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FEBRUARY/MARCH 2021

ASTON ROWANT, KINGSTON BLOUNT & CROWELL

# PARISH NOTES



Aston Rowant

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## TWO PART WEDDING **MARRY NOW, PARTY LATER** PACKAGE

2020 has been a difficult time for everyone, especially those of you who have spent so long dreaming and planning your special day.

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Information in this publication is, as far as we know, accurate. The Parish Notes however, cannot accept responsibility for the quality of the information, services or items provided by other people or organisations.

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### Charges for Hire – Effective 1st January 2021

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## USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

CAB Local office <a href="http://www.adviceguide.org.uk">www.adviceguide.org.uk</a>	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 <a href="mailto:adam.bernstein@mac.com">adam.bernstein@mac.com</a>	01844 350440
Oxon County Council <a href="http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk">www.oxfordshire.gov.uk</a>	01865 792422
Police-Thame (Thames Valley)	101 or 999
Poor's Hillock Allotments: Rupert Wolstenholme <a href="mailto:Rupert.wolstenholme@btinternet.com">Rupert.wolstenholme@btinternet.com</a>	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](http://www.astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk)

## Parish Clerk

Tracy Lambourne

[clerk@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk)

01844 353989

07971039612

## Parish Councillors:

Chairman Peter Tinson, Kingston Blount

[peter.tinson@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:peter.tinson@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk)

01844 352817

Councillor Matthew Day, Kingston Blount

[matthew.day@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:matthew.day@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk)

07940752446

Councillor Steven Sowerby, Kingston Blount

[steven.sowerby@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:steven.sowerby@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk)

01844 351392

Councillor Trelawney Hill, Aston Rowant

[trelawney.hill@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:trelawney.hill@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk)

01844 353051

Councillor Adam Bernstein, Aston Rowant

[adam.bernstein@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:adam.bernstein@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk)

07785 905120

Councillor Matthew Priestley, Kingston Blount

[matthew.priestley@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:matthew.priestley@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk)

07976 373512

Councillor John Wyatt, Aston Rowant

[john.wyatt@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:john.wyatt@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk)

07710 232349

## District Councillors:

Lynn Lloyd

01844 354313

[lynn.lloyd@southoxon.gov.uk](mailto:lynn.lloyd@southoxon.gov.uk)

Ian White

01844 352085

[ian.white@southoxon.gov.uk](mailto:ian.white@southoxon.gov.uk)

## County Councillor

Jeannette Matelot

[jeannette.matelot@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:jeannette.matelot@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

## MP

John Howell

01491 612852

[howelljm@parliament.uk](mailto:howelljm@parliament.uk)

## Police Community Support Office

tel: 101

[ThameHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:ThameHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk)

## Village Hall Hire/Bookings

Andrea Tinson

07391 139707

[bookings@kbvh.org](mailto:bookings@kbvh.org)

## Play Area

Tracy Lambourne

01844 353989

[clerk@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk)

## Aston Rowant Cricket Club Chairman

Simon Tremlin

07780 672552

## LETTER FROM JOHN HOWELL MP

When I wrote in December, for publication in January, I was optimistic for this new year and now in January, despite this current lockdown, I do remain so. Having said that I fully appreciate the difficulties of yet another tightening of restrictions. I know that some people are very worried and others very frustrated, but it is essential. However I do remain optimistic as we see more vaccines approved and the pace of the rollout stepped up. The priorities for vaccination remain to protect the vulnerable, reduce deaths and reduce pressure on the NHS. In conversation with the Chief Executive of the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group, which is heavily involved in the rollout, I have been reassured that we are on track to meet the Government schedule. At the start of the rollout it took time to get different locations set up and more will be operational by the time this newsletter is published. There is plenty of supply of the vaccine and it is being used as it becomes available. The Government is, of course, concerned to make sure that distribution is evenly spread across the county so that vulnerable people nationwide are protected. I am sure that most of us will be relieved when we personally have the protection of the vaccine, but we have to be patient and we have to look at the collective good. Our turn will come and in the meantime we must all continue to follow measures to protect one another whether we have been vaccinated or not.

