#### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

#### **OCTOBER**

**1&2** Art & Soul (p.9)

- 2 Aston Rowant Harvest Festival
- 4 Craft & Coffee AR Church (p. 22, 39)
- 5 Watlington Gardening Club (p. 22)
- 7 Inset Day at Aston Rowant & Lord Williams's schools
- 15 Piano Music & Dickensian Readings (p. 9)
- 16 Parish Walk (p. 22)
- 30 Music at St. Andrew's Church Chinnor 6.30pm

#### **NOVEMBER**

- 1 Craft & Coffee AR Church (p. 22, 39)
- 2 Watlington Gardening Club (p. 22)
- 5 Guy Fawkes Night
- 12 Victorian Fayre at Village Centre Chinnor
- 13 Remembrance Sunday (p. 9)
- 19 Watlington Craft & Gift Market from 11am

#### **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

#### COPY FOR THE DEC/JAN ISSUE IS DUE ON 15TH NOVEMBER Please send by email to sarahparishnotes@gmail.com

## PARISH NOTES



Autumn Days by Karina Melendez



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#### **PARISH NOTES TEAM**

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.

# Editor Sarah Day 351300 sarahparishnotes@gmail.com Advertising Julian Knight 351315 jknight652@aol.com Distribution Jenny Jackson 351444

Proofreading
Hew Reid
351357
Treasurer

Tracy Lambourne 353989

353989 tracy.lambourne@talk21.com

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#### 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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#### KINGSTON BLOUNT VILLAGE HALL DIARY DATES

**Zumba** every Monday 6.30pm

 $07834\ 994699$ 

**Kettlebell Abs** every Wednesday 6.00pm

07801 553019

**Yoga with** every Wednesday 7.00pm **Rachel Hawkins** 07552 185499 (*Please note Monday classes are no longer taking place.*)



#### **USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS**

03	EFUL PHONE I
CAB Local office <u>www.adviceguide.org.uk</u>	01844 214827
Church Tower, Aston Rowant: R Newton	01844 352926
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Highways Street Light Hotline	0800 317802
Hillock Garden Allotments: L. Martins	01844 353968
Library-Chinnor	01844 351721
Chinnor Village Centre	01844 353733
Oxon County Council www.oxfordshire.gov.uk	01865 792422
Pleck Wood: L Martins	01844 353968
Police-Thame (Thames Valley)	101 or 999
Porch: S Thompson	01844 351334
Porch: J Rooksby	01844 352320
Post office-Chinnor	01844 351214
Chinnor Village Centre	01844 353733
Schools:	
Aston Rowant C of E School	01844 351671
Icknield Community College Watlington	01491 612691
Lord Williams School Thame	01844 210510

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 5

#### **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

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 DeVal12 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 Holy Mass every Saturday at 6.00pm and Sunday at 9.00am and 11.00am

#### **LOCAL CHURCH SERVICES**

#### **ASTON ROWANT CHURCH SERVICES**

First Sunday of every month 10am Family Friendly Morning Worship

2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>,4<sup>th</sup> Sundays 10am Parish Communion

1st Tuesday of every month 8am Morning Prayers – 20 mins to

reflect on the day ahead

#### **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 (resumes September 2016)



Aston Rowant Church by Louise Heathcote



#### **LOCAL PLAYGROUPS**

#### And things to do with young children

#### **KINDERGYM**

www.kindergym.co.uk

Classes in Thame and Chinnor on Monday and Tuesdays mornings (check website for timetable.)

#### **TIDDLYPEEPS**

<u>www.tiddlypeeps-chinnor.co.uk</u> Playgroup on Friday mornings 9.30am – 11.30am Just turn up, £1.50 per family

**RED KITE CENTRE** Thame – a range of sessions for families and children <a href="https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/red-kite-childrens-centre-thame">https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/red-kite-childrens-centre-thame</a>

**CRAFT, COFFEE & PLAY** at Aston Rowant Church on the first Tuesday of every month, Aston Rowant Church, all very welcome.

#### TOWER TOURS & CREAM TEAS & I-SPY TOURS FOR CHILDREN

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#### A LETTER FROM OUR RECTOR

#### Dear friends

Perhaps as an early Autumn pastoral letter you may be expecting me to write something about this often being a reflective time of the year for us as the leaves and plants begin to change colour and gradually fall and die. Yes, we expect the changing seasons in the natural world and in our lives, yet sometimes things don't go according to our expectations. I'm writing this in mid-September and we've just had the hottest day of the year and the highest recorded temperature for September for about 50 years. There have also been an unseasonally high number of funerals and reported illnesses over this time. For those experiencing these or other unexpected and distressing events, may you discover the extent of God's loving concern for you personally and become aware of His presence as you walk through dark valleys. But for those who are 'onlookers,' this is an opportunity to prepare for such times. I stumbled across this poem recently which I found especially helpful, comforting and full of hope. Lock it safely in your heart for when you need it.

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This being human is a guest house. Every morning a new arrival.

A joy, a depression, a meanness, some momentary awareness comes as an unexpected visitor.

Welcome and entertain them all! Even if they're a crowd of sorrows, who violently sweep your house empty of its furniture, still, treat each guest honourable. He may be clearing you out for some new delight.

The dark thought, the shame, the malice, meet them at the door laughing, and invite them in.

