

VOL XXXXIV No 6

DECEMBER 2017/ JANUARY 2018

ASTON ROWANT, KINGSTON BLOUNT & CROWELL
PARISH NOTES



Mark Lord

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info@mercurethame.com

CONTENTS

KB Village Hall Diary Dates	5
Useful Phone Numbers	
Church Contacts & Services	6
Pastoral Letter	7
Christmas Services, Church Dates	8
Christingle Service, Porch Day Centre	9
Parish Council Contacts	10
Aston Rowant Parish Council News	11
Aston Rowant Parish Council Notes	12
Traffic Calming	13
Neighbourhood Plan	14
Footpath Resurfacing	17
Noticeboard	20
Calendar Dates	23
Oxfordshire Volunteers	24
Bench in Memory of Gordon Crossley	
Kingston Blount Allotments	25
From the Headteacher	27
Tessa Wyatt's Country Diary	
Cantilena Winds Concert	33
Local Playgroups	35

Eliza Day and Dick Ewen are taking a break this issue.

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With special thanks to our team of distributors, for their continuing hard work.

Information in this publication 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.



KINGSTON BLOUNT VILLAGE HALL

(Hillwerke Recreational Trust Reg Charity No. 279656)

Charges for Hire – Effective 1st January 2017

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.

Bookings can be made by emailing bookings@kbvh.org, phoning 07391 139707 or visiting our website 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.

A perfect venue for your family celebration or event



KINGSTON BLOUNT VILLAGE HALL DIARY DATES

Zumba

every Monday 6.30pm
07834 994699

Kettlebell Abs

every Wednesday 6.00pm
07801 553019

Yoga with Rachel Hawkins

every Wednesday 7.00pm
07552 185499

USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

CAB Local office www.adviceguide.org.uk	01844 214827
Chinnor Village Centre	01844 353733
Church Tower, Aston Rowant: R Newton	01844 352926
Dial-a-ride (for people with mobility problems)	01869 327048
Highways Pothole Hotline	0845 3101111
Highways Street Light Hotline	0800 317802
Library-Chinnor	01844 351721
Oxon County Council www.oxfordshire.gov.uk	01865 792422
Pleck Wood: Les Martins	01844 353968
Police-Thame (Thames Valley)	101 or 999
Poor's Hillock Allotments: Lavinia Martins	01844 353968
Porch: S Thompson	01844 351334
Porch: J Rooksby	01844 352320
Post office-Chinnor	01844 351214
Schools:	
Aston Rowant C of E School	01844 351671
Icknield Community College Watlington	01491 612691
Lord Williams School Thame	01844 210510
Mill Lane School Chinnor	01844 352106
St Andrew's C of E, Chinnor	01844 351353
SODC Main Customer Services	01235 422422
SODC Refuse/Recycling	03000 610610
SODC Planning	01235 422600
Reporting Fly-tipping	03000 610610
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 and Marriage please contact the Parish Administrator (see above).

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 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



PASTORAL LETTER

Dear friends

The Advent season, with all its many carol services, Nativity plays, and inevitable shopping on top of already full lives, invites us to count the days in a spirit of watchful waiting. Against the restless busyness of the world around us, Christians have good reason to slow down, to practise patience, and to cherish with quiet expectancy and prayerfulness the wonder that will unfold. For that reason, I'm holding another Advent Oasis Evening in mid-December. Here is the opportunity to put everything to one side, just for a couple of hours, and focus on preparing our hearts to receive the greatest gift of them all. If you aren't able to come (and space is limited!), then you might like to consider some of these ideas.

It's an appropriate time to reflect on the people in your life who are special gifts to you. Perhaps you could choose just one of them and thank and affirm them for what they mean to you by sending a special letter, card or email.

As we prepare to receive gifts as well as The Gift, perhaps you could give something material that you hold dear to someone else, without any strings attached? You could also perhaps give away something non-material which you cherish and give that away, with no strings attached.

As you reflect on all the ways that God has been generous specifically to you, and as you give away some of what really matters to you, then hold this in prayer that no one ever becomes poor by giving.

