keep up to date by visiting inkpenhistory.uk



INKPEN POP-IN CAFÉ

The café has been going for 9 months and is getting established. Now that the summer appears to have arrived the folding doors are open wide and there's a chance to sit outside and watch the swallows swooping over the cut grass. Not quite mediterranean but the English equivalent.

As always, the café is open on the first and third THURSDAY of each month, so **4th & 18th of July**, and the **1st and 15th of August**, from **10am to 12.30 at the Inkpen pavilion**. Come and enjoy the much sought after cake or biscuits, with a cup of drinking chocolate, tea or coffee. Make a date in your diary. All comers

are welcome. If you are in the history group or a stargazer, this is a good place and time to meet and share.

STARGAZERS



We now have a sizeable group, around 20, ready for this autumn's stargazing. And almost all are signed up to the group app so that it's easy for members to communicate with one another.

Those interested in sunspots can view today's eruptions here

<https://soho.nascom.nasa.gov/sunspots/>. For the moon it's <https://moonphases.co.uk/>. And for the planets

<https://www.timeanddate.com/astronomy/night/@2648147>.

But there's no substitute for viewing the night sky directly, so if you are interested come to our next meeting at the Inkpen pavilion, 7:30 on Friday 12th July. We'll be demonstrating remote viewing using your own telescope and an image capture device. Don't miss out.

COPY DATE

Please email aliedesforges79@gmail.com by 24th August 2024 with all features, news and events for the September edition.

His Majesty King Charles, Patron of CPRE. CPRE - the countryside charity



The Newbury & Hungerford District Branch of CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England) is delighted to announce:

His Majesty has kindly agreed to be Patron of CPRE, a role that the late Queen held for many years. CPRE has held Royal patronage since its founding in 1926, and this continuation shows the important, unique role that they play in the nation's discourse as the only charity dedicated to opposing bad planning and inappropriate development in the countryside.

CPRE, like you, have a common interest to protect the countryside from 'inappropriate development', safeguard the distinctive character and help you to defend the environment and quality of life for future generations.

For further details on the work of CPRE Berkshire and the support it provides for Parish Councils and members, please visit the website: www.cpreberkshire.org.uk



[Homepage - CPRE
Berkshire](http://www.cpreberkshire.org.uk)

CPRE Berkshire is working to enhance, promote and protect Berkshire's countryside. Love Berkshire's beautiful rural areas? Find out more and get involved.

www.cpreberkshire.org.uk

THE JOAN OF COMBE

Joan Brookes (Lovelock) Born 25 Feb 1934 Wexcombe, Wilts.

She was the eldest of four children. Joan's father Herbert worked for A.J. Hosier one of the foremost pioneers of modern farming techniques who was renowned for inventing the mobile milking parlour.

On the back of his success Hosier bought the Combe valley, which consisted of very poor land covered in trees/shrubs and gorse, which most notably was inundated with rabbits. The latter proving to be a very profitable extra crop during the war years.

Herbert was tasked with clearing the land with the help of a bulldog tractor and making it much as it is today. Joan's early years revolved around school and helping with numerous bonfires which seemed to be burning pretty continuously. Hosier used Combe as a test ground for novel ploughing methods. He would rig up two large steam engines on opposite sides of the fields and using a cable strung between the two, drag a plough back and forth.

Joan moved to Combe in 1942, when Box Cottage became free. The village shop, selling everything anyone wanted, including paraffin for lamps and housing the post office. Mr Fosbury was at the centre of everything that happened. He also provided a “school bus” service in his van when the school in the village, which closed shortly after their arrival, moved to Faccombe. It was also the centre for all news and gossip- which might explain why Jon Snow the newscaster took over the shops (by then converted to a house!).

There were 15 at the Faccombe school, with 6 from Combe. This was closed in 1944 and Joan was given a bicycle with 4 other older children on which to ride to Vernham Deane. The younger ones continued in Mr Fosbury’s van. In 1945 she moved school to Andover. This was a different and higher level of education, not to Joan’s liking. Fortunately, the Hampshire council discovered after 4 years that the Combe cabal were in fact from Berkshire, so were thrown out and had to go to Hungerford, which was a much more relaxed regime.

When the war came, life in Combe did not change. Being a rural community, food was never short. The rabbit keeper- a full-time job- sent literally tons of rabbits to London to feed the population. It is interesting to note that there are no rabbits in Combe today although many hares. There were two searchlight emplacements, manned by airmen. These locations were off limits to all children who were kept well away.

Five men in the village formed the Home Guard and the only known excitement was when an off track V2 rocket landed in the 90-acre field leaving a massive crater which can be seen today. Hitler only killed a few rabbits with that one but did succeed in blowing out all the windows of the manor. A German plane crashed on top of Woody Down but no one was allowed near it or to see anything. A missed PR opportunity or dark arts misinformation?

Joan left school at 15 in 1949 to help her father with the farming, and particularly the milking. Long days exemplified by early starts. Life in Box Cottage was decidedly basic by modern standards. There was no electricity in Combe and paraffin and candles were the only light sources. Fosbury supplied batteries for radios. These were very eco and rechargeable once flattened. The radio was for the news, King’s speeches and listening to the highly popular “Dick Barton- Special Agent.”

Romance duly blossomed when Joan met Ted Brookes at a village party at Faccombe. Ted was a gardener and bandsman. Joan cannot remember whether it was his Euphonium or trombone that tipped her over the edge! They married in 1956 and moved into 4 Slate Cottages and Ted started as a tractor driver for

Hosier. Despite this, neither of the couple learnt to drive. They bicycled everywhere and Joan bought a horse from Michael Stewart who lived at Lower Farm. She looked after his other horses. They never moved. Joan is still there nearly 70 years later.

Highlights were: 1. The odd gathering at Faccombe. This was despite Mrs Butler-Henderson being rather fierce- confiscating wild strawberries they picked in the wood below the school. 2. The occasional package trip by bus to Weymouth or Bournemouth organised by Edgar's Bus company in Inkpen. 3. Cinema in Hungerford. 4. Joan's mum used to bicycle there once a week to get her hair done. 5. See Crime below.

Family. Joan's first child, Jacqueline, sadly died shortly after birth, with a congenital heart defect. The Health Service was amazing and whisked them up to Great Ormond Street where very sadly she died in the middle of an emergency operation. She then had two sons and a daughter. Jackie still lives locally and has always been involved with horses, her daughter in turn works in top eventing circles. Both sons became soldiers. Stephen in the Household Cavalry. He still works with horses in a stud and Kevin, the Marines, fought in the Falklands- he had a better arrival than Jacqueline being born in the car on the way to hospital.

Church was an important part of life and she was responsible for lighting the big potbelly stove which was in Combe Church, before services, but inevitably it made only a marginal difference- although it got red hot.

Crime. It did not exist, and a policeman was hardly ever seen. The only exception to this was when the Great Train Robbers decided to hide some of their swag in the hedgerow behind Slate Cottage. When it was found, it caused quite a stir although no one in the village was implicated even though Ronnie Biggs may have had a relation living here. Joan always denied that it was her and says that any similarity between Biggs and Brookes is entirely coincidental. Police retrieved most, but not all of it. There may be more to be found so look carefully when on the footpaths as they always hid loot close to them for easy retrieval.

Joan has just celebrated her 90th Birthday. A lavish affair, some wonder if Uncle Ronnie helped, but we look forward to reporting on future developments as they happen. 4 Slate Cottage always has a kettle on the go and if anyone wants to hear the odd riveting yarn about her life and East End relations, take some biscuits and she will provide the tea. Offers of garden help will be much appreciated as Joan only operates on crutches these days and the weeding is a challenge.

E&OE the transcriber David Pemberton

Clerk to Inkpen Parish Council

Inkpen Parish Council has a vacancy for a Parish Clerk/RFO.

This part-time position is vital to the efficient functioning of the Council, with responsibilities including:

- Managing the Council's finances
- Preparing meeting agendas and supporting papers
- Attending meetings and providing regulatory advice
- Taking minutes and completing administrative actions arising

Good literacy, numeracy, and IT skills are essential to the role, as are the personal qualities of integrity, discretion, and impartiality. The postholder must be a good communicator, well-organised, self-motivated, and confident with basic accounting, record-keeping, scheduling, and correspondence.

Applicants should be able to demonstrate a successful track record in administrative roles with financial responsibilities. A working knowledge of parish council and trust procedures and/or public sector administration is also desirable.

The hours are 20 per month but may be increased temporarily with the agreement of the Council. The starting salary will be in accordance with the appropriate national pay scale for clerks of local councils.

The post is home-based, and there is no requirement for the Clerk to live in Inkpen. Apart from attending meetings, the appointee will work from home and must be able to provide a secure facility for keeping documents, including IT backup.

Meetings of the Parish Council are normally held a minimum of six times a year in the evenings.

Inkpen is a small parish with just under 700 people on the electoral register. The Council comprises seven members and is also the custodian trustee of the Inkpen Playing Fields Memorial Trust charity.

Persons wishing to apply for this position should send their CV and a covering letter by email to inkpenparishcouncil@gmail.com.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Inkpen Parish Council Meetings are all advertised on the village notice boards and the *Agenda* and *Draft Minutes* placed on the official Parish website– see <http://inkpenvillage.co.uk/pc2.html>

The next Parish Council meeting: will be notified on the website and on the notice boards by the new Parish Clerk.

Parish Council 2024/2025: Clare MacInnes was appointed to fill the vacancy on the Parish Council, caused by the resignation of Councillor Lester, and joined the meeting held on 24th June 2024 at Inkpen Village Hall.

Parish Council Planning meetings the next planning meeting will be held on 1st July at Inkpen Pavilion starting at 7.30pm and is shown on the Inkpen website. <http://inkpenvillage.co.uk/pc2.html>

Parish Council Accounts for 2023/2024: the various documents of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return are published on the Inkpen Website in line with *Proper Practices*, as completed by the RFO (Responsible Finance Officer) and was presented for approval at the last Parish Council meeting. Annual Gross income for the authority in 2023/2024 was £14,377 and the Annual Gross expenditure was £18,004. Accounts are subject an independent internal auditor and sent to the external auditor by the end of June.

Wildlife: if you are cutting back long grass or trimming foliage in the garden please check for the wildlife first – hedgehogs, birds nesting, (season ends at the end of August)– please check carefully not to disturb the habitat. Remember the wildlife need water when the weather is hot and dry.

Mobile Library Dates are: The mobile library van will call at Inkpen on 2nd and 23rd July and 13th August. The van stops at: Craven Rd. Inkpen 2.20-2.50pm and at Inkpen School at 3.05 – 4pm.

Please use the service for a wide range of adult and children’s books.

Gloria Keene,
For Inkpen Parish Council
Mobile 07704 718475
Email: parishclerk@inkpenvillage.co.uk