Be grateful for whoever comes, because each has been sent as a guide from beyond.

Every blessing

#### Maggie

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#### **CHURCH STEWARDSHIP**

Dear friends.

The local church does many things, such as providing regular services, celebrating baptisms and weddings, offering thanks for a person's life when they die and opening its doors for community events. But, some say that the church is always asking for money.

It's true. The church **is** always asking for money because **IT SELDOM HAS ENOUGH** to do all it **needs** to do and **wants** to do. The cost of running the church increases each year, just as the cost of running our homes increases each year as well. There are buildings to maintain, paths to repair, lighting and heating to pay for, organs and pianos to tune and overhaul, and staff to pay.

During the next year, it's expected that it will cost £144,000 to run the United Parish of Chinnor, Aston Rowant, Sydenham and Crowell. Currently each member gives an average amount of £500 a year. Obviously, some give more, and others, less, but in order to meet our costs, **everyone** is being asked to increase their giving. Even if every worshipper could do this, the Parish still needs **your** help. Imagine Aston Rowant without its lovely little church...

One of the major supermarkets has as its advertising slogan, 'every little helps' in order to encourage our spending in their shops, but it's true: every little **DOES** help, so can you help us?

Thinking further ahead...

All of us need to take writing our wills seriously and one important way in which the local church can be helped is by leaving a legacy. This is both one of the most valuable ways in which **you** can continue to support mission and ministry in your community and a way to thank God for all the blessings you've received in your lifetime. It can really help to keep the church alive.

My feeling is that most would find it a travesty if local churches were forced to close because they couldn't meet rising costs, so please help as much as you can by calling in at the church office at St. Andrew's, Church Lane, Chinnor or via the parish website - http://chinnorunitedchurches.co.uk

Thank you for your attention and thank you for your gift in anticipation. Every blessing

Maggie, The Rev'd Maggie Thorne

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

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Aston Rowant now



Aston Rowant in the future?

#### **TESSA WYATT'S COUNTRY DIARY**

From Tessa Wyatt's Facebook posts this September

#### 3rd September

So meteorological autumn started on September 1st. It was like a switch, turning down the temperature, browning the chestnut trees and hedgerows and dropping leaves everywhere. And now it's raining. I do love doing the horses in the rain. Not.

#### 4th September

The Pet Blessing Service this morning was its usual chaotic self with much fun had by 10 children, 8 dogs, a guinea pit and three horses. Not sure how many adults but the church looked satisfyingly full from where I was, at the front with Jo Whitfield, co-leading it. It was one of those occasions when I am grateful for modern technology, ie microphones, otherwise I suspect no-one would have heard a word!

#### 6th September

Rescued a sleeping hedgehog from a stable at the stud this afternoon. She is now in my garden in a predator proof box with food and water to hand for when she wakes up. Hopefully she will be gone in the morning and so will the food. If she's still I the box she's probably not well in which case it's off to Tiggiwinkles for help.

Rescued hedgehog slept well in her special bedroom. When she woke up she had a light bite and a drink before disappearing into the night. Good luck little one.

#### 9th September

The grass has suddenly greened up again and there's a second crop of very small dandelions and even some mallows growing in the field. It's the Autumn Flush, that special time of growth the animals use to fatten up while the first of the autumn fruits ripen and the frosts come which will stop the grass dead in its tracks. Then the grazing animals will use their fat reserves to keep them going through the winter and the fruit will fatten up the smaller folk before they go into hibernation. It's all got such a lovely rhythm it's no wonder we have pastoral symphonies.

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#### **Tessa Wyatt**

#### **CHURCH DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

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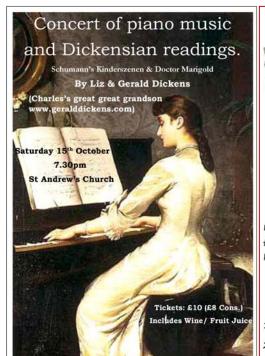
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#### **OCTOBER**

- 1&2 ART & SOUL 12noon onwards, BVM Church, Crowell,
- 2 Aston Rowant Harvest Festival
- 9 Dorchester Abbey 3.30pm **Welcome service for the New Bishop of Oxford**
- Mothers' Union, 11am Communion in St. Andrew's, 2pm in Church Hall 'A Celebration of Faith' Speaker Gloria Richards
- 7.30pm St. Andrew's, Chinnor, **Concert of piano music and Dickensian readings** by Liz & Gerald Dickens (Charles's great grandson). See p. 20.
- 30 10am, United Parish Service Sydenham

#### **NOVEMBER**

- **Service of the Commemoration of the Departed,** St Andrew's Church, 4.00pm
- 13 **Remembrance Sunday,** St Andrew's Church, 11.00am, meet at the war memorial at 10.30am.



Prepare yourself for a rather special event

ART & SOUL

A Harvest 'Celebration of Gifts' at

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church,

Crowell.

1st and 2nd October 2016

First the ART



Be INSPIRED as our most talented artists share their craft with you. All are warmly welcome to bring their materials and join in.

