

VOL XXXXV No 6

DECEMBER 2018/ JANUARY 2019

ASTON ROWANT, KINGSTON BLOUNT & CROWELL
PARISH NOTES



Mark Lord

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CONTENTS

KB Village Hall Diary Dates	5
Useful Phone Numbers	
Church Contacts & Services	6
Pastoral Letter	7
Crowell Church, Christmas Services	9
Services this November	10
Letter From John Howell MP	13
Parish Council & Local Contacts	14
Parish Council News	15
Aston Rowant Parish Council Notes	16
Neighbourhood Plan	17
Traffic Calming, New Year Parish Walk	19
Fiveways	21
Noticeboard	22
Aston Rowant School Council & News	24
Tessa Wyatt's Country Diary	27
Duck Races, Snowdrops & Cream Teas	29
Full Circle at Aston Rowant School	31
Aston Rowant School House Trust	34
News from ARCC	35
Local Playgroups, Household Waste	39

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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)

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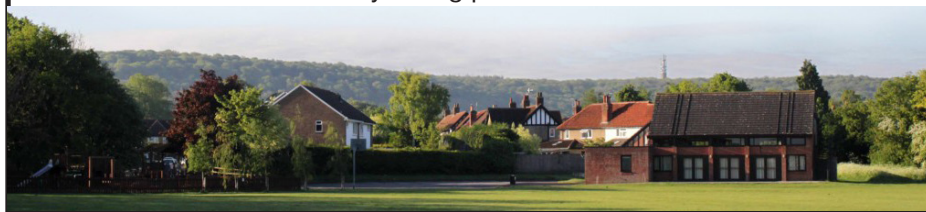
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KINGSTON BLOUNT VILLAGE HALL DIARY DATES

Zumba

every Monday 6.30pm
07834 994699

Yoga with Rachel Hawkins

every Wednesday 7.00pm
07552 185499

Kettlebell Abs

every Wednesday 6.00pm
07801 553019

Flowers 4 All

Third Thursday of every month
(see page 23)
07748408442

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
Police-Thame (Thames Valley)	101 or 999
Poor's Hillock Allotments: Rupert Wolstenholme Rupert.wolstenholme@btinternet.com	07866 302697
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

Crowell

The Rev'd Maggie Thorne 01844 354626

Churchwardens

Aston Rowant: Richard Boarder 07795 681263, Jeremy Wilcock 01844 761119
Crowell: Maggie & 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).

Methodist Services – Station Road, Chinnor

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

I've recently returned from a month of special leave where I've been visiting the six cathedrals in Wales, exploring how they operate as the 'mother church', how the clergy and laity work collaboratively together and how the Celtic saints of the past influence what happens now, amongst other things. Yes, I'm slightly odd like that! Much of the learning has been quite personal and probably only of interest to me, but I would like to share something of what one of the cathedrals promotes. As we're fast approaching Christmas it's particularly appropriate because it's an extremely bold statement and covers everyone who Jesus met in the gospels. After printing this on a large poster and displaying it on the cathedral's east door for all to see, the Dean of this cathedral (sort of the Vicar) was asked apologetically by someone who couldn't find his 'difference', 'problem' or 'sin' listed, whether it might apply to him too. Although this list is pretty comprehensive, the Dean realised that there are those who might find themselves in the commas and the spaces between the words. And yes, all really are welcome in that place and their programme of social action and care bears witness to it.

At a time when people might be thinking about attending church, whether at a Carol, Christingle or Crib Service, on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, or any other day in December, it really doesn't matter and we'd love to see you, your neighbours and your visitors over this Advent/Christmas period. And for those who might read this who feel they have no place within our churches, then it's up to all of us who know we'll be there to make it known that friendly faces and an especially warm welcome will be found just inside the door.

Beware!

Here we try to practise the inclusive Gospel of Jesus Christ.

**This means that you may be mixing with seekers, searchers
and those who are bruised,**

those who limp and those who mourn

and those wounded by war;

refugees, asylum-seekers and foreigners of all kinds,

citizens of different colour from yourself,

women bishops (yes, there are a few!)

and priests who may be struggling,

leaders who are worn out, clapped out, burnt out,

lesbian and gay couples, even singles,

the wealthy who are trying to get through the eye of a needle,

and the poor who are struggling to maintain their dignity,

the emotionally deprived and harmed,

people of other faiths or of none,

fundamentalists and liberals,

radicals and traditionalists,

those who have failed to love

and those who are afraid to receive love,

those rejected by their ministers and their churches,
those who have broken their promises,
those bowed down with burdens,
those who teeter on the brink of breakdown,
those for whom the grip of alcohol or work, drugs or sex,
gambling or unnamed powers, is getting stronger
and those for whom the grip is loosening,
those struggling with faith and doubt,
and goodness knows how many others.....
indeed, anyone who is like those Jesus mixed with.

