

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

APRIL

- 6 Watlington Gardening Club (p. 27)
- 13 **The Aston Rowant Annual Parish Meeting** (p. 14, 16-17)
- 15 Craft and Coffee Morning at Aston Rowant Church (p. 39)
- 16 Point to Point
- 24 The Ridge Off Roader 10k (p. 27)

MAY

- 4 Watlington Gardening Club (p. 27)
- 7 Point to Point
- 8 Parish Walk. (p. 31)
- 10 Cherry Tree charity comedy event (p. 24)
- 14 **Kingston Blount Street Fayre and Barn Dance** (p. 11, 20)
- 15 Drawings and copy due for the June/July issue of the Parish Notes (p.23)
- 29 Point to Point

REGULAR DATES

SUNDAYS

1st Sunday each month: 10.00am
**Aston Rowant Church Family
Friendly service**

MONDAYS

Kindergym morning Thame
Zumba 6.30pm KB Village Hall
Yoga 7.30pm KB Village Hall

TUESDAYS

Kindergym morning Chinnor
Whiteway Charity Fitness 9.30 Chinnor
Bell ringing practice 7.30pm Aston Rowant
Curry Night at the Cherry Tree

WEDNESDAYS

Kettlebell Abs 6.00pm KB Village Hall
Yoga 7.00pm KB Village Hall
Listening Ear 7.30 St Andrew's Church
Pie Night at the Cherry Tree

THURSDAYS

Smurf-fit 9.30am, Watlington
Whiteway Charity Fitness 9.30 Chinnor
Toddler Church 11.00am St. Andrew's Church

FRIDAYS

Tiddlypeeps 9.30am Chinnor
Senior Circuits 10.00am Watlington
Craft and coffee mornings (3rd Friday of month) 10am Aston Rowant Church

VOL XXXXIII No 2

APRIL/MAY 2016

ASTON ROWANT, KINGSTON BLOUNT & CROWELL PARISH NOTES



Spring by Freya Wolstenholme, age 4, Kingston Blount

Is there anything you'd like to see covered in the Parish Notes?
COPY FOR THE JUNE/JULY ISSUE IS DUE ON 15TH MAY
Please send by email to sarahparishnotes@gmail.com

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR ADVERTISERS
Please support them all

THANK YOU SUE!

It is very nearly ten years since Susan Greenhalgh so nobly stepped forward in response to the local community's desperate plea for a new editor. Despite having a very demanding full time job and for the last two years, a commute to Leicester, Sue has done a wonderful job of getting Notes out and keeping us posted with the news and views of the parish and we owe her many thanks for these years of good service.

Thank you Sue.

Julian Knight

I would like to express our sincere gratitude to Susan Greenhalgh for her many years of service and for keeping the notes alive.

Andy Green

In nearly ten years Susan Greenhalgh didn't miss a single Parish Notes – that is true dedication. Sue has been very helpful and generous with her time helping me with this issue, and I would like to thank her for that and for all of the time she has given up from a very busy life over the years and the considerable improvements she made to the Parish Notes.

Sarah Day



A NOTE FROM THE NEW EDITOR

If I haven't met you already, I live in Apsley Cottage with Matt (who grew up in Kingston Blount) Hector, Eliza and Rosie the dog. I've edited the magazine for Sotheby's auction house for years, so thought I might be able to apply some of my skills to getting more involved with the village.

The Parish Notes are primarily a tool for keeping the community together – and any ideas that you might have of what you would like to see featured in forthcoming issues will be greatly appreciated.

You can email me at sarahparishnotes@gmail.com or drop off copy at Apsley Cottage, the gate to the High Street is unlocked.

The deadline for copy for the June/July issue is the 15th May. I hope to hear from you!

Sarah Day



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*Information in this newsletter
is, as far as we know, accurate.
The Parish Notes however,
cannot accept responsibility
for the quality of the infor-
mation, services or items
provided by other people or
organisations.*

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*With special thanks to our team
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For Residents of the Parish of Aston Rowant

Monday–Sunday & Bank Holidays

Main Hall (8am–midnight) £14.00 per hour
Committee Room only £8.50 per hour
Children's Parties (daytime) £40.00 (3-4 hours)

For Non-Residents of the Parish of Aston Rowant

Monday–Sunday & Bank Holidays

Main Hall (8am–midnight) £15.00 per hour
Committee Room only £9.50 per hour
Children's Parties (daytime) £50.00 (3-4 hours)

Wedding Receptions £300 per day

A supplementary charge, to be agreed, if access is required the evening before.)

Bar License (if required) will incur an additional charge of £20.

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KINGSTON BLOUNT VILLAGE HALL DIARY DATES

Zumba every Monday 6.30pm

Kettlebell Abs every Wednesday 6.00pm

Yoga every Monday 7.30pm
& Wednesday 7.00pm



USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS:

CAB Local office www.adviceguide.org.uk	01844 214827
Church Tower, Aston Rowant: R Newton	01844 352926
Dial-a-ride (for people with mobility problems)	01869 327048
Highways Pothole Hotline	0845 310111
Highways Street Light Hotline	0800 317802
Hillock Garden Allotments: L. Martins	01844 353968
Library-Chinnor	01844 351721
Chinnor Village Centre	01844 353733
Oxon County Council www.oxfordshire.gov.uk	01865 792422
Pleck Wood: L Martins	01844 353968
Police-Thame (Thames Valley)	101 or 999
Porch: S Thompson	01844 351334
Porch: J Rooksby	01844 352320
Post office-Chinnor	01844 351214
Chinnor Village Centre	01844 353733
Schools:	
Aston Rowant C of E School	01844 351671
Icknield Community College Watlington	01491 612691
Lord Williams School Thame	01844 210510
Mill Lane School Chinnor	01844 352106
St Andrew's C of E, Chinnor	01844 351353
SODC Main Customer Services	01235 422422
SODC Refuse/Recycling	03000 610 610
SODC Planning	01235 422600
Reporting Fly-tipping	03000 610 610