Then the SOUL

1+ Oct, SOUL SPACE, 5.30pm

2<sup>nd</sup>Oct, Harvest EVENING PRAYER, 6.00pm

#### **PARISH COUNCIL & LOCAL CONTACTS**

#### Parish Website

www.astonrowant.org.uk

Parish Clerk
Stephanie Johns
clerk@astonrowant.org.uk
01844 350311
07939 030102

#### **Parish Councillors:**

Chairman Peter Tinson	Kingston Blount	01844 352817
Vice Chair Peter Hetherington	Kingston Blount	01844 353296
Councillor Gordon Crossley	Kingston Blount	01844 351296
Councillor Matthew Day	Kingston Blount	01844 351300
Councillor Lynn French	Aston Rowant	01844 350154
Councillor Andy Green	Kingston Blount	01844 353819

#### **District Councillors:**

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

**County Councillor** 

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

 $\mathbf{MP}$ 

John Howell 01491 612852 howelljm@parliament.uk

Police Community Support Office ThameHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

tel: 101

Village Hall & Playing Fields/Hillwerke Trust Chairman

Gordon Crossley

5 Bakers Piece, OX39 4SW 01844 351296 Village Hall Hire/Bookings bookings@kbvh.org

Play Area -Please contact

**Stephanie Johns** 01844 350311 07939 030102

Aston Rowant Cricket Club Chairman

Paul Humphreys 07880 791022



#### **NOTES FROM THE ALLOTMENT**

**Beds or rows?** 

As I took an Autumn stroll around The Field after returning from holiday I was impressed by how productive many of the gardens had been this Summer. This year has been particularly productive for plants that enjoyed the wet conditions of Spring and early Summer. Spuds along with peas and beans have done exceptionally well.

One thing that did come to my attention was that crops grown in raised beds have done well in comparison to those grown in field rows. (This confirms my wife's view that things not only grow better in beds, but they also look much better! 'So much neater.')

I noticed again in northern France this summer that allotment gardeners there favour beds. There are undoubtedly strong historical reasons for these differences. As we tootled along I wondered if it was a legacy in England of the 'strip farming' system we all learned about in school. Whatever conclusion we come to – I, for one, am impressed by the quality (and appearance) of the crops grown in beds.

Most beds are about 4 feet across so they can be 'worked' from either side. Raised beds, which also assist wheelchair access if they are 3 feet high, are a feature of many gardens and give structure to landscaping even in the smallest garden. Such beds do have other horticultural advantages because they warm up quicker in Spring and are more likely to drain better and get more air to the plants. On our field which naturally drains well but dries out quickly, such beds must need watering more frequently. It is a joy however to see beds that are raised naturally without the use of wooden sides or railway sleepers. My hypothesis is that those gardeners who take the trouble to raise their crops in beds are probably keener and more diligent in their gardening – certainly than me!

I am going to try this idea over the Autumn as I dig my patch, and this will be a further development and an improvement on laying weed-inhibiting plastic lines overlaid by tree bark for pathways.

I had worked hard to get my patch in good order before we went away on 'school holidays' to La Bella Italia. Early crops had done really well and parsnips, leeks and winter brassicas were all established and the brassicas were netted against pigeons and pheasants. But Nature came back to bite me, and I found all the greens had provided caterpillars with easy pickings! I was bemoaning my fate to a fellow gardener who dismissed my concerns with, 'What do you expect if you go away for five weeks!'

True enough, I guess. So I'm considering giving the allotment priority over Peroni, Chianti, long, lazy Italian lunches, pizza and evening gelatti and great coffee...

But then again... maybe not!

 $Good\ gardening!$ 

**Dick Ewen** 

NEXT TIME: Our allotment secretary will review the season with me!

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#### **ASTON ROWANT PARISH COUNCIL NEWS**

The summer months proved to be rather busier than anticipated with a number of issues surfacing. 'Surfacing' is perhaps the right word as I am sure that many of you will be aware that work has begun on laying quiet surface on all lanes of the carriageway from around a mile north of junction 6 (near Adwell) to the Oxford spur. The Parish Council is represented on the M40 Chilterns Environment Group which has been campaigning for many years for measures to reduce the noise impact of the motorway. The Group were pleased with Highways England's recent announcement of plans to trial noise reduction barriers in a number of locations in Buckinghamshire but disappointed that no trials were to be carried out along the South Oxfordshire stretch of the M40. It was equally disappointing that the quiet surface will not extend all the way to junction 6, stopping short of Postcombe. The Group encouraged parishioners to write to the Minister responsible for Highways England, Andrew Jones and our MP John Howell to highlight the issue. The Group was successful in attracting media interest with myself and Caroline Hjorth, Chair of Lewknor PC, being interviewed by BBC Oxford. Unfortunately at the time of writing this activity has not resulted in an extension to the work. However, the Group continues to lobby for noise reduction measures for the M40 in our area.

The M40 wasn't the only traffic related issue over the summer. The summer months seem to bring an increase in speed on the B4009 and a number of near misses were reported. The Parish Council has been looking at the options for traffic calming measures over the past six months; Matt Day gives an update on page 12.

In the last issue I invited expressions of interest in establishing a consortium to purchase the Cherry Tree, which didn't receive a huge response and may not present a viable way forward. However, in the intervening period a consortium from Chinnor have expressed an interest in the pub and attended the September Council meeting to discuss their proposals. We were encouraged by their enthusiasm to create a community-focused pub and look forward to hearing more as they look to finalise their plans. It is pleasing to have another opportunity to note further success at Aston Rowant Cricket Club. The second XI became the first second string side to win the Cherwell League. My congratulations to them.

