

### AUGUST

- 15 Craft & Coffee Morning, Aston Rowant church (p.35)
- 20 Children's Sunday Club St Andrew's church
- 24-25 Pulse Holiday Club, Chinnor (p.29)
- 28 Chinnor Flower & Produce Show (p.21)

### SEPTEMBER

- 2 An Evening of Song & Fun, Sydenham church (p.20)
- 3 Annual Family Pet Service, Aston Rowant church (p.10)
- 9 Ride & Stride bike ride for OHCT (p.19)
- Chinnor Silver Band concert, St Andrews church (p.20)
- 12 Neighbourhood Plan Committee meeting, KBVH (p.16)
- 13 Parish Council Meeting, KBVH (p.13)
- 22 AR Discovery Trail Walk (p.19)
- Lunchtime concert—Cantilini Winds (p. 20, 31))

## 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**  
**Friendly service** 10.00am

## ASTON ROWANT, KINGSTON BLOUNT & CROWELL PARISH NOTES



COPY FOR THE OCT/NOV ISSUE IS DUE ON 15TH SEPTEMBER  
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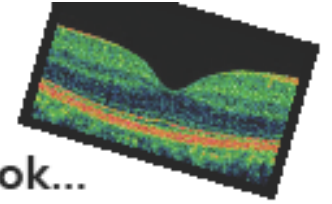
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*Information in this newsletter  
is, as far as we know, accurate.  
The Parish Notes however,  
cannot accept responsibility  
for the quality of the infor-  
mation, services or items  
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**Editor**  
Sarah Day  
351300  
[sarahparishnotes@gmail.com](mailto:sarahparishnotes@gmail.com)

**Advertising**  
Julian Knight  
351315  
[jknight652@aol.com](mailto:jknight652@aol.com)

**Distribution**  
Jenny Jackson  
351444  
[jjtherapy@aol.com](mailto:jjtherapy@aol.com)

## PARISH NOTES TEAM

**Proofreading**  
Hew Reid  
351357

**Treasurer**  
Peter Lambert  
352617  
[peter.lambert123@btinternet.com](mailto:peter.lambert123@btinternet.com)

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Main Hall (8am–midnight) £14.00 per hour  
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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

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

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Bookings can be made by emailing [bookings@kbvh.org](mailto:bookings@kbvh.org), phoning **07391 139707** or visiting our website [www.kbvh.org](http://www.kbvh.org) where you will also find a full description of the facilities we can offer plus details of activities currently taking place in the hall.

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## KINGSTON BLOUNT VILLAGE HALL DIARY DATES



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

## USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

CAB Local office <a href="http://www.adviceguide.org.uk">www.adviceguide.org.uk</a>	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 <a href="http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk">www.oxfordshire.gov.uk</a>	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 to the United Parish

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

### Assistant Curate

The Rev'd Dr. Jacky Barr

### Parish Administrator

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

### Associate Clergy:

#### Aston Rowant

The Rev'd Des Foote 01844 355945  
The Rev'd Dr. Brian Griffiths 01844 355953  
Jo Whitfield 01844 355263

#### 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 DeVal12 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



Aston Rowant Church by Louise Heathcote

## LOCAL CHURCH SERVICES

### ASTON ROWANT CHURCH SERVICES

First Sunday of every month 10am Family Service  
2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays 10am Holy Communion  
Fifth Sundays see notice board in Church porch or village notice board  
1<sup>st</sup> 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



Coffee and craft morning  
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**'TODDLER CHURCH'** at St. Andrew's Church, Chinnor  
Resumes in September

### PULSE HOLIDAY CLUB

Chinnor, August 24-25

### CHILDREN'S SUNDAY CLUB

Sunday 20th August (and the 3rd Sunday each month) 10.00am (always the 1st & 3rd Sundays of each month) at St. Andrew's Church Hall, Chinnor (Behind the Village Centre)

*Please email [sarahparishnotes@gmail.com](mailto:sarahparishnotes@gmail.com) with any new information regarding events, groups or ideas for fun things to do with small children.*



*Rev'd Dr Jacky Barr Ordained Deacon 1<sup>st</sup> July 2017 WHAT A DAY!*

An insight and some reflections on the process of being ordained.

**Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.**  
(Isaiah 43:)

Before the day of ordination, myself and my fellow ordinands were secluded on a silent retreat. This is to encourage us to put down the busy-ness of daily life and focus on the coming ordination. The retreat was led by Bishop Steven, and it became an important time to remember that I had been called by God and that discernment had been undertaken, not just by me, but by many others who have supported me along the way. Like all major changes in life, it is easy to feel insecure about being ordained. "Really? Me?" I kept asking God. But "Yes, you!" is the answer that kept coming back.

**I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the LORD!' (Psalm 122:1)**

Well, actually, I was a little scared on the morning of ordination. What if I fell over my cassock? What if I stood up (or sat down) at the wrong time? What if my name wasn't on the list? My brain was playing the 'what if' game which really wasn't helping. To say there were some nerves is an understatement. The enormity of the occasion and the gravity of the promises to be made feel very heavy.

**You cannot bear the weight of this calling in your own strength but only by the grace and power of God (The Ordinal)**

These are words of great comfort and wisdom, said by the Bishop, as we stand before him, just before getting ordained. Thank goodness that the Church recognises and reminds us that we can't do this alone.

**Pray earnestly for the gift of the Holy Spirit (The Ordinal)**

When the Bishop laid hands on my head, I can honestly say I've never felt more alive. It was an amazing moment of awesome power. I truly know that I have been ordained because of the power surge that went through me. Ontological change is the more technical term....

**Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all of the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises. (Psalm 98: 4)**

We processed out the Cathedral and I'm not even sure if the sun was actually shining, or not, but it was in my heart. I felt so happy. In my enthusiasm, I even hugged the Bishop – not sure if I was supposed to but I did it anyway!

Coming out of the Cathedral, the way the procession is ordered meant Maggie was one of the first out. This allowed Maggie and I to have a few quiet moments together, which felt very precious. And then: my friends and family exploded out of the Cathedral and I was engulfed in a tidal wave of love. Pure Love. And it was brilliant and overwhelming, joyous and overwhelming, glorious and overwhelming, wonderful and overwhelming! And I remain overwhelmed, in a good (though still sometimes tearful) way.

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### **Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem (Psalm 122:2)**

I have now arrived in the United Parish of Chinnor, Aston Rowant, Sydenham and Crowell.

Ordained and ready to serve, and I'm very happy to begin this next phase of my life's journey with you and with Maggie, as my training incumbent.

At the time of writing, I'm not quite with you full time yet, as I'm still living in Newbury, while one of my daughters finishes the school term out, but by September I should be living in Chinnor.

Wishing you all a most splendid Summer!

With Love and Light

### **Jacky**

Heavenly Father  
source of all truth and wisdom, who knows and loves the whole creation,  
watch over our nation at election time:  
that truth may prevail over distortion,  
wisdom triumph over recklessness  
and the concerns of every person be heard.

Lord Jesus,  
who chose the way of the cross in the Garden of Gethsemane,  
help us to turn our backs on self interest  
and to support policies that sustain the poor, the vulnerable and the frightened  
people of this world.

Holy Spirit,  
who brought understanding among myriad peoples and languages at Pentecost,  
give to all your people a passion for peace  
and inspire us to work for unity and co-operation throughout the world and in our political life  
together.

**Amen.**

## **CHINNOR CHURCHES GO WILD!**

'Chinnor Churches Go Wild!' is a new wildlife project based in the churches around Chinnor; and is the successor to the Chiltern Gateway Project. As Christians, we believe that God made the world, and that he cares deeply about all his creation. God has called us to love him, love one another and to be responsible stewards of the natural world; so, caring for creation is an integral part of loving our neighbours and following God faithfully. The aims of the project are:

- to understand the habitats and wildlife in each of the individual churchyards and grounds;



### **8 July**

So many wild flowers are edible. This is wild rocket, though you would need an awful lot to make a salad, the leaves are very small! Also found today, yarrow, self-heal and chamomile, all medicinal.

