

ASTON ROWANT, KINGSTON BLOUNT & CROWELL

PARISH NOTES



Inside the bell tower
Mark Lord

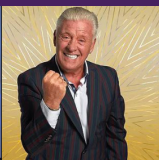
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2019 EVENTS



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3rd October Derek Acorah, 2nd November Ian Dee Hypnotist

Mercure Thame Lambert
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Kite Restaurant & Bar
AA Rosette

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publication is, as far
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(Hillwerke Recreational Trust Reg Charity No. 279656)

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third Thursday of every month
7748408442

Kettlebell Abs

every Wednesday 6.00pm
07801 553019

Gentle Chair Based Exercises

every alternate Friday from 10.30am
with Rachel & Wendy Hawkins
07552 185499 (see p.21)

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
Oil Syndicate adam.bernstein@mac.com .	01844 350440
Oxon County Council www.oxfordshire.gov.uk	01865 792422
Police-Thame (Thames Valley)	101 or 999
Poor's Hillock Allotments: Rupert Wolstenholme Rupert.wolstenholme@btinternet.com	07866 302697
Porch: S Thompson	01844 351334
Porch: J Rooksby	01844 352320
Post office-Chinnor	01844 351214
Schools:	
Aston Rowant C of E School	01844 351671
Icknield Community College Watlington	01491 612691
Lord Williams School Thame	01844 210510
Mill Lane School Chinnor	01844 352106
St Andrew's C of E, Chinnor	01844 351353
SODC Main Customer Services	01235 422422
SODC Refuse/Recycling	03000 610610
SODC Planning	01235 422600
Reporting Fly-tipping	03000 610610
SODC Environmental Department	01235 422403
Village Hall Hire/Bookings: Andrea Tinson	07391 139707

LOCAL CHURCH CONTACTS

Rector to the United Parish

To be appointed
The Rectory, Chinnor OX39 4DH
01844 354626

Assistant Curate

The Rev'd Dr. Jacky Barr, please contact via Church office

Parish Administrator

Tricia Prescott csarc@btinternet.com
Chinnor Church Office, OX39 4PG 01844 352472

Associate Clergy:

Aston Rowant

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

Crowell

The Rev'd Maggie Thorne 01844 354626

Churchwardens

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

PCC Treasurer

Michael DeVal12 Oakley Road, Chinnor OX39 4HB 07807 967452

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

Methodist Services – Station Road, Chinnor

LOCAL CHURCH SERVICES

Aston Rowant Church Services

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

Crowell Church Services

Crowell services will alternate during the vacancy. One month, Evening Prayer will be held on the first Sunday, and in the next month, the High Mass service will take place at 10am on the Second Sunday.

1st Sunday of the month 6pm – Evensong
2nd Sunday of the month 10am – Eucharist
3rd Saturday of the month – Soul Space at 5.30pm

PASTORAL LETTER

From September's United Parish Newsletter:

Joan writes,

This month our vacancy will be advertised amongst many others in the Church Times. As I read through the qualities some of these adverts say they are wanting in a priest I often think only angels need apply! They remind me of the following poem which a friend sent me shortly after my ordination.

THE MINISTER (read he/she for he)

If he visits his flock, he's nosey.
If he doesn't he's a snob.
If he preaches for longer than ten minutes, it's too long;
If he preaches less than ten minutes he hasn't prepared properly.
If he tells a joke, he's flippant;
If he doesn't he's far too serious.
If he starts the service on time, his watch must be fast;
If he's a minute late, he's kept the congregation waiting.
If he takes a holiday he is never in the parish,
If he doesn't he should get out more.
If he runs a gala or bazaar, he's money mad,
If he doesn't there's no social life in the parish.
If he has the church painted or redecorated, he's extravagant,
If he doesn't the church is shabby.
If he's young, he's inexperienced,
If he's getting old, he ought to retire.
But -
When he finally leaves
Or dies of exhaustion.
There's never been anyone like him!

We pray that prospective applicants reading our advert and parish profile (carefully prepared by our church wardens) will recognise our strengths and frailties and will want to join us to lead us on our journey as we seek to discover, and to be, God's presence to each other, in our community and in our troubled world.

