

APRIL

- 1 Point-to-Point
- 5 Watlington Gardening Club (p.21)
8-Week Mindfulness Course begins, Chinnor (p.31)
- 11 Craft & Coffee Morning, Aston Rowant Church (p.35)
- 12 Annual Parish Meeting 8pm, short council meeting 7.30pm (p.11)
- 13 Sydenham Coffee Morning (p.35)
- 15 Point-to-Point
- 16 Easter Sunday (for Services see p.8)

MAY

- 3 Watlington Gardening Club (p.21)
- 5 Charity Fashion Show, Chinnor (p.21)
- 7 Point-to-Point
- 9 Craft & Coffee Morning, Aston Rowant Church (p.35)
- 12 Quiz Night, KB Village Hall (p.9)
- 13 Free Compost Crowmarsh, Gifford (p.20)
- 14 Free Compost Abingdon (p.20)
- 21 Parish Walk (p.17)

REGULAR DATES

MONDAYS

Kindergym morning Thame
Zumba 6.30pm KB Village Hall

TUESDAYS

Kindergym morning Chinnor
Bell Ringing 7.30pm Aston Rowant

WEDNESDAYS

Kettlebell Abs 6.00pm KB Village Hall
Yoga 7.00pm KB Village Hall

THURSDAYS

Smurf-fit 9.30am, Watlington
Toddler Church 11.00am St. Andrew's Church

FRIDAYS

Tiddlypeeps 9.30am Chinnor
Senior Circuits 10.00am Watlington

SATURDAYS (1st & 3rd of month)

Soul Space 5.30pm Crowell Church

SUNDAYS (1st of month)

Aston Rowant Church Family

ASTON ROWANT, KINGSTON BLOUNT & CROWELL

PARISH NOTES



COPY FOR THE JUNE/JULY ISSUE IS DUE ON 15TH MAY
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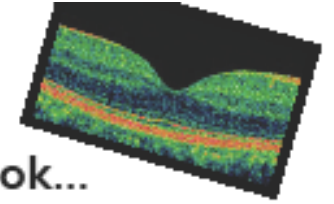
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*Information in this newsletter
is, as far as we know, accurate.
The Parish Notes however,
cannot accept responsibility
for the quality of the infor-
mation, services or items
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organisations.*

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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

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Zumba	every Monday 6.30pm 07834 994699
Kettlebell Abs	every Wednesday 6.00pm 07801 553019
Yoga with Rachel Hawkins	every Wednesday 7.00pm 07552 185499

USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

CAB Local office www.adviceguide.org.uk	01844 214827
Chinnor Village Centre	01844 353733
Church Tower, Aston Rowant: R Newton	01844 352926
Dial-a-ride (for people with mobility problems)	01869 327048
Highways Pothole Hotline	0845 3101111
Highways Street Light Hotline	0800 317802
Library-Chinnor	01844 351721
Oxon County Council www.oxfordshire.gov.uk	01865 792422
Pleck Wood: Les Martins	01844 353968
Police-Thame (Thames Valley)	101 or 999
Poor's Hillock Allotments: Lavinia Martins	01844 353968
Porch: S Thompson	01844 351334
Porch: J Rooksby	01844 352320
Post office-Chinnor	01844 351214
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
SODC Environmental Department	01235 422403
Village Hall Hire/Bookings: Andrea Tinson	07391 139707

LOCAL CHURCH CONTACTS

Rector

Revd Maggie Thorne
The Rectory, Chinnor OX39 4DH
01844 354626

Parish Administrator

Louise Heathcote csarc@btinternet.com
Chinnor Church Office, OX39 4PG 01844 352472

Associate Clergy:

Aston Rowant

Rev'd Joan DeVal	01844 35340
The Rev'd Des Foote	01844 355945
The Rev'd Dr. Brian Griffiths	01844 355953
Tessa Wyatt	01844 351165

Crowell

The Rev'd Maggie Thorne	01844 354626
Jo Whitfield	01844 355263

Churchwardens

Aston Rowant:	Jenny Flynn 01844 352345, Jeremy Wilcock 01844 761119
Crowell:	Jeremy Peters 07711716614, Andy Warman 01844 351909

Retired Clergy Supporting Us in our Parish Serena Hutton 01844 354173

PCC Treasurer Michael DeVal 12 Oakley Road, Chinnor OX39 4HB 07807 967452

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 01844 212860



Aston Rowant Church by Louise Heathcote

LOCAL CHURCH SERVICES

ASTON ROWANT CHURCH SERVICES

First Sunday of every month	10am	Family Service
2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th Sundays	10am	Holy Communion
Fifth Sundays see notice board in Church porch or village notice board		
1 st Tuesday of every month	8am	Morning Prayers

CROWELL CHURCH SERVICES

1st Sunday of the month	6pm	Evensong
2nd Sunday of the month	10am	Eucharist
1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month Soul Space at 5.30pm		

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

LOCAL PLAYGROUPS

And things to do with young children

HOORAY WE'RE BACK!



