

JUNE

- 3 Sydenham Fayre (p.27)
Flower & Crafts Festival, St Andrews (p.26)
- 6 Craft & Coffee Morning, Aston Rowant Church (p.43)
- 8 Sydenham Coffee Morning (p.43)
- 10 Christian Aid Concert (p.8)
- 13 Meet the Author, Robin Nixon Pompa (p.25 & 31)
- 14 ARPC meeting, Aston Rowant Church, 7.30pm
- 17 Latin American Jazz night at the Shepherd's Crook (p.32)
- 25 Open Garden at the Old Vicarage (p.12)

JULY

- 1 Howden Jones (p.10-11)
- 2 Aston Rowant Village Fete (p.13)
- 11 Craft & Coffee Morning, Aston Rowant Church (p.43)
- 15 Reggae Night at the Shepherd's Crook (p.32)
- 16 Church Tours & Cream Teas (p.9)

REGULAR DATES

MONDAYS

Kindergym morning Thame
Zumba 6.30pm KB Village Hall

TUESDAYS

Kindergym morning Chinnor
Bell Ringing 7.30pm Aston Rowant

WEDNESDAYS

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

THURSDAYS

Smurf-fit 9.30am, Watlington
Toddler Church 11.00am St. Andrew's Church

FRIDAYS

Tiddlypeeps 9.30am Chinnor
Senior Circuits 10.00am Watlington

SATURDAYS (1st & 3rd of month)

Soul Space 5.30pm Crowell Church

SUNDAYS (1st of month)

Aston Rowant Church Family
Friendly service 10.00am

ASTON ROWANT, KINGSTON BLOUNT & CROWELL

PARISH NOTES



Stitchwort on Church Lane,
photograph by Emma Wynn

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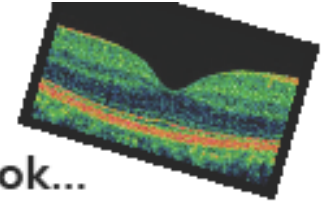
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Cover photo: This photograph of stitchwort in Church Lane was taken by Emma Wynn, a renowned botanist, who was in Aston Rowant visiting her brother and sister in law David and Debs Brown.

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

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Committee Room only £8.50 per hour
Children's Parties (daytime) £40.00 (3-4 hours)

For Non-Residents of the Parish of Aston Rowant

Monday–Sunday & Bank Holidays

Main Hall (8am–midnight) £15.00 per hour
Committee Room only £9.50 per hour
Children's Parties (daytime) £50.00 (3-4 hours)

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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 610 610
SODC Planning	01235 422600
Reporting Fly-tipping	03000 610 610
SODC Environmental Department	01235 422403
Village Hall Hire/Bookings: Andrea Tinson	07391 139707

LOCAL CHURCH CONTACTS

Rector

Revd Maggie Thorne
The Rectory, Chinnor OX39 4DH
01844 354626

Parish Administrator

Louise Heathcote csarc@btinternet.com
Chinnor Church Office, OX39 4PG 01844 352472

Associate Clergy:

Aston Rowant

Rev'd Joan DeVal 01844 35340
The Rev'd Des Foote 01844 355945
The Rev'd Dr. Brian Griffiths 01844 355953
Tessa Wyatt 01844 351165

Crowell

The Rev'd Maggie Thorne 01844 354626
Jo Whitfield 01844 355263

Churchwardens

Aston Rowant: Jenny Flynn 01844 352345, Jeremy Wilcock 01844 761119
Crowell: Jeremy Peters 07711716614, Andy Warman 01844 351909

Retired Clergy Supporting Us in our Parish Serena Hutton 01844 354173

PCC Treasurer Michael DeVal 12 Oakley Road, Chinnor OX39 4HB 07807 967452

For arrangements for Baptism, Confirmation & Marriage please contact the Parish Administrator (see above).

Methodist Services – Station Road, Chinnor

Roman Catholic Services – St Joseph's Thame Fr Mark Logorio 01844 212860



Aston Rowant Church by Louise Heathcote

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

LOCAL PLAYGROUPS

And things to do with young children



CRAFT & COFFEE MORNINGS

At St Peter & St Paul, Aston Rowant

Every second Tuesday of the Month (6th June, 11th July) 10am – 12noon – 6th June. For Mum's, Dad's, carers and of course children of all ages.

KINDERGYM

www.kindergym.co.uk

Thame and Chinnor on Monday and Tuesdays mornings

TIDDLEPEEPS

www.tiddlypeeps-chinnor.co.uk

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SYDENHAM COFFEE MORNINGS at The Old School Hall.

Thursday 8 June 10.00am – 12noon, all welcome

'TODDLER CHURCH' at St. Andrew's Church, Chinnor

Thursdays at 11.00am (during school term time)

Story-time, songs, bubbles and toys!

PULSE HOLIDAY CLUB

Chinnor, August 24-25 (see page 37)

SYDENHAM FAYRE

Saturday 3rd June 12:30-4pm

ASTON ROWANT VILLAGE FETE

Saturday 2nd July 12-2.30pm

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

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A LETTER FROM OUR RECTOR

Dear friends

I'm delighted to say that the building of the new Rectory has begun. There was a long pause between the archeological dig last year when Saxon walls were discovered and various bits and pieces of artefacts had to be removed and the lines of walls documented, but the build itself is now well under way. Hopefully, it will all be complete by the autumn.

