

VOL XXXXVII No I

FEBRUARY / MARCH 2020

ASTON ROWANT, KINGSTON BLOUNT & CROWELL

PARISH NOTES



Snowdrops at Fiveweays
Mark Lord

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With special thanks to
our team of distributors,
for their continuing
hard work.

Information in this
publication is, as far
as we know, accurate.
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(Hillwerke Recreational Trust Reg Charity No. 279656)

Charges for Hire – Effective 1st January 2020

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Monday–Sunday & Bank Holidays

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

For Non-Residents of the Parish of Aston Rowant

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Main Hall (8am–midnight)	£15.00 per hour
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KINGSTON BLOUNT VILLAGE HALL DIARY

Zumba

every Monday 6.30pm

07834 994699

Kettlebell Abs

every Wednesday 6.00pm

07801 553019

Yoga with Rachel Hawkins

every Wednesday 7.00pm

07552 185499

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
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

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 (please see page 8)
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

ASTON ROWANT FAMILY SERVICES

Every first Sunday of the month at 10am, Aston Rowant church has a family service. This is children focussed with a breakfast to start, held in the side isle served at tables. A short service is held after breakfast around the tables. Max and Molly, our puppets help with the service. We have a different theme each month. The service is designed for all ages.

Sunday 2nd February – we will look the story of the baby Jesus being taken to the Temple by His parents where the prophet Simeon says He is the light of the world. Everyone is given a candle to celebrate.

Sunday 1st March – we will concentrate on pancakes since Shrove Tuesday is that week. Needless to say we will have pancakes for breakfast, amongst other things.
For further information, contact either Des or Brian.

Revd BJGriffiths

UPCOMING CROWELL SERVICES

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary – February–March 2020

Sun 09 February 10.00	High Mass Eucharist (no incense)
Sat 15 February 17.30	Soul Space
Sun 01 March 18.00	Evening Prayer followed by Eucharist
Sat 21 March 17.30	Soul Space

Andy & Maggs Warman (Church Wardens)

CROWELL CHURCH

Well there is movement with the Vacancy. We have applicants after a no response to the first adverts. By the time you read this the interviews will have taken place and hopefully we will have a new Rector Elect awaiting installation.

Due to other commitments and the weather the bulbs weren't planted as planned on the B4009 bank but hopefully done before you read this. Apart from the damage to the car-park gate post (no-one owned up), we have had vandals. Most will know that one of the stained-glass windows was targeted again, the heating oil pipe was cut causing loss of 120 galls into the ground and the porch light PIR was torn out.

Our thanks to prompt action by APV Heating for repairing the pipe and Chas the electrician who made the electrics safe at no charge. Wow, there are kind people about. Our insurers are dealing with this and the police would like any information however small or seemingly insignificant.

Dog poo is still a serious problem and we will deal with anyone not playing the game. It is disgusting and upsetting for those visiting graves and those of us who have to clear it up. You are most welcome to challenge anyone not playing the game or just give us a call. There are signs of new life in the Rainbow Garden, so Maggs will be tending to this as soon as the weather permits. Next jobs are to clear all the ivy from the walls and remove the compost heaps. Any volunteers?

The Christmas services and Advent Bible Study were well attended from a Crowell perspective and an extra service combining all the churches at Crowell on 29 December was really well attended. There's life in the old girl yet, despite the bruising.

As always, we are open to suggestions as to how we might improve the church and grounds and any support residents or visitors think they are able to give both physically or financially.

Apart from one offer from a kind resident we have no other offers regarding the car park maintenance.

Andy & Maggs Warman (Church Wardens)

LETTER FROM JOHN HOWELL MP

This is my first newsletter since the General Election and as I write Parliament is in the midst of debating the Queen's Speech given at the opening of this session of Parliament. The Queen's speech sets out the programme of legislation that the Government intend to pursue in the forthcoming parliamentary session. In the course of the parliamentary session Bills will be brought forward at different times. Members will debate them, committees will scrutinise them, amendments will be tabled, the House of Lords will also scrutinise and may suggest amendments, and MPs take a final vote. All this work shapes the Bill at the various stages until following the final vote it is sent to the Queen for Royal Assent and then becomes law.