**This is not a private club
but a public space open to people of goodwill.
And though we are not yet strong and vulnerable enough
to show the unconditional love of God at all times
we hope we are moving in that direction.
WELCOME!**

Wouldn't it be wonderful if every church and cathedral adopted this same attitude of unconditional welcome? But for now, may this declaration of intent be the United Parish's Christmas gift to the whole community.

With every blessing for a fruitful and reflective Advent and a truly joyous Christmas,

Maggie

Rector of the United Parish of Chinnor, Sydenham, Aston Rowant and Crowell

ANNOUNCEMENT

Dear friends,

After over three years of discussion and negotiation between ourselves and our respective solicitors, we are pleased to announce that the 'old allotment land' is officially under the ownership of Surman and Horwood. We are especially delighted that through these years we have remained completely amicable and professional towards each other and we are satisfied with the outcome.

Yours sincerely,

The Rev'd Maggie Thorne

Mr. Robert and Mr. Richard Surman

CROWELL CHURCH

The heating remains shut down but funds are now available and a Faculty is being applied for as are quotes for the work. Should any local oil approved boiler company wish to compete for the contract then please feel free to do so. Sadly there has been a lack of interest so far. The organ is being protected by electric fans and is behaving itself so far but with winter coming on we will need to keep an eye on this and if anyone has any good quality electric fan heaters to spare then they will be most welcome. Please note that we cannot use gas space heaters.

Services continue with Evening Prayer on the 1st Sunday of the month at 8pm and Holy Communion on the 2nd Sunday of the month at 10am. Soul Space continues with one service a month. The project relating to the East wall of the churchyard abutting The Shepherd's Crook is now back on and a Faculty is being applied for.

A Faculty is being applied for to rebuild and repair the North border wall of the graveyard. The Toll Bell remains silent but funds needed to research the problem in the Bell Cote and carry out repairs are now available and a Faculty is being applied for. The Rainbow Garden has died back completely. The ground is now covered with newly developing poppies emerging from the seed that dropped and had evaded capture. Please help yourselves to any potted-up clumps left in the church porch. Winter planting will commence once the ground has been cleared.

The B4009 bank remains a project waiting to happen. The nettles didn't re-appear this year and the hedge has been trimmed back to increase driver vision again.

The driveway in has suffered wear and tear and has been treated with crushed stone but still needs more as the treatment has now settled and was insufficient. Any contributions to the cost of the treatment will be most welcome.

As part of the 100-year remembrance programme, a peace rose was planted in the Rainbow Garden on Saturday 10 November. Following on from this, ten roses were planted in St Andrew's to mark the conflicts of each century since 1918.

Andy and Maggs Warman

Wardens, Crowell NBVM

CHRISTMAS SERVICES AND CAROLS

Aston Rowant Church

Nine Lessons & Carols

Crib Service

Midnight Mass

Family Service

Sunday 23 December, 4pm

Monday 24th December 4pm

Monday 24th December 11.30pm

Tuesday 25th December 10am

SERVICES THIS NOVEMBER

The Toy Service took place at Aston Rowant church this November, with a breakfast beforehand. Families gathered round the table with the toys to be donated to Saunderton Lodge for distribution to needy families in the approach to Christmas.

Brian Griffiths





The laying of the three wreaths (right) and the congregation gathered round the War Memorial with the newly planted peace rose to the left of the memorial (above).

Brian Griffiths



These beautiful flowers were arranged by Mary Western's family for her funeral last week and left there for us to enjoy. These flower arrangements were then decorated with poppies for the Remembrance services.

Richard Boarder

Christmas

PARTY MENU 2018

— To Start —

Lightly curried parsnip soup with
parsnip crisps & local rustic bread

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 brownie with
toffee sauce & chocolate ice cream

Mulled wine poached pear with
a gingerbread crumb



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LETTER FROM JOHN HOWELL MP

In my newsletter for Parish Magazines I try to avoid Party political comment and simply report on my work or comment on particular issues that I hope will be of interest to constituents. This month will be no different. However I do want to comment on Brexit!! Not on the deal, not on the views of those on either side of the argument, but on the process and reactions to the process.

As I write I have just taken part in a discussion on BBC Radio Oxford on the draft Brexit deal that the Prime Minister tabled mid-November. The BBC had been out and about asking for people's views on Brexit and there was a strong feeling that people are thoroughly fed up with the issue and just want it resolved. This is coming from people on both sides of the debate. This reflects many comments to me as I go out and about in the constituency. I too am dismayed at the way in which some leading politicians seem to be using this as an opportunity for self-promotion and are jockeying for position to be in the best place to put themselves forward if the Prime Minister is toppled. It is a side of politics which I deplore.

The voices of those in the street probably represent the silent majority. There have been vociferous and persistent campaigns over many months from both sides of the debate. I have been bombarded by emails demanding support from people on both sides of the debate – which of course is impossible.