Our Clerk, Steph Johns, will be stepping down in the next month. Steph has served as Parish Clerk for over three years and has been a great help to me as I took over as Chairman earlier this year. The members of the Council would like to thank her for her hard work and commitment. The post is advertised in on page 15, and both Steph and I are happy to talk through what's involved with anyone interested.

Finally, I am sad to report the passing of Brenda Wilson. Brenda served as Parish Clerk for twelve years initially when Alex Green was Chair then during Peter Gibbons' stewardship. She died in September after a long illness. The funeral will take place on Friday 30 September at 11am at St Andrews Church, Chinnor. Our thoughts are with her husband George and their family.

Peter Tinson, Chairman ARPC

#### TRAFFIC CALMING UPDATE

Speeding and road safety is a major concern for local residents, it has been for a long time, and I was appointed by Aston Rowant Parish Council to work on this issue last year. In order to do things properly I first had to gather data to prove to the Highways department that speeding is an issue. In 2015 ARPC funded a speed survey at three locations in Kingston Blount.

The results obtained are as follows:

#### **Opposite Icknield Close**

Eastbound – 34.5mph Westbound – 35.6mph

#### Top of Pleck Lane crossing

Eastbound – 29.2mph Westbound – 25.4mph

#### West Entrance to Kingston Blount near Stert Road junction

Eastbound – 40.8mph Westbound – 41.3mph

Oxfordshire County Council did agree that speeding was an issue, in particular at the entrance to KB where average speeds are over 40mph. OCC also confirmed that due to a lack of accidents and the B4009 not being a hot spot they would not fund any traffic calming measures and advised that if we want traffic calming then we will have to fund the whole thing.

In January of this year ARPC funded a highways engineer to visit the villages, walk the roads and meet with two engineers from OCC with a brief of developing a draft plan of suitable traffic calming measures. I met the three of them and we discussed all the options available to us, the process for designing and gaining approval for road works and what options were available to us in KB and AR. We were advised that speed cameras would not likely to be approved.

#### The process is this:

- •ARPC produce a draft plan of options and traffic calming objectives. (This is almost complete).
- •ARPC consult local residents and produce final draft plans. (ARPC will start this process in the next few months).
- •ARPC submit the draft plans to OCC for comment, if they approve in principal then we proceed or if they have an issue then we go back and modify the draft plans.
- •We (our engineer) then produces detailed plans to submit to OCC.
- •We also submit plans to contractors for prices.
- •OCC undertake formal safety audit and review and issues plans to statutory bodies for comment, (police etc.).
- •OCC approve the plans and we have 2 years to build them.



#### LIFE AS A GIRL IN KINGSTON BLOUNT

I'm sure you're sick of hearing this (and I'm definitely bored of writing this) but my name is Eliza Day, I am 11 years old and this is a life from the perspective of a girl in Kingston Blount and Aston Rowant.

Good morning, good afternoon, good evening. Whatever the time is for you. For me it is 4:52 and I have just got back from school. I probably should be doing my tech homework right now but oh well.

Summers over! Autumn is here. That means school and homework and lunch queues and dictionaries. I am in Year Seven now so I have just gone into Lord Bills. It's really weird going from a school of 92 people to one that has 1000. And 370 just in year seven! There's a LOT of names to remember! Anyway you get to have donuts for lunch so it's all good. The best thing is that you get twenty minute breaks in between every lesson. Me and my friends all meet in the middle of the playground every break. The homework's a little hard at first but you get used to it. I usually get two or three pieces a day.

I also went on a Guides' camp to Warwick Castle last weekend. We went for one night and camped with lots of other scouts and brownies in a field next to the castle. We went on two trains and then walked for half an hour to get there. Half an hour doesn't seem long but when you're carrying the tons of sweets you've shoved in your (massive) backpack it seems like it is a lot longer. I camped in a tent of six which interesting because all of the other groups had four people. I'm pretty sure someone's toe was on my face the whole night but oh well. It was freezing so it helped us to stay warm and eat all of the sweets we possibly could. It was really good though. We got to wander around a maze and we definitely didn't get lost—about a trillion times. It took forever to climb to the top of the tallest tower but it was worth it as we got a great selfie of all of us together.

Goodbye, goodnight and farewell,

Eliza Day

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#### **Bicycle Servicing and Repairs Shop**

28 High Street Watlington OX49 5PY 07712775218 / 07801287508 sprocketscience@hotmail.com www.sprocketscience.co.uk This process will take at least 6 months if we can get the funding to pay the engineers etc. The budget for this process is about £8,000+vat.

- Detailed design for issue to OCC—£4000 +VAT (Subject to OCC costs)
- Road Safety Audits 1/2, 3 and 4 Stages—£4000 +VAT

#### The Options so far:

A chicane is an effective means of slowing traffic on rural roads and is considered to be a good solution for the entrance to villages. This is our main option at the entrance to both AR and KB and we already have one at the east entrance to KB.

It is reported that single measures do not work effectively and in order for a chicane that will slow you down initially to have the benefit in the village further measures are needed throughout the village. "speed reductions are maximised when visually striking or physical gateways are accompanied by repeated physical measures in the village."

