DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DECEMBER

- 1 Christmas Fayre. KB Village Hall (p.22)
- 3 Watlington Christmas Fair, Silver Band Concert, Chinnor (p.22)
- **6** Father Christmas to KB (p.22)
- 8 Sydenham Coffee Morning (p.39),
- 10 Christmas Tree Festival, Carols on the Train Chinnor (p.22)
- 12 Advent to Oasis Evening, Chinnor (p. 22)
- 16 Carol Service, Crowell Church 7pm
- 18 Carol Service, Aston Rowant Church 4pm
- 24 Crib Service 4pm, Midnight Communion 11.30pm, AR Church
- 25 Family Communion Service 10am, AR Church
- 31 New Year's Eve party at the Shepherd's Crook (p. 26)

JANUARY

- 1 Parish Walk (p.19)
- 4 Watlington Gardening Club (p. 23)

Coming up in FEBRUARY- Watlington Gardening Club—1st, Snowdrop Sunday, Duck Races & Cream Teas—5th

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

COPY FOR THE FEB/MARCH ISSUE IS DUE ON 15TH JANUARY Please send by email to sarahparishnotes@gmail.com

PARISH NOTES



Photograph by John Wyatt

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PARISH NOTES TEAM

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

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KINGSTON BLOUNT VILLAGE HALL

(Hillwerke Recreational Trust Reg Charity No. 279656)

Charges for Hire - Effective 1st January 2016

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

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KINGSTON BLOUNT VILLAGE HALL DIARY DATES





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Kettlebell Abs every Wednesday 6.00pm

07801 553019

Yoga with every Wednesday 7.00pm **Rachel Hawkins** 07552 185499 (*Please* note Monday classes are no longer taking place.)

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 3101111
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
SODC Environmental Department	01235 422403

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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

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 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 Roman Catholic Services – St Joseph's Thame Fr Mark Logorio 01844 212860 Holy Mass every Saturday at 6.00pm and Sunday at 9.00am and 11.00am

LOCAL CHURCH SERVICES

ASTON ROWANT CHURCH SERVICES

First Sunday of every month 10am Family Service 2nd, 3rd,4th Sundays 10am Holy Communion

Fifth Sundays see notice board in Church porch or village notice board

1st Tuesday of every month 8am Morning Prayers

CROWELL CHURCH SERVICES

1st Sunday of the month6pmEvensong2nd Sunday of the month10amEucharist1st and 3rd Saturdays of the monthSoul Space at 5.30pm

Listening Ear -St Andrew's Church, Chinnor

every Wednesday 7.30-9.30pm



Aston Rowant Church by Louise Heathcote



LOCAL PLAYGROUPS And things to do with young children

THE THREE BEARS is showing at Oxford's Story Museum. Festive fun for children aged 3+ and their families. Times: 10.30 & 12.30. 60 minutes running time, no interval. Tickets Adult £7, Child/concession £5, Family ticket* £20. Book online at www.ticketsoxford.com. Or call the Story Museum for more information. 01865 790050

CINDERELLA is on the main stage at Oxford Playhouse through December. www.oxfordplayhouse.com.

WATLINGTON TOWN CHRISTMAS FAIR is one not to be missed! Saturday 3rd December from 10am until 2pm on Watlington High Street. Father Christmas Procession at 10.30 am.

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

SYDENHAM COFFEE MORNINGS at The Old School Hall. Thursday 8th

December 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! During the Christmas Tree Festival it will be in the Church Hall.

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A LETTER FROM OUR RECTOR

Dear friends

I do hope that you haven't got fed up with Christmas already! I'm writing this in the middle of November having already bought many gifts, seen many Christmas trees, heard many carols, chuckled at the simple joy of the seasonal John Lewis commercial and attended several Christmas 'do's. As a rule things only accelerate between now and Christmas itself, and when it arrives, the day comes and goes as quickly as any other. Of course we have to prepare ourselves and our homes for the great feast, especially if we're entertaining family and friends, but let's not get there too soon. Instead, let's do it differently this year and prepare our heads and hearts for welcoming the real reason for the celebrations into our lives anew by slowing down as much as we can.

Advent isn't just a season of preparation; it's a season of expectation too because the Church prepares to celebrate the coming (adventus) of Christ in his incarnation, and also looks forward to his final advent as judge at the end of time. Throughout the season, the Sunday readings direct us not only to Christ's birth, they also challenge us to confront the theme of divine judgement. The Four Last Things - Death, Judgement, Heaven and Hell - have been traditional themes for Advent meditation and perhaps why we habitually rush towards Christmas, by-passing such uncomfortable subjects. For some this year, the end of it can't come quickly enough after all the political shocks and continued violence and natural disasters in many parts of the world.