I'm reminded of several stories about building in the Bible: the building of the Temple in Jerusalem by King Solomon, the parable of the wise man who built his house upon a rock (and the foolish one who built his on sand) (Matthew 7. 24-27/ Luke 6. 46-49) and the building of the tower of Babel (Genesis 10. 9-10). This was a massive, grandiose construction and its builders intended it to reach heaven. The story goes that the whole world had only one language at the time, so everyone could understand each other. God saw the tower that was being built and perceived what a powerful force the people's unity of purpose created. In his wisdom, God saw that the people were building a monument to themselves to draw attention to their abilities and great achievement and that this could only lead them away from him. As a result, he confused their language and caused them to speak in many languages so that they couldn't understand each other. The plans failed and the people scattered over the whole earth. The point of the story is that a unity of purpose which has its roots in human ambition and selfishness can be destructive.

June 4th this year is the day when the Church celebrates its birthday with Pentecost (Whitsun), the coming of the Holy Spirit. In the Pentecost account (Acts 2. 1-13), the Spirit descends as tongues of fire and everyone present starts to speak in diverse languages. Oddly, those who were present and who came from many other countries, heard and understood what was being said: everyone was speaking of the power of God. This seems to me like Babel in reverse. What happened there confused the world by dividing it into separate countries and languages, resulting in misunderstanding, rivalries and conflict. Pentecost is the beginning of the reunification of humanity, but its central meaning concerns the descent of the Holy Spirit promised by Jesus enabling his presence and mission to continue in the world today.

Pentecost doesn't feature much in the calendar, except for church attenders, but with the imminent General Election and the continuing negotiations towards leaving Europe, perhaps we can all learn a lesson from it: that we need to pull together for understanding and lasting peace and be unified by the love of God.

On the next page is one of the prayers that the Church of England has published in advance of the Election.

Every blessing

Maggie

Cont....

Heavenly Father

source of all truth and wisdom, who knows and loves the whole creation,
watch over our nation at election time:
that truth may prevail over distortion,
wisdom triumph over recklessness
and the concerns of every person be heard.

Lord Jesus,
who chose the way of the cross in the Garden of Gethsemane,
help us to turn our backs on self interest
and to support policies that sustain the poor, the vulnerable and the frightened
people of this world.

Holy Spirit,
who brought understanding among myriad peoples and languages at Pentecost,
give to all your people a passion for peace
and inspire us to work for unity and co-operation throughout the world and in our
political life together.

Amen.

CHURCH DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

June

10th **Christian Aid Concert**, 7.30pm, St Andrew's

11th, 18th & 25th **Pilgrim: A Course for the Christian Journey**

The Pilgrim Course will run on Sunday afternoons at 4pm in Chinnor.
It comprises eight different aspects of our faith which each divide into six
sessions. This is intended for any who wish to be confirmed, those who
would like to do some gentle Bible study and for any who want to explore
their faith a little more. Each session lasts for approximately 1.5 hours and
will include refreshments. For further details, please contact Maggie.

18th (and the 3rd Sunday each month) 10.00am Children's Sunday Club at St.
Andrew's Church Hall, Chinnor (Behind the Village Centre)

25th **Open Garden & Afternoon Tea**, 2pm- 5pm, The Old
Vicarage, Aston Rowant



TESSA WYATT'S COUNTRY DIARY

A selection from May's Facebook posts

8 May

This evening I saw a hedgehog scrambling through the long grass on The Green. He arrived at the road, walking belly low, then saw me (or caught my scent, they are very short sighted) and like a tiny Citroen Diane, engaged his hydraulics, lifted up his undercarriage and trotted off towards the safety of Jasmine Cottage's front border. Such a rare sight these days and a joy.

11 May

Two little partridges led the way down the track to the field this morning. One was big, the other very small and extremely fast. The big one had a bit of a problem keeping up. I wonder if it was thinking it must train harder ...

13 May

Lovely surprise - more thrushes this year than I've seen for ages. A pair in our garden, another at Aston Park Stud, and another in the churchyard. This is on top of the long established one in the garden at Jasmine Cottage. I'm sure there are lots more, which is very encouraging as numbers have been falling dramatically in recent years.

14 May

Summer is a-coming in. Speedwells and Welsh poppies on our path.

18 May

Great to have rain, but golly it made the grass grow! John had to go out in a dry spell to mow, and meanwhile I am losing my 16 Year War with the ground elder which has grown a foot in one day! And why does it insist on growing through other plants?! Grrr!

20 May

There are at least two pairs of hares at the stud, both somewhere in the four bottom fields by the Icknield Way. They've become quite bold and I even see them hopping about while I'm doing Bobby. Can't wait to see the babies!

Tessa Wyatt



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CHURCH TOURS & CREAM TEAS



St Peter & St Paul
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Sunday 16th July, 2017
2.00 – 5.00 pm

Guided tours of this ancient church
Climb the tower and see the bells
Enjoy a delicious cream tea

No charge – but contributions welcome
All children 8 years and over welcome
to climb the tower – (no flip flops!)

CROWELL CAR PARK

'If you go down to Crowell today you may have a big surprise.'

In the car park, the nettles and dock have gone and digging is underway. It is a large undertaking and I am doing it in easy sections. I have managed to do the middle section and the box hedging cross is in situ. I have filled the inner section with plum coloured slate and lemon primroses mark the positions of head, sponge, hands, pierced side and feet. I plan to complete, and plant, each section as I manage to dig and remove nettle tap roots.

Most of the plants will have a 'church' or 'family connection'. There are lots of poppies, roses, clematis and woodland plants. I also plan to plant herbs like rosemary, thyme, marjoram and many others which villagers and visitors will be invited to come and pick for their own culinary needs.