Coffee And Craft Mornings at
St Peter & St Paul, Aston Rowant
Tuesday, 11th April and every
following second Tuesday of the month
10.00 am – 12.00 noon

- * Pop in for a chat and a cup of coffee
 - * Meet your neighbours
- * Games & crafts for the children
- * All ages are welcome 0 - 100

KINDERGYM

www.kindergym.co.uk
Thame and Chinnor on Monday and Tuesdays mornings

TIDDLYPEEPS

www.tiddlypeeps-chinnor.co.uk
Playgroup on Friday mornings 9.30am – 11.30am
Just turn up, £1.50 per family

SYDENHAM COFFEE MORNINGS at The Old School Hall.

Thursday 13 April 10.00am – 12noon, all welcome

'TODDLER CHURCH' at St. Andrew's Church, Chinnor

Thursdays at 11.00am (during school term time)

Story-time, songs, bubbles and toys!

MESSY CHURCH

Saturday 8 April 3.30pm St Andrews Church

Please email sarahparishnotes@gmail.com with any new information regarding events, groups or ideas for fun things to do with small children.

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A LETTER FROM OUR RECTOR

Dear friends

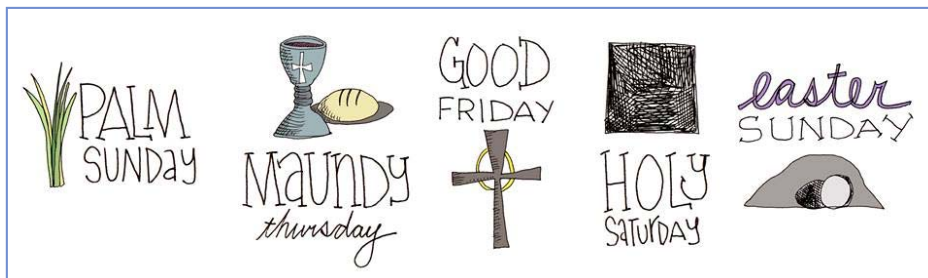
St. Andrew's office is often a **hive** of activity with callers from all four corners of the parish dropping in. Holy Week and Easter is an especially **buzzy** time doing our various parish tasks, not to mention our community, work and domestic activities. We are all busy little **bees**! Tell me to **beehave** if you like, but I can't resist a few bee jokes this month because if you look very closely in the quietest corner of the St. Andrew's churchyard, you'll see that we have some new neighbours.

As part of our greening the parish through Eco Church and our A Rocha involvement and extending our sacred spaces into the outdoor places, a local beekeeper and friend of the parish has agreed to place some of his hives in the churchyard. It is well-documented that sadly bees are in decline due to the loss of wild flowers in our countryside. Churchyards and burial sites are ideal places for bees to find a home and food and although we won't see much of them, we can learn a lot from them.

- Bees live within their means.
- Bees achieve extraordinary things by working together. 10s of 1000s behave as a single organism.
- Bees demonstrate that division of labour can be highly efficient. and everyone knowing how to do the full range of essential jobs makes for flexibility and adaptability.
- Bees are opportunists, taking advantage of available food as soon as conditions are right.
- A bee's first duty is to the colony. They will sacrifice themselves without hesitation if they perceive a threat.
- Bees are always well-prepared for shortages.
- Bees share and do not compete with other species.
- Bees adapt to their surroundings.
- Bees understand that honest communication is at the heart of community. They are great communicators. They are incapable of telling anything but the truth as they understand it.