Our Vacancy Prayer

Heavenly Father in our period of vacancy, give us courage and compassion, creativity and contemplation as we engage with the future. Open our hearts to be prayerful, patient and discerning in all that we do, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Rev'd Joan deVal

HARVEST FESTIVAL & CREAM TEAS

A Harvest Thanksgiving will take place at Aston Rowant Church on Sunday 6th October at 10am.
Harvest Cream Teas will be served later that day from 2–4pm.



CROWELL NEWS

Due to some concerns raised regarding the reduction of Eucharist services at Crowell from one per month to bi-monthly during the Vacancy, it has been agreed with the Area Dean that we can trial a combined Evening Prayer with a Eucharist on the months we were only due to have Evening Prayer.

This will not add to the Ministry Teams burden and will satisfy the request for the return of a monthly Eucharist service.

The next combined service will be 3rd November and then alternative months on the first Sunday during the Vacancy. High Mass at 10.00 hrs will continue alternative months during the Vacancy. The next one being the second Sunday of October.

Andrew D Warman

United Church Parish of Chinnor



Pre-loved Clothes Fashion Show
at Chinnor Village Hall, OX39 4PQ

Friday 4 October @ 7.30pm

Tickets £5.00
(16 year olds and under free)
available from Manor Stores, Chinnor
or 01844 355953

Light refreshments, stalls, raffle

FOOTPATH TO CROWELL

A PLEA FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL –

PLEASE DO NOT USE THE PROPOSED FOOTPATH TO CROWELL YET!

We have had reports that walkers are already using the new path (despite notices and physical barriers preventing it) and this is damaging the new grass surface which is not yet fully established.

The path should not be used yet please. It will be ready in spring 2020, after the mesh surface is laid in October and the grass is allowed to then grow through it before it can be walked on. This will provide an all weather, all season surface for walking on, but if parishioners continue to use the path before it is ready this will jeopardise the time, effort and money sent on this so far.

Please be patient and allow us to fully develop this new facility before using it – this is being done for your benefit and there will be plenty of notification when the path is opened.

Thank you.

Aston Rowant Parish Clerk

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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
Councillor Matthew Day	Kingston Blount	01844 351300
Councillor Steven Sowerby	Kingston Blount	01844 351392
Councillor Trelawney Hill	Aston Rowant	01844 353051
Councillor Adam Bernstein	Aston Rowant	07754 915216
Councillor Matthew Priestley	Kingston Blount	07976 373512
Councillor John Wyatt	Aston Rowant	07710 232349

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

Simon Tremlin 07780 672552

ASTON ROWANT PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Over the summer, representatives from the Parish Council attended a number of meetings to discuss the possibility of the Bledlow Ridge Household Recycling Centre re-opening. An Action Committee comprising councillors from many of the parishes and towns in the area affected by the closure has been formed and continues to meet regularly. It is hoped that representatives from the Action Committee will attend the October meeting of the Parish Council to give an update on their work to date.

It has been suggested that the closure of the Bledlow Ridge facility resulted in an increase in the amount of flytipping in the area. However, I understand that there is no evidence that this has been the case. This may be partly due to the increase in the number of successful prosecutions by SODC. These prosecutions rely on members of the public being vigilant; if you see anyone flytipping or find dumped waste, please report it to SODC.

With global warming is an increasing concern, SODC and other councils have declared there is a climate emergency. SODC now have a new department to give advice in this area. The Parish Council have agreed to follow this lead and will endeavour to be sustainable in our actions, do nothing to harm the environment and, if possible, do positive things to help reduce our impact on the climate.

We recognise that the playing field in Kingston Blount is at risk of unwanted visitors. The Council is working with the Hillwerke Recreational Trust to take measures to protect the field and you should see these in place in the next few months. We are grateful to the Trust for funding this work.

It is pleasing to see the football pitch on the Kingston Blount playing field now back in regular use with a youth team from Radnage Raiders playing there this season. The team have around a dozen fixtures over the winter and will be grateful for your support. Look out on the KBAR Facebook page for news of their matches.

Finally, I am happy to receive email on parish matters. If there is anything you would like to raise, please do not hesitate to contact me at tinsonarpc@gmail.com.