Speed Humps are proven to work and have a good record at slowing traffic down. These come in two main types, flat top full width or cushions. The flat top type slow all vehicles with a slow gradient up and down and the cushions tend to slow cars more than larger vehicles. Speed Humps need to be spaced every 60m to 100m to be effective. There are no street lights in Aston Rowant and no power line visible along the road, this would make installing any speed humps more expensive.

#### Other Options:

- Reduced the speed limit to 20mph. This may help reduce overall speeds but is unpopular with Highways.
- Local residents form a speed watch group and we receive training from the Police to use speed cameras.
- Crossing places are installed.
- Widen the footpath outside the old Post Office to narrow the road and make it safer for pedestrians.

#### Noise:

If we can reduce the speed of the traffic that will lower the noise levels and this is most effective with cars. But use of flat tops can cause HGV's and other van and commercial vehicles to bounce over and the body or load rattle. Findings and advice from OCC show that the overall noise is less with speed humps slowing traffic than not. Key is positioning of speed humps to maintain average speed and not encourage acceleration between humps.

I will be sending out details of the consultation in the next few months via the ARPC website, Facebook and the Parish Notes, so please look out. In the meantime please contact me at the address below if you have any ideas or wish to input, or want to ensure you are consulted on the plans. **Matthewday63@icloud.com** Apsley Cottage, High Street, Kingston Blount.

Matthew Day, Councillor ARPC

#### **ASTON ROWANT PARISH COUNCIL NOTES**

A Meeting of the Parish Council was held on 14th September 2016 (There was no meeting in August). At the time of writing, the next meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday, 12th October at 7.30pm in Kingston Blount Village Hall.

#### PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

P16/S2537/FUL Demolition of two stable buildings and erection of replacement stables and office accommodation at Aston Park Stud, Aston Rowant, OX49 5SR – Recommendation – Should be Approved.

#### PLANNING DECISIONS OF SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL:

P16/S1521/HH Erection of oak framed double garage to front of existing dwelling at Beacon Hill Farm, Aston Hill near Lewknor, OX49 5SG – Granted

P16/S1925/HH Demolish store, construct timber framed garden room at The Old School House, School lane, Aston Rowant, Oxon, OX49 5SU – Granted

P16/S2090/FUL Erection of two agricultural buildings with associated hardstanding at Woodway Farm, Chinnor Road, Aston Rowant, OX49 5SE – Granted

P16/S2366/HH Single-storey link extension at 8 Dashwood Court Aston Rowant OX49 5TA - 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: <a href="http://www.astonrowant.org.uk/Planning">http://www.astonrowant.org.uk/Planning</a>
All past minutes of Aston Rowant Parish Council (Including the Annual Parish Meeting) can be found under: <a href="http://www.astonrowant.org.uk/meetings.html">http://www.astonrowant.org.uk/meetings.html</a>
Occasional updates concerning the Parish are added to the Kingston Blount / Aston Rowant (KBAR) Facebook page. To join, login to Facebook <a href="https://www.facebook.com">www.facebook.com</a>, search for 'KBAR' and ask to join the group.

#### **Stephanie Johns**

Clerk to the Parish Aston Rowant Parish Council

Is there anything you'd like to see covered in the Parish Notes?

COPY FOR THE DECEMBER/JANUARY ISSUE IS DUE ON 15 NOVEMBER

Please send by email to sarahparishnotes@gmail.com



#### What to do if you want to hold a fireworks display? (from southoxon.gov.uk)

- •Inform your neighbours of your plans in advance this will prevent any unnecessary suffering to themselves or if they have pets. Or better still invite them along.
- •Aim to have the display finished with by 23.00, should the celebration fall on a week night consider delaying the display until the weekend this is preferable in built up areas.
- •Select the fireworks with care, try to include a mix a fireworks that are not considered too noisy such as Catherine wheels and sparklers.

#### Looking after animals on bonfire night (from bluecross.org.uk)

Animals have very acute hearing. Loud bangs and whistles may cause them actual pain in their ears. But by following these simple guidelines your pet need not suffer. Small pets and fireworks

#### **Small animals:**

- •Hutches/cages and enclosures should, if possible, be brought into a quiet room indoors, or into a garage or shed.
- •Give your pet extra bedding to burrow into so it feels safe. If you cannot bring your pet's hutch inside, you should turn its enclosure around so that it faces a wall or fence instead of the open garden.

#### Dogs, cats and fireworks

- •Always keep dogs and cats inside when fireworks are being let off
- •Make sure your dog is walked earlier in the day before the fireworks start
- •Close all windows and doors, and block off catflaps to stop pets escaping and to keep noise to a minimum.
- •Ensure dogs are wearing some form of easily readable identification (ID) even in the house. They should have at least a collar and tag.
- •Prepare a 'den' for your pet where it can feel safe and comfortable perhaps under a bed with some of your old clothes.
- •Let your pet pace around, whine, miaow and hide in a corner if they want to. Do not try to coax them out it's just trying to find safety, and should not be disturbed.
- •Avoid leaving your pet alone during such potentially upsetting events. If you do have to leave the house, don't get angry with your pet if you find they have been destructive or toileted after being left on its own.
- •Never take your dog to a fireworks display. Excessive panting and yawning can indicate that your dog is stressed.

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### VACANCY FOR A PARISH CLERK & RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER

#### Seeking job flexibility? Wanting to work from home?

Aston Rowant Parish Council are seeking a Parish Clerk to support their activities in the local community. This would be for approximately 8 hours per week and the role is predominately home based, with a minimum of 11 Parish Council meetings per year.

