

VOL XXXXV No 1

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2018

ASTON ROWANT, KINGSTON BLOUNT & CROWELL
PARISH NOTES



Mark Lord

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Main Hall (8am–midnight)	£15.00 per hour
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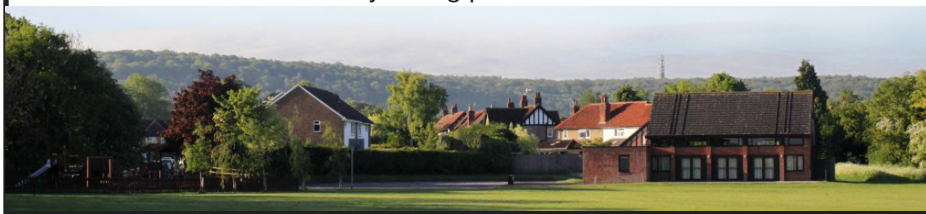
Resident £210; Non Resident £225

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Zumba

every Monday 6.30pm
07834 994699

Kettlebell Abs

every Wednesday 6.00pm
07801 553019

Yoga with Rachel Hawkins

every Wednesday 7.00pm
07552 185499

USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

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

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

If you've been trying to reach me by 'phone since December, you'll know that I haven't yet been connected to BT in the new Rectory. As this has also affected broadband and the mobile signal is weak, my internet connection has been annoyingly spasmodic too. Many apologies if I've been slow to respond, or worse, haven't been able to respond to your message at all. Just maybe by the time the magazine is made available I'll have my line back! Meanwhile, Louise is doing all she can to relay any messages to me that find their way into the church office.

All of this difficulty in communication has reminded me just how vital being able to talk to people is and how having that voice removed to an extent is frustrating and paralysing. By coincidence, the Lent course this year is based on the themes contained in the film, 'The King's Speech', which, as you may know, focuses on King George VI's painful impediment. Those of you who enjoyed watching the films 'Chocolat', 'Babette's Feast' and 'The Shawshank Redemption' and discussing the themes of those films over previous years, will also enjoy this course.

Bishop Steven is encouraging us all to reflect upon being a 'Contemplative, Compassionate and Courageous' Church. It can sometimes take a lot of courage to say what we want to say to another person and that can apply to our prayer as well. Because prayer goes in two directions we might be cautious about taking something to God because we aren't sure what the response will be. But God will always listen to us with compassion. He loves us and wants to be involved in our lives.

To encourage you to perhaps go a little deeper into your prayer life and to reflect on your faith journey, Jacky, Des and I are making ourselves available through Lent to meet with those who'd like to take an hour to reflect on their journey. No one will be forced to share anything they don't want to and anything said will be treated confidentially. This will be new to many, but those who have done it before will know that speaking to another about their journey can be deeply rewarding. Will you take a courageous step and rise to the challenge?

If you're unable to participate in the Lent group and feel that an hour of reflection isn't for you, then you may prefer to pray this prayer through Lent instead:

Loving, compassionate Lord, hear my prayer for the life and ministry of this Parish Give me eyes that notice the distress of others, ears that listen attentively, a heart that cares and hands that reach out to nurture and to heal. Remove my heart of stone and the certainty that I can do all things in my own strength, and grant me the humility to turn to you in prayer. You have conquered my greatest fear; fill me with the courage to act for the sake of your Kingdom. Lord, my God, make me the compassionate, contemplative and courageous person you would have me be, in the power of the Holy Spirit and with your Son as my model and guide. I ask this through Christ the Lord. Amen.

Every blessing for a more contemplative, compassionate and courageous Lenten journey.

Maggie

Wednesday 14th February – Thursday 29th March 2018

† LENT

– 40 Days Of Renewal –

CHURCH DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

February

- 4 & 11 Pilgrim Course at the Rectory. All very welcome
- 5 CCGW meeting 7.30pm, the Rectory.
- 10 Wedding Prep Day, St. Andrew's Church 10am – 2.30pm
- 11 Snow Drop Walk, Cream Teas & Duck Races 2-4pm Aston Rowant
- 14 Ash Wednesday Services St Andrew's 11am & Aston Rowant 7.00pm
- 15 – 18 The Rector will be away.
- 19 The King's Speech Film, The Rectory, 7.30pm
- 20 & 27 Lent Course based on themes from The Kings Speech. 7pm, The Rectory

March

- 1– 3 Rector Away
- 2 Woman's World day of prayer, 10.30am & 7.30pm, at Methodist Church Chinnor
- 14 APCM
- 6, 13, 20 & 27 Lent Course based on themes from The Kings Speech. 7pm, The Rectory

CHURCH OF ST PETER & PAUL, ASTON ROWANT

This letter of thanks is addressed to all the wonderful people of Aston Rowant and Kingston Blount who give so much of their time to the Church, week by week.