### **10 July**

Come on, come on! It's like a mini Africa, waiting for the rains. We would see the clouds building up, getting blacker and blacker, only to dissolve away to nothing. Until one day, there would be a flash of lightning far away on the scorched horizon, and we could smell it coming. Then, one drop, two drops, and .... Crash! The heavens opened, the rain poured down and we would all run outside and dance in it. Not quite like that here, but we could certainly do with a shower!

### **20 July**

I'm watching a very angry Red Admiral butterfly is attacking his own reflection in the kitchen window. Moving too fast to photograph sadly. He thinks it's another male trespassing on his patch. A little Blue Tit sat on the door handle this morning preening after getting caught in the rain.. Awww.

### **21 July**

The part of our field we are saving for winter grazing was topped yesterday, with the cuttings left to lie so that it can dry. This morning, Bobby had his head through the fence, syphoning up any "hay" that he could reach. Have raked it back ....

Having deprived him of this bad-for-the-tummy luxury, he also had a wonderful time munching on a great long thread of columbine that was tangling itself in the hedge. Happy horse!

### **23 July**

So lovely to come back from the South of France where everything is burnt dry to find our hedgerows packed with colour. Pinky mauve giant willowherb crammed in with hogweed and thistles, and brilliant yellow ragwort which I don't like because it's poisonous, but can't help liking the colour. Also found, lots of groundsel and Oxford ragwort, which look similar except much smaller with much shorter roots so easier to weed out! There's lots of yarrow, fool's parsley and wild carrot too, hard to identify as all the parselys look so similar. It may be cooler here than in France, but I did miss the wild flowers.

**Tessa Wyatt**

## **TESSA WYATT'S COUNTRY DIARY**

**A selection from July's Facebook posts**





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- to improve these habitats in order to increase species abundance on an ongoing basis for the benefit of wildlife and the local community;
- to target at least one declining or threatened species for specific action;
- to increase the number of people engaging in nature and the depth of their engagement, through on-site activity and involvement in the national 'Eco Church' award scheme.

'Chinnor Churches Go Wild!' is an ecumenical project which has commitment from all six churches in and around Chinnor, and has a steering group with representatives from each of the churches. The Rev'd Maggie Thorne, Rector to the United Parish of Chinnor, Aston Rowant, Sydenham and Crowell, is chairing the project.

The project is supported by A Rocha UK – a charity committed to helping Christians in the UK to care for the natural world (see <http://arocha.org.uk> for more details). A Rocha UK have committed to providing nature-conservation advice as and when required through their advisors' network, and to support the project to organise at least one public engagement event each year.

Churches have a huge part to play in caring for God's earth; and no matter what sort of building or grounds each church has, there are practical actions that we can all take to help protect and care for the natural world. Going forward, each church involved in the 'Chinnor Churches Go Wild!' project will aim to take part in the national 'Eco Church' award scheme; working towards gaining prestigious Eco Church Awards at Bronze, Silver or Gold level.

The 'Eco Church' scheme consists of a survey and supporting resources, which are designed to equip churches to express care for God's world in five areas:

- worship and teaching;
- looking after buildings;
- looking after land;
- engaging with the local community and in global campaigns;
- in the personal lifestyles of the congregation members.

The supporting resources can be used to help move the church forward from one award level to the next, thereby improving performance and depth of engagement. See <http://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk> for more details.

After completing the 'Eco Church' survey in March, we were thrilled that St. Andrew's gained a Bronze Award for our commitment to caring for creation. We would value your help in taking the project forward; so, if you want to participate in on-site conservation activities or get involved in working towards the next Eco Church award, please speak to Maggie, Pat Haywood or Chris McGuire.

**Paul R Taylor**

Sustainability and Environmental Management Consultant

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## **CROWELL CHURCHYARD & CARPARK**

The last two months at Crowell have been rather hectic. Some good times and others not so good. The not so good were being unable to cut the long grass in the churchyard and we apologise to the relatives of those buried there. After breaking several trimmers and mowers, help finally came from many sources with trimmers, mowers and clippers to lend a hand. Help was gratefully accepted, as were the mowers donated by Mike and Evelyn. They will make such a difference. Thanks also go to Caroline and Stephen who trimmed the cremation area and watered my

flowers on the bank whilst I was away. Thank you so much.

