

VOL XXXXVI No 6

DECEMBER 2019 / JANUARY 2020

ASTON ROWANT, KINGSTON BLOUNT & CROWELL

PARISH NOTES



The Ridgeway
Mark Lord

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Editor

Sarah Day
351300
sarahparishnotes@gmail.com

Advertising

Julian Knight
351315
jknights652@aol.com

Treasurer & Distribution

Peter Lambert
352617
peter.lambert123@btinternet.com

Proofreading

Hew Reid
351357

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

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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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Resident £210; Non Resident £225

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Resident £85; Non Resident £90

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KINGSTON BLOUNT VILLAGE HALL DIARY

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every Monday 6.30pm

07834 994699

Kettlebell Abs

every Wednesday 6.00pm

07801 553019

Yoga with Rachel Hawkins

every Wednesday 7.00pm

07552 185499

Flowers 4 All

third Thursday of every month

7748408442

Gentle Chair Based Exercises

every alternate Friday from 10.30am

with Rachel & Wendy Hawkins

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

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

To be appointed

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

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary – Crowell

Due to the continuance of the Vacancy, Crowell services have remained reduced to one per month on Sundays plus one Soul Space per month on a Saturday.

Adding Eucharist to the Evening Prayer service on the first Sunday of alternate months has been well received. See below for extra services over December.

These have been made possible by support from the whole Ministry Team so please do come and support. You will be 'warmly' welcomed as the heating system has been completely replaced and is running well. The relaying of the floor tiles is nearly complete.

The B4009 bank has been cleared of dead wood and so the carpark is now open to view. This will assist police passing patrols. Some more dead wood will be cut out and the bank is about to be planted with bulbs. The 'rainbow garden' has also been planted with bulbs. (Please don't tell Mr and Mrs Squirrel). The carpark remains a problem due to increasing damage caused by heavy wear at this time of the year. This is being closely monitored. There is still no money to support this heavy use and no solid offers of financial help from the users. Our insurance company has now passed its opinion and given advice on what we need to do.

Someone has hit one of the carpark gate posts and damaged it. That person has been too dishonest to admit causing the damage. The vehicle involved will also have been damaged. Anyone like to own up?

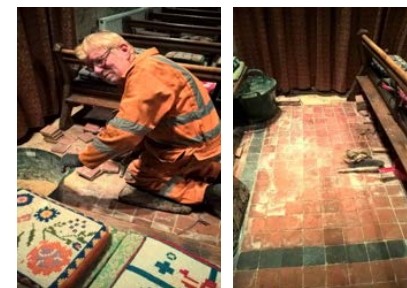
Despite the existence of a black bin, plastic wrappings and other non-compostable materials are still being thrown on the compost heap. The graveyard should be a pleasant, restful place for all to use however they choose to grieve or remember. Please use the facilities provided.

This goes for dog poo as well. Someone found it amusing to hang a filled bag on the 'no fouling' sign next to the black bin. Sorry to keep moaning but if people could just take time to have a little thought for others then there would be no need to and our job of trying to keep everything under control, a lot easier and much more pleasant.

Our thanks go to our small band of willing helpers who assist us inside and outside the church. We won't embarrass you but you know who you are and you do a sterling job.

Andy and Maggs Warman

Wardens Crowell NBVM



CHRISTMAS SERVICES

CHURCH OF ST PETER & ST PAUL ASTON ROWANT

Sunday 1st December - 4.00pm	Christingle Service followed by tea (no morning service)
Sunday 22nd December - 4.00pm	Carol Service (no morning service)
Tuesday 24th December - 4.00pm	Crib Service
Christmas Day - 10.00am	Family Communion Service

Please note that there will be no Christmas Eve Midnight Mass at Aston Rowant this year, but you will be very welcome to join worshippers at either St Andrew's, Chinnor or St Mary's, Sydenham – both services at 11.30pm.

If you would like to help decorate the church for Christmas on Saturday morning, 21st December please contact Rona Knight 351315.

NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY – CROWELL

Advent Bible Study – Join Jacky and the Ministry Team looking at the Advent Story through the eyes of the characters that we think we know so well from the book 'The Good, The Bad and The Ugly' by Richard B Wilke. Tea and coffee with biscuits and even a mince pie or two. All 2.30pm to 4pm

Wednesday 4th December	Let's keep Herod in Christmas
Wednesday 11th December	Let's keep the Wise men in Christmas
Wednesday 18th December	Let's keep Joseph in Christmas
Monday 23rd December	Let's keep the Shepherds in Christmas
Other services	
Sunday 8th December - 10am	Eucharist (Book of Common Prayer. No incense)
Saturday 15th December	(Note: No Soul Space this month)

Saturday 21st December - 4pm Advent readings and music

Please note there will be no Nine Lessons and Carols this year as we are not sure when the heating would be up and running, so there will be Advent readings and music instead without choir. Carol service as usual at St. Andrew's 22nd December 6pm.

THE KINGSTON BLOUNT STREET FAYRE

Many of you may be aware that the Kingston Blount Street Fayre has been running bi-annually for the last few years. Sadly, the majority of the Kingston Blount Street Fayre committee have decided not to continue with the Fayre moving forwards.

Some of us have been involved with it since it started 10 years ago and it is time to hand over the reins to a new team – if there is one! We did try to recruit new help for the 2018 Fayre but sadly there were no newcomers.

If anyone is interested in getting a team together, we are all happy to pass on all the contacts and any tips that we have.

It would be a shame if it didn't continue. It was revived in 2009 following the previous success of the annual May Fayre, as most of us had young children and really wanted a fun community day. Maybe the next committee will have similar motives. I think many children in our local villages have great memories of it since it began.

For information, please email KBfayre@btinternet.com.

Steph Johns on behalf of the KB Fayre Committee

NEW PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

Aston Rowant Parish Council is pleased to announce that it has a new website and new email addresses for all councillors and the clerk.

We've been working with a developer to create a website that works well on both a desktop computer as well as a smartphone. A bright and colourful site, it caters for those with disabilities and offers all visitors accessible information on council business including meetings and planning. Parish meetings and local events are featured on a calendar, and in time, the church, cricket club, school and police will have material on their own pages on the site.

The home page features current and topical news. It also details when the next parish meeting is being held. Take a look – you'll also find a box where you can sign up for monthly updates from the council. Signing up is free and will deliver an email into your inbox on the first of each month - click through the links to keep up to date with developments. Visit www.astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk to find out more.

Adam Bernstein



PARISH COUNCIL & LOCAL CONTACTS

Parish Website

[astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk](https://www.astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Parish Clerk

Tracy Lambourne

clerk@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk

01844 353989

07971039612

Parish Councillors:

Chairman Peter Tinson, Kingston Blount

peter.tinson@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk 01844 352817

Councillor Matthew Day, Kingston Blount

matthew.day@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk 07940752446

Councillor Steven Sowerby, Kingston Blount

steven.sowerby@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk 01844 351392

Councillor Trelawney Hill, Aston Rowant

trelawney.hill@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk 01844 353051

Councillor Adam Bernstein, Aston Rowant

adam.bernstein@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk 07785 905120

Councillor Matthew Priestley, Kingston Blount

matthew.priestley@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk 07976 373512

Councillor John Wyatt, Aston Rowant

john.wyatt@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk 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@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk

Aston Rowant Cricket Club Chairman

Simon Tremlin 07780 672552

ASTON ROWANT PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

I am pleased to open this edition's update with the news that the new Parish Council website is now live. The new site (<https://www.astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk/>) provides quick access to meeting papers, planning applications and councillors' contact details. In addition, there are sections for all the main Council activities including Footpaths and Amenities, Highways and the Neighbourhood Plan. There are also links to a wide range of local facilities and services. The site also allows individuals to subscribe to receive an email as and when items on the website are updated. The new website is being delivered at a significant cost saving to the previous provider and yet offers greater functionality and flexibility. I would like to thank Councillors Adam Bernstein and Matt Priestley for their work in establishing the new site. I hope that the new website will prove to be a hub for all news and information in our community.

With the weather taking a turn for the worse, the Council has been perparing for winter. Two new salt bins have been purchased and a further two are on order. The two bins that have been delivered are located at the corner of the B4009 and Aston Rowant Road and by the telephone exchange in Kingston Blount. The additional bins will be placed near School Lane/Plowden Park and near Aston Gardens in Aston Rowant.

