

ASTON ROWANT, KINGSTON BLOUNT & CROWELL

PARISH NOTES



Spring in Aston Rowant by Mark Lord

CORONAVIRUS – Please note that due to the Coronavirus many of the events in this publication might not be taking place. If you're in any doubt please contact the relevant organiser.

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Charges for Hire – Effective 1st January 2020

For Residents of the Parish of Aston Rowant

Monday–Sunday & Bank Holidays

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

For Non-Residents of the Parish of Aston Rowant

Monday–Sunday & Bank Holidays

Main Hall (8am–midnight)	£15.00 per hour
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Children's Parties (daytime)	£50.00 (3-4 hours)

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Resident £210; Non Resident £225

All evening hire – 5pm to midnight

Resident £85; Non Resident £90

Bar Licence (if required) will incur an additional charge of £20

To make a booking, email bookings@kbvh.org, phone 07391 139707 or visit our website www.kbvh.org where you will also find a full description of the facilities we can offer plus details of activities currently taking place in the hall.



KINGSTON BLOUNT VILLAGE HALL DIARY

Kettlebell Abs

every Wednesday 6.00pm

07801 553019

Flowers 4 All

third Thursday of every month

07748 408442

Yoga with Rachel Hawkins

every Wednesday 7.00pm

07552 185499

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

CORONAVIRUS INFORMATION

The current NHS advice at going to print on 24 March:

COVID-19 is a new illness that can affect your lungs and airways. It's caused by a virus called coronavirus.

Everyone must stay at home to help stop the spread of coronavirus.

This includes people of all ages – even if you do not have any symptoms or other health conditions.

You can only leave your home:

- to shop for basic essentials – only when you really need to
- to do one form of exercise a day – such as a run, walk or cycle, alone or with other people you live with
- for any medical need – for example, to visit a pharmacy or deliver essential supplies to a vulnerable person
- to travel to and from work – but only where this is absolutely necessary

What to do if you have coronavirus symptoms

Continue to stay at home if you have either:

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)

To protect others, do not go to places like a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital. Stay at home.

Use the 111 online coronavirus service to find out what to do.
<https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19/>

Only call 111 if you cannot get help online.

What to do if you need medical help for another reason

If you need medical help not related to coronavirus, do not go to places like a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital.

For health information and advice, use the NHS website or check your GP surgery website.

For urgent medical help, use the NHS 111 online service. Only call 111 if you're unable to get help online.

Advice for people at high risk

If you're at high risk of getting seriously ill from coronavirus, there are extra things you should do to avoid catching it.

These include:

- not leaving your home – you should not go out to do shopping, visit friends or family, or attend any gatherings
- avoiding close contact with other people in your home as much as possible

Who is at high risk?

You may be at high risk from coronavirus if you:

- have had an organ transplant
- are having certain types of cancer treatment
- have blood or bone marrow cancer, such as leukaemia
- have a severe lung condition, such as cystic fibrosis or severe asthma
- have a condition that makes you much more likely to get infections
- are taking medicine that weakens your immune system
- are pregnant and have a serious heart condition

If you're at high risk, you will be contacted by the NHS by Sunday 29 March 2020. Do not contact your GP or healthcare team at this stage – wait to be contacted.

Other things you can do to stop the infection spreading

Do

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards
- stay 2 metres (3 steps) away from other people, if you need to go outside

Don't

- do not touch your eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean

How coronavirus is spread

Because it's a new illness, we do not know exactly how coronavirus spreads from person to person. Similar viruses are spread in cough droplets. It's very unlikely it can be spread through things like packages or food.

Treatment for coronavirus

There is currently no specific treatment for coronavirus. Antibiotics do not help, as they do not work against viruses. Treatment aims to relieve the symptoms while your body fights the illness. You'll need to stay in isolation, away from other people, until you have recovered.

Further information can be found online at: www.111.nhs.uk/covid-19
The Parish Council website will have up to date information and help.
www.astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk

LETTER FROM JOHN HOWELL MP

When constituents approach me with individual issues and concerns I always try to get information for them, and when appropriate I raise things directly with Ministers. With the turmoil of last year and ongoing uncertainty it seemed to become increasingly difficult to get responses. Now that the long-anticipated Government reshuffle has been done, and Ministers either confirmed in their posts or new appointments made it seemed we were in for a more stable period with greater opportunity to discuss issues with Ministers. Then Coronavirus hit. It is in the midst of concern over the virus in early March that I write.

There is a fine balance in deciding what best to do in these situations and I am pleased that there has been cross-party support for the ways in which the Government has been handling the issue. By the time my newsletter is published the situation will have changed again. I share the concern of many at fake news which adds to unnecessary fear. The panic buying by some has also triggered a concerned response. I can understand that people worry about the virus but, whilst those who can afford to fill their cupboards do so, they add to the vulnerability of those who are unable to shop other than little and often. This is a time for testing our shared compassion.