There have been many positive comments from walkers, pub visitors and especially villagers who are pleased to see the rough ground put to good use. It will be a work in progress for many months, so please bear with us as Andy and I gradually dig and plant each section.

There will be some surprises along the way and I intend to produce a plan of the plants used, their names and positions. Meanwhile, I am having the time of my life.

Maggs Warman

howdenjones

2017

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Photo: Joe Fennell

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LAUNCH OF VICTIMS FIRST

The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Thames Valley, Anthony Stansfeld, has launched his 'Victims First' brand and website. Victims First is the new overarching title for the PCCs work in providing support, increasing accessibility and improving services for victims of crime across Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire.

The first initiative under 'Victims First' is a new online resource which has advice on what to do and how to get help if you've been a victim of crime, including information on what you should expect from the police and other criminal justice agencies if you report the crime.

The focal point of the website is a directory which allows victims to find relevant support to help them cope and recover from the impact of the crime. Members of the public will be able to use the website to refer themselves directly to the PCCs own support services, using the online form, or find information and contact details for other organisations. This support is available regardless of whether or not the victim has reported the crime to the police.

The website has information and advice to help people to recognise hidden crimes such as modern slavery, domestic abuse, including coercive control, and hate crime. Victims First also provides a third party reporting mechanism for hate crime so that those who don't want to report directly to the police can either complete a reporting form on the website or call 0300 1234 148.

The PCC has undertaken extensive work to improve support for victims of crime, including commissioning new services for young victims, victims of sexual violence, a victim-led restorative justice service and a local support service to assist other victims.

Victims First encompasses all of this work and will expand over the coming year, with the PCC reviewing his services to ensure that victims continue to have appropriate support in place, are able to easily access it and that agencies, including the police, are victim-focussed.

Anthony Stansfeld, Police and Crime Commissioner said: "I believe it will be a valuable resource not just for victims but also for people and organisations that come into contact with victims of crime who can now use the website to find and refer people to an appropriate service. Victims First will continue to develop over the next year with plans to create a single referral doorway, a specialist counselling service and community signposting points with the aim of simplifying access and improving support for victims."

The website is: www.victims-first.org.uk.



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HOWDEN JONES AT THE VILLAGE HALL

Kate Howden and Paul Jones will be playing at Kingston Blount Village Hall on the 1st of July. They are singer-songwriters, based in The North West of England, who have that special magic that captivates the audience in a unique, intimate atmosphere. Stripped back, gritty, often poignant, sometimes humorous, observations that reflect life's ups and downs, their show is a family friendly mixture of songs, tunes and stories that has the audience joining in, singing along, and laughing as they share their travelling experiences through their music and northern-tinged banter. Specialising in playing at Village Halls and Community Venues, they celebrate England in all its guises good and bad, particularly rural village life, including nature and the seasons.

With powerful harmony, skilled musicianship and beautiful arrangements, they write all their own material and between them play, guitar, mandolin, fiddle, banjo and bodhran.

Their show has been described as, 'relaxed and enchanting' and 'an absolute delight.' 'Their joy, talent and good humour are infectious.' 'Music for all ages.' You can find out more information, see an up-to-date list of tour dates and hear examples of their music by visiting their website: howdenjones.co.uk.

Tickets are available from **Richard Ewen**
richardewen@hotmail.com
07879497865

BELL RINGING

An update from Aston Rowant tower:

We are delighted to welcome Catherine to our band who came along to learn the skill of bell ringing and has progressed very quickly. She is now ringing for Sunday services which means that we have a band of six to enable us to ring all our bells. Well done Catherine, thank you and keep up your good progress.

If anybody else wishes to learn, you will be very welcome to come along to practice nights held on Tuesday from 7.30 until 9pm. During Holy week we held our annual supper at the Peacock Inn where we were joined by friends from Chinnor.

An outing to Swanage and Corfe castle took place recently for ringers in the south Oxon branch organised by Kay Bartholomew. We rang at three church towers and had a ride on a train — diesel, not steam! A most enjoyable day. Twinning with other towers in our area have taken place, it is always interesting to visit different towers and to host ringers.

Our annual general meeting is taking place very shortly so there will be an update in the next news letter.

Please contact the tower captain **Robert Newton** 01844 352926



ASTON ROWANT SCHOOL HOUSE TRUST

The Aston Rowant School House Educational Trust was set up 1992 when the former teacher's house, belonging to the Aston Rowant Church of England Primary School, was sold. The money from the sale was invested to raise income which is available to assist with education.

The precise rules are that the Scheme allows the Trustees to apply the income:

- a) In or towards promoting the education of pupils attending the Aston Rowant Church of England Primary School.
- b) In or towards promoting the education (including social and physical training) of persons under the age of 25 years who have at any time attended the school or who are resident in the Parish of Aston Rowant.

Some residents in the parish may either have children or are themselves eligible to obtain a grant. To be considered you need to apply in writing to the Trustees who will consider applications at their bi-annual meetings in May and November. Each application will be considered on merit – there is no guarantee. If you would like more information please contact:

Peter Lambert 01844 352617

or **Mary Williams** 01844 353927.

PULSE HOLIDAY CLUB

Pulse, the holiday club, organised jointly by the churches in Chinnor, will be held on Thursday 24th August and Friday 25th August in the marquee on Whites Field.