#### Key duties include:

- •Supporting the Council in carrying out its functions in accordance with the council's policies & procedures
- •Responsibility for the operation of the Council including how meetings are conducted, drawing up agendas, ensuring meeting minutes are accurately recorded and communications
- •Implement the decisions of the Council & provide independent, objective professional advice, information & administrative support
- $\bullet$  Manage the council activities & finances effectively, including preparation of the end of year accounts

As the Clerk you will be an integral part of this friendly team, making a significant contribution, while enjoying endlessly varied work. Previous experience in a similar role is desirable, but not essential, as training will be provided. If you are interested, then please send us a brief resume and why you believe you would be good in the role by 11th October.

Alternatively, if you would like to chat it through some more then contact: **Peter Tinson (peter.tinson@it.ox.ac.uk)** or 01844 352817

#### LITTER PICKER VACANCY ON PARISH COUNCIL

Are you looking to earn some pocket money and keen to keep our Community looking its best?

This would be for 4 hours per month around the Parish (this does not include the B4009 or the Stert Road).

#### Rate of pay: £6.33 per hour.

Minimum age is 13 (subject to a valid work permit which the Parish Council will arrange) and all equipment is provided.

Applications should be made in writing by email to the Parish Clerk at **clerk@astonrowant.org.uk** or delivered in writing to The Parish Clerk, 12B Bakers Piece, Kingston Blount by 8<sup>th</sup> October 2016.



#### MICK HOBDELL

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Tetsworth Nr Thame



Trick-or-treating on Halloween has become a favourite tradition for local children, but please be considerate of those that may not want to be called on. A good rule is to only visit houses who have outdoor lights on, or pumpkins left outside.

If you don't want trick or treaters to visit you, you can download a poster to put in your window from <a href="http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/halloween3.pdf">http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/halloween3.pdf</a> or cut out the one opposite.

#### **FIREWORKS**

#### Remember remember our pets this November!

Several concerned people have asked that we put a reminder in the Notes to please notify neighbours if you are going to be having fireworks. You can also post this on the Kingston Blount & Aston Rowant (KBAR) Facebook page. Or you can email sarahparishnotes@gmail.com and I can post it there. Fireworks aren't fun for many animals, and we want to make sure our four-legged friends safe.



## SOLLA No trick or treating here

Please respect our wishes



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M40 Car Care - Unit 7, Station Yard, Thame, Oxon OX9 3UH Fax: 01844 260088 | 07831 509 999 | 01844 260088 The steering group taking forward the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan met for the second time on 13th September. It is an open forum that will aim to meet regularly, on the second Tuesday of each month. In accordance with an earlier decision the application to make the NP and to secure appropriate funding has been made to SODC. The Council will publicise the proposal over four weeks and will hopefully confirm its acceptance of the Parish's intentions soon after. As the Plan boundary has been submitted to coincide with the parish boundary, the agreement of SODC to proceed should not raise any issues.

The 13th September meeting took as its initial task the identification of open spaces within the parish that might in due course be afforded the formal protection of the NP from any future attempts to introduce development or to change the use of the land. These areas will be those having leisure or recreational use, those which have important amenity value or which visually enhance the character of the villages or those which provide a setting for heritage assets in the parish (listed buildings, historic street/field patterns, the conservation areas, etc.). Having defined our precious green spaces, the steering group will consider whether there then might be opportunities elsewhere to secure the level of housing development that SODC is likely to require of our villages. We would hope to achieve these targets through the conversion of existing buildings, through the infilling of gaps in the street frontages and maybe through the sub-division or redevelopment of larger plots, but that's a much bigger debate for another day.

Anyone wishing to take part in that debate can make their views known to me at **9853mark@gmail.com** or through any member of the parish council or steering group, as recorded in August's Parish Notes. **Mark Thackeray** 

#### **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.

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Do you have niggling injuries you'd like to get resolved once and for all?

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email youngcarers@svcarers.org.uk or visit svcarers.org.uk



#### A LETTER FROM THE HEADTEACHER

#### Welcome back to school!

I hope everyone had a lovely Summer. Our new children who have started in Early Years look very smart in their new uniforms and are settling well into school life. I am very proud to say that we have a full cohort in Hedgehog class this year.

We have an exciting year ahead of us with the launch of our new creative curriculum. The children are already engaged in their new topics through exciting 'hands on' topic launches.

We had a very exciting visitor in school this week. A living Celt! He taught the children all about Invaders and Settlers and brought many artefacts for the children to look at and hold. The children were dressed up for the occasion and they looked amazing in their costumes.

Squirrel class are off to the Reading Victorian Museum to launch their topic. They will experience learning in a real Victorian classroom. Let's hope no one has to wear the dunces cap!

Our new Champions club is now up and running and the children have been taking part in archery, multi sports and creative art. They even had a go at 'Zorbing' this week which was great fun. We also have an exciting programme of after school clubs with the addition of our new choir and a specialist Italian teacher to develop our language club.

We are open for guided tours and personalised meetings for new and existing parents. We feel that by offering bespoke and open visits to our school we can personalise each tour to reflect our nurturing ethos that comes with being a small village school. If you are currently looking for places for your children to start school in 2017 and for all other year groups, then please contact the School Office and I would be only too pleased to welcome you to our lovely school.