It was good to hear the Chancellor open his Budget Statement addressing the issue of Coronavirus bringing forward measures to help with economic security and stability. Readers will be familiar with the key funding announcements, so I will not repeat them. I was particularly pleased that the Chancellor offered financial support to encourage people to take the necessary time off work should they be advised to stay at home. I also welcome the support for small businesses to enable them to pay people for time off due to the virus without having to meet the direct cost themselves. This is especially so in a constituency where small business is the heart of our economy. I do appreciate that there are other issues that our local businesses, and indeed all of us will have to face, but I am sure that working together and accepting some short-term limitations on our usual lifestyle will help us get through this difficult time.

On a more positive note, and for the longer-term, I believe that the overall budget is one which will bring benefit across our national life and I look forward to seeing how the budget announcements are developed in different government departments over the coming months.

More generally, and 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 john.howell.mp@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.

John Howell MP

CORONAVIRUS LOCAL HELP

Below is a list of local people who are willing to help if you need assistance with anything.

We can help with:

- Shopping
- Getting medication or prescriptions
- Cooking
- Giving advice or just checking in if you want someone local to talk to
- Looking after / feeding pets

Most of us work from home and can be contacted anytime. If you would like to add your name to this list, please email matthewday63@icloud.com or text 07940 752446

Aston Rowant:

- Adam Bernstein – The Green , Aston Rowant - 07785 905120
- Ali Brook - Aston Rowant - 07801 685107
- Mark McCabe – The Green, Aston Rowant - 07773 299232
- Mark Lord – The Green, Aston Rowant - 01844 351218

Kingston Blount:

- Laura Donald – Pleck Lane, Kingston Blount – 07778 991442
- Stephanie Johns – Bakers Piece, Kingston Blount – 07939 030102
- Matthew Priestley – Brook Street, Kingston Blount - 07976 373512
- Sally Brodermann – Old Croft Close, Kingston Blount – 01844350364
- Tracey Eaton Park Lane(High Street) Kingston Blount - 07810 646025
- Matthew Day – The Green, Kingston Blount – 07940 752446
- Peter Tinson – High Street, Kingston Blount – 07976 748113

The Parish Council are establishing an emergency procedure plan and will be holding an extraordinary meeting to set the plan in action. More information on this will be out soon. Please keep checking the Parish Council website or call one of the numbers above for up to date information.

Matthew Day

Aston Rowant Parish Council

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

All church services, events and activities are suspended until further notice.

This applies to St Andrew's and our other churches in the parish. All the churches (except Crowell) will remain open in the daytime for private prayer and lighting of candles.

As a church community we will continue to pray for the safety and well being of the whole parish.

Jacky

CROWELL CHURCH

There are a lot of initiatives being planned so that we can still function as a church across the Parish including weekly service sheets so that church goers can use these at home at 10:00 on Sunday mornings to be part of a virtual church. These will be delivered by e-mail or hand to anyone who wishes to receive them.

The content of the Parish Magazine will be increased and delivered to the normal congregations, those on the church electoral register and any others who wish to receive it by hand or e-mail (csarc@btinternet.com).

The electoral rolls are being updated so if anyone wants to be added they need to fill in a form available in Crowell church porch or in the other churches and forward to the Parish Office at Chinnor (csarc@btinternet.com)

Annual Parish Church Meetings (APCMs) have been given provisional licence to be postponed until October. They were due by end May.

Parochial Church Council Meetings (PCC) will happen at a distance as normal church management need to remain functioning.

There are new rules regarding Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals which can be found on the Diocese Website (www.oxford.anglican.org).

Andy & Maggs Warman (Church Wardens)

ASTON ROWANT CHURCHYARD

After many years with no work on the trees in the churchyard at St. Peter and St. Paul's Church we have had a private donation and after obtaining permission from SODC and the church authorities the work commenced this week. We are removing a few trees that are not appropriate for a church yard and lifting the canopy of others, this will let the light in and transform the rather gloomy outlook and also open up views of the church from the road.

We are taking great care to avoid any damage to the memorials in the churchyard and the major work is almost complete. There are lots of logs and these will be removed as quickly as possible but in the meantime anyone wishing to take logs for their wood burners or other uses please feel free.

Once the tree surgeons have completed our gardeners will start to remove the ground ivy and moss and now the light can get in we will see the grass growing again and can start planting wild flowers. We are also planning to make good the paths through the churchyard.

It is our intention to make the churchyard a more beautiful place for remembrance, quiet contemplation and prayer.

Richard Boarder (Church Warden)

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

So far 2020 has been full of incident – storms, flooding and now, Corona virus. Whilst Storms Ciara, Dennis and Jorge had a short term impact on parishioners, the spread of the Covid19 virus is already causing disruption and posing challenges to individuals and the wider community. At the time of writing, the Health Secretary Matt Hancock suggested that all over 70s will be told to self isolate in order to protect themselves and to reduce the likelihood of infection. The parish has a high proportion of over 70s and so such a step, if implemented, would have a major impact. Clearly at times like this the community comes to the fore. Already a new Facebook group has been set up under the KBAR Group to help more vulnerable residents of Aston Rowant, Kingston Blount and Crowell if they find themselves in self isolation and need assistance with shopping. It is incumbent on those of us who remain fit and able to support those who are infected or are otherwise isolated.