This year it will be run along the lines of 'Messy Church' as a club for families with children of all ages, although the planning is still in its early stages. Children will need to have a parent or carer over the age of 18 with them. It is proposed to have pre-school and babies' area, a selection of crafts and activities based on Biblical themes for any ages and half day mini-projects for the Year 6 children and teenagers. There will be a quiet area available. Families will be asked to register for specific half days, running from 10 – 1 or 12 – 3, joining together for packed lunches, between 12 and 1. Each half day will have a different theme. There will be plenty of games equipment available. As with previous Pulse holiday clubs, there will be some singing, and 'Wake and Shake' and time to sum up the theme for the session.

Without enough voluntary helpers, Pulse cannot happen. With the changed way of organisation, it is hoped that there will be less pressure on those who have previously been group leaders. Could you help us out on these two days? Would you like to know more about Pulse and why the format is being changed? Please speak to me about it!

Above all your prayer support is needed that the ideas will gel and that the right number of volunteers will come forward.

Liz Thorpe 01844 351565

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A festive poster for the Aston Rowant Village Fete. The background is light blue with colorful bunting flags (stars, stripes, polka dots) hanging across the top and sides. A large pink cloud-like shape in the center contains the text 'Come and join the fun' in a script font, followed by 'ASTON ROWANT' in large purple block letters and 'Village Fete' in a pink script font. Below this, the text 'SAVE THE DATE' is written in large black block letters, followed by 'SUNDAY 2nd JULY 2017' in large pink block letters and '12:00pm - 2:30pm' in blue block letters. A teal banner at the bottom contains the text 'A Quintessentially English Village Fete' and 'Games, Stalls and fun for all the family' in a script font. At the very bottom, a small pink ribbon banner says 'ALL PROCEEDS TO ASTON ROWANT SCHOOL'.

Come and join the fun

ASTON ROWANT
Village Fete

SAVE THE DATE

SUNDAY 2nd JULY 2017
12:00pm - 2:30pm

A Quintessentially English Village Fete
Games, Stalls and fun for all the family

ALL PROCEEDS TO ASTON ROWANT SCHOOL

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 Andy Green	Kingston Blount	01844 353819
Councillor Trelawney Hill	Aston Rowant	01844 353051

District Councillors:

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

County Councillor

David Wilmshurst	01844 354106	david.wilmshurst@oxfordshire.gov.uk
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MP

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

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

Village Hall Hire/Bookings

Andrea Tinson	07391 139707	bookings@kbvh.org
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Play Area –Please contact

Stephanie Johns	01844 350311	07939 030102
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Aston Rowant Cricket Club Chairman

Paul Humphreys	07880 791022
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VIEW FROM THE BOUNDARY

The season got off to a good start for the senior teams. All five teams won on the first week of season to bring home 120 points across all five divisions we play in and costing the Chairman £75 in jugs of beer as a celebration! The following week the trend continued with only the 2nd XI losing to local rivals Tiddington.

As I write this piece, we are top of the league in four out of five leagues. However, we had our own back against Tiddington the following day when we beat them in the Village knockout competition (VKO) by six wickets. The victory in the VKO means we are playing Oxford Downs on 28th May at home again. It was great to see a few new faces from the local area enjoying the cricket at the club and we look forward to welcoming more locals to the clubhouse in the coming months.

I make no apology for sharing the clubs successes and invites to matches on the KBAR Facebook group, and will continue to do this throughout the season. Tom Condon who has started the season in fine form with the bat has been rewarded with a call up for the Oxfordshire senior side away at Devon, well done Tom, that is now two players in the county senior team from Aston Rowant with Leo Bethall a permanent fixture in the side.

The junior sides have had a good start to the season in the Oxfordshire and Aylesbury leagues and long may this continue. Results and match reports are regularly posted on the club website www.astonrowantcc.com. The Bar area in the club has been refurbished and we are now offering a different range of draught lagers, cider and bitter along with an improved selection of wines and prosecco at competitive prices.

We are also pleased to announce we can now take contactless, Apple pay and chip and pin payments for bar sales. If you are out for a walk on a weekend, why not call in for a drink you will be made very welcome.

Rob Holt



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ASTON ROWANT PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT

A year ago, Andy Green, then chair of the Parish Council, noted in his annual report that the year had seen a lot of change. This past year has been no different - the pace of change has, if anything, picked up. Peter Gibbons and Andy Green both decided to step down from the Council. Both have made significant contributions to the Council and parish life over recent years and I would like to thank them for their contribution. Sadly in February we also lost Gordon Crossley who died after a short illness. As I noted in Gordon's obituary in the last edition of the Parish Notes, he was a stalwart of the village - in addition to being a Parish Councillor he served on the Village Hall Committee for over thirty years. Finally Steph Johns, our Parish Clerk for three and a half years, moved to become Sydenham's Clerk. Our loss is their gain - I would like to thank Steph for her work during her time with us and, in particular, for her support during my first six months as Chair.

On the credit side, I am pleased to welcome Lawney Hill as a new Councillor and Tracy Lambourne as the new Parish Clerk. Both took up their new roles in the autumn and are already contributing much to the work of the Council. We do, however, have two vacancies on the Council. The vacancies have been advertised but, in the event that insufficient parishioners petition for an election, the Council will be able to co-opt to fill the two vacancies. If you are interested in joining the Council, please contact Tracy Lambourne or myself.

Much of the work of the Council is reported on elsewhere in these notes so, rather than replicating those reports, I shall highlight a number of other points. Firstly, Oxfordshire County Council and South Oxfordshire and Vale of the White Horse District Councils have submitted a proposal to the Cabinet Office to establish a unitary authority covering the whole of Oxfordshire except the city of Oxford itself. The new authority, if the proposal is approved, would be active from April 2019. It is anticipated that some elements of authority would be devolved to local area boards to promote greater involvement in decision making by local communities. However, the size of the areas (and hence the level of influence we may have as a parish) are yet to be determined.