With a large number of new MPs there will be changes in roles in the coming weeks and months to give people new opportunities. Firstly there were elections for Deputy Speakers with candidates from the main political parties put forward. There will then be elections for people to chair the Select Committees. In the House of Commons there is a Select Committee for each government department. Their work is to examine the work of the Department including spending, policies and administration. There are also Bill Committees set up to scrutinise each new Bill laid before Parliament. There are many other roles to be assigned to MPs and the Prime Minister has also indicated that he is likely to make changes to his Ministerial team in due course.

There is also a range of APPGs - All-Party Parliamentary Groups. These are informal cross-party groups providing for discussions on issues of particular interest to members. These groups are essentially run by and for members of both the Commons and Lords, though most also involve individuals and organisations from outside Parliament in their administration and activities. Each APPG has to be re-established following a General Election. I follow the work of a number of APPGs and am vice-chairman of several. This month have been elected as chairman of the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), the River Thames APPG, the Fusion Energy APPG and the Digital Currencies APPG.

There will be many key issues up for debate over the coming months. As always I am interested to know the views of constituents on the various topics as they come up for debate. Whether on a topic before the House or something else, if you have an issue that you would like to raise with me please do email me at howelljm@parliament.uk or write to me at the House of Commons (House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA) or my constituency office (PO Box 84, Watlington, OX49 5XD) to share your views. If you would like to receive my periodic electronic newsletters, and briefings on specific issues, please visit my website www.johnhowell.org.uk and subscribe at the link on the home page. You will also find more about my work on my website which is regularly updated.

John Howell MP

PARISH COUNCIL & LOCAL CONTACTS

Parish Website

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

The December and January meetings are when the Council reviews the current year's expenditure and sets the budget for the following year. Although the Council is operating close to budget, we have incurred a number of costs that were not budgeted for. These include the four additional salt bins purchased and the cost of the new website. We believe it is prudent to increase the projected spend for a number of items where costs are not within our control. These include grass cutting, emptying of the bins for dog waste and subscriptions. In addition, we are looking to build up the reserves for the proposed traffic calming measures in Kingston Blount and have budgeted for surveying work to be carried out in Aston Rowant. The playground in Kingston Blount needs remedial work and so we have included funds for these essential repairs.

Based on these figures, the Precept for 2020/2021 will be £25,550, an increase of £1,925 on the 2019/2020 figure of £23,625 which represents an 8.15% increase overall. This amounts to an average increase of approximately £1.15 per household per week. We will continue to make cost savings where we can (for example, the new website will cost considerably less than the previous provider) and will work to ensure that local services and amenities can be well maintained.

Peter Tinson

Chairman – Aston Rowant Parish Council

ASTON ROWANT PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

Parish Council meetings were held on Wednesday 11th of December and Wednesday 8th January 2020 where the applications detailed below were discussed. At the time of writing, the next meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday 12th of February in Kingston Blount Village Hall. All Planning docs can be viewed on the new website: www.astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk/planning/

PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

P19/S4134/FUL – Demolition of the existing dwelling and garage and replacement with dwelling and garage at Wayside, Kingston Stert. It was agreed to review the documentation and come to a conclusion outside of the meeting.

P19/S4132/LDE – Certificate of Lawful Use for the continued use of a timber business at Wayside, Kingston Stert. It was agreed that there was insufficient evidence of existing use of the site as a timber business and as such the application **SHOULD BE REFUSED**.

P19/S3214/HH (revised application) – Installation of air heat source pump at The Old Vicarage, Aston Rowant. The report on the noise survey was noted. However, this did not allay councillors' view that the siting of the heat source pump was sub-optimal and would affect neighbours. The view was that, whilst the Councillors were supportive of green energy initiatives, the application **SHOULD BE REFUSED**.

P19/S4241/FUL – To replace 3 temporary dressing rooms, lean-to corrugated storage and a converted ice-cream van with 3 commercial portacabins, a shipping container and a scoring hut at: Aston Rowant Cricket Club, Chinnor Road, Aston Rowant. **FULLY SUPPORT** with recommendations to camouflage in order to mitigate impact on surroundings.