As I have said many times I voted to remain in the EU but I respect the outcome of the referendum vote and accept that I was not on the winning side. The arguments about the campaign have been long rehearsed especially questioning whether people know what they were voting for. Now that we have a draft deal on the table many have been quick to condemn it. Too quick. Many have condemned a deal the detail of which they have not even read. It is an important issue and on such an issue the original source material, albeit of 585 pages, is surely not too much to bother with. This is so given the very mixed picture that the press and media have presented.

A recent opinion poll of over 2,000 people has shown that if Parliament rejects the deal only one in four of us (26%) want us to leave with no deal. The majority want to continue with the current negotiations to finalise the draft.

One media comment made in this same week suggested that there are many other things that MPs need to focus on and suggested that Brexit has been the only issue for debate in the last 18 months. Let me reassure you that Brexit may have been the key issue for the media but the work of Parliament on a wider range of important issues has carried on. Brexit has been one important issue among many as I have reported in my publications over recent months. But I have spoken almost 180 times in the past year and overall have concentrated on the issues that really matter to people.

If there is an issue that concerns you please do let me know. you can email me at howelljm@parliament.uk or write to me at the House of Commons (House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA) or my constituency office (PO Box 84, Watlington, OX49 5XD).

John Howell MP, September 2018

PARISH COUNCIL & LOCAL CONTACTS

Parish Website

www.astonrowant.org.uk

Parish Clerk

Tracy Lambourne
clerk@astonrowant.org.uk
01844 353989
07971039612

Parish Councillors:

Chairman Peter Tinson Kingston Blount	01844 352817
Vice Chair Peter Hetherington Kingston Blount	01844 353296
Councillor Matthew Day Kingston Blount	01844 351300
Councillor Steven Sowerby Kingston Blount	01844 351392
Councillor Trelawney Hill Aston Rowant	01844 353051
Councillor Marcus Wodzynski Aston Rowant	01844 355228
Councillor Adam Bernstein Aston Rowant	07754 915216

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

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

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 PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Welcome to my final update of the calendar year.

Firstly, I would like to welcome Adam Berstein to the Council. After a call for expressions of interest at the October meeting, Adam was co-opted onto the Parish Council in November and brings the Council back up to its full complement. Adam is already known to many for his involvement in community initiatives such as the oil purchasing syndicate and we look forward to his contribution to the Council.

The Parish Council seeks to maintain the amenities in the Parish and enhance the local environment for the benefit of all. The Council has arranged for remedial work to be carried out at the playground at Kingston Blount and has also scheduled planting of a number of trees along the Kingston Stert road.

One of the duties of the Chairman of the Parish Council is to lay a wreath on behalf of the parishioners at the War Memorial at St Peter and St Paul Church, Aston Rowant. It was an honour for me to lay the wreath – my grandfather served in both the first and second World Wars but it was particularly poignant for my wife as three of her relations were lost during the Great War. The contributions of those that died in service for their country should be recognised but we should also not forget those who return from conflict alive but very much damaged.

The Remembrance Service recognises the end of conflict and looks forward to peace and unity. It is a message that could well apply to the Parish. There has been much over the past two years that has split out community. Much of the division has been around planning applications. Two sites in Aston Rowant have gone to appeal – submissions have closed and we await the outcome. I am expecting the outcome from these appeals to be final – whatever the results we, as a Parish should accept the outcome and move on. In a similar vein, the Cricket Club's application for a new clubhouse was also divisive. I know Paul Humphreys, the Cricket Club Chairman, recognises this and he is looking to build bridges with the parishioners and make the Club a hub for social activity in the parish. The Club is one of the Parish's assets engaging many children from the parish in sport and providing a social venue for parents and casual supporters alike. They have had a good season culminating in one of their former players, Linsey Smith, has winning her first caps for England. We should reach for the olive branch offered by the club and support them in their aspirations.

The Neighbourhood Plan is reaching the point when it will be published for public consultation. The plan is the culmination of two years work from a small number of dedicated parishioners and we hope the parish will support its adoption in the coming months.

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. I look forward to the Parish moving together in unity to a positive future.

Peter Tinson

Chairman Aston Rowant Parish Council

ASTON ROWANT PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

Parish Council meetings were held on Wednesday 10th of October and Wednesday 14th of November where the applications detailed below were discussed. At the time of writing, the next meeting of the Council will be held on **Wednesday 12th of December** in Kingston Blount Village Hall.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

P18/S2285/FUL Demolition of part of the existing dwelling and the erection of a detached dwelling with parking and access, together with alterations to the existing access at Windrush, Chinnor Road, Aston Rowant, OX49 5SH. APPLICATION WITHDRAWN BY APPLICANTS. Possible re-submission to follow.

