

ASTON ROWANT, KINGSTON BLOUNT & CROWELL

PARISH NOTES



Mark Lord

Duck Races, Snowdrops & Cream Teas
at Fiveways on Sunday 10th February
(see page 19)

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CONTENTS

KB Village Hall Diary Dates	5
Useful Phone Numbers	
Church Contacts & Services	6
Pastoral Letter	7
Crowell Church, Church Electoral Roll	9
Letter From John Howell MP	11
Parish Council & Local Contacts	12
Parish Council News	13
Aston Rowant Parish Council Notes	14
Neighbourhood Plan	15
Mary Weston	17
Duck Races, Snowdrops & Cream Teas, Hunger Lunch	19
Noticeboard	20
Aston Rowant School News	23
Chilterns Conservation Project	25
ARCC News, Bonfires	29
Aston Rowant School House Trust	31
Full Circle at Aston Rowant School	32
Tessa Wyatt's Country Diary	33
Local Playgroups, Household Waste	35

Editor

Sarah Day
351300
sarahparishnotes@gmail.com

Advertising

Julian Knight
351315
jknight652@aol.com

Treasurer & Distribution

Peter Lambert
352617
peter.lambert123@btinternet.com

Proofreading

Hew Reid
351357

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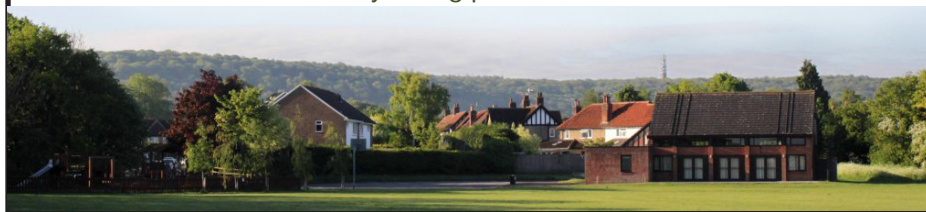
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(see page 23)
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USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

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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

The Rev'd Maggie Thorne
The Rectory, Chinnor OX39 4DH
01844 354626

Assistant Curate

The Rev'd Dr. Jacky Barr

Parish Administrator

Tricia Prescott 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

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
3rd Sunday – Service of the Word with hymns and sermon
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
3rd Saturday of the month – Soul Space at 5.30pm



PASTORAL LETTER

Dear friends

This is the month for celebrating love! The birds are busy building their nests and trying to attract new mates, we have our wedding preparation day for those getting married this year, and of course there's also Valentine's Day. Love is all around us.

It's because the Christian mandate is to love God and our neighbour as ourselves, that the Church of England takes the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults extremely seriously. Indeed, whatever the age, absolutely everyone has a value and dignity which comes from their being created in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this potential fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. Because every person is precious to God, we must therefore value all people and, as much as we are able, protect them from harm.

Statistics reveal the uncomfortable truth that on many occasions those who should be safe from harm have received great harm instead (Victoria Climbié, baby P, and others come to mind). The Church of England's response to such dreadful stories of abuse is to establish "safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is a culture of 'informed vigilance' as to the dangers of abuse" (Principles of the House of Bishops' Policy for Safeguarding Children, 2010). In practice, this means that those who have any kind of responsibility within the church (PCC members, those ministering to children and the elderly, and pastoral visitors) have to be both trained in line with safer recruitment principles and also require DBS checks. This, along with the recent government demands on data control and protection mean that all volunteers in the Church have had to dedicate time to filling in extra forms and undertaking various online courses. Some will require much more, depending on their level of ministry.

Church volunteers already give much time and energy to their various ministries and I am extremely grateful to all those who help in any way in the United Parish. At the same time, it is necessary to have to ask them to do more in terms of the above training and it may be that some will want to divert their energies elsewhere. It hasn't happened yet and I truly hope that it won't, but I would remind our stalwarts that this is life in the 21st century and things that were once hidden in darkness are now coming to light. As Christians we love God and all of his children and must therefore live in the light, no matter what the cost.

Let this be our prayer for this month of love:

May the doors of our churches be wide enough to receive all who come seeking God and fellowship.
May the doors of our churches be narrow enough to shut out pettiness and pride, envy and enmity.
May the threshold of our churches be no stumbling block to young or frail feet.
May the threshold of our churches be too high to admit complacency and self-seeking.
May our churches be, for all who enter, safe places and the doorway to a richer life in Christ. Amen.