#### Mrs Eve Roberts

Head Teacher – Aston Rowant Primary School Visit www. http://aston-rowant.oxon.sch.uk/ for more information

18 27

#### Shepherd's Crook



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#### **LOCAL NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Below is a plaque that was mounted on the wall of Kingston Blount Village Hall earlier this year commemorating all those from the parish that fell in the First World War and mark this with planting of trees round the parish. We are very grateful to Southern Electric Power Distribution for their support with this project.

**Peter Hetherington** 



#### **PHYLLIS TUGWELL**

Some people in the parish may not have heard that sadly my mother, Phyllis Tugwell died very recently. She went to church very regularly, used to help me with my stall at the parish fete, and was for quite a long time secretary of the Watlington Garden club. In recent years old age curtailed her activities but she was always interested in what happened in the parish. She died very peacefully at the Brookfield care home.

Jenny Jackson

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VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

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#### **LOCAL BUSINESS REVIEWS & RECOMMENDATIONS**

Is there a local business that you'd like to review for the Parish Notes? Please email sarahparishnotes@gmail.com

#### **MayLee Beauty**

I have been having facials, massages, manicures and pedicures with Helen for over five years, in her relaxing beauty room at her house at Postcombe and thoroughly recommend her and all her treatments. Helen is fully trained in Chinese acupressure points, so to experience her deep and beneficial massage is to benefit from the very best knowledge base. She has a well-earned reputation for sorting out frozen necks, shoulders, backs etc. and will give advice on the correct exercises to help the condition (but if there is any doubt she will ask that the client checks with their GP first).

She also uses this knowledge plus beautician training (she ran her own business in China for several years) for her facials, which are totally unlike any others I have known; part of the package is an acupressure point-based facial, head, neck and shoulder massage throughout the treatment (no lying around with a face pack for several minutes). My skin always feels very soft, clear and even plumped afterwards and after a body massage with hot stones, when she has massaged your whole body removing those tight knots in your shoulders that you get from tension and anxiety; your body feels like it is back in place again. Absolutely wonderful!

Similarly when having a manicure/pedicure, she likes to treat the whole hand or foot to a massage and to thoroughly prepare the area. She gives you a proper manicure/pedicure first, taking away all the rough skin and exposing your cuticles so that you can actually see the nails. No quick application of a colour on the nails as she takes great pride in all her work, but preparation and then the gradual application of the colour and any decoration you would like on them. The gel nails last three weeks or more and the toe nails more than 6 weeks. If there are any rare breakages or problems they are repaired for free. I often get people admiring my nails as they look so good.

I would go nowhere else for my beauty treatments, as you are assured of getting the very best of treatment from Helen and I cannot recommend her highly enough. No conveyor belt here - just beautiful treatments done to a very high standard, in a lovely relaxing environment.

Pauline Pool, Kingston Blount

#### **Chiltern Mindfulness**

If you've heard about Mindfulness but aren't quite sure what it involves, or you just feel you never get around to trying it yourself, I can highly recommend Jane Barker's classes. She also runs a regular sitting group every other Tuesday evening in Bledlow Hall, as well as silent retreats and other days.

Sarah Day, Kingston Blount

#### **LOCAL ADVERTISING** — to advertise email <u>iknight652@aol.com</u>

Mindfulness Courses in the Chilterns Learn to control stress and find some calm

8-Week Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction Course (MBSR) Starting Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September 7pm–9pm at Bledlow Village Hall

Weekly two hour sessions plus a one-day retreat on 16th October, including handbook and access to all recordings.

Come and try the taster session on 15th August at 7:30pm for £10 refundable against a course booking

'You can't stop the waves, but you can learn to surf Jon Kabat-Zinn

For more information or to book email Jane Barker MBPsS (A member of UK Listing of Mindfulness Teachers) at mindfulminds@yahoo.co.uk www.mindfulnesschilterns.co.uk

#### MayLee Beauty

#### Do any of these sound familiar?

Discomfort in the neck and shoulders Reduced mobility arm movement Low back and thigh pain

My name is Yicong Rowley, but everyone here calls me Helen. I opened MayLee Beauty in 2009 after moving here from China where I ran my own salon. I have over 20 years of experience in beauty treatments and traditional Chinese Tui Na massage. Based in Postcombe, I also offer wonderfully relaxing facials, manicures, pedicures and waxing. Give me a call. I know I can help you to feel better, and look better too.

Bring this voucher for £5 off your first visit.

www.mayleebeauty.co.uk 07711 889896 helen@mayleebeauty.co.uk (By appointment, ladies only) Below is the Summer Report from Fiveways, a Natural Area at the Junction of The Lower Icknield Way and Church Lane in Aston Rowant managed by The Parish Council Footpath and Amenities Group

2016 has seen good but steady progress with increasing wild flower diversity. The number of daffodils has increased year on year from the annual autumn planting and 2017 should show more random plantings. The aconites did appear but were supplemented in the Spring with a planting "in the green". Some wood anemones were also planted but did not flower this year.

We did however have a disaster with the English Bluebells which turned out to be Spanish-English hybrids and had to be laboriously removed. We cannot be sure we got them all out so the new genuine English Bluebell planting will be on the stream side where there are a few Fritillaria - which will be also reinforced in the coming months. Some genuine wild garlic are also on order for the stream side - again there is alien garlic on sale as English according to the Times.