The survival of bees depends on selecting high quality pollen. We are responsible for ensuring that they continue to have access to flowers uncontaminated by toxic chemicals to which they have no defence. This is something we can help with and something from which we can learn. Please keep our 'outdoor church' plans in your prayers and let's look forward to some new life and energy in our sacred spaces. May the celebration of resurrected life bring new hope to your being, may the victory over earthly death turn your eyes to the promises of heaven, may the empty tomb help you to leave your sorrows at the foot of the cross so that God's hope, promises and forgiveness reign in your life forever. Every blessing this Easter and always,

Maggie



HOLY WEEK

Holy Week 11th – 16th April

Monday	Lent Course (Film night), the Rectory 7pm
Tuesday	Stations of the Cross 7.30pm, St. Andrew's
Wednesday	Holy Communion 11.00am. St. Andrews
Maundy Thursday	Eucharist and Shared meal with foot washing, 7.00pm, St. Andrew's. Please sign the paper at the back of the church if you would like to attend and what you will bring to share.
Good Friday	The Three Hours , St. Andrew's 12noon – 3.00pm, followed by hot cross buns at the Rectory. Devotions , 10.00am, Sydenham
Saturday	Service of light 8.30pm, St. Andrew's

Easter day services:

Chinnor: 10am
Aston Rowant: 10am
Sydenham: 10am

APRIL DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

April

1st	Passion Play , Chinnor Pavilion, 11am & 2pm
3rd	Lent Course , The Rectory, 7.30pm.
8th	Messy Church , 3.30pm, St Andrew's
9th	Palm Sunday , St. Andrew's. No Service at Crowell
11th	Coffee & Craft at Aston Rowant. 10am
12th	MU members meeting with thoughts of Holy Week & Easter. 2pm.
14th	Devotions , 10.00am, Sydenham
11th- 16th	Holy Week , see above
26th	APCM



TESSA WYATT'S COUNTRY DIARY

A selection from March's Facebook posts

9 March

Really lovely evensong in the garden at dusk. The sun brought all the birds out. Kevin the kite in his tree, keening, the little owl going "Ooh!" incessantly, pigeons cooing, collared doves purring, the two robins and lots of blackbirds singing their own Hallelujah Chorus. Whoo hoo! Oh, and Bobby is moulting fit to bust so there'll be lots of soft orange lined nests soon. How smart.

16 March

It was bird world in the field this morning, and two of everything. Two ducks, two kites, two pheasants and two wagtails. All on the ground eyeing up Bobby's breakfast bowl. Poor chap, the pressure! I think I'll have to take a bowl down specially for the avians. I would never have expected Allen & Page Veteran Vitality to be cross species popular!

18 March

Oh the joy of riding a really well schooled horse at last. It has been a long time coming. Back in the garden the pretty collared doves are inspecting one of the trees to nest in.

19 March

Early morning down in the field. Bobby suddenly brought out of his headlong dive into his feed bowl by the whistling of wings and frantic honking. A goose flying solo and plainly lost. It circuted the field, honking plaintively until, out of the stand of poplars, another appeared, as if to spring the surprise and say "Boo!" (geddit?) They then flew off towards Lewknor, honking a very loud duet.

20 March

It's the invasion of the primroses! They have taken over a huge patch of what was the lawn. Aren't they gorgeous? Also grape hyacinths and some self seeded primulas from somewhere. Love spring.

Tessa Wyatt



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Friday 12th May

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Please contact Jo Gent for tickets 07793 727210

In June this year I will be swimming the English
Channel as part of a relay team to raise funds
for the hospital where I am proud to work. All
proceeds from the evening will go towards
sponsorship for the event.

Please join us for a fun night to raise funds
for this fantastic hospital foundation and support
the lifesaving work they do.

Jo Gent

PARISH COUNCIL & LOCAL CONTACTS

Parish Website

www.astonrowant.org.uk

Parish Clerk

Tracy Lambourne

clerk@astonrowant.org.uk

01844 353989

07971039612

Parish Councillors:

Chairman Peter Tinson	Kingston Blount	01844 352817
Vice Chair Peter Hetherington	Kingston Blount	01844 353296
Councillor Matthew Day	Kingston Blount	01844 351300
Councillor Lynn French	Aston Rowant	01844 350154
Councillor Andy Green	Kingston Blount	01844 353819
Councillor Trelawney Hill	Aston Rowant	01844 353051

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
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Police Community Support Office

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

Village Hall Hire/Bookings

Andrea Tinson 07391 139707 bookings@kbvh.org

Play Area –Please contact

Stephanie Johns 01844 350311 07939 030102

Aston Rowant Cricket Club Chairman

Paul Humphreys 07880 791022



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Jane Barker, Mindfulness courses in the Chilterns

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Counselling can help when we feel dissatisfied with life, overwhelmed or lost and want to make changes, but don't know where to start or what options we have. It can be helpful to connect with someone impartial to help us cope with our emotions, or deal with situations we may feel that we have no control over.