Every blessing

Maggie

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CROWELL CHURCH

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Services continue with Evening Prayer on the 1st Sunday of the month at 1800hrs and Holy Communion on the 2nd Sunday of the month at 1000hrs. Soul Space continues with one service a month on the 3rd Saturday at 1730. There is little to report, beyond the last report, other than bad news.

The carpark is becoming damaged, especially the entrance due to heavy use.

The village and the pub benefits from its existence and indeed helped to create it but sadly, despite requests in previous articles and conversations, there has been little or no help with the maintenance. There is no money to support this heavy use and therefore we may now have to consider closing the carpark except for church use, unless this support is forthcoming.

It is of great concern that those attending graves are disposing of dead flowers, still in their plastic wrappings, on the compost heaps. This is quite irresponsible and unsightly. Plastic wrappings and other non-compostable materials should be removed off site and disposed of properly. We will now have to spend time clearing this unsightly mess and disposing of it in the correct manner.

There is an ever-increasing number of solar lights, other displays and shrubs/trees etc. appearing on graves in the graveyard. Please check the rules which are in the porch and consider where you may be over-stepping the mark and please adjust to conform. The rules do allow for certain articles to be in place for a period of time, to allow for grieving and we are not insensitive to that but a church graveyard is a place of order for the good and feelings of all.

It is difficult to answer the question, 'why should I remove mine when you are allowing this, that and the other on those graves'?

We are happy to discuss.

Andy and Maggs Warman

Wardens, Crowell NBVM

CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL

Every five years the Church Electoral Roll has to be renewed by law. To have any vote on church matters you must be listed on the Electoral Roll. The current Electoral Roll has been in existence for five years and therefore is required to be renewed. All those on the Electoral Rolls for Chinnor, Sydenham, Aston Rowant and Crowell will need to renew their listing. There are additional requirements to comply with the new Data Protection rules, so new forms will be required to be completed.

For those already on the Electoral Roll the new form will be available to them soon. Those who wish to be added to the Roll should request a form from the Parish Office at St Andrew's.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting is to be held on 10th April at Chinnor Village Centre where the final Electoral Roll will be accepted.

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Maria

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LETTER FROM JOHN HOWELL MP

I write as Parliament gets into full swing again and Brexit looks to dominate media attention once more. However, despite the obsession of the press and media with Brexit I am sure many will be relieved to know that there are several other serious parliamentary issues which are still being dealt with. This month I write to share some of the things not in the headlines but, I think, important.

Feedback suggests that Universal Credit is generally welcomed but I know that many people have been concerned with the implementation of it. I was pleased to see changes in the delivery and that with this the rollout remains on track. I have raised queries with Ministers and work with them as we move forward.

Oxfordshire Lowland Rescue Charity may not be a particularly well known charity but it does important work assisting the police in the search for vulnerable missing persons. I was delighted to learn of £11,883.60 new government funding awarded to Oxfordshire.

Although it is against the law to refuse access to someone with a Guide Dog, a survey by the charity found that three quarters of assistance dog owners reported that they experienced this problem. I was pleased to be able to support a recent event in Parliament run by the charity Guide Dogs to raise awareness of this discrimination and to learn of the impact of this on people.

I share the growing concerns at the increase in mental health problems, especially among young people, and am thus pleased that in Oxfordshire children and young people's mental health services are to be transformed as the county becomes one of 25 trailblazer areas across the country that puts the NHS and schools together to transform mental health care. This is welcome news of much needed support for young people.

Finally, you may like to know that Heathrow's consultation on the use of airspace and future operations has now opened and will run until 4th March 2019. This will provide the chance to contribute to Heathrow's plans for future airspace use and on their proposals for how the airport will operate. You can provide feedback online or the nearest location to attend a consultation is Maidenhead on 7th February. More information can be found online at www.heathrowconsultation.com.

If there is an issue that concerns you please do let me know. If you would like to share your thoughts on an issue with me 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, January 2019

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 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 the first update of the calendar year.

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 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 a small, below inflation increase.