Apart from our Christmas Tree Festival at St. Andrew's church, our churches will be very plainly decorated in true anticipation of the celebration, encouraging us all to reflect and prepare. Here in the northern hemisphere, the Advent season falls at the darkest time of the year, and the natural symbols of darkness and light are powerfully at work through the lighting of candles on the Advent wreath and our Christingle service, encouraging us to remember that ultimately, natural light will conquer the natural darkness as the seasons turn again. But what of the state of our hearts?

Alongside all the carols being played in the shops just now, there will be secular 'Christmas songs' such as 'Frosty the Snowman', 'Jingle Bells' and, the particularly confusing, 'Santa Claus is Coming to Town'. Most of them are childish fun, but the latter has a couple of warnings in it, 'He knows when you've been bad or good'...... Have YOU been 'naughty or nice' this year? Take time to answer the question and you'll have embraced the season. The coming of Jesus as the Christ-child, gives us the hope we need that the darkness in our lives can be overturned. The Christmas services will reflect that light and hope, but meanwhile, why not allow yourself an hour off to pause and prepare.

May you be richly blessed this Advent and come to a new awareness of the light and joy of Christ's coming. A very happy Christmas to you all.

Maggie

ART & SOUL WEEKEND



Even though Saturday's weather was very wet, there was a steady flow of visitors to Crowell Church which was a buzz of activity for the Art & Soul weekend. Visitors were shown the intricacies of lace-making, quilling, bead work, painting, drawing, cross-stitch, quilting and flower arranging by our very talented demonstrators. There were lots of opportunities for visitors (and Rector) to test their own skills under the guidance of the crafters.

The day ended with Soul Space making a calm and fitting end to an enjoyable first day.

Sunday was a much better day, weather wise, and one of our painters decided to paint 'al fresco'. Although the W.O.W Bus was unable to be there Cindy came along and read stories, made bread and entertained children on the bales in the churchyard.

Tea, coffee and a selection of homemade cakes and pastries were available and donations came to $\pounds 60$.

A big thank you goes to all the crafters and organising committee for a very entertaining two days. I know that the day was enjoyed by all those who attended and gave them a chance to bounce ideas off each other. Thanks also to The Shepherd's Crook for allowing us to use their facilities.

Sunday concluded with our Harvest Evensong which saw a good number of people in the congregation.

For a first time event the concept was good and it is hoped we can build on this and do something similar next year.

Andy Warman, Churchwarden

















TESSA WYATT'S COUNTRY DIARY From Tessa Wyatt's recent Facebook posts



12th November

Just left the yard (5.30) and as I came out through the gates I glanced left and saw Mr Fox flit silently across Church Lane and into the garden opposite. Good hunting, sir. Earlier, driving up Aston Hill the beauty of the beech trees arching over the road was a joy to see. All shades of red, brown, gold and green. The Chilterns are just stunning at this time of year. I say again, so lucky to live here!

(11.25pm) If any of you are still up, pop outside and look at the moon. It's closer to us than it has been for 68 years and looks near enough to touch, and dazzlingly bright. The garden hedge, still wet from the earlier rain, is hung with diamonds, glittering in the moonlight. Sadly my darling husband is away in Italy and can't share this precious moment with me, so I'm sharing it with you.

16th November

We are having the front of the house painted so there are pots of paint, trays and brushes stored in the porch, plus a ladder in the front garden. Just now (8.50pm) we heard scuffling outside the front door and the sound of things being moved around. Thinking "burglar" we opened the front door and turned on the porch light. There, with his nose covered in white paint, was a badger. We all stared at each other for a split second, and then he trotted briskly off into next door's garden. I wonder how long it will take him to get the paint off. John's wondering how he's going to explain it to the wife ...

18th November

The badger came back last night. Painting done, there was a black bin bag of debris in a box in the porch for throwing away today. I think Brock was hoping there might be something nice in the bag to fuel his sniffing habit because the bag was torn open and the contents were spread all over the porch floor. I thought I heard him scuffling around but was already in bed with hubby, cat and book, far too cosy to get up and look.

Tessa Wyatt



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LOCAL CHRISTMAS SERVICES

ST PETER & ST PAUL, ASTON ROWANT

Sunday 18th December CAROL SERVICE 4pm Saturday 24th December CRIB SERVICE 4pm

Saturday 24th December MIDNIGHT COMMUNION 11.30pm Sunday 25th December FAMILY COMMUNION SERVICE 10am

NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, CROWELL.

Friday 16th December CAROL SERVICE 7pm

WARDENS' REPORT, CROWELL CHURCH

Jeremy has finally coaxed the recalcitrant heating boiler back to life after searching high and low for parts that had been declared obsolete. The church is now warm and welcoming. This has only put off the inevitable finding of funds for a new boiler for the time being.