P18/S2629/HH & P18/S2630/HH Single storey extension and associated improvement works to the house and garage at Ferndale House, High, Kingston Blount, OX39 4SJ. NO OBJECTION, SHOULD BE APPROVED.

P18/S3159/PIP Planning in Principle for demolition of existing house and out-buildings, and replacement with four dwellings at Wayside, Kingston Stert, OX39 4NL. OBJECTION, SHOULD BE REFUSED. Subsequently withdrawn by applicant.

P18/S3392/FUL – Revision of application P17/S4443/FUL with new amendments at The Cherry Tree, Park Lane, Kingston Blount.

P18/S3538/O - Outline application for erection of detached “chalet-style” dwelling, access and landscaping at Town Farm Cottage, Brook Street, Kingston Blount.

P18/S1357/FUL – Erection of three dwellings at Orchard House, High Street, Kingston Blount, WITHDRAWN BY APPLICANT.

P18/S3637/LDP – Certificate of lawful Development for erection of detached out-building at Windrush, Chinnor Road, Aston Rowant. Permitted development under the allowances of the Town & Country Planning Order 1995, not requiring a planning application.

PLANNING DECISIONS OF SODC:

P17/S4235/FUL Buildings adjoining Hill Cottage, High Street, Kingston Blount, OX39 4SJ. GRANTED (following approval at SODC Planning Committee meeting held on 26/September).

P18/S2629/HH & P18/S2630/LB – Single storey extension and improvement works to house and garage at Ferndale House, High Street, Kingston Blount - 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

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The last month or so has been a frustrating time for the NP Steering Group, waiting on SODC to resolve outstanding legal issues and to update their advice regarding housing numbers, densities and “affordable/social” housing quotas. Some advice has been acceptable to the SG, some less so. A level of agreement has been reached within the Group, and the draft NP, now up to version 8, has been revised accordingly. The delays have in turn meant a deferral of the time at which the draft NP can be turned loose on parish residents for comment. This represents the first stage at which there is a legal requirement, insofar as the Pre-Submission Consultation has to take no less than six weeks. Doing this over Christmas is to be avoided, so we aim to commence the consultation very early in the New Year. Access to the documents will be online, with hard copies lodged at public locations, like the Village Hall. A summary document will be delivered to each household and public meetings will be held at which written comments can be submitted.

After this, and with any revisions prompted by the consultation responses, the NP will be handed over to SODC who will arrange for its examination by an appointed Examiner. He/she will accept/reject the NP and/or advise on any further changes, at which point a Local Referendum will be arranged. A NP that is accepted by local parish residents at the referendum then becomes part of the formal Development Plan, alongside the Local Plan currently being prepared by SODC.

Mark Thackeray

Chairman, Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

np@astonrowant.org.uk

www.astonrowant.org.uk/neighbourhood-planning

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TRAFFIC CALMING

I am very pleased to announce that the chicanes we have been working on getting installed at the entrance to Kingston Blount have been approved by Oxfordshire County Council, and we are now able to go ahead.

The final plans for the new traffic calming scheme have been in the process of consultation over the past two months. These plans have received a number of letters of support from local residents and the Police. Unfortunately, we also received four letters of objections, all from residents in Chinnor. The issues they raised in their objections were that the chicane would slow them down on their way to the M40, and that it would make the junction with Kingston Hill more dangerous!

The point of the chicane is to slow traffic down, and in doing so it will make the junction safer. This is what the process of designing and consultation has been all about. Two physical trials on the road were carried out, with the police and the highways engineer to ensure that there is a smooth flow of traffic exiting the village at slower speeds, which will make the junction with Kingston Hill safer and, crucially, it will also slow traffic down coming into the village. I am very grateful to OCC Highways for taking so much time and care to get the design just right. The Highways officer and I spoke at the planning committee meeting, to persuade the members that the scheme will benefit the village, make it safer and help protect pedestrians and property. The planning committee agreed that the four objections were not founded.

Now it has received planning permission it will go through a final independent safety review.

The next step will be to obtain quotes and select a company to build the scheme and then we can start raising money. This is a big next step. If you can help or have any ideas of how we can raise money please contact me or the parish council clerk.

Matt Day, ARPC

NEW YEAR PARISH WALK

Sunday 6 January 10.00

This year our walk starts at Thame Lambert Hotel taking in Aston Rowant Nature Reserve, Wormsley Estate, Cowlease Wood and returning through Lewknor. It is 7.5 miles with two hills to climb. It will be walked at a leisurely pace.

Last year we had 33 walkers join us. So come along this time and work off some of those Festive Season excesses. The walk is on our doorsteps and the scenery is stunning. Please bring a snack and water and wear boots.

Park on the little road to the side of the hotel. Only use the hotel car park if you will be visiting the hotel after the walk.