PARISH OF CHINNOR, SYDENHAM, ASTON ROWANT

Rector

Revd Maggie Thorne
The Rectory, Chinnor OX39 4DH
354626

Associate Clergy

The Revd Joan DeVal
3 Orchard Way, Chinnor OX39 4DU
353404
The Revd Des Foote 355945
The Revd Brian Griffiths 355953

Licensed Lay Minister

David Bartlett
5 Grafton Orchard, Chinnor OX39 4DR
351692

Parish Administrator

Louise Heathcote
Chinnor Church Office, OX39 4PG 352472

Churchwardens

Aston Rowant: John Wyatt, Kite Cottage, The Green, Aston Rowant 350221
Crowell: Paul Phillips, 56 Hedgerley, Chinnor
paul.t.phillips@hotmail.co.uk 353754
Sarah Phillips, 56 Hedgerley, Chinnor
p.s.phillips@hotmail.co.uk 353754

Retired Clergy Supporting Us in our Parish

Serena Hutton 354173

PCC Treasurer

Michael DeVal 12 Oakley Road, Chinnor OX39 4HB
07807 967 452

For arrangements for Baptism, Confirmation & Marriage please contact the Parish Administrator (see above).

Methodist Services – Station Road, Chinnor
Roman Catholic Services – St Joseph's Thame Fr Mark Logorio 212860
Holy Mass every Saturday at 6.00pm and Sunday at 9.00am and 11.00am



Aston Rowant Church by Louise Heathcote



LOCAL PLAYGROUPS

And things to do with young children

KINDERGYM

www.kindergym.co.uk

Classes in Thame and Chinnor on Monday and Tuesdays mornings
(check website for timetable.)

TIDDLYPEEPS

www.tiddlypeeps-chinnor.co.uk

Playgroup on Friday mornings 9.30am - 11.30am
Just turn up, £1.50 per family

RED KITE CENTRE Thame – a range of sessions for families and children
<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/red-kite-childrens-centre-thame>

CRAFT AND COFFEE MORNINGS

 at Aston Rowant Church

Third Friday of each month, next one 15th April 10am – 12pm

Open to all ages 0 – 100+ yrs

This is a really nice way to meet KBAR locals. The children can enjoy a play in the Church with their friends while the mums or dads have a cuppa and chat.

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 at St. Andrew's Church, Chinnor

Thursdays at 11.00am (during school term time)

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A LETTER FROM OUR RECTOR

Dear friends

The daffodils are in full bloom, the wind has dropped and the sun has some warmth in it, so it must be spring, and for many, that also means chicks, bunnies, and, inevitably, chocolate Easter eggs.

Several of us have spent an interesting and entertaining Lent studying some of the themes presented in the film, *Chocolat*. Just one of these themes is that of the wind of change and how we're all in need of having our cobwebs blown away so that we may embrace the different ideas and points of view that we've become deaf and blind to, and so begin the process of transformation. One telling line in the study book urged that unless difference and new things are accepted and understood, then 'the Church will gradually retreat into a world of unreality, like wheezing, retired colonels taking tiffin' (ouch!)

During Eastertide, we're called once again to new life. Christ's resurrection was what first called the Church into being and turned a group of demoralised, ordinary men, into such wonderful evangelists that, against all odds, the course of history was changed for ever. But it's important that the Church doesn't just focus on the Empty Tomb. There are some that believe chocolate eggs represent the stone which was rolled in front of it, but that keeps us focussed on Good Friday and perhaps more to the point, we should think of the stone rolled away like an egg shell that's discarded when the life within it bursts out. The real significance is what happened next: lives were transformed and had become freed from their empty wrapping.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if new life could be seen bursting out of our churches? The archbishops have asked every parish to use the week before Pentecost to pray for the evangelisation of the country, so let's start by praying for that new life in our community, and we don't have to wait until May.

Happy Easter and every blessing

Maggie Thorne

ASTON ROWANT CHURCH NEWS

I am sad to report, but the floor of our church in the North aisle which has been changed to make available as 'community space', is suffering badly from age and damp, such that it cannot be used for a while.

Our churchwarden John Wyatt has acted quickly to have the area made as safe as possible and is in touch with the church architect, the builder who carried out the conversion work and the relevant diocesan authorities. The area remains a potential hazard for small children.

It may take a while to take all the necessary steps to get it fully back into use, but in the meanwhile, though people should not go into that aisle more than necessary, there is still access to the kitchen and toilet annexe and tea and coffee can still be served and small events held at the bell tower end of the church.

Services will be continuing as normal.

Julian Knight

CHURCH SERVICES

ASTON ROWANT CHURCH SERVICES

First Sunday of every month	10am	Family Friendly Morning Worship
2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th Sundays	10am	Parish Communion
1 st Friday of every month	9am	Morning Prayers – 20 mins to reflect on the day ahead

CROWELL CHURCH SERVICES

1st Sunday of the month	6pm	Evensong
2nd Sunday of the month	10am	Eucharist

Listening Ear –St Andrew's Church, Chinnor
every Wednesday 7.30– 9.30pm

Sometimes we feel anxious and lonely, burdened by worry or grief, or overwhelmed by problems and would just like the opportunity to talk to someone about what we are experiencing. Anyone can drop in. We provide a cup of tea or coffee, but more importantly a caring and friendly ear. Please do call in.