Work continues in preparing the car park bank for planting out with shrubs, flowers, plants, bulbs and herbs. The car park was strimmed and tidied for Art and Soul and has made the approach to the churchyard once more as it should be. The ivy had been trimmed back along the public footpath making the path usable once more. The B4009 boundary has been cut back and trees and hedges pruned to give a better view when exiting the carpark.

Keeping the grass under control in the churchyard has proven to be easier than first thought but again that is work in progress. We will be starting work parties next year to deal with the older graves on the South side of the churchyard as these will require quite a bit of effort along with clearing the dumped grass and general rubbish from the graves that has accumulated around the boundary fences.

We do have a wild bee nest underground in one of the boundaries. They just love the ivy. They are believed to be Ivy Bees and if so are quite rare and not native.

Now the bad weather is here we will be turning our efforts to the interior. Several jobs need doing to smarten the place up and we are researching the possibility of laying in water and adding toilet facilities.

We are striving to find a role for The BVM, ideas are being put into the pot so watch this space.

Andy Warman & Jeremy Peters, Churchwardens

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 Gordon Crossley	Kingston Blount	01844 351296
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

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 01844 351296 Village Hall Hire/Bookings bookings@kbvh.org

Play Area -Please contact

Stephanie Johns 01844 350311 07939 030102

Aston Rowant Cricket Club Chairman

Paul Humphreys 07880 791022



HILLWERKE RECREATIONAL TRUST (Charity No. 279656)

KINGSTON BLOUNT CHRISTMAS FAYRE

THURSDAY DECEMBER 1ST 6:45pm





The Fayre will be opened by ASTON ROWANT SCHOOL CHOIR at 6:45

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ASTON ROWANT PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Welcome to my final update of the calendar year.

After reporting a number of near misses along the B4009 in the last issue of the Parish Notes, there was an incident in early November when a car struck one of the houses on the High Road in Kingston Blount. The Council is taking the matter of road safety seriously and is setting up a working group to examine and prioritise the options for traffic calming along the B4009 and other roads in the Parish. We are looking for members of the public to join the working group; see the article from Matt Day on page 15 for further details. It is likely that any traffic calming measures will have to be funded by the community. We are currently looking at the budget for 2017/8 and are considering whether some of the work can be funded from reserves and an above inflation increase in the precept. This will mean that each household will contribute through an increase in the contribution to the Parish included in the Council Tax. I would welcome your thoughts and comments on this.

Sadly it looks as if the consortium that had expressed an interest in the Cherry Tree will not be taking their interest further. The earlier call for expressions of interest in a community consortium did not attract a great deal of interest so it looks doubtful that the Cherry Tree will re-open.

The Neighbourhood Plan committee continues to meet regularly. The plan area was submitted to South Oxfordshire District Council and, after a period of consultation, has been approved. The committee have defined their terms of reference and the goals and objectives for the plan. These will be brought to the December council meeting for approval.

I am pleased to report two new faces on the Council. Lawney Hill was co-opted onto the Council at the October meeting. I am grateful to Lawney for putting herself forward for the role which increases the representation from Aston Rowant on the Council. I am also pleased that Tracy Lambourne has accepted the position as Clerk to the Council. Tracy attended her first meeting as Clerk in November and is quickly getting to grips with the different aspects of the role. I am grateful to Steph Johns for her assistance in bringing Tracy up to speed in her new role.

Finally, as this is the last issue of the Parish Notes of the year, I will take the opportunity to wish you all the best for Christmas and the New Year.

Peter Tinson, Chairman ARPC

ASTON ROWANT PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

Meetings of the Parish Council were held on Wednesday, 12th October and Wednesday 9th November at 7.30pm in Kingston Blount Village Hall. At the time of writing, the next meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday 14th December.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

P16/S3393/HH Infill existing carport wall openings with new wall/door construction to create an enclosed garage. Construct a new detached Summerhouse. Erect a new boundary wall fronting the High Street, with a pedestrian gate and bin stores at Apsley Cottage, High Street, Kingston Blount, Chinnor, OX39 4SJ – should be refused in current form.

P16/S3391/HH Erection of a 3 bay car port and change existing double garage into games room at Willowmead, Kingston Stert, OX39 4NL. Recommendation – should be approved.

P16/S3572/AG Erection of general agricultural store for hay and machinery at Parkwood Stud, London Road, Lewknor, OX49 5RZ

PLANNING DECISIONS OF SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL:

P16/S2537/FUL Demolition of two stable buildings and erection of replacement stables and office accommodation at Aston Park Stud, Aston Rowant, OX49 5SR – 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.

Tracy Lambourne

Clerk to the Parish Aston Rowant Parish Council



Hello world, or anyone who reads this, my name is Eliza. This is a short page of writing from the point of view of a girl eating chocolate in front of a computer in Kingston Blount.