In the last edition of the Parish Notes we included a short questionnaire on the future of the Notes themselves. I am pleased to report that we had an excellent response – it is clear that the Notes are valued by parishioners. The questionnaire also invited expressions of interest in the key role of editor. Sally Brodermann from Kingston Blount has stepped forward to edit the Parish Notes – I would like to thank Sally for taking on this important role and hope she will forgive my occasional tardiness in producing copy! I would also like to thank Sarah Day for her immense contribution in editing the Parish Notes in recent years. As I am sure Sally knows, Sarah will be a hard act to follow!

The Council has some funds allocated in reserves for traffic calming but these are not sufficient for the installation of the measures proposed for Kingston Blount. Consequently the Council has been looking at additional options for funding this work and has been making some progress. It was agreed that Kingston Blount should be the priority for traffic calming as eight properties along the High Street have been damaged as a result of traffic incidents. However, we are also aware that vehicles often exceed the speed limit in Aston Rowant and so we have started to gather evidence to support traffic calming measures there. A survey was carried out in early March and we are awaiting the results. We will update you in the next edition of the Parish Notes.

Peter Tinson

Chairman – Aston Rowant Parish Council

ASTON ROWANT PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

Parish Council meetings were held on Wednesday 12th of February and Wednesday 11th March where the applications detailed below were discussed. The meeting scheduled for Wednesday 8th of April in Kingston Blount Village Hall will be cancelled due to Coronavirus restrictions. The Parish Council are establishing a Webinar conference facility.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

P19/S4241/FUL - Tree Preservation Order applied on 15/January to 5 trees following the application for temporary facilities at Aston Rowant Cricket Club (for information only – no comments required).

P20/S0032/TCA – Notice of Intended Works in Conservation Area - works to trees in the churchyard of Aston Rowant Church, within the village Conservation area (for information only – no comments required).

P19/S4134/FUL - Amendment (No.1) for development work at Wayside Kingston Stert per additional bat and tree info. received 14/Feb (for information only – no comments required).

P19/S4241/FUL - Amendment (no. 1) for development work at: Aston Rowant Cricket Club Chinnor Road Aston Rowant Oxfordshire (per amended plans and supporting documents submitted 25 February 2020).

P20/S0675/LB - Listed Building Consent: to replace the existing roof tiles at Chiltern Cottage, Pleck Lane, Kingston Blount, OX39 4RU.

P20/S0661/A - Proposed “V” board advertisement for Bovis Homes development in Chinnor, on land at Woodway Farm, Chinnor Road near Aston Rowant OX49 5SJ (at junction of B4009 & A40 Aston Hill).

WITHDRAWN APPLICATIONS:

None.

PLANNING DECISIONS OF SODC:

P20/S0032/TCA - As above. Notice of approval issued on 31st January 2020 to applicant.

PLANNING DECISIONS MADE SINCE THE LAST MEETING:

P19/S4241/FUL - Development work at: Aston Rowant Cricket Club Chinnor Road Aston Rowant Oxfordshire – to replace 3 temporary dressing rooms, storage shed and converted ice cream van (currently used as a scoring hut) with 3 commercial portacabins, a shipping container and a scoring hut (per amended plans submitted on 25/Feb and 4/Mar). GRANTED with 5 conditions.

PLANNING INSPECTORATE APPEAL:

P19/S2062/FUL - Appeal to Planning Inspectorate ref: APP/Q3115/W/19/3243590

against SODC decision to refuse permission for formation of new access and driveway at Town Farm Cottage, Brook Street, Kingston Blount, OX39 4RZ. No change to our original recommendation for refusal, so no written representation required.

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



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 WHILST MARK CAPTURES YOUR FAMILY IN A 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



PARISH NOTES QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

We had a really great response to the Parish Notes Questionnaire with 70 forms returned both online and by post. The overwhelming response was that people do like receiving the Notes, and about 95% of those that responded said that they read them cover to cover, and most found a large proportion or all of the segments to be useful or interesting. One person wrote: 'For those who don't use social media, the Parish Notes provide human contact in the village.'

The Planning pages are the most-read section, but all sections are popular including adverts, and there were calls for a return of Richard Ewan's allotment Notes (we are hoping maybe this Spring?) and Eliza's page (which I'm sorry to say is unlikely!)

Below are some responses to the question: 'Is there any important information that you get solely from the Parish Notes?'