There is the small army of church cleaners and gardeners who do so much to keep our beautiful premises, both inside and out, looking as neat and tidy as possible.

There are those who take on responsibility for compiling and managing our various duty rotas. It is no easy job inviting, persuading and perhaps cajoling our Church friends to commit time on specified dates to one or other of the various duties, all of which are so vital to the smooth running of the Church.

We have duty rotas for reading the Lessons, for welcomers and sidesmen, flower arrangers, coffee providers, and not least for those loyal helpers on the locking rota who open the Church regularly each morning and attend again to lock up the Church each evening throughout the year, come rain or shine. On each rota you will see listed the names of the people who have willingly taken on these tasks – a huge 'thank you' to each and everyone, it is much appreciated.

Lastly, we must not forget the bell ringers, organists and others who help on special occasions. And then, of course, we have our Ministry Team to guide us and keep us all in line.

Our grateful thanks to you all without whose help it would be difficult to keep the Church gently flourishing throughout the year.

Best wishes and a belated happy new year from the Churchwardens,

Jeremy & Jenny

ASTON ROWANT CHURCH SERVICES

First Sunday of every month – 10.00am Family Service
Children are especially welcome. It's a bit noisy but fun and instructive.

2nd, 3rd 4th Sundays – 10.00am Parish Communion

PARISH COUNCIL & LOCAL CONTACTS

Parish Website

www.astonrowant.org.uk

Parish Clerk

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

Parish Councillors:

Chairman Peter Tinson Kingston Blount	01844 352817
Vice Chair Peter Hetherington Kingston Blount	01844 353296
Councillor Matthew Day Kingston Blount	01844 351300
Councillor Lynn French Aston Rowant	01844 350154
Councillor Steven Sowerby Kingston Blount	01844 351392
Councillor Trelawney Hill Aston Rowant	01844 353051

District Councillors:

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

County Councillor

Jeannette Matelot jeannette.matelot@oxfordshire.gov.uk

MP

John Howell 01491 612852 howelljm@parliament.uk

Police Community Support Office

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 the first update of the calendar year.

Firstly, I should like to welcome Marcus Wodzynski to the Council. Marcus, who lives in Aston Rowant, was co-opted onto the Council at the January meeting and brings the Council back up to our full complement.

The focus of the December meeting of the Council was the budget for the coming fiscal year. When considering the budget (and hence the amount each property is charged for Parish activities through the Council Tax) the Council reviews the projected spend against the current budget, planned projects and other factors such as the reduction in external funding.

The Council is largely operating to the budget for the current financial year. However, costs are increasing and, whilst we have been able to hold (or in some cases, reduce) the budget allocation for some spend areas, the budget for others has had to be increased. In addition, the Council agreed to continue to build a reserve for traffic calming measures, following the initial allocation made this fiscal year. The net effect is that the precept proposed will see an inflationary increase of around 3%.

It has been a busy year for planning with a high volume of applications towards the tail end of the year. Each planning application is reviewed by Council members before a recommendation on acceptance or refusal is made to the District Council. This work is largely coordinated by the Chair of the Planning Committee, a function that Matt Day has performed for the past five years. Matt has decided to stand down from this role with immediate effect. I have temporarily taken on the role for time being until a more permanent replacement can be found. I would like to publicly thank Matt for leading the planning work. There have been a number of difficult and contentious planning issues in recent years and he has provided detailed written responses during his tenure and also made himself available to residents to advise parishioners on planning policy and discuss applications. He will be a hard act to follow!

Peter Tinson

Chairman, Aston Rowant Parish Council

ASTON ROWANT PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

Meetings of the Parish Council were held on Wednesday 13th December and Wednesday 10th January in Kingston Blount Village Hall at 7.30pm. At the time of writing, the next meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday 14th February in Kingston Blount Village Hall.