So first of all, it is getting close Christmas! I'm hoping every time I open my curtains that there's snow outside. (Not that I ever open my curtains...) Or that when I stroke my dog she might magically form into a reindeer. Okay maybe not the last one. But it's finally acceptable to wear three jumpers, two coats and a scarf.

Also, how was your Halloween, what did you dress up as? Me and my friend (You know who you are, lol) went as Harley Quinn from Suicide Squad even though neither of us had seen the movie. Shh, no one knows... I'm pretty sure my bucket was overflowing by the end of the night.

There was also bonfire night recently. We went to my friend's house who lives behind Lord Bills where there was a massive firework display. We just watched everyone stand in the cold whilst sitting on the sofa eating smores (chocolate digestives with roasted marshmallows.) The fireworks were amazing though, there were about five grand finales.

I'm still getting used to all the homework they give us at Lord Bills, and so many tests! And that's after doing SATs at the end of last year at Aston Rowant. We went away on holiday at half term, because we didn't go anywhere in the summer. It was AMAZING. So I keep getting confused when I walk out of my front door and there isn't a hot tub waiting for me or a dessert buffet for when I get home from school. Instead I get a driveway and a biscuit.

Anyways, hope you're having an amazing day and I'll see you after Christmas.

Farewell,

Eliza Day

LETTER FROM JOHN HOWELL MP





Sam Hunt

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John Howell MP writes...

Mid-November 2016

Christmas Wishes from John Howell MP

Firstly, as this newsletter will appear in December magazines I would like to take this opportunity to wish all constituents a peaceful Christmas and to send my best wishes for the year ahead.

The end of the year is often a time of reflection and planning. As I look back it has not been an easy year. There have been many challenges and some of these will continue forward into the coming year. We are in times of change and as such it can be unsettling. I welcome correspondence on issues of concern. Whether or not our views are shared it is good to know how others perceive situations and what issues are uppermost in people's minds.

There is no doubt that some constituents face hard times but overall in this constituency we have many privileges much due to the work of many in our communities who give their time in many voluntary activities. May I take this opportunity to say thank you to all those who work hard in our communities to make them special for the rest of us. It is always a pleasure when I get the opportunity to visit community activities and I look forward to learning yet more about what is being done in 2017.

News Updates

Writing in mid-November there are world issues at the forefront of media attention. Whilst some issues are conducted on the world stage the ongoing work of Parliament continues and the media will choose what it comments on. There is indeed much going on in Parliament and for those who are interested details of the work can be followed on the Parliament website where there is a specific section dedicated to what is going on.

http://www.parliament.uk/business/

I keep a blog on my website where I regularly post reports on what I am doing on both national and local issues both in Westminster and in the constituency. The address is www.johnhowellmp.com In addition, if you would like to subscribe to my e-newsletter please e mail me at:

<u>john.howell@oxfordshireconservatives.com</u> You can also follow me on twitter @johnhowellmp or on Facebook www.facebook.com/john.howellmp

I look forward to continued correspondence on the wide range of issues that are of concern across the constituency in the New Year.

Printed and promoted by John Howell MP House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

GREEN BINS—REDUCE RECYCLING CONTAMINATION

Taken from South Oxfordshire District Council Outlook Newspaper:

'We now only empty your green wheelie bin if the recycling in it is either loose or in clear sacks. If the bin contains a black or coloured sack the collection crews will assume it contains things that could contaminate other recycling and they won't empty it.

People are putting things like food waste and dirty nappies into their recycling bins, often within black or coloured sacks, which are contaminating whole truckloads of recycling—in the last nine months 100 tonnes of recycling from the district have been rejected because of contamination.

If you have more recycling than can fit in your green wheelie bin, you can leave extra out beside the bin in an open cardboard box, or clear sack on your recycling collection day.

Don't forget you can recycle batteries from the kerbside too! Place in a plastic bag and leave on top of the green bin.

Put things in the right bin

Put food waste in your food waste caddy, nappies in your grey bin, small electricals by the side of your grey bin, and textiles by the side of your green bin.

Assisted Collections

If you have difficulties putting out your rubbish or recycling collection due to disability, illness or infirmity email waste.team@southandvale.gov.uk or call 01235 422406.

USEFUL INFORMATION FOR WINTER

Priority service for vulnerable residents during power or water failure. If you are elderly, or disabled, have a child under five, or use specialist medical equipment, then you could benefit from joining water and electricity priority care registers. Sign up by calling: Electricity—0800 294 3259 or text phone 0800 316 5457. Water—0800 009 3652 or text phone 0800 316 6899.

Power cuts—if there is a power cut call the free number 105 to check what's happening with your local provider.

No water? Find out what's happening by calling Thames Water on 0800 980 8800

If you spot a **pothole** report it at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/potholes or call 0845 310 1111.