- 'A connection to and understanding of the local community.'
- 'Probably not but 'useful to have information updated' and to have it to 'refer back to, easy access.'
- 'Yes – a feeling that we live in a wonderful English old-fashioned English village. It contributes to the sense of community.'
- 'Information specific to the villages.'
- 'From an elderly reader, 'The Parish Notes is a lifeline to village news. It's invaluable!'
- 'I have lived at address for 39 years and find Notes keep me in touch with village life as I am not on the internet. Probably many others come into this category.'
- 'the Notes provide a valuable link and source to the parish residents who are unable to access info of what is going on: disabled, young families, elderly residents.'
- 'I feel they bind us all together. There is nothing else now that offers a central source of information. I would be very sorry to see them go.'

Nearly all responded that they would like to see the Parish Notes continue. There were some great ideas of what people would like to see covered that isn't already with many asking for more information on newcomers to the village.

As the editor I had felt worried about seeking out this information – felt that it may be overstepping privacy boundaries to ask people who have moved in. Perhaps we could set up a permanent section in the Noticeboard and hope that anyone who has moved here in the last year or two to get in touch so we can introduce you properly? Please do email Sallyparishnotes@gmail.com if you have moved in recently and haven't had a Parish Notes introduction!

Other suggestions included:

- Interviews with interesting local residents
- Crime page
- News from Aston Rowant Nature Reserve
- Births, deaths celebrations and newcomers to the parish

- Personal ads, for sale or to lend/ Letters to the editor
- Extra brown bin collection dates, and normal bin collection dates
- 'Why not have a recipe page, with recipes contributed with their story (like the charity cookbook made in 1985 for Food Aid)?
- Local trusted tradespeople
- More on allotment news
- Regular activities in Chinnor
- Relevant planning and events from other villages
- Parish Council Agenda items

We will have a look at these suggestions, but if anyone does have anything to submit such as a recipe, a review of a local tradesperson, or anything else, or if you are interested in submitting a regular page please do get in touch. Now that we are all stuck inside, the Parish Notes might be a good way to share information.

I have loved working on the Parish Notes, and meeting and getting to know the team of really lovely people that give their time for free to make it work. I am always amazed at how the team of distributors manage to post a copy through every door in the Parish so quickly. And thank you so much for the kind words many of you added to your forms. I know that Sally is going to do a brilliant job, and I will be here to provide back up.

Sarah Day

NOTE FROM THE NEW EDITOR

As a freelance Illustrator and Graphic Designer I thought I would help out in a small way and try my hand at the Parish Notes. Sarah's are big boots to fill and she's done a fabulous job over the last few years - I think proof of that is in the great response to the questionnaire in the last edition (see above for details).

I'd like to thank Sarah for her time and patience showing me the ropes and to everyone else involved for being so welcoming.

I would like to add that I'm not much of a writer so if anyone has any ideas of articles they would like to see in the Notes (again see above for suggestions) then please write something and email me at sallyparishnotes@gmail.com or ring me on 350364. I look forward to hearing from you all!



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FOOTPATH AND AMENITIES GROUP Spring Report

New Permissive Path between Kingston Blount and Crowell.

We want to thank all the people and organisations that helped to make this footpath happen:- Alan and Lawney Hill who offered a 30 year Deed of Licence to our Parish Council for use of their land, the Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment and Aston Rowant Parish Council who funded the project. Also the Chiltern Society who drew up the specification for the all weather grass surface and the pinch points at each end, which they also installed. Thanks too to OCC Countryside Services for initial guidance and to George Stevens and his company, Ridgeway Rural Services, who levelled, rolled and seeded, fenced and laid the surface reinforcement. And last but not least, you our Parishioners, who have so enthusiastically welcomed the path and already use it regularly. After all it offers safety, away from the dangerous B4009 road.

Next Parish Walk.

Cowleaze Wood. Sun 7 June. Meet at Stokenchurch end of car park at 10.00 am. A 7m circular walk round the Wood, Shirburn Hill, the Ridgeway, and part of Aston Rowant Nature Reserve. Please wear boots or walking shoes and bring a snack. This is a joint venture with Thame and Wheatley Ramblers.

Peter Hetherington FAAG (Yes! Footpath and Amenities Group) ARPC

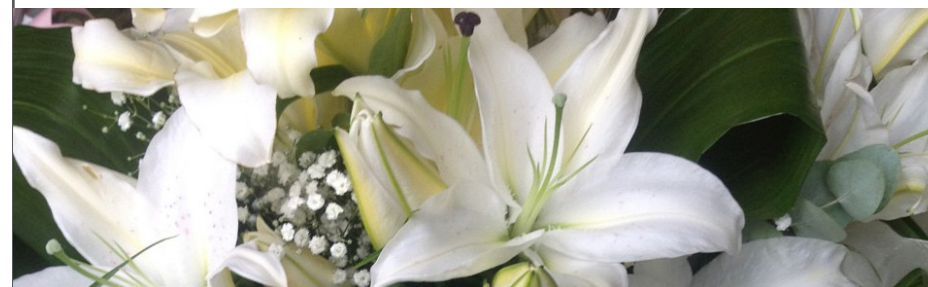
Surman & Horwood Funeral Services

Golden Charter
Funeral Plans



At Surman & Horwood Funeral Services & Monumental Masons we offer comprehensive funeral services from a family run business with years of experience.