Peter Tinson

Chairman – Aston Rowant Parish Council

ASTON ROWANT PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

A Parish Council meeting was held on Wednesday 11th of September (no meeting in August) where the applications detailed below were discussed. At the time of writing, the next meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday 9th of October in Kingston Blount Village Hall.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

P19/S2426/H - Proposed single storey rear extension and fenestration alterations to existing dwelling at Chestnut Barn Stert Road Kingston Blount. **NO OBJECTION.**

P19/S2455/DIS - Discharge of Condition 3 (Materials) on planning application P19/S1681/HH Proposed single storey rear extension at the Malt House, Church Lane, AR. For information only. **NOTED.**

P19/SS0876/HH - amendment (no. 2) for development work at the following location: Aston House Butts Way Aston Rowant for Arboriculturally Information received. For information only. **NOTED.**

P19/S2695/AG - Erection of Agricultural Building on land at September Cottage, Stert Road, KB. No response required as agricultural applications are generally for information only, but mention is made to an adjacent property where a recent application was withdrawn by the applicants. The PC feel that further information should be sought from both applicants before we can make any suitable comments if necessary and an extension has been sought from SODC to allow this.

WITHDRAWN APPLICATIONS:

P19/S0817/LDE - Continuing use of land as a commercial tree surgeons yard including the storage and maintenance of plant, equipment and machinery used in connection with the business, the storage, processing, burning and sale of timber, and the parking of commercial vehicles. **WITHDRAWN BY APPLICANTS.**

PLANNING DECISIONS OF SODC:

P19/S1551/HH - Single Storey Rear Extension at Chiltern Cottage, The Green, KB. **GRANTED.**

P19/S1654/FUL - Demolition of part of the existing dwelling and the erection of a detached dwelling with parking and access, plus alterations to existing access at Windrush, Chinnor Road, AR. **GRANTED.**

P19/S1669/HH - Replacement of 9 timber windows with like-for-like UPVC windows at 8 Crowell Road, KB. **GRANTED.**

P19/S1681/HH - Single story rear extension at The Malt House, Church Lane, AR.
GRANTED.

This was agreed without the Parish Council receiving notification from SODC and thus not able to make any comments or recommendation.

We have written to SODC to express concern and to ensure this does not reoccur.

PLANNING DECISIONS MADE SINCE THE LAST MEETING:

None.

PLANNING INSPECTORATE APPEAL

P18/S3813/FUL - APP/Q3115/W/19/3227190 - Orchard House, High Street, Kingston Blount, CHINNOR, OX39 4SJ. The appeal is dismissed, chiefly due to concerns over the preservation of the Conservation Area, pedestrian & highway safety and access.

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>

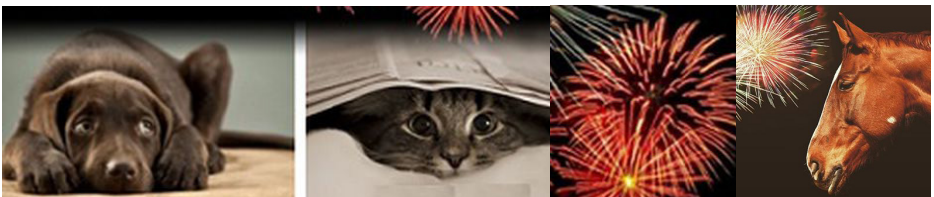
Occasional updates concerning the Parish are added to the Parish Council's website and Facebook pages as well as the Kingston Blount/Aston Rowant (KBAR) Facebook page.

Tracy Lambourne,

Clerk to Aston Rowant Parish Council

BONFIRE NIGHT FIREWORKS & PETS

Please inform your neighbours in advance if you are planning on holding a fireworks display. This will allow them to make sure their pets are safe and to minimise any unnecessary suffering to them. Dogs, cats and horses as well as smaller animals can be extremely distressed by fireworks.



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NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

At the time of writing (10 September) the Neighbourhood Plan is at last ready to face its public, at least in draft form. In the expectation that the Parish Council will endorse its publication as a consultation document, the draft NP should make an appearance on the Parish Council website (www.astonrowant.org.uk) in the second half of September. The Pre-Submission Consultation should commence on or around 1st October and will last for six weeks.