Peter Hetherington

For ARPC and Thame and Wheatley Ramblers
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PLESTED BUTCHERS

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01844 353432

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MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR



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FIVEWAYS, CHURCH LANE IN ASTON ROWANT

2018 was a year of contrasts at Fiveways. In mid-winter it was bitterly cold, but the bulbs eventually came through. Some new introductions have done really well, such as the wild garlic which is common in the area. The English bluebells did well but there may still be some Spanish ones to watch out for and deal with before planting more English ones.

There were more aconites this year and they seem to be spreading. These were followed by a small number of fritillaria – I have tried to plant more but they are challenging so maybe the location is wrong. The wood anemones did much better and are spreading slowly, which is perfectly normal. If you lose a species it can take a decade to bring it back. Many of the wild flowers have been lost locally; oddly one of the best areas for wild flowers is along the north side of the B4009 from Junction 6 to the A40 junction. Many of the other flowers such as the stitchwort, valerian, knapweed, wild scabious, ragged robin, ox eyed daisy, fox and cubs, and especially the yellow toad flax did dramatically well despite the heat and dryness. The lack of water dried up the native hollies which had looked really well up to the summer.

The snowdrops did well and were timed perfectly to be ready for the duck racing, but a few came out of the soil and had to be rescued and replanted. We think they came from the cottage garden which was on the site. Sadly we are losing some helpers – Graham and Lynn French have moved from the area. Both have been a big help and they will be missed. We are looking for some regulars to help with keeping the paths clear and increasing the diversity of the habitat. It only takes half a day or so a year – please help us. The aim is not to interfere too much but to restore the plant diversity which has been lost. What is a native plant is a matter of debate as the last ice age removed most plants – the Romans brought in many ‘native’ species including ground elder.

The new bench seems to have been well used, judging by the grass around being trampled, which is a good thing. The Blue Cross have resumed their dog walking and are welcome back. Can I remind people to please pick up after your dog and use the bin in Church Lane.

Our long planned next addition to the site will be a discrete notice board drawing attention to this historic plot, which surprisingly was a major medieval crossroads. The Footpath And Amenities Group hope it will help to identify it and protect the site for future walkers to enjoy. The Footpath And Amenities Group are also responsible for the resurfacing of parts of Church Lane as well as the planting of some Rowan trees to help the birds. This is perhaps the top dog walking spot in the parish but non-dog walkers are also welcome!

Duck racing at Fiveways and teas in the church in 2019 will be on February 10th from 2-4pm – wellies a good idea.

Mike Eaton



NOTICEBOARD

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

Watlington Gardening Club

This is a small friendly group who meet monthly on the first Wednesday of the month in Watlington Town Hall at 7.45pm for a specialist talk with tea, coffee and biscuits. On 5th December the club has its Christmas Social with a horticultural quiz and wine and nibbles. Non members are welcome for a small fee.

There will be no meeting in January and the February 6th meeting will be a very interesting talk by Timothy West entitled 'In the not so bleak midwinter'. Winter may not be the traditional season of big borders and drifts of different blooms, but has plenty to offer the gardener. This talk looks at the opportunities for bringing winter interest to your garden.

Annual Parish Walk

The Annual New Year Parish Walk leaves from The Thame Lambert Hotel on 6th January. Open to all and organised by the Parish Council with Thame and Wheatley Ramblers. 7.5 miles. (see page 19)

Peter Hetherington

07767 647714

St Mary's Sydenham Christmas Fayre

Saturday 8th December from 12 until 2pm.

Enjoy tasty home-made soups served with Rosemary's fresh baked crusty bread, hot mulled wine and delicious puds while you browse a variety of stalls. Raffle and tombola for a £50 hamper. Free entry and everyone is welcome.

Oil Syndicate

To join the heating oil syndicate in the parish that runs oil refills three times a year – January/February (winter weather dependent), June and November – email Adam Bernstein at adam.bernstein@mac.com.

Advertising in the Parish Notes

Please email Julian Knight if you are interested in advertising: jknight652@aol.com :

1/4 page – £10 for one issue or six issues for £40

1/2 page – £15 for one issue or six issues for £60

Full page – £30 for one issue or six issues for £120



NOTICEBOARD



A Warm Welcome to the Village

Kirsty and Ralph Martin along with their dog Betsy have moved from High Wycombe to live at 1A Old Croft Close Kingston Blount.

Used Postage Stamps

The hearing dogs for deaf people no longer have a use for used stamps, but the Sobell House Shop in Cornmarket (near Waitrose) are very grateful for them. This means that there is no longer a box in St. Andrews Church Chinnor, but I am still collecting them. There is a box in Aston Rowant Church or my letterbox at Meadow Vale, Pleck Lane (the bungalow behind the picket fence). Please continue to save your used stamps and many thanks for the steady flow of stamps throughout the year.

