

VOL XXXXVII No 4

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2020

ASTON ROWANT, KINGSTON BLOUNT & CROWELL

PARISH NOTES



Carol Cross

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Charges for Hire – Effective 1st January 2020

For Residents of the Parish of Aston Rowant

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Main Hall (8am–midnight)	14.00 per hour
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07748 408442

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07741 438968
Rachel is currently offering
online yoga classes -
contact her for details

Gentle Chair Based Exercises

every Wednesday from 10.30am
with Rachel or Wendy Hawkins
01844 351301

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

PARISH COUNCIL & LOCAL CONTACTS

Parish Website

www.astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk

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Tracy Lambourne

clerk@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk

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07971039612

Parish Councillors:

Chairman Peter Tinson, Kingston Blount

peter.tinson@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk

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matthew.day@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk

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matthew.priestley@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk

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lynn.lloyd@southoxon.gov.uk

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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

LETTER FROM JOHN HOWELL MP

I want to begin this month with a huge thank you to everyone in our communities who has done so much to help others through the coronavirus crisis. I have been so encouraged by the resourcefulness of communities, the way in which people have adapted to the circumstances, the support that has been given to the vulnerable, and the resilience shown over so many weeks.

Lockdown has gone on for longer than many of us imagined at first and I know that in some respects the initial community spirit has become jaded by our own weariness and frustrations. Many people are still worried about their health and others are frustrated and worried about their livelihoods whether in their own business or in employment. I am also aware of many concerns over the risks not of the virus but of the vacuum created with life on hold. These include concerns over missed education, missed health treatments, mental health and well-being issues and so much more. It was always going to be easier to go into lockdown than to come out and we need to move out with care for one another. The risk of a second wave of the virus is constant and we must not allow ourselves to be lulled into a false sense of security. Yet we must do what we can to return to normal, whatever that will be going forward.

When the prime Minister delivered his speech on recovery I know that the 'Build, build, build' slogan worried some people as they took it to be primarily about house building and were concerned that this might be uncontrolled. It is certainly not about uncontrolled development and indeed is very much wider. It is about rebuilding our collective lives, about investment in infrastructure that has been long called for – in schools, hospitals, and transport, and in turn in creating jobs and rebuilding our economy. There has also been right and proper concern that we take this opportunity to rebuild with the environment in mind, a green recovery as it has been called. I have supported this and was pleased to see this coming through in the Chancellor's mini budget delivered on 8th July.

During this time I have seen the number and variety of issues raised with me grow enormously. Over the last month, with the help of my team, we have dealt with over 3500 emails, this represents over a five-fold increase on more normal months. A large number of these have been helping people on individual issues and problems related to Coronavirus. With other emails it has been interesting to see the wide range of concerns raised. Clearly planning and development concerns and environmental issues remain high on the agenda for constituents.

On many issues I make comment on my website so please do have a look. www.johnhowell.org.uk. If you have an issue that you would like to raise with me, if possible, please email me at john.howell.mp@parliament.uk. If you cannot email you can write to me at my constituency office - PO Box 84, Watlington, OX49 5XD. My staff all continue to work remotely, and all mail is diverted to my constituency office.

John Howell MP

LOCAL CHURCH CONTACTS

Rector to the United Parish

The Rev'd Dr. Jacky Barr
The Rectory, Chinnor OX39 4DH
01844 352027 07769 825 305
revd.jackybarr@gmail.com

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

I just wanted to keep you updated about re-opening our churches for Sunday Services.

Myself, the ministry team, the church wardens and the PCC are in agreement that we will work towards starting Sunday services again from Sunday 2nd August.

I'm aware that this delay will be painful for some of you for which I'm very sorry. There is a great deal to think about and work on to be ready.

We will keep you updated as our plans progress. We need to work within the guidelines set out by the Government and the Diocese, and within those restrictive guidelines try and make the services meaningful and of spiritual value for you.

In the meantime, please do visit the churches for private prayer and we will be keeping our UnitedParish@home services and Bible readings going by post, email, our website and on Facebook.

Looking forward to seeing you all again soon.

Jacky

CROWELL CHURCH

Sadly, we are unable to comply with social distancing rules as the church is too small and we have no running water for hand washing etc, so the church remains closed to visitors. We can open to individuals by appointment for private prayer.

Should you wish to attend a virtual service, they are being live streamed on the Diocese and CSARC Parish websites. Oxford.anglican.org and chinnorunitedchurches.co.uk respectively.

We are delighted to report that the Rev'd Dr Jacky Barr was installed as the Rector of Chinnor, Sydenham, Aston Rowant and Crowell by virtual Institution Service conducted by Bishop Colin on 09 July at 1930. The service was attended by around 150 people by video link.

To celebrate her new role, Jacky decided to walk the churches on Saturday 11 July. Observing Social Distancing, she was accompanied by her daughter, the two Crowell Wardens and half a dozen others for the whole walk of just under 10 miles. Up to around 20 dipped in and out of the walk between the various churches where she was met by those Wardens and some parishioners. Key presentation and door opening ceremonies were performed and Jacky, accompanied by her Wardens of the individual churches, prayed for the future in each church.

This was a sponsored walk and has raised much welcome funds for the church fabric funds.

Should anyone still wish to contribute, please send your cheque and, if possible, Gift Aid certificate to Jacky at The Chinnor Rectory, High Street, Chinnor, OX39 4DH or direct to the Parish Account sort code 40-52-40 with account number 00019680. Please indicate which church fabric fund you are donating to. Thank you.

We are now up and running once again with churchyard maintenance. Our priorities are the Rainbow garden and the mowing. The B4009 bank will have to wait its turn.

This also means that individuals are now welcome to attend the churchyard to tend their loved one's graves. Please don't dispose of plastic on the compost heap. A black bin is sited at the Lychgate along with a brown bin. The compost heap by the horse field fence is going to be removed as it is beginning to impact on graves. Please use the area alongside the Old Rectory fence. A path has been mown to the area, which was the original site.

The car park remains closed except for services such as funerals and by appointment.

We hope to obtain quotes to reinstate the drive-in surface to a usable condition and to winter proof.

The wildlife areas have produced some surprises. These areas will be returned to normal during August, once the counts and recordings are complete.

The CSARC Parish Magazine is not being printed at this time, so none in the porch for the taking. If anyone would like an e-copy, please e-mail the parish admin office at csarc@btinternet.com

Andy & Maggs Warman (Church Wardens)

ASTON ROWANT PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The hiatus in activity that initially followed the start of the lockdown has been followed by a more intense period of activity for the Council. I am pleased to report that there has been some progress towards introducing traffic calming measures on the B4009 in Kingston Blount. Councillor Matt Day has worked hard to obtain a number of competitive quotes for building a chicane at the western end of the village. The Council approved one of the quotes and although this does not mean that the chicane will be built imminently, it is a large step in the right direction. We will now look at building the case for similar measures in Aston Rowant.

We had hoped that the lockdown would allow repairs to be carried out on the playground on Kingston Blount playing fields but unfortunately although our contractor was willing to carry out the work, it was not possible to obtain the parts required. There continue to be supply problems which means that, at the time of writing, a number of pieces of equipment are still awaiting repair. We hope that these will be completed soon and that the playground can reopen. It should be noted however that we will only be able to open the playground if our insurers are satisfied that we are able to operate safely under the Government Covid19 guidelines.

The Council were made aware of a change of use planning application for the Shepherds Crook by residents in Crowell. The application has since been withdrawn but the owners have indicated that the pub will not reopen and it is anticipated that a further application will be made in the future. Many public houses have closed in recent years; it would be a shame to lose one that is now easily accessible from the Parish following the creation of the permissive footpath between Kingston Blount and Crowell.

The change in weather in June saw a number of prolonged power cuts in the area. A number of these were due to trees interfering with overhead power lines. The Council raised concerns about tree cutting schedules with SSEN who are responsible for the electricity infrastructure. SSEN confirmed that not all trees had been cut back by the amount they would have wished for. The representative from SSEN explained that some landowners in areas where overhead power lines are scheduled to be moved underground had not given approval for a full cut back. It is hoped that the problem trees have now been removed or cut back sufficiently and that, in the future, the move away from overhead lines will result in a more stable power supply.

There have been problems with postal deliveries in Kingston Blount over recent months. The problems appear to be with Thame Sorting Office as Aston Rowant, which is served by Watlington, has not been affected. I visited Thame Sorting Office to explore ways where the Parish could provide assistance to Royal Mail to clear the backlog. Unfortunately regulations regarding the delivery of mail mean that Royal Mail cannot engage voluntary help, nor can sorting take place outside of Royal Mail premises. The current restrictions mean that they are unable to take on short term (paid) workers either. Although there was a temporary improvement, the delivery of post continues to be erratic. Our district and county councillors are also aware

of the problems and we are working together to apply pressure on Royal Mail to improve the service.

In the last edition of the Parish Notes, I wrote about the great sense of community in the Parish; people are always willing to help others. I would like to give special mention to Emma Rogers who set up a plant stall at the end of Bennetts Yard in Kingston Blount to raise money for the BHT COVID-19 Staff Well-being Appeal. I am pleased to note that the stall has raised a total of £1550. Thanks to Emma, Theresa Clark and all those who provided plants for the stall.

Finally, although the work of the Council continues, we do take a short summer break and do not meet again until September. If you are going away, enjoy your break. If not, there is plenty of beautiful countryside on your doorsteps to enjoy!

Peter Tinson

Chairman – Aston Rowant Parish Council

BRACING NEWS!

I am very pleased to be able to report that the new traffic calming scheme for Kingston Blount is to go ahead. After many months of fund raising and discussions with the County Council we have finally got the money needed to proceed.

The initial quote for the work was £40,000 and I had been seeking external funding through the Community Infrastructure Levy which was proving very time consuming and hard to access. More recently I had been working with alternative contractors and have managed to get the cost of the works down to £21,000. This means that with the funds we have raised so far, along with a donation of £3,700 from Cllr Jeannette Matelot we were very close to the total sum needed. At our last meeting the Parish Council voted to cover the rest of the cost with our own funds. This means that we can now appoint the contractor and work can start very soon. Thanks to everyone who has donated money and to the Parish for their support.

With lockdown we have seen fewer cars on the road but we have also seen some individual drivers driving a lot faster. This new chicane will slow them down, as they are forced to navigate the chicane and not just drive through at speed. This will make the dog leg junction with Kingston Hill and the Stert Road safer and will slow vehicles as they drive through our village.

The Parish Council have already started work on developing traffic calming schemes for Aston Rowant and the Cllrs will be setting up meetings with residents to discuss options in the near future.

Matthew Day

Aston Rowant Parish Council

ASTON ROWANT PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

There were Parish Council meetings on Wednesday 10th June and Wednesday 8th July where the applications detailed below were discussed.

At the time of writing, the next meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday 9th of September (no meeting in August) and until COVID19 restrictions are lifted, we will continue to meet virtually via the ZOOM application.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

P20/S1560/HH – Proposed first floor side extension, single storey side extension, single storey front extension, part 2-storey part single storey rear extension to existing house and detached garage (replacing existing garage, conservatory and porches) at 1 The Rise, Kingston Blount OX39 4RY. **SUPPORT.**

P20/S1639/FUL – Provision of all-weather gallop for horses at Woodway Farm, Aston Rowant, OX49 5SJ. **SUPPORT.**

P20/S1774/FUL – Proposed amendment to approved application P18/S3392/FUL to regularise the kitchen window, fenestration detail and the roof detail at the party wall at The Cherry Tree, Park Lane, Kingston Blount. **SUPPORT.**

P20/S1180/FUL – Aston Cottage, 18 Church Lane, Aston Rowant. OX49 5SS
Erection of a single dwelling. Access derived from the existing drive which serves Aston Cottage. Two parking spaces will be provided, together with a turning area, to enable vehicles to leave the site in forward gear. **RECOMMEND REFUSAL**

We have discussed a response to a Planning Application in Crowell parish for change of use of the Shepherds Crook pub to a private residence - P20/S1214/FUL. This is not in our parish, so we were not statutorily advised, but after discussion it was resolved to make a suitable comment on the SODC portal as it affects our parish. Subsequent to the meeting, the application has now been withdrawn by the applicants.

WITHDRAWN APPLICATIONS:

None.

PLANNING DECISIONS OF SODC:

P20/S1639/FUL - Provision of all-weather gallop for horses at Woodway Farm, Aston Rowant, OX49 5SJ - **GRANTED**

P20/S1560/HH - Proposed extensions to existing house and detached garage (replacing existing garage, conservatory and porches) at 1 The Rise, Kingston Blount OX39 4RY, per amended plans - **GRANTED**

PLANNING DECISIONS MADE SINCE THE LAST MEETING:

None

PLANNING INSPECTORATE APPEAL:

APP/Q3115/W/19/3243590 Town Farm Cottage, Brook Street, Kingston Blount, Chinnor OX39 4RZ. The application Ref P19/S2062/FUL, dated 18 June 2019, was refused by notice dated 27 November 2019. The development proposed is formation of new access and driveway. Decision: THE APPEAL IS DISMISSED.

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

PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

The Aston Rowant Parish Council website is the place to find out what's going on at the Parish Council for Aston Rowant, Kingston Blount, Kingston Stert and Chalford. It gives easy access to the dates of council meetings, minutes, agendas, planning applications, etc. There are links to the District and County Council websites for access to the wealth of information that these provide. There's also a weekly newsletter with links on recent developments in the parish.

www.astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk



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ASTON ROWANT PARISH COUNCIL FOOTPATH AND AMENITIES GROUP (FAAG)

It has been great to see so many people out walking and cycling in the countryside during the last 3 months. There is nothing like getting outside and it has tremendous health benefits. But farmers are worried about people wandering away from public bridleways and footpaths.

In the last issue I said that anyone who didn't have their free copy of the Booklet, Walks at the Foot of the Chilterns, please contact me, and six households did just that. The offer is still open and I also have a free map to offer as well which shows the paths in the Parish. In that publication you will notice that the advertisements are totally out of date and of course there is no mention of the new Kingston Blount to Crowell permissive path. Everything else there is correct. So please phone me if you're interested.

Following discussions with the owner of Aston House Stud, they will make improvements to drainage of his fields and also the Moors Footpath. The area affected is adjacent to the school and Stud's fields. Work will take place during the summer school holidays.

Also in the Autumn, improvements will be made to the Church Lane bridleway surface and surface drainage. This is being made possible following discussions and contributions from ARPC, adjacent landowners, and a farmer who makes regular use of the track for access.

Thank you to everyone for agreeing to help with these projects. The improvements should make walking these routes much easier in the rainy seasons to come.

Now for early notice of the next Parish Walk. It is the New Year event. It will be held on Sunday 3 January leaving Bledlow Village High Street at 10.00 am. It is a six mile circular route. More details to follow when we know more about how we need to manage a group walk. Who knows!

Peter Hetherington

Group Chairman and Footpath Warden, Aston Rowant Parish.

Tel 07767 647714.



FIVE WAYS DURING COVID 19

It has been good to see so many visitors during recent weeks. Some have walked on to look at the location of the Pest House used historically in times of the plague and later as poor houses. The resulting wear on the paths across Fiveways has exposed historical artefacts. My young grandson has loved digging them up with a mini-crowbar.

Nothing of value but it is a cheap way of removing old glass and apparently fun!

I have had a wildlife camera on the stream bed with an apple strategically placed to tempt water voles. I got a lot of videos of vole like animals mainly at night. Sadly it is not easy to tell the different sorts apart. The bank vole is easier as it has a white underside and I definitely saw those. I am fairly confident that there are also water voles. If anyone is a vole expert perhaps they could contact me and have a look at the footage. I did get a close up video of a tawny owl paddling in the stream at night no doubt looking for dinner.

The increase in the wild flowers, especially the knapweed, has increased the butterfly numbers this year. The nettles nearby on the Icknield Way have had communal silk cocoons from black peacock caterpillars and parasitic wasps were also present. Amongst the butterflies seen are gatekeepers, speckled woods, marbled whites and orange tips. The purple knapweeds seem to be particularly popular with them all. Both greater and less knapweed are present and I hope they increase. Many of the flowers are going to seed early due to the weather.

There have been suspected otter sightings and large signal crayfish have been found on the track some alive and some dead. It is an offence to put them back as an alien species, so you might take them back for lunch. I know there are sticklebacks in the stream but they are not easy to catch even with nets. They are not as common as they were years ago but I am not sure why.



Keen observers will see Vipers Bugloss from now on – purple flowers. There are some less common plants around such as greater celandine found opposite Woodway Farm on the B4009. There is a lot of Hemlock near the footpath close to junction 6. Remarkably it is or was four metres tall – the text books say two metres max – sadly it was cut down by the Highways Agency. Historically a useful poison but deadly for horses. (See the picture of me.)

We are behind with some of the maintenance work but it can easily wait until the Autumn. There are some new trees

but they are a little hidden at present by the vegetation. The earlier removal of branches and twigs revealed that I had not lost as many hollies as I feared but a dozen more are required in the Autumn to line Church Lane. I have had some wild plant donations from gardens but I would be interested in more – especially wild garlic.

For videos of wildlife at Fiveways see the ARPC website:

www.astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk/news/wildlife-at-fiveways-corner/

Mike Eaton



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RIDE AND STRIDE

Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust

This year's event is due to take place more or less as usual on Saturday 12th September. Churches are due to be fully open by then but the details of quite how it will take place are not yet entirely clear, pending Covid related developments.

What is clear though is that it will provide a splendid outlet for all the cycling and walking energy that people have generated over the lockdown period! Put it in your diary now.

Like so many other organisations, the income of the church and this charity have taken a terrible hit and put in jeopardy many of the buildings that we know and love, so please show your support and help to raise money now. Did you know that every church is required to have a five yearly full survey and that Aston Rowant's own church has been reported to be in serious need of several tens of thousands of pounds of work to secure its structure?

So collect your children and friends, get sponsored, and walk, or ride your bike or pony around some of our local and beautiful old churches. Have fun, get fit and raise money for your own and other churches in Oxfordshire.

Welcomers to be at our own churches during the day may also be required for an hour or so between 10 and 6 and can also be sponsored.

Sponsorship forms etc are available from the local rep for Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust – Julian Knight Tel 351315, who is planning to cycle round up to fifteen churches in the area and would much enjoy some well sponsored company.

Julian Knight

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NEW SOCIAL-DISTANCE FRIENDLY WALKS LAUNCHED IN THE CHILTERN

The Chilterns Conservation Board and Chiltern Society have developed a series of 23 walks across the Chilterns which are social-distance friendly, avoiding crowded ‘honey-pot’ locations and narrow paths where possible.

Between 2 and 6 miles long, the walks start in market towns or villages, with good public transport links or parking facilities, and are being launched to coincide with the re-opening of many pubs and cafes.

The Chilterns has some outstanding food and drink producers and these walks highlight the many farm shops nearby that are open for business and selling Chilterns local specialities to enjoy on a picnic, or to take home- everything from local honey, beer, cheeses, charcuterie, grass fed lamb and much more.

The walks were developed by 18 volunteers, all experienced walk leaders who are passionate about the Chilterns and keen to share some of their favourite walks away from the crowds.

All the routes take in the beautiful rolling landscapes of the Chilterns, picturesque villages, and plenty of historic interest too, from old drovers routes to iron age hillforts. Discover places with wonderful names like Nanfan Wood, Lilley Hoe and Cobblershill. And some walks start on commons or at recreation grounds with lots of open space, so ideal for families or friends to combine with a picnic and for kids to run around safely.

Annette Venters of the Chilterns Conservation Board said “During Lockdown the Chilterns countryside has been used and enjoyed as never before, bringing comfort and joy to many. The well-used honey-pot sites can get very crowded, making social distancing difficult and putting pressure on the landscape. Luckily, the Chilterns has over 2,000km of footpaths, so there are plenty of quiet places to enjoy. We hope these walks will encourage people to explore the Chilterns and discover new places”.

Many of the walks are stile-free and most are under 4 miles long, making them accessible to many. Whilst we want more people to enjoy the benefits of walking in the Chilterns, we ask them to do this safely and responsibly by, for example, taking litter home, not lighting fires and barbeques, and keeping dogs under control. See our website for further guidance.

Here is a taster of some of the walks:

- Pub walks from Great Offley and Pegsdon in the northern Chilterns. The Pegsdon walk passes through Knocking Hoe and Hoo Bit nature reserves with outstanding views and witchcraft-sounding plant names like fleawort, eyebright and harebells.
- Many of the walks take in famous TV and film locations. The Hound of the Baskervilles walk from Binfield Heath takes in the historic Crowsley Park.
- There are walks through historic parks, nature reserves, drovers routes, stretches of the Ridgeway National Trail, past churches, iron age hillforts, Hellfire Caves and Berkhamsted Castle.
- Le De Spencer Arms on Downley Common, the Red Lion on Peppard Common and the Cock and Rabbit on Lee Common are just some of the wonderful country pubs along our routes.

The walks can be downloaded free of charge, see www.bit.ly/2AyCFBP for further information and www.chilternsociety.org.uk/free-walks-leaflets/ for other walks in the Chilterns.

NOTICEBOARD

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

Emma's Plant Stall

So happy to announce that we have now raised a grand total of £1,550 for the BHT COVID-19 Staff Well-being Appeal. This could not have been achieved without the support of my mum Theresa Clark, and KB, AR and Chinnor villagers donating surplus plants to the stall not to mention all the customers, some of them new to gardening and veg growing this year! The stall will continue for a while but we will now be supporting the Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity as sadly the shops are currently closed.

Emma Rogers



Gentle Chair-based Exercise Class

Rachel has resumed these classes in the back garden in Chinnor where we can keep 1.5metre apart safely.

Every Wednesday morning 10.30 am - 11.30 am. Please come along. We look forward to seeing you weather permitting!

Contact Rachel or Wendy on 01844 351301

Kingston Blount Village Hall

Like many community facilities, the Village Hall has been severely affected by the lockdown. All bookings were cancelled, and the Montessori School was also closed. The Hall has since reopened to the Montessori School. However, the Government guidelines on reopening Village Halls and Community Centres are very rigid and at the time of writing, the Hall is not open for general hire. The guidelines are continually evolving and the Committee are reviewing these regularly to assess whether it is feasible to open for regular bookings initially and for ad hoc bookings later in the year.

Peter Tinson

If you have anything you'd like to see in the next issue please get in touch.
The deadline for the October/November issue is 15th September.
Email: sallyparishnotes@gmail.com.

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ASTON ROWANT SCHOOL HOUSE EDUCATIONAL TRUST

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This Charity was set up after the sale of The School House that sits between the separate parts of the school in February 1991.

A Trust Deed was drawn up and trustees were nominated.

One Ex-officio Trustee – the current Rector of the Parish

Two Nominated Trustees- Oxfordshire County Council as the local education authority and the Parochial Church Council for the parish of St Peter and St Paul, Aston Rowant

Two Co-opted Trustees – from the local parish.

The proceeds from the sale were invested and the income was applied to:

- In or towards promoting the education of pupils attending the Aston Rowant Church of England School, or
- 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 said school or are a resident in the Parish of Aston Rowant.

We currently meet in May & November each year to consider applications.

At our next meeting in November we will be welcoming 4 new Trustees of which 3 will be replacing original Trustees from the start of the charity. The 4th will be the new Rector recently appointed Jacky Barr.

Our Oxfordshire County Council Trustee Ann Davis from Henton is retiring - so too our Co-opted Trustees Mary Williams from Aston Rowant and Dorothy Reid from Kingston Blount.

It is worth noting that during the 29 years The Trust has made grants totalling almost £70,000 of which a contribution to the new classroom at the school is the largest single grant in 2015.

The New Trustees will be

Co-opted – Rachel Lockwood [AR] and Sue Matthews [KB]

OCC – Jeannette Matelot [County Councillor]

PCC – Serena Hutton [existing]

Ex-Officio – Rev'd Dr. Jacky Barr

Peter Lambert

Administrator



It's only one short step back towards normality but at the time of writing cricket is back. But with rules and regulations changing by the week it is possible that all of this will be irrelevant by the time you read it. The most important thing is to keep people as safe as possible whilst allowing players and spectators to enjoy cricket and possibly a pint.

But at the time of writing it is cricket but not exactly as we are used to.

The key point is that **EVERYONE** who attends a match must register via the NHS track and trace system, which can be done via smart phones. This is a government regulation supported by ECB and people must register on each and every time they come to the club. We have been assured that the information will only be used if someone tests positive for the virus.

On the field the main change is the need to sanitise hands every 6 overs.

Off the field however the Covid 19 regulations mean that the pavilion is closed, except for access to the bar and toilets, dressing rooms are closed, no teas, no showers and if it rains players must go to their own cars. It is for the last reason that we are allowing cars for players using the second ground will be parked by the Moor's footpath.

When you come to the ground you will notice the newly repainted pavilion and also the one-way system, we have introduced to open the bar. Again, regulations are in place, firstly only card payments can be used, no cash, hand sanitiser is available and should be used each time the bar is entered. After payment has been made the drinks will be brought to you and then please leave the bar area. All drinking to be done outside with appropriate social distancing.

At present the bar is only open on Friday nights 6pm to 8.30 and on Saturday match days from 2pm to 8.00ish - we will review demand and may extend these hours later in the summer.

For all information updates please go to our web site www.astonrowantcc.com which we will update as soon as any changes are made.

Back to cricket there are 4 senior teams playing modified league fixtures, significantly no relegation or promotion, all senior club games are on Saturdays and all 40 over games. Junior cricket has already started up and the details and fixtures are on the web site.

As ever we are looking for new members both playing and social, all are welcome to join, it is a good way to meet and catch up with a lot of people in the parish. Also we continue to offer training to anyone wishing to be either umpires or scorers.

Finally, can we thank all the people who have helped the club through the early part of the summer, the players, 1881 members, VP's and social members. They have all contributed to make sure that the club survived the crisis. We are in a better position than many other clubs and it is all down to the membership. Thank you.

Steven Sowerby



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You are aware of the bus service Line 40. This route started in June 2007 and runs an hourly service from Thame town hall to High Wycombe bus station. This operates on Monday through to Saturday and calls at Thame, Kings Road, Towersey Village Hall, The Inn at Emmington, Chinnor Red Lion PH, Chinnor Village Hall, Crowell, Kingston Blount, Aston village turn, Lewknor village turn, Aston Rowant A40 (at the cross roads with the B4009) Stokenchurch Kings Arms, Stokenchurch Jubilee Road, Studley Green, Piddington, King Street, West Wycombe Swan, and High Wycombe bus station.

By the nature of its route along the B4009 to the Lewknor turn and up the A40 at Aston Hill it opens up links to other routes.

At High Wycombe it links to Chiltern Rail.

At Stokenchurch it links to the National Express 737 service that runs from Oxford, Stokenchurch, High Wycombe, Hemel Hempstead, Luton Airport, Hatfield, and Stansted Airport.

The Oxford Bus Companies Oxford to Heathrow and Gatwick stopping at Lewknor. At Thame it links up to the Arriva, Aylesbury to Oxford service.

At Chinnor it links up to the Chiltern Rail bus to Princes Risborough Railway Station.

The Oxford Tube service, London to Oxford/London at Lewknor.

The Red Rose 275 service from Oxford to High Wycombe through Chinnor, Aston Rowant and Kingston Blount that runs along the A40 from High Wycombe to Oxford also stopping at the Lambert Arms, Postcombe, Tetsworth, Milton Common, Wheatley and Oxford.

We are better served as a parish than Chinnor, especially Aston Rowant, as we are nearer, walking distance for some, to the Oxford Tube.

Previous Parish Councils have campaigned hard to get a bus service that travels along the B4009 and as you can see the possibilities of bus travel are now vastly improved. Obviously these buses, as is the case with all rural buses, have to be heavily subsidised by Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire County Councils SO PLEASE USE IT OTHERWISE WE SHALL LOSE IT.

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PRIORITY SERVICES REGISTER FOR ELECTRICITY SUPPLY

Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks, who provide the electricity supply to the area, operate a priority services scheme for customers who may need additional support.

Those who may be eligible for the Priority Services Register (PSR) include those who:

- Are deaf or hard of hearing;
- Have a disability;
- Live with children under five;
- Are blind or partially sighted;
- Have a chronic illness;
- Use medical equipment/aids reliant on electricity;
- Are over 60;
- Would benefit from PSR services for any other reason, even if temporarily.

The scheme aims to offer:

- Priority treatment during planned and unplanned power cuts;
- Connection to local emergency services;
- Emergency power supplies; and
- Safety advice tailored to individuals' needs.

To register for priority services

- Call: 0800 294 3259
- Or: 0800 316 5457 via textphone
- Online at ssen.co.uk/psr
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BONFIRES

Garden Bonfires

Bonfires, “a fire for burning bones”, might not be as gruesome now but they can still cause smoke and smell problems for others.

What is Wrong with A Bonfire

They can be a fire hazard, and can be a real health risk to sufferers of asthma, bronchitis, people with heart problems, the very young or old, due to the dangerous particles contained in bonfire smoke.

The Legal Position

Bonfires are not prohibited by any bylaws. Control of domestic bonfires largely relies on the statutory nuisance regime under section 80 & 82 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. This regime works by assessing the impact of an activity across a property boundary, where it can be demonstrated that a situation has a material adverse impact on the “ordinary physical comfort of human existence”. I.e. you are regularly affected by smoke in your house, or are unable to use your garden because of smoke.

It is the impact that is assessed rather than the activity, bonfire, itself.

It is unlikely that occasional bonfires would constitute a Statutory Nuisance, unless the impact was particularly severe.

If you are concerned about bonfire smoke coming from a neighbour’s garden often the best way to deal with the problem is to go straight to the source. Consider talking to the person responsible for the bonfire smoke and point out the problem. Hopefully this will resolve it.

If a direct approach does not work you may wish to consider mediation. You can obtain details of the services in our area by calling Mediation UK on 01179046661, this maybe the answer.

If the above informal action fails then you can take formal action.

A complaint can be made to South Oxfordshire District Council’s Environmental department, 01235 422403, they have a duty to investigate whether the smoke impact constitutes a statutory nuisance.

If they visit or witness the bonfire smoke and are satisfied that a statutory nuisance exists, they must take immediate action, if it is intermittent they may ask you to keep a diary. They may try to resolve the problem informally, if this fails they must serve an abatement notice.

If a person on whom abatement notice has been served fails, without reasonable cause, to comply he or she will have committed an offence. For offences relating to domestic premises, the magistrate’s court may impose a fine of up to £5000 with a further fine of up to £500 each day on which the offence continues after conviction.

In regard to commercial premises, the maximum fine is £20,000.

If after all that the council considers those summary proceedings would not provide an adequate remedy it can seek an ASBO (Anti- Social Behaviour Order).

You can also take private action if the Council will not by complaining to the magistrate's court under section 82 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

The Waste Duty of Care under section 34 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 covers the disposal of controlled waste i.e. builders or contractors waste. The duty of Care requires everyone who produces controlled waste as part of their business to dispose of it at registered waste facilities, or pass it to a person authorised to transport the waste. **In other words builders, contractors, tree surgeons etc cannot have a bonfire on site.**

What's the Alternative

Compost as much garden rubbish as possible. A properly built compost heap will be able to deal with most garden waste.

You can obtain garden waste recycling wheely bins from South Oxfordshire District Council, 01235 422422, they are emptied every 2 weeks and cost £29 per year.

To dispose of woody material, shredders and chippers are available to buy or hire.

If You Still Must Have a Fire

- Think of your neighbours before lighting a bonfire.
- Do not light a bonfire within an hour of dusk, as temperature inversion conditions will keep the smoke near the ground level.
- Check that the conditions are not too windy.
- Carry out the burning as quickly as possible.
- Use dry material.
- If your neighbours are in their garden and you think they will be affected don't have it.
- If your neighbour's windows are open, call and tell them you are having a bonfire, so they can close them.
- Do not add any household waste and do not leave a bonfire unattended.
- Be aware of neighbour's wishes and try not to cause offence.

The above is for guidance only, for more information and clarification contact Environmental Health on 01235 422403 env.health@southandvale.gov.uk or go to www.defra.gov.uk, where "A Review of Bonfire Smoke Nuisance Controls".

Peter Gibbons



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CHILTERN'S CONSERVATION BOARD APPOINTS NEW PLANNER

The Chilterns Conservation Board today announced that Dr Matt Thomson has been appointed as the new Planner for the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Matt took up the post on 29 June 2020.

Matt joins the Chilterns Conservation Board from his role as the Head of Land Use and Planning at CPRE, the countryside charity, where he has overseen a push for national planning policy to recognise the intrinsic value of open land, the countryside and rural communities.

As our planner, Matt will influence and shape development and infrastructure within the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Working closely with the local authorities within the Chilterns, he will maximise the opportunities in the planning process to conserve and enhance the natural and historic environment of the area.

Matt will play a key role in influencing national planning policy to ensure positive outcomes for the Chilterns. For example, the Government is currently exploring how it will respond to the Landscapes Review, which includes the recommendations that the Chilterns be designated a National Park and have a single AONB-wide local plan. He will also be looking at the impact of the Government's current plans to rapidly expand road and house building in the wake of Covid-19.

"We are very fortunate to have someone of Matt's calibre to join our team," said Dr Elaine King, CEO of the Chilterns Conservation Board. "The Chilterns is one of the most high-profile landscapes in the country, yet it is faced with unprecedented pressure from development and infrastructure. This is an exciting and influential role, and Matt joins us at a crucial time for protected landscapes, both locally and nationally."

Dr Matt Thomson said: "I'm thrilled to be joining the Chilterns Conservation Board as their planner at such a pivotal time, with immense development pressure, but also the opportunity to transform the AONB into a National Park, and at a time of renewed appreciation of the value of landscapes and natural places for people's physical and mental wellbeing. The Chilterns first became my playground when my parents moved to Hertfordshire in the '80s, and I've lived at the foot of the Chilterns scarp for almost 25 years. With its proximity to London, and being criss-crossed by roads, railways and waterways, the Chilterns is an intensively used landscape, but in my view the most delightful in England."



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A POEM FOR COMPUTER USERS OVER 50

A Computer was something on TV
From a science fiction show of note
A Window was something you hated to clean
And a Ram was the father of a goat.

Meg was the name of a girlfriend
And Gig was a job for the nights
Now they all mean different things
And that really Mega Bytes.

An Application was for employment
A Program was a TV show
A Cursor was profanity
A Keyboard was a piano.

A Memory was something you lost with age
A CD was a bank account
And if you had a 3-inch floppy
You hoped nobody found out.

Compress was something you did with
rubbish
Not something you did to a file

And if you unzipped anything in public
You'd be in jail for a while.

Log On was adding wood to the fire
Hard Drive was a long trip on the road
A Mouse pad was where a mouse lived
And a Backup happened to your commode.

Cut you did with your pocket knife
Paste you did with glue
A web was a spider's home
And a virus was the flu.

I guess I'll stick to my pad and paper
And the Memory in my head
I hear nobody's been killed in a Computer
Crash
But when it happens they'll wish they were
dead!

Anon. Thanks to Olive for sending this in.

FOR SALE



In aid of NHS Wellbeing Fund.

A pair of dining chairs (height: 43" – seat depth and width 19") in good condition - £30

Contact Jo (KB) 07785 941023

If you have any items you would like to sell/donate please send details and a photo by 15th September to sallyparishnotes@gmail.com

If you have anything you'd like to see in the next issue please get in touch.
The deadline for the October/November issue is 15th September.
Email: sallyparishnotes@gmail.com.