Chapel of Rest, The Green, Crowell
01844 351323 (24 hours)



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. The meeting on the 1st April is a talk by Billy Stott on 'Travels of a Horticultural Student'. Tales of learning from our local nurseryman of Stotts Nursery, Ibstone Road. Billy recounts his tales of the horticultural trade from student to nurseryman. (He will be bringing plants to sell.

On the 6th May Darren Lerigo will give a talk on 'What do I do with this space?' He tries to find answers to one of the most important questions you can ask when looking at your garden. The club has also organised a garden visit for the summer and the details are on display at the meetings.

Need a Chat?

I moved out of the village almost a year ago but know how kind and caring everyone is. My parents still live amongst you and they love your little community.

The thought of a possible lockdown is terrifying and causing myself a lot of anxiety. I'm young, fit and healthy but the unknown is really affecting my mental health. I've always suffered with my mental health and want to make sure that I keep myself positive and I'd love to help other people to try and do this. So, do any of you know anyone who needs a call? An old relative who lives by themselves and would just like a chat? A young person who finds this all a bit tough and needs someone to talk to?

I don't know much but talking really helps and we all need a friend sometimes. Send me a message and I'll give you a call.

Bethany Wackett

bwackett@btinternet.com

Hunger Lunch

The Hunger Lunch held on 2nd March in aid of the Steppin Stone Centre made £354.02, as well as a large quantity of foodstuffs. Thank you to all who helped us reach this total, and particular thanks to the soup makers and washer uppers.

Rona Knight



NOTICEBOARD

St Andrew's Church Flower and Crafts Festival with Afternoon Cream Tea – Saturday 6th & Sunday 7th June 2020

The St Andrew's Church Flower Guild is hosting a flower festival with the theme of "Life's Footsteps" on Saturday 6 June and Sunday 7 June 2020. This is being held in conjunction with the Chinnor Open Gardens. The event will again be expanded by showcasing displays of local art and crafts alongside the gardens.

There will also be a produce stall selling jams, crafts, etc and a plant stall – any donations towards the produce stall will be gratefully received closer to the date of the festival. Cream teas will be sold on both afternoons of the festival. This year's festival will again host tours of the bell tower on both days from 2pm-4pm. For a small donation, visitors can have a go at ringing the bells and have a look into the ringing chamber plus a talk about the history of the bells and how the bells are rung.

Donations at the door will be gratefully received. The funds raised during this Flower and Crafts Festival will go towards the future restoration work of St Andrew's Church. St Andrew's Church is in the heart of Chinnor and beloved by locals and visitors alike. The building is used by the community, for the community.

Opening times: Saturday 6th & Sunday 7th June: 1pm - 6pm

Bell Tower: Saturday 6th & Sunday 7th June: 2- 4pm



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.





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It has been a stormy Winter which sadly meant we had to cancel this year's duck racing. The course had been cleared and there would have been record times with the flow! However it was the right decision as a tree came down across the path that weekend.

The snowdrops have been really good and there were also a smattering of aconites. The winds have also brought down at least three hawthorn trees on the far bank. They were probably nearly a hundred years old. Even before the storms, we had removed two dangerous ones. They are good hedging but are lanky and top heavy, but they have character.

One of the biggest problems is the ivy making the hawthorns top heavy. Ivy is rampant along the Spring line but relatively uncommon on top of the Chilterns for some reason. Ivy does not make berries when running along the ground, only when it climbs. Holly does well on the Chilterns and I am pleased to see the six hollies we planted by the side of Church Lane are doing very well after earlier losses - as we need more evergreens. I am told they are not easy to start as hedging and we did lose two thirds in the dry Summers. I am still looking for wild holly donations. The PC has funded some more trees around the villages with a focus on Rowans for the wildlife.

The daffodils were early this year. The more common European native is the bicoloured version - the Lent Lily. The monochrome variant found near Tenby in Wales (and elsewhere), is claimed as the Welsh national flower by some and is twice as expensive to buy. The Tenby daffodil is flowering better this year at Five Ways, but they are still not as strong as the Lent Lily. Luckily we haven't lost any daffodils and I would like to see more planted. I am looking for a sponsor to buy and plant them. You can plant 200 easily in an hour with an electric drill, which I can provide.

I did plant more bluebells last Autumn and I am hoping they will be more vigorous than last year. It may be that the ground is not ideal for them, in which case we should concentrate on something else. I have planted quite a few Wood Anemones in recent years in memory of my Mother-in-Law; again it takes decades for them to establish. Look out for them in March. There is a fantastic clump in Nethercote Lane.