Shirley Smith

Chinnor Silver Band Seasonal Brass & a Glass

An evening of Christmas music will take place on Saturday 1st December at St Andrews Church, Chinnor. Doors open at 6.45pm, concert starts at 7.30pm. Tickets are £9 to include wine and mince pies. For tickets tel 01844 352291 or available from Manor Stores.

Allotments

An allotment plot has come free. If you're interested please contact Rupert Wolstenholme. 07866302697 rupert.wolstenholme@btinternet.com

Free Christmas Parking

Free parking days are provided by South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils to encourage people to shop locally for their Christmas presents. You will be able to park without paying for a ticket in South and Vale car parks on the following days up to 24 December:

Didcot – Mondays from 3 December

Goring – Saturdays from 1 December

Henley – Tuesdays from 4 December

Thame – Saturdays from 1 December

Wallingford – Thursdays from 6 December

For more details on parking in southern Oxfordshire visit southoxon.gov.uk/parking or whitehorsedc.gov.uk/parking.

ASTON ROWANT SCHOOL COUNCIL

This is our new School Council, with lots of ideas for our school, to keep it a happy, learning and caring place.

Last year we raised over £600 for Children's Air Ambulance a fantastic effort which we were all really pleased with. Our chosen charity this year is British Heart Foundation. We had a visit from a representative from the Foundation, dressed as Super Heroes for the day and tried to answer some questions about the heart. Did you know an octopus has three hearts? In the summer we will be taking part in a jump rope activity which will really test our fitness and co-ordination, but we really enjoy a challenge here at school.

At our Whole School Council meeting this term we will be thinking about the Anti Bullying Theme of 'Respect'. Respect is one of our core values in school so is very important to us. We need to respect everyone in our school, the community and the beautiful environment in which we live.

We have school trips to look forward to, the Pitt Rivers museum, Henley Rowing Museum the pantomime, and next year a visit to the Oxford Mosque and Christchurch Cathedral. Lots to look forward to.

Dee Turton



ASTON ROWANT SCHOOL NEWS

Achievements this term

We have been really busy since September with many achievements gained by the children and staff at school. These achievements make us all really proud of what we do at Aston Rowant. The children are continuing to make excellent progress across the school and are thoroughly engaged in our creative curriculum this term. We have had many celebrations since the start of the academic year some of which I would like to share with you.

Sport at Aston Rowant

Our sports provision has had a complete revamp this term. We have been focussing on the individual needs of the children and adapting our curriculum to meet their sporting skills through a sport led approach. Many inspirational visitors to school have enriched our curriculum and inspired our children. These include Paul Sturgess, Britain's tallest man and world's tallest Basketball player, and Ben Thomas from Chinnor rugby club. Our links with wider community sports ventures are increasing as Ben has agreed to come to school and offer 'reading and rugby' sessions and a lunchtime rugby club for all. We have also signed up for the 'Chance to Shine' cricket initiative and the Sports Leadership Academy where children can learn to be sports leaders within our school. Our drive and passion to develop happy healthy children through sport continues.

Primary Science Quality Mark

We are delighted to receive our new Primary Science Quality Mark. We have attended an awards ceremony in London and were awarded this by none other than Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocok, British space scientist and science educator. Dr Maggie has appeared on many CBBC programmes and is the presenter of 'The Sky at Night' with professor Brian Cox. We are thrilled to bits with this award which celebrates our excellent teaching and learning of Science.

Music at Aston Rowant

It has been fantastic to see so many children inspired to take up a musical instrument this term. The children are enjoying their lessons with our music teacher and as part of our rock band, iRock. This is a wonderful opportunity for the children to be creative, work as part of a group, have fun and learn something new. We are looking forward to the children putting on their own music concert next term to show their achievements.

If you would like to come and visit our school and see it in action please call our school office on 01844 351671 to arrange a visit. Have a look on our website for photos and updates of what the children have been learning.

www.aston-rowant.oxon.sch.uk

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for 2,3, and 4 year olds.
Please contact the nursery for further information.



TESSA WYATT'S COUNTRYSIDE DIARY

10th October

The kite we call Kevin was on top of his scouting tree this morning but he wasn't alone. He had three crows, a magpie and a pigeon for company. In the breeding season the crows would be bombarding him to keep him off their chicks, the magpie would be nesting in the big churchyard yew and the pigeon most likely would be raiding my bird feeder. Love the way that in the 'off' season they can all be friends.

27th October

I have a new friend! A little black and white cob called Samson, whom I purchased in September following the sad death of my beloved Bobby. Sadly today, he went down with colic because his field companion Romeo went hunting without him and he had to be in all day as they were hunting round here. Was feeling very sorry for himself but thanks to painkillers and good old Buscopan he's feeling better and out in the field with Romeo. A late night visit to check him later on and hopefully all will be well. Everybody say, 'Ahhh.'