December saw a shift in the development of South Oxfordshire District Council's Local Plan. The Local Plan underpins planning decisions across the District and we were pleased to note that there is no longer a requirement on small villages such as ours to contribute to the housing supply through planned allocations. Mark Thackeray outlines the implications for our Neighbourhood Plan elsewhere in this edition of the Notes (page 15).

Finally, I am sorry to report that Marcus Wodzynski has decided to stand down from the Council. I should like to thank Marcus for his contribution during the time he was with us. We will not be replacing Marcus in the immediate future as all councillors are due for re-election in May. I have been pleased to see a good number of members of the public attend our recent meetings – I hope the interest will result in people putting themselves forward to stand as Councillors this Spring.

Peter Tinson

Chairman – Aston Rowant Parish Council

ASTON ROWANT PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

Parish Council meetings were held on Wednesday 12th of December and Wednesday 9th of January where the applications detailed below were discussed. At the time of writing, the next meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday 13th of February in Kingston Blount Village Hall.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

P18/S2804/LB: for development work (re-pointing and paintwork) at The Thatch 20 Church Lane Aston Rowant. Considered to be essential renovations to a “listed” property – FULLY SUPPORT.

P18/S3799/HH: for development work (new front porch) at 12 Bakers Piece Kingston Blount. Improvement to frontage – FULLY SUPPORT.

P18/S3813/FUL: for erection of 4 dwellings & creation of new access at Orchard House High Street Kingston Blount. Two public meetings held to gain local views. Concerns raised surrounding space, access (violation of footpath & width of access), effects on neighbouring properties (overlooking, loss of light, parking and waste bins in Old Croft Close) & loss of important local amenity. OBJECT.

P18/S3856/HH: for development work (Replace entrance gates) at The Old Vicarage The Green Aston Rowant. Considered to be too large and out of keeping with locality. OBJECT.

P18/S3875/HH: for replacement roof (ridge height raised) with accommodation in roof with front and rear dormers at Selloana 1A Old Croft Close Kingston Blount. Having taken advice from SODC re: over-looking an adjacent listed building, FULLY SUPPORT but we would like a condition that anti-reflective film be fitted on the dormers on the front of the property.

PLANNING DECISIONS OF SODC: None

PLANNING DECISIONS MADE SINCE THE LAST MEETING:

P18/S3799/HH: for development work (new front porch) at 12 Bakers Piece, Kingston Blount. GRANTED.

P18/S3768/HH: for development work (new front porch) at Hester’s Cottage, Kingston Blount. GRANTED.

P18/S0001/FUL: for a development of six detached dwellings and four apartments by St John Homes (Thames Valley) at B4009/Village Road, Aston Rowant. Refused by SODC, and DECISION UPHeld BY PLANNING INSPECTORATE ON APPEAL.

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 idea of the Neighbourhood Plan (NP), including the concepts of identifying / allocating sites for houses and protecting Green Spaces was promoted by ARPC on the basis that the emerging South Oxfordshire Local Plan (SOLP), in 2016, sought such housing sites from smaller villages, like ours, and penalised villages without such a NP. Since that time SODC has struggled to provide evidence that it could satisfy the 5-year housing supply required by central government, and, as a consequence, villages without a NP were more vulnerable to the whims of developers promoting sites that may, or may not, have found public favour through the NP process.

In December 2018, all of the above changed. The need for a 5-year land supply for housing became a 3-year supply and the revised version of the SOLP more than met that requirement, without the need for smaller villages to make a contribution through NP land allocations. The new SOLP also strongly promotes high density housing on any allocated or infill housing sites, densities far greater than any ever seen in this Parish. The SOLP is now the subject of public consultation and, by the end of March, will be submitted to the Secretary of State for approval. While this process could yet take a long time (all of 2019?), it means that SODC's housing policy no longer requires smaller villages to allocate housing land or even to produce a NP.

The rules by which the NP Steering Group operate are therefore changing, and, rather than pre-empt the SOLP by promoting land when there is no longer an obligation to do so, or by accepting densities which are unlikely to be appropriate in Aston Rowant or Kingston Blount, the SG has decided to put the NP on hold for three months. We will continue to prepare a document which looks to safeguard our Green Spaces and to set benchmarks by which the future of the Parish might be assessed, but we will, at least for now, revise our consideration of the housing situation by following SODC's lead and by not allocating land. It means that, until the new policy is confirmed and while the district land supply holds true, new housing in smaller villages will be limited to infill on small sites only, as was the case before, albeit at densities that may still be more than we'd like.