Whilst the salt bins will help protect the villages against icy conditions, it is important to ensure that all ditches are well maintained and kept clear to reduce the risk of flooding. It is landowners' responsibility to maintain ditches that run across or in front of their property. Please ensure that all ditches are clear so that flooding does not become and issue in the Parish.

Finally, as this is the last edition of the Parish Notes in 2019, I should like to thank all the volunteers that help deliver many of the facilities and services in the Parish for their sterling work over the year. I wish you all the best for the Festive season and for 2020.

Peter Tinson

Chairman – Aston Rowant Parish Council

ASTON ROWANT PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

Parish Council meetings were held on Wednesday 9th October and Wednesday 13th November where the applications detailed below were discussed. At the time of writing, the next meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday 11th December, and following that on Wednesday 8th January, in Kingston Blount Village Hall.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

P19/S4132/LDE – Wayside Road Running Through Kingston Stert Kingston Stert OX39 4NL Certificate of Lawful Use for the continued use of a timber business.

P19/S3212/HH – Vine House Park Lane Kingston Blount OX39 4SL

Part two storey, part single storey rear extension; new balcony at rear on existing flat roof; new porch shelter to front door; new windows.

P19/S3149/HH – Laurel Barn Stert Road Kingston Blount OX39 4SB

Conversion of single private garage to third bedroom.

P19/S3214/HH – The Old Vicarage The Green Aston Rowant OX49 5ST

Installation of an air source heat pump. (Technical calculations received 13 November 2019).

WITHDRAWN APPLICATIONS:

None

PLANNING DECISIONS OF SODC:

P19/S2900/HH – Glenmist Aston Hill Near Aston Rowant OX49 5SG

Proposed installation of forty ground mounted solar panels covering an area of 95m squared. GRANTED

P19/S2695/AG – Land at September Cottage Stert Road Kingston Blount OX39 4SA

Erection of agricultural building. GRANTED

P19/S2455/DIS – The Malt House Church Lane Aston Rowant OX49 5SS

Discharge of Condition 3 (Materials) on planning application P19/S1681/HH Proposed single storey rear extension

GRANTED

P19/S2426/HH

Chestnut Barn Stert Road Kingston Blount OX39 4SB

Proposed single storey rear extension and fenestration alterations to existing dwelling GRANTED

PLANNING DECISIONS MADE SINCE THE LAST MEETING:

None.

All Planning Applications for the Parish can be found on the new Parish Council Website: www.astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk - under '**Parish Council**' and then '**Planning**'.

All past minutes of Aston Rowant Parish Council (Including the Annual Parish Meeting) can be found under '**Parish Council**' and then '**Meetings**'.

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



PLESTED BUTCHERS

20 CHURCH RD, CHIINNOR, OX39 4PG

01844 353432

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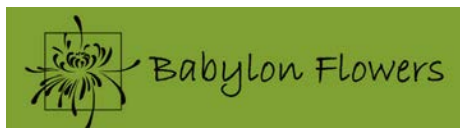
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Tel: 07958119485
email juliet@babylonflowers.co.uk
www.babylonflowers.co.uk



NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Aston Rowant Neighbourhood Development Plan seems fated to take forever to get to the stage at which we can formally consult the parish. It was to be early in 2019, but SODC's change of direction regarding sites in smaller villages led to a delay of several months. In May this year, the local elections threw another spanner in our works, as the whole Local Plan was thrown up in the air – more delay over the summer. This autumn we decided to go ahead regardless of SODC's uncertainty, but the Minister of Housing pitched into the local plan debate, and local matters like ours stayed on the back-burner. Expecting, or rather hoping, that this would be resolved in October, to allow NP Consultation before Christmas, we have been foiled again, this time by Boris Johnson's call for a General Election in December. This puts all matters with any hint of a political flavour, including Neighbourhood Plan consultations, on hold until after 12 December. It would be wrong to start a consultation just before Christmas, so we'll be hoping that nothing stands in our way early in the New Year.

In the meantime, the draft Neighbourhood Plan has been made available for perusal on the Parish Council website – it's a gripping read and lack of familiarity will be a poor excuse when public meetings take place and comments are formally invited, in January February Whenever.