Energy saving advice and help available from Oxfordshire Affordable Warmth Helpline on 0800 107 0044 or email awn@nef.org.uk

CALLING ALL CAKE BAKERS!

There may still be just enough time to whip something up for the **Kingston Blount Christmas Village Fayre** on **Thursday 1st December**.

Lou Merry says:

We are looking for your generous contributions to the Fayre Christmas cake stall.

We are looking for 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 to The Hillwerke Trust (which manages our Village Hall, playing fields and children's playground).

Please RSVP, call/text/email me on **07930426252** or **lmerry1@hotmail.co.uk** if you can help.

Many thanks,

Lou Merry

(Hester's Cottage, High Street, KB)

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.

TRAFFIC CALMING UPDATE

Following several recent near misses and a car crashing into a house in Kingston Blount, the Parish Council are pressing on with plans to deliver traffic calming measures. A committee group has been set up to help deliver the plans and I ask anyone who would like to be involved and help to please email or call me. The Parish Council has also established a reserve fund specifically for traffic calming. So far we have received £2,200 from the Street Fayre Committee which we are very grateful for. We expect to raise more money towards traffic calming in the next few months.

It has been decided that the committee should focus on delivering one affordable scheme in one location. We can then monitor how effective this is and if it works well then we can raise more money to repeat in other locations.

It is proposed to build a new chicane at the entrance to Kingston Blount as you approach from Aston Rowant with the option of adding speed humps as you come down the slope into Kingston Blount. The humps would be low to avoid damage to cars and would positioned away from houses to reduce any impact from noise. We are starting a consultation process and the plans for this scheme will be available to view at the next Parish Council meeting, they will be on the ARPC website and on the PC notice boards. Comments and questions greatly received.

We are also looking to buy a speed camera that residents will be able to use. Each resident will be trained to record speeding cars and the information will then be sent on to the police, who follow up, usually by sending a letter, to the offenders. No fines are issued but it is a very effective way of warning people. It is likely that most repeat offenders use the road regularly and become desensitised to speed and perhaps don't always see the signs. Hopefully, a letter from the Police will wake them up and slow them down. Repeat offenders may have action taken against them if the Police decide to do so. We will need volunteers to carry out the speed checking, so if you are concerned about speeding and want to help please do contact me at the address or phone number below.

Matthew Day, Councillor ARPC matthewday63@icloud.com 07940 752446 01844 351300



Felicity Burnell BSc (Hons), MChS

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AN AUTUMN DAY By S. J. Bird, October 2016

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Tetsworth Nr Thame



Strolling through the woods this Autumn day, The leaves all changing in colourful array, Sunlight filtering through the trees, The boughs gently moving in the breeze.

Entering a secluded woodland glade Half in sunlight, half in shade, Standing there midst the grass and moss Where many woodland paths do cross

Looking up to the trees so high With fleeting glimpses of the clear blue sky, A squirrel climbs nimbly to his drey Where he will rest when Winter skies are grey.

Leaves of green, brown, red and gold, But nothing for them does the future hold. For all their beauty which does abound Will soon lay dead upon the ground.

Some have already floated down
To form underfoot a carpet of brown,
To make way for buds and new leaves to bring
Which will adorn the trees with the coming of Spring.

The sun's now sinking in the sky, But this day I'll remember as the years go by. And oh that I could forever stay Amidst the beauty of this Autumn day.



20 Church Rd, Chinnor OX39 4PG 01844 353432

PURVEYORS OF FINE QUALITY FREE RANGE AND LOCAL MEATS

CHRISTMAS ORDERS NOW BEING TAKEN CALL IN FOR LAST ORDERS BY 17 DECEMBER

TURKEYS COCKERELS GEESE
TOPSIDE GAMMON HAM
COOKED MEATS PIES CHEESES
AND DON'T FORGET YOUR SAUSAGES AND BACON!

MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR



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Clearing out water courses and ditches to avoid flooding

Oxfordshire County Council and SODC have informed your Parish Council that land and property owners are responsible for clearing out the water courses and ditches which are on , or along side, their property or land.

As we are now approaching the rainy season it is likely that leaves, branches and general debris have built up in streams and ditches. Please could you check YOUR ditches etc. and make sure they are clear. This should help to prevent flooding of property, land and roads.

Remember this is YOUR responsibility. OCC, and SODC do not do this work any more.

Peter Hetherington ARPC Vice Chairman.

MOORS PATH UPGRADE

Upgrading the Footpath between Aston Rowant and Kingston Blount by the Parish Council.