It may appear that, with these changes, the NP has become irrelevant and that the Steering Group has wasted its time. This is not the case. There is a lot more to the NP than just housing and we need to follow that through. At our next meeting on 9th April, we will review where SODC's housing policies stand and carry on regardless.

Mark Thackeray, Chairman – Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

np@astonrowant.org.uk www.astonrowant.org.uk/neighbourhood-planning

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MARY WESTON

We were sad to report that Mary had died in our last issue, and that her funeral took place at St. Peter and St. Paul on the 8th November 2018.

Mary's eldest daughter, Jana, introduced the service. In her words: "I will always remember my mother as a woman with a can do attitude. She wanted to do everything, be everywhere, even when her health made things much more difficult. Her curiosity, her sense of humour and, above all, her kindness, were traits which made her such a special, special woman. She was a lioness with her children and grandchildren. Open, modern, and never judging. When faced with a family drama, she had the strength to carry you through and make you feel safe again, that things would be alright."



Mary had supported several local and national Arts organisations and it was therefore appropriate that the service included wonderful music sung by a Garsington Opera choir. Yvonne Riley, Mary's great friend, spoke with great affection at the funeral: "First and foremost Mary's life revolved around her family. Her life with Garry and their six children was busy and fulfilling and both she and Garry loved it when they bought the farm where they could all relax and spend weekends and holidays together. Her children's achievements at school, university and in their chosen careers made her immensely proud.

She had a great love of horses and spent many a chilly Saturday or Sunday supporting her beloved Caluca – secretly feeding him Polo mints as a treat. He knew exactly what was in store when he saw Mary coming!

She adored her grandchildren, each one delighted her and she cherished them. She was so looking forward to her eldest granddaughter's wedding next year, her first grandchild to marry."

Mary was often described by one of her oldest friends as having the backbone of a general, indeed daughter of a knighted New Zealand war hero, who lost his legs towards the end of the Second World War, she too showed courage, and an uncomplaining attitude about anything that was thrown her way. She was very modest and yet as soon as she was free to do so, she lavished her generosity on those she cared about.

Unbeknownst to her family she also gave to smaller causes close to home, the school, the Sydenham Cricket Club and church amongst many others. She was very close to her parish in Aston Rowant, and going to church regularly was very important to her. She enjoyed coffee and cake at the WI as much as going to a grand opening in London, she would go to the Thame Cattle market and watch sheep being sold just making the most of everyday life. Her elegance and sense of adventure were legendary, even doing an art trip to Paris the week before she died. Her vitality, warmth and interest in people around her, from her neighbours to those who worked for her never diminished. She was a kind and generous friend to so many people and will be greatly missed.



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DUCK RACES, SNOWDROPS & CREAM TEAS

Duck Races, Cream Teas & Snowdrops!
Fiveways, Church Lane & Aston Rowant Church.
2pm – 4pm Sunday 10th February

*Duck Races Free. Organised jointly by ARPC Footpath and Amenities Group and AR Church.
Proceeds from the cream teas for church funds.*

Everyone is invited! 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 do 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, Aston Rowant Parish Council
07767 647714



HUNGER LUNCH

A hunger lunch will be held on Monday 25th March in aid of the Steppin' Stone Centre in Oxford.

Please note the change of venue. This year it will take place in the church of Saint Peter and Saint Paul, Aston Rowant, from 12.30 to 2pm.

All are welcome for a simple lunch of soup and bread; cash donations and gifts of dry and tinned foodstuffs will be gratefully received by this excellent charity, caring for the homeless in Oxford.

Rona Knight

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 6th February there 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.

On the 6th March there will be a talk by Mick Poultney on 'Compost ready within a month'. This should be very informative and useful to all those gardeners who make their own compost.

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

Snow Drops & Cream Teas

Little ones will love the Duck Races and everyone will love the Cream Teas! Proceeds go to help support the Church. (See page 19.)



A Warm Welcome to the Village

We would like to extend a very warm welcome to Peter Ebberson and Margot Fulford who have moved to 13 Icknield Close with their assorted pets from High Wycombe.

