

ASTON ROWANT, KINGSTON BLOUNT & CROWELL

PARISH NOTES



Aston Rowant
John Wyatt

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With special thanks to
our team of distributors,
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publication is, as far
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(Hillwerke Recreational Trust Reg Charity No. 279656)

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Committee Room only	£8.50 per hour
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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

KINGSTON BLOUNT VILLAGE HALL DIARY

Kettlebell Abs

every Wednesday 6.00pm
07801 553019

Flowers 4 All

third Thursday of every month
07748 408442

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

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County Councillor

Jeannette Matelot

jeannette.matelot@oxfordshire.gov.uk

MP

John Howell

01491 612852

howelljm@parliament.uk

Police Community Support Office

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ThameHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

Village Hall Hire/Bookings

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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

So many different issues affect our health and well-being, as individuals and collectively, and we are acutely aware of this in our current circumstances. One of the key issues is our environment. I have been very grateful this year to live in the rural setting that this constituency offers and have been particularly mindful of those who live in over-crowded urban situations. Being able to get out and walk in the countryside has been important to me in keeping fit and well. As I have walked over the months I have enjoyed watching the changes in the landscape and been perhaps more conscious than in other years of the cycle of work for our farmers.

It is good news that the Agriculture Bill which has been progressing through Parliament this year has now passed into law. During the passage of the Bill some important changes were made particularly to tighten up on issues around the recognition of our farmers in food production and also on food security. I believe that the Act is a good robust piece of legislation that sets the way forward, ensuring that our farmers are not undercut, and that the high quality of our food is maintained. It also sets out how farmers and land managers will be rewarded for the work they do towards protecting and encouraging wildlife, better air and water quality, and measures to reduce flooding. All of this contributes towards achieving the goals of the 25 Year Environment Plan.

I now look forward to the Environment Bill coming back to the House in December. The Agriculture Act has a specific focus on farming and land management. The Environment Bill will put the environment at the heart of all policy making ensuring that this and future Governments are held to account on their wider environmental duties. Just as the Agriculture Act set the Trade and Agriculture Commission in statute so the Environment Bill will establish the Office for Environmental protection. The Government's 25 Year Environment Plan will also be placed on a statutory footing, and a set of environmental principles will be introduced that will be used to guide future government policy making. I know that developing a Nature Recovery Network is important to many. A framework for Local Nature Recovery Strategies will be legislated in the Environment Bill. More information can be found on the Parliament website.

I am aware that this newsletter will appear in December publications. I hope that by then we will be out of lockdown and all able to look forward to a festive break that is something like the normal break we would take at the end of the year. It has been a difficult year in many ways, but I am optimistic that the tide will soon turn thanks to the wonderful work of our scientists who have thrown so much effort at vaccine research. However I know that for many families COVID has taken the most dreadful toll and that loved ones are sorely missed all of the time and will be especially so during festivities. No words can ease that and I offer my deepest sympathies to all of you who face such loss.

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 DeVal 12 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



CROWELL CHURCH

No sooner than we were back in business being permitted to hold services than we hit the next lockdown. Fortunately, we are still able to use the church for recording and/or transmitting services and we can still offer access for private prayer. This is by appointment with the Wardens who are very flexible.

The Sunday service for the parish is still being broadcast live on the church website as is the Diocese service on their website. Should you wish to attend a virtual service, then go to chinnorunitedchurches.co.uk or Oxford.anglican.org respectively.

The intense rain has begun to damage the carpark and more seriously the entrance. This is being monitored now that the colder weather is almost upon us. If the entrance becomes a safety hazard due to ice forming in the dips, then we will need to close the carpark.

If anyone would like an e-copy of the monthly Chinnor Parish Magazine then please e-mail the parish admin office at csarc@btinternet.com

The APCM finally went ahead on 28 October. It was well attended in St Andrew's under social distancing and on Zoom. Wardens, PCC members and various committee members, such as the Diocese Synod, were elected. We can now move forward into another year.

Remembrance was a little strange with wreaths being laid at different times on the Saturday at Chinnor and a Zoom service on the Sunday at St Andrew's.