With every blessing for a fruitful Advent season and joyous Christmas,

Maggie

LOCAL CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Church Of St Peter & St Paul, Aston Rowant

Sunday 3rd December	Christingle Service followed By Tea 4.00 pm (No 10am service)
Sunday 17th December	Carol Service 4.00 pm
Sunday 24th December	Crib Service 4.00 pm
Sunday 24th December	Midnight Communion 11.30 pm
Monday 25th December	Family Communion Service 10.00 am

Crowell

Friday 15th December	Carol Service, 7pm
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OTHER CHURCH DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

December

2nd	Christmas Market, Sydenham Old School Room
6th	Advent Celebration, 2pm Church Hall, Chinnor all very welcome
9th – 16th	Christmas Trees and Nativities Festival, St. Andrew's Church
10th	Christingle Service, St. Andrew's, 10am
13th	Advent Oasis Evening – Music & reflection for Advent The Rectory, 7pm. All warmly welcome but RSVP Maggie
17th	Carol Services St. Andrew's Church 6pm
20th	Breakfast in Bethlehem, 8.00am, St. Andrew's Church Hall Christmas Arts & Crafts for children 11yrs and younger.
24th	Midnight Mass, 11.30pm St. Andrew's, Aston Rowant & Sydenham

SYDENHAM CHRISTMAS MARKET

Saturday 2nd December
12pm until 2pm
Sydenham Old School Room
Come and join us for a delicious lunch, refreshments,
mulled wine and browse the festive stalls.

A great start to the Christmas Season!

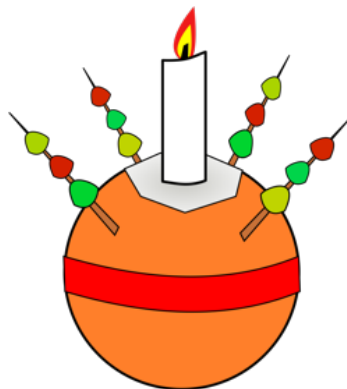


CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

Sunday 3rd December
Aston Rowant Church
4.00pm to be followed by tea

Church of St Peter & St Paul,
Aston Rowant

In Aid of the Children's Society
Charity Registration No. 221124



THE PORCH DAY CENTRE

The Porch Day Centre is a voluntary organisation relying for support on members of the public. They feed and provide care for homeless and vulnerable people, feeding them daily, helping them to find accommodation and assisting them to find jobs.

They are in need of everyday foodstuffs to keep the centre going. A list is below. If you can see your way to help by giving perhaps a packet of sugar every week, they would be more than grateful and it makes a huge difference to the lives of the people the Centre helps.

A list of suggested items from The Porch:

Coffee, hot chocolate, tea, fruit juice; sugar, flour, cake mix; tins of fish, rice pudding, cold meat, pasta sauce, baked beans; cooking oil, ketchup, stock cubes, Bisto, gravy granules, herbs, mayonnaise, vinegar; biscuits, custard, Angel Delight, honey; washing powder, bin liners, toiletries, disposable razors, feminine hygiene items, deodorant, ladies and gents' underwear and socks.

As Christmas is coming up, please give generously.

I go to The Porch when I have enough items for them. We gave generously after the Harvest Festival, it would lovely if they could have some special things for Christmas. I collect from The Village Centre too, so it is all right to leave things there. I can collect things if you wish.

Susie Thompson
01844 351334

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
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Vice Chair Peter Hetherington Kingston Blount	01844 353296
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Councillor Matthew Day Kingston Blount	01844 351300
----------------------------------------	--------------

Councillor Lynn French Aston Rowant	01844 350154
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Councillor Steven Sowerby Kingston Blount	01844 351392
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Councillor Trelawney Hill Aston Rowant	01844 353051
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District Councillors:

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

Jeannette Matelot	jeannette.matelot@oxfordshire.gov.uk
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MP

John Howell	01491 612852	howelljm@parliament.uk
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Police Community Support Office

tel: 101	ThameHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk
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Village Hall Hire/Bookings

Andrea Tinson	07391 139707	bookings@kbvh.org
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Play Area

Tracy Lambourne	01844 353989	clerk@astonrowant.org.uk
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Aston Rowant Cricket Club Chairman

Paul Humphreys	07880 791022
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ASTON ROWANT PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Welcome to my final update of the calendar year.

A year ago I opened my update by reporting that a house on the B4009 in Kingston Blount had been struck by a car causing damage to the property. Sadly, a year on, the same property was hit again only the damage this time was significantly worse.

Councillors have since met with Oxfordshire County Council traffic officials at the site and have discussed a number of options to reduce the likelihood of further incidents at this particular point of the road.