The volume and speed of traffic through the parish continues to be an issue, particularly along the B4009. A number of properties on the High Street in Kingston Blount have been damaged in accidents - consequently traffic calming in Kingston Blount will be a major focus for the Council in the coming year. That is not to say that it will be our only focus - we are aware that speeding is an issue along many of the roads in the parish and we will look to take steps to encourage traffic to slow down through our villages. We have a number of signs that can be stuck to the side of wheels bins for parishioners to use and have written to Oxfordshire County Council requesting that a warning sign alerting drivers to horse riders are installed on Kingston Hill.

The Council kept well within the budget for 2016/17; allowing for committed spending invoiced in March there was an underspend of around £2500. This sum will

be transferred to reserves. The cost of any traffic calming measures have to be met by the parish. The Council agreed to commit a sum from reserves to spending on traffic calming but will also investigate other options such as the Community Infrastructure Levy. The Council felt that it would be prudent not to run the reserves too low and so agreed to increase the precept to maintain the reserves at reasonable level.

It is disappointing to report that the Cherry Tree remains closed. There was some initial interest in purchasing the pub as a going concern which did not come to fruition and I understand that there has been some recent interest. However, given the length of time the Cherry Tree has been up for sale, we are not optimistic that it will continue as a pub.

Finally, I should like to thank all the Councillors, volunteers who serve our community, for their work during the course of the year. Volunteers are the lifeblood of communities such as ours and I would like to acknowledge and thank all those that have contributed to parish life by organising events, by helping out at the Cricket Club, or by working on the committees and groups that underpin the various activities. Often this work falls on a dedicated few so it was pleasing to see a number of new faces come forward. I hope the trend continues and others get involved to keep our Parish the place it is.

Peter Tinson, Chairman ARPC

ASTON ROWANT PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

Meetings of the Parish Council were held on Wednesday 12th April 2016 and Wednesday 10th May 2017 at 7.30pm in Kingston Blount Village Hall.

At the time of writing, the next meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday 14th June in Aston Rowant church.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

P17/S0667/HH. Erection of garden shed onto a slab base in the back garden (conservation area consent) at Chiltern Cottage, Pleck Lane, Kingston Blount.

P17/S1082/HH. Erection of detached garage with home office. Erection of sun room at Oxford Lodge, London Road, Lewknor (A40).

P17/S1669/HH. Single storey rear and side extension at 1 Aston Park, Aston Rowant.

PLANNING DECISIONS OF SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL:

P17/S0494/HH. The Park Cottage, Chinnor Road, Aston Rowant. Erection of two-storey side and front extensions and single-storey rear extension. **GRANTED.**



A LETTER FROM THE HEADTEACHER

We love learning outside the classroom!

‘A Forest School is an innovative educational approach to outdoor play and learning.’

The philosophy of Forest Schools is to encourage and inspire individuals of any age through positive outdoor experiences.

At Aston Rowant we encourage children to participate in engaging, motivating and achievable activities in our beautiful outdoor environment. Each child has an opportunity to develop intrinsic motivation, sound emotional and social skills.

Our children learn outside the classroom on a regular basis and through play, have the opportunity to learn about the natural environment, how to handle risks and most importantly to use their own initiative to solve problems and co-operate with others.

These activities run throughout the year, learning outside in all weathers. Children use full sized tools, play, learn boundaries of behaviour; both physical and social, establish and grow in confidence, self-esteem and become self-motivated.

At Aston Rowant, we aim to develop:

- Self Awareness
- Self Regulation
- Intrinsic motivation
- Empathy
- Good social communication skills
- Independence
- A positive mental attitude, self-esteem and confidence

Children, and more and more, adults need time to thoroughly explore their thoughts, feelings and relationships. This time and reflective practice develops understanding of the world, the environment and everything within it through the use of emotions, imagination and senses.

If you are able to help with our outdoor learning activities, please contact Mrs Roberts and our school office.

Mrs Eve Roberts

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

The Shepherd's Crook



The Shepherd's Crook is a traditional British Free House.

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@theshepherdsCrook

Opening Hours
Pub Hours: 12:00am to 11:00pm
Kitchen Hours:
Lunch: 12:00-2:30pm (Tuesday- Saturday)
Dinner: 6:00-9:30pm (Tuesday - Saturday)
Sunday Lunch: 12:00-4:00pm

P17/S0577/HH 2 The Rise, Kingston Blount. Erection of a replacement front porch. **GRANTED.**

P17/S0667/HH. Erection of garden shed onto a slab base in the back garden (conservation area) at Chiltern Cottage, 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 the Parish, Aston Rowant Parish Council

CROWELL PARISH NEWS

Crowell Parish Meeting has a new Chair and Deputy.

At the AGM on 22 March Lucy Newcombe and Jane Heywood volunteered to take on running the Parish Meeting, taking over the reins from Jeremy Peters. As well as exercising statutory functions, Lucy and Jane are hoping to increase the discussion, and action, on community affairs and to invigorate Crowell's community spirit. With these aims in mind Lucy and Jane are open to ideas from Crowell residents for community events and things that we can do ourselves to improve or beautify our small village. Any and all help will be gratefully received.

Hopefully by the time you read this, if you live in Crowell you'll have been visited by Lucy and Jane as part of their door-to-door introduction rounds. If not, then please look out for us.