The Footpath and Amenities Group has looked again at the history of the Five Ways area and we can now name the inhabitants of the Church Poor Houses along Church Lane. If you continue on past the copse on your left towards Oxford, halfway down the open field you walk through the lost Hamlet of Penn. There is nothing visible, but some marking can be seen on Google Earth using earlier aerial images. As you continue on you come to bands of trees on both sides of the ancient footpath. Where the path enters the trees you are crossing what was known as The Stadway. Stad is Old English for stopping place or town - hence Way Stop perhaps. The Stadway carried on as the Drove Way to the North east. It has long been thought that the plot of church land to the Northeast on the parish boundary was the site of the Pest Houses or Plague houses in the 17th and 18th century.

Mike Eaton



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It seems strange to think that it is only weeks to the start of the cricket season, this of course assumes the tide has gone out from the cricket fields. The first weekend of cricket is the 18th April.

Preparations are starting to get into full swing and you will notice, that after the planning permission for the temporary dressing rooms has been approved, the portakabins and shipping container will be moved. These temporary rooms have a 3-year life whilst we decide what to do with the pavilion.

The potential application for the houses in the Chapmans field will be covered elsewhere in these notes, but we want to emphasise that this will only go ahead if the parishioners approve of the application.

In other news, huge congratulations to James Coles, who has won the Sir Jack Hobbs Silver Jubilee Memorial Prize for the best U16 schoolboy cricketer in England. James, the grandson of ARCC stalwart Gordon Eggleton, has come through the ranks of our junior teams. He and his family must be very proud. This is a very important trophy to win.

The club is pleased to receive a grant from the Chinnor Beer Festival to enable the purchase of training kit for the junior teams, our thanks to all concerned.

Our overseas player for this season will be Jordon Gard, a New Zealander, who in addition to his cricket commitments will live and work at Wormsley, thank you Simon.

Dates for your diaries

April 3rd - Start of outdoor nets, player (both junior and senior) registration, bar reopens.

April 17th - Curry night at Duo Chinnor, very successful last year.

April 18th - First friendly fixture.

April 19th - County Game Oxfordshire V Bucks.

April 28th - First League weekend, 1st team v Henley (2019 League Champions).

Later in the summer:

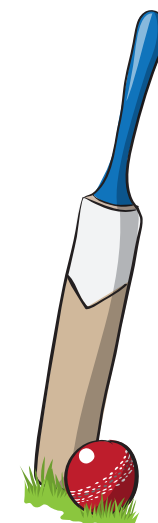
July 18th and 19th - Beer Festival, details to follow.

July 26th - ARCC v MCC. again, details to follow.

Finally, can I remind you that everyone is welcome at the club, players, family members, spectators and especially anyone who fancies either umpiring or scorers. Training and payment is available for the latter two positions, we and the rest of our leagues are short of both.

2020 looks to be an important and hopefully enjoyable season for the club, please join us. Together we can build a better future.

Steven Sowerby



75 YEARS – VE DAY CELEBRATION

On 7th May 1945 the formal act of military surrender was signed by Germany, ending the war in Europe. Winston Churchill declared the next day a public holiday in Britain. Years of destruction came to an end and millions of people took to the streets and pubs to celebrate peace and to hope for the future.

We invite you to join us at the Village Hall to joyously celebrate as people did 75 years ago, the arrival of peace in Europe.

Celebrations will take place at 7.30pm on Thursday evening 7th May

(the Bank holiday has been moved to Friday to mark the anniversary).

Some of you may remember the celebrations at the village hall in 1995 to mark the 50th VE Day Anniversary. Let's party again with wartime rations, music, bring your own booze, a short quiz to test your knowledge and everyone in costumes of the day or red, white and blue! Get your friends together and get your nylons on!

As we plan this event, we are all too aware of the possibility that we may need to postpone it until later in the year because of the coronavirus outbreak. For this reason, we ask you to save the date in your diary and register an interest, but tickets will be on sale from 1st May when we can make an informed decision.

VE DAY Committee

veday.kbar@gmail.com

We honour the brave men of our Parish, who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.

World War 2 1939 -1945

Charles Clerke Brown
Albert Buckle
Thomas Hatton
John McGown
Wilfred Sanger
Lawrence Clerke Brown
George Timothy North
Richard Clerke Brown
Frank George Rose

2nd Lieut 4th Batt Oxf. & Bucks Lt Infantry
Gunner 239 Batt 60th Field Regt R.A.
Private 6th Batt. Oxf. & Bucks. Lt Infantry
Lieut 89th I.A.A. Batty. 35th Regt R.A.
Private 2nd Batt. K.O.S Borderers
Lieut 3rd Gloucestershire Regt.
Gunner C/58 Brigade R.F.A.
2nd Lieut Royal Engineers
Private 20th Royal Fusiliers

World War 1 1914 – 1918

Charles Frederick Ballard
Edwin Richard Barnes
William Cleland Hatton
Henry Hamp Hill
Albert John Horwood
Victor Arthur Lambourne
Albert Mason
Ernest George Quartermaine
William Arthur Wallington
Leonard Edward White