Clearly, the severity of any accident is reduced if traffic is moving more slowly. The consultation on the traffic calming measures in Kingston Blount has now closed – thank you to those of you who responded. At the time of writing chicanes have been marked out on the B4009 to allow further assessments on their positioning and effectiveness. The Parish Council will continue to work with the County towards a solution that reduces traffic speed without an adverse effect on those who live along the road. (Matthew Day's Traffic Calming Report is on page 13.)

A report on the work of the Neighbourhood Plan Committee appears on pages 14–15. It is a common trend for there to be an increase in submissions for major planning applications during the time that Neighbourhood Plans are being prepared. We accept that this is inevitable as the Aston Rowant plan is formed. However, we encourage developers to present their plans to the community either at Parish Council meetings or at an alternative open public meeting so that they are aware of concerns and can tailor their plans so that any development is in keeping with the local environment.

The December meeting is where the precept for the coming financial year is set. The Council has, over the years, budgeted to provide modest grants to a number of charities and other organisations with local connections. Although we cannot issue grants to all that apply, we are reviewing the grants this year and so would like to hear about any local organisations who may benefit from a modest level of support. Please contact the Clerk before December 6th.

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, Aston Rowant Parish Council

ASTON ROWANT PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

Meetings of the Parish Council were held on Wednesday 18th October and Wednesday 8th November in Kingston Blount Village Hall at 7.30pm.

At the time of writing, the next meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday 13th December in Kingston Blount Village Hall.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

P17/S3661/FUL - Land at Aston Rowant Road, Aston Rowant – a development of 5 two-storey, 4-bedroom residences by Rectory Homes.

PLANNING DECISIONS OF SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL:

P17-S2497-FUL (Amended) – Queens Gate Bungalow, Butts Way, 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>

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 Aston Rowant Parish Council

TRAFFIC CALMING

Below is an update on the traffic calming measures currently being developed for a double chicane to be placed at the entrance to Kingston Blount near the cricket club.

The consultation by Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) highways department is now closed and we have had the comments back. Sixteen residents wrote in to support the application. As part of the process the Police were consulted and confirmed that they have no objections. There were two objections from residents of Kingston Blount.

I met with OCC highways engineers and we discussed the objections raised and they confirmed that the objections are easily addressed or answered and should not be an issue.

You may have seen white lines marking out where the chicanes will go and these will be used to set up a mock version of the chicane so OCC and the Parish Council can monitor the effect of a chicane and we can make any minor adjustments as needed before it is built.

When there are objections, approval for this type of work can't be decided by the OCC highways engineer alone, it must go to an OCC committee meeting, as it will in this case. This will mean a delay as the highways officer could not directly approve the scheme. The committee meeting will not be held until mid to late January 2018.

The OCC highways engineer is looking into the cause of the recent accident on the High Street and will report back to us with his assessment as how to how to improve highway safety for this area.

The Parish Council are keen to start working with Aston Rowant residents on what they would like to see to improve road safety and reduce speeding. Please email or write to the ARPC clerk with ideas and your contact details so we can get this underway as soon as possible.

Matthew Day

Aston Rowant Parish Council

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The NP process, slow as it is in order to satisfy the criteria established by the government, has reached its next consultation stage. The community has to a) establish the objective criteria by which it agrees to judge the suitability of potential housing sites, and b) define its Green Spaces in accordance with established criteria.

HOUSING SITES – HOW TO ASSESS THEIR SUITABILITY

The Steering Group has devised ten draft criteria to be used, with a scoring system yet to be agreed to measure the suitability of sites that have been suggested as possible housing opportunities. They are set out in the flyer that accompanies the Parish Notes and will be on the NP website. We need your views as to:-

- a) are they appropriate measures by which to make these judgments,
- b) should anything be added or omitted, and
- c) should there be a weighting system whereby some criteria should be afforded greater or lesser weight than others, and, if so, which criteria should be so weighted?

Before any sites can be assessed the community of AR Parish must be consulted and the terms of reference for site assessment agreed, hence this exercise. This is not about specific sites, nor about the volume of support or disapproval of any sites, but rather about how all potential sites may be objectively ranked and measured. The ranking system and the public support given to it may, in due course, be the subject of independent scrutiny and affect our ability to rely upon the NP.

We therefore need your views on the draft criteria so that, in the new year, the agreed criteria may be used in the site assessment process and the duly ranked sites may become part of the next consultation stage. Any views are welcome by email or by returning the flyer via the NP email address – np@astonrowant.org.uk.