Special thanks go to Carol and Eric for their valiant efforts in getting the churchyard into good shape and looking fabulous for their sons wedding on 30<sup>th</sup> June. The church was beautifully decorated with flowers and bows for the wedding. (Thanks Carol and sister. You did a 'blooming' good job).



Eric & Carol



Keelee & Russell

The car park bank got 'attitude' whilst I was away and the weeds had a great time! Never mind – weeds are just flowers in the wrong place – they will be dealt with. The flowers already planted are looking great and I hope to put some more roses, bulbs and herbs in during the next two months.

The next project is to clear the bank alongside the B4009 and take out the dead trees. We can plant bulbs and new hedgerow before winter.

Whilst we are on apologies, you may have noticed some strange noises coming from the 'call bell' before services. Something is obstructing the free running of the bell pull and so we need to get someone up there to investigate.

For us, it is a very exciting time and we hope visitors will continue to enjoy the fruits of our labours.

**The Crowell Team**



## PARISH COUNCIL & LOCAL CONTACTS

### Parish Website

[www.astonrowant.org.uk](http://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 Steven Sowerby	Kingston Blount	01844 351392
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

Jeannette Matelot jeannette.matelot@oxfordshire.gov.uk

### MP

John Howell 01491 612852 howelljm@parliament.uk

### Police Community Support Office

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

### Village Hall Hire/Bookings

Andrea Tinson 07391 139707 bookings@kbvh.org

### Play Area

Tracy Lambourne 01844 353989 clerk@astonrowant.org.uk

### Aston Rowant Cricket Club Chairman

Paul Humphreys 07880 791022

## 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:

- In or towards promoting the education of pupils attending the Aston Rowant Church of England Primary School.
- 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.

## PULSE HOLIDAY CLUB

Pulse, the holiday club, organised jointly by the churches in Chinnor, will be held on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> August and Friday 25<sup>th</sup> August in the marquee on Whites Field.

This year it will be run along the lines of 'Messy Church' as a club for families with children of all ages, although the planning is still in its early stages. Children will need to have a parent or carer over the age of 18 with them. It is proposed to have pre-school and babies' area, a selection of crafts and activities based on Biblical themes for any ages and half day mini-projects for the Year 6 children and teenagers. There will be a quiet area available. Families will be asked to register for specific half days, running from 10 – 1 or 12 – 3, joining together for packed lunches, between 12 and 1. Each half day will have a different theme. There will be plenty of games equipment available. As with previous Pulse holiday clubs, there will be some singing, and 'Wake and Shake' and time to sum up the theme for the session.

Without enough voluntary helpers, Pulse cannot happen. With the changed way of organisation, it is hoped that there will be less pressure on those who have previously been group leaders. Could you help us out on these two days? Would you like to know more about Pulse and why the format is being changed? Please speak to me about it!

Above all your prayer support is needed that the ideas will gel and that the right number of volunteers will come forward.

**Liz Thorpe** 01844 351565

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## ASTON ROWANT PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

In the last edition of the Parish Notes, I reported that the Council had two vacancies. I am pleased to say that one of those vacancies has been filled and would like to welcome Steven Sowerby onto the Council. We do, however, still have one vacancy – anyone interested in becoming a Councillor should contact myself or the Parish Clerk, Tracy Lambourne, in the first instance.

The July meeting included a presentation from a representative of St Johns Homes on a proposed development in Aston Rowant. It is not unusual for development plans to be submitted in areas where a Neighbourhood Plan is being formed and I suspect that there will be more applications before the process is complete. The Parish Council encourage potential developers to share their plans in an open forum at the Council meetings ahead of formal submission. However, although the Council will give a view on any planning applications submitted it is important to note that the District Council that make the decision on whether or not to approve an application.

The Neighbourhood Plan development continues with the consultation evenings attracting over 80 parishioners and responses from over 50 residents. The Neighbourhood Plan is a comprehensive document - it may deal with a wide range of social, economic and environmental issues as well as identifying areas for housing and conservation. In the Autumn, the Committee will be beginning the hard work of gathering evidence and producing the draft plan for a further consultation in early 2018.