Chilterns Walking Festival

The Chilterns Walking Festival is a 16-day programme of guided walks and special events taking place from 18 May to 02 June. There will be an exciting programme of over 80 guided walks and special activities led by expert local guides.

Discover favourite locations, landscapes and larger-than-life personalities – from Iron Age settlers to modern day food and drink producers.

The full programme will be out in mid March, but in the meantime you can find highlights and further information at:

www.visitchilterns.co.uk/walkingfest or on Facebook at ChilternsWalkingFestival

Hunger Lunch

Don't miss this Hunger Lunch taking place at Aston Rowant Church this year on Monday 25th March in aid of the Steppin' Stone Centre in Oxford. (see page 19)

Full Circle at Aston Rowant School

This is an intergenerational initiative open to anyone over 50 who would like to spend a lunchtime once a week with students from Aston Rowant School. They meet every Thursday to have lunch and chat and get to know each other – building confidence, friendship and understanding between the generations. For more information see page 32 or go to www.fullcircleoxon.org.uk

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ASTON ROWANT SCHOOL NEWS

February marks 'Internet Safety Week' at Aston Rowant. Safer Internet Day is held globally on Tuesday February 5th with the theme this year being: 'Together for a better internet. Last year Safer Internet Day was the biggest yet with more than 1000 organisations and schools getting involved to help inspire, a national conversation about using technology responsibly, respectfully, creatively and critically. We will be holding a Learning Exhibition in school on Thursday 7th at 2.30pm for parents and visitors to come and have a look at our Safer Internet work. Classrooms will be open from 2.30pm if you would like to come along.

We are delighted to have received news of our schools progress data. This data places us 3rd in County (340 schools) for progress in Reading and 5th in County for progress in Maths. We are very proud of this achievement. All the staff at school work incredibly hard to ensure the children make rapid progress as they move through our school. If you would like to come and see our school in action, please don't hesitate to phone our school office on 01844 351671 to book an appointment.

We are looking forward to our annual RSPB birdwatch which we will be holding in school on February 15th. The children are getting birdwatch ready by dusting off binoculars and looking forward to spotting new birds in our school grounds. Have a look at our website for photos and updates www.aston-rowant.oxon.sch.uk.

Mrs Roberts

Head Teacher

Aston Rowant C of E Primary School



Clerk to the Board of Governors

The Governors are seeking to appoint a new enthusiastic colleague to join our friendly school as soon as possible.

Experience as a Clerk to Governors in a primary school would be an advantage but is not essential. Training is available.

Hours of work are flexible and total approximately 25-30 hours pa. The role involves providing administrative support for 5 meetings pa (4 weekday evenings, 1 afternoon meeting during term time) and ad hoc support between meetings.

Remuneration to be agreed.

Further information about the Board of Governor is available on the school website www.aston-rowant.oxon.sch.uk/governors.

If you would like to discuss the role further please contact the Chair of Governors, Claire Rogan on governors@aston-rowant.oxon.sch.uk or telephone the school office to make an appointment.



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CHILTERN'S CONSERVATION PROJECT



The largest ever conservation project in the Chilterns has been awarded a National Lottery grant of £2 million. The ambitious project to restore and enhance the wildlife habitats, landscape features and cultural heritage of the Central Chilterns, called The Chalk, Cherries & Chairs Landscape Partnership Scheme, is spearheaded by the Chilterns Conservation Board and will also work to educate and inspire communities to become protectors of their local heritage and landscapes.

The five-year scheme features a number of individual but interweaving projects across three key themes: Wildlife & Landscape, Heritage & Landscape and People, Communities & Landscape. Key aims include:

Protecting declining wildlife – The Central Chilterns is home to a wide range of wildlife such as butterfly species including the rare Chalk Hill Blue and the Duke of Burgundy, and strong populations of bird species including Corn Bunting, Yellowhammer and Marsh Tit. In the last 20 years Chalk Hill Blue populations have declined by 6% and the Duke of Burgundy by 20%, and since 1970 farmland bird populations have declined by over 50% and woodland birds by 25%. Chalk, Cherries and Chairs will support habitat management to protect the areas that these species rely on.