One of the draft criteria would involve the definition of settlement boundaries for AR and KB. If that is accepted in principle, allowing that potential housing sites would secure a higher ranking within a settlement while Protected Green Spaces might be within a settlement boundary or outside, then the settlement boundary would have to be agreed and, as important, justified. Again, views from within the community would be welcome as to where the boundaries might be drawn.

For those interested in learning more of the processes involved in the preparation of the NP, there is a lot of good stuff on SODC's website – www.southoxon.gov.uk – following the planning, planning policy and neighbourhood plan links, and through the My Community website: <https://mycommunity.org.uk/resources/site-assessment-for-neighbourhood-plans> and <https://mycommunity.org.uk/resources/housing-needs-assessment-at-neighbourhood-plan-level>.

It's not rocket science, but it's not far off!

GREEN SPACES

Not all green spaces will be eligible for formal protection through the NP. Some are easier to justify than others. Large tracts of land in agricultural use would generally not be eligible, but would perhaps secure an alternative level of protection from development by being outside a defined settlement. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) suggests that most green spaces would not be eligible. Some might, indeed, come forward as potential housing land. Protected spaces should be close to the community, demonstrably special to that community, hold a particular local significance and have an active recreational value.

The Steering Group has established three levels, based on this central government guidance.

Grade 1 spaces will be established elements within the settlements, accessible to and used by the public, while contributing to the history and/or character of that settlement. E.g. Village greens

Grade 2 spaces will tend to be recreational spaces in active or potentially active use. E.g. playing fields, allotments.

The Steering Group proposes that spaces defined as Grades 1 and 2 should be put forward in the NP as Local Green Spaces which would be afforded the presumption of immunity from development and, as such, not assessed as possible housing sites.

Grade 3 spaces are likely to be more numerous and harder to justify in the terms outlined in the NPPF. They would tend to be privately-owned, not accessible to or used by the general public, but, nonetheless, of historical interest, of amenity value in defining the setting or character of the villages or of ecological significance. Their inclusion in the NP as protected Local Green Spaces cannot be so readily guaranteed. Evidence of their value and importance will be needed.

By the time that this issue of Parish Notes reaches your mailbox, the open spaces, suggested following the consultation in June and assessed on the above criteria, will be made available, in map form, on the NP page of the Parish Council website. Comments will be invited, particularly from anyone wishing to see a particular space re-assigned within the three groups. Comments should preferably be informed by the available guidance, maybe starting at: <https://mycommunity.org.uk/resources/neighbourhood-planning-local-green-spaces>.

These maps may also help in forming residents' views on settlement boundaries, if it is your wish that we go down that route. You may find the Brightwell-cum-Sotwell NP helpful in this regard, via the SODC website.

"Evidence" and not "opinion" is, like it or not, the key to getting a NP through the system.

With the recent activity on the planning application front, especially in AR, there has been increased awareness of the need to press ahead with the NP and of the need for the NP to follow full consultation procedures at each stage. Your continued participation in this process is therefore both welcome and essential.

Mark Thackeray

Chairman, Neighbourhood Plan Committee



CHRISTMAS PARTY MENU 2017

TO START

Red onion tart with goats cheese crumb
Scottish oak smoked salmon with a lemon & dill salad
Chicken liver parfait with a fruity chutney & toasted brioche

FOR MAIN

Succulent roast turkey, crispy roast potatoes, seasonal vegetables,
pigs in blankets & all the trimmings
Pan fried seabass fillet on a bed of roasted roots veggies & baby onions,
dressed with salsa verde
Braised beef with parsnip puree, honeyed carrots and a rich thyme jus
Butternut squash & sage gnocchi with toasted pumpkin seeds & pea shoots

FOR PUDDING

Classic Christmas pudding with rich brandy sauce
Chocolate marquise with white chocolate sauce
Mulled wine poached pear with a gingerbread crumb

2-COURSES FOR £21.95

3-COURSES FOR £27.95

Service not included

01844 351634 | CROWNSYDENHAM.COM

 @CrownSydenham • Sydenham Road, Sydenham, Oxon OX39 4NB



Resurfacing of the KB to AR Footpath

No more muddy shoes for children walking to and from Aston Rowant School trumpeted the *Thames Gazette*. We will see what happens when the really wet weather hits us. But it is much better than it was and the Parish Council now intend to put more small graded plantings down on the section by the Aston House Stud fields to try to improve things in that moister area. The section from Town Farm to the end of the Cricket Club has been given an improved base, boarded sides to provide stability, and resurfaced with Coxwell Oxfordshire Stone Gravel working to an OCC specification and laid by one of their accredited contractors.