WITHDRAWN APPLICATIONS:

P19/S0842/FUL – Aston Rowant Cricket Club revised pavilion proposal.

PLANNING DECISIONS OF SODC:

P19/S2062/FUL – Formation of new access and driveway at Town Farm Cottage, Kingston Blount – **REFUSED**

P19/S2900/HH - Proposed installation of forty ground mounted solar panels covering an area of 95m squared at Glenmist, Aston Hill – **GRANTED**.

P19/S3214/HH – Installation of an air source heat pump at: The Old Vicarage, Aston Rowant. **GRANTED**

P19/S3212/HH – 1-2 storey extension(s) and new balcony at: Vine Ho. Park Lane, Kingston Blount. **GRANTED**

P19/S3149/HH – Conversion of garage to third bedroom at Laurel Barn, Stert Rd, Kingston Blount. **GRANTED**

P19/S3214/HH (Amended) – Installation of an air source heat pump at: The Old Vicarage, Aston Rowant. As amended following receipt of tree protection details and technical details. **GRANTED**

PLANNING DECISIONS MADE SINCE THE LAST MEETING:

None.

PLANNING INSPECTORATE APPEAL:

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

PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

If you haven't seen it already, do have a look at the new Aston Rowant Parish Council website. It's a bright and colourful site catering for all, and offers 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.

www.astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.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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OX9 3EX

The Village Centre
High Street
Chinnor
OX39 4DH

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

With the election out of the way and the draft local plan still in limbo, it's time, at last, to move forward with the Aston Rowant Neighbourhood Plan. The draft version has been on the Parish Council website for some time, so I hope you are all familiar with it and fully supportive. As it stands, the draft local plan makes no housing land demands of small villages like ours, so the draft NP reflects and supports this stance. We now need to know that local opinion concurs with this view.

Before the NP is submitted to SODC for formal processing, there has to be a Pre-submission Consultation, lasting at least six weeks. By the time you read the Parish Notes (mid-February), all households in the parish should have received an unmissable yellow flyer setting out where and how to access the draft NP, how to comment on it and when to attend local meetings. At its meeting on 14 January the NP Steering Group set itself a timetable, to be confirmed in the flyer, of clearing the decks by the end of January, delivering the leaflet at the start of February and starting the formal consultation period on 10 February. This should run to 27 March, allowing for public meetings in the village hall (18 February) and the parish church (4 March).

With any consultation, it is all too easy for people with concerns or objections to outnumber the majority of people for whom support and silence go hand-in-hand. It is also disheartening for the members of the Steering Group, who have spent four years flogging their way through this minefield, to hear only negative responses, so please take the trouble to look at their work and to comment on it, for good or ill.

The planning process in South Oxfordshire is still in a precarious position, especially as regards housing. Without a Neighbourhood Plan this parish might well become vulnerable to unwanted development pressure. With a Neighbourhood Plan, though not immune to such pressure, we are better able to influence if and how external, developer-led demands are addressed. It is therefore important that the parish presents a united front to SODC through its support for the Neighbourhood Plan.

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.

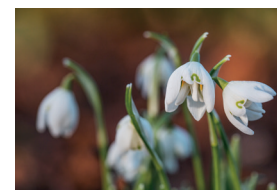
b) In or towards promoting the education (including social and physical training) of persons under the age of 25 years who have at any time attended the school or who are resident in the Parish of Aston Rowant.

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



DUCK RACES, SNOWDROPS & CREAM TEAS

Please join us for Duck Races and Snowdrops at Fiveways in Church Lane, Aston Rowant and Cream Teas at the Church on Sunday 16 February from 2–4pm.

The Duck Races are free and run continuously throughout the afternoon. Come and enjoy the fun by joining in or even just watching. The snowdrops at Fiveways will also be in full bloom. Cream teas are served in the church from 2.30 through to 4.30.