Reinvigorating Chilterns Orchards – Once a mainstay of the Chilterns, providing vital seasonal work for locals, a supply of fresh fruit for nearby London and other surrounding towns and a beautiful tourist attraction, the once common cherry orchards have all but disappeared. The declining orchards will be rejuvenated and the annual cherry festival celebrating the area's renowned produce will be revived through the scheme.

Solving the Mystery of Grim's Ditch – Presumed to be an ancient route-way spanning 30km, Grim's Ditch is a real mystery. When was it built? What was it for? Why are there gaps in it? Pottery finds suggest that it dates from the Iron Age (c. 700BC to AD43), but we don't know why – was it just a boundary, or did it have a defensive use? Was it originally all connected, or are the gaps deliberate? Further research will help to solve the mystery.

Uncovering the biodiversity in the headwaters of the Chilterns – At first glance, the Central Chilterns appears to have a rather dry landscape, but it is home to a number of small streams and ponds that are yet to be fully investigated. The scheme aims to identify and map the biodiversity of the freshwater features of the area. (cont.)

CHILTERN'S CONSERVATION PROJECT

Revealing the untold history of the Chilterns' chair Bodgers – Throughout the 19th and 20th centuries the woods of the Central Chilterns provided vital resources for families within the area to make a living. The scheme will uncover what life was like to woodland wood-turners known as 'Bodgers', and also allow people to reconnect with their craft heritage through events, demonstrations and even trying it out for themselves.

Supported through the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), High Speed Two Ltd through the Community Environment Fund (CEF) and Wycombe District Council through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), the project will leave a lasting legacy of improved conservation and land management, partnership working, skills, volunteers, and engaged and aware communities caring for the future of wildlife and their heritage. Volunteering, learning, digital media and providing small grants to encourage community initiatives, will run across all the projects of the scheme.

Ros Kerslake, Chief Executive of HLF said: "As well as being part of a nationally protected Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty –, the Central Chilterns has a wealth of heritage stories dating as far back as the Neanderthal hunter-gatherers of the Paleolithic era and continuing right through to the present day. We are thrilled that with money from the National Lottery we are able to fund Chalk, Cherries and Chairs to preserve this important natural heritage for future generations, allowing them to forge stronger connections to the fascinating history of the area, and create their own stories through the scheme."

Commenting on the award, Kath Daly, Countryside Officer said: "Over the last two years a strong partnership of organisations, ranging from UK-wide charities to local community groups, has united to help plan Chalk, Cherries and Chairs. We are absolutely delighted that we have received this support, thanks to National Lottery players. This major partnership will provide opportunities for people to get involved and volunteer; to increase and improve wildlife spaces; and for communities to learn, create and take action for heritage."

To find out more please visit the Chilterns AONB website.
www.chilternsaonb.org





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The juniors at Aston Rowant Cricket Club had another successful season during 2018.

Around 90 juniors signed up during 2018 and this year we started All Stars Cricket, an ECB initiative that sees players at 5-7 years old having their first taste of cricket. This was very successful and will continue in 2019.

Some of the older U9s played in matches using a softer cricket ball, and for many this was their first experience of playing cricket. Most junior cricket matches are played on weekdays and start at 6pm and are played during May to July, so fingers crossed for another summer like 2018!

Last year the U9's, U11's, U17's and the Girls team reached their league final with the U9's and U11's being crowned league winners.

Training is every Friday evening and starts around Easter and finishes at the end of August, exact times and dates will be confirmed nearer the time.

The bar is open from 6pm until 8.30pm (ish!) each Friday night. This has become very popular with parents to enjoy a drink whilst the training is on, a great way to start the weekend off!

If you have a boy or girl that is interested in joining the juniors at ARCC for the first time, email me at juniors@astonrowantcc.com and I will send you more details.

Nigel Revill

Aston Rowant Junior Secretary
07841 828009

BONFIRES

Bonfires can be a fire hazard, a health risk and a nuisance to others. But they are not prohibited by any bylaws. If you must have a fire:

- Think of your neighbours before lighting a bonfire.

- Do not light a bonfire within an hour of dusk, as temperature inversion conditions will keep the smoke near the ground level.

- Check that the conditions are not too windy.

- Carry out the burning as quickly as possible.

- Use dry material.

- If your neighbour's are in their garden and you think they will be affected don't have it.

- If your neighbour's windows are open, call and tell them you are having a bonfire, so they can close them.

- Do not add any household waste and do not leave a bonfire unattended.

- Be aware of neighbour's wishes and try not to cause offence.

Alternatively, you can compost as much garden rubbish as possible. A properly built compost heap will be able to deal with most garden waste. And you can obtain garden waste recycling wheely bins from South Oxfordshire District Council, 01491 823000. They are emptied every two weeks.

For more information and clarification call Environmental Health on 01491 823214 or go to www.defra.gov.uk, where A Review of Bonfire Smoke Nuisance Controls is available.

VOLUNTEER LOCALLY!

Use your skills and experience to make a difference to the lives of young carers.

There's lots of ways you can get involved – befriending, fundraising, one off events, longer projects, group work or one-to-one.

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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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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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TESSA WYATT'S COUNTRYSIDE DIARY

Jan 2

Kevin the kite is perched on his scouting tree and just below to his right, his mate Katie. Eventually they will build their nest in the oak grove just a field away and raise a couple of chicks. They've been partners for at least eight years.

Jan 4

Freezing morning, and this is what I think the plants are saying: Snowdrops, "Hello Hello this looks like a nice day for it!" Winter pansies (all wilting, heads tucked down:) "You gotta be kidding!"

Jan 11

Two green finches on the feeder this morning – it's been ages, wonder where they've been ...

Jan 13

Another lovely sight – a pair of buzzards wheeling and screaming over The Green. Not a sign of any other birds, even the kites had disappeared. Not surprised, because they exude power and menace with their aerial skill and wild cries. Lovely birds which I normally only see roosting up beyond the Well End field. I wonder if it's the same pair.

Jan 16

This morning there are two wood pigeons "at it" on the lawn and a woodpecker is drumming away merrily in Plowden Park. They clearly think it's spring!

Tessa Wyatt

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LOCAL PLAYGROUPS

Sydenham Coffee Morning

The second Thursday of the month, 10.00am – 12noon, at Sydenham Old School Room. All welcome.

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

Please help to ensure that the picturesque countryside around us remains a source of beauty and pleasure for us all.

Written by the late Alan Mayo and edited by **P Gibbons.**



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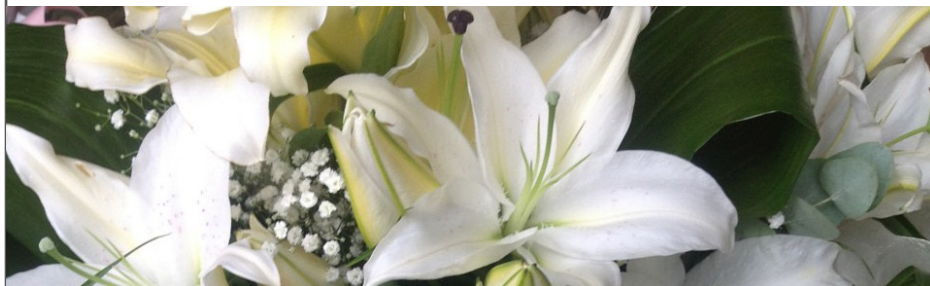
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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

FEBRUARY

- 6 Watlington Gardening Club (p.20)
- 7 Learning Exhibition Aston Rowant School (p.23)
- 10 Duck Races, Snowdrops & Cream Teas (p. 19)
- 13 Aston Rowant Parish Council Meeting, KBVH (p.16)
- 14 Sydenham Coffee Morning (p.39)

MARCH

- 6 Watlington Gardening Club (p.20)
- 13 Aston Rowant Parish Council Meeting, KBVH (p.16)
- 14 Sydenham Coffee Morning (p.39)
- 15 Copy due in for April/May Parish Notes
- 25 Hunger Lunch at Aston Rowant Church (p.19)

APRIL

- 9 Neighbourhood Plan Meeting (p.15)
- 10 Annual Parochial Church Meeting, Chinnor Village Centre (p. 9)

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 3rd Saturday of month)

SUNDAYS (1st of month)

Aston Rowant Church Family
Friendly service 10.00am

**Copy for the April/May issue
is due on 15th March.**

Please email to
sarahparishnotes@gmail.com