It is not designed for horses and the OCC Footpath Warden is working with all the land owners towards stopping horses using the footpath altogether. One landowner has already stipulated 'No Horse Riding' so in theory there is no way through for horses and they are trespassing when they are ridden there. Please note that it is not suggested that, as an alternative, horses are ridden along the B4009. There are two very good bridleways running parallel and within half a mile either side of the footpath.

Aston Rowant school children, parents, teachers, parishioners, land owners and people who gave generously to the project gathered in early November to see land owner, Garth Weston declare the path open. Afterwards we enjoyed tea and biscuits at the church. Many thanks to our hosts.

At least 50 children and their parents already walk to and from school each week day and it is estimated that over 200 journeys are made each day along the path, including people going to church, the village hall and playing fields, the cricket club, school, or just walking the dog or taking a stroll.

The Parish Council started community fund raising for the project some two years ago bolstered by grants from Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment TOE2, supported by Grundon, and the Garfield Weston Foundation. Further contributions came from a landowner, parishioners, the Kingston Blount Street Fair, Hillwerke Village Hall Trust, and Aston Rowant Parish Council.

The cost of the project was £25,500 including the VAT which can be reclaimed. A big thank is given to all those who contributed in all sorts of ways to this project.

Peter Hetherington

OCC Aston Rowant Footpath Warden and Vice Chairman ARPC.



The Foot Sanctuary

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58 London Road
Milton Common
OX9 2JL
01844 278606
07941 035849

Sue Yeowart HCPC 26216 reg. Podiatrist Chiropodist
Reflexologist ~ Reiki Master ~ Intuitive Healer



The Montessori Nursery School

The Village Hall, Kingston Blount, OX39 4SWT
07846 254547
themontessorinurseryschool.co.uk
MEAB Accredited & Ofsted inspected 'Good'

“We support children’s inherent love of learning”
Maria Montessori

The nursery accepts children from the age of 2 to 5 years.
Introductory Montessori classes from 2 to 2 ½ years of age.

The nursery is part of Oxfordshire funding scheme
for 2,3, and 4 year olds.
Please contact the nursery for further information.

George Stevens Garden Grounds Maintenance

A local, reliable, friendly service based in Kingston Blount

Supplying quality hardwood logs

Hedge cutting

Specialist in all types of fencing:
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Call George today for a free quote or more information

07867 553735 ghsgardenservices@gmail.com



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NOTICEBOARD



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

Watlington Gardening Club

Watlington Gardening Club's meeting in December will be on the 6th at 7.45 in Watlington Town Hall.

It will be the Christmas Social with an 'interactive' Christmas table decoration display accompanied by drinks and eats. All members are very welcome and guests will be charged £5.

January's meeting will be on Wednesday 3rd January. There will be a talk by Maren Talbot from Heritage Orchids, on 'Orchids in the wild and in the home'.

There will also be an orchid clinic.

This meeting will be held in Watlington Town Hall at 7.45pm, with coffee, tea and biscuits afterwards. All members are welcome and guests will be charged £2.50.

New Year Parish Walk

This is on Sunday 7 Jan starting at 10.00 at the National Trust Car Park at the top of Watlington Hill. It is 5.5 miles to be walked at an easy pace. Please wear boots. This is a walk, free of charge and no need to register. If you want to eat at the Fox and Hounds, Christmas Common, which we pass at the end of the walk, please book privately.

Peter Hetherington

A note about Christmas Cards

Brian and I have come to the conclusion that this year we shall not be sending Christmas cards to our local friends. This does not mean that we do not care about our neighbours: quite the reverse. We shall be thinking of you all and including you in our prayers. The money we shall not be spending on cards and postage will be donated to Cancer Research UK and Médecins Sans Frontières, our favourite charities, both doing valuable work for humanity.

With best wishes to you all for a very happy Christmas and peace in the New Year
Serena and Brian Hutton



NOTICEBOARD

Newcomers to Kingston Blount

A slightly overdue but warm welcome to Nick and Jennie Marriner-Kyle, who moved into Laurel Barn on the Stert Road in February. They came here from Buckland in Buckinghamshire. Although they first met in Thame many years ago and were married at Chinnor Methodist Church, they have lives in a variety of places including Norfolk since then. Nick is originally from the North East and Jennie is from Nottinghamshire.



Duck Races, Snowdrops and Cream Teas

By popular request of children and those young at heart this will be taking place again on Sunday 11 February from 2pm – 4pm. Please bring your wellies. Duck Races in the stream and Snowdrops nearby down Church Lane and Cream Teas in Aston Rowant Church all afternoon. Organised jointly by the Parish Council and the Church with all proceeds to Aston Rowant Church. All welcome. The duck races are free of charge.

Peter Hetherington
07767 647714

Used Postage Stamps – Christmas reminder

As we come up to Christmas there are always more stamps used and they can be recycled by the Hearing Dogs for Deaf People at Saunderton. Drop off points are either a small tin on the table in Aston Rowant church, a big box in the porch at St. Andrews Church in Chinnor or through my letterbox, Meadow Vale, Pleck Lane, (the bungalow behind the picket fence). Many thanks to the people who supply me with a steady stream of stamps throughout the year.

Shirley Smith

Cantilena Winds – Lunchtime Concert

Come and support our very own wind orchestra in Kingston Blount Village Hall. Tea, coffee, biscuits, filled rolls and wine are provided by members of the Hillwerke Trust committee. 11am until 1pm. Admission is by donation to the Orchestra and the programme is supported by the Hillwerke Trust.

Is your child 3 or 4 years old?

Primary school place – you must apply now

If your child was born on or between **1 September 2013** and **31 August 2014**, you need to apply for a primary school place now.

You must still apply even if your child already attends a nursery attached to the school.

Deadline for applications is **15 January 2018**.

Apply online at

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You can get free access to the internet at many of our libraries and children's centres – ask for details at your local facility.

For help and information:

Web: **www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/admissions**

Email: **admissions.schools@oxfordshire.gov.uk**

Tel: **0345 241 2487**



**OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL**

CALENDAR DATES

Our lives seem to be ruled by dates. Some more important than others, some happy and some sad. We have been extremely lucky – thanks to the N.H.S. – to recently have had a very happy date, our diamond wedding anniversary. Yes, we have been married for sixty years!

Different celebrations went on for a week with friends, family, neighbours and organisations to which we belong. We feel very humble and overwhelmed by all the cards, gifts, tokens, a quarter peal from the Aston Rowant ringers, plus a card from H.M. Queen Elizabeth II.

We would like others to benefit from this kindness and have therefore decided to send a substantial cheque to the Thames Valley Air Ambulance. It is a charity which we normally support and as we have two friends who have benefited from their help, we think it is an appropriate recipient for our donation.

As Max Bygraves used to say, ‘with friends and neighbours, you’re the richest guy in town.’

We certainly feel that way.

Allan and Shirley Smith



NEW COUNTRYWIDE VOLUNTEERING WEBSITE

Oxfordshire Volunteers (oxonvolunteers.org) is a brand new countywide volunteering website designed to link you with your perfect volunteering opportunity! Whether it's a regular weekly slot or a one-off opportunity, you'll find them all on the website. You might even want to apply for a position on a trustee board, helping to manage a local charity that you are passionate about. The website is great for groups too, who at last have one central place on the web to advertise their wonderful opportunities. What do you need to do?

If you are a volunteer: go to oxonvolunteers.org, register yourself using the blue 'Try Volunteering' button and start searching for opportunities. It's as simple as that!

If you are an organisation: use the 'Need Volunteers' button to register as a provider and start posting your opportunities!

This site is run as a partnership by Oxfordshire's three Volunteer Centres, funded by Oxfordshire County Council, Oxfordshire City Council and Cherwell District Council.

Oxfordshire
Volunteers

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BENCH IN MEMORY OF GORDON CROSSLEY

As some of you may have seen already (or even used), Olive has generously donated a bench in Gordon's memory. It is sited on the patio at the back of the village hall, a pleasant spot from which to admire the lovely view down the playing field to Pleck Wood and beyond.



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FROM THE HEADTEACHER



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TESSA WYATT'S COUNTRY DIARY

7 November

A chilly, damp day, but it didn't dampen the mood of a stoat, busy carrying something unidentifiable, probably a shrew, across the track from behind the indoor school to the hedgerow opposite. Enjoy your meal, little one.