This footpath is a Public Right of Way. It is used extensively by villagers, school children and their parents on their way to and from school, walkers to and from the Church and Cricket Club, Hillwerke Village Hall and Playing Field, Children's Play and Adult Exercise areas, and walkers to bus stops and pubs. And we must not forget people taking a relaxing stroll to enjoy the lovely views, longer distance walkers accessing the Chilterns AONB, joggers, dog walkers, horse riders (only with the land owners permission) and pedal cyclists without any official permission! And no doubt others! We estimate about 150 people use the path every day.

The Parish Council are hoping to upgrade two sections of the path next year. We already have 70% of funding required and are making applications to other organisations to make the project viable. The width of the hard path surface will remain much as it should be now which is 4 ft. wide over the cricket ground and the Kingston Blount farmland. At the farm there will be two headlands each about 2 ft. wide and the thick hedge being cut back possibly 18ins. The specification has been approved by OCC Countryside Services and the Farmer.

The path surface will have boarded sides, a membrane base, a course stone core sub layer and a stone gravel surface. The specification and finished appearance will be similar to the path installed by the Parish Council across the Aston Rowant Green about 6 years ago.

If you, your family, or your company would like to make a donation to help make this project a reality, please could you phone me to discuss how you might help.

Peter Hetherington ARPC Vice Chairman. Chairman of the Footpath and Amenities Group reporting to the Parish Council. 01844 353296

WWW.THEFITCOACH.CO.UK

Do you have niggling injuries you'd like to get resolved once and for all?

Been to the doctors but there is a long waiting list to see the Physiotherapist?

Whether it's back pain, stiffness or lack of mobility why not book in to see me, The Fit Coach. I provide mobile sports massage therapy at competitive rates and provide effective:

Injury Assessment Advanced Techniques to Remedy Remedial Exercise & Aftercare Advice Traditional Sports Massage

To book or make a general enquiry please call Keith Crane on 07751840262, Thame





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At Aston Rowant C of E School, the School Council (shown below right) work together to represent the views and opinions of the pupils in our school. Each class has two representatives to form a forum for active discussion into the daily life of our school. We feel that we can make things better for our school and the community.

This is Emran (below left). He attends The Mansa Colley Bojang School in The Gambia. Our school supports his education every year by having fundraising events organised by the School Council. This term our School Councillors have been busy organising a cake sale in school to raise money both for his education and to send out a box of items to help him learn. There was a little money left over and they decided to purchase 2 mosquito nets as well.

The school council are also supporting our local Hearing Dogs charity this year and will visit the Hearing Dogs centre in Bledlow next week to find out about the amazing work that they do in our community.

Aston Rowant School is currently open for personalised tours with Mrs Roberts the Head Teacher for new parents looking for school places for September 2017. Please phone the school office on 01844 351671 if you would like to visit our school and see the wonderful things we do.

Mrs Eve Roberts

Head Teacher – Aston Rowant Primary School
Visit www. aston-rowant.oxon.sch.uk for more information







Christmas party menu now available Please see our website for details

Christmas Eve — we will be serving food in addition to a traditional Polish Christmas menu.

Christmas Day — we will be open for drinks only from 12 to 4pm.

New Year's Eve — Please join us for the party. There will be a taxi driver available for hire to take you home within the local area.



The Shepherd's Crook, Crowell Tel 01844 355266 the-shepherds-crook.co.uk @theshepherdscrook

Open Tues-Sun, 12-11pm Food served 12.30-2.30pm & 6-9pm

USED POSTAGE STAMPS

A big thank you to everyone who has saved their stamps throughout the year. For anyone who does not know, these stamps are used to raise funds for the Hearing Dogs at Saunderton. There are three collecting points:

- 1. A large box in the porch at St. Andrews Church in Chinnor.
- 2. A small box on the table just inside St. Peter and St. Paul Church at Aston Rowant.
- 3. In Kingston Blount, you can put them through the letter box at Meadow Vale, Pleck Lane.(the bungalow with the picket fence)

Thank you in anticipation of your continued support. **Shirley Smith.**

PARISH WALK

Merry Christmas to all our Walking friends. The next Parish Walk is on New Year's Day. It starts at 10.00 on 1 January 2017 starting from the free car park next to Wendover Library just off the Main High Street and close to the Red Lion.

It is a classic circular 8 miler up to and through Wendover Woods, across a Golf Course, with splendid views towards and beyond Tring, down to the Wendover Canal near Green Park, and returning through Halton. We will use part of the Ridgeway and the Outer Aylesbury Ring long distance paths. Please wear boots and bring a snack and a drink. It is difficult to say what time we will be back at our cars, but we will be aiming for 13.30.

This is a joint venture between your Parish Council and Thame and Wheatley Ramblers. Please join us if you can.

The walk is free of charge and open to all. It should give as all a good chance to walk of some of the Festive Season excesses.

Peter Hetherington

DUCK RACES, CHURCH TEAS AND SNOWDROP SUNDAY

Back by popular demand after last year's very successful event, the Parish Council Footpath and Amenities Group and Aston Rowant Church are busy organising a repeat event for **Sunday 5 February**. Also known as Snowdrop Sunday the best displays of snowdrops are to be seen at Fiveways down Church Lane, exactly where the Duck Races will be held. They will run from 2pm through to 4pm. A highly enjoyable afternoon for the young and not so young to compete. Teas, cakes, and scones with cream and jam will be served in the church from 2pm to 4.30. Do come and join the fun. All proceeds will go to the church.

Mike Eaton, Brian Griffiths and Peter Hetherington

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it. Divide up the plot into manageable-sized beds so that tasks such as weeding and forking over aren't so daunting – you can tackle one area at a time. Try and adopt the 'little and often' approach to gardening, so that weeds don't have the opportunity to take over.

What are your three favourite vegetables for growing and why?

Potatoes, because they're the easiest and nothing beats homegrown spuds. Runner beans are my favourite green veg followed by purple sprouting broccoli. Les would add asparagus to the list as, once it gets going, it's prolific and is very expensive to buy. I can't not mention soft fruit, we grow strawberries which we eat as they grow and raspberries which we freeze in vast quantities for the winter. Sorry, that's rather more than three!

Thank you Lavinia for your willingness to contribute to our Parish Notes but thank you most of all for your excellent administration of our allotments.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all "good gardening" in 2017.

Dick Ewen

'You can't stop the waves but you can learn to surf. 'Jon Kabas-Zinn

Jane Barker, Mindfulness courses in the Chilterns

8 week course

De-clutter your mind with mindfulness

starting 6 February Taster Session

16 January

Learn how to be more aware in the present moment rather than caught up in negative or anxious thoughts; how to step out of a constant 'doing' mode into simply 'being'; and simple meditation techniques that you can use anywhere that can transform your daily life.

Individual counselling

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.

E: mindfulminds@yahoo.co.uk T: 07768 015270 W: www.mindfulnesschilterns.co.uk

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NOTES FROM THE ALLOTMENT



An Interview with Lavinia Martins

This month we have an interview with Lavinia Martins, the Secretary of the Poor's Hillock Allotments in Kingston Blount. I put the following questions to Lavinia to find out a bit more about her involvement with the allotments.

Tell me a bit about when you first started gardening.

As a child back in the 1950's I remember helping my father scoop up the potatoes as he dug them, picking runner beans and later helping my mother preserve them. In those days, salt was used for the purpose, I think it was called 'loaf' salt as you carved it from large blocks. No freezers back then! When Les and I bought our first house, we had a small vegetable patch and even when we moved to Holland in the '80s we managed a row of beans and some salad crops in our tiny garden (much to the amusement of our neighbours!)

How did you first get involved with the Poor's Hillock Allotments?

Lost in the mists of time, I'm afraid. I probably volunteered or was asked. Hew Reid did the job for many years before me. But I'm always happy to pass on the baton if anyone's interested.

Can anyone have an allotment?

When they were established 150 years ago, the allotments were for the poor of Kingston Blount. We now welcome plot-holders from further afield (Postcombe, Aston Rowant) who pay a small premium on the modest annual rental charge to conform to the charitable aims of the allotments. We currently have a couple of vacant plots and I would welcome enquiries from anyone who thinks they might be interested in allotment gardening. My contact details are at the front of the Notes and on the ARPC website.

What do you consider to be the biggest single change you have seen on the Allotment Field during your time 'allotmenteering'?

Probably the size of the plots. Plots were originally (before my time) the full 10 poles but over the years most have been split in half. A 10 pole plot is too large for most people to manage and the people we like to attract, young families, generally have far less time these days to devote to their allotments.

How many hours a week do you spend on your allotment?

Personally, very little, as Les is the gardener! He reckons about two hours a week during the growing season and far less, of course, over the winter months. I help with weeding, mowing, tidying up, harvesting etc.

What do you consider are three good tips for allotment gardening success? Avoid disappointment by being over ambitious – know what grows well and stick to

VIEW FROM THE BOUNDARY

The 2016 season ended on a big high with our 2^{nd} team winning Division 1 of the Cherwell league, which is the first time a 2^{nd} XI has done this in the history of the league. Unfortunately the team cannot be promoted to the next and highest level of league cricket in the area as the 1^{st} team are already in this league.

The other notable achievements this season occurred in the junior section with the U9 winning the Aylesbury mid-week league. The U15 being crowned Oxfordshire winners again before bowing out in the regional final against Amersham.

The U17 'Steamcats' lost in the Oxfordshire Final which was a still a great performance. The U19 'Steamcats' won through the Oxfordshire group and lost in the regional Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire finals day

The other senior teams all maintained their league status finishing not too far off the top of each table.