If you wish to engage with Lucy and Jane on any Crowell issue, or if you haven't received any emails from us regarding Crowell, then please drop us a line (crowellmeeting@gmail.com) or you can often find one or other of us in The Shepherd's Crook on a Friday evening (especially now the Aunt Sally season has started).

Lucy Newcombe and Jane Heywood

ARPC FOOTPATH AND AMENITIES GROUP

ANNUAL REPORT 2016-17

Parish Councillors: Peter Hetherington (Chairman), Lynn French

Co-opted members: Di Eaton, Graham French, Jan Gooders, Tony Hughes, Julian Knight, Peter Gibbons

Advisor: Mike Eaton

The group have met twice during the year. They always welcome any proposals from parishioners as to how we might improve the Parish and its environment.

Walks

We organised two parish walks during the year. Only 20 walkers joined us. These events were joint ventures with Thame and Wheatley Ramblers. The one from Kingston Blount Village Hall attracted 14 walkers, mostly from the Parish. It was 7.5 miles. However the New Year's Day walk from Wendover only had 6 walkers - none from the Parish. It was a horrible rainy day so perhaps not surprising there were not many.

Improving the Parish Environment:

Aston Rowant Discovery Trail

The circular walk Trail remains very popular bringing more trade to the Leathern Bottle. Peter led Oxford HF (Holiday Fellowship) round the trail in June. We continue to see people from all parts of the country walking the route holding print outs taken off our website Also a group of over 40 Ramblers were seen recently.

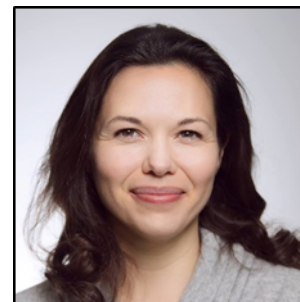
The Trail is now on Trip Advisor so if you walk it please post your comments. It all helps with our publicity. You can also get the route map, directions, and points of interest by searching Aston Rowant Discovery Trail on Google.

Update on Five Ways, Church Lane, Aston Rowant.

The Parish Council is managing the area around the stream at Fiveways for Nature. The pathway through the trees has been improved and lengthened. More dead and weak trees have been removed, and hazels pollarded all of which allows light. The willows planted by the stream have grown well and soon the school children will be encouraged to cut them and use the branches for weaving wicker baskets.

Mike Eaton has taken the lead in redesigning the area and in organising the planting of wild flowers, all of which are indigenous species. He has recruited several volunteers to help with this work including Lynn and Graham French but he needs more help please.

More of the ground ivy has also been removed. This has encouraged the snowdrops to spread and aconites and wood anemones have started to flower in the same area along with snowflakes, marsh marigold and a few fritillaries. We have also



ROBIN NIXON POMPA

Local Author

Many of you will have seen Robin Pompa out and about in the village with her three young children. But you may not know that she has also recently published *Allergy-Free Kids: The Science-Based Approach to Preventing Food Allergies*. Robin, who received a degree in neuroscience and behavior from Columbia University, used her back-

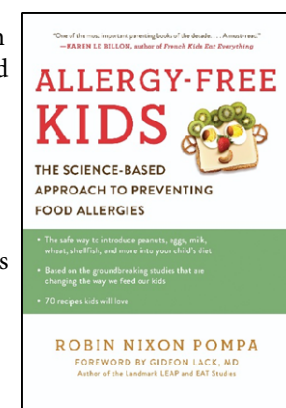
ground as a health and science journalist and her firsthand experience as a mother feeding three young children to write this book which has already received international press and excellent reviews.

When her infant daughter joined the 6 million children diagnosed with life-threatening food allergies, Robin ended up in the waiting room of Dr. Gideon Lack, author of the groundbreaking LEAP (Learning Early about Peanut allergy) and EAT (Enquiring about Tolerance) studies published by the *New England Journal of Medicine*. Dr. Lack's findings show that—diametrically opposed to previous recommendations—many children can avoid food allergies by regularly eating allergens such as eggs, nuts and dairy from early infancy until kindergarten. This life-changing approach is being embraced by the medical community, especially for nuts, and is reflected in new guidelines from the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology, and other major medical associations.

Having experienced as a parent the struggle of food allergies, Robin wanted to help other families avoid this daily stress, and reintroduce variety and joy to family meals. Robin carefully explains that instead of avoiding eggs, nuts, and other allergens, most parents should introduce them into their children's diets, 'early, carefully and often, for at least the first five years of life.' It is the secret to protecting children from what can be lifelong, life-threatening battles with food allergies. *Allergy-Free Kids* also includes seventy simple and delicious kid-friendly recipes to help parents integrate unfamiliar allergen foods into a child's diet. Divided by allergen, the book contains sections on Eggs, Peanuts and Tree Nuts, Cow's Milk, Sesame, Wheat, and Fish. It also discusses other foods, such as kiwi and soy, which are increasingly causing allergic reactions.

New medical guidelines aim to put an end to all wheat-free, nut-free, egg-free, and milk-free diets, and *Allergy-Free Kids* provides the cutting-edge framework to replace the avoidance approach.

She will be holding a Meet the Author event on Tuesday 13th June at 8pm in KB Village Hall. Tickets are £3 payable on the door.



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FAMILY HAIR SALON

planted wild daffodil bulbs, both English and Welsh strains, and there has been a good display.

We have planted primroses but we need more so if you have some spare in your garden come and plant them at Fiveways please.

We now appear to have a resident stoat and fish in the stream which has been partially dammed to raise the level of the water. We also have a pair of lesser white-throat warblers that return every spring.

We are getting increasing numbers of daily visitors to the site and with the help of a donation from a Parishioner are about to install a new seat to add to the rustic bench already in situ.

*Please read Mike Eaton's reports in The Parish Notes that appear every other edition and provide much more detail. There is a lot of progress being made and a lot of further activity to come. **Mike needs more volunteers, if you are able to help please contact him: 01844 351238***

Working with Aston Rowant School

We continued to take a school class round Aston Rowant Village, one afternoon once a year, talking about the history of the area and we led them down to Fiveways to make discoveries of their own, and setting them a quiz. It seems to be very popular and something we would like to continue. Chinnor U3A have also asked us to lead a similar Outing for one of their groups.

Working with Aston Rowant Church.

Snowdrops and Duck Races at Fiveways and Cakes at Aston Rowant Church was repeated again in February. It again was a very busy day with more children taking part in the Duck Races this year as we worked more closely with the school in promoting the event. And a lot of cakes were eaten and teas drunk in the church. We have already agreed to repeat it next year on Sunday 11 February.

Rights of Way

Oxfordshire County Council Countryside Services gave us one free cut of path vegetation in the centre of the villages. We understand that this will continue as will their seasonal request to farmers to reinstate footpaths after ploughing.

Grants and donations of £15,000 have been promised for upgrading part of the surface of the Footpath AR7 which is the Moors footpath between Kingston Blount and Aston Rowant. The grant is from TOE2, Oxfordshire's Trust for the Environment with donations from Kingston Blount Brook Street Fair, Hillwerke Trust, and a land owner and funding from Aston Rowant Parish Council. Another grant has been applied for and further private donations sort. A total of £21,048 is required and it is hoped we will be able to complete the work in school holidays either at the end of May or this summer.

ARPC are urgently seeking donations please. We all love using this path and we need to improve the surface for walking in the wetter weather. **Please contact me if you are willing to make a donation.**

Entrances to the Villages

Once again the Parish Council warmly thanks Simon Coulon, who continues to plant, maintain and water the flower tubs in the villages. He gives his time, the plants and materials free of charge and the results are there for us all to appreciate. Thanks, Simon.

Litter and Fly Tipping

Litter and fly tipping is a constant problem along the roads and we are regularly in touch with SODC and their contractor, Biffa, to have this cleared.

We joined the National Great Litter Pick in March. Eight Parishioners helped fill 18 sacks of litter collected from the A40 lay by at the top of Aston Hill and from Kingston Hill road verges! Litter is a huge problem across the whole country.

I'd also like to thank our Parish litter picker, Robyn Leinster, and also Tony Hughes and Kate for volunteering to litter pick on the sides of the busy roads in the parish.

Peter Hetherington

01844 353296

NOTES FROM THE ALLOTMENT

Spring is here!



I am writing these notes on our Editorial deadline (May 15) and it is raining steadily!

The sole topic of conversation amongst gardeners this Spring has been the weather – particularly the lack of rain. It has been not only a dry Spring but also a cold one and we had quite a severe frost only last week!

(Yes, I can remember playing cricket some forty years ago on May 8th and it had snowed over night and we arrived at the ground in Leicestershire with a white covering across the outfield at 10.30 a.m. By 12 noon we were sun bathing!)

Even if those of us who were prepared to water our young plants, had done so, the cold nights held back their growth. I have been waiting two weeks to get my plants on to my allotment, but I am hopeful it will happen this week.

During this enforced break I decided, following direction from 'the Management', to create some raised beds at the front of the house to use as a salad garden. Salad crops need fortnightly sowing and frequent picking to enjoy them at their best. I am not always in a position to achieve this on my allotment — there's too much cricket to watch at Lord's, The Oval or my beloved Grace Road.

The idea of having salads and herbs immediately to hand during the Summer is attractive. (My discussions with Management for next year's project suggest that a decent sized fruit cage may well be introduced.)

Holding back my allotment crops until mid-May on my sheltered patio does not, however, appear to have adversely effected them and it has certainly saved a lot of watering on the allotment.

Once everything is planted I anticipate some lovely warm sunshine and standing on my allotment watching everything grow. Warm rain from mid-May then some glorious sunshine in June, followed by warm, gentle rain from 2 to 4am each evening.

We don't ask for much, us allotment gardeners!

Dick Ewen

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

Jane Barker, Mindfulness courses in the Chilterns

New Monthly Mindfulness Group

'Here and Now' is a monthly Mindfulness group exploring how attending to the present moment can help us deal with stress. Next dates:

Tuesday 20th June 'Noticing emotions,' Tuesday 18th July 'Mindful Attitudes.'

At Bledlow Village Hall 7:30-9pm.
£10. To book a place email Jane at mindfulminds@yahoo.co.uk

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We outlined our goals and objectives in the last Parish Notes and we would be very interested in YOUR feedback and comments.

The goals agreed by the Parish Council were:

1. To provide existing and future residents with the opportunity to live in a decent home.
2. To protect the surrounding countryside, landscape, designated open spaces, farming and ecosystems.
3. To reduce road traffic congestion and improve road safety.
4. To promote new development for housing, leisure, community facilities and employment opportunities in accordance with locally defined needs.
5. To maintain the character and vitality of the parish's villages and hamlets and to enhance access to the countryside.
6. To promote high quality in the design of new buildings conducive with the need to reduce pollution and decrease energy-consumption.

How do you feel about these goals? What is important to you? What else would you like us to consider?

In moving forward to design the Plan, we want to be guided by our villagers, so give us your responses and comments in the way that best suits you, so that your views are represented.

Reply by email to np@astonrowant.org.uk and also let us know if you would like to be kept informed of future developments by email by being added to our Mailing List.

Or write your notes on the sheet overleaf and drop off or post to either:
Hester's Barn, High Street, Kingston Blount OX39 4SJ,
or
6 Dashwood Court, Aston Rowant, OX49 5TA

Please, give it some thought. We can't do this without your help!

Aston Rowant Parish Council Village Plan



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MEDITATIVE WALK AROUND THE CHURCHYARD, DELICIOUS CREAM TEAS,
LOCAL ARTISTS AND CRAFTERS

SAT 3 JUNE - SUN 4 JUNE 2017 - 1pm – 6pm

MARK LORD Acclaimed photographer



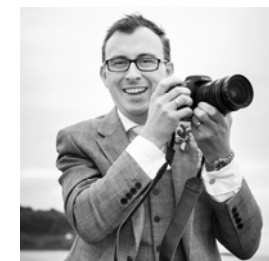
Local photographer Mark Lord, who is a regular advertiser in the Parish Notes, won praise at the prestigious Pink Lady Food Photographer of the Year contest this April. His atmospheric image, *An Early Start in the Field*, taken at a leek farm in Tiddington, was acclaimed in the Food in the Field category. There were more than 8,400 photos entered in the competition and Mark's photo, taken on a misty morning was one of only 150 images in the final of this category.

Mark, who started his own company Mark Lord Photography in 2012, said: 'When I walked across the field at 8.30am the scene looked idyllic - the sun was starting to break through and I started to take my pictures of George Bennett who was working at the farm.'

The evening, compered by journalist and food critic, Jay Rayner, took place in front of more than 400 people at the Champagne Taittinger reception, many of whom had flown in from across the world for the occasion.

More can be found on Mark's FB page including link to radio interview on BBC Oxford. www.facebook.com/MarkLordPhoto

He is currently offering portrait vouchers worth £75 to local residents for £25. See opposite for contact details.



NOTICEBOARD

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

Aston Rowant Fete

Aston Rowant Fete is back again this year on Sunday 2nd July from 12-2.30pm on Aston Rowant Green. There will be all the fun you'd expect from a traditional village fete including: Pimm's tent and BBQ, tombola, cream teas, bouncy castle, children's games, face-painting and lots more!

We will be running an auction of promises through the generosity of villagers and local businesses. Last year's prizes included a morning at Lawney Hill Racing, half a day boat cruise, use of private tennis court for a month and a family portrait session, so it's well worth putting your bids in!

The Fete is organised by volunteers from the PTA at Aston Rowant Primary School and is one of the school's main fundraising events of the year. This year all proceeds will go towards a new climbing frame and play area for early years pupils.

We hope that you will support us – see you there!

Jack Hudson's Borneo Trip

Thank you to everyone that has helped and supported me in fundraising for my trip to Borneo in July. I am so grateful for the generosity of the people that I have worked with. However, I am now having to raise additional funds for injections that are very expensive (and hurt!) So I'm asking again if you could contact me on 07714 136911 if you have any small jobs or babysitting that I could do.

Thanks very much, **Jack Hudson**

Advertising in the Parish Notes

The Parish Notes are published every two months and delivered to every household in the area. Please contact Julian Knight if you are interested in advertising. jknight652@aol.com

1/4 page—£10 or six for £40

1/2 page—£15 or six for £60,

Full page—£30 or six for £120

Goodbye to Helen, Nick, Oscar & Hannah Day!

They will be leaving in June to fly back to Australia. It's been wonderful having them here. Oscar and Hannah have really enjoyed the local Montessori and, although it was always their plan to stay for two years, we will be sad to see them leave.

NOTICEBOARD



Concert for Christian Aid

A concert for Christian Aid will be held at St. Andrew's Church, Chinnor 7.30pm Saturday 10th June performing works by Vivaldi, saint Saens, Faure, Weber, Debussy and others. Tickets £10 (to include Pimms/fruit punch and nibbles) from manor Stores, St Andrew's Church Office, or by 'phoning Maggie Thorne on 01844 354626.

Newcomers to Kingston Blount

Melanie Sears and her partner Daniel Cuadrado, who grew up in the village, have recently moved to Kingston Blount. They have a lovely dog Archie and have been very impressed with the warm welcome they've received so far.

Sydenham Fayre

Is taking place on Saturday 3rd June from 12.30-4pm. With helicopters, Morris dancers, cream teas and a great BBQ, it's the perfect afternoon to relax and catch up with friends.

Jo Gent's Quiz Night

Jo posted a huge 'Thankyou!' on the KBAR Facebook page to everyone who came to the quiz in May. 'We raised a fantastic £1400 for The St Mark's Hospital Foundation! A special Thankyou to all of the local businesses who supported the event with raffle prize donations: Tom White of Whiteway Exercise, Christmas Common preserves, The Wheatsheaf, Shapers, Bonner and Babbington, Monera, Recollections, Rebellion brewery and all our lovely friends for their contributions. The prize table was laden!'

Meet the Author

Kington Blount's Robin Pompa will be in KB Village Hall on 13th June to introduce her new book *Allergy Free Kids* and discuss her science-based approach to preventing food allergies (and help with picky eating.) See page 31 for more information about her book.

Open Garden

One not to miss! The garden at the Old Vicarage will be open on Sunday 25th June with teas at the church next door. (see p. 12)