This has proved to be an exceptionally busy time for planning applications, many of which are causing concerns locally. A joint public meeting with representatives of Aston Rowant Cricket Club was held on 4th January to discuss more amendments to the ongoing planning application from 2016, and agents for the application(s) at Hill Cottage in Kingston Blount were present at the January council meeting. Other applications have yet to be fully received from SODC, but can already be viewed on their planning pages – specifically those for the Cherry Tree former pub in Kingston Blount, and the long-awaited St John Homes development in Aston Rowant. The reference numbers for these are below, but neither has yet been considered by the council.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

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

The Chairman of the Neighbourhood Planning Committee has spoken to SODC Planning Dept. and due to the number of objections, the decision will be referred to committee. We will ensure the PC is represented, once the committee date is known. In the meantime, our original response should stand – **OBJECTION/SHOULD BE REFUSED**.

P17/S3244/FUL – Demolition of existing timber stable used as storage and replacement with timber framed annex at Upper Chalford Cottage, Chalford, OX39 4NH – **SHOULD BE APPROVED**.

P16/S0894/FUL – Amendment No.5 to plans for replacement pavilion building, storage, car park and disabled car park, cricket nets, relocation of existing 2 flag poles, score box, and installation of two new electronic scoreboards etc. for Aston Rowant Cricket Club.

A public meeting was held on 4th January with Paul Humphreys, Chairman of ARCC (details posted to KBAR by ARPC Chairman), at which various concerns were addressed and it was agreed that yet further amendments may be suitable. In the meantime, as it stands, the current amendment is too like previous submissions and the councillors felt there was no option but to continue to recommend refusal until these further concerns have been addressed – **SHOULD BE REFUSED**.

P17/S4277/HH - Demolition of existing single-storey side extension, construction of new single-storey rear extension at Beacon Cottage Aston Hill near Aston Rowant OX49 5SD - **SHOULD BE APPROVED**.

P17/S4235/FUL – Proposed conversion of existing buildings via adaptation and partial demolition to create new dwelling & provision of new garage at buildings adjoining Hill

Cottage High Street Kingston Blount OX39 4SJ. – (in conjunction with P17/S4288/FUL below) **SHOULD BE REFUSED**.

P17/4288/FUL – Demolition of Hill Cottage and stable. Erection of new detached dwelling. Provision of new approach drive. Landscaping, fencing and other related works at Hill Cottage High Street Kingston Blount OX39 4SJ – (in conjunction with P17/S4235/FUL above) **SHOULD BE REFUSED**.

P17/S4403/DIS - Discharge of condition 4 - tree protection on application ref. P15/S3902/HH Single storey pool/leisure outbuilding with pitched roof at The White House Aston Hill, OX49 5SG. **SHOULD BE APPROVED**

P17/S4436/PDA – Change of use from light industrial to residential (8 flats) at Pinnacle Tooling Limited, Aston Hill, OX49 5SG. Paperwork only received from SODC on 8th January. For information only, but circulated to councillors at meeting in case an application follows.

P17/S4443/FUL – First floor rear extension over existing, single storey rear extension. Conservatory extension to rear, change of use from A4 (public house) to C1/A3 (bed and breakfast and cafe) at The Cherry Tree Park Lane Kingston Blount. Paperwork only received from SODC on 8th January so circulated to councillors at meeting.

P18/S0001/FUL – Erection of six detached dwellings and four apartments, together with access, highway alterations, parking, landscaping, drainage and amenity space on land at the junction of Aston Rowant Road and Chinnor Road Aston Rowant by St John Homes (Thames Valley) Ltd. Email notification only received at this stage – paperwork and plans to follow in post.

PLANNING DECISIONS OF SODC:

P17/S2006/HH – Single storey extension to existing garage/workshop with new pitched roof over existing/extended building (Amended plan received on 18 September 2017 showing a reduction in height and removal of roof lights) at The Old Croft, Pleck Lane, 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

CHINNOR TRAFFIC

Advance Warning

There will be two-way 24-hour temporary traffic signals from 12/02 to 23/02 on the Thame Road - outside the former Garden Centre.

This is for remedial works to kerb snagging, edging alterations, to install new gully and resurfacing.