Commander R.N. HMS Formidable
Private 7th Royal Sussex Regiment
2nd Air Mechanic Royal Air Force
Capt 11th P. of Wales Own W. Yorks
Private 20th Bn London Regiment
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TESSA WYATT'S COUNTRYSIDE DIARY

This winter has been so wet it has been quite difficult for me to get out and about in the countryside, so my diary has perforce been limited to only a few fine days. As we long for Spring sunshine and dry weather, I thought I might turn the tables a bit, and show you a prose poem I wrote about my beloved Africa, where I was born and where I returned to for a few years as an adult. The reverse side of the coin if you like:

Oven heat that envelops you and slows your walking. Heat that has a fragrance of hot earth and animals. The heat is the colour of the earth. Red.

At noon the sky is steel white. The air thrums. A buzzing, a chorus of insect life, dense, a many layered orchestration, nature's undertone.

And out of the heat the dying fall song of the Hoopoe while a pod of hippos mutter their guttural calls.

Grass, crisp underfoot and grey, a harbour for sleepy puff adders and jiggers that nest in your toes.

The river falls shallow and the lake shrinks as the sun drinks all the water from the ground. Thirsty animals stand, sun stunned, knee deep in mirage water, their longing palpable.

Then. A new sound, distant and low. On the horizon a single, small cloud forms. The orchestra stops. The zebras and the wildebeest raise their heads to look. But the cloud wisps away to nothing.

Days pass. There is a tension, a waiting. Another cloud, darker now, grows out of the ground. A new fragrance drifts in on a tiny breeze, the scent of water.

A single drop of rain falls, and then, a deep breath, a moment, and Ngai opens his heavenly sluice gates and the Creation sings and dances to the drenching, tuneful, deafening glory of the rains.

And now back to England...

18th February

Someone needs to tell my geraniums it isn't Spring yet. I covered them with bubble wrap rather than bring them in, and now two of them are flowering!

20th February

Sturdy miniature daffodils blooming alongside the aconites and snowdrops by the

Holbrook at Fiveways. Frogs migrating across the road between Marlow and Henley. Drive slowly at night because there are people out there scooping them up to help them on their way.

13th March

The cherry in the front garden is coming into flower. Every morning and evening at dawn and dusk, a robin perches in it and sings his glorious song. The minor key and dying fall of notes are just so full of joy and passion and I am regularly moved to tears. Just now in these dark days, I take it as a song of hope.

15th March

A lone blackbird is waiting for the tits to arrive to feed on the nuts we hang up for them. They are quite untidy and drop morsels on the ground, where the blackbirds can pick them up. This particular bird arrives shortly after the robin stops his morning song so as to be at the head of the queue.

16th March

Lovely sunny morning and the cherry tree in the front garden is humming and thrumming with wild honeybees, Aston Rowant's very own colony that lives in a neighbour's dining room chimney. White tailed bumbles also helping themselves.



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LETTER FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Reading is a joyous experience, whether you are diving headfirst into a brand new book or re-reading and old favourite. It's easy to get absorbed within a world with intriguing characters, beautiful settings and high stake situations. To me books are a form of escape, a safe place you can visit, something that you cannot find anywhere else.

I have loved reading books ever since I was first able to hold a book. As I grew up, I continued to absorb as many books as I could get my hands on. Reading gave me endless places to travel to, and it fuelled me with creativity and inspiration to follow my own passions and dreams. If you are like me, then you will know exactly what I mean, the sheer joy of reading.

After half term we had an inset day where we focused purely on 'The Joy of Reading'. We audited our resources, relooked at our plans and timetables, and came up with new and exciting ways to fuel the joy of reading throughout the school. We have bought a whole new book scheme, researched new brilliant books to read and introduced E.R.I.C. (Everyone Reading In Class) every day.

In addition, we had an English Enrichment Week last week, where we looked at books through the arts, working in our classes and house teams. One highlight was World Book Day on the Thursday where the likes of Willy Wonka, Paddington Bear, Gangster Granny and even Little Red Riding Hood were spotted in our classrooms and playground. A whole wonderful week of young (and older!) people reading and enjoying books.

The real joy of reading is that each book is like embarking on a journey or an adventure, opening a door to a whole new world. We are very much enjoying that journey at school. As Dr Seuss says, "The more you read, the more things you will know. The more that you will learn, the more places you'll go."

Now that sounds like fun!

Mrs Helen France

Headteacher, Aston Rowant School





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Annual membership costs £9.99 and can be purchased through the website: chilternspass.com or downloaded from the App Store.

Launching on 9th March, the brand-new Chilterns Pass includes fantastic savings with many well-known brands and independent businesses in the Chilterns.

The Chilterns Pass has been developed in conjunction with 'Open for Business', promoting tourism in the central Chilterns corridor, a Chilterns Conservation Board-led project, funded by the HS2 Business and Local Economy Fund (BLEF). The three-year initiative began in August 2019 and aims to maintain and build on a vibrant visitor economy despite the disruption caused by the HS2 construction.

