

Celebrating 18 years of Chinnor Churches Go Wild!



by [A Rocha UK Team](#)

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One of A Rocha UK's longest standing Partners in Action is Chinnor Churches Go Wild! (CCGW!). Located in Oxfordshire, at the foot of the Chiltern escarpment, CCGW! is near Chinnor Hill (BBOWT) and Aston Rowant (EN) national nature reserves. This area is valued for its beech woodland and bluebells, chalk grassland, wildflowers and orchids, red kites and muntjac deer and a variety of wildlife. The project, run by a group of Anglican and Methodist volunteers, focuses on community engagement events and creation care across the 10 acres of church grounds of the four rural churches. St. Andrew Church Chinnor, and St Peter and St Paul Aston Rowant have achieved Eco Church awards and run eco services and organise walks and nature surveys through the local reserves.

Revd Dr Brian Griffiths, licensed to St Andrews Church Chinnor but he also attends St Peter and St Paul Aston Rowant, shares more about the day:

On 28 July 2025, Chinnor Churches Go Wild! (CCGW!) celebrated its 18th birthday – it was founded by Bob Sluka and Jo Whitfield back in 2007. To celebrate this milestone, we hosted a convention that brought together all the major players to share what we have learnt over the years and consider our

strategic recommendations for the future. We were delighted to be joined by some hugely significant speakers from the Eco-Christian world, who all gave their time and shared their knowledge and expertise so readily.

It was a particular delight to welcome our old friend, Dr Bob Sluka from A Rocha International, as our keynote speaker, as well as Hannah Mann, Environment Programme Manager for the Diocese of Oxford, Maranda St John Nicolle, World Mission Officer for the Diocese of Oxford and Director of Christian Concern for One World (CCOW!), Dr Paul Taylor, Sustainability Officer at Reading University and Helen Stephens, A Rocha UK's Head of Church Relations.

The day went well. Over 30 people attended – parishioners as well as those from further afield. Local organisations were represented too, with information tables around St Andrew's Church. Our special thanks go to Rob Thorpe for manning the Fairtrade table, and to Lauretta Milligan, Jackie Griffiths and their teams for providing lunch for the speakers and refreshments throughout the day.

The highlight for me was the open forum discussion, with many contributions, happy memories of past events and much appreciation and encouragement for CCGW!. There was a strong recommendation that CCGW! should continue with its current programme and continue to be an active A Rocha UK Partner in Action. Some thought we should consider taking a more active role in Eco representation at a Diocesan level or in secular politics. Please pray for the CCGW! team as we consider our next steps, and do look out for our upcoming events.

Rev'd Dr Brian Griffiths, 18 July 2025