Any issues or questions please call 0345 310 1111

RED KITES

From the Chinnor PC Newsletter:

Reminder - Please DO NOT feed the Red Kites.

The Chilterns Conservation Board urges the public not to feed red kites. They should be left to feed naturally in the wider countryside, thus enabling them to find a naturally sustainable level.

If you currently feed the kites then the advice is to gradually reduce the amount and frequency, and eventually cease altogether. This phased approach will allow the birds to spread out into the wider countryside to find alternative sources of food.

More local news can be found at www.chinnorparishcouncil.org.uk

KEEP DOGS ON LEADS NEAR SHEEP

You may have seen Jamie Clark's post on KBAR about a recent sheep worrying incident at Thame park. His father went to feed the sheep near Sydenham and while he was there a dog got away from its owner and proceeded to chase the sheep and bite them. For nearly an hour the owner had no control over the dog at all and could not call it back. **It is vital to keep your dog on a lead near sheep.**

At this time of year there are 500 heavily pregnant ewes at Thame Park. If dogs chase sheep, they might not kill any, but often a few days later farmers start to find aborted lambs in the field.

The Countryside Code offers advice on walking your dog near livestock. Excerpts say: 'When you take your dog into the outdoors always ensure it does not disturb wild-life, farm animals, horses or other people by keeping it under effective control ... It is always good practice to keep your dog on a lead around farm animals ... Keep your dog in sight at all times, be aware of what it's doing and be confident it will return to you promptly on command ... Ensure it does not stray off the path or area where you have a right of access.' The Code also reminds walkers that a farmer 'may shoot a dog which is attacking or chasing farm animals without being liable to compensate the dog's owner'.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

In December the Steering Group produced draft criteria against which possible housing sites might be assessed, in order that a short list of such sites might then be discussed with landowners and form the next stage of local consultation. The consultation on the criteria and on their possible weighting, based on locally-assessed importance, runs/ran to 31 January. The results of this exercise should be made available in March, but this is rather dependent upon how SODC responds to several current planning applications which, if approved, might produce up to 24 new dwellings, mainly in Aston Rowant. This would be more than is expected from the parish, under the emerging SODC policy for small villages and over the whole plan period to 2033.

It would be helpful if any comments made by residents in respect of these applications could also be copied to the Steering Group, via np@astonrowant.org, so that those views can be assessed in the context of the Neighbourhood Plan.

The consultation on the Protection of Green Spaces has been well-received and will be concluded in February.

It is important that the Steering Group continues with its work, regardless of these applications, as the Neighbourhood Plan remains the principal route by which local residents can take responsibility for the future of the parish.

The Steering Group continues to meet in KB Village Hall at 7.30 on the second Tuesday of each month. Meetings are open to all, though they are working meetings with a strict agenda and a limited time in which to get things done. At the next meeting, on 13 February, a representative of SODC is expected to attend, to discuss progress on the Neighbourhood Plan, but NOT the current planning applications. That debate rests with the Parish Council and with SODC.

Mark Thackeray

Chairman, Neighbourhood Plan Committee

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Fiveways Conservation Project

This Autumn saw the planting of 200 more English bluebells at Fiveways on Church Lane, Aston Rowant continuing the streamside drift from the entrance towards the old bench, plus some more wood anemones (200). A careful eye will be kept on the re-emergence of any Spanish bluebells near the bench and when safe this area will be finally planted with the English variety.

Some plants have established really well such as the red campion, ox-eyed daisies and yellow toadflax. Several dozen wild garlic were planted along the stream in the spring, they should reappear in the New Year; once established please help yourself to this fashionable herb. The new willows have all been pollarded in front of the new bench.

The main project at the moment is a small noticeboard to explain the history of the site and the location of the early cottages, traces of which can still be seen on Google Earth. The stream's earlier course following down the left side of Church Lane can be seen in the hedgerow. Recent diggings have revealed a wooden water cress bed upstream of the sleeper across the stream. This may go back to 'digging for Victory' during the war. The snowdrops are escapees from the cottage garden, as is a well hidden lilac. The small (0.6 acre) site has been protected by the parish council to an extent by designated it as a green area.