The current committee is quite small and would we welcome new members to assist in developing the plan. Anyone interested should contact Mark Thackeray via email at [np@astonrowant.org.uk](mailto:np@astonrowant.org.uk). Details of the Committee's activities are available on the website at <http://www.astonrowant.org.uk/neighbourhood-planning.html>.

Following a number of requests from parishioners, the Parish Council have now arranged for the grass on the raised verge between Kingston Blount and Crowell to be regularly cut to allow safer passage between the two villages. Please note that this is not an official footpath and that anyone using the verge as a footpath does so at their own risk. That said, we are aware that there is a long standing desire for a footpath to Crowell and are looking at whether this can be achieved economically and in a way that mitigates the landowners' liability.

Neither the Parish Council nor the Neighbourhood Plan Committee are meeting in August. The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September with the Neighbourhood Plan Committee meeting the previous evening. Both meetings will take place at Kingston Blount Village Hall and all parishioners are welcome to attend. In the meantime, I wish you all a relaxing summer.

**Peter Tinson**, Chairman ARPC

## ASTON ROWANT PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

Meetings of the Parish Council were held on Wednesday 14th June 2017 and Wednesday 12th July 2017, both in Aston Rowant Church at 7.30pm.

At the time of writing, the next meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday 13th September in Kingston Blount Village Hall, there being no meeting in August.

### PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

- P17/S1669/HH** Single storey rear and side extension at 1 Aston Park, Aston Rowant. ***Should be approved.***
- P17/S1633/A** External signage and lighting at The Lambert Arms Hotel, London Road, Lewknor. ***No Strong Views/ Should be Approved.***
- P17/S1941/HH** Single storey front and first floor extensions at 5 Aston Park, Aston Rowant. ***Should be approved.***
- P17/S2004/HH** Single storey and 1st-floor extension and alterations at Chiltern Cottage, The Green, Kingston Blount. ***Should be approved.***
- P17/S2006/HH** Single storey extension to existing garage/workshop with new pitched roof over existing/extended building at The Old Croft Pleck Lane, Kingston Blount. ***Should be approved.***
- P1/S2119/HH** Tiled lean-to extension at Field House, Chinnor Road, Aston Rowant. ***Should be approved.***
- P17/S1941/HH** Single storey front and first floor extensions at 5 Aston Park, Aston Rowant. ***GRANTED.***

### PLANNING DECISIONS OF SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL:

- P17/S0667/HH** Erection of garden shed onto slab base in back garden at Chiltern Cottage, Pleck Lane (listed building consent). ***GRANTED.***
- P17/S1082/HH** Erection of detached garage with home office and sun-room at Oxford Lodge, London Rd, Lewknor. ***GRANTED.***
- P17/S1633/A** External signage and lighting at The Lambert Arms Hotel, London Road, Lewknor. ***REFUSED.***
- P17/S1669/HH** Single storey rear and side extension at 1 Aston Park, Aston Rowant. ***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>



## VIEW FROM THE BOUNDARY

The big news from the cricket club is that we are now one game away from an appearance at the home of cricket, Lords, in the Village Knockout competition.

Following a 6 wicket win, with 6 overs to spare, against Ynystawe at the Butts Way ground on 23rd July, we are off to Reed in Hertfordshire on 6<sup>th</sup> August.

Details of coach travel to the match will be posted on KBAR once they are confirmed. Having seen so many villagers supporting the club at the last two home matches in this competition, it would be great if you felt able to travel to Reed and continue your support for this very talented group of home-grown cricketers.

If you cannot attend and want to follow the events you can find us on Twitter @aston\_cc where we will have updates and pictures of the afternoon events.

In other news the senior 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> teams are leading their leagues with the 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> team making steady progress. The 2nds are struggling this season in Division 1 but there are still a number of weeks to go and turn the season round.

**Rob Holt**







The French team look forward to welcoming you every day from 10am to 6 pm, and Fridays and Saturdays from 7pm until 10pm.