(10pm) Late check on the patient who loomed out of the dark to tell me he felt better and wanted his banana (his favourite treat!) Lucky I had one in my pocket!

28 October at 10:19

I love autumn in spite of the cold and wet. An abundance of lovely red apples, a new crop of yarrow in the grass, a lonely and very small sunflower and shaggy ink caps that are delicious on toast!

3rd November at 09.30

There's a little robin who comes to spend the winter with us and the horses every year. He hops about in the barn or in the feed room, and we often find him sharing the horses' feed bowls and using the drinkers. Dear little chap!

Tessa Wyatt



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DUCK RACES, SNOWDROPS & CREAM TEAS

Everyone is invited! – Sunday 10 February from 2 to 4pm in Aston Rowant.

Aston Rowant Parish Council are organising Duck Races again on the Holbrook in Church Lane. The snowdrops will be in full bloom on the banks of the stream, and Cream Teas will be served by Church volunteers in Aston Rowant Church itself. The Duck Races are free and open to all comers. All proceeds from the teas are donated to Church funds. We had a very good turn out from the school in 2018, so please come and enjoy yourselves again in 2019. Please wear wellies and warm clothing.

The area by the stream known as Fiveways is managed by the Parish Council for wildlife and wild flowers, with a path and seat available and used daily mainly by Parishioners.

Parking will be roadside in the village, with parking reserved for the disabled nearest to the Church.

Peter Hetherington

The Footpath and Amenities Group,
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FULL CIRCLE AT ASTON ROWANT SCHOOL

Are you over 50? Be part of a Full Circle intergenerational group and experience the fun and rewards of getting to know the younger generation. You'll make a big difference!

Aston Rowant Primary School is looking for local older people to join their small and friendly intergenerational group. The group meets in school for one hour every Thursday lunchtime (12–1pm) in term time, building confidence, friendship, and understanding between the generations. The children, older adults, and a member of school staff enjoy having lunch as a group and doing various activities together, while chatting and having lots of fun getting to know each other.

For more information and to see a short film showing how Full Circle benefits both younger and older people, please visit our website at www.fullcircleoxon.org.uk or contact the school on 01844 351671 to find out more.



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ASTON ROWANT SCHOOL HOUSE TRUST

The Aston Rowant School House Educational Trust was set up in 1992 when the former teacher's house, belonging to 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.

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NEWS FROM ARCC

It was a mixed season for Aston Rowant Cricket Club this year, which saw the 1st XI finish in 3rd having been top for much of the season; the 2nd XI were unfortunately relegated from Division 2, the 3rd XI had a fantastic season gaining promotion to Division 4 and the 4th XI were also unfortunately relegated having to play many games with 10 men.

ARCC 1st XI Season – Played 18, Won 11, Drawn 3, Lost 3, Abandoned 1.

Having gained promotion last season and being heavily tipped at the start of the season to be relegated the 1st XI had a quite staggering season in finishing 3rd, competing against large city and town club like Oxford, High Wycombe, Banbury and Henley. Let's not forget the standard of cricket that ARCC compete at. It is the highest standard of cricket one can play at below being contracted at a first-class professional club.

ARCC 2nd XI Season, Played 18, won 7, lost 10, drawn 1.

It proved a tough season for the 2nd XI. We were unfortunate to be relegated though having finished 3rd bottom in 8th place. There were positives with the younger lads starting step up with good performances, namely Oli Shaw and James Coles with the bat. Caspar Mason too had a great season with the ball and has been rewarded with a scholarship at the renowned sports school.

ARCC 3rd XI Season, Played 18, won 10, drawn 4, lost 3, abandoned 1.

Again the 3rd XI enjoyed a great season against all odds having been promoted the previous season. We look forward to the challenge of Division 4, if the Cherwell League will agree to our promotion as we need to bring the second pitch up to standard. Finally, we would like to dedicate this league title to a very dear friend, Dave 'Tangles / Tango' Simpson he rarely missed a game in the 20 years he was at the club. RIP Tango.

ARCC 4th XI Season, Played 18, won 7, drawn 0, lost 9, abandoned 2.

The 4th XI were relegated on the final day of the season to go down by 1 point, finishing on a record high for a relegated team, 262 points, with two crucial points deducted.

It'd be great to see more of the local community supporting our social events next year as Aston Rowant CC is so much more than just a cricket club. The club would welcome any playing or non playing member for next season as we look to engage with the local community to build the club into the community club we aspire to be. The bar is open every Friday night through the summer to kick start sunny weekends and throughout every Saturday and more Sundays. We also have the marquee to hire for all members, which makes a fantastic venue for any summer party!

The club have had our first international call up recently! Linsey Smith who has played for the Aston Rowant CC since she was seven has made her debut for the England Women's World Cup T20 squad. We're all absolutely delighted for Linsey.