Anyone who has a few hours to spare, especially younger folk, are welcome to help us maintain access during the year. It remains one of the top areas to walk dogs, even with the temporary absence of the Blue Cross walkers. The plan is not to manicure it, but enhance what is a lovely spot and to reverse the loss of wild flowers including the snowdrops. Several years ago the snowdrops were in retreat due to the thick leaf canopy.

The next event is the duck racing on the stream which is on February 11th from 2-4pm. The duck races are free and teas will be served in the church. Hopefully the timing is such that the snowdrops will be at their best, they are emerging well and some exposed bulbs need replanting.

Mike Eaton

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The Montessori Nursery School

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

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The nursery accepts children from the age of 2 to 5 years.
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The nursery is part of Oxfordshire funding scheme
for 2,3, and 4 year olds.
Please contact the nursery for further information.

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info@marklordphotography.co.uk
01844 351218

NOTICEBOARD



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

Thank You Jenny!

Jenny Jackson, who has done a brilliant job managing the distribution for the Parish Notes for many years will be stepping down after this issue. She and the team of distributors make sure the Notes reach every household on time and in all weathers. Thank you very much Jenny for all your help and hard work. Peter Lambert, already our Treasurer, has very generously offered to take over managing distribution. Thank you Peter for volunteering so much of your time, and we will miss working with you Jenny!

Poor's Hillock Allotments

Two plots are available to rent. If you would be interested in allotment gardening but feel that a normal 5-pole plot would be too much to take on, we would be prepared to discuss dividing a plot in half for two people to share.

Please contact me if you are interested.

Lavinia Martins

Sec. Poor's Hillock Allotments

laviniamartins@hotmail.com

01844 353968

Duck Races, Snowdrops & Cream Teas

Sunday 11 February 2pm to 4pm

Duck Races, Snowdrops and Cream Teas in Church Lane, Aston Rowant. Please wear wellies or boots. Races are free. All proceeds from the teas for the Church. Please come early so as not to be disappointed. Organised by the Parish Council and Aston Rowant Church.

Parish Walk

Sunday 15 April 10.00 Advanced notice.

Parish Walk from The Crown in Sydenham, 5.2 miles, a circular walk, a few stiles but mainly new gates, Copcourt, Postcombe, Aston Rowant Fiveways, and Kingston Stert. Good views, and quiet open countryside. Open to all and free of charge. Please bring a drink and a small snack.

Peter Hetherington



NOTICEBOARD

Oil Syndicate

For those that don't know, I run an oil-syndicate that covers the locality and currently helps around 80 households in Aston Rowant, Kingston Blount, Crowell, Postcombe, Milton Common, Christmas Common, Tetsworth and Lewknor.

It's free of charge and householders deal directly with the chosen oil company once I've found the best deal. Depending on the market I can find savings of up to 4-5p/litre. The process generally runs around Jan/Feb, May/June and November/December.

Please get in touch by email if you are interested in an oil delivery. There is no need to pay more than you need to.

Adam Bernstein

adam.bernstein@mac.com

One Hot Meal a Day

I would like to thank all those who contributed to the fund raising for Graham, a local man who has been homeless and sleeping in his car. The generous donations have meant Graham has been getting at least one hot meal a day for the last month, and the money donated should last until March. Graham is very grateful for all the support and it is nice to know that there are such generous people in the community.

Thank you.

Matt Day

Watlington Gardening Club

Colin Roberts, head gardener at Adwell House, will talk about 'The Gardens at Adwell House and Salvias' on 7th February. On 7th March Rosi Rollings, who runs RosyBee Nursery, will give a talk on 'Plants for Bees – How Bee Friendly is Your Garden?'

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.

Advertising in the Parish Notes

The Parish Notes are published every two months and delivered to every household in the area. 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

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HUNGER LUNCH

A hunger lunch will be held on **Monday 26th February** from 12.30–2pm at The Old Vicarage, Aston Rowant in aid of The Porch Steppin' Stone Centre in Oxford.

All are welcome for a simple lunch of soup and bread; cash donations and gifts of dry and tinned foodstuffs will be gratefully received.

Please contact **Rona Knight** 01844 351 315



KB VILLAGE HALL – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Village Hall is run by the Hillwerke Trust Management Committee who are looking to fill the following vacancies:

1. Secretary. After many years, I shall be standing down from this role at the AGM in May.

2. 'Site Manager'. This is a new role whereby one person would take responsibility for the smooth running of the hall & playing field (excluding the playground) and ensuring that routine maintenance jobs get done and 'emergencies' are sorted out swiftly. A maintenance schedule is in place with contractor contact details, plus a list of local tradespeople to carry out, e.g. plumbing or electrical work. No actual jobs would need to be done by the volunteer (unless they wished to, of course), just the ability to get things done!