During that time there will be two public meetings in the Village Hall and the Parish Church (provisionally on 15 and 22 October). The principal consultation will be via the website, with comments invited online, but hard copies of the Plan will be available for viewing at the SODC Offices, the Village Hall, the Parish Church and, hopefully, The Shepherd's Crook PH and The Lambert Arms. A postal address for hard-copy responses is being considered for anyone without email access. Details will be delivered to each household in the Parish (if the timing allows, the leaflet confirming these arrangements may already be included in this edition of Parish Notes.)

The Pre-Submission Consultation, as the name implies, is a trial run, ahead of the formal submission early in 2020. It is important that local residents and businesses give the Steering Group early feedback, good, bad or indifferent, so that the Plan that is submitted for Public Examination fully reflects what you want, or don't want, over the next ten years or more. No matter what happens elsewhere, there will only be one referendum in Aston Rowant Parish, so, if we get the trial run right, we can be more certain that the Plan reflects the views of the people for whom it is written and that the Examiner will accept those views.

It might be prudent for me to apologise in advance for the fact that the Plan is perhaps, not an easy read; nor is it a "couldn't put it down" page-turner. Its audience will include potential developers, their consultants and their lawyers, so there is a certain amount of planning jargon. Hopefully, we have explained the jargon where we have used it, so please persevere and let us know your views on both the Plan's content and its presentation.

Mark Thackeray

Chairman

Neighbourhood Plan Sub-Committee

ASTON ROWANT SCHOOL HOUSE TRUST

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

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

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

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

If you would like more information please contact:

Peter Lambert 01844 352617 or

Mary Williams 01844 353927.

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THE FOOTPATH & AMENITIES GROUP

Improving Footpaths & Bridleways in & out of the Parish

Autumn Parish Litter Picks – Saturday 26 October

There will be two litter picks on the same day.

One is in Aston Rowant, meeting at the Lambert at 10.00 am and working for 2 hours. Please contact Peter Hetherington 01844 353296 for further details.

The other is in Kingston Blount meeting at the No 40 bus stop by the old Cherry Tree at 9.30 prompt. Please contact Tony Hughes tel 01844 351037. They will take the bus to the top of Kingston Hill and work downhill finishing no later than 12.30.

The Council will provide bags, litter picking sticks and high visibility vests but please bring your own protective gloves. Sorry no children under 16 allowed as most of the work is along roadside verges.

Tree Planting

More Rowan Trees will be planted this Autumn in Church Lane Fiveways and along the Lower Icknield Way.

Improvements to Footpaths and Bridleways

By the time you read this, improvements will have been made to part of the surface of the Moors Footpath under the trees at the Aston Rowant end of the path. Further work is planned for next year after the drainage has been improved around the field gates near the school.

Work on the Permissive Path from Kingston Blount to Crowell is continuing with further levelling and the laying of a HDPE heavy mesh. The grass surface will grow through the mesh giving an all-weather surface. We will have a grand opening of the path in Spring '20. In the meantime please do not use the path as that will affect the growth of the grass and slow the progress of the project.

We have negotiated a grant from the Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment and a donation from ARPC to enable the work to be carried out. We are also indebted to the Chiltern Society who have advised on the specification and will do all the voluntary work on the entrance and exit structures, and of course to Alan Hill who granted a 30-year licence for APRC to use the land.

Peter Hetherington

Footpath and Amenities Group

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NEWS FROM FIVEWAYS

Weeds wanted

Well Autumn is here and the flowers have dropped seed all over Fiveways. The yellow toadflax is still in flower everywhere and attracting butterflies – it came originally from seed collected at Lewknor. I have collected some seed from the prickly blue Vipers Bugloss plants near the big poplar. As a result I have dozens of plants to overwinter and plant in the Spring. I also have a number of wild geraniums to plant. The seed came from a superb specimen near the Blue Cross – before the council cut it all down. There are five different wild geraniums along the A40 in early summer – very difficult to tell apart though.

I am appealing to gardeners to save me their best perennial weeds to be planted, ideally by the growers. I am currently short of hollies for example – I found a holly seedling by the side of my garage where a bird had planted it. It is now in a frame awaiting wet weather but I need lots more. Some may have noticed there is a very imperfect holly row (six survivors) along Church Lane. We are short of evergreens and they are good for wildlife, especially overwintering insects. Holly is apparently known to be hard to establish and the dry summers have finished off quite a few plants recently.