ARCC continue to support county age group and senior cricket and all teams enjoyed the quality of the playing surface and the warm welcome that they received from the club. Notable teams who played here are ECB England disability team, Oxfordshire first team and many girls and boys county games and for the first time Sydenham cricket club.

Looking ahead to next season the clubs growth continues with the formation of a 5^{th} senior team which will play in the lowest division of the Cherwell league (exact details are still awaited from the league).

We are also focusing on Girls cricket and have ambitions of fielding junior teams and in time a ladies side! We have been encouraged into ladies/Girls cricket by the success of Linsey Smith who plays in the Women's Super League competition for the Southern Vipers team based in Southampton. Comments in the press and on TV said Linsey was a surprise package, the club has always known how good she was and have encouraged here from a young age. Linsey has agreed to be the Girls Cricket ambassador for ARCC helping when she can with coaching and speaking to girls about how to excel in the sport. Watch out for more details on this initiative in future editions. Linsey has since been selected into the England Women's Elite Academy this year, could we have our first future full England player? Watch this space.

Finally, the club would like to wish all readers a very happy Christmas and prosperous new year.

Rob Holt

VACANT ALLOTMENT PLOTS

Two plots have unexpectedly become available at our site in Kingston Blount. If you would like more information about renting one of these, please contact me.

Lavinia Martins, Hon Sec, Poor's Hillock Allotments laviniamartins@hotmail.com

NOTICEBOARD

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

Kingston Blount Christmas Fayre

The Hillwerkes Trust's Christmas Fayre takes place on Thursday 1st December at 7pm in Kingston Blount Village Hall. *See page 35*.

Father Christmas

Father Christmas will tour Kingston Blount and Aston Rowant on Tuesday 6th December between 6 and 8pm. He will be busy meeting all the children while his helpers with be collecting for Chinnor Village Centre. The Centre is doing a wonderful job for our community throughout the year. If you are able to help that evening please contact Peter Hetherington on 01844 353296. We need all the help we can get so please do help if you are able.

Christmas Tree Festival

St Andrew's Church in Chinnor will present Christmas Through the Ages, A Christmas Tree Festival, Saturday 10th December to Sunday 18th December. Bring your friends and family and be inspired! Saturdays & Sundays 2-6pm, Monday to Friday 2-5pm. Refreshments served throughout the festival with all proceeds going towards maintenance of St Andrew's Church.

Carols on the Train

Departs at 7pm on 10th December from Chinnor Station. Tickets are £11 and include refreshments. All proceeds go to Christian Aid. To book call 07979 055366.

Silver Band Concert

Please come along to St Andrew's Church in Chinnor on December 3rd at 7pm. Tickets are available from the Spar/Manor stores. They cost £9 and include wine and a minced pie.

Watlington Christmas Fair

Always fun for children, this year it features a Santa's Grotto, pony rides, indoor craft fair, music and great food. Saturday 3rd December from 10am until 2pm. Don't miss the Father Christmas Procession at 10.30 am.

Advent to Oasis Evening

This will be held on Monday 12th December at 7pm in The Rectory in Chinnor. 'An evening of Advent music, readings and reflections to help us to slow down and not rush towards Christmas, followed by mulled wine and mince pies. Please bring a cushion.'



NOTICEBOARD

Watlington Gardening Club

The first meeting after Christmas will be on Wednesday 4th January 2017 with a talk by Terry Cann entitled 'Reflections of Great Gardeners (West Green House, East Lambrook Manor and Great Dixter)'. On 1st February the talk will be by Christine Hayward on 'Hunting Wild Cannas in Argentina'. 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.

An Evening with Pam Ayres

will be held on the main stage at Oxford Playhouse on Thursday 12th January. Tickets are £24 and selling fast. To book tickets: $01865\ 305305$ www.oxfordplayhouse.com

Fireworks - A letter from a concerned villager

Trisha Kirkham, who rehomes ducks, geese and swans at her home in Butts Way, emailed to say that she had read the article in the November Parish Notes about pets and how fireworks can affect them.

'I live in Butts Way and one of our near neighbours had a party with a big fireworks display. I wish they had let us know what they had planned. When the fireworks started there was a long and extremely noisy display. I went down to my pet geese, my new gander was shaking violently, his eyes were bulging and he was terrified. My two ducks were flying madly about their house and one of them had hurt the end of her wing which was bleeding and had to be bandaged. If only I had been warned, I would have brought them into the house. We often have firework displays around here for various reasons but we have never once received prior notification.' Please let your neighbours know if you are planning a fireworks display, as with prior warning any harm caused to animals can be easily avoided.

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

1/4 page—f10 or six for f40, 1/2 page—f15 or six for f60

1/4 page—£10 or six for £40, 1/2 page—£15 or six for £60, Full page—£30 or six for £120.

Aston Rowant Bell Ringers

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).