Aston Rowant and Sydenham managed to hold small socially distanced services at their memorials.

Finally, we were somewhat bemused by a marketing mail from Airband Community Internet Ltd. It was addressed to 'The Occupier, The Graveyard, St Mary's Church, Crowell'. We'd love to deliver the mailing. Any ideas? Or in the words of John McEnroe, 'You can't be serious'.

Have a great Christmas and New Year in the safest and best way you can.

Andy & Maggs Warman

(Church Wardens)

ASTON ROWANT PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Welcome to the last update of what has been a year constrained by the Covid19 pandemic. The restrictions imposed as part of the measures to contain the outbreak has meant that many events and activities have been cancelled. Some, however, have been able to continue, albeit in a much changed form. One such event was the Remembrance Service at Aston Rowant Church. A short service was held around the war memorial at the front of the Church which allowed around thirty parishioners to remember those who gave their lives in serving their country. The Remembrance Service is usually very well attended; I would like to thank Rev Brian Griffiths and the various church members whose work enabled the service to proceed.



During the course of the summer over £4000 was spent by the Parish Council and Hillwerke Recreational Trust on repairs on the play area in Kingston Blount. However, shortly after the work was completed a new problem was identified on the activity centre which required it to be fenced off. Since then, the bridge between the two parts of the activity centre has also broken and has also been fenced off. We would be grateful if parents could ensure that their children do not use the parts of the equipment that have been fenced off.

On the positive side, the speed restricting chicane on the B4009 on the west side of Kingston Blount was completed and has been operational for over a month. Initial indications are that it has slowed traffic travelling through the village and has made turning onto the B4009 from both Kingston Hill and the Stert Road easier. We continue to look at measures in Aston Rowant.

I am always impressed with the level of volunteering within the Parish. Eight parishioners picked litter over the course of the weekend on Kingston Hill and along

the A40 and B4009 in Aston Rowant. In all they picked 24 bags of assorted rubbish. My thanks to all those who gave up part of their weekend to help tidy up the Parish.

At the time of writing we are in the second lockdown of the year. There will be some members of the Parish who will be self-isolating and will require assistance. The Parish Council has developed a network of volunteers who are willing to help those who need assistance; the contact details of those volunteers are included on the back cover.

2020 has been a difficult year for many. We are fortunate, however, to live in such a beautiful part of the country and in a Parish where there is a strong sense of community where people are always willing to help others.

I wish you all the best for Christmas and the New Year.

Peter Tinson

Chairman – Aston Rowant Parish Council



PLESTED BUTCHERS

20 CHURCH RD, CHIINNOR, OX39 4PG
01844 353432

PURVEYORS OF FINE QUALITY FREE RANGE AND LOCAL MEATS

CHRISTMAS ORDERS NOW BEING TAKEN
CALL IN FOR LAST ORDERS BY 12 DECEMBER

TURKEYS COCKERELS GEESE
TOPSIDE GAMMON HAM
COOKED MEATS PIES CHEESES
AND DON'T FORGET YOUR SAUSAGES AND BACON!

MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR

ASTON ROWANT PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

There were Parish Council meetings on Wednesday 14th of October and Wednesday 11th of November. Planning applications detailed below were discussed.

At the time of writing, the next meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday 9th of December and until COVID19 restrictions are lifted, we will continue to meet virtually via the ZOOM application.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

P20/S2457/FUL – Queens Gate Bungalow, AR - Amendment No 2. 28/Oct to show new dwelling relocated slightly in the plot and alterations to the driveway.

P20/S3679/FUL – Land adjacent to Queensgate Bungalow, AR - The erection of a new detached dwelling and garage. Response required by 5/Nov, but extension requested to 13/Nov to allow for full discussion at council meeting and clarification on TPO.

P20/S4099/HH – Two storey front and rear extensions and alterations at Windrush Chinnor Road Aston Rowant OX49 5SH.

P20/S4057/TCA – Treeworks for: T5 London Plane at Home Farm, Aston Rowant (a repeat of the works previously applied for as part of the client's tree maintenance). Work to maintain, contain & reduce overhang. Information only, no response required.

WITHDRAWN APPLICATIONS:

P19/S4134/FUL – Demolition of the existing dwelling and garage and replacement with dwelling and garage at Wayside Kingston Stert OX39 4NL.

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

PLANNING DECISIONS OF SODC:

P20/S1839/HH – Extensions and modifications to enlarge the residential accommodation with the addition of two rooflights at The Park Cottage Chinnor Road Aston Rowant OX49 5SH. GRANTED

P20/S1774/FUL – Variation of condition 2 on planning applications P17/S4443/FUL and P18/S3392/FUL to regularise the kitchen window, fenestration detail and the roof detail at the party wall, plus other minor revisions at the former Cherry Tree pub in Kingston Blount. GRANTED

P20/S0675/LB – To replace the existing roof tiles at Chiltern Cottage, Pleck Lane, Kingston Blount, OX39 4RU (Bat Survey received 9 July 2020). GRANTED

P20/S2643/HH – Various works at Ferndale House, High St, Kingston Blount, OX39 4SJ. GRANTED

P20/S2302/LB – As above, listed building consent. GRANTED

P20/S2662/HH – Erection of new attached outbuilding to replace existing hardstanding outdoor tennis court at Orchard House, High Street, Kingston Blount, OX39 4SJ. GRANTED

P20/S1180/FUL – Erection of a single dwelling at Aston Cottage, Church Lane, Aston Rowant. Referred to SODC Planning Committee on 14/Oct. REFUSED

PLANNING DECISIONS MADE SINCE THE LAST MEETING:

None

PLANNING INSPECTORATE APPEAL:

None

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



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KINGSTON BLOUNT PLAY AREA

Anyone who either uses the playground in the playing field or simply walks past it will appreciate that the playground equipment is showing its age.

It is now 22 years old and despite the Parish Council and the Hillwerke Trust having spent over £4,000 on repairs this year, since the summer the bridge on the activity centre has become unusable and is now roped off to prevent any accidents.

Rather than just spending more money on the centre which will prove to be a case of throwing good money after bad, we are proposing that we should form a small group of people to start the ball rolling to replace the parts which need replacing. This will not just be the playground equipment, but also the fence and the outside components. Parish councillors will be part of the group, but we want to engage with as many people as possible.

We are aware that grants may well be available to help fund the replacements but in order to qualify for these we will need plans and proper costing. Rather than this just being done by the councillors we would like the proposed group to help specify the requirements and then assist with the fund raising. This is what occurred when the playground was originally built, and we would like to replicate the success of the initial project.

If you want to help, be you parent, grandparent or just a parishioner who would like to see this community asset upgraded please contact me.

Tracy Lambourne

clerk@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk

FOR SALE

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£50 the lot

Buyer collects

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ARPC FOOTPATH AND AMENITIES GROUP

Don't know about you but I have enjoyed the beautiful Autumn colours this year. Winter is just round the corner so I don't know if the plentiful supply of berries means it's going to be a hard winter but they will certainly be great for the birds and good for bringing brightness into our homes this Christmas.

The Footpath and Amenities Group have been very busy working on and arranging maintenance around the Parish Paths with the help of Land Owners. This includes Church Lane, the Moors Footpath and Aston Green, the Kingston Blount Lanes and the new Permissive path to Crowell which continues to stand up well to some very heavy usage. It is so important we give priority to this work because this year has seen many more parishioners walking these routes for daily exercise. Also, at present, OCC don't have a maintenance team to be able to assist with this type of work.

We have increased our maintenance work at Fiveways, an area for nature in Aston Rowant. Also more wild flowers have been planted. Please see Mike Eaton's separate report on page 18.

Other tasks have included organising crown raising (ie taking off the lower branches) of the cherry trees in Aston Rowant, new tree planting and improving the appearance of the entrances to the villages, and litter picking.

All this work has been supported by funding by ARPC and the physical help of your Councillors and Parishioners.

Which brings me to the continuing invaluable help of Simon Coulon who alone plants, waters and tends to the Village Flower Tubs year in year out. They have just been replanted and they look great. A big thank you to Si.

Two of us recognised that the entrances to the villages were getting to look a bit untidy. So we had the Aston Rowant white entrance gates cleaned and repainted, cut the hedges, cleaned the signs and swept up the loose gravel in both villages. Thanks to Peter Gibbons for his help in this. The work was funded by ARPC and is now going on the list of annual maintenance tasks for the Council for future years.

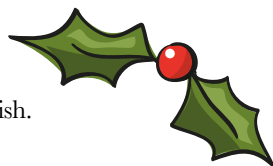
Litter and fly tipping is a huge problem in the Parish. We organised a Litter Pick just before the latest lockdown. 23 large bags of litter were collected but this really was only a catch up. Tony Hughes and Cate go out regularly litter picking – the work, independently supported by Richard Allan. Thanks to them all.

I have some excellent news for you. Councillor Steven Sowerby has agreed to Chair the Footpath and Amenities Group from 1 January '21 and I will continue as a committee member. I also will continue as Aston Rowant Parish Path Warden. The latter is as a volunteer for OCC Countryside Services, not ARPC, and involves reporting rights of way problems to them.

Happy Christmas to you all.

Peter Hetherington

Group Chairman and Footpath Warden, Aston Rowant Parish.
Tel 07767 647714.



NEWS FROM FIVEWAYS

By the time you read this it will be the end of 2020, a year which will be remembered for a long time. We saw a large increase in visitor numbers during the first lockdown and more people seem to be out walking again now and often stop and say how good it looks. My young grandson is still keen on finding artefacts there and after the success of finding the old bottles we bought him a metal detector and magnet for magnet fishing for his birthday. So far he has pulled out lots of nails from the stream and some old cooking pots from the path, all signs of the habitation which used to be there.

Many of you have watched the results from my camera traps and these are now available online at www.astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk/fiveways-corner. The stoats and owl are good but I think the crayfish is the best. We enjoy seeing the results of the wildlife camera and I would recommend getting one as a Christmas gift for anyone

interested in nature. I also enjoy taking photos - some of which are shown here. The peacock caterpillars were on the nettles in the Summer at 5-ways and I was in the right place for once. The Yellow, Pink and Purple Toadflax (see opposite) are all local wild plants or garden weeds. My lovely neighbour now leaves weeds on my doorstep for me to plant. Our gardens are a good source of wild flowers which otherwise would be pulled up and composted. There are a few desirable wild flowers in the parish and sensible collection of seed is legal. The timing of seed collection is critical and I could do with some people to help with this but it isn't as easy as you'd think.



Peacock caterpillars emerging

As I write in November I am planting out seedlings such as Mallow, Valerian and Vetch. I have also distributed very showy Yellow Monkey Musk plants around the villages so look out for these next year near the water courses.

The Footpath and Amenities Group have organised for the ditches in Church Lane to be dug out to try to stop flooding and improve drainage. I always look for the wild garlic going down on the left in March where the land drain pipe emerges. You can smell it when it emerges. There is a lot more alongside the stream at Fiveways, they have white flowers.

Some of you will have noticed that the sloes this year were enormous and only the high ones were left when we came to pick them so others obviously are partial to Sloe gin! There are still some left and they can be frozen until needed. I take part in a Sloe gin competition every year in Scotland when salmon fishing, but my record is not good. The lockdown led to enormous interest in my rhubarb this year and armfuls were converted to strong alcoholic drinks.

On a festive note watch out along Church lane at Fiveways for my holly bushes which are in berry. There are a good dozen of them, they have been challenging due to the summer droughts which killed a lot off. In time they should provide evergreen shelter for birds and berries.

Sadly there will be no duck racing in 2021 due to Covid, but I am sure the snowdrops and daffodils will still be there for everyone to enjoy. Thank you to the few people who have volunteered to help, I will be looking for more help in the Spring so please think about it. I still have a few mulberry trees to spare if anyone would like one for their garden.

Mike Eaton



Pink Toadflax



Yellow Toadflax



Purple Toadflax

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PARISH WALK

Sunday 3 January 2021 10.00am prompt

Meet in Bledlow Village. Park roadside near the Church and meet on the Green opposite the Lions of Bledlow.

Subject to the Covid regulations at the time, this walk will go ahead.

Numbers will be restricted and strict social distancing observed. This is a joint venture between ARPC with Thame and Wheatley Ramblers.

A 6 mile circular walk. Some mud, 2 stiles and one hill. The walk goes out along the Ridgeway, over Lodge Hill, returning through Horsenden with some excellent views on the way. The walk is classed as Moderate. There will be a short stop for a snack and a drink at a half way point.

The aim is to complete the walk by 13.00. Walking boots essential.

It is also essential anyone who wishes to join the walk that is not a member of Ramblers books a place with me please. Ramblers Members should book directly with Thame and Wheatley Ramblers.

Peter Hetherington

rphetherington@aol.com tel 07767 647714.



Carol Cross

NOTICEBOARD

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



Chair Based Exercise Class

We have been able, weather permitting, to hold classes in our back garden with 4 members attending and going to Margaret Lockwood for another session with her and one other person either in the garden or in her conservatory.

This has been so good for us all and everyone has improved, we are doing more standing work which has the benefit of helping our balance.

Fingers crossed that we can find a way to carry on while keeping safe.

Good Wishes to all, keep exercising

Rachel and Wendy Hawkins

Used postage stamps

All Charities are having a hard time at the moment, but a way to help which does not cost you a penny, is to save any stamps off envelopes that you receive. These can be either left in the box in Aston Rowant Church, delivered to the Sobell House Shop in Greyhound Walk (near Waitrose) or popped through my letterbox and I will deliver them. A big thank you to everyone who keeps a regular collection throughout the year. Shirley Smith, Meadow Vale, Pleck Lane. The bungalow behind the picket fence.

Allan and Shirley Smith

Thank you

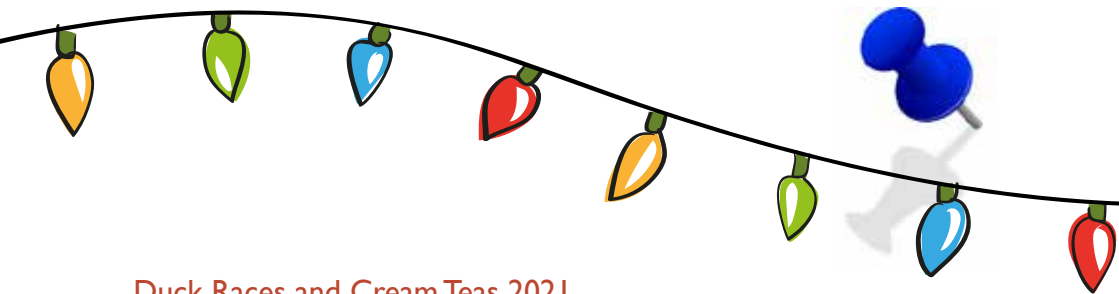
What a year it has been!! Some highs with special celebrations, some lows with the loss of loved ones, but throughout the Parish Council have kept going.

We owe an enormous debt of gratitude to the Ministry Team, The Parish Council and their spouses and all who volunteered to help those people who had to shield during the lockdown.

It appears that we are in for another lockdown but this time with no shielding, so at least we are not limited by the garden gate.

We are very grateful for all the help that we have had from friends, neighbours and volunteers, and give you all a great big THANK YOU.

Allan and Shirley Smith



Duck Races and Cream Teas 2021

We are very sorry but The Church and ARPC will not hold the annual duck races and cream tea event in 2021. We hope to be back organising this fun filled day again in 2022.

Peter Hetherington

Bell Ringing at Aston Rowant Church

It has been very good to be able to ring again on Sunday although with only 3 or 4 bells, keeping social distance and wearing masks. Thanks to Adam, Phoenix and Gordon for their support

We are keeping positive for Christmas ringing and to be able to attend practice nights again.

Wendy Hawkins

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If you have anything you'd like to see in the next issue please get in touch anytime.

The deadline for the February/March issue is 15th January.

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To register for ARTWEEKS 2021 visit www.artweeks.org

OXFORDSHIRE ARTWEEKS is open to ALL - amateur and professional artists/craft makers alike, galleries, community and charity groups that live or work in Oxfordshire.



Deadline for registering exhibition entries: 31st January 2021
(this is an extended deadline for 2021 only)

- May exhibitions will be required to be COVID-SECURE.
- If circumstances cause last minute wholesale changes as they did this year, venues will then be able to choose to mark themselves as Open/Open by Appointment only (as well as postponed/closed).
- Alongside the physical festival, Oxfordshire Artweeks will host a virtual festival over the same period.
- As it is unlikely the festival guide can be distributed in print in the normal way in 2021, it will be produced in digital versions only.

DATES for the 2021 festival are 1st - 23rd May

North Oxfordshire May 1st - 9th

[3rd Bank Holiday Monday]

Oxford City May 8th - 16th

South Oxfordshire May 15th – 23rd





SUSAN FORSTER

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LETTER FROM A HEADTEACHER

I wonder what Christmas will look like this year? When is the right time to put up our Christmas tree and decorations? These questions have elicited very mixed responses in school!

If we were Victorians, our Christmas trees would go up during the afternoon of Christmas Eve. Today many put the tree and decorations up at the beginning of the Advent to mark the start of the period of preparation for the birth of Christ. While others follow the tradition of putting up their decorations 12 days before Christmas Day and taking them down 12 days after. Americans might argue that the holiday season can only begin once Thanksgiving has ended.

This year has certainly been distinctly different and the coronavirus pandemic means that Christmas and our traditions may well look very different compared to previous years. Following a period of transition and challenge it seems that we are all eagerly anticipating the wonder, joy and hope that Christmas brings. We may just need to be more creative in how we make it happen.

The joy, excitement and anticipation of Christmas is flourishing in school. As a team we are also working hard to keep traditions alive in school, we are just having to do it a little differently. We have planned our nativity play, we will just record it and share it on line. We are enjoying learning carols, we will just have to sing them outside all facing the same direction. We are making and giving cards and gifts, but we will just have to isolate them before giving them out. And yes, the decorations are most definitely up!

Whatever you do this Christmas, and whenever your celebrations start, I wish you a happy, healthy and joyful Christmas and a New Year full of hope.

Mrs Helen France

Headteacher,
Aston Rowant School



MARK LORD, LOCAL PHOTOGRAPHER

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

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

Please contact Mark for more information.

info@marklordphotography.co.uk 01844 351218



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NEWS FROM ARCC

Firstly, can we wish a Happy Christmas and a Merry New Year to everyone. Can we once again thank everyone who has been part of the club be it player, official, member or spectator. We have ended the year in a much better position on and off the field than we looked likely to during the first lockdown.

Whilst all is quiet on the playing front things are continuing behind the scenes as we prepare for next season when hopefully things will be back to a form of normality.

We held our AGM, by Zoom on the 30th December and I will summarise the main points in the next parish notes, but we are delighted that both Simon Tremlin and Jerry Smith will continue in their roles as Chair and Vice Chair respectively, it will give the club continuity needed in these difficult times.

Next season the biggest change will come in the 3rd and 4th teams because the Cherwell League and Oxford Cricket Associations have merged which will mean much more regionalised cricket and hopefully much less travelling, more details over the winter.

As ever we are looking for new blood next year be it player, scorer, umpire or just a spectator all are welcome. We hope to open the bar on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays assuming we are allowed to, again more details later. Training and payment is available for anyone who wishes to learn how to score or umpire.

On a final note can we ask again that whilst we want people to enjoy the views from the field and encourage walkers to use it, can we ask that everyone respects the field and playing area. We totally accept that the vast majority of dog walkers do respect the field but a small minority are spoiling it for everyone else. The amount of dog waste on the field is very disappointing, please can we ask once again for people to be careful.

The playing square on the top field has had 2 strips relayed and re seeded, it is fenced off with the orange tape to prevent damage to the delicate surface please do not walk on the square.

Once again best wishes for the festive season.

Steven Sowerby



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TESSA WYATT'S COUNTRYSIDE DIARY

October 1 After over a year without a horse, I have finally found a new one to be my countryside companion. A little grey dun Connemara pony called Katie. Winter isn't normally the best time to take on a new equine, the weather being so dodgy as to make riding regularly sometimes difficult, but sometimes one has no choice but to follow one's heart.

October 2 Katie and I, in the company of friends, venture out on our first hack as an 'item'. We meander through the woods around Nettlebed, while I try to learn the route. The horses' soft hoof beats thump along tracks laid down centuries before as byways between the villages and now covered by hundreds of years of leaf mould, except on the steeper paths where the heavy rains have washed it away to reveal the flint beneath.

October 8 Another ride in the woods. Silence, apart from the creak of leather, soft snorts and the occasional birdsong to keep us company. Bluett mushrooms sprout from the ground, yellow legs decorate fallen logs and I see a magnificent Beefsteak fungus growing out of the trunk of a tree and long to stop and cut it as they are delicious to eat, but I didn't bring a bag to put it in so sadly have to leave it. Somebody got in early and has taken all the ceps. Grrr.

October 15 I take a walk around the village and down to Fiveways. It's getting very muddy and the skeletons of the trees are beginning to show. A huge chattering parliament of rooks flies overhead, heading towards the Colonel's Cover a few fields away. I envy their point of view from above, the countryside that I can only see little pieces of laid out for them like the view seen from a camera drone.

November 1 How I love autumn. I watch the ground beneath the beech trees turn copper as the trees themselves turn back to the colour of the earth from which they sprung. A muntjac crosses the track in front of me, and a covey of partridge run ahead like excited children, looking for a gap in the hedge to dive into. The scent coming up from the ground under Katie's hooves is very pungent, smelling of wet earth and rotting plants.

November 10 Two owls are having a hootenanny on The Green, one in the chestnut at the far end near Chiltern Cottage, the other my end in the great lime. They are youngsters, busy establishing their new territories. I hope they sort it out soon, they're keeping me awake!

November 14 Rain! My cat Tinker refuses to go out, and then finally takes the plunge, coming in dripping. John dries her off with kitchen roll. She gives him a little mew of thanks. Katie is in her field in a cosy rug, sheltering under the trees, and I'm indoors in the warm writing this. The ladybirds are trying to get in through the windows to hibernate in the house or at least squeeze themselves into the gaps in the window frames. Some years we have had groups of hundreds snuggled together behind the curtains in the spare room. This year there are only a few so far. Just as well, as they have awful BO!!



Tessa Wyatt

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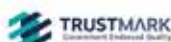


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CORONAVIRUS LOCAL HELP

Aston Rowant Parish Council has developed a network of volunteers who are willing to help those who need assistance during the current crisis as part of the Emergency Plan. The volunteers can help with:

- Shopping
- Getting medication or prescriptions
- Talking and giving advice or just checking in if you want someone local to talk to

The following have volunteered to be contacts to support fellow parishioners
Aston Rowant:

- Adam Bernstein, The Green - 07785 905120
- Mark Lord, The Green - 01844 351218
- Claire Batten, The Green - 07807 755211
- Erin Wodzinski, The Green – 07921 077697
- Mandy Brine, Plowden Park – 07970 212691/01844 354903
- Sally Lee, Chinnor Road – 07764 429970/01844 354982

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- Steven Sowerby, Pleck Lane - 07802 814625
- Stephanie Johns, Bakers Piece – 07939 030102
- Clare Taylor, Bakers Piece – 07818 404100
- Matthew Priestley, Brook Street - 07976 373512
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If you would like to volunteer to assist in the scheme, please send your name, phone number(s) and street address to peter.tinson@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk or the Clerk (clerk@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk) or any of the other Councillors.

Copy deadline for the February/March issue is 15th January.

Email: sallyparishnotes@gmail.com.