Whilst we have a stream, it is very dry indeed in Summer these days. Sydenham and Kingston Stort have the highest water table in Oxfordshire but you wouldn't know it in Church Lane. You are welcome to recycle your weeds at Fiveways, but do contact me first. We do not require any more nettles, ivy, sticky weed or Spanish bluebells but you will have some weeds of interest I am sure. You will also start to get to know your wild plants or weeds in your garden. I have sown some weed seeds directly in the past, but the success rate is very poor compared to plants. I would appreciate volunteers for few hours a year to help plant.

Watch out for the privet shrubs on the site, which I suspect were part of the cottage hedge. I am starting to look at the butterflies so if there is an expert please get in touch. I suspect there are more this year with more food plants around. I hope we can increase the bluebell planting this Autumn.

The otters are still around and might warrant some camera traps.

Mike Eaton

01844 351238

NOTICEBOARD

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



Allotments Available

Please contact Rupert Wolstenholme if you are interested in taking on an allotment.
rupert.wolstenholme@btinternet.com, 07866 302697

Music at Chinnor Village Hall

Enjoy music from the 60s and 70s with the distinctive style of the Laid Back Band on Friday 11th October from 7.30 pm until 10.00 pm at Chinnor Village Hall in aid of Chinnor Christian Aid.

Tickets are £12 and include supper. For details and tickets contact Mavis Shortman on 01844 350014 or Lyn Watts 01844 352888

Harvest Family Service & Cream Teas.

The Harvest Family Service will be held at 10am on the 6th October in Aston Rowant Church and there will be Cream Teas from 2-4pm.

Christmas Tree Festival

This is an annual event at St Andrew's Church, Chinnor with Christmas trees lighting up the Church, each telling a different story. The Festival runs from Saturday 7th to Sunday 15th December and brings together schools, businesses, charities, churches and communities, offering space for everyone to reflect, celebrate and wonder. The theme for 2019 is 'All I want for Christmas is ...'. During the festival, the public will be invited (for a small entrance donation) to wander through the forest of decorated trees, enjoy live music, singing and refreshments, while soaking up the festive atmosphere. All monies raised during the festival are in aid of the restoration of the stonework of the church.

If you are interested in participating, it would be appreciated if you could please contact Lauretta Milligan at post@milligan.me.uk 01844 355290.

Watlington Gardening Club

This is a small friendly group who meet monthly on the first Wednesday of the month in Watlington Town Hall at 7.45pm for a specialist talk with tea, coffee and biscuits. The next two meetings are: 2nd October 2019 – Paul Barney of Edulis Plants – 'In Search of Unusual Edibles.' Paul's search for new edible plants to grow, focusing on the subcontinent. (He will be bringing plants to sell). 6th November – Brian Fisher – 'Making the Best Use of a Geenhouse, Cloches and Frames.'



Gentle Exercise Classes in the Village Hall

We are very pleased with the support we have had for the classes which are held on alternate Friday mornings at 10.30am until 11.30am in Kingston Blount Village Hall. We start with gentle stretches sitting down and progress to standing for balance and co-ordination, everyone working to their own capabilities, and finish sitting for a quiet relaxation. Tea and coffee are served at the end of the class

We look forward to seeing you on Friday 11th October.

Contact us by phone on 01844 351301 or 07484 182 947

Rachel & Wendy Hawkins

Autumn Parish Walk

A Parish Walk will take place on Sunday 20th October leaving from the Crowell Village Car Park at 10am. Once again, the Parish Council are teaming up with Chiltern Conservation Board's Autumn Walking Festival and Thame and Wheatley Ramblers to lead a 6-mile circular walk from Crowell. This walk takes in Crowell, Kingston and Aston Woods returning through the respective villages. The beech woods will be showing their wonderful Autumn colours by then. There is one hill, which we will take slowly, and no stiles. Dogs are allowed, but on leads please. Our last festival walks have both attracted over 25 walkers from all over Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and outer London. Maybe we will extend our reach worldwide next! I can recommend eating at any of the nearby pubs after the walk: The Shepherds Crook, Crowell, The Lambert, Aston Rowant or the Leathern Bottle, Lewknor. You'll probably need to book a table (for 13.30) at the first two.

Peter Hetherington

07767 647714

Soul Space at Crowell Church

Set aside a half hour pause in the journey of our busy days, to enjoy half an hour of silent reflection, including some music and readings or poems chosen by the leader. Soul Space takes place in the beautiful, little and very old church at Crowell from 5.30 to 6 pm on the 3rd Saturday of the month. All are welcome and parking is available in the adjacent car park.

Correction to Bonfires Article in last issue

Nigel Williams from Aston Rowant emailed to correctly point out that the cost of a garden waste wheelie bin from SODC is not £29 but £43 per annum.



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NEWS FROM ARCC

As I write these notes the league cricket season has finished. There will be cricket until the end of September but the main business of the year is over. Our presentation night's to both junior and senior teams happened over the weekend of the 13th and 14th September, I will give more details in the next notes but the summary is as follows.

September 14th was also the date of the Presidents Day, our thanks to Angie and Harry for hosting this event which will now become an annual event as it was in the past.

The second half of the season was much better than the first, culminating with the 3rd team winning their league for the second season in a row and the Under 17 team becoming county champions, congratulations to both teams. The first team finished 4th, and the second 3rd, in their respective leagues.

One of the highlights of the season has been to see so many of our junior players come through to play in the senior teams. All four of our teams have benefited from these young players, who are the future of the club. They are a credit both to themselves and their coaches. Well done all of you.

Off the field, whilst no decision has been made about the new pavillion I can confirm that no work on the new pavillion will start this winter. A number of options are being evaluated but we are not yet in a position to bring them forward for wider discussion.

There will be some work on the old pavillion this autumn but this is not related to any new pavillion, we have to do some short term renovations to ensure the 3rd team can be promoted, they were denied last year due to the lack of facilities for the second ground. We are hopeful that this can be avoided next year.

A reminder that the clubhouse will remain open on a Friday evening until at least the end of October from 6–8pm, or until 9pm if the demand is there. Equally if the demand continues this will carry on through the winter.

On Friday 4th October we are having a quiz night in Kingston Blount village hall, there are a couple of tables still available, Please contact me if you want more details.

Steven Sowerby

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Please contact the nursery for further information.



TESSA WYATT'S COUNTRYSIDE DIARY

Aug 2nd

Muntjac on The Green this morning, eating everyone's front garden roses!

Aug 8th

Close encounter in front of me in Stokenchurch when a car tried to overtake a 20mph giant and had to duck back in for someone coming the other way. Relax, it's harvest!

Aug 11th

As soon as August arrives I see our short summer begin to gently turn towards autumn. Beech mast crunches underfoot in the woods and the bracken is just beginning to turn brown. Fungus and toadstools push their way up through the leaf mould, all signs of change under the ageing green canopy of the trees. In the hedge-rows, yellow spears of agrimony, dainty wild geraniums and delicate umbrels of yarrow spread beneath the unsubtle ragwort and hogweed.

Aug 16th

Drove up to Notley Abbey today. Golden squares of new stubble stretch across the top of the hill and down towards Chersley, washed by curtains of rain. As I watched, a host of chattering crows flapped across the patchwork of fields, black on yellow, like a living Van Gogh painting.

Aug 18th

Please don't poison rats or mice – you end up killing the owls that eat them!

Aug 29th

Misty sunrise this morning says summer is turning to autumn. Love this time of year.

Sept 1st

Black, or Dark, Mullein standing alone and tall like a yellow and red spear, in Sam's new field. Lovely enough for me to wish it grew in my flowerbed.

Sept 6th

I think Tinker, our new cat, who is a very large red torty Maine Coon, thinks I need feeding up. A mouse this morning and a shrew this evening, both alive, presented neatly in front of me. I said thank you and took them discreetly away to 'eat' them. She's just gone out with a 'must bring her another one' attitude. Oh dear ...

Sept 9th

Snow peas, flowering and fruiting at the same time. So pretty.

Tessa Wyatt



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BELL RINGING

An update of all that has been happening from the bell ringers at Aston Rowant Church:

During Holy week before Easter we held our annual supper at the Peacock Inn where we were joined by family and friends. Robert Newton tolled the tenor bell on the Thursday evening in sympathy for the devastating fire at the Notre Dame Cathedral Paris.

Easter Sunday we rang our bells joyfully, like Christmas & Remembrance services, always a special occasion.

We rang a quarter peal as a farewell to our Rector, the Rev'd Maggie Thorne, in May, and have rung for two weddings during the summer, again all special occasions.

Our practice nights on Tuesday evenings are well attended and we have ringers coming from other towers to improve their skills by learning new methods. We are shortly hosting a meeting of the South Oxon branch officers and tower captains and in November have visitors coming to ring a quarter peal. Progress has been made by Phoenix who is now helping us ring for weddings, Steve who is ringing for Sunday services and Becky who has made a very promising start.

As always we welcome anybody who is interested in the ancient skill of bell ringing, please contact the tower captain Robert Newton on 01844 352926.

Wendy Hawkins

HEATING OIL SYNDICATE

Adam Bernstein runs an oil syndicate with the sole aim of saving members money on heating oil.

The syndicate covers Aston Rowant, Chinnor Hill, Christmas Common, Crowell, Kingston Blount, Milton Common, Lewknor, Postcombe and Tetsworth – and further if there's a need. It costs nothing to join or be a member of and carries no obligation to buy. It runs in November, January/February (depending on the weather) and June.

To illustrate the savings, for the top up in June – the syndicate rate was 45.5p/litre plus VAT from Watson. However, just buying 500 litres would have cost between 49.95p/litre plus VAT (Sweetfuels) and 54.5p/litre plus VAT (Barton).

To join the syndicate just email your full postal address, phone number and any special access requirements to adam.bernstein@mac.com. 01844 350440.



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August

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With golden hues
Turning the sunset clouds
A deeper pink.
Avian evensong begins
And a kite is roosting
In the tall lime
On the green.

Dogs bark
Adults tell off the dogs
While the children,
Ignored,
Roar and bellow and cry

Tessa Wyatt

Meanwhile
Next door's holiday
Celebrations continue
Unabated
As they have done
Since mid morning.
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15th December 2019

This year take a break from the Christmas rush and meet up with friends and family for a delicious three course festive lunch in our kite restaurant. After lunch, the children will have the chance to meet Father Christmas and his elves and to get into the festive spirit and the magic of Christmas.

Standard tickets for children are £15 per child and include a personalised visit to Santa, present from Santa and 3 course meal. Adults: £23.95 for a 3 course festive lunch menu
Sittings Times Available 12.00pm, 12.30pm, 1.00pm, 1.30pm, 2.00pm, 2.30pm, 3.00pm, 3.30pm

For more details regarding other events taking place throughout December please contact events@mercurethame.com or ring 01844 351 496

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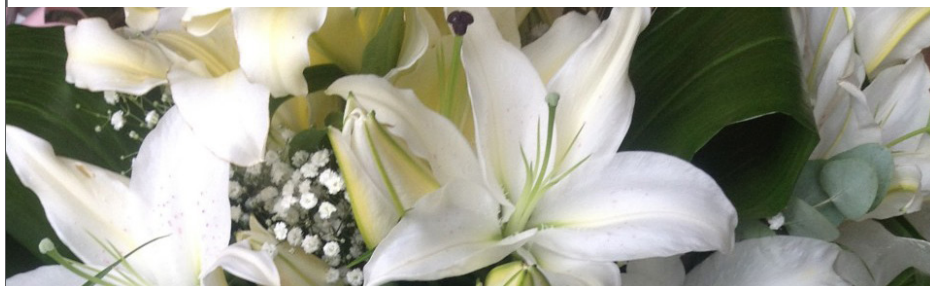
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CHILTERN WALKING FESTIVAL

The Chilterns autumn Walking Festival runs from Saturday 5th – 20th October with over 80 guided walks in the beautiful Chilterns. You can view details and book your walk online at: www.visitchilterns.co.uk/walkingfest

Now in its third year the Chilterns Walking Festival has established itself as one of the main contenders in the region's bountiful events calendar. With more walks, more activities, more crafts and more dates, this October's Festival is set to be bigger and better than ever.

The walks provide opportunities to meet artists, craftspeople, farmers, archaeologists, historians, countryside rangers, food producers and storytellers of the Chilterns, and each walk is guided by an experienced walk leader who will bring their story to life.