TESSA WYATT'S COUNTRY DIARY

Excerpts from Tessa Wyatt's Facebook posts this March:

1st March

Rain on way. Shouldn't have groomed horses. Happens every time. They'll be mud buckets tomorrow. Alice is asleep with her head upside down so she's lying on her brains, her way of weather forecasting. Spooky pigeon roosting on the lowest branch of the sycamore in case the wind gets up. He doesn't do well when it's windy and has been known to lose his grip if he's too high up in a very mobile tree. I love the way they all know what to do. Saw two muntjacs today, girlie in front with her little white flag raised invitingly, male following very close behind, both oblivious to me and my barrow. Love is in the air!

3rd March

Second post of the day. The kites are beginning their mating rituals. The male makes a Kee-oo whistle, and the female responds with a strange little tweety gurgle which I can't possibly spell, then he presents her with a stick to add to the nest ... The Little Owls are back, or at least the male is around calling very loudly for such a small bird (no longer than a man's hand.) I can't wait for the conversation to begin when the female turns up. I'm hoping he chooses the same roost as last year because it was right next to my stables in one of the cherry trees ... In the garden, the pale mauve winter crocuses are going over and the beautiful deep purple spring ones are beginning to flower, vivid against the green of the grass.

5th March

Betty, my little Wild Child, was a Star Pony today. She took my neighbour's three year old great granddaughter for her very first ride and behaved impeccably. She was somewhat astonished when the entire family appeared on the yard, and not a bit nervous as a result, but as soon as Leila was swung on board, she seemed to know exactly what to do and walked round like a lamb. Horses have an instinctive understanding of children, the sick and the troubled and are great therapy and even better teachers.

8 March

My lovely farrier came this morning to put new shoes on Bobs, Very cold morning, so he did it in the stable. Bobs is very kind and stands for Jonathan without being tied up, The only slight frown appears if bits of hoof end up in his hay. I wish they were all like him. Well, actually, them, because Jon is an amazing farrier and a very funny man so each shoeing is always fun.



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TO BE A PILGRIM

I read recently that Pope Francis had granted Minor Basilica status, a rare designation, to the Catholic shrine at Walsingham in north Norfolk, and I was reminded immediately of an unusual visitor to our place in Kingston Blount in 2004.

Serena received a letter out of the blue from an intending pilgrim whose name was John and who was planning to walk from one place of pilgrimage, Walsingham, where he lived, to the ancient pilgrimage centre of Santiago de Compostela in north-west Spain, where the Feast of St James was being especially celebrated in 2004. The money to be raised from that 800-mile walk was to go to a charity founded in remarkable circumstances by a Walsingham priest in order to help to repair the damaged lives of street children in Colombia.

John's plan involved walking along old cross-country tracks such as the Greater Ridgeway, but this presented him with the problem of finding as many as 40 different places to make overnight stops during the English leg of his pilgrimage. And those stops needed to be as close as possible to his chosen route. He decided to contact clergy along his route to ask for an evening meal and a bed for the night. Since we live close to the Ridgeway he wrote to Serena, who had been priested four or five years earlier, to ask for help, and she said "yes."

So it was, that on a horribly wet afternoon at the end of April 2004, the drenched and muddy figure of this complete stranger presented himself on the door-step of our farm labourer's cottage. If John had been expecting a Georgian vicarage he was too polite to say so and if we had been expecting him to be clad in cape, sandals and broad-brimmed hat with scallop shells and carrying an eight foot stave then we also were too polite to say so.

After John had had a bath and seen to the drying of his clothes, he turned out to be a charming guest and the evening went convivially. We were told then that the Colombian charity had come about because the street children had effectively saved the life of the Norfolk priest. When John left the following morning, on another wet day, he was heading for Plymouth in order to cross to Santander and begin the Spanish leg of his pilgrimage. Regular postcards told us of his progress and safe arrival but we already knew that he had no plans to walk home!

We subsequently stayed with his family in Walsingham and visited both the Catholic and Anglican shrines there.

Dr Brian Hutton



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It is great to see daffodils and crocus giving some Spring colour and the sun shining. This means only one thing - it must be close to the start of the new cricket season!

I am delighted to let you know that the new outdoor season for the Junior section starts on Friday 15th April 2016. We will once again have the U9s (and younger) training at 6pm until 6.45pm and then the U11s, U13s and U15s coming along and starting 6.45/7.00pm. On 15th April I and other managers for the different age groups will be on hand to collect application forms (these will be available shortly via our website and also all existing members will receive a separate email with a form attached), the bar will be open, there will be both our clothing supplier and a couple of other kit suppliers on hand to assist you with any purchases you may wish to make, hopefully a BBQ will be fired up and of course the children can get out there and start the new season. All existing junior members will be receiving an email advising of all of this in the next week or two. This will also give full details of the junior playing membership fees, which are unchanged from last year.

In addition, on the weekend of 8/9 April, we are planning a work party weekend so if you could offer an hour or few assisting in getting the ground and pavilion ready, remember many hands really do make light work. More information about that will also be on the website and no doubt on the KBAR Facebook page in due course.

If you don't have children who wish to play or your children have grown up and you would still like to be part of the Club then of course you are most welcome. So either come along on 15th or get in touch mandy.brine@btinternet.com and she will make sure that your request is passed to the correct person in the club, and that you receive an application form. The cost for (non-playing) Family Membership this year is once again £10 per family, but a completed application form is required.

Finally the Club are again running the 200 Club, whereby for £20 per year you can buy a number (or as many numbers as you wish at £20 each). Each month numbers are drawn and various monetary prizes are up for grabs. The May top prize being £250 so if you'd like to be part of that do get in touch with me or Peter Lambert in Kingston Blount

We look forward to once again seeing many of you at the Club this year.