Please park tidily only on the left side of the road as you approach the village, avoiding parking on the blind bends by the church, and keeping the small parking area in Church Lane free for cars of the disabled and for emergency vehicles. Better still, walk along the road or bridleways and footpaths. Remember to wear wellies or boots though because, if the weather stays as it is as I write, you will encounter some puddles and mud. Don't worry, the Church is used to welcoming you whatever you are wearing! They usually provide bowls of water and brushes to help to clean footwear!

The Event is run jointly by The Church and the Footpath and Amenities Group of Aston Rowant Parish Council and all proceeds from the teas go towards Church Funds.

A point of history. The snowdrops by the stream where we have the Duck Races were in the gardens of farm labourers' cottages. The housing was poorly constructed, abandoned and pulled down in the 19th century. But the snowdrops continue to flower every year.

Peter Hetherington.

FAAG (Yes! Footpath and Amenities Group) ARPC



HUNGER LUNCH

A Hunger Lunch in aid of the Porch, Steppin' Stone Centre will be held on Monday 2nd March, 12.30-2pm, at the church of St Peter & St Paul, Aston Rowant. All are very welcome for a simple lunch of soup and bread; cash donations and gifts of dry and tinned foodstuffs will be gratefully received.

As the name implies, The Steppin' Stone Centre in Oxford supports the homeless to re-integrate into the community – the Parish has supported it for many years.

Rona Knight 01844 351 315

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MARK LORD, LOCAL PHOTOGRAPHER

You may have noticed the beautiful cover images on recent issues of the Parish Notes. They were taken by local photographer Mark Lord who has lived in Aston Rowant for almost nine years. He is often seen out in the village with his camera, photographing his clients using our lovely local countryside as a backdrop.

Mark has been a Pink Lady Food Photographer of the Year Finalist in 2017, 2018 and 2019 and is the Official Photographer to The Prince's Countryside Fund. He also specialises in wedding photography, family portraits and business photography. His passion is meeting people from different walks of life and capturing beautiful, natural pictures of them.

If you book Mark for a relaxed family shoot, you may meet at his home in Aston Rowant before taking a walk down towards Fiveways. The walk helps everyone unwind and interact and Mark will capture some beautiful images which your family will treasure for years to come. After the shoot you will receive a secure online gallery from which you can choose digital files, prints or he also has some stunning wall products to choose from. Portrait shoots from Marks home are £25 or a shoot can be arranged at your family home if you prefer. Please contact Mark for more information.

info@marklordphotography.co.uk 01844 351218



LOCAL PHOTOGRAPHER MARK
SPECIALISES IN PEOPLE
PICTURES, HIS PASSION IS
MEETING PEOPLE AND
CAPTURING BEAUTIFUL,
NATURAL PICTURES OF THEM

WHY NOT TAKE A STROLL THIS SPRING IN THE
COUNTRYSIDE AROUND ASTON ROWANT
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FUN & RELAXED FAMILY SHOOT?



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MARK IS AN ACCLAIMED WEDDING
PHOTOGRAPHER, IF YOU ARE PLANNING A
WEDDING IN 2020 OR 2021 PLEASE CONTACT
MARK FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.marklordphotography.co.uk

01844 351218

NOTICEBOARD

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



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. 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.

VE Day

Plans for VE Day 75 are being organised to take place on the weekend 8th-10th May to celebrate and commemorate the 75th Anniversary of VE Day. The 8th May 1945 was the day peace emerged after nearly six years of war. It will be an international celebration of peace – a time to remember, reflect and pay tribute to the millions who played such a vital part in achieving it. The official, exclusive charity for VE Day 75 is SSAFA, the Armed Forces Charity, which also supports the Merchant Navy. Our parish will take part through services of commemoration and the ringing of bells for peace. For more information please go to www.veday75.org.

Allotments Still Available

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

Volunteer Needed

The Hillwerke Recreational Trust committee are looking for someone to take minutes and help set the agendas for their meetings. The Committee is responsible for running the Village Hall in Kingston Blount. We're a friendly bunch and meet four times a year so the duties aren't onerous! If you are interested please email kbvhall@gmail.com or call Andrea Tinson on 01844 352817.

Chinnor Passion Play

First performed in Chinnor in 2017, a Passion Play depicting the last week of the life of Jesus Christ, is being performed on Saturday 25th April at Whites Field, Mill Lane, Chinnor. Performances will take place at 11am & 2pm. Vacancies still exist for actors and/or behind the scenes. Contact Ralph on: 07790 498718 or Jean 07957813104

NOTICEBOARD



New Editor for the Parish Notes Needed

A new Editor is urgently needed to take on the Parish Notes if they are to continue. Anyone with a laptop and basic proficiency in Word or a similar programme can do it! The Notes are published six times a year and require a few hours over a few days each issue to collate all of the information and send them to print. It is a great way to meet people in the village and is a job that can be shared.

It would be a real shame to see them disappear, so if you think you could help with them please do get in touch. I would of course be happy to talk you through it and help with the first issues until you feel confident.

If no one comes forward to take over, we will lose them, but it may be that they aren't needed anymore. We have delivered a short survey with this issue and would greatly appreciate it if you could fill it out and return it to me as explained at the top of the page so that we can get a better idea of how much they are valued across the Parish.

Sarah Day

sarahparishnotes@gmail.com



Aconites at Fiveways, which have never been seen there before.
Photographed by Mark Lord (see page 19)

OUTDOOR LIGHTING

Please be considerate of neighbours and wildlife

Several people have contacted the Parish Notes separately to ask for something to be included in this issue on outdoor lighting and light pollution. Outside lights can bring comfort and a sense of security, but must be installed sensitively, taking the effect on neighbours and the environment into account.

Below is taken from the latest copy of The Chilterns Conservation Board magazine – www.chilternsaonb.org regarding light pollution:

‘Many National Parks and AONBs cherish their dark skies and have been designated as International Dark Sky Parks or Dark Sky Reserves. Although all AONBs are classified as Intrinsically Dark Zones, unfortunately the Chilterns is one of the most light polluted of all protected landscapes. The Chilterns suffers from sky glow from London and nearby towns, and transport corridors like the M25 and M40, as well as light spill from homes and businesses within the AONB. However, the good news is, light pollution is completely reversible.

The benefits of dark skies are obvious. It saves carbon emissions, saves money and helps wildlife (bats, moths, plant germination). There is growing popularity for astro-tourism, with local communities and visitors coming to dark sky areas for stargazing events. It allows us to re-discover the beauty of the night sky. We might remember the first time we gazed up at the wonder of a starry night, and imagined ancient people looking up at the same constellations. It is something worth protecting, so that the younger generation and those to come can also share this experience. For this reason, the CCB has selected new policies on light pollution in our new AONB Management Plan. We are not advocating a ban on all lighting, but we would like to see good lighting.

We are seeing some worrying trends among householders to add unnecessary lighting, for example to upright trees, set lights into walls around entrance gates, or string fairy lights along drives.

There are now dark sky-friendly lights available, so if you are thinking of replacing your lighting here are some pointers:

1. Think about whether this lighting is necessary, and cut down on any you don't need.
2. Choose lights of the right brightness. Don't be a light polluter – go for a lower lumens.
3. There is no need to light up the sky. When choosing light fittings, look for designs that only light downwards, not sideways and never upwards. If you have

existing external lights with adjusters, it's easy to point lights down so that they light up the ground and only in areas that you want to light like doorways or steps.

4. Instead of leaving lights on all night, save energy by installing a curfew timer, so that lights go off at a certain point in the evening. Lights with motion sensors can minimise the total time lights are on, although may need careful adjustment so that they do not flick on when not needed.

5. Avoid architectural designs for new buildings or extensions which have large areas of glazing. Bifold doors and triangular windows of fully glazed gable ends are currently fashionable, but often have no blinds and can spill light outside.

6. Choose 'warm white' rather than 'cool white' lights. Most lights for sale nowadays will be energy efficient LEDs, which use only a tiny fraction of the energy of incandescent bulbs. However, the 'cool white' versions are blue-white and have a higher colour temperature. This blue-white artificial light is like daylight and is especially disruptive to wildlife and natural processes. In the AONB we recommend a colour temperature of 2700 kelvin or below which is in warm white and looks gentler too, with a yellow white hue more in keeping with rural character.

7. Talk to your councillors about street lighting. Many councils are replacing older yellow and orange glowing sodium lights with LEDs. This is fine as long as lighting is the minimum necessary, shielded and are warm white LEDs under 2700 kelvin rather than the cool white LEDs. These lights are an investment and have a long lifespan, so it's important that the right decisions are made now so that we don't as a society regret the choices made'

SODC recommends:

'if artificial light coming from a neighbour's property is causing you a problem, the best approach may be to talk politely to them about the issue. There is a good chance they don't know that it is affecting you – they probably don't want to cause you any problems and want to find a way to solve it. If this approach is not successful, or you feel it is not appropriate, you can contact environmental health, who will investigate the matter for you.

As a general rule guide, if the amount of artificial light coming through your window with your curtains closed is enough to read a book; the artificial light nuisance might be at a level the council could help (i.e. class it as a statutory nuisance, allowing formal action to be taken). If this is not the case, it is unlikely the council will be able to help.'

In their leaflet on reducing the impact of your security lighting on your neighbours they say: 'Domestic security lights should provide the minimum level of illumination necessary to light a property. Whilst you may be happy with a light that illuminates half the street your neighbours may not.'



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- ✓ SITE CLEARANCE



On behalf of the club I'd like to say a Happy New Year to everyone who has helped and supported the club through 2019, this includes all sponsors, playing and non playing members and all who used the club facilities. Whilst the terrible wet winter weather does not bring cricket to mind, the club is busy making preparations for the upcoming season.

We will be fielding 4 senior teams and junior teams from under 9's to under 17's, and anyone wishing to play is very welcome. We will begin Friday night training as soon as is practical – more details to come in the next Parish Notes. We also welcome anyone wishing to act as umpires or scorers and training and payment will be given for both of these roles.

Off the field, we are looking to build on the success of the 1881 club launched last year. Membership renewal forms will be going out in February, anyone wishing to join should either come to the club on Friday night or whenever we are playing, or please contact either myself or Simon Tremlin. We have been looking at the history of the club, which was formed in 1881 by the merger of the then separate Aston Rowant and Kingston Blount teams. But Mike Eaton has proved us with documents that show cricket was played here much earlier. A game took place in 1859 between Wycombe Marsh juniors and Kingston juniors. If anyone has memorabilia from the early days of the club we would be delighted to share it. Thanks to Mike Eaton for his work.

The first friendly game will be on Saturday 18th April. This will be followed on Sunday 19th by a county game between Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire. The official start of the season will be Saturday 9th May, when the first team host the league champions Henley in what will be a great start to the season.

The second and fourth teams will be targeting promotion in their respective Cherwell League divisions whilst the third team in division 4 will be playing against some clubs' first teams, this shows the depth of talent in the club.

This depth is driven by the junior section and it is the provision of cricket for juniors that remains at the heart of the function of the club. This fits in with our declared aim of becoming even more of a Community club at the heart of the parish. In 2019 we set out to demonstrate that we wanted to do this rather than just talk about it. 2019 was a start and we are determined to continue and improve this throughout the forthcoming season.

There will be changes, it is our intention that the big marquee will not be used this year as we look to source a smaller less intrusive but more practical one. Other changes will also follow if the planning application currently under consideration is approved, and more details will be available if and when planning approval is finalised.

In the meantime we hope that the England team have had a successful winter to follow up the amazing summer of 2019. There is no doubt that the exploits of Ben Stokes and company have a positive effect on the number of juniors wanting to play our glorious game, long may it continue.

Steven Sowerby



TESSA WYATT'S COUNTRYSIDE DIARY

21 December

Here's a jolly little piece of useless countryside info – did you know that the word for deer's dung is 'fewmets'? The muntjac leaves his fewmets on our lawn as a calling card. So nice of him.