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**REGARDING PLANNING DECISION P17/S0667/HH, WE WOULD LIKE TO REMIND PARISHIONERS THAT PLANNING PERMISSION IS REQUIRED FOR THE ERECTION OF SHEDS AND OTHER GARDEN BUILDINGS WHERE THE PROPERTY IS LISTED OR IN A CONSERVATION AREA.**

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](http://www.facebook.com), search for 'KBAR' and ask to join the group.

**Tracy Lambourne**, Clerk to the Parish, Aston Rowant Parish Council

## IMPROVEMENTS TO THE KB/AR FOOTPATH

*Improvements to the Kingston Blount to Aston Rowant Footpath known locally as the Moors Path or the Coffin Path.*

On behalf of Aston Rowant Parish Council, I wish to register a big thank you to all those who contributed so generously to enable the improvement work to begin on a long section of the path. This includes putting down a new foundation and membrane. The sides will be boarded for the first time to give more stability to the surface. Hopefully by the time you read this the work will actually be complete.

This right of way is a footpath and as such may only legally used by walkers. Generally a blind eye is turned to cyclists as long as they are courteous and dismount when passing walkers.

As the right of way is designated as a footpath, horses are only permitted if a land owner gives permission. One of the land owners has advised that she only gives permission for horses from her stable to use the path; that permission does not extend to any other horses. The alternative routes for horses are via the Ridgeway or Lower Icknield Way, both of which are designated bridleways.

The County Council, have responsibility for the footpath surface. The surface that is being installed is resistant to use by horses but will require more regular repair if a large number of horses use it. Horse riding on public footpaths is referred to the County Council who have responsibility for enforcing the law.

I hope that parishioners will realise the benefit of the new surface, particularly in winter when it should bind together and be less liable to puddles forming and becoming muddy.

**Peter Hetherington**

## NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Thank you to all those who attended the three consultation sessions in June. We had over eighty people taking an interest and hopefully that interest will show itself in a flood of return forms and maps. Our next phase will be to analyse the sites that you have suggested, either as protected spaces or potential housing sites, so that we have an idea of what you think. We would then need to look at these sites and review them as sites which do or do not comply with the Local Plan and with the Neighbourhood Plan goals and objectives, which you all know by heart.

The flood of responses has been more of a trickle, which has been disappointing, although there is still to make your views known. We have had about forty replies - thank you - and we will be looking at these over the next couple of months to assess what consensus there might be as to which spaces we must protect and which might be acceptable housing locations. Formal consultations will be scheduled for the new year, when we will have talked to the owners of the various pieces of land to see if their aspirations match your own.

The Steering Group is woefully short of bodies - there are six people interested enough in the future of the parish to give some of their spare time to the project.

We meet every second Tuesday of the month in Kingston Blount Village Hall at 7.30 - next meeting is Tuesday 12th September. The meetings are open to all, especially those with ideas and a willingness to plan for the future. Writing the Neighbourhood Plan is no small task, but re-writing it if people only take part write at the end will be a lot harder.

It is your Village Plan. Through the Parish Council, the residents chose to prepare it, so as many people as possible need to be involved.

Look at the website. Keep in touch through KBAR.

Contact us on np@astonrowant.org

**Mark Thackeray**

## REVIEWS OF LOCAL BUSINESSES

*I recently contacted two of our local advertisers after finding them in the Parish Notes, and I was so impressed with both of them that I wanted to include reviews in this issue. If you would like to include a review of any of local businesses or advertisers in future issues please email me - sarahparishnotes@gmail.com.*

### Village Environmental Drain Services

If you have an older property and problems with blocked drains, I can highly recommend this company. Dennis came within hours and worked out a problem that another much bigger drain company had missed when we called them out a year earlier. They had simply pumped out the blockage with a lorry, but didn't solve the reason for it happening, and didn't seem to understand the old drains and network of underground pipes. Dennis spent nearly an entire day working to solve it, and wouldn't stop until he had. He even said he wouldn't expect payment unless he did! He figured out our complicated Victorian drains, something other companies had failed to do. This is an experienced family run business that gives very good value for money (see p.34).