Some other flowers are also thriving such as the Green Alkanet, Valerian and wild carrot - Vipers Bugloss is a new introduction this year. The full listing is on the ARPC website.

If you can spend an hour assisting our small band of helpers please get in touch. If someone wishes to help identify existing plants (and animals) that would be useful.

The trees and shrubs need a little maintenance as some gaps have appeared especially where dead trees have been removed. Some new ones will hopefully go in this Autumn.

The duck racing for the children was a major and unexpected success and it is planned to repeat it next February at snowdrop time. We had 200+ visitors and the church was packed for teas.

We are hoping to position 1 or 2 new weatherproof benches around the site. These could be memorial benches if someone wishes to purchase one. Again on the subject of donations, the ARPC Footpath and Amenities Group has a lean budget and would like to erect a discrete notice board to explain the history of the site if

someone wishes to sponsor it. We are also looking for an artist who could sketch some historical scenes of 5-ways for this notice board.

#### Mike Eaton

(mike.eaton@btopenworld.com) for ARPC Footpath & Amenities Group

> We were delighted to see in August a yellow Toadflax in flower in front of the tree by the picnic table. This is quite a rare plant to be grown by seed.



#### **NOTICEBOARD**



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

#### Fix My Street

Have you seen Oxfordshire County Council's webpage called FixMyStreet? Go there to report things like potholes, burst water mains, sinking kerbs, broken street lights, fly tipping, even uncut grass. Don't just have a moan about these things, take two minutes to report them at: <a href="https://fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk">https://fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk</a> and tell the County Council about it. Who knows, they might even fix it!

#### Parish Walk

By popular request, following a good turn out from Parishioners for our May event, we will be walking from the Crowell green on Sunday 16 October leaving at 10.00 am. Crowell Hill, Kingston and Grove Woods, Aston Rowant and Kingston Blount. It is 5 miles and the beech trees' Autumn colour should be somewhere near its best. We will walk at an easy pace and well behaved dogs are welcome. Peter Hetherington, Leading for Aston Rowant Parish Council and Thame and Wheatley Ramblers 07767 647714.

#### **Craft & Coffee Mornings**

Craft & Coffee mornings will now be held at Aston Rowant Church on the first Tuesday of every month from 10am to 12 noon. See the back cover for dates.

#### Mini-Bus Drivers & Escorts Needed

The Village Centre in Chinnor urgently needs volunteers. If you think you can help please contact 01844 353733, chinnorvc@hotmail.co.uk

#### **Watlington Gardening Club**

At the next meeting on 5th October Tim Healey will give a talk on 'Apples: the myth and mystery of England's favourite fruit'. On 2nd November Michael Brown's talk is entitled 'A Bouquet of Weeds – do something useful with the unloved weeds of your garden'. 7.45pm, Watlington Town Hall with coffee, tea and biscuits afterwards. Everyone is welcome and guests pay £2.50.

#### Lord Williams's Firework Display

...will take place on Saturday 5th November at Lord Williams's Lower School, Towersey Road. There will be refreshments from 5.30 and the display will start at 6.30. Tickets in advance available from Thame Town Hall and Thame primary schools £5 adults and £2.50 children. Tickets on the night: £6.50 adults and £3.50 children.



#### **NOTICEBOARD**

#### **Christmas Fayre**

The Hillwerkes Trust is planning a Christmas Fayre in the Village Hall on Thursday December 1st 7pm. Any Traders wishing to purchase a stall please contact Dick Ewen 0787 947 7865 richardewen@hotmail.com.

#### **Aston Rowant Bell Ringers**

Are you aged between ten and seventy? Can you catch a ball? Can you count from 1 to 6 and back again to 1, five times without stopping? Then how about joining us? We practise on Tuesday evenings from 7:30. Free tuition! Please contact Robert Newton (01844 352926).

#### **Advertising in the Parish Notes**

The Parish Notes are published every two months and offer an affordable way to reach every local 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

#### Volunteer for Oxfordshire's Water-Blitz

Volunteers needed for one day only! Schools, local groups and individuals are invited to take part in the countywide water blitz. Check the water quality of your local stream, pond, ditch or river and help build a water quality picture for Oxfordshire. For your free sampling pack register today by emailing hilary@wildoxfordshire.org.uk and join in on 3rd October. EarthWatch have volunteered to handle the data and map all results on their global water-hub with the resulting data available to everyone involved. For the latest conservation news, evening talks, volunteering, jobs and training sign up to Wild Oxfordshire's email bulletin. <a href="https://www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk">www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk</a>

#### The Shepherd's Crook

... is now taking Christmas bookings. Gosia says: 'Our Christmas Party menu is available until 23rd December. On Christmas Eve we will be serving a traditional Polish Christmas Eve menu, and we will be open for drinks on Christmas Day from 12 to 4pm. Like us on Facebook or check our website for more information.' Tel 01844 355266 <a href="mailto:the-shepherds-crook.co.uk">the-shepherds-crook.co.uk</a>

#### **KB** Dogshare

I haven't had any feedback regarding the Dogshare so haven't included it in this issue as space is tight. Please contact sarahparishnotes@gmail.com if you have any thoughts/feedback on if it's working for you, or would like it to continue.