Liaising with our cleaners and ensuring cleaning supplies are provided would also be part of this role, as would responding to any problems raised by our main hirer, the Montessori Nursery School, or other hirers.

Whoever takes this on would need to be organised and also available during working hours for at least some days a week.

If you think you might be able to take on one or other of these jobs, please contact me and I can explain further what is involved.

Thank you.

Lavinia Martins

Hon Sec, Hillwerke Recreational Trust

laviniamartins@hotmail.com

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I have just walked through our Allotment Gardens and my plot is a disgrace. It is a beautiful clear day but the 'Chiltern Breeze' is perishingly cold and nothing can persuade me to do any gardening – especially when there is Australia v England cricket on TV!

I am not a fan of the month of January – even the dog refuses to go out sometimes – but the seed catalogues are dropping into the post-box with wonderful crops and sunny days on their pages. So, even with my scruffy patch as it is, battered by winds and chilled by frost and snow, I can dream of sunshine and a pristine plot!

The frost, we should remember, is really an ally. As it freezes, the soil expands and then contracts again as it thaws. The ground breaks up and the soil becomes ready to rake over in March into a 'fine tilth'. This fine soil is ready to take large seeds and young plants.

And even on a winter stroll through the allotments there are small signs of Summer and the prospect of warmth. I can see over-wintering broad beans and garlic waiting to race away and beat pesky aphids to the sunshine!

I am sure many gardeners are starting to think about clearing the airing cupboard and sunny bedroom window sills to make room for 'chitting' potatoes and seed trays. I am hoping The Management will give the green light for a greenhouse in the garden, but even so it won't be in time for seeding this Spring.

Take note: National Compost Awareness Week is the second week of May. S.O.D.C has a wonderful reputation for re-cycling and part of its programme is recycling compostable matter which they make available to us in April. When I telephoned to enquire about the date of their 'Compost Giveaway' no-one could help me, but it is usually in early April in the old SODC Car park, Benson Lane, Crowmarsh Gifford.

Try not to miss it – as very rarely do we find such free gifts from local government! All you need is a shovel and container and you can get really good quality compost to improve your soil. Well done SODC and thank you.

Good gardening and pleasant dreams of Spring sunshine!

Dick Ewen



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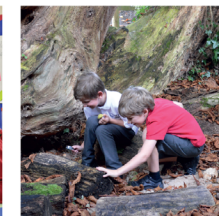
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PANCAKE DAY – SHROVE TUESDAY

Tuesday 13th February is Shrove Tuesday. Below is Delia Smith's recipe for perfect pancakes.

INGREDIENTS

110g plain flour
pinch of salt
2 large eggs
200ml semi-skimmed milk mixed with 75ml water
50g butter
To serve:
Caster sugar
Lemon juice
Lemon wedges

METHOD

First sift the flour and salt into a large mixing bowl with the sieve held high above the bowl so the flour gets an airing.

Make a well in the centre of the flour and break the eggs into it. Then begin whisking the eggs using an electric whisk or a balloon whisk – incorporating any bits of flour from around the edge of the bowl as you do so. When the mixture starts thickening, gradually add small quantities of the milk and water mixture, still whisking (don't worry about any lumps as they will eventually disappear as you whisk).

When all the liquid has been added, use a rubber spatula to scrape any elusive bits of flour from around the edge into the centre, then whisk once more until the batter is smooth, with the consistency of thin cream.

Now melt the butter in the pan. Spoon 2 tablespoons of it into the batter and whisk it in, then pour the rest into a bowl and use it when needed to lubricate the pan, using a wodge of kitchen paper to smear it round.

Get the pan really hot, then turn the heat down to medium and, to start with, do a test pancake. As soon as the batter hits the hot pan, tip it around from side to side to get the base evenly coated with batter. It should take only half a minute or so to cook.

Flip the pancake over – the other side will need a few seconds only.

To serve, sprinkle each pancake with caster sugar and freshly squeezed lemon juice.



TESSA WYATT'S COUNTRY DIARY

11 January

What a dark morning! Just when you think Spring isn't far away, nature says, 'Oh no it isn't!'

15 January

On the upside, the little willow tit is back in the garden, and we've been visited by a small flock of long tailed tits (my favourite.) on the downside, Bobby has had a nose-bleed and looks a bit sad so the vet's coming this afternoon. Hope it's nothing but he has been looking a bit down sometimes recently, and a bit thinner. He doesn't like winter either.

21 January

The fields are empty this morning. Not one of our horses was in the least excited by the thought of going out in the sleet and snow to stand in the mud all day. Can't think why ... Suffice to say, they are all tucked up in the warm with big hay nets. Similar to myself really, only I've got a good book and a cup of tea!

23 January

You know that morning, usually sometime in January, when suddenly the air is soft and has a sweet scent. Well today's the day! The drawn chorus was louder and lasted longer too. We may have more wintry weather to come, but Spring has definitely sprung! Bobby's friends are out too, so he's a happy boy, almost managing a buck, but it was more like a bob with one leg sticking out.

24 January

And here comes the rain! The sound of the wind in the lime tree outside on the Green sounds like an angry banshee and the rain is doing its level best to get through the windows at the back. Actually from where I am (kitchen) it's quite exciting!

26 January

A pair of moorhens are setting up home in the garden of no. 13, two doors down from us. Also saw a lovely thing this afternoon, driving back from Stokenchurch, a barn owl perched on top of the bus stop.

Tessa Wyatt

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Harry Potter Day at the Story Museum, Oxford

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www.storymuseum.org.uk

STARboddlers

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

Tiddlypeeps

www.tiddlypeeps-chinnor.co.uk
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Sydenham Coffee Morning

Thursday 8 February Coffee Morning 10.00am – 12noon,
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Please email sarahparishnotes@gmail.com with any new information regarding events, groups or ideas for fun things to do with children.



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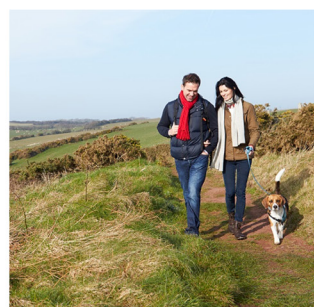
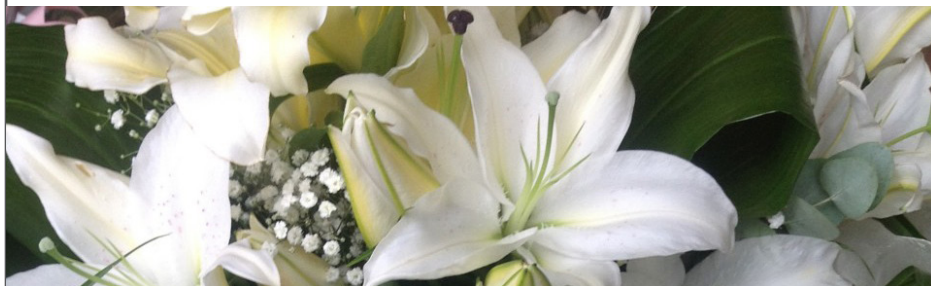
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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

FEBRUARY

- 4&11 Pilgrim Course at the Rectory
4 Harry Potter Day at the Story Museum (p. 35)
7 Watlington Gardening Club (p.20)
8 Sydenham Coffee Morning (p.35)
11 Duck Races, Snowdrops and Cream Teas in Church Lane (p.21)
13 Shrove Tuesday (p. 32)
Neighbourhood Plan Meeting (p. 15)
14 ARPC Meeting, KBVH (p.12)
Valentines Day (see p.2 for special menu at the Crown, Sydenham)
19 The King's Speech film, The Rectory 7.30pm (p.7)
See p. 8 for dates of Lent Course based on themes of the King's Speech
26 Hunger Lunch in support of The Porch (p.23)

MARCH

- 4 Pub Aid – World's biggest pub quiz at the Crown (p.2)
7 Watlington Gardening Club (p.20)
11 Mothering Sunday
13 Neighbourhood Plan Meeting (TBC) (p. 15)
14 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 April/May issue is due on 15th March
please send by email to sarahparishnotes@gmail.com