2 January

There's so much mud and surface water everywhere, it's very hard to get out and about, so my diary has gone a bit quiet. However, nature seems to be doing its winter thing regardless of conditions. Bulb shoots are already showing through the leaf mulch I put down on my flowerbeds in the autumn, and those leaves left on the grass under the Apple tree have already been drawn down by the worms to feed the soil beneath. Passing a large field yesterday I counted over 100 molehills, like a range of tiny volcanoes marching across the grass. The subterranean mafia is very active! Unlike a certain woolly person I could mention – Tinker, do you have to take up the whole sofa?

7 January

There's a thrush making sweet music in the garden. I can't see him but his concert is so lovely there's a kind of hush while the other birds seem to listen.

9 January





The sun casts a silver light at this time of year, a warm silver, unlike the moon's cold blue. I found lots of new waterways today as I walked across the Moors Path to KB. Or perhaps they are old ones, rediscovered by the flood water as it tries to make its escape across the track. At one point a large puddle was draining off the path, under a fence, and running along what must have been a ditch or even a little stream, now covered over. You can see where it would have run before any buildings were put up, down off the hill, across the fields on the far side of the main road, into where Aston House Stud's fields are, along by the last (first?) house in Plowden Park, onto what is now the Moors Path and onward towards the Lower Icknield Way. Though of course, it could have simply emptied itself into the water meadow that I've been told lay where Plowden Park now is. I would love to have a magic camera which would show me how the countryside looked before it was developed. The map in Aston Rowant church is a good indicator, but it isn't big enough!

10 January

They're up! Daffodil spears really shooting up now and Snowdrops flowering. A nuthatch and a blackcap on the feeders this morning. Please somebody send me a bullfinch, there are plenty in Chinnor I hear. Why don't we get them?

13 January

Drove to the New Forest for a funeral yesterday and saw lots of ponies, looking in very good condition. They are so clever at looking after themselves in the wind and rain. They seldom enter the woods but find shelter and food among the gorse bushes on the heath, which were gloriously in flower.

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Denis Norman who lived in Dashwood Court with his wife June passed away just before Christmas after a battle with cancer. Many would have recognised him as an active member of the community and he and June were often involved with the church. But as these extracts from his obituary in *The Times* published on 17 January illustrate, he had a fascinating life which included working as minister of agriculture for Robert Mugabe's government.

Born in Chalgrove in 1931 to farming parents, Norman attended All Saints School in Bloxham then went to work alongside his brother and father farming at Middleton Stoney. 'In 1953 he decided to follow his older brother John, to Southern Rhodesia. ... In 1954 he met Salisbury-born June Marshall, whose grandfather was one of the pioneers who opened up Rhodesia after 1890. He later recalled that she was "the most beautiful woman I've ever seen in my life."'

In an effort to reassure the white community and prove to the rest of the world that he was serious about racial reconciliation, Mugabe appointed Norman as Zimbabwe's first minister of agriculture in 1980. 'During the five years that Norman ran agriculture the country was not only self-sufficient in food, but was also a net exporter to the other eight countries in the important regional economic grouping, the Southern African Development Community (SADC). Norman soon became one of Mugabe's most respected and listened to ministers. ... Norman's contribution to racial reconciliation has never been fully appreciated. Yet between 1980 and 1985 the partnership between Mugabe and Norman made sense of independence and inspired meaningful and well-planned land reform. Mugabe admitted he knew little about farming and so he paid attention to the words and the wisdom of a man who did.'

But in 1985 when the white community voted overwhelming for Ian Smith's party at the second general election, a furious Mugabe sacked Norman and Smith, though later he would turn to Norman again for help asking him to take over transport, national supplies and then agriculture again. He stayed until 1997, when Mugabe 'came under increasing pressure to print money to provide handouts and pensions to veteran freedom fighters. Three years later with nothing left to give, Mugabe turned on white farmers and seized the land that they had bought legally after independence.'

'Norman was one of the most respected men in Zimbabwe for a long time, and it was with huge reluctance that he and June decided to leave the country they loved and helped to build. However, after the land invasions of 2000 life became unbearable for them and most other whites.'

'Almost until the day of his death he remembered with a mixture of affection and regret the way that Mugabe had arrived on the scene with such promise and such hope, yet left behind him a wrecked farming system in an ill-fated country.'

Norman's biography is entitled *The Odd Man In: Mugabe's White-Hand Man*. He is survived by June and his four children: Kathryn, Diana, Howard and Deborah.



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LETTER FROM THE HEADTEACHER

I love this time of year. It is a time for reflection, for change, for making plans. It encourages us to reflect on what's been going on and what we would like to do differently going forward. It can be a very dynamic time with opportunities for change and challenge. I also love change and believe that it can be positive and exciting.

In the Autumn term all of the stakeholders at Aston Rowant School (children, staff, parents and Governors) took the opportunity to reflect about our vision for the school and share our aspirations – without holding back – and shape what you we really wanted not only for the year ahead but also for this new decade. The results were a new logo, strapline, vision and values for the school.



Growing together we inspire each other to achieve our full potential as courageous lifelong learners.

'Practise these things, immerse yourself in them so that all may see your progress'
(1 Tim 4:15)

G-R-O-W-T-H:

GRATITUDE RESILIENCE OUTREACH WONDER TRUTH HARMONY

The tree, our strapline 'Growing together' and our core values spelling GROWTH all embody what we offer as a school. How we work together to enable our children be curious in their approach to learning, and grow to be courageous in their attitude to learning. This in turn will empower our pupils to understand the impact their learning has had on them so far, their roots, and be inspired to keep learning.

So at this turn of year and decade, we at Aston Rowant School wish everyone in our local community a wonderful, peaceful, harmonious new year. We have exciting times ahead and look forward to sharing them with you.

Happy New Year to one and all.

Mrs Helen France

Headteacher, Aston Rowant School



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Winter is traditionally the busiest time of year for the NHS, and so patients are being reminded to only use Emergency Departments in Oxford and Banbury in an emergency. There are a range of alternative options available for non-emergency situations to ensure you get the appropriate care you need, and save an unnecessary trip to the Emergency Department.

What's available?

Self-care is the best choice for minor illnesses and injuries – a range of common winter ailments can be treated at home with a well-stocked medicine cabinet. Having a winter plan – such as keeping stocked up on medicines, keeping your home warm, and looking out for neighbours – can also be beneficial.

Local pharmacies can give advice on several conditions, such as coughs, headaches, upset stomachs and skin conditions, as well as advise on stopping coughs and colds from getting worse.

NHS 111 has call handlers who can help you choose the right health services for your needs, as well as a website. NHS 111 can put you in touch with a clinician, a GP, book you an appointment at your nearest minor injuries unit. You can also use NHS 111 online 111.nhs.uk

Minor injuries units can treat deep cuts, small burns, sprains, sports injuries, and infected wounds. To find out your nearest MIU please visit the Oxford Health website

Your local GP may offer extended opening hours into the evening or at the weekend.

Most importantly, only attend Emergency Departments when there is a genuine emergency, such as loss of consciousness, suspected heart attack or stroke, severe breathing difficulties, or severe bleeding that cannot be stopped.




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BEFORE IT GETS WORSE



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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

FEBRUARY

- 2 Family Service Aston Rowant (p.7)
- 9 High Mass Eucharist, Crowell church (p.7)
- 12 ARPC Meeting (p.12)
- 15 Watlington Gardening Club (p.20)
Soul Space, Crowell church (p.6)
- 16 Duck Races, Snowdrops & Cream Teas (p.17)
- 18 Neighbourhood Plan Meeting (p.15)

MARCH

- 1 Family Service Aston Rowant (pancakes!)
Evening prayer followed by Eucharist, Crowell church (p.7)
- 2 Hunger Lunch, Aston Rowant church (p.17)
- 4 Neighbourhood Plan Meeting (p.15)
- 11 ARPC Meeting (p.12)
- 15 Copy due for April/May Parish Notes
- 21 Soul Space, Crowell church (p.6)

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 April/May issue is due on 15th March

Please email sarahparishnotes@gmail.com