Mark Thackeray

Chairman

Neighbourhood Plan Sub-Committee

TRAFFIC CALMING

As mentioned previously the traffic calming scheme for Kingston Blount has been approved and we have a fully costed design ready for construction. The difficult bit is securing all the money, and I have been fundraising for this for a long while now and I hope to have some good news soon.

I have made a number of grant applications to SODC and OCC. The most hopeful source would come from funding that is secured by SODC from housing developers under a new scheme called Community Infrastructure Levy or CIL. When new housing development is approved the developers have to pay a certain amount of money to SODC and that money has to be spent on infrastructure projects, such as traffic calming, but also highways improvements, pavements, footpaths etc. So when we apply for funding we are competing against other projects and there is no guarantee we will get the money. I have applied for funding from the CIL money obtained from the housing development in Chinnor and am arguing that the new housing will generate new and greater traffic issues for us here further down the B4009 and as such some of the money should be spent outside Chinnor to help elevate the traffic issue that the new housing will generate.

I continue to press SODC for the funds and hope to have a positive answer shortly.

Matthew Day, Aston Rowant Parish Council

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The Village Centre
High Street
Chinnor
OX39 4DH

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

Permissive Path from Kingston Blount to Crowell

We have decided to open the footpath to all walkers as of now. The official opening will come later after signs have been put up, further work to the surface at each end is completed and rubbish cleared at the Crowell end. I have to emphasise you walk it at your own risk, not that it is much of a risk compared to walking on the B4009! The signs will credit the land owner, Alan Hill, who granted the Parish Council a 30-year licence for use of his land, and to The Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment for offering a grant, and to the Parish Council, who have funded the project so far. As is required by most funding bodies, your Parish Council has offered a grant themselves.

Extension of the Permissive footpath from Crowell to Chinnor

Several Parishioners have asked why the footpath cannot be extended? Well of course it could and should be. But these things don't happen of their own accord and whilst it would be of huge advantage to our Parish, the responsibility shouldn't rest with ARPC.

The large majority of the land would again be in Crowell, and that Parish should take the lead with the support of ARPC and Chinnor Councils. First of all, discussions need to take place with the land owner. If he were to be in agreement, then I am sure that grants would be available to enable this to happen.

Planting of Trees

This winter, our group also hope to plant more Rowan trees and a Holm Oak along the Lower Icknield Way and at Fiveways subject to land owner permission.

New Year Parish Walk on Sunday 5 January

This year's circular walk will start from the Leathern Bottle pub in Lewknor at 10.00 on Sunday 5th January. It is 6 miles and will follow the route of the Aston Rowant Discovery Trail. One hill, no stiles, but please wear boots. Some of us will have lunch at the Leathern Bottle at about 1pm after the walk. Once again, this is a joint venture with Thame and Wheatley Ramblers and forms part of the Ramblers Christmas and New Year Walking Festival and is open to anyone who wants a good New Year Walk.

Peter Hetherington

Chairman Aston Rowant Parish Council Footpath and Amenities Group
07767 647714

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NEWS FROM FIVEWAYS

There is no shortage of water! The spring on the left going down Church lane has started up. All the springs emerge about the same distance from the Chilterns – along the B4009. The water is high quality and hence is increasingly abstracted, which is a problem for most rivers these days. In the Winter the springs are relatively warm which is welcomed by the fish. Coming from the Blue Cross, there is a very muddy ditch across the Lower Icknield way, this is where an ancient stream crossed the path and ran on towards what is now a copse on the left hand side going north.

I have had my first weed delivery after my last newsletter and I am now looking for helpers to put them in! There are very few flowers left now, just a few motley red Campion until the snowdrops flower in late January.

There have been a few dead and damaged American signal crayfish found on Church lane near Fiveways – I suspect it was otters – but there is no way of knowing. These crayfish (about 12 cm.) were full grown and sadly are very common in all Thames tributaries. If caught they have to be killed or eaten – to trap them you need an Environment Agency permit. Personally I think their culinary value is over-rated and are a lot of work to prepare. There are some professional trappers out there, but I will not be joining them. Some of the local lakes and rivers are trapped to remove this damaging alien species.

Over the coming months we will try to tidy up the shrubs and larger weeds and get ready for the duck racing on February 16th.

I haven't seen the water voles this year or the stoat. As the water rises it is worth watching for sticklebacks and bullheads when the water colours up. There are plenty of deer about though; some in small groups. It was a good year for butterflies with a lot of gatekeepers enjoying the flowers.

Mike Eaton
01844 351238

NOTICEBOARD

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



Cantilena Winds

The sound of Christmas is returning to Kingston Blount!

Come along to the Village hall from 11.00am to 1.00pm on 13th December and enjoy some great festive sounds from the Chinnor based band, Cantilena Winds. Entry is free and refreshments, tea, coffee, wine and a selection of filled rolls and cakes, will be available for purchase. Please do join us and enjoy a warm welcome and some great music.

St Andrew's 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. Running from 7-15 December, this year's theme is "All I want for Christmas is". There is a programme of entertainment during the festival adding to the magical Christmas atmosphere. Visitors are 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 for St Andrew's Church Stonework Appeal. All the trees will be stripped on Monday 16th December and the real trees can be taken home from 10:30am for a small donation. Please see the website for more information chinnorunitedchurches.co.uk

Church flowers

We'll be decorating the church for Christmas on Saturday morning, 21st December. If you'd like to help you'd be very welcome, as would some holly and ivy.

Rona Knight 351315

Watlington Gardening Club

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. All members and guests are very welcome. The 4th of December meeting is the Christmas Social. There will be a festive talk by Howard Drury called 'Making Autumn Last until Christmas' based on John Massey's garden at Ashwood. There will be wine and mince pies served. There is no meeting in January. On the 5th February Stephen Cotton will give a talk on 'Green Spain North and South'. This will be about the flowers and habitats in the Picos de Europa.

NOTICEBOARD



Sign of the Times & Newspaper Delivery

Has everyone seen the lovely new but old-fashioned sign at the entrance to Aston Rowant opposite Woodway Farm? The old wooden one must have been there for fifty years or more and has been failing for ages; Richard and Rachel Lockwood have taken it upon themselves to create a new one in wood, painted it themselves and also rescued as much of the old metal lettering of the old one as possible. It looks great and they have even moved it slightly so that it can be seen more easily. Well done and many thanks to Richard and Rachel.

Many of you will be missing the daily delivery that Carolyn and Nick Potter have been carrying out for Elizabeth Graham-Troll and her husband Peter. It had become too much for all of them. Efforts are being made to find a new source and the best chance seems to be The Cocolate Box in Thame, but it is proving difficult to find a definitive and large enough list of people who want a delivery.

If you would like to start or continue receiving a paper, please let me know – jknights652@aol.com or on 351315. Not the details please, just your name and address or email and I will hope to pass them on, but no promises I'm afraid!

Julian Knight

New Year Parish Walk

This takes place on Sunday 5th January. Starting from the Leathern Bottle, it will be 6 miles following the route of the Aston Rowant Discovery Trail (see page 17).

Allotments Available

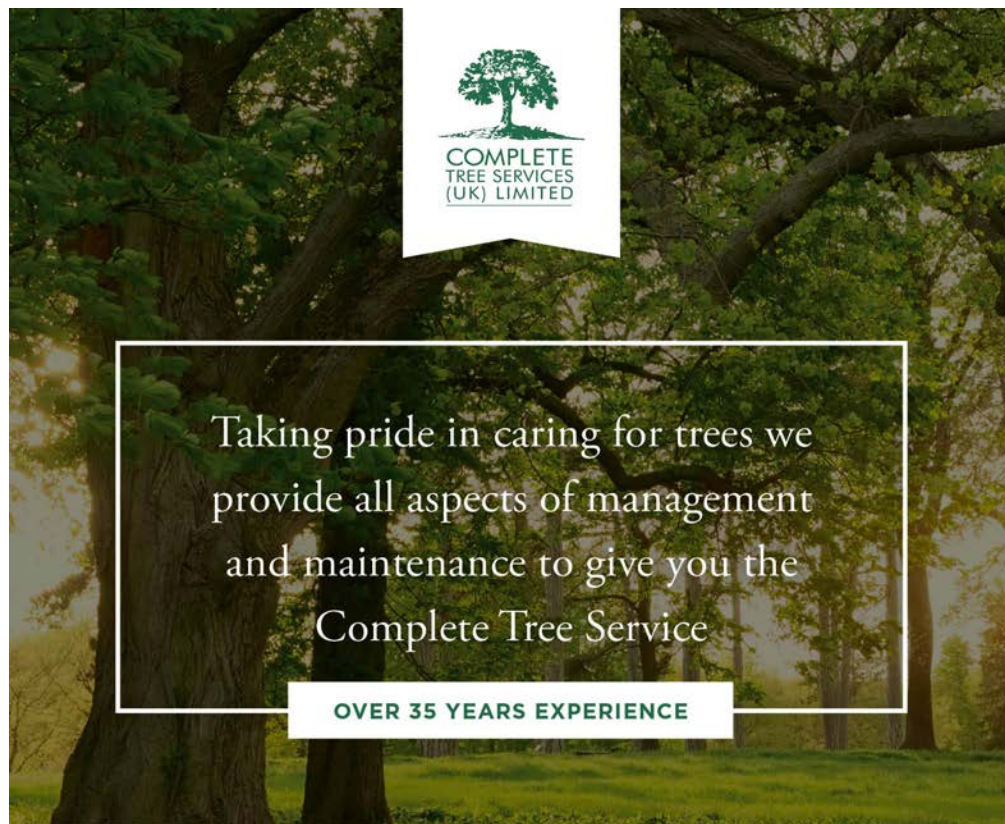
Please contact Rupert Wolstenholme if you are interested in taking on an allotment. rupert.wolstenholme@btinternet.com, 07866 302697

New Editor Needed for Parish Notes

Would you like to edit the Parish Notes? An increase in workload means that I will no longer be able to edit the Parish Notes. I work in Adobe InDesign but you could set them up in any programme you like – the printer just needs a PDF. They are published every two months, six times a year. It would be a real shame to see them disappear, so if you think you could help with them please do get in touch. You'll be guaranteed to meet a lot of lovely people that live in the village and it's the kind of project you can make your own. It might work well for two people to share, and I would of course be happy to talk you through it and help with the first few issues.

Sarah Day

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Firstly, best wishes to everyone as we approach the festive season. The end of the year means that it is now time to reflect on the events of 2019.

After our recent AGM, I am delighted to report that after a very poor 2018, the club has returned to profit in the year ending Sept 2019. Our thanks to all the people who supported the club through playing, social membership, sponsorship and use of the club facilities.

We would specifically like to thank committee members who have stood down after, in some cases, many years of service.

As reported in an earlier Parish Notes the club house is staying open on a Friday night, this will last until at least Christmas. On Sunday 15th December at lunchtime, we will see the return of the Christmas Cheese and Wine Lunch that used to be held every year; all are welcome to join us.

At the AGM, it was confirmed that we have withdrawn the revised application P19/S0842/FUL for the new pavilion. The original application still stands for another 18 months and the club is using that time to fully evaluate all options including the refurbishment of the old pavilion.

In the meantime, we are raising an application to replace the now dilapidated buildings that are on the cricket grounds. The biggest items are the sheds that have been used as dressing rooms since 2011. The proposed replacement portacabins, which will be sited in the same place as the current sheds, are not a permanent solution for the long term. But will allow us, in the short term, to have dressing rooms which are safe and waterproof. The proposal will also allow us to provide the separate changing facilities for the ever-increasing number of young ladies who are playing cricket. We are also proposing to purchase a shipping container to replace one of the storage sheds, which is close to falling down, and to also replace the 'ice-cream' van that has been used as a scoring box on the second ground since the new field was created. A simple garden shed will replace the van.

Another of our old players has joined the professional ranks with Dan Moriarty, who was our overseas player last year, signing a contract with Surrey. We wish him, Linsey Smith who has signed for the new ladies 100 competition in 2020 and Miles Hammond at Gloucestershire all the best for the future.

Finally, the club are looking, as ever, for new blood not just new players but also scorers and umpires. Anyone interested in these roles, for which both training is available and payment made, please contact either Simon Tremelin or myself, our contact details can be found on page 10 of these Parish Notes.

Steven Sowerby



TESSA WYATT'S COUNTRYSIDE DIARY

3rd Oct

Lovely big white field mushrooms growing on The Green today. Delicious on hot buttered toast!

5th Oct

Down in the field the morning mist was curling up off the ground like smoke, and what I thought to be frost was actually a carpet of spider webs all over Sam and friends' field. Autumn has its good side. We have picked all our pears and John is putting them in salads. Yum!

25th Oct

If you're having a bonfire, do check that no little prickly characters are sleeping in your garden heap! I had a look – no hedgehogs, just a large and rather grumpy rat!

31st Oct

Tinker has been very busy scent marking all the borders of the garden. She has to redo this after each visit by a neighbouring cat. Daisy-Next-Door thinks it's her territory and has twice chased poor Tinker back through her own cat flap.

1st Nov

Colder weather, and sometimes cats and wild things climb under the bonnet of cars to enjoy the residual warmth of the engine. A tap on the bonnet should bring any out!

3rd Nov

Found a group of Shaggy Ink Caps, or Lawyers Wigs on The Green where the old chestnut was cut down. Leaving them in the hopes for more. They make good eating when young but they're horrid once the wigs open!

6th Nov

A real find in Sam's field today. A beautifully knapped flint, shaped like a blunt spear head, but rounded on one side. It looks like a Neolithic period hand tool, probably a scraper for cleaning skins. Really comfy to hold. Too small for a wall, and found a good half mile from any houses, so I'm hoping it's the real thing. Am going to get it checked, so watch this space.

7th Nov

I know it's a bit late to be saying this, but please don't spray your flowers with any kind of insecticide, it may kill the aphids, but it also kills ladybirds, ants, all kinds of flies like hoverflies – and bees!

9th Nov

Freezing cold morning, still only 1 deg at 8.30, and the horses loomed out of the fog like wraiths as they came for their breakfast. My fingers were so stiff I couldn't do their headcollars up, so I sort of herded them towards their bowls. They were being very good, only two got it wrong! Note to self: must pick sloes for Christmas gin!

Tessa Wyatt

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CITIZENS ADVICE CELEBRATES 80 YEARS

Volunteers and staff from Citizens Advice Oxfordshire South and Vale were joined by representatives from the town and district councils at the Guildhall in Abingdon on 15th October to celebrate 80 years of service to the local community.

Citizens Advice was founded on 4 September 1939, the day after World War II was declared, to help people deal with the impact of war. Volunteers gave advice on evacuation, ration books, new housing for those whose homes had been bombed, and even provided recipes using the limited ingredients available on rationing.

Eighty years on, the issues may have changed, but the core values of Citizens Advice remain the same: to provide free, confidential and impartial advice to everyone everywhere. Last year, Citizens Advice Oxfordshire South and Vale, an independent charity, helped 11,999 people resolve 20,200 problems including debt, housing, Universal Credit, benefits, family problems and consumer issues. For many people this service is a lifeline.

Jon Bright, Chief Executive of Citizens Advice Oxfordshire South and Vale, said: 'This service is only possible thanks to the dedication and commitment of our 160 highly trained volunteers who give up their time to help people in our community find a solution to their problems.'

The number of people seeking advice has increased by 30 per cent over the last three years and the local offices need more volunteers to keep the service running. Volunteer posts include: advisers, receptionists, administrators, IT support and fund-raisers. If you are interested, contact Citizens Advice Oxfordshire South and Vale for more information on 01235 550553 or email recruitment@osavcab.org.uk

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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CHINNOR GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME

Chinnor Good Neighbour Scheme started in 2011 with the aim of providing support in our community, generally helping people where friends and family are unable to do so. Since 2011 we have been able to help over 300 different people in Chinnor and the surrounding area (including Aston Rowant, Crowell, Henton, Kingston Blount and Sydenham). We are now doing over 1,100 jobs per year helping people in a number of different ways, eg odd jobs such as shopping, gardening, collecting prescriptions, getting to/from appointments (at doctors, dentists, hospitals, hairdressers, etc), or even just sitting and having a coffee and a chat.

Our volunteers are happy to visit anyone who needs help, whatever their age – we are happy to be here for you, and we will always help if we can.

All of our volunteers are committed to helping the community in the Chinnor area, working in harmony with the other village community services. Our volunteers have all been checked by the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS), and they all carry identification.