Whether you're interested in sampling local drinks and produce, finding out about the history of the Chilterns heritage, or trying out a new activity or experience with your family, there is something for everyone at the Chilterns Walking Festival.

Here's just a sample of the types of walks on offer:

Family Friendly: From Iron Age time travelling and stunning autumnal walks with breath-taking views, to ghostly tales from the riverbank, there are many walks perfect for getting outdoors and spending quality time with the family

Explore and Discover: The Chilterns is brimming with history and heritage and with so many places to explore it is no surprise that there are many walks offering the chance to discover more about our rich heritage and precious ancient landscapes. Why not take a ride on a heritage steam railway from Princes Risborough to Chinnor, explore and discover Grims Ditch or hear the story of the 1830 machine breakers' riot

Learn and Do: Whether it's mastering tree identification, practicing map and compass navigation, or having a go at Nordic walking or a watercolour workshop, there are lots of opportunities to get involved and try something new

Food & Drink: What better way to end a scenic walk than by sampling some of the fabulous food and drinks by local producers. Why not try a gentle guided walk around Wilstone Reservoir Nature Reserve followed by a distillery tour and gin sampling? Or sample the famous "Bedfordshire clangers" on a ranger-led walk around the beautiful Barton Hills National Nature Reserve and Farm

Storytelling: For those looking to escape the everyday and immerse themselves into something a bit different, why not try one of our storytelling walks such as Ghostly tales from the Riverbank: complete with hooded monks, phantoms & headless horsemen

Health & Wellbeing: Focussed on sharing techniques and tips to increase health and improve general wellbeing, we have developed a number of walks from yoga and mindfulness to a visit to Amaravati Buddhist monastery

Chilterns Conservation Board People & Society Officer Annette Venters said “We are delighted to be offering lots of new walks to spark interest and add to the mix. There are still plenty of challenging hikes, but we’ve included a greater number of shorter walks too, with the emphasis on learning and discovery, meeting the people and producers of the Chilterns, and spending time in inspiring landscapes.’

With over 80 guided walks, activities and events, the 16-day Chilterns Walking Festival has been designed to appeal to different age groups, interests and levels of fitness. There will be walks for young families, for people with limited mobility or with canine companions.

Details of all guided walks, events and activities available in the autumn programme can be found on the website www.visitchilterns.co.uk/walkingfest. Most are free of charge though some require a small fee which is clearly shown. To assist walk leaders with expected numbers, most events must be pre-booked. There’s already been lots of interest, so please do book early to avoid disappointment.



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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

OCTOBER

- 2 Watlington Gardening Club (p.20)
- 4 Cricket Club Quiz Night (p.23)
- 5-20 Chiltern's Walking Festival (p.34)
- 6 Harvest Festival & Cream Teas (p. 8)
- 9 ARPC Meeting KBVH (p.12)
- 15 Neighbourhood Plan Mtg TBC (p.15)
- 20 Autumn Parish Walk (p.21)
- 22 Neighbourhood Plan Mtg TBC (p.15)
- 26 Litter Picks (p.17)

NOVEMBER

- 3 Combined Evening Prayer/Eucharist Crowell Church (p.8)
- 6 Watlington Gardening Club (p.20)
- 12 ARPC Meeting (p.12)
- 13 10am service Crowell Church
- 15 Copy due in for December/January Parish Notes

DECEMBER

- 7-15 Christmas Tree Festival (p.20)
- 15 Sunday Lunch at the Lambert (p.31)

REGULAR DATES

MONDAYS

Kindergym Thame
Zumba 6.30pm KB Village Hall

TUESDAYS

Bell Ringing 7.30pm Aston Rowant

WEDNESDAYS

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

THURSDAYS

StarBoddlers 11.00am Chinnor
Full Circle, Aston Rowant School
12-1pm (term-time)
Flowers 4 All (third Thursday) KBVH

FRIDAYS

Tiddlypeeps 9.30am Chinnor
Gentle Chair Based Exercises
every alternate Friday from
10.30am KBVH

SATURDAYS

Soul Space 5.30pm Crowell Church
(now only 3rd Saturday of month)

SUNDAYS (1st of month)

Aston Rowant Church Family
Friendly service 10.00am

Copy for the December/January issue is due on 15th November
Please email sarahparishnotes@gmail.com