The Pass costs £9.99 and is valid for one year from the date of purchase, giving users a wide range of offers to tempt them to support local businesses as well as trying new experiences. With offers ranging from 2for1's 25% off, a free pint or a free slice of cake when you spend £10, you could recoup the membership cost in just one visit!

There are over 100 fantastic offers available through the Pass, including the following:

- Chinnor and Princes Risborough Railway – 2 for 1 – get a two-day rover ticket for the price of one adult – save up to £12
- Chiltern Brewery – two Friday tour tickets for £20 – save £10
- Roald Dahl Museum and Story Centre – 2 for 1 entry – save £7 per adult or £4.70 for children
- Buckinghamshire Railway Centre – 2 for 1 offer: one adult or child free with one full paying adult – save up to £14 per adult
- Pipsticks Walks - 2 for 1 on programmed group walks and 20% discount on private guided walks – save up to £15 on group walks and up to £25 on private walks
- Go Ape – 10% discount on treetop adventure and treetop challenge – save up to £3.30 per person

Steve Gardam, Director of the Roald Dahl Museum and Story Centre was the first to sign up.

"We are delighted to be part of the Chilterns Pass, and signed-up as soon as we heard about it. It promises to be a brilliant way for locals and visitors to the area to get the most out of the Chilterns and to inspire them with new and interesting places to visit and things to do. Experiences they might otherwise have missed. We're lucky enough to be based in an area that's both well-connected and a world away, and this new Pass will help encourage more people to experience all the area has to offer, including raising awareness of our brilliant Museum and Café."



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“Research and Campaigns” (R and C) is a part of Citizens Advice with a different task, a long-term one that demands much effort and patience. It has the job of collecting evidence on emerging social problems and then directly petitioning the people or organizations - including ministers, local MPs and government departments - that have the power to solve or alleviate them.

These campaigns have been remarkably successful, often making use of the media to put their point across. In 2019 R and C contributed to the surge of action that led to the scrapping of tenant fees. It also submitted a “super-complaint” on the Loyalty Penalty, whereby long-standing customers in some services (e.g. insurance) often end up paying more than new customers for the same service. Noting the rise in demand for food vouchers, R and C highlighted the issue of pressure on household budgets because of slow payment schedules for Universal Credit. R and C also issues occasional publications such as “Putting the house in order”, which described failings in the housing market.

Would you like to become one of these dedicated and hard-working volunteers, or work for us in a different role? Visit www.caox.org for further details.

For more general help see our website www.citizensadvice.org.uk, call Citizens Advice Adviceline on 0300 3309 042 or come and see us in person. For locations of offices and opening hours visit <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale>



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LOOKING AFTER YOURSELF WHILE AT HOME

Instead of Dates for Your Diary, here are a few tips from the NHS on how to look after your mental wellbeing while staying at home.

You may feel bored, frustrated or lonely. You may also be low, worried or anxious, or concerned about your finances, your health or those close to you. It is OK to feel like this – everyone reacts in their own way to challenging events and uncertainty. It's important to remember that staying at home may be difficult, but you are helping to protect yourself and others by doing it.

Connect with others

Maintaining healthy relationships with people you trust is important for your mental wellbeing. Think about how you can stay in touch with friends and family while you are at home – by phone, messaging, video calls or online – whether it's people you usually see often, or reconnecting with old friends or neighbours. Lots of people are finding the current situation difficult, so staying in touch could help them too.

Look after your body

Our physical health really affects how we feel. Try to make sure you and your family eat healthy, well-balanced meals, drink enough water and exercise regularly. Get outside for a walk or a run if you can, or try one of our follow-along home-workout videos.

Do not stay glued to the news

Try to limit the time you spend watching, reading or listening to coverage of the outbreak, including on social media, and think about turning off breaking-news alerts on your phone. You could set yourself a specific time to read updates or limit yourself to checking a couple of times a day.

Carry on doing things you enjoy

If we are feeling worried, anxious, lonely or low, we may stop doing things we usually enjoy. Make an effort to focus on your favourite hobby if it is something you can still do at home. If not, picking something new to learn at home might help – there are lots of ideas online.

Take time to relax

This can help with difficult emotions and worries, and improve our wellbeing. Relaxation techniques can also help deal with feelings of anxiety.

Stick to daily routines as far as possible

Think about how you can carry on your normal routines, and try to do things that are useful or meaningful. For example, if you are working from home, try to get up and get ready in the same way as normal, keep to the same hours you would normally work and stick to the same sleeping schedule.

Look after your sleep

Good-quality sleep makes a big difference to how we feel, so it's important to get enough. Try to maintain your regular sleeping pattern and stick to good sleep practices.

Keep your mind active

Read, write, play games, do crosswords, complete sudoku puzzles, finish jigsaws, or try drawing and painting.

More information can be found at www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters