

VOL XXXXV No 3

JUNE/JULY 2018

ASTON ROWANT, KINGSTON BLOUNT & CROWELL
PARISH NOTES



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(Hillwerke Recreational Trust Reg Charity No. 279656)

Charges for Hire – Effective 1st January 2018

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Monday–Sunday & Bank Holidays

Main Hall (8am–midnight)	14.00 per hour
Committee Room only	£8.50 per hour
Children’s Parties (daytime)	£40.00 (3-4 hours)

For Non-Residents of the Parish of Aston Rowant

Monday–Sunday & Bank Holidays

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

All weekend hire – Fri mid-day to Sun mid-day

Resident £500; Non Resident £620

All day hire – 8am to midnight

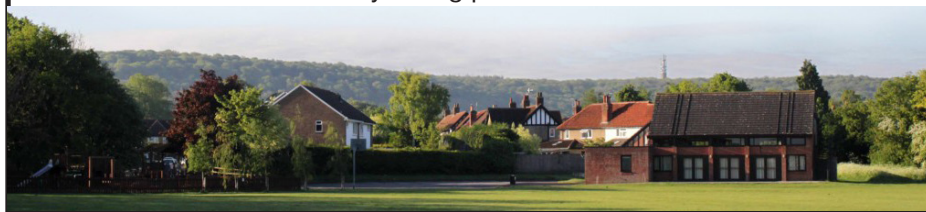
Resident £210; Non Resident £225

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KINGSTON BLOUNT VILLAGE HALL DIARY DATES

Zumba

every Monday 6.30pm
07834 994699

Kettlebell Abs

every Wednesday 6.00pm
07801 553019

Yoga with Rachel Hawkins

every Wednesday 7.00pm
07552 185499

USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

CAB Local office www.adviceguide.org.uk	01844 214827
Chinnor Village Centre	01844 353733
Church Tower, Aston Rowant: R Newton	01844 352926
Dial-a-ride (for people with mobility problems)	01869 327048
Highways Pothole Hotline	0845 3101111
Highways Street Light Hotline	0800 317802
Library-Chinnor	01844 351721
Oxon County Council www.oxfordshire.gov.uk	01865 792422
Pleck Wood: Les Martins	01844 353968
Police-Thame (Thames Valley)	101 or 999
Poor's Hillock Allotments: Lavinia Martins	01844 353968
Porch: S Thompson	01844 351334
Porch: J Rooksby	01844 352320
Post office-Chinnor	01844 351214
Schools:	
Aston Rowant C of E School	01844 351671
Icknield Community College Watlington	01491 612691
Lord Williams School Thame	01844 210510
Mill Lane School Chinnor	01844 352106
St Andrew's C of E, Chinnor	01844 351353
SODC Main Customer Services	01235 422422
SODC Refuse/Recycling	03000 610610
SODC Planning	01235 422600
Reporting Fly-tipping	03000 610610
SODC Environmental Department	01235 422403
Village Hall Hire/Bookings: Andrea Tinson	07391 139707

LOCAL CHURCH CONTACTS

Rector to the United Parish

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

Assistant Curate

The Rev'd Dr. Jacky Barr

Parish Administrator

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

Associate Clergy:

Aston Rowant

The Rev'd Des Foote 01844 355945
The Rev'd Dr. Brian Griffiths 01844 355953

Crowell

The Rev'd Maggie Thorne 01844 354626

Churchwardens

Aston Rowant: Richard Boarder 07795 681263, Jeremy Wilcock 01844 761119
Crowell: Maggie & Andy Warman 01844 351909

Retired Clergy Supporting Us in our Parish

Serena Hutton 01844 354173

PCC Treasurer

Michael DeVal12 Oakley Road, Chinnor OX39 4HB 07807 967452

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

Methodist Services – Station Road, Chinnor

LOCAL CHURCH SERVICES

Aston Rowant Church Services

First Sunday of every month – 10am Family Service
2nd, 3rd, 4th Sundays 10am – Holy Communion
Fifth Sundays see notice board in Church porch or village notice board
1st Tuesday of every month 8am – Morning Prayers

Crowell Church Services

1st Sunday of the month 6pm – Evensong
2nd Sunday of the month 10am – Eucharist
1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month – Soul Space at 5.30pm
Listening Ear – St Andrew's Church, Chinnor every Wednesday 7.30– 9.30pm

PASTORAL LETTER

Dear friends

Jacky and I attended the Diocesan Clergy Conference last week and we thought you may like to here just a little of what went on.

Jacky - Initially the idea of a conference with 300+ clergy was a daunting one but when I arrived, it dawned on me “oh yes, I am one of them!” so the conference as a whole did serve to further strengthen and confirm my identity as an ordained minister. Of the talks that I went to, I was particularly struck by the clarity of Rachel Mash. She spoke about how we have lost the theology of creation, and that its been over taken by a focus on the theology of redemption. Rachel pointed out the first commandment was actually to take care of the Earth and a lovely phrase she used was that “nature contains God’s fingerprints”.

Maggie - This was a week absolutely crammed with stimulating talks, workshops and worship, all focussing on +Steven’s 3 Cs: contemplation, courage and compassion. For all of us, we’ll be taking away some ideas for our parishes and also things for our own personal development. Rachel Mash spoke passionately about creation and for a Parish that’s aiming to be ‘green’ and ‘eco-friendly’, it was affirming to hear an ‘expert’ speaking on the very things we discuss and implement at Chinnor Churches Go Wild, but more than that, she described global warming in metaphorical terms as the Titanic. The earth is heading for an iceberg (she estimates within 5 years) and we’ll either scrape the sides of the ship or steer directly into disaster. We have to make a response at the individual and corporate level and we have to do it now.

Loretta Minghella challenged us to be more compassionate. With so, so much to concern us in a suffering world, and with so much on our doorstep, I for one can feel overwhelmed and unsure of even how to pray for every situation where suffering is reported. With television showing us suffering on a daily basis, we perhaps become hardened and immune to it. Loretta spoke so calmly and courageously about her own stories of suffering and several others which she had found herself working with, that the sound in the room wasn’t that of being able to hear a pin drop, rather it was the sound of the stifled sobs of 320 clergy.

All 320 preferences of worship seemed to be catered for. The mix was high and low, Taize, plainchant, worship songs, traditional hymns, pointed psalms, metrical psalms. We sang in English, Setswana and Latin and sat alongside delegates not just from Oxford, but also from the link dioceses of Kimberley and Kuruman, Växjö and Southern India. Our prayer groups reflected the breadth of the Anglican Communion and with senior clergy also participating, there was a refreshing lack of clericalism.

No doubt our experiences will gradually unfold in our sermons, our small groups and in our conversations with all of you.

Every blessing

Maggie

(Please note this Letter has been edited to fit. A full version can be found in the June United Parish Newsletter)

PARISH COUNCIL & LOCAL CONTACTS

Parish Website

www.astonrowant.org.uk

Parish Clerk

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

Parish Councillors:

Chairman Peter Tinson	Kingston Blount	01844 352817
Vice Chair Peter Hetherington	Kingston Blount	01844 353296
Councillor Matthew Day	Kingston Blount	01844 351300
Councillor Lynn French	Aston Rowant	01844 350154
Councillor Steven Sowerby	Kingston Blount	01844 351392
Councillor Trelawney Hill	Aston Rowant	01844 353051
Councillor Marcus Wodzynski	Aston Rowant	01844 355228

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

Planning applications have continued to dominate Parish Council business. Two major applications in Aston Rowant have both been rejected by South Oxfordshire District Council but others have been received in the interim. Planning was at the core of a difference of opinion between a group of parishioners and the Council – these were aired at a public meeting held on 1 May but were not wholly resolved. Consequently a Parish Poll – effectively a vote of confidence in the Council - has been triggered. Representatives from both the Parish Council and the Action Group are continuing to talk to resolve outstanding issues but, at the time of writing, the poll is expected to take place.

The legislation governing the calling of a Parish Poll requires the Parish to fund it. The precise cost will not be known until after the poll has taken place but it is anticipated that it will be around 5% of the annual precept. The Council discussed a range of cost saving options at its meeting in May but opted to monitor spend during the course of the year to identify in year savings to meet the cost, with the option of drawing on unallocated reserves if required.

The Neighbourhood Plan continues to make good progress with the site assessments made by the Steering Group being reviewed by an external agency. The same agency are considering the question of housing need. The Group are now in a position to start drafting the final document and so the point when the planning decisions can be informed by the Plan gets ever closer.

The Kingston Blount Street Fayre took place on the second weekend in May and both the Fayre and the Barn Dance in the evening were well attended. The Fayre and the forthcoming Aston Rowant Fete both raise funds for a number of local causes and so benefit the community as a whole. I would like to thank the organisers of both events for their work and also the generosity of local businesses in donating prizes for raffles and auctions.

Finally, after their successful season last year, Aston Rowant Cricket Club began life in the first division of the Home Counties league with a fine win away at Oxford. I know the Club would welcome supporters from the parish so, if you are looking for a restful Saturday afternoon, watching cricket in the sunshine in a beautiful setting is an excellent option!

Peter Tinson

Chairman, Aston Rowant Parish Council

ASTON ROWANT PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

Meetings of the Parish Council were held on Wednesday 11th April and Wednesday 9th March in Kingston Blount Village Hall at 7.30pm. At the time of writing, the next meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday 13th June in Kingston Blount Village Hall.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

P17/S4288/FUL – Proposed conversion of existing buildings via adaptation and partial demolition to create new dwelling. Provision of new garage. (landscaping plan received 29th March 2018) at buildings adjoining Hill Cottage, High Street, Kingston Blount, OX39 4SJ. Amendment No 1. Acknowledgment was made that some changes have been made, these were not sufficient to change our previous response which remains: **SHOULD BE REFUSED.**

P17/S4443/FUL - First floor rear extension over existing, single storey rear extension. Conservatory extension to rear, change of use from A4 (public house) to C1/A3 (bed and breakfast and cafe) (revised application form, site plan and parking plan received 31st January 2018 and as amended to enlarge and relocate proposed cafe area) at The Cherry Tree Park Lane Kingston Blount OX39 4SL.
SHOULD BE APPROVED.

P18/S1355/T28 – application for installation of 1 x DSLAM equipment cabinet in olive green on the junction of Stert Road and B4009 in Kingston Blount (south of the boundary to the property Apsley Cottage, but not connected to that property) – **NOTED.**

P18/S1357/FUL – Erection of three dwellings. At land adjoining Orchard House High Street Kingston Blount OX39 4SJ (also known as the Donkey Field).
TO BE DISCUSSED

Open meeting to be held on the 5th of June at KB village hall from 7:30 to 8:30

PLANNING DECISIONS OF SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL:

P17/S3661/FUL – The erection of 5 two-storey 4-bedroom residential dwellings with associated access off Aston Rowant Road, including parking, landscaping and all enabling and ancillary works (Amended by plans 22/01/2018 to alter car ports) by Rectory Homes Ltd - **REFUSED.**

P18/S0163/HH – Two-storey side/rear extension to existing dwelling, replacing existing single-storey element (as amended by plans received 15/03/2018 reducing the size of the proposed extension) at 9 Icknield Close, Kingston Blount – **GRANTED.**

P18/SS0001/FUL - Erection of six detached dwellings and four apartments, together with access, highway alterations, parking, landscaping, drainage and amenity space by St John Homes (Thames Valley) Ltd at: Land at the junction of Aston Rowant Road and Chinnor Road Aston Rowant. **REFUSED**

PLANNING DECISIONS MADE SINCE THE LAST MEETING:

None.

Please note that all Planning Applications for the Parish can be found on the Parish Council Website: <http://www.astonrowant.org.uk/Planning>

All past minutes of Aston Rowant Parish Council (Including the Annual Parish Meeting) can be found under: <http://www.astonrowant.org.uk/meetings.html>

Occasional updates concerning the Parish are added to the Kingston Blount / Aston Rowant (KBAR) Facebook page. To join, login to Facebook www.facebook.com, search for 'KBAR' and ask to join the group.

Tracy Lambourne

Clerk to Aston Rowant Parish Council

TRAFFIC CALMING

The Parish Council are committed to delivering traffic calming in Kingston Blount and Aston Rowant. I have been working with the Highways Officer at OCC on this, but it is proving to be a rather slow process due to a detailed continued assessment of safety and viability. However we are making progress and with each step we get closer to producing a scheme that will both work to slow traffic through the village and be safe for all road users.

In late January a trial chicane was set up at the entrance to Kingston Blount, this was attended by Oxfordshire County Council officers, the police and Aston Rowant Parish Council. The trial went well, but following this the design engineer, who is responsible for highway safety, had some concerns and has since asked that the design be modified slightly by moving the chicane more towards the village. This will improve visibility and help reduce speeds next to the junction with Kingston Hill road where many accidents happen. It should also help reduce speeds on the High Street, as drivers will have less distance to speed up before the bend next to the Cherry Tree.

At the time of writing it has been agreed that another trial will be held in late May to ensure the design works in practice and is safe.

Hopefully the trial has been a success and the next step will be to have the OCC planning department approve the plans for construction.

I know many residents living on the High Street are very concerned about cars speeding through the village. If anyone would like to be part of a Residents' Traffic Calming Group, please contact me either via the Parish Clerk or my email address below and we can meet on a regular basis for updates and to share the tasks involved.

Matthew Day

Aston Rowant Parish Council

ARPC Footpath and Amenities Group Annual Report

Parish Councillors:

Peter Hetherington (Chairman), Lynn French, Steven Sowerby

Co-opted members:

Di Eaton, Graham French, Jan Gooders, Tony Hughes, Peter Gibbons

Advisor:

Mike Eaton

The Aston Rowant Parish Council Footpath and Amenities Group have met twice during the year. They always welcome any proposals from parishioners as to how they might improve the Parish and its Environment.

Walks

We organised three parish walks during the year. 58 walkers joined us. These events were joint ventures with Thame and Wheatley Ramblers. One walk was at New Year from Christmas Common and it attracted 32 people probably wanting to walk off their Festive season excesses.

Improving the Parish Environment

Aston Rowant Discovery Trail

The circular walk Trail remains very popular bringing more trade to the Leathern Bottel. Peter is now leading walks for the Chiltern Conservation Board's Walking Festivals and will include the ARDT in their Autumn programme.

Update on Five Ways, Church Lane, Aston Rowant

The Parish Council is managing the area around the stream at Fiveways for Nature. Please read Mike Eaton's reports in The Parish Notes that appear every other edition. There is a lot of progress being made and a lot of further activity to come. Mike needs more volunteers. So if you are able to help please contact him.

(Mike Eaton Tel 351238.)

Working with Chinnor and District U3A

Di Eaton, Jan Gooders and Peter led a historical stroll round Aston Rowant Parish in August and they will repeat a similar but longer walking version round both Kingston Blount and Aston Rowant in May finishing at Aston Rowant Church for tea and cakes (an essential ingredient of a short walk).

Working with Aston Rowant Church

Snowdrops and Duck Races at Fiveways and Cakes at Aston Rowant Church was repeated again in February. It was an even busier day this year with more children taking part in the Duck Races And loads of cakes were eaten and teas drunk in the church.

We have already agreed to repeat it next year on Sunday 10 February. Many thanks to all the Committee and Parish Councillors who helped and especially to the Church who worked their socks off and were delighted to see the Church packed to the rafters.

Rights of Way

Oxfordshire County Council Countryside Services give us one free annual 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.

Once again we extend a big thank you to all the Parishioners, the Land Owner, and Parish Organisations (Kingston Blount May Fayre, Hillwerke Trust and Parish Council) who made donations, backed up by substantial grants from Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment and the Garfield Weston Foundation to pay for the resurfacing of a large section of the Moors Footpath.

We ask for all horse owners not to ride on this public footpath. Their horses hooves cut up the surface. The surface will need some repair this summer because of the indentations that are developing.

We are in discussions with the Land Owner as to how the upgrade the final section.

Entrances to the Villages

Once again the Parish Council give thanks to 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.

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. 3 Parishioners helped fill a disgusting 26 large sacks of litter collected from the top of Kingston Hill road verges back to the village and 1 Parishioner collected in Aston Rowant.! Litter is a huge problem across the whole country.

We hope to repeat the same event next year but do need more helpers please.

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 throughout the year.

Peter Hetherington

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NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Steering Group is working on the first draft of the Neighbourhood Plan, aiming to have a working copy in June. This can then be put to SODC for initial comment, to ensure that we have ticked all the right boxes and followed the correct procedures. Exact timing will depend upon AECOM who are independently considering the Housing Sites Assessment, appraising the Steering Group's work and considering the question of Housing Need. The SG is working with Una and Ivan at AECOM, hoping that their timetable, normally a twelve-week process, fits in with ours, also some time in June. We hope to continue the consultation process soon after that, via the website, noticeboards, emails, letter drops, meetings and, maybe, a Q&A stall at the Aston Rowant fete in July.

The most contentious element of the NP, always the SODC requirement for small villages to increase their housing stock by 5% on sites allocated in a NP, has been affected by SODC's recent announcement that it now has a 5-year housing land supply. This could re-instate the old 2012 housing policy for small villages (infill only) or it could mean nothing. Quite where the goalposts will move to next is something of a mystery, but the NP will need to keep pace with these movements.

Recent decisions made by SODC with regard to planning applications in Aston Rowant should not affect the NP process or timetable. It remains important that the NP is completed, with full local support, so that, in the event of any planning appeals or fluctuations in the district's land availability figures, the NP is robust and carries the fullest possible weight. Residents' support for the work that the Steering Group is doing is much appreciated and essential if, together, we are to produce a blueprint for the future of the Parish to which we can all subscribe.

Mark Thackeray

Chairman – Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

EMAIL: np@astonrowant.org.uk

WEBSITE: www.astonrowant.org.uk/neighbourhood-planning

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NATIONAL GARDENS SCHEME IN KB

National Gardens Scheme Gardens Opening in Kingston Blount
Sunday 17 June 14.00 – 17.30.

Five gardens will be opening in Brook Street in Kingston Blount in support of the National Gardens Scheme Charities. The combined admission charge is £4 per head, with children free. The field parking is opposite the Town Farm Cottage Garden in Stert Road, Kingston Blount and it is free.

There will be a plant stall and teas and cakes. Plants have been propagated and cakes will be baked especially for the occasion!

All the gardens are very different but equally attractive. Come and join us for a thoroughly relaxing afternoon in the fresh country air. Please see the website for more details: www.ngs.org.uk/find-a-garden/garden/34836/

VIEW FROM THE BOUNDARY

The winter and spring period has been a very wet and eventful period for the cricket club. We had to contend with three break ins, thankfully nothing was taken. We think the villains were after cash however as it is was the off season no cash was on the premises. As result no cash is now left on the site when the club is closed and the club is encouraging all purchases to be made by card.

The winter was, according to our head groundsman, the worse he has ever known and consequently the preseason for all teams was one match and then straight in to the league season.

The first week of season saw 2 wins 2 losses and a forfeited match. The second week saw 1 draw 3 abandoned matches and 1 forfeited match.

Hopefully we will have more availability of players as season progresses enabling the club put our all five teams for the rest of the season.

The bar is now offering five beers on tap. These are Amstel, Red Stripe, Strong-bow Cloudy, Birra Moretti, and Hop House. We also stock a wide selection of bottle beers wines and spirits.

The bar is open to all parishioners and the players and club would welcome your support.

We have a number of Sunday matches taking place over the season the most prestigious of which is a match against the MCC on Sunday the 29 July more details will be published on KBAR nearer the time.

Rob Holt

KINGSTON BLOUNT VILLAGE FAYRE



The Kingston Blount Street Fayre took place on Saturday 12th May on Brook Street, Kingston Blount. Despite being very warm and sunny either side of the day, there was a bit of apprehension about the forecast but we needn't have worried, it remained mild and dry until (almost) the end and then the skies opened and it rained, and rained, and rained! Consequently, the raffle prizes that were in envelopes all had to be dried out before we could contact those who had won but were unavailable on the day to collect.

Chinnor Silver Band played throughout the day and they were kind enough to provide the music for the children of Aston Rowant School who provided some lovely entertainment with their dancing – a big highlight of the day.

We were extremely grateful for the invaluable help of 20 scouts from the 1st Radnage Scout Group of which many of our children are part of. They did a great job running the games and clearly they also had some time to explore the Fayre as two of them were lucky enough to win vouchers for the best score etc on games during the day. Our thanks to them.

We had a huge amount of support from local businesses and organisations this year and had a very long list of raffle prizes. Our thanks also go to all involved.

But mainly, our thanks must go to all of the community who helped in any way.

From donating a bottle, gift, book or cuddly toy, to purchasing raffle tickets, helping on a stall during the day or for simply coming along and enjoying themselves.

We have always tried to make the day a real community day without focus on fundraising but of course we are always eager to find out just how much was raised. Sadly, at the time of writing, the final figure is still being tallied but we will put this on the KBAR Facebook page and hopefully word will get around.

Once we know how much was raised, we will be meeting to determine how it is allocated. If there is anything local that you feel would benefit from a financial boost, do let us know ASAP so that it can be considered when allocating the funds.

The barndance was held in the evening and was almost completely sold out. It is always a popular event and the band are both excellent and very patient with amateurs which was much appreciated! We were treated to a lovely Ploughman's Supper, courtesy of Amanda Lilley and Amanda also donated a fabulous meal for 8, cooked in your own home which was sold for £275 in the auction! Thanks to her and all the other contributors to the auction.

All in all, the feeling was that this was the busiest Fayre yet and we really hope you all enjoyed it.

With warm regards,

Steph Johns

On behalf of Kingston Blount Street Fayre 2018



KB VILLAGE HALL – VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED

It is disappointing not to have had any response at all to my numerous pleas for two people to join the Village Hall committee. The vacant roles have been described in previous Parish Notes, on KBAR Facebook and on village noticeboards so I won't elaborate again here. It is really important to have a full committee to ensure the smooth running of the Hall and after the terrific community spirit demonstrated at the recent Street Fayre, I am sure there must be two or more people in the parish with a small amount of spare time they could devote to this.

I would be very happy to provide more information. Thank you.

Lavinia Martins

Hon Sec Hillwerke Trust (but not for much longer)

laviniamartins@hotmail.com

Sydenham Village Fayre & Beer Fest



Saturday 2nd June 2018
From 12.30pm - LATE

Kid's Zone & Bouncy Castle, Vintage Car Show, Prize Raffle,
Bottle Tombola, BBQ, Gift Stalls, Tea Room Cakes & Treats,
Morris Dancers & Live Music, Sydenham Bake Off, Gin &
Pimm's Tent and more...

THE CROWN INN will be hosting a 'pop-up' bar on the
village green, **PLUS** a Beer Fest in the garden including
12+ local draft ales & ciders.

Join us for LIVE MUSIC & Pulled Pork Baps

Village Fayre will be open
from 12.30pm to 4pm,
but the Beer Fest will
continue at The Crown Inn
until LATE...

Free Entry
Parking Available

SYDENHAM VILLAGE FAYRE

Sydenham Village Fayre takes place on **Saturday 2nd June from 12.30pm to 4pm.**

From bouncy castles and dogs shows to a beer fest and cakes galore, there'll be plenty of family friendly fun. This year's packed programme is bigger and better than ever. A sumptuous spread of tea & cakes will be available from the Old School Room village hall throughout the day, plus

Sydenham's own WI will be overseeing the first Sydenham Bake Off. Live Music will be taking place all day, including performances all day from the 'Syd' band, plus Morris Dancing to keep the crowds entertained and get them in the dancing mood.

The Sydenham Car Show is a new feature for 2018: a collection of special, vintage and envy-inducing automobiles to be explored and admired. And be sure to bring along your pampered pooches to compete in the annual Dog Show, as clever canines compete for the coveted titles of Best Fancy Dress and Sydenham Supreme. Dog Show classes commence from 1pm.

Mr Marvel will keep kids entertained in the Kid's Corner at 1pm, 2pm & 3pm, as well as an inflatable assault course, and pole joust, as well as an exciting Zorbing experience on the village playing fields.

The BBQ is hosted by Sydenham's own Cricket Team, and as well as the Pimm's Tent there will be a new Gin Tent this year! The Crown Inn will be hosting a bar on the village green, as well as its own 'Beer Fest' in the pub garden. The day's finale – Tug of War – will take place on the village green at 3.30pm followed by the drawing of the Raffle at 3.45pm. Tickets are now available from both The Crown Inn and The Inn at Emmington. Parking is free at the edge of the village.

For more information, please visit the website: www.sydenham-fayre.com



ASTON ROWANT VILLAGE FETE

Run by Aston Rowant school PTA, Aston Rowant Village Fete will take place on **Sunday 8th July, from 12 noon until 2.30pm.**

We hope you will join in the Bake Off competition! The theme is 'A Summer Fete,' with categories for Adults, 5-8 years and 8-11 years. Prizes will be given for 1st, 2nd, 3rd place, and for Star Baker.

At the Auction of Promises, you can bid on a Virgin Hot air balloon experience for two people, CarFest South 2018 tickets with weekend camping for two adults and two children 0-5 years, Afternoon Tea at Ivy Garden Marlow, a signed Chelsea Football shirt, and many more. Closed bids are welcome and can be handed in to the school Office. The 1st Prize for the raffle is an Apple Ipad 32GB! There is so much to see and do, we hope you will come to this quaint, essentially english fete.

Karen Bennett

Aston Rowant School PTA Chair on 07790532800

NOTICEBOARD



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

Editor for the Parish Notes

Would you like to edit the Parish Notes? My workload has increased since taking on the Parish Notes and I'm finding it increasingly difficult to give them the time that they demand. It's a great way to meet people in the village, work with a lovely team, and the Notes are a project that you can make your own, maybe even overseeing their inevitable transition from print to online. I am happy to work together over a couple issues so that the handover is smooth and easy. They are set up in both Microsoft Publisher and Adobe InDesign. They are published every two months with text and images due the 15th of the month before publication (so for the August/September issue, the deadline is the 15th July.) Please get in touch if you're interested, or have any questions at all.

Sarah Day

sarahparishnotes@gmail.com

National Gardens Scheme in Kingston Blount

Five gardens will be opening in Brook Street on Sunday 17 June from 2 to 5.30pm. (See page 17 for more details.)

Full Circle at Aston Rowant School

Aston Rowant School are looking for older people (over 50) to join Full Circle, their small, friendly intergeneration group. They meet each Thursday lunchtime to build confidence, friendship and understanding between generation. (See page 29 for more details)

Watlington Gardening Club

Our last meeting before the summer social and outings is on Wednesday 6th June at 7.45 at Watlington Town Hall. Lynda Warren will give a talk on 'A Spoonful of Herbs'. Tea, coffee and biscuits are available and all are welcome. The summer social is being held on 4th July. Details of the summer social and outings will be displayed at the meeting.

Race Night

Aston Rowant School PTA is holding a fundraiser Race Night on Saturday 9th June at Kingston Blount Village Hall from 7.30 until 11pm. Tickets are £10 and include fish and chips. There will be a licensed cash bar. For tickets please contact Karen Bennett 07790 532800 kermie1270@hotmail.co.uk



NOTICEBOARD

Sydenham Village Fayre & Aston Rowant Fete

Two summer events not to be missed! (See page 21)

Sydenham Village Fayre – Saturday 2nd June from 12.30pm to 4pm.

Aston Rowant Village Fete – Sunday 8th July, from 12 noon until 2.30pm.

Flower & Craft Festival with Cream Teas

The St Andrew's Church Flower Guild is hosting a flower festival with the theme of "What's on TV?" on Saturday 2 June and Sunday 3 June. This is being held in conjunction with the Chinnor Open Gardens. The event will again be expanded by showcasing displays of local art and crafts alongside the gardens.

Pilgrim Course

The Pilgrim Course will run on Sunday afternoons at St Andrew's Church in Chinnor at 4pm. It 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. The forthcoming dates are 10th, 17th June, 1st July. Please contact Maggie for details 354626.

Concert at St Andrew's Church

The Witchert Choral (www.witchert.org.uk) will be performing Points of the Compass with Wendlebury Winds featuring music for the Shakuhachi on Saturday 20th June at 7.30pm. Join them for a journey with music by Dvorak, Elgar, Poulenc and Rutter. Tickets are £10 in aid of the United Parish of Chinnor. Please contact Pat Haywood 352007 or Ann Millar 215632.

Advertising in the Parish Notes

The Parish Notes are an excellent and affordable way to advertise locally. They are published every two months and delivered to every household in the area. Please email Julian Knight if you are interested in advertising: jknight652@aol.com

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

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

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

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

ASTON ROWANT NATURE RESERVE

I met with Mick Vinters, the manager of Aston Rowant Nature Reserve to find out more about what they do and how we as a parish and council may get more involved and help out at with such a wonderful place on our doorstep. I walk and run through the nature reserve at least twice a week and feel lucky to watch it change through the seasons. Mick explained that the ARNR is not just a site of special scientific interest and an area of outstanding natural beauty but is also regarded as the very best example of chalk escarpment to be found, anywhere.

If you would like to know more or maybe volunteer or just visit the area with more knowledge below is some information that Mick has put together for us:

‘New Volunteers are always welcome. We undertake a range of activities here from practical habitat and infrastructure management (Woodland/scrub management projects, footpath clearance, thistle and Ragwort control, fencing, gate/sign installation, maintenance of Talking Trail and Self-Guided Nature Trail).

We have our own flock of Speckle faced Beulah sheep that require husbandry (foot trimming, shearing, moving and daily stock checks).

Wildlife recording is very important and we have a few experts that are happy to pass on their knowledge and expertise regarding bird, plant, butterfly, fungi, invertebrate, reptile survey work.

I am always grateful for photographs of the site and it’s wildlife that can be used on social media, also any local good news stories linked to the environment(see links below).

Anyone wishing to Volunteer should get in touch directly with me to discuss what opportunities there are in further detail. There are walking festival events which are bookable via our website: www.visitchilterns.co.uk/walkingfest. Later in the year there will be ‘Glow Worm Walks.’ We are also planning on some kind of ‘60th Birthday’ celebration of the reserve, which was declared in 1958. There may also be a couple of rustic chair making workshops in the future and investigations into the archaeology of the site too.

In a nutshell lots going on and we look forward to seeing you soon!’

Please contact Mick for further information: michael.venters@naturalengland.org.uk and follow our local Natural England on Twitter: @NE_Thames

Matthew Day

Aston Rowant Parish Council

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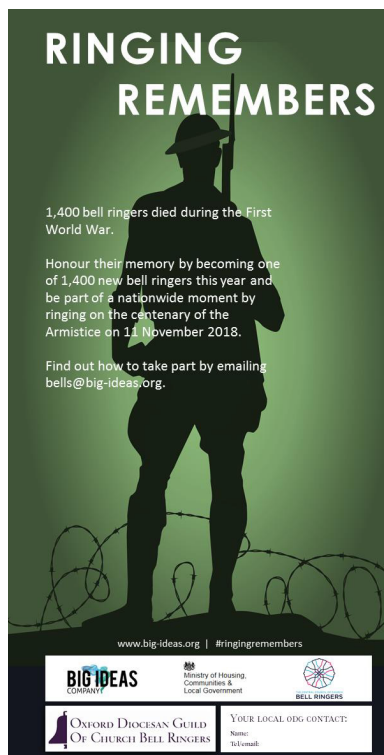
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RINGING REMEMBERS

1,400 bell ringers died during the First World War.

Honour their memory by becoming one of 1,400 new bell ringers this year and be part of a nationwide moment by ringing on the centenary of the Armistice on 11 November 2018.

Find out how to take part by emailing bells@big-ideas.org.

www.big-ideas.org | [#ringingremembers](https://twitter.com/ringingremembers)

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Phoenix Speke doing his first ringing at Aston Rowant church on Easter day

New bell ringers are urgently needed at St Peter & St Paul's Church, Aston Rowant

Our bells are rung on most Sundays before morning worship but it is the exception for all six bells to be heard. Some of the ringers travel considerable distances (up to ten miles each way) and we really need the help of people in Aston Rowant and Kingston Blount to ensure the continued success of our small but enthusiastic band of ringers.

The English tradition of change ringing has been developing and flourishing for over 400 years. Three of our bells (2nd, 3rd and 6th) are from the beginning of this era but the 4th was cast as long ago as 1450. The treble (lightest) bell was cast to augment the ring to six and since 1978 the improved bells have been rung regularly for services and national events.

There is currently a national recruitment drive to 'replace' the 1,400 bell ringers who lost their lives in the Great War a century ago. Could you be one of those recruits? Your bells need YOU!

Are you aged between 10 and 70? Can you catch a ball? Can you count from 1 to 6 and back again to 1, five times without stopping? Would you like to be part of the ultimate team activity, performing on the largest, loudest musical instruments?

You do not need to be 'religious', or musical, or good at maths, or have great strength (can you push a child on a swing?) We practise from 7.30 – 9pm on Tuesdays, tuition is free and it's a great skill for family members to learn together. Please contact me for more information or to book a 'taster' session.

Robert Newton

(01844 352926)

rhnewton@btinternet.com

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FULL CIRCLE AT ASTON ROWANT SCHOOL



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 with Full Circle!

Aston Rowant Primary School is looking for local older people to join their small and friendly **intergenerational** group.

The group meets in school for one hour every **Thursday lunchtime** (12 - 1pm) in term time, building confidence, friendship, and understanding between the generations.

The children, older adults, and a member of school staff enjoy having lunch as a group and doing various activities together, while chatting and having lots of fun getting to know each other.

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

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ASTON ROWANT SCHOOL

There was a hush around Aston Rowant School recently when the children were taking part in a sponsored silence for our chosen charity this year of the Children's Air Ambulance. Each year the School Council decide on a charity to support. Last year the after visiting the headquarters for Hearing Dogs in Saunderton, we went on to raise £182 for the charity. We have been supporting the schooling of Emran, a boy in The Gambia for 6 years now raising money with a mufti day and a giant toy and book sale. We support national charities like Comic Relief, sports Relief and Children in Need.

Each term the council organise a Whole School Council meeting so that all the children can have a voice in making our school a happy place where good learning can take place.

So how quiet were we? We raised a fantastic £475.95 added to this, mufti day £67, pens and pencils £55.50. An amazing total of £598.45 and we still have a pyjama day to come. We may be a small school, but we are big on caring.

Dee Turton

Aston Rowant School



If you would like to see for yourself the nurturing, inspiring and bespoke learning environment we offer our children please contact the office on

01844 351671 or

office.3180@aston-rowant.oxon.sch.uk

to arrange a tour with our headteacher Mrs Roberts.

www.aston-rowant.oxon.sch.uk



Aston Rowant Church of England Primary School, School Lane, Aston Rowant, Oxfordshire OX49 5SX
Tel: 01844 351671 E-Mail: office3180@aston-rowant.oxon.sch.uk



Do you want to give something back to your community and make a real difference to children?

An opportunity has arisen for a new Governor at Aston Rowant C of E Primary School. Being a school governor is a very rewarding voluntary role which offers the chance to use your existing skills and experiences (and develop new ones!) to have a positive impact on the futures of local children.

To keep the right balance in our team and enhance our community links, we are looking for someone who is not currently connected to the school as parent or staff member. You do not need prior experience of being a school governor, as training is available, but you must have the time and commitment to get to know the school and to attend approximately 6 full board meetings per year.

About us: At Aston Rowant C of E Primary School, our whole school community attach great importance to providing a warm, welcoming, friendly and supportive environment for all, where children can develop their confidence and self-esteem. In our school, children are encouraged to aspire to become the best they can be, through their academic progress, behaviour and personal development. An inspirational, individual and personalised creative curriculum is central to our teaching and learning philosophy, underpinned by our strong Christian values and our growth mind-set philosophy. We are continually striving to develop school practice to further enhance our rich and high quality education for our pupils. Included in this is our drive for finding new and exciting opportunities to promote active and outdoor learning in our glorious surroundings. We are proud of our school and look forward to sharing our vision with you.

How can I find out more about Aston Rowant CE Primary School or what being a Governor entails? You can find out more about our school and the work of our board of governors on our website at www.aston-rowant.oxon.sch.uk/governors/. More general details about the role of a school governor can be found at <https://www.nga.org.uk/Be-a-Governor/Be-a-Governor.aspx>

OK, I'm interested and would like to find out more... We would love to hear from you. Our Chair of Governors, Claire Rogan, can be contacted via the school office on 01844 351671 or clerk@aston-rowant.oxon.sch.uk



Aston Rowant Church of England Primary School, School Lane, Aston Rowant, Oxfordshire OX49 5SX
Tel: 01844 351671 E-Mail: office3180@aston-rowant.oxon.sch.uk



NOTES FROM THE ALLOTMENT

Summer is here – officially!

Do you recall that I introduced my last notes by referring to the coldest night of the year with a temperature of -12 degrees in Benson? How quickly the weeks have passed and we have just enjoyed a wonderful Summer Fayre and Barn Dance.

Now the soil is warm and our plants grow quickly without setback but also the weeds grow just as quickly and we have to keep hoeing off the weeds but those real nuisances like dandelion and dock and nettle need their roots removing to prevent re-growth. It is by far the easiest way to spray with a glyphosate weed-killer which will go right down to the roots, but there are a few question marks about the long-term efficacy of glyphosate.

On a previous allotment in West London I watched a really tough weed, which we called 'Mare's Tail,' gradually encroach. It spread from one side of the field and then under a tarmac access path and into our side of the field. It was almost impossible to stop. My neighbour tried to remove it on his hands and knees. But it grew back – because every tiny bit of root that is left in the soil will grow again – even more vigorously. Fortunately we are not plagued by this on the allotment, but I have seen it creeping across a farmer's field in this area!

Slugs are a menace at this growing period when the soil is moist. They have been known to devour a row of cabbages overnight! Slug pellets are very effective and so are beer traps – beer is left in a small jar buried at soil level where the slugs are attracted to it and then fall in and drown. Drowning in beer, what a way to go! Equally effective is to spread roughly crushed egg shells along side your cabbages which Mr Slug finds uncomfortable to his journey and it acts as a great deterrent.

Butterflies will soon be part of our garden landscape, and beautiful as they are, we have to be so vigilant and check the underside of the juicy, green leaves of our cabbages etc., and wipe off the white or yellow eggs that hatch into voracious caterpillars. (I still find it difficult to read *The Hungry Caterpillar* to my grand- daughters.)

I hope you were able to collect your 'Compost Give-away' from SODC, which is a marvellous initiative from our local government.

ADVANCE NOTICE – AUGUST 13 -19 IS NATIONAL ALLOTMENT WEEK

This year the National Allotment Society theme is 'Living and Growing' and is seeking to encourage us all to have a go at growing something – no matter how small – in the hope that we will grow in confidence and desire to graduate to a plot of our own. Things you can try are: herbs in a windowsill pot; strawberries in a hanging basket; spuds in an old bucket or tomatoes in a 'gro-bag'.

'From a small acorn the mighty oak doth grow.'

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Dick Ewen



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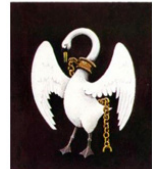
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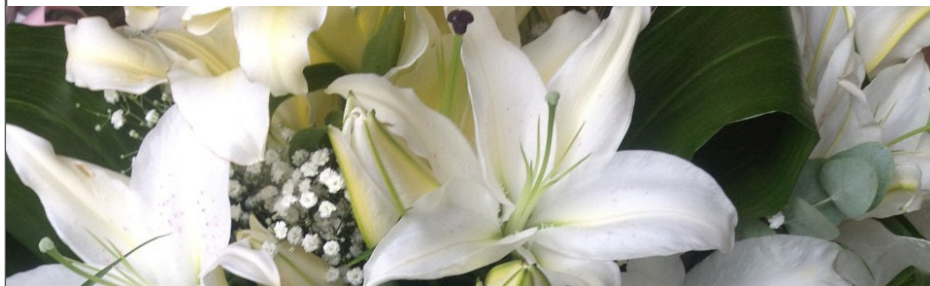
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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

JUNE

- 2 Sydenham Fayre & Beer Fest (p.20-21)
- Flower & Craft Festival St Andrew's Church (p.23)
- 6 Watlington Gardening Club (p.22)
- 9 Race Night at KBVH (p.22)
- 12 Neighbourhood Plan Meeting (p.15)
- 13 ARPC Meeting, KBVH (p.10)
- 14 Sydenham Coffee Morning (p.39)
- 17 National Gardens Scheme Gardens Opening in KB (p.17)
- 20 The Witchert Choral at St Andrew's (p.23)

JULY

- 8 Aston Rowant Village Fete (p.21)
- 4 Watlington Gardening Club Summer Social (p.22)
- 10 Neighbourhood Plan Meeting (p.15)
- 11 ARPC Meeting, KBVH
- 15 Copy due in for August/September Parish Notes

REGULAR DATES

MONDAYS

Kindergym morning Thame
Zumba 6.30pm KB Village Hall

TUESDAYS

Kindergym morning Chinnor
Chair-Based Exercise for seniors
10.30-1.30, Chinnor VH
Bell Ringing 7.30pm Aston Rowant

WEDNESDAYS

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

THURSDAYS

Smurf-fit 9.30am, Watlington
StarBoddlers 11.00am St. Andrew's
Church
Full Circle, Aston Rowant School
12-1pm (p. 29)

FRIDAYS

Tiddlypeeps 9.30am Chinnor
Senior Circuits 10.00am Watlington

SATURDAYS

(1st & 3rd of month)
Soul Space 5.30pm Crowell Church

SUNDAYS (1st of month)

Aston Rowant Church Family
Friendly service 10.00am

Copy for the August/September issue is due on 15th July
please send by email to sarahparishnotes@gmail.com