Finally, everyone at the club would like to wish you all a very Merry Xmas and a healthy 2019. We look forward to seeing more of you at the club next year.

Best wishes from Aston Rowant Cricket Club.

Steven Sowerby



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LOCAL PLAYGROUPS

Sydenham Coffee Morning

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Starboddlers

Free baby and toddler group. Every Thursday, 11am, during Term Time. In St. Andrew's Church.

Chooseday church

Free after school, activities and tea. For under 8's and their families and siblings. 3.15pm Tuesday's during term time in St. Andrew's Church, Chinnor.

DISPOSING OF HOUSEHOLD WASTE (Other than the usual weekly refuse)

We all know that dumping rubbish in the hedgerows and ditches around the Parish is unsightly, illegal and can be a danger to children, pets and wildlife. It also demonstrates a totally selfish attitude, without thought or care for others. If culprits are identified and convicted in a Magistrates' Court they will have a criminal record and can be fined many thousands of pounds.

Bulky household waste such as washing machines, fridges and mattresses etc. can be collected by arrangement with SODC by calling 01491 823416 or online at www.southoxon.gov.uk there is a charge for up to 3 items. Alternatively householders may take their bulky items to the domestic waste centres at Oakley Wood (off A4130, east of Crowmarsh Gifford) and Bledlow Ridge. SODC advise that although the Bledlow Ridge centre is in Bucks. They will not turn away householders from just over the boundary in Oxfordshire.

Householders are required by law to check that anyone removing waste from their house or garden is registered with the Environment Agency as a waste carrier. Builders, plumbers, decorators, gardeners and other tradesmen, who remove waste from work they have carried out, should be registered and have a 'Waste Carriers Number'. As the householder you should record this number together with details of the waste removed, the date and the vehicle in which it was carried. If the waste is dumped illegally, and you did not check, you could find yourself in a Magistrates' Court with a criminal record and a fine of up to £5000.

You can check if a tradesman is licensed to remove waste by calling 08708 506506 or online at www2.environment-agency.gov.uk/epr/index.asp

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Written by the late Alan Mayo and edited by **P Gibbons**, November 20, 2018



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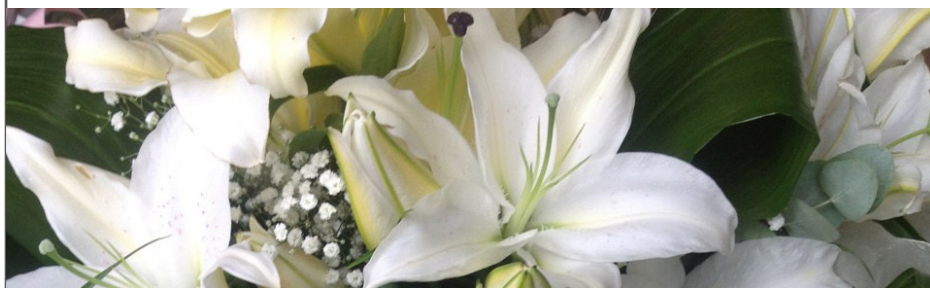
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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DECEMBER

- 1 Watlington Christmas Market 10am-2pm
Chinnor Silver Band Concert, St. Andrew's Church (p.23)
- 5 Watlington Gardening Club (p.22)
- 8 Sydenham Christmas Fayre 12-2pm (p.22)
- 12 Aston Rowant Parish Council Meeting, KBVH (p.16)
- 13 Sydenham Coffee Morning (p.39)
- 23 Nine Lessons & Carols, AR Church 4pm (p. 9)
- 24 Crib Service 4pm, Midnight Mass 11.30pm (p. 9)
- 25 Family Service 10am (p.9)

JANUARY

- 6 New Year Parish Walk (p.19)
- 10 Sydenham Coffee Morning (p.39)
- 15 Copy due in for December/January Parish Notes

FEBRUARY

- 6 Watlington Gardening Club (p.22)
- 10 Duck Races, Snowdrops & Cream Teas (p.29)

REGULAR DATES

MONDAYS

Kindergym Thame
Zumba 6.30pm KB Village Hall

TUESDAYS

Kindergym Chinnor
Chair-Based Exercise for seniors
10.30–11.30, Chinnor VH
Bell Ringing 7.30pm Aston Rowant

WEDNESDAYS

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

THURSDAYS

StarBoddlers 11.00am Chinnor
Full Circle, Aston Rowant School
12-1pm (term-time)
Flowers 4 All (third Thursday)

FRIDAYS

Tiddlypeeps 9.30am Chinnor
Senior Circuits 10.00am Watlington

SATURDAYS

Soul Space 5.30pm Crowell Church
(now only once a month)

SUNDAYS (1st of month)

Aston Rowant Church Family
Friendly service 10.00am

**Copy for the February/March
issue is due on 15th January.**

**Please email to
sarahparishnotes@gmail.com**