So if you think that we may be able to help you in any way, or you would like to know more about joining us as a volunteer, then please contact us on 01844 353500 or via our email address chinnorgns@gmail.com; alternatively you can get more information about us from our website www.chinnorgns.co.uk, or pop in to the Chinnor Parish Council Office and pick up a leaflet.

Martin King (Chairman) & **David DeVal** (Co-ordinator)

SANTA'S SUNDAY LUNCH

**At Mercure Thame
Lambert Hotel**



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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13th
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ADMISSION FREE!
Refreshments will be available to purchase

PLEASE PASS ON THE WORD

LETTER FROM THE HEADTEACHER

I have a friend who always wears odd socks. She never tries to pair them up. She never worries about matching them to her outfit. She loves the freedom of wearing what she wants on her feet and that each foot is different. The more reserved part of my nature prevents me from joining her, but deep down I think that I am missing out. As I write we are coming to the end of our Anti Bullying Week in school. As part of the week we have had an 'Odd Sock Day'. The day itself is designed to be fun! It's an opportunity to encourage people to express themselves and celebrate their individuality and what makes us all unique. We had all sorts of colours and sizes of socks and when put together brightened our classrooms no end. A welcome change from the grey!

However, it also gives us the opportunity to reflect on how we as people are all different too. Our unique and individual personalities, gifts and talents brighten our school and make it a happy, joyous place to learn. We were all created to be different and we each bring something special to our school community. At Aston Rowant School we love to give people freedom to be themselves and we celebrate each and everyone for who they really are. I think that my friend really is on to something...

Mrs Helen France

Headteacher, Aston Rowant School



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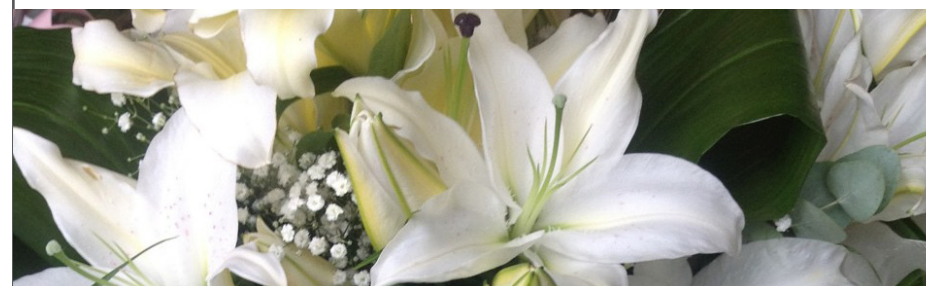
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NEW EDITOR NEEDED FOR PARISH NOTES

Do you have a few days free? Would you like to get more involved with the community? I am no longer able to give the Notes the time they deserve. It would be a real shame to see them disappear, so if you think you could help with them please do get in touch. You'll be guaranteed to meet a lot of lovely people that live in the village and it's the kind of project you can make your own. It might work well for two people to share, and I would of course be happy to talk you through it and help with the first few issues.

Sarah Day

sarahparishnotes@gmail.com

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DECEMBER

- 1 Christingle Service, Aston Rowant church, 4pm (p.8)
- 4 Watlington Gardening Club (p.20)
- 7 Christmas Market, St Mary's church, Sydenham 12-2pm
- 8 Eucharist, Crowell church, 10am p.8
- 7-15 Christmas Tree Festival, St Andrew's church, Chinnor (p.20)
- 13 Cantilena Winds (p.20, 52)
- 15 Santa's Sunday Lunch at the Lambert Arms (p.29)
- 20 Countryside Carols, St Mary's church, Sydenham 7pm
- 21 Advent Readings & Music, Crowell church, 4pm (p.8)
- 22 Carol Service, Aston Rowant church, 4pm (p.8)
- 24 Crib Service, Aston Rowant church, 4pm (p.8)
- 25 Family Communion Service, Aston Rowant church, 10am (p.8)

JANUARY

- 5 New Year Parish Walk (p.17)
- 8 ARPC Meeting (p.12)
- 15 Copy due for February/March Parish Notes



FEBRUARY

- 5 Watlington Gardening Club (p.20)
- 14 Jersey Boys at the Lambert Arms (p.2)
- 16 Duck Races

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 February/March issue is due on 15th January

Please email sarahparishnotes@gmail.com