Mandy Brine

(ARCC - Welfare Officer & U17s Administrator)



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If you would like to make and donate a cake for the cake stall please contact **Lou Merry on 07930 426 252**

If you can lend your support or help in any other way, please contact **Stephanie Johns on 01844 350311**
kbfayre@btinternet.com

The ever popular Barn dance will take place at the Village Hall in the Evening

Please look out for further updates on flyers and "like" our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/KingstonBlountStreetFayre/>

Supporting our local Community



PARISH COUNCIL & LOCAL CONTACTS

Parish Website

www.astonrowant.org.uk

Parish Clerk

Stephanie Johns

clerk@astonrowant.org.uk

01844 350311

07939 030102

Parish Councillors:

Chairman Andy Green	Kingston Blount	01844 353819
Vice Chair Peter Hetherington	Kingston Blount	01844 353296
Councillor Peter Gibbons	Kingston Blount	01844 351753
Councillor Gordon Crossley	Kingston Blount	01844 351296
Councillor Matthew Day	Kingston Blount	01844 351300
Councillor Lynn French	Aston Rowant	01844 350154
Councillor Peter Tinson	Kingston Blount	01844 352817

District Councillors:

Lynn Lloyd	01844 354313	lynn.lloyd@southoxon.gov.uk
Ian White	01844 352085	ian.white@southoxon.gov.uk

County Councillor

David Wilmshurst	01844 354106	david.wilmshurst@oxfordshire.gov.uk
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MP

John Howell	01491 612852	howelljm@parliament.uk
-------------	--------------	--

Police Community Support Office

ThameHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk
tel: 101

Village Hall & Playing Fields/Hillwerke Trust Chairman

Gordon Crossley

5 Bakers Piece, OX39 4SW

Village Hall Hire/Bookings

01844 351296
bookings@kbvh.org

Play Area –Please contact

Stephanie Johns

01844 350311 07939 030102

Aston Rowant Cricket Club Chairman

Paul Humphreys

07880 791022

ELVIS NIGHT IN THAME

An Elvis Night will be held on Friday 8th April at Thame Snooker Club in aid of Action for Charity Women V Cancer.

Tickets are available from Sue Yeowart.

01844278606 mobile: 07941 035849

Sue.yeowart@sky.com



CHILTERN BREEZE CYCLING

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Next ride: Wednesday evening 6th April 6pm along Phoenix Trail

"I am a British Cycling 'Breeze Champion' which qualifies me to lead cycle rides. Chiltern Breeze Cycling rides are aimed at getting more women into cycling. I try to lead at least one cycle ride a week either around Aston Rowant and Watlington where we stop for coffee and cake or the Phoenix trail. We go at the pace of the slowest rider and plenty of chatter for either 8, 15 or 20 miles depending on who signs up. All riders need to sign up at goskyride.com and put in their post code. It should come up with my rides if they are local to Aston Rowant. Please contact me if you have any questions. Hope to see you soon!"

Marion Buckle

marion@colinbuckle.co.uk or

<https://www.facebook.com/Chiltern-Breeze-cycling>



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ASTON ROWANT PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Neighbourhood Plan (NP)

ARPC have decided to prepare a NP with the aim of completion by end 2017 (please see separate article), the 1st meeting is on Tuesday 10th May at KBVH at 7.30pm, this meeting will determine the membership of the Steering Committee and outline timing plan.

Defibrillator

The new defibrillator at Aston Rowant School has now been installed. Special thanks are due to Energy Company SSE for their contribution, and to Peter Tinson, Mandy Brine and Tom Sowerby who is also organising the training etc.

Astonbury 2016

A representative from ARCC and *Astonbury Enterprises (AEL)* attended the 2nd March ARPC meeting at which some concerns were raised about the events for 2016 as follows:

1. Clash with the Point to Point
- 2 Traffic and noise
- 3 How will ARCC benefit financially in 2016 and especially in future years
- 4 The status of the licence application(s) for 2016 (currently being considered by SODC).

On 6th March AEL delivered leaflets to houses in KB, which answered many of the concerns. The 1st event is STATUS QUO on Sunday 29th May and tickets are available via www.Astonbury.net.

Let's hope for a wonderful dry evening. ARCC will be making a presentation which will include plans for a new clubhouse and ground development at the Annual Parish Meeting in April (see below).

Stert Road

In response to an emergency request to OCC and following an unfortunate pedestrian road traffic accident, the 30 mph road roundels and slow down road signs have been repainted.

Oxfordshire County Council (OCC)

Following a meeting at the Kassam stadium in Sept 2015, OCC have indicated that they will be releasing details in April of which Parish Councils are to undertake responsibility for all Grass cutting. ARPC have already indicated that subject to satisfactory funding transfer we are willing to be selected in the first tranche of Parishes and so to take full responsibility within the Parish.

ASTON ROWANT PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

You may also have read interesting news where six Oxfordshire District Councils (e.g. SODC for our Parish) are proposing to unite in some way and replace OCC. This trend of the reorganisation of local government based upon the need for further cost savings and efficiency will inevitably lead to more roles being undertaken by Parish Councils, a need for increased budgets and local organisation.

And finally, **The Annual Parish Meeting** will be held at Kingston Blount Village Hall on **Wednesday April 13th at 8 pm**, following the formal ARPC meeting at 6.30pm. The Hillwerke Trust, Allotments, ARCC, and other local community groups will make presentations regarding 2015 and their plans for 2016. The May meeting is scheduled for 11th May at KBVH at 7.30pm.

All members of the community are encouraged to attend and even to ask questions!

Andy Green

Chairman ARPC 14th March 2016



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KBAR DOGSHARE



Do you have a dog but maybe need help with walking him/her, or just someone to come and dog sit while you have a day away? Or perhaps you'd really like the company of a four-legged friend but you work too much to be able to have one?

Would you be interested in a parish-wide dog sitting/borrowing scheme similar to borrowmydoggy.com?