13 November

Bobby has taken a liking to Fool's Parsley, which grows alongside the track to his field. Can't get past it at the moment, so there I am in -1 deg this morning, standing in the mud waiting for Sir to finish his snack. It must be love ...

16 November

Literally hundreds and hundreds of rooks flying overhead just before dusk this evening, all heading northeast. I would love to know where they were going and where they settled. It would have to be one huge tree!

18 November

Super hack up to Copcourt this morning. Lil jumped the little brook twice, once each way, bless her. Got back just before the rain started. Perfect!

20 November

Magic hour.



CANTILENA WINDS IN KB VILLAGE HALL

The Hall came alive to the sound of music on Friday, 22nd September when approximately 30 members of the local brass and woodwind orchestra, Cantilena Winds, performed the first of three scheduled lunchtime concerts. An appreciative and enthusiastic audience were entertained by a wide-ranging programme of music, and refreshments in the form of tea, coffee, biscuits, filled rolls and wine were provided by members of the Hillwerke Trust committee.

By the time you read this, the second of the three concerts will have taken place but, if you haven't made it to either of these (or even if you have) there's still an opportunity to come to the last in the series on Friday, 15th December (11am – 1pm).

You won't be disappointed!

Hillwerke Trust Committee

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www.storymuseum.org.uk To buy tickets: 01865 807600

Watlington Christmas Fair

Saturday 2nd December 10.00am to 2.00pm, Watlington High Street

Father Christmas arrives on the fire engine at 10:15am - meet the festive fire engine crew!

Christmas at Stonor

29th November - 10th December

Stonor Park hosts a Special Christmas Opening. The house will be decorated for Christmas and Christmas food and drinks will be available at the Stonor Pantry.

STARboddlers

New baby & Toddler Group, Thursday's, 11am, during term time, St. Andrew's Church. All warmly welcome

Tiddlypeeps

www.tiddlypeeps-chinnor.co.uk

Playgroup Friday. 3.00pm – 11.30am

Just turn up, £1.50 per family

Children's Sunday Club

The 1st & 3rd Sundays of each month at St. Andrew's Church Hall, Chinnor (Behind the Village Centre)

Sydenham Coffee Morning

Thursday 14th December Coffee Morning 10.00am – 12noon, at Sydenham Old School Room. All welcome

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



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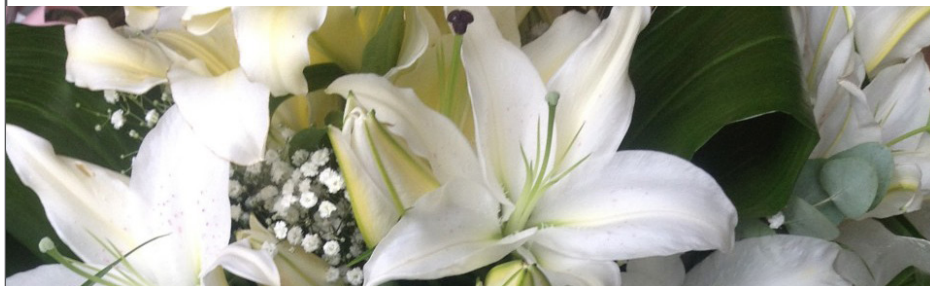
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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DECEMBER

- 2 Watlington Christmas Fair (p. 35)
Sydenham Christmas Market (p. 8)
- 3 Christingle Service (p. 9)
- 6 Watlington Gardening Club (p.20)
- 12 Neighbourhood Plan Meeting (p. 14)
- 13 ARPC Meeting, KBVH (p.12)
- 14 Sydenham Coffee Morning (p.35)
- 15 Cantilena Winds (p.33)
Carol Service, Crowell (p.8)
- 17 Carol Service, AR (p.8)
- 24 Crib Service 4pm, Midnight Communion 11.30pm, AR (p.8)
- 25 Family Communion Service, AR 10.00am (p.8)

JANUARY

- 3 Watlington Gardening Club (p.20)
- 7 New Year Parish Walk (p.20)
- 9 Neighbourhood Plan Meeting (TBC) (p.14)
- 10 ARPC Meeting, KBVH (p.12)

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
StarBoddlers 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

Copy for the February/March issue is due on 15th January
please send by email to sarahparishnotes@gmail.com