In this current lockdown Parliament continues to run as best it can with remote working. The Speaker has strongly encouraged MPs not to travel into London unless absolutely necessary and has limited further the number of MPs who can be in the Chamber at any one time. However, this does not mean we are simply twiddling our thumbs; far from it. Many changes have been made to enable MPs to carry on with important business. My staff team continue to work remotely and together we are doing our best to respond to the heavy workload we are experiencing particularly at present.

### **Council of Europe**

I am delighted and honoured to have been asked by the Prime Minister to become Leader of the UK delegation to the Council of Europe. The Council of Europe is a non-EU organisation of which we remain as members beyond Brexit. My delegation is cross-party and represents the UK at the Council in a number of ways including dealing with climate change and other important issues. The Council of Europe was founded in 1949, in the wake of the Second world War to uphold human rights, democracy and the rule of law in Europe. It has 47 member states and remains an important link with our European neighbours. The Parliamentary Assembly is made up of parliamentary representatives from the members states and has to reflect the political balance of the country.

**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 change we are afraid to services and it will be only the on-line Benefice and Diocese services until the lockdown is released by the government. Sadly, that looks like being extended because some areas of society simply can't stay at home or stop mixing.

Fortunately, we are still able to use the church for recording and/or transmitting services.

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](http://chinnorunitedchurches.co.uk) or [Oxford.anglican.org](http://Oxford.anglican.org) respectively.

If anyone would like an e-copy of the monthly Chinnor Parish Magazine and/or the weekly Chinnor on-line service booklet then please e-mail the parish admin office at [csarc@btinternet.com](mailto:csarc@btinternet.com)

The sodium floodlamp has been repaired and is now giving welcome assistance and security back to those walking through the churchyard.

The porch light has been deliberately left on to assist those using the footpath and lighting the porch. We are looking to replace the solar footpath lights which have served a useful life but are now failing. Anyone wishing to sponsor these should contact the Wardens.

We are most grateful to the sudden activity of families attending their loved one's graves. Some have been unattended for years and this is so heartening.

If we can be of assistance, then please ask for advice.

On a down note, some attending graves are placing plastic flower wrappings and other non-compostable waste on the compost heap. We do have a black bin by the Lychgate so please use it.

We also have a brown bin in that area and that is not for plastic or general waste.

We have to check and sort the bins before we put them out every time, otherwise they don't get emptied.

Please stay safe and please, please obey the rules.

**Andy & Maggs Warman**

(Church Wardens) 07557476443



## HERE WE GO AGAIN....

In consultation with the Ministry Team and the Standing Committee of the PCC, it has been decided that we will have online services only.

This is hugely disappointing for us all and this decision is not being made lightly. While it is legally and technically possible to hold services of communal worship (even in Tier 4), just because we can, doesn't mean that we should. And although I have every confidence in the Covid-secure measures we have in place, I feel there is a moral duty to limit opportunities for social gatherings at this time, especially when the daily number of coronavirus cases continues to climb.

I'm painfully aware that, for many of you, coming to church is a source of comfort and joy, and maybe even providing a sense of normality, and I'm so sorry that there will be no in-person services during January. As well as keeping you, as the congregation safe, I also have a duty of care to the Ministry Team, the Churchwardens and our musicians (many of whom are in the vulnerable category).

So, lets pause our in-person services and wait out this current wave of infections, and come back into church when the situation is much better controlled, and many of you will probably have had the vaccination.

Something that has been both a challenge and a joy of this time has been finding new ways to be a church and to stay connected when we can't meet physically.

Here are the ways we are the church when we can't meet

- **Weekly Sunday @home services** The ministry team work hard to produce these to make sure that there is something for you, from a minister you know every Sunday. You will find them in the booklet that comes with the Parish magazine, on our website and on Facebook.
- **Private Prayer** Our churches will remain open for Private Prayer.
- Holy Communion on Wednesday is recorded and can be seen on the website and Facebook.
- **Daily Readings** The ministry team will release a daily reading to be found on the website and Facebook. If you want to join us by reading the booklet, we will be using the Bible Reading Fellowship NewDaylight Notes. If you would like a booklet, let me know and I'll order one for you (it costs about £4.70).
- **Communion in a Bag** Just before Christmas I trialed sending out "Communion in a Bag" to some of those who wouldn't be able to attend Church. The bag contained a wafer that had already been consecrated and some printed prayers to say as the sacrament is received. It seems to have been well received. I'm happy to offer this gift once a month for you. Please let me know if you would like to receive this.
- **Prayer Link** if you have a particular prayer request for yourself or someone you know then do contact Brian and Gill Skinner.





- **Phone a Friend** Please do feel free to contact any of the Ministry Team or your Churchwardens for a chat or if there's an issue you think we might be able to help with. We find it hard not being in church and not seeing you, so please do help us by phoning or emailing!
- **Zoom** from Monday 11th January at 6pm, I'm going to begin a weekly Zoom drop in session. Not entirely sure what the precise format will be but expect some praying!

I send you this message with much love and blessings.

### **Rev'd Dr Jacky Barr**

Rector to the United Parish

The Rectory, Chinnor OX39 4DH

01844 352027 07769 825 305

revd.jackybarr@gmail.com

**[www.chinnorunitedchurches.co.uk](http://www.chinnorunitedchurches.co.uk)**



## NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Now that adoption of the draft Local Plan appears to be reaching a conclusion, the Neighbourhood Plan committee have begun to review the comments received in response to the public consultation that ran from February – June last year. An initial review suggests that the majority of respondents endorse the approach taken in the draft plan i.e. not to allocate specific sites for development but to rely on infill for future growth. The committee recognise that this strategy carries some risk should SODC's land supply fall below the requisite number. The committee will be carrying out a more detailed review over the coming months, to incorporate comments from public bodies such as SODC and to consider whether points from the more detailed responses merit inclusion or alteration of the draft. The aim is to complete this work over the next two months with a view to publishing a revised draft and Consultation Report in time for a public (probably virtual) meeting in mid February.

### Mark Thackeray

Chairman – Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

## GARDEN WASTE COLLECTION (AS OF 19 JANUARY 2021)

As you may already be aware, we had to delay the restart of the garden waste collection service after the usual Christmas break. The extended pause is as a result of some staff sickness due to Covid-19 and others having to self-isolate.

We have reviewed the staffing levels and unfortunately we are currently unable to predict accurately when it will resume.

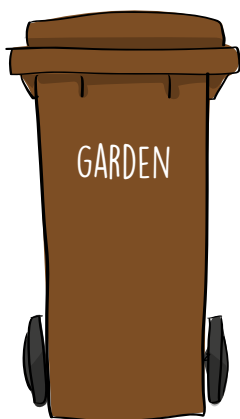
We will review the situation on a week by week basis, and we will let you know as soon as we are in a position to restart the service. We will keep you updated via our garden waste pages and on our social media sites.

We want to reassure you that along with our contractors Biffa we have explored all the options possible to avoid this situation as we realise that this may cause inconvenience and we are genuinely sorry for this. However, the safety of our crews and residents must always be our number one priority. This will allow the remaining staff to work on the core household waste services (food, recycling and rubbish).

If you would like to dispose of your Christmas tree you can take it to one of Oxfordshire County Council's Household Waste Recycling Centres. These sites are open but please check their website for opening times and any restrictions, particularly Covid-19 restrictions. Or if you'd rather, you can wait until the garden waste service resumes and we'll take it then.

Again we apologise for any inconvenience and will let you know as soon as we're able to reinstate the service for existing customers.

**[www.southoxon.gov.uk](http://www.southoxon.gov.uk)**



# ASTON ROWANT PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The December and January meetings are when the Council reviews the current year's expenditure and sets the budget for the following year. I am pleased to say that we are projected to be under budget for the majority of budget headings which means that we will be able to maintain the precept at the same level as this year. We are not anticipating any increased spend on our general maintenance, grass cutting, footpaths and amenities, and administration in 2021/22. There is an increase in the cost of dog-bin emptying as the SODC subsidy for this ceased mid-2020 and although a new contractor will be cheaper, they will charge more than we used to pay. This is offset by reduced costs for our website.

The chicane on the B4009 in Kingston Blount was the major expenditure in the year. The Council made a substantial contribution to the cost of this work by drawing on our reserves. This year we will be building up the reserves to allow us to focus on similar measures in Aston Rowant. I am pleased to say that our funds for traffic calming will be bolstered by a contribution from the Community Infrastructure Levy, a fund that is built up by contributions from new buildings.

In addition to building up our general reserves and those earmarked for traffic calming, the Council is also building reserves to maintain the play area in Kingston Blount. The play area has needed a significant amount of maintenance this year and we were fortunate that the Hillwerke Recreational Trust were able to contribute to the cost of those repairs. We recognise that a lot of the equipment in the play area is reaching end of life and may need further work during the course of the year to ensure that the play area remains usable.

At the time of writing we are in the third lockdown of the Covid-19 pandemic. The Government has been encouraging all to shop locally and we are indeed fortunate to have the Lockdown Larder on Kingston Blount farm. Many parishioners have told me how pleased they are that the Larder has been established and that is now part of their regular shopping routine. Our thanks to Karen Clark for her initiative in setting up the Larder during the first lockdown and her initiative in growing the range of products on offer.

Finally, the vaccination programme is well underway in our area with many of the most vulnerable having received their first doses. Although the vaccinations offer hope that there is light at the end of the tunnel, there are still some that require support and assistance because they are self isolating or shielding. A quick reminder to close this update that the Parish Council established a network of volunteers to assist others during this current crisis. Their contact details are elsewhere in this edition of the Parish Notes.

**Peter Tinson**

Chairman – Aston Rowant Parish Council

# ASTON ROWANT PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

Parish Council meetings were held on Wednesday 9th of December 2020 and Wednesday 13th January 2021 where the applications detailed below were discussed. The next meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday 10th of February and until COVID19 restrictions are lifted, we will continue to meet virtually via the ZOOM application.

## PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

**P20/S4101/HH** – Alterations to front fence and gates at Windrush, Chinnor Road, AR. **FULLY SUPPORT.**

**P20/S4330/LDE** – Use of the land for domestic purposes ancillary to Orchard House, High St, KB. Certificate of Lawful Existing Use or Development only.

**OBJECT.**

**P20/S4339/HH** – Proposed 1.5 storey pitched roof extension (replacing existing single storey flat roof extension) at Tantivy Cottage Park Lane Kingston Blount.

**FULLY SUPPORT.**

**P20/S4366/HH** – Installation of two windows at 6 Dashwood Court Aston Rowant.

**OBJECT.**

**P20/S4547/HH** – The erection of a greenhouse (8 x 12 feet) in the rear garden of the property at Hesters Barn, High Street, Kingston Blount. **FULLY SUPPORT.**

**P20/S3679/FUL (Amendment 1)** – The erection of a new detached dwelling and garage on Land at Queens Gate Bungalow, Aston Rowant (amended plans received 9th December). Additional arboricultural information also supplied. **OBJECT**, pending further comments from SODC Forestry officer. **OBJECT.**

**P20/4894/FUL** – Double garage and associated works (including to layout of external areas to new house under construction following grant of planning permission P18/S4243/FUL) at Hill Cottage High Street Kingston Blount. Further info required before decision can be made.

**EXTENSION REQUESTED UNTIL AFTER FEB PC MEETING.**

## WITHDRAWN APPLICATIONS:

**None**

## PLANNING DECISIONS OF SODC:

**P20/S2457/FUL** – Demolition of existing house and erection of a detached dwelling and garage, while keeping and refurbishing current outbuilding at Queens Gate Bungalow Butts Way Aston Rowant. **GRANTED.**

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

**P20/S4101/HH** – Alterations to front fence and gates at Windrush. **GRANTED**

**P20/S4339/HH** – 1.5 storey pitched roof extension (replacing existing single storey flat roof extension) at Tantivy, Park Lane Kingston Blount. **GRANTED.**

## **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

# **Tool & Small Plant Hire**

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**Tel: 020 8841 2039**

**Email: [julian@hire-itnortholt.co.uk](mailto:julian@hire-itnortholt.co.uk)**

## 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](http://www.astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk)**



Camp Industrial Estate  
Milton Common  
OX9 2NP  
M40, Junction 7  
Tel: 01844 278177  
Email: [workshop@rcpservices.co.uk](mailto:workshop@rcpservices.co.uk)

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## ARPC FOOTPATH AND AMENITIES GROUP

Happy New Year to everyone. It is not the start of the year that anyone wanted but we must make the best of it. Keep safe.

This is the first report I've written since taking over from Peter Hetherington, and I'm very conscious that I have big shoes to fill. I must start by thanking Peter not just for the work he has done over many years but also for the help and guidance he has given and continues to do so.

The cancellation of both the Parish Walk and Snowdrop Sunday is not a good start, especially the Snowdrop Sunday which makes me smile every time I think about the children (of all ages) splashing about in the brook. Hopefully they will be back next year.

It is good to see so many people using the footpaths and I would encourage as many people as possible to get out and walk the beautiful countryside we are so lucky to live in. If you haven't walked the footpaths, please make sure you are wearing the correct clothes and footwear. If you do so you will perhaps understand why so many people enjoy a simple walk.

Mike Eaton has written his usual report on FiveWays (see page 18), and if you haven't been down there, I would recommend it to everyone.

Whilst most projects are on hold, we have purchased 6 more trees to plant out in the parish, 2 Rowans on B4009 in Aston Rowant on headland near our cherry trees, 2 Rowans in Five Ways, 2 Oaks on headland on path from KB Playing field towards Lower Icknield Way. Thanks to Alan and Lawney Hill for their permission.

We will also see the removal of a large tree in the 'lane' between Pleck Lane and the Old Shoulder of Mutton and at the same time remove the brambles that are overgrowing the path.

Hopefully the next report will see some positive news.

**Steven Sowerby**

Group Chairman and Footpath Warden, Aston Rowant Parish



## NEWS FROM FIVEWAYS

Fiveways has started to be busier again with Lockdown. It is safe with plenty of distancing and often a breeze. There are still things to see even in mid-Winter. The red campion flowered throughout December and now the snowdrops are starting to show some white. There is the odd primrose in flower too. The hollies are doing remarkably well now and should provide some evergreen wind protection in some years time.

You may have noticed that the stream has been cleared out down to the bottom. This was mainly done by Scarlett, who is doing a Duke of Edinburgh award assisted by her family. A local contractor has also dug out part of Church lane... and the lower stream for the first time. Sadly there is no duck racing this year, what a shame as the course is in such good order. Can I ask the young water engineers to reduce/move their damming activities and not to move the bridges used by wildlife. Please don't put logs etc in the stream as they can go downstream, block culverts and cause problems. There is also some beer drinking going on which I don't mind, but please take your bottles home!

I have planted out well over a 100 wild flower plants. They are Valerian, Viper's Bugloss, Mallow, Geraniums, Verbascum, and Fox and Cubs. They come mainly from seed I have collected and grown but my neighbour's weeds are represented as well. I am going to try *Fritillaria Meleagris* again. One of the largest concentrations of them in the UK is in the water meadows around Oxford. I have planted them as bulbs in the past with only one survivor which comes up every year. The bulbs are not poisonous and rodents I think have eaten them previously, as soon as I planted them. This year they have done brilliantly and are emerging in my green house and awaiting my decision when to plant them. They are supposed to be easy.... but then why have I failed for 3 years? They do like to be dry in the Summer which is not hard these days.

The extra flow that Scarlett has created has scoured the stream bed exposing the wooden water cress beds, which I think date from the second world war. They are just downstream of the wildlife bridge with the sand bags. There are elm boards visible across the stream bed. The water plants will re-establish in the stream in a few months and wild watercress hopefully will come back. Of special note is the Monkey Musk - there are two plants at the water exit from Fiveways. There are more to be found of these showy yellow plants around local streams .

My wild life camera has been out, but no sign of the local otters which I know to be there. It would be good if someone could get a picture. Aston lake I think is the best hope. There are some on the other side of the motorway too in Lewknor lake where they are not welcome. The trout there are a rare local species and especially vulnerable to predation.

The Footpath and Amenities group as usual is planting more trees - Oaks and Rowan this year , two Rowans will go in at Fiveways . One will replace the rotten tree in the ex-bramble patch which will be removed when it is safe to do so.

Finally please stay safe and continue to enjoy Fiveways. We are constantly being told that being out in the countryside is good for our health. Hopefully we will soon be able to enjoy walks with others there. As someone who has been involved in vaccines I would encourage everyone to get a jab. Vaccines are the cheapest, safest and most effective anti-virals. I can't wait...

Mike Eaton



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# NOTICEBOARD



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

### (Not the) Hunger Lunch.

For a great many years a Lenten Hunger Lunch has been held in Aston Rowant to raise money for The Porch Day Centre in Oxford. Sadly the Lunch can't happen this year but the Centre's need is greater than ever. Do have a look at their website [theporch.org.uk](http://theporch.org.uk) for an overview of their work and I hope that you might then feel able to make a donation - the Centre itself is an inspiration!

**Rona Knight**

351315

### News from Aston Rowant bell ringers

We were so pleased to be able to ring all 6 bells on Christmas morning, keeping social distance, wearing masks and with the West door open. Thanks to all of the ringers who came and made Christmas a special day.

As soon as we are allowed we will be back ringing for services although it will take much longer before we can hold our practice nights.

Take care, keep safe

**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**

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

**Copy deadline for the April/May issue is 15th March.**

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## FESTIVE FONTS AROUND THE PARISH

Christmas decorations were put up around the fonts in all the churches even though we were unable to hold our usual carol services.

Aston Rowant



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# LETTER FROM A HEADTEACHER

*“There are far, far better things ahead than any we leave behind.”*

CS Lewis

Happy New Year! What a start to the year 2021 it has been. As I write the school is just starting another six week period of lockdown. The staff and pupils were all back on Monday 4th January and then from Tuesday 5th January we opened for Key worker children, and vulnerable children. We have over 40% of our children attending school in two different bubbles, and for those not able to attend in person online learning has begun.

Whilst it has been a challenge to re-plan and re-think what we are going to teach this term, and how we are going to teach it, the principles of what we want to achieve this new year with the children in our care remain the same. We want to instil hope in our children even when they face uncertainty. To make learning both fun and interesting. To challenge and inspire each child to take a risk with their learning. To be kind and encouraging to those learning if they fail and to joyfully celebrate when they succeed.

*“But the children knew, as I’m sure you know, that the worst surroundings in the world can be tolerated if the people in them are interesting and kind.”*

Lemony Snicket – The Bad Beginning

During this third lockdown the children at Aston Rowant School have once again shown great adaptability and resilience. They are curious, brave, and adventurous in their learning. They know their limits and they push themselves to step outside of their comfort zones. They may once again be dealing with a different way of learning but from the work that I have seen so far they are navigating that journey brilliantly.

*“I am not afraid of storms, for I am learning how to sail my ship.”*

Louisa May Alcott – Little Women

I hope that 2021 brings you happiness and joy, and the strength to navigate whatever challenges may come your way.

**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.

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## NEWS FROM ARCC

A belated Happy New Year to everyone, I hope you are safe in these extraordinary times.

The editor asked if we and the other correspondents had anything interesting to note, in terms of the cricket club the short answer is no and the long answer is nothing.

Like all other sport the situation is in the short term simple, nothing is allowed so even the practice net sessions that would normally be taking place are cancelled.

At the moment we can only assume that the start of next season, whenever that is, will be under the same conditions as the end of last season. That means no use of the pavilion, no teas and track and trace for all visitors. It is possible that the situation may have been made clearer by the time you read this.

It has been good to see so many people walking around the ground during the lockdown, please do so respecting all the people who use the field.

The committee is exploring ideas, you cannot call them plans, for this year. If possible, we will open the bar on Thursday and Friday nights as well as all day Saturday and Sunday.

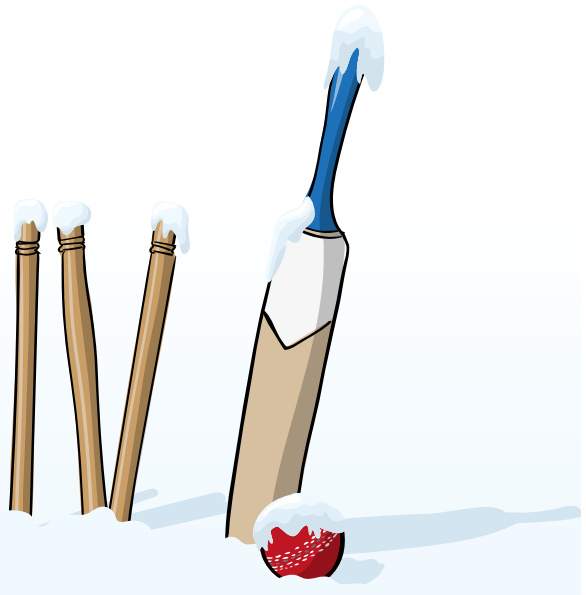
We are going to improve the surface in the car park, the scalplings have already been delivered and also hope to plant some walnut trees on the ground.

In terms of cricket, it is great to see England doing well (at the time of writing) but whether it's the cricket or the sunshine that's attractive I'm not sure.

Finally, can I remind all social and 1881 club members that the renewal date is the 1st April 2021, membership can be renewed via the club website.

Hopefully we will have more and better news for the next edition.

**Steven Sowerby**



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# TESSA WYATT'S COUNTRYSIDE DIARY

**8th Dec** Magical moment of the day: a mother Muntjac and her bambi in the garden just now. Bambi had a drink just 8 metres from where we were standing. Mum showed no fear and waited patiently for her baby to finish before leading him away.

**14th Dec** Amazing isn't it? In bedroom, changing clothes. No sign of cat. Take sweater off, leave on bed for 5 seconds, turn around and she's appeared from nowhere as if transported by magic. Is this what we might call transMOGrification?

**23rd Dec** A dawn chorus this morning like none I've heard since last Spring. I wonder if they're singing Christmas carols ...

**1st Jan** While out walking today in a white world, I wrote this haiku. A Japanese art form, a haiku must have no more than 17 syllables. Fiendishly difficult to write because you often have to kill off something you love for the sake of the discipline. Very Japanese!

Dressed in hoary lace  
Trees stand.  
Ghost brides  
Waiting for their groom,  
Spring,  
To come

**3rd Jan** A brilliant idea to keep mud and water out of the top of your wellies. Pull an overreach boot on and then your wellies. Turn overreach boot over the top of the wellies, like an upside down cup. (If you don't know what an overreach boot is, ask a horsey friend!)

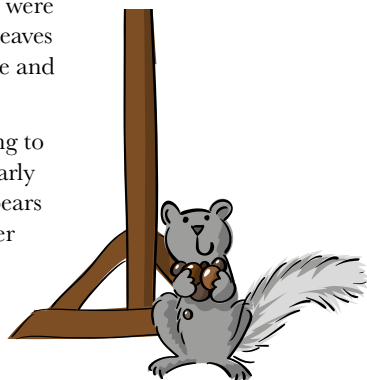
**6th Jan** Our rather chubby squirrel who visits the bird feeders every day burns no calories at all by sitting underneath, waiting for the birds to drop food from the feeders. He comes every day. He's the squirrel version of a couch potato.

**12th Jan** Our Muntjac came to breakfast! She had a morsel of Rose of Sharon, a nibble of primrose leaf and a couple of mouthfuls of dead geranium before sauntering off. She left her baby behind this time.

**15th Jan** It's a bumper year for fieldfares and redwings. A huge flock filled the trees at Fiveways this morning, so that they looked as though they were in leaf. Then all of a sudden the singing stopped and the leaves all flew away, drifting down onto a nearby field, just silence and stillness left behind.

**17th Jan** Fiveways again, and the snowdrops are beginning to flower on the bank by the Holbrook. In the garden, the early ones are now fully out, and the daffodils have sent their spears up through the earth to catch the scent of Spring. I wonder if we will have one as warm and sunny as last year. I do hope so, it will cheer us all up so much.

**Tessa Wyatt**



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We provide healthy food, practical help, companionship and opportunities for development. During the pandemic our mission has been simple – to continue to provide nutritious food and welfare support to those most in need. We are open seven days a



week. Every day we provide free food and support from 12noon – 2pm from our main entrance. We then deliver meals across Oxford to vulnerable clients who are emergency housed, isolating or in quarantine. Since the start of the crisis we've provided 25,000 meals to the homeless community.



Many clients have described what we are doing as 'lifesaving', not only for their physical health but also for their mental well-being. As one client told us: 'If there weren't people like you, then we'd be in a dangerous place'.

We also help to raise public awareness through our Porch Preserves range of vegan jams, marmalades and chutneys. All proceeds return to the centre to support the homeless. We've also edited a book on our history which is available to buy.



We would welcome any donations, contributions or enquires. Please see our website [www.theporch.org.uk](http://www.theporch.org.uk) or contact Alex, charity secretary, at 01865 728545 for further information.

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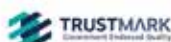


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# CORONAVIRUS LOCAL HELP

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

Kingston Blount:

- Laura Donald, Pleck Lane - 07778 991422
- Steven Sowerby, Pleck Lane - 07802 814625
- Stephanie Johns, Bakers Piece – 07939 030102
- Clare Taylor, Bakers Piece – 07818 404100
- Matthew Priestley, Brook Street - 07976 373512
- Jo Whitfield, Brook Street - 01844 355263/07785 941023
- Sally Brodermann, Old Croft Close – 01844 350364
- Joe Havenhand-Beal, Park Lane – 07860 849910
- Kate Havenhand-Beal, Park Lane – 07949 587556
- Matthew Day, The Green – 07940 752446
- Caroline and Mike Mousley, The Green – 01844 355838
- Peter Tinson, High Street – 07976 748113
- Rachel Cooper, High Street – 07789 906114
- Tim Gent, Icknield Close - 07488 274157
- Carol Wilson, Icknield Close – 07443 941117

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](mailto:peter.tinson@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk) or the Clerk ([clerk@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk)) or any of the other Councillors.

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

**Copy deadline for the April/May issue is 15th March.**

Email: [sallyparishnotes@gmail.com](mailto:sallyparishnotes@gmail.com).