### Mark Lord Photography

We recently booked Mark to take some family portraits, with Nick and Helen going back to Australia. None of us had ever had professional portraits taken, and we weren't the most natural models, but he really put us at ease and we ended up enjoying the process. He captured some really excellent shots of all of us together, even with small tired children who didn't want to stand still or look up. He also took individual family portraits and beautiful relaxed close up shots of the children. They are all so good we are having trouble deciding which to order! (See p. 18 Mark offers a discount for local residents.)



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**LIFE AS A GIRL IN  
KINGSTON BLOUNT**

Hello! It's Eliza after a while of not writing in this, I'm back. (For better or worse I'm not sure but we'll see if anyone actually reads this.)

I'm writing this on the second day of the summer holidays - yay! I've already watched all the movies I have wanted to watch on Netflix and eaten a fair amount of cheesy chips but we'll see how the next six weeks of the holiday goes.

The last day at school was really fun as we basically just ate sweets and popcorn whilst watching a movie in a technology room. I can't believe that next year I'll be in Year 8. I started writing this in Year 5 and I remember Mrs Lawson reading some of what I had written in front of the class and I got really embarrassed and hid in the toilets, wow. We've come so far; I'm *almost* not hiding in a toilet cubicle any more. I'm just so glad it's the summer and I can finally sleep in and have nail polish on. :)

Okay, this is for anyone going to secondary school next year or anyone who wants to read this. It honestly isn't half as scary as it seems. It's actually really good as you can get cookies and slushies and no-one will know (shhh). You also get twenty minute breaks between each lesson and get to use Bunsen burners. Even though I'm happy it's the summer and that I can eat cheesy chips and watch movies, my first year at Lord Bills was still really fun.

So good luck to the new Year Sevens :)

That's it for now, I'll be back next time

~Eliza





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## NOTES FROM THE ALLOTMENT

### Summertime

This is the exciting and rewarding time of year when all the preparation and praying (!) is hopefully manifest in good crops.

Certainly a little luck helps :

- avoiding late frosts in May
- enjoying good rain throughout June
- spotting whitefly and thrips early
- avoiding the attentions of pigeons and pheasants.

It's surprising anything grows!

I am enjoying cabbages, caulis and broccoli, but I still find it most exciting to dig the first early potatoes. I grew Charlotte variety this year and they have done well and the recent beautiful rain will swell them quickly now. They are delicious!

I have had good success with crops that need almost daily attention and harvesting in the new raised beds that 'the management' introduced in April. They have been excellent and provide for closer scrutiny than those growing on the allotment. We have been enjoying beets, radish, lettuce, spring onions and now courgettes. I hope the tomatoes and French beans hurry up and we get some before we go on hols.

The greatest success has been the sweet peas that are growing up a trellis at the side of the house. They get plenty of water and feed and are cut four times a week, so that rooms downstairs enjoy their delicate colours and perfume. I did hope that the ones I planted on the allotment would thrive, but as Uncle Bert used to say 'they've gone 'ome'!

Last year we were given 20 apple trees surplus to a School Anniversary and I know they are all doing well on neighbouring allotments and in gardens in Kingston Blount, Crowell and Aston Rowant.

I was talking to the grower recently and she warned me that a fruit tree tends to over-exert itself one year and then has to 'rest' the following year or two. She told me the solution is to ruthlessly thin the crop after the June 'drop'. About half the crop should be thinned, leaving only the best fruit. This reduces the number of seeds the tree needs to produce and which take so much of its energy. The lovely flesh we eat does not drain the tree very much so that the fruit – apples, plums, pears, cherries, apricots etc. – swell more easily and give a stronger, healthier growth. (Certainly our two plum trees seem to fall into this biennial cropping pattern –giving us 52kg last year and 'resting' this year!!

I hope you have as much fun with your plot or garden – or both!

All the best

**Dick Ewen**



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## **OHCT RIDE AND STRIDE**



**Saturday 9th September**

It's time to get on your bike, your horse or just your feet for the annual OHCT Ride and Stride.

Collect your friends and your children, get sponsored and walk or ride your bike, pony or horse round some of our local and beautiful churches. Have fun, get fit and at the same time raise money for your own and other churches in Oxfordshire.

Welcomers - to be at our own churches during the day, will be badly needed between 10am and 6pm and can also be sponsored.