Please email Sarah Day at sarahparishnotes@gmail.com. If we have enough people interested I will make a contact list for the next Parish Notes.

HUNGER LUNCH

The annual Hunger Lunch was held at the Old Vicarage in Aston Rowant on 14th March and raised a total of £190 as well as two big boxes of groceries, which will all go to The Steppin' Stone Centre for the homeless in Oxford.

Many thanks to everyone who supported this so generously and especially those who provided the soups and who kindly washed up afterwards.

Rona Knight

MAY PARISH WALK

The next parish walk is scheduled for Sunday 8 May. Meet at 10.00am at Kingston Blount Village Hall carpark at the end of Baker's Piece. We will walk to Sydenham, Copcourt, and Chalford, returning via Aston Rowant. It is an 8-mile circular walk, across open fields, with no hills to speak of.

Please bring a snack and a drink. Everyone is welcome but no dogs please. The walk is organised jointly by Aston Rowant Parish Council and Thame and Wheatley Ramblers and will be led at a leisurely pace.

You will be surprised how isolated and beautifully quiet the north of the parish is, with views over towards Waddesden Manor and back to the wooded Chiltern hills.

Peter Hetherington 07767 647714



KINGSTON BLOUNT VILLAGE FAYRE SATURDAY 14TH MAY Calling all cake bakers...

We are looking for your generous contribution to the Village Fayre cake stall. We need whole cakes, well wrapped, to be ready the day before or the day of the fete. I will happily come and collect. All monies raised go towards very local charities. Please contact me on 07930426252 or lmerry1@hotmail.co.uk if you can help. Many thanks, **Lou Merry** x

PARISH OIL SYNDICATE

For those of us in the parish who need oil, there's nothing worse than paying over the odds. You can make savings by joining the Aston Rowant oil syndicate where, without charge, I collate the oil requirements of householders and negotiate the best price.

The process is simple. Top ups are generally delivered in June, November and February (weather and demand depending). I send out a call for householder's demand and once complete, send the details to the lowest priced oil company. Householders pay the oil company and there is no charge for taking part or any need to take part in every top up.

Large savings come from saving pennies. Using the last (February) top up as an example, householders paid 23p/litre + VAT - it would have been around 27p/litre for a 500 litre delivery from the same company.

Join free and without commitment via email to adam@adambernstein.co.uk.

Adam Bernstein

ASTON ROWANT PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

A Meeting of the Parish Council has been held on 10th February & 2nd March 2016. At the time of writing, the next meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday, 13th April at 6.30pm in Kingston Blount Village Hall. The Annual parish Meeting will take place at the same venue from 8pm (Please see separate note for more information).

PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

P16/S0894/FUL New replacement pavilion building with new indoor cricket school, new replacement mower and tool store, new main car park and overflow car park, re-surfacing of existing car park, relocation of existing 2 flag poles, score box, cricket nets, and installation of two new electronic scoreboards. Removal of four trees, addition of new hedging and tree planting. Aston Rowant Cricket Club Chinnor Road Aston Rowant OX49 5ST

P16/S0486/HH Erection of first floor rear extension at Limewood House, Butts Way, Aston Rowant, OX49 5SZ – *Recommendation - Should be approved*

P16/S0003/HH Erection of single storey front extension at Little Brays Road running through Kingston Stert, OX39 4NL – *Recommendation - Should be approved*

P16/S0603/HH Single storey rear extension at Rose Cottage, Pleck lane, Kingston Blount, OX39 4RU

PLANNING DECISIONS OF SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL:

P16/S0155/FUL Erection of a pair of two-storey semi-detached dwellings with access, parking and amenity space. Demolition of part of non-listed front boundary wall (the proposed site layout, design and orientation of dwellings is as amended by revised plans received 17 February 2016). – *Granted*

PLANNING DECISIONS MADE SINCE THE LAST MEETING: None

Please note that all Planning Applications for the Parish can be found on the Parish Council Website: <http://www.astonrowant.org.uk/Planning>

All past minutes of Aston Rowant Parish Council (Including the Annual Parish Meeting) can be found under: <http://www.astonrowant.org.uk/meetings.html>

Occasional updates concerning the Parish are added to the Kingston Blount / Aston Rowant (KBAR) Facebook page. To join, login to Facebook www.facebook.com, search for 'KBAR' and ask to join the group.

Stephanie Johns

Clerk to the Parish

Aston Rowant Parish Council

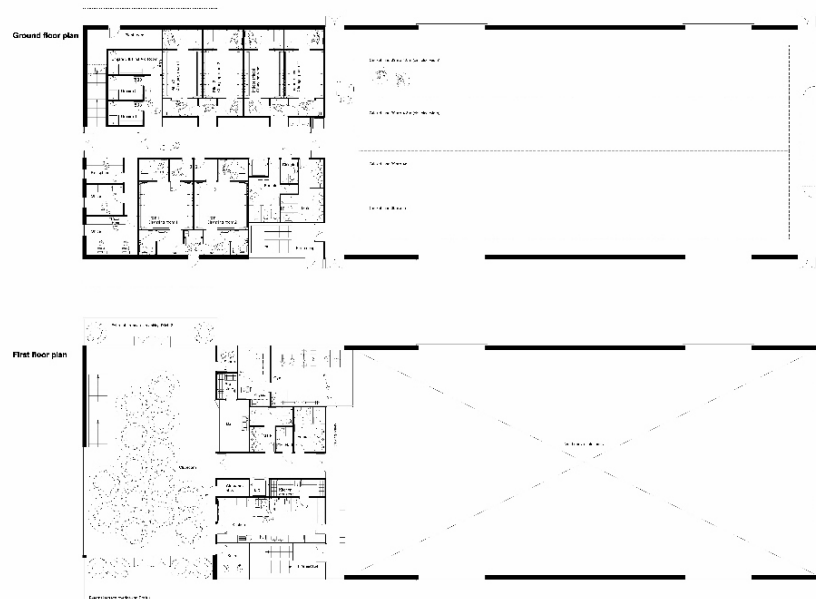
PLANNING COMMITTEE – ARCC APPLICATION



NOTES FROM THE ALLOTMENT



Proposed elevations



Floor plans

My wife, Jeanette, and I moved into KB in January 2015, and as soon as the deal was struck on our house, Hester's Barn, I made contact with Lavinia Martins, and secured a 5-pole allotment garden for the annual rental of £12. I have always had an allotment garden throughout my adult life and it will be no surprise to you that they vary enormously. What is surprising, however, is that each garden can be quite different as you move across the field. One allotment may grow a crop splendidly, while two plots away that same crop struggles.

What every field does have in common, however, is the friendly nature of the gardeners. Wander on to any allotment field and you can be sure that someone will welcome you and share with you the challenges their patch presents. It's a wonderful way to make friends and, true to form, I have received a warm welcome at Hillock Gardens.

I profess minimal expertise, but have the enthusiasm to enjoy cultivating vegetables and flowers and sharing produce with fellow gardeners and friends. A gentle wander through our field will show how well our field is run and how abundant is the enthusiasm and expertise of the members.

Allotments are measured in 'rods' (perches or poles) – measures that date back some 1400 years. Ten poles is the usual measure of an individual allotment – approx. 30 sq.yards (25 m²). Frequently allotments are sub-divided so that some are 5 poles – like mine, which is an excellent size for the beginner gardener.

As I write this piece in March, the weather is as cold as it has been any time this winter but the forecast is for warmer weather, which will enable us to get out the Radox and Deep Heat as we begin some spring digging.

As Bert Fry said, rather emotionally, in last week's Archers – 'Spring is the most wonderful time, as the earth wakes from its winter sleep.'

Now's the time to be ready to plant potatoes (I had great success on my plot with Charlotte and Maris Piper. Both have a lovely flavour and seemed to like my soil). Also get ready to plant your onion sets and garlic – both of which are my kind of plant – Stick'em in and watch'em grow! Comander the airing cupboard for two/three weeks and plant your peas and beans in plantpots full of compost and watch them shoot, ready for planting out in early April.

Wishing you "good gardening," and if you have an allotment I'd be delighted to receive any questions/comments for the next issue. If I don't know the answer to your query, I know some very good allotmenters who will.

All the best,

Dick Ewen
richardewen@hotmail.com



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PLANNING COMMITTEE – ARCC APPLICATION

The recent planning application by Aston Rowant Cricket Club for a new pavilion has generated a lot of public interest, some of the key plans are copied here for those who have not seen them.

To view the full application go to www.southoxon.gov.uk and click on 'Services and Advice,' then under 'Planning and Building' you will see a link 'find and comment on planning applications.' Follow the link and then click on 'Planning Application Register' then 'search by reference number' and use the following reference: **P16/S0894/FUL**.

The Aston Rowant Parish Council Planning Committee will be discussing this planning application at the next Parish Council meeting on the **13th of April at 6.30pm**. The full plans will also be available then.

The Cricket Club will also make a short presentation and update us on their plans. The public are encouraged to attend and comment. In order to give each person enough time to comment, and due to the high public interest in this application, it is likely that I will be calling for an extra-ordinary meeting to discuss the application in detail later in the month.

In the meantime if you wish to make comment please email or write to the Parish Clerk (clerk@astonrowant.org.uk) and/or the planning officer via the web-link on the application page.

Matthew Day

Chair – Aston Rowant Parish Council Planning Committee



Location plan

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Neighbourhood Plan (NP) To Go Ahead

Meeting: Tuesday 10th May 7.30 pm
Kingston Blount Village Hall
all welcome

Neighbourhood planning (NP) is the government's initiative to empower all local communities to develop and then take forward planning proposals at a local level.

ARPC held a Public meeting on Wednesday 10th February at 8 pm at Kingston Blount Village Hall to discuss the options for a NP. The meeting was attended by over 80 households from the Parish.

Charlotte Colver, a Neighbourhood Planning Officer from SODC made a presentation and then there followed a lively open forum with the meeting Chaired by Andy Green. The SODC website (just Google "SODC Neighbourhood Plan") lists a 10 step plan to complete a NP and some details of other similar plans currently under development.

At the following ARPC meeting held on Wednesday 2nd March, a motion to proceed with the development of a NP for the parish was approved. It was decided to align the plan with the SODC 2031 local plan currently under development.

A draft timing plan was circulated with a target to complete the NP by end 2017

The basic 10 step plan is as follows:

Step one - Is a Neighbourhood Plan for you? Completed March 2016

Step two - What kind of plan do you want? May 2016

Step three - Getting started. May 2016

Step four - Setting the area your plan will cover? June 2016

Step five - Getting funding. July 2016

Step six - Preparing your plan. Oct 2016-May 2017

Step seven - Submitting your plan. July 2017

Step eight - Independent examination. Sept 2017

Step nine - The referendum. Oct 2017

Step ten - Adopting your plan. Dec 2017

A NP consists of sections covering location and type of housing, affordable housing, regeneration of derelict land, design, infrastructure, local green space, land use, conservation, specifications for development and type of use etc.

NPs are developed by a team of residents utilising their considerable specialist skills and local knowledge. The Parish Council acts as the facilitator for the process and also makes the various funding applications and formal plan submissions



NOTICEBOARD

Aston Rowant Bell Ringers

Some of our regular ringers have moved away and we need new recruits to replace them. Might you be looking for something truly enthralling and entertaining, involving physical exercise, mental stimulation, team-work, a great social life and lots of fun?

Are you aged between ten and seventy? Can you catch a ball? Can you count from 1 to 6 and back again to 1, five times without stopping? Then how about joining us? We practise on Tuesday evenings from 7:30. Free tuition! Please contact Robert Newton (01844 352926).

Watlington Gardening Club

WGC meets on the first Wednesday of the month in Watlington Town Hall at 7.45pm. The upcoming meetings will be: 6 April – Tim Miles will talk about the Gardens of the Cotswold Wildlife Park. 4 May – Edwin Rye will talk about Colour in the Garden and there will be plants for sale. 1 June – Alistair Urquhart will talk about Garden Ferns.

Visitors and guests always welcome for a small charge of 2.50. Further information available from Caelia Pereira 01491 612368

Barn Dance –Get Your Tickets!

A Barn Dance will be held in the evening following the Street Fayre at Kingston Blount Village Hall. Starting 7.30 for 8.00pm and finishing at 11.30pm. Tickets are £12 and include a ploughman's supper.

Ridge Off Roader

Taking place on Sunday 24 April with both 10km and 5km off-road races in the Chiltern Hills, and 1km and 2km races for younger competitors. www.ridgeoffroader.co.uk.

Senior Circuits

Health and Wellbeing for the over 60s. Improve bone density, balance and fitness. Fridays 10.00-11.00am in Watlington Memorial Hall. Starts 15 April, £4 per class. To book contact: Conor Grogan 07717 326660 conor.grogan@southandvale.gov.uk.

Parish Walk

The next parish walk is scheduled for Sunday 8 May. Meet at 10.00am at Kingston Blount Village Hall. See page 31.



NOTICEBOARD

What's going on in Kingston Blount, Aston Rowant & Nearby

Borneo Bound!

Jack Hudson, a Year 11 student at Lord Williams' School living in Kingston Blount, is raising funds for an expedition to Borneo. He is looking for any babysitting jobs, (he has experience, and references) or any other odd jobs to help him raise funds for the trip. Please contact him on 01844 352247 or text 07714 136911.



Pub News

The Cherry Tree pub has introduced a new Burger Menu and is now open from 5pm with a new (very affordable) Early Menu. Perfect for those with small children or when you just don't want to worry about cooking! And don't miss the charity comedy event on Tuesday 10th May at 8.15pm, tickets £5.

Neighbourhood Garden-Sharing Scheme

The Footpath and Amenities Group of the Aston Rowant Parish Council would like to know if anyone would be interested in a friendly neighbourhood garden-sharing scheme. This could perhaps take the form of a loan of a section of a garden to a neighbour in exchange for something mutually agreed. Please phone or email Lynn French with your thoughts. 01844 350154 lgfrench523@btinternet.com

Grand Designs

Clare Taylor is a freelance graphic and website designer living in Kingston Blount. Whether it's a website refresh, company branding or collateral that you need designing, she can help. You can phone her on 07818404100 or email info@taylor-graphicdesign.co.uk www.taylor-graphicdesign.co.uk

Get Fit

Whiteway Fitness holds free Charity classes Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 9:30 in the new Chinnor pavilion (starting April 5th) and bootcamp on Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm in Henton. All fitness levels welcome. Booking necessary. To book contact Tom 07500774546 enquiries@whitewayfitness.com or look for Whiteway Fitness on Facebook.

Mindfulness Chilterns

De-clutter your mind with Mindfulness. 8-week courses, Introductory Days and retreat days. Mindfulnesschilterns.co.uk 07768 015270

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

to SODC. The ARPC Clerk has already received several letters/emails from members of the community who would like to get involved which is most encouraging.

During April ARPC will be gathering the relevant detailed information from SODC, understanding some real life experiences of other plans and clarifying the funding options.

The 1st project meeting has been arranged for Tuesday 10th May at Kingston Blount Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

This will be an opportunity for anyone from the Parish who wants to get involved to attend, and to establish the membership of the Steering Committee etc., based upon the current Parish boundaries.

We are particularly seeking residents with the following skills for the project:

- Building and construction
- Communications and press
- Environment and conservation
- Enthusiasm to do anything that's needed
- Finance and Accounting
- Land Management
- Leadership in a complex organisation
- Local Government Planning
- Minute taking and report writing
- Project Management
- Secretary and Administration
- Social Housing
- Sports and recreational facilities
- Website design and maintenance

The prime skill needed is a commitment to the time required over the next 18 months. If you are interested please send an email detailing your skills and how you would like to make a contribution to clerk@astonrowant.org.uk, and please attend the meeting.

Please note the selection of suitable land for future housing development is only considered in Step 6 (Oct 2016 to May 2017).

Further updates regarding the NP will be provided in every issue of Parish Notes and a formal report will be given at each ARPC meeting.

Andy Green

Chairman ARPC 14th March 2016.



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LIFE AS A GIRL IN KINGSTON BLOUNT

Hello! Just like usual this is Eliza giving you an update of my life as a ten year old girl..

Lent started on the 10th of February and I was supposed to give up all drinks that aren't water but that went downhill when I got a hot chocolate in Thame ... so, I decided to give up Nutella instead. Toast has never tasted so plain but Easter's only ten days away thankfully.

I hope you all had a great Mother's Day! I know I did, my grandma, grandpa, granny and grandad came over and we all had a roast dinner that my dad made and then a cake that I made. I wish that happened every day.

Chinese New Year was on the 8th of February and as it was a Monday I went to guides. We got prawn crackers (yum!) and dipped them in loads of different Chinese dips. One was really spicy! (My tongue burnt for the rest of the day.) We also coloured in Chinese dragons whilst finishing eating the rest of the crackers. Mmmm, prawn crackers...

It was St. David's Day on 1st March and we got to wear red, white and green at school (Aston Rowant). We made a leaflet about Saint David to stick on a massive poster and we tried Welsh pancakes as well. Some people didn't want one, so those of us that did got two, yum! It was also St. Patrick's day yesterday and we wore green and white to school. I made a massive shamrock with sparkly mini shamrocks on it with a friend and an Irish flag. Then we had a party with everyone dressed up!

This week it was the Big Science Event so we got to go in small groups and do an experiment of our choice. I went with Ruby Fincken and Elsa Mitchell. Being winners twice now (I don't mean to boast!) me and Ruby were feeling quite confident. Our experiment was 'Do disliked foods taste better liquidised?' It was very fun as we got to feed people who we had blindfolded mushy peas. We'll find out who from the school has made it to the next round next week.

Today was Sports Relief and so we came into school in sports clothes. We ran a mile, which was four times around the Cricket Pitch wearing a funky hat. Mine kept falling off! We also got stickers and a balloon. I have to keep my balloon in my room as Rosie (my dog) is terrified of them because one popped in her face when she was little...

Anyway, I hope you have a lovely next couple months and I'll see you in the next issue!

Farewell,

Eliza Day



The Cherry Tree

- Kingston Blount -

The Cherry Tree is a welcoming, warm and family friendly Pub with good food and a nice atmosphere for dining and celebrating. We offer great wines and beers and a carvery on Sundays (please call to book a table in advance). We also offer clean and modern rooms for rent.



The Cherry Tree is now open from 5pm with a new Early Menu

Tuesday is Curry Night, Wednesday is Pie Night and we have a new gourmet Burger Menu designed to suit all. Kerrie and Melvin look forward to seeing you!

Charity Comedy Night

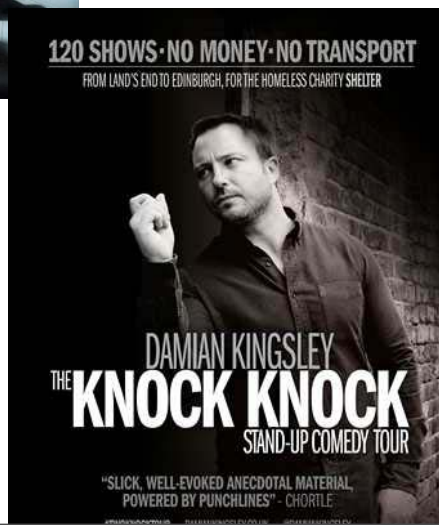
Tuesday 10 May, 8.15pm

Damian Kingsley

Damian is travelling penniless from Lands End to Edinburgh on a 120-gig tour to raise money for the homeless charity Shelter.

Food will be available before the show from 5pm till 7.15pm.

Tickets are £5 and all money raised will be split between Shelter and Sue Ryder.



ASTON ROWANT C OF E SCHOOL NEWS

This has been a very busy year at school with the retirement at Christmas of Head Teacher, Mrs Judith Lawson and appointment of Mrs Eve Roberts as Acting Head Teacher.

This term we have been looking more closely at how we teach British Values at Aston Rowant Primary school. The government and OFSTED have introduced "Four British Values" that all schools are required to teach. They are:

Mutual Respect and the Tolerance of those with different Faiths and Beliefs

Democracy

Rule of Law

Individual Liberty

As a school we value and celebrate lots of British traditions. We mark Remembrance Day, Christmas, Easter and many more. We take very seriously our responsibility to prepare children for life in modern Britain. We ensure that the fundamental British values are introduced, discussed and lived out through our Christian values-based philosophy that infuses the ethos and work of the school. The school makes considerable efforts to ensure children have exposure to a wide experience beyond their local community during which these concepts are shown, through for example, sporting events, school trips and residential visits to Devon. We also feel it is important to acknowledge St David's, St Patrick's, St George's and St Andrew's Day in school. We have begun to celebrate the customs and cultures of all four countries individually as well as talking about the UK as a whole.

Also this term, we raised £115 for the Sport's Relief Charities. The children ran a mile around Aston Rowant cricket ground in aid of the charity. It was lovely to see members of the community, parents and grandparents taking part too. The children helped and encouraged each other to complete a mile.

Our Remembrance, Harvest and Easter services were held at St Peter and St Paul's church in Aston Rowant. The children wrote prayers and took part in readings for the service. Year 4 children played the recorder to accompany some of the Hymns.

The children have taken part in Oxfordshire's Big Science event this term. The children designed and carried out their own investigations based on a scientific question that they would like to answer. Some examples were 'Which material would make the best umbrella?' 'Which washing powder is the best at removing stains?' 'How many worms are there in the school field?' and many more. The children designed posters and presentations which will be judged by a panel of Oxfordshire scientists in June. We have had finalists from Aston Rowant School for the past two years running so hopefully we will have another successful year.

Our website has also had a revamp this term. There are many new updates and photos regularly added so please take a look at aston-rowant.oxon.sch.uk

Acting Head Teacher

Mrs Eve Roberts

THE COUNTRY WORKSHOP



Sam Hunt

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ART COMPETITION

The winner goes on the cover!

The winner of the Children's Drawing Competition for this issue is:

Freya Wolstenholme!

She is 4, from Kingston Blount and sent in two beautiful drawings of springtime. Congratulations Freya!

For the next issue:
ANIMALS!

Send in your very best picture of your pet or the animal you love the most. Dogs, cats, rabbits, snakes, hamsters, guinea pigs, horses, fish (I knew someone who kept cockroaches). Use any materials you like: paint, collage, photography, pencil or pen to capture them in full colour then email to sarahparishnotes@gmail.com by 15th May.

All ages welcome to enter, (only one will get the cover, but will make sure to feature the best from each age group).