Jane is a BACP Registered qualified Integrative Psychodynamic Counsellor, trained at The Metanoia Institute, with a private practice in Thame, Oxfordshire.

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W: www.mindfulnesschilterns.co.uk



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Sadly I have to begin my report this edition with news that one of our Councillors, Gordon Crossley, died in February after a short illness. Gordon was very much a 'man of the village' and contributed to many aspects of life in Kingston Blount. A tribute to Gordon appears on page 15.

There have been two more incidents in the past month where property in Kingston Blount has been damaged by vehicles. The Council is committed to reducing the speed of the traffic through both villages in the Parish and has engaged the County Council's Design Engineer to draw up costed plans for speed reduction measures. In addition to these measures we have requested that warning signs are erected on Kingston Hill where there have been a number of near misses between vehicles and horse riders. Finally, we have ordered a batch of adhesive 30mph signs which can be stuck to refuse bins. If you would like some of these signs, please contact the Parish Clerk, Tracy Lambourne.

The Great British Spring Clean took place over the first weekend in March. A group of volunteers from the Parish removed a significant amount of rubbish from both Kingston Hill and Aston Hill. I would like to thank those that took part and helped clean up the Parish.

Finally, I should like to remind you that the Annual Parish meeting takes place on Wednesday 12 April at 8pm in Kingston Blount Village Hall. The meeting will be preceded by a short Council meeting beginning at 7:30pm.

Peter Tinson, Chairman ARPC

**PARISH OF ASTON ROWANT
COUNCIL OFFICE:**

The Cottage, High Street, Kingston Blount, Oxon, OX39 4SJ
Tel: 01844 353989 Email: clerk@astonrowant.org.uk

The Annual Parish Meeting of the Aston Rowant Parish will be held on Wednesday 12th April at 8pm in Kingston Blount Village Hall, under the Chairmanship of Cllr. Peter Tinson Chairman of Aston Rowant Parish Council.

The meeting is open to all local parishioners and is an opportunity for everyone to hear from all the local organisations and find out what has been happening in the Community.

A written request of specific matters to be discussed must be sent to the above address to reach the clerk, Tracy Lambourne, by Friday 7th April.

Peter Tinson

ASTON ROWANT PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

Meetings of the Parish Council were held on Wednesday, 8th January 2016 and Wednesday 15th March 2017 at 7.30pm in Kingston Blount Village Hall. At the time of writing, the next meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday 12th April.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

P17/S0145/FUL Demolition of existing barn used for office and storage at present and construction of new “Granny” annexe with home office and storage over at Chiltern View Farmhouse, Kingston Stert, OX39 4NL. Recommend approval.

P17/S0494/HH. The Park Cottage, Chinnor Road, Aston Rowant. Erection of two-storey side and front extensions and single-storey rear extension. Recommend approval.

P17/S0577/HH 2 The Rise, Kingston Blount. Erection of a replacement front porch. Recommend approval.

P16/S0894/FUL-60. Resubmitted plans from Aston Rowant Cricket Club. New replacement Pavilion building, new storage containers, new main car park and disabled car park, new and replacement outdoor cricket nets, resurfacing of existing car park, relocation of existing two flag poles, score box and installation of two new electronic scoreboards (as amended to omit the overflow parking provision on pitch 2 and to omit the indoor cricket nets, and to alter the design and siting of the pavilion and the internal access and parking provision). Recommend refusal.

PLANNING DECISIONS OF SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL:

P16/S4104/HH Removal of roof canopy and construction of new porch at 1A Icknield Close, Kingston Blount, OX39 4RS. GRANTED.

P17/S0145/FUL Demolition of existing barn used for office and storage at present and construction of new “Granny” annexe with home office and storage over at Chiltern View Farmhouse, Kingston Stert, OX39 4NL. GRANTED.

P16/S3391/HH Erection of a 3 bay car port and change existing double garage into games room (as amended by plans received 3 January 2017 adding dormers to the garage conversion, and re-siting garage a few metres further to the north east and amending location plan). GRANTED.

P/S4065/FUL Retention of existing roof tiles for flats 1-6 and houses 3-4, Bakers Piece, Kingston Blount. REFUSED.

PLANNING DECISIONS MADE SINCE THE LAST MEETING:

None

ASTON ROWANT SCHOOL HOUSE TRUST

The Aston Rowant School House Educational Trust was set up 1992 when the former teacher's house, belonging to the Aston Rowant Church of England Primary School, was sold. The money from the sale was invested to raise income which is available to assist with education.

The precise rules are that the Scheme allows the Trustees to apply the income:

- a) In or towards promoting the education of pupils attending the Aston Rowant Church of England Primary School.
- b) In or towards promoting the education (including social and physical training) of persons under the age of 25 years who have at any time attended the school or who are resident in the Parish of Aston Rowant.

Some residents in the parish may either have children or are themselves eligible to obtain a grant. To be considered you need to apply in writing to the Trustees who will consider applications at their bi-annual meetings in May and November. Each application will be considered on merit – there is no guarantee. If you would like more information please contact:

Peter Lambert 01844 352617

or **Mary Williams** 01844 353927.

BELL RINGING

Would you like to join our friendly band and be of service to our village? Come and try the art of bell ringing.

Why do people want to learn? Some start as youngsters because their family members ring or to learn a new skill as part of an award scheme. Some because a friend rings, not necessarily at this tower, some find it an excellent way of keeping fit, it is wonderful for the spine and brain cells. Some wish to learn something new and some would like to serve their local Church community.

So what reason will you have for learning the ancient art of bell ringing? It would be great if we could recruit some more ringers to our friendly band so that all six bells could be rung every Sunday. Hope to welcome you soon.

Please contact **Robert Newton** 01844 352926

Is there anything you'd like to see in the Parish Notes?
Do you have information on local events taking place?
Could you write a review or recommendation for a local business?
Please do get in touch!
sarahparishnotes@gmail.com

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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.

Tracy Lambourne
Clerk to the Parish
Aston Rowant Parish Council

LOCAL PLAN

South Oxfordshire District Council is continuing to work on a new Local Plan which will shape the future of our district. The emerging Local Plan will set out how development will be planned and delivered across South Oxfordshire to 2033. The policies in the plan will be used to make decisions on planning applications in the district.

We began work on the new Local Plan in 2014 and have undertaken three consultations to date.

What happens next?

We will be launching public consultation on our Local Plan: Second Preferred Options on Wednesday 29 March 2017. Please check back here when the consultation opens to view the draft plan, supporting documents and to comment online.

We will then move to the next stage of preparation where we will publish the version of our Local Plan that we intend to submit to the Planning Inspectorate for examination, to enable representations to come forward that can be considered at examination.

You can view the details and responses to our previous consultations. Paper copies of the consultation documents are available to purchase. Please contact Planning Policy for further details.

Taken from
<http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/services-and-advice/planning-and-building/planning-policy/emerging-local-plan>



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The late winter/early springtime is a busy time for the clubs back room teams. Fixtures need to be arranged, catering arrangements finalised, bar rotas created, pitch preparations start as well as the outfield grass needs to be cut and repairs to the fields from off season visitors like rabbits, rooks and all manner of other pests. By the time you read this, the first pre-season fixture will be a few days away.

This season the first match is against a touring team from Bovey Tracey in Devon on April 8th. Over the next few weeks, we then play local sides Oxford, High Wycombe, & Horspath. Building up the first league matches on 6th May.

This season we will be having 5 senior teams the 1st XI will be again playing in the Home Counties division 2 league, The 2nd XI will be one league behind them in division 1 of the Cherwell league. The 3rd & 4th XI will again be in the Division 6 & 7 of the Cherwell league. Our newest team the 5th XI will start in division 10. The 1st to 4th will play all home matches on the Butts Way pitches and normal. The 5th's will be playing on the new cricket pitch at Chinnor Sports and Social Club opposite the Doctors Surgery in Station Road Chinnor.

We enter the Village Knockout again this year, with the final being at Lords, the home of Cricket. Although this is a long journey you can watch the first round game at home on 30th April.

The junior section continues to flourish with teams entered in U9, U11, U13, U15 & U17 in various Oxfordshire and Aylesbury league competitions.

Junior training will again be held on Friday nights with the Bar open to all. Full details of our fixtures are available on the club website

www.astonrowantcc.com.

Rob Holt



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GORDON CROSSLEY



Gordon Crossley 1937-2017

Gordon Crossley's long association with Kingston Blount began in December 1979 when he and Olive moved into Second Cottage on the High Street. On their first night their new neighbours, Ken and Barbara invited them in for a meal. On the second Ken invited Gordon to join the Village Hall Committee and from that day Gordon's involvement with village life was well and truly established.

Gordon remained a member of the Hillwerke Trust committee for all of his time here. He was present at both the opening of the Village Hall and the final social in the old hall it replaced. His expertise as a designer came to the fore when the kitchen area was extended to its present form.

His quizzes were legendary – he enjoyed setting them as much as people enjoyed taking part. In the past year, he chaired the committee. He was always willing to help – taking the bookings for the hall and giving out the key for those hiring it. He was also happy to act as chauffeur to allow others to have a good time, whether it was friends attending golf club dinners or his *Prosecco girls* enjoying a night out.

Gordon was, for the past six years, also a member of the Parish Council. In addition to representing the Hillwerke Trust's interests, he took the lead for liaison on public transport. He was one of the councillors I, as chair, could call on to recall the reasons why decisions had been made in the dim and distant past.

Olive and Gordon had been married for 47 years. Although trained as an architect, he worked as a designer for a number of companies before going freelance. After Second Cottage, they moved into Elizabeth Villa before finally settling in Bakers Piece.

Gordon died on 27 February after a short illness, three months short of his 80th birthday. As one of his former colleagues on the Parish Council commented, "he always had the village in mind". He will be greatly missed.

Peter Tinson

FIVEWAYS REPORT

We had the Duck races, snowdrop walk and Church Teas in early February and they were as popular as last year. The snowdrops however were later this year and we really needed another week at least for them to be at their best.

Since then we have had the daffodils out and the clumps are getting bigger and spreading. They are mainly English (bicolours) but there is an area of Welsh (bright yellow) ones by the entrance on Church Lane. There are a good few aconites and a smattering of snowflakes across the area. Wild flowers worth spotting already are willow, comfrey, violets, hellebores and primroses. I am eagerly awaiting some wood anemones which I planted in memory of my mother-in-law. They are difficult to spot but are there behind the daffodils near the entrance – one is about to flower. It takes decades to create a real display but it is a start. There is no sign of the new English bluebells but there are unfortunately a number of residual Spanish ones to be removed. Many forecast that English bluebells have only decades left before they are hybridised out of existence by the Spanish invaders which are everywhere in the village.

Near the signpost there are some new shrubs, especially wild roses. For those interested, the original and long-gone cottages on the site started at the Church Lane entrance to Fiveways and went to the hedge gap which has been replanted with hollies. We did seed the whole area last year with wild flower seed and its success or not will be judged in the Summer.

The lower area is being cleared to create a mini-wild flower meadow and shortly a donated bench will be installed. The willows nearby will be pollarded to create willow for handicrafts in the future. At the extreme end we have lengthened the path, interestingly this was probably the original course of the Icknield Way many centuries back.

The recent work near the signpost is to create more wet areas to plant. The area below the bridge over the stream will be left wild to provide cover for fish. On the subject of wildlife there is a den for a stoat on the high bank over the stream, it has been seen dragging rabbit home.

There is still a lot of work to do and anyone who wants to help is welcome. We are also still looking for a sponsor for a sign and an artist who can sketch. In any case please keep visiting and I hope to meet you down there soon.

Mike Eaton, March 2017



A LETTER FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Ofsted Report

Parents speak very positively about the school's close feeling of community. One parent expressed the views of many: 'The school is like an extended family, all pupils feel a tremendous sense of belonging'.

Aston Rowant C of E Primary School is a 'Good' school. Having recently had a visit from Ofsted, we are delighted with the inspector's findings which are a fair and accurate assessment of our lovely school.

The lead inspector was very complimentary about many aspects of our school, particularly our creative curriculum, growth mind-set philosophy and our new assessment procedures. 'Pupils benefit from well-organised themed weeks in the curriculum, when they explore an area in greater depth. For example, pupils reported how much they enjoyed science week and how their understanding of the solar system had been developed. Pupils were pleased to show their parents what they had learned at the end of the week when they put on an exhibition of their learning.'

'Progress is strong. Work in books, and the school's current assessment tracking information, demonstrates that pupils are making good progress. Year 6 pupils, in particular, are on track to achieve, and sometimes exceed, the age-related expectations by the end of the key stage. Pupils are well prepared for the next stage of their education.'

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for such amazing ongoing support. The inspection report is very much a reflection of a team effort from Governors, Teachers and all staff, parents and especially the children who make our wonderful school so special. I am very proud to be part of such a strong and positive community. The full report can be seen on our school website. Visits to our school are welcomed. Please phone our school office on 01844 351671 for an appointment with Mrs Roberts the Head Teacher.

Mrs Eve Roberts

Head Teacher – Aston Rowant Primary School

visit www.aston-rowant.oxon.sch.uk for more information

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Kitchen Hours:
Lunch: 12:00-2:30pm (Tuesday- Saturday)
Dinner: 6:00-9:30pm (Tuesday - Saturday)
Sunday Lunch: 12:00-4:00pm

PARISH WALK

The next Parish Walk is on Sunday 21 May. It is free to Ramblers members and Parishioners and open to all that can walk six miles. Come and discover the almost lost village of Chalford! That area seems remote from the rest of the Parish but it is beautiful.

We start promptly at 10.00 at the Lambert Hotel and walk through Aston Rowant village past the Church, down Church Lane, and through Fiveways. (Only park in the Lambert Hotel car park if you intend to eat or drink there. Otherwise park on the left on the quiet road at the side of the hotel.)

Here the Parish Council Footpath and Amenities Group have restored a natural chalk stream habitat. In May there should be plenty of wild flowers to be seen. Recently fish have also been spotted in the stream.

We then walk the Copcourt Way as far as Chalford. Princess Elizabeth, the future Queen Elizabeth 1st, came along here in her coach when travelling from the Tower of London having been banished to the country. She was being taken to Woodstock.

We continue to Kingston Stort and then, via the Sydenham allotments, into the village. There are always a lot of swallows to be seen in this area in May.

We take a footpath across farmland to Kingston Blount with excellent views of the Chiltern Ridge. We return to Aston Rowant along the Moors Footpath, sometimes known to locals as the Coffin Path and with more good views. We emerge at Aston Green before returning to the Lambert.

In theory we should be back by 1pm, but we never promise a time, because we always walk at the pace of the slowest. Please bring a snack and a drink. Sorry no dogs because of farm animals and possibly horses in some fields.

This walk is an Aston Rowant Parish Council joint venture with Thame and Wheatley Ramblers and The Chilterns Conservation Board.

More details available from :-

Peter Hetherington 01844 353296

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OXFORDSHIRE SCIENCE FESTIVAL

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Oxfordshire Science Festival will be taking place in the city of Oxford from **Friday 16 to Wednesday 21 June 2017.**

The festival provides opportunities for existing and new audiences to explore the exciting scientific research and creativity undertaken within Oxford and across the surrounding region. It brings together researchers, journalists and industrial experts in a range of managed locations to share thought-provoking and pioneering ideas about science and technology with the public. The range of events will be designed to appeal to a wide audience spectrum, from families to professional scientists and researchers, so there will be something for everyone.

The Festival team is working hard behind the scenes putting together the 2017 Festival programme, which will be published at the end of April. We will inspire intelligent conversations at talks and debates and provide entertainment through science cabaret and family performances. Look out for a busy weekend of exciting hands-on activities and workshops in Oxford city centre, including our family-friendly Research Fair in Oxford Town Hall from 12 noon to 5pm on Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 June.

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NOTES FROM THE ALLOTMENT
Spring is here

As I write this (early March) it is a lovely day and so easy to look forward to spring and then those wonderful summer days when I can wander down to my allotment, meet my fellow gardeners and review our progress together while I tend to my vegetables and flowers ... But before then, there's work to be done!

I have just about finished the veg. that have stood through winter – leeks, sprouts, kale and parsnips. By the end of March I will have cleared them off the plot and it will be ready for rotavating and incorporating the lovely, rich compost that has matured in my bins over the last nine months or so. This will make a perfect bed for summer crops of all kinds. (S.O.D.C. give away free compost during April. See p. 20)

My plot is divided into two parts: veg. and flowers. I hope my flowers have Wintered well and will come back again with a bit of warm April sun. So for the rest of this month (on warm days) I will be working to get ready for summer planting. (Good Friday is widely regarded in the Gardener's Year as the start of the planting season and the time for sowing spuds. A greenhouse and/or cloches can extend seasons by about four weeks at both ends.) Planting spuds with my Uncle Bert is, I think, my earliest gardening memory. For the rest of March and early April I will be trying to sneak seed trays in our utility room/airing cupboard, without my wife noticing. The airing cupboard is just perfect for germinating small seeds quickly and it always seems like magic when they start to shoot. Seed potatoes will adorn a few window sills as they start to 'chit' – or grow shoots. I usually rub off the smaller shoots and only allow two to three strong shoots for planting.

I am always keen to try a new crop and this year I am going to go with more brassicas (greens) –much to my wife's delight!

'Little and often' is a good gardener's maxim so that the patch does not become a chore, and the same goes for planting. I watch with admiration those gardeners who plant small amounts and bring them to a manageable harvest, as I always seem to plant too much and then get tired of the beans/cabbages we have to keep eating. Last year I had great success with cauliflowers but even my son felt enough was enough! Cauliflowers tend to be a bit temperamental, they won't thrive if they get any check to their growth and consequently need watering. Cabbages on the other hand grow well once they have been 'puddled in' when planted. Last year I invested in some netting tunnels and they were marvelous at thwarting the pigeons and pheasants.

On my flowers patch I am going to grow sweet peas because they were a great success in my garden (until we went away on holiday!) I grow my flowers in stupid abundance because I love to cut them for the house. (My wife says the amount I bring home make it look like a 'florist's shop' but I just love my gladioli, dahlias and chysants – and hopefully this year, sweet peas.

Enjoy the Springtime!

Dick Ewen

NOTICEBOARD



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

Parish Walk

The next parish walk will be an easy Parish Walk from the Lambert Hotel, six miles, on Sunday 21 May, 10.00am (see p.17).

Peter Hetherington, Parish Council 01844 353 296

Jack Hudson's Borneo Trip

Thank you to everyone that has helped and supported me in fundraising for my trip to Borneo in July. I am so grateful for the generosity of the people that I have worked with. However, I am now having to raise additional funds for injections that are very expensive (and hurt!) So I'm asking again if you could contact me on 07714 136911 if you have any small jobs or babysitting that I could do.

Thanks very much, **Jack Hudson**

Free Compost from SODC

The dates for collection of free compost from SODC are:

Saturday 13th May at Crowmarsh, Gifford OX10 8ED.

Sunday 14th May at Abingdon OX14 3PU

(Vale Of White Horse Council)

Dick Ewen

Play Area Inspection Team

Do you have small children in the village? Would you be able to help for on the play area inspection team? We have recently had a few people leave and need some new volunteers to help keep our playground safe and clean. It involves a simple check of equipment twice during one month only out of the year, and can be easily done while your children are playing. Please contact Tracy Lambourne if you can help 01844 353989 clerk@astonrowant.org.uk.

Advertising in the Parish Notes

The Parish Notes are published every two months and delivered to every household in the area. Please contact Julian Knight if you are interested in advertising. jknights652@aol.com

1/4 page—£10 or six for £40

1/2 page—£15 or six for £60,

Full page—£30 or six for £120



NOTICEBOARD

Watlington Gardening Club

Our next meeting will be on the 5th April. The speaker will be Christie Leary on 'My Organic Garden – Gardening without Chemicals'. May's meeting is on the 3rd and is by Colin Oakes on 'London Parks and Gardens'. The final meeting before the summer break is by Edwin Rye on 'Delphiniums' and is on the 7th June.

The meetings are held in Watlington Town Hall at 7.45pm, with coffee, tea and biscuits afterwards. Everyone is welcome and guests pay £2.50.

Charity Fashion Show in aid of Chinnor Christian Aid

Come and enjoy a fun and light-hearted evening and maybe pick up some bargains at the same time! Light refreshments, stalls and raffle.

Friday 5th May 2017 at 7.30p.m. Chinnor Village Hall

Tickets £6.00 in advance (£7.00) on the door

For tickets or more information (good quality clothes welcome) contact Jackie 07973740338 or Lyn 01844 352888

Hunger Lunch

Thank you to all those who supported the Hunger Lunch on 6th March. I'm very pleased to be able to report that we made £404 plus lots of groceries. Particular thanks to all those who provided the soup and to those who washed up!

Rona Knight

Quiz Night

Jo Gent is swimming the English Channel as part of a relay team to raise funds for St Mark's hospital where she works. (See page 9.)

Friday 12th May , Kingston Blount Village Hall

7:30pm for 8pm start. Bar, Raffle

Tables of 8 - £10 per person to include a delicious cheese sharing board for each table.