Further information and sponsorship forms can be obtained from Julian Knight on 351315, Jenny Flynn on 352345 or Jeremy Wilcock on 761119.

## **WALKING THE ASTON ROWANT DISCOVERY TRAIL**

I am leading this 6.2 mile circular walk leaving the Leathern Bottle, Lewknor at 10.30 am on 22 September. Please park on the left side of the road just beyond the pub. The walk forms part of the Chiltern Conservation Board's Autumn Walking Festival. I am leading on behalf of the Chiltern Society. The walk is free for anyone to join but you must register with the Chiltern Conservation Board please. Details can be found on line at [www.visitchilterns.co.uk/walkingfestival](http://www.visitchilterns.co.uk/walkingfestival) or you can e-mail them at [walkingfestival@chilternsaonb.org](mailto:walkingfestival@chilternsaonb.org).

The festival runs from Saturday 16 Sept to Sunday 1 October and features in total over 40 walks.

The Discovery Trail features three ancient routes. These are: The London Weye, The Icknield Way which doubles as the Ridgeway at this point, and The 1718 Stokenchurch to Wheatley Turnpike. We visit the National Trust beech woods and Natural England's Aston Rowant Nature Reserve.

Go on, take a day's holiday and join us. Some of us will also be eating at the Leathern Bottle after the walk.

**Peter Hetherington**

ARPC and Chiltern Society.

## NOTICEBOARD

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



#### **Cantilina Winds—First Lunchtime Concert**

Please come and support our very own wind orchestra — Cantilina Winds. The orchestra rehearses each week in our village hall and has kindly agreed a programme of lunch-time concerts, starting on Friday Sept 22 at 11 am. Coffee, tea and biscuits will be available on arrival at 10.30am with the first half of the concert starting at 11am. Filled rolls will be available to buy with tea, coffee and wine during the interval. The concert will end at 1pm. Admission is by donation to the Orchestra and the programme is supported by The Hillwerke Trust.

#### **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. [jknight652@aol.com](mailto:jknight652@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

#### **Chinnor Silver Band**

On Saturday 9th September Chinnor Silver Band and Training Band will hold a concert at St. Andrew's Church. It starts at 6.45pm, Tickets are £8.50 and available from St Andrews Church Office, Manor Stores and Chinnor Community Pavilion. There will be refreshments served during the interval.

#### **An Evening of Song & Fun**

Join us on Saturday 2nd September at 7:30pm at St Mary's Church Sydenham. Tickets available from Siobhan 353278 [thehedgerown@btinternet.com](mailto:thehedgerown@btinternet.com)

## NOTICEBOARD



#### **Flower Arranging**

Would you like to do something creative and hone your flower arranging skills? The church flower rota needs some more people as we're severely depleted in numbers owing to illness and people moving away. You don't need to be a churchgoer, enthusiasm is more important than experience, and your efforts will be hugely appreciated by everyone who visits the church! For more information please contact Rona on [351315/jknight652@aol.com](mailto:351315/jknight652@aol.com).

#### **Chinnor Flower & Produce Show**

....will be taking place on Bank Holiday Monday, 28th August at 2.30pm at Whites Field, Mill Lane. Admission is only £1.00 and children under 14 are free. Children are invited to create a model animal from Noah's Ark—the best models will receive a prizes in three separate age categories. They can be made with salt dough, plasticine etc and must be child's own work.

#### **Volunteer for Oxfordshire's Water-Blitz**

Volunteers needed for one day only! Schools, local groups and individuals are invited to take part in the county wide water blitz. Check the water quality of your local stream, pond, ditch or river and help build a water quality picture for Oxfordshire. For your free sampling pack register today by emailing [hilary@wildoxfordshire.org.uk](mailto:hilary@wildoxfordshire.org.uk) subject "Waterblitz" and join in on Monday 2nd October. EarthWatch have volunteered to handle the data and map all results on their global water-hub with the resulting data available to everyone involved.

For the latest conservation news, updates on the autumn Waterblitz, evening talks, or an afternoon of volunteering, plus jobs and training sign up to Wild Oxfordshire's email bulletin. Just click on their website [www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk](http://www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk)