

VOL XXXIX NO I

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2022

ASTON ROWANT, KINGSTON BLOUNT & CROWELL

PARISH NOTES



Photo: Nigel Williams

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Editor

Sally Brodermann
350364
sallyparishnotes@gmail.com

Advertising

Julian Knight
351315
jknight652@aol.com

Treasurer & Distribution

Peter Lambert
352617
peter.lambert123@btinternet.com

Proofreading

Edward Meade-King

Illustrations

©Sally Brodermann
sallyparishnotes@gmail.com

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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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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: Francesca Musaeus francesca.musaeus@hotmail.com	
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

The Village Hall is now open for bookings. The Hall operates under a set of regulations issued under guidance from the Government. These have been continually revised throughout the pandemic and it is expected that some of the procedures, particularly those relating to cleaning of the Hall and equipment by hirers, will continue for some time after restrictions have been lifted. Hirers will be advised of the cleaning requirements closer to their scheduled booking.

Andrea Tinson

PARISH COUNCIL & LOCAL CONTACTS

Parish Website

www.astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk

Parish Clerk

Tracy Lambourne

clerk@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk

01844 353989

07971 039612

Parish Councillors:

Chairman Peter Tinson, Kingston Blount

peter.tinson@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk

01844 352817

Councillor Matthew Day, Kingston Blount

matthew.day@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk

07940752446

Councillor Steven Sowerby, Kingston Blount

steven.sowerby@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk

01844 351392

Councillor Trelawney Hill, Aston Rowant

trelawney.hill@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk

01844 353051

Councillor Adam Bernstein, Aston Rowant

adam.bernstein@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk

07785 905120

Councillor Matthew Priestley, Kingston Blount

matthew.priestley@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk

07976 373512

Councillor John Wyatt, Aston Rowant

john.wyatt@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk

07710 232349

District Councillors:

Lynn Lloyd

01844 354313

lynn.lloyd@southoxon.gov.uk

Ian White

01844 352085

ian.white@southoxon.gov.uk

County Councillor

Kate Gregory

kate.gregory@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Nigel Champken-Woods

nigel.champken-woods@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

Josh Smith

07894 201 929

chairman@astonrowantcc.com

LETTER FROM JOHN HOWELL MP

A new year, but many of the same issues roll around. My inbox continues to be dominated with issues around COVID 19 and, as always, some opposing views on how we continue to deal with the situation. Whilst there have been some specific concerns the balance of views being expressed is increasingly towards a sense that we need to learn to live with the COVID virus and move from pandemic to endemic. This is my view too. The Coronavirus Act 2020, which came into effect on 25th March 2020, has a two-year time limit. This can be extended by Parliament but, as it stands at the moment, I think it unlikely that the Government will seek the support of Parliament to do so.

Looking to the year that lies ahead I hope that the plans to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee will be able to go ahead as planned for the central weekend of celebration in June. It would be good to be able to have this national celebration as a time for communities to come together once again. I would be interested to know what plans communities across the constituency have.

Thinking about communities I am pleased that the Charities Bill has now been introduced to the Commons. It has long been acknowledged that charity legislation can be complicated and unduly burdensome which can hinder charitable activities in some respects. In response to a report from the Law Commission, which has been supported in the charity sector, this Bill was introduced in the Lords and has been through the full process in that House. It was introduced to the Commons on 11th January and will receive its second reading later this month. Another important piece of work launched at the start of this year is a consultation on proposals to help new developments achieve Biodiversity Net Gain. This would put protecting and enhancing the environment at the heart of housing and infrastructure developments. I know that many in the constituency will be interested in this. The consultation, which is asking interested parties on the details of how biodiversity net gain should be delivered, can be found online at the Government Consultation webpage. www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-biodiversity-net-gain-regulations-and-implementation

As the year progresses there will continue to be challenging issues to debate with strongly felt views on all sides. I am always interested to know the views of constituents even if we agree to differ. If there is an issue that concerns you please do share your thoughts. Email is the easiest way if you have access to that. My email address is howelljm@parliament.uk. Alternatively you can write to me at the House of Commons (House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA).

If you would like to know more about my work on behalf of the Government and the Constituency please do look at my website which is regularly updated. The address is www.johnhowellmp.com.

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

Sunday services remain on the second and fourth Sundays at 4pm until and including March 2022. These are increasingly better attended. It is wonderful to see so many villagers as regulars now.

Masks are still required and please continue to sign in or use the QR code on the door or on the sideboard inside the door.

Please continue to check with other people if you intend to sit next to them.

Soul Space has been well attended at 5pm on the first Sunday of each month (silent reflection, readings and gentle music for $\frac{3}{4}$ hour).

The church will always be open when the Wardens are working in it or working in the churchyard.

Please call the Wardens if you would like access for private prayer at other times. We are very flexible and understand needs.

The Carol Service was very well attended. All enjoyed the mince pies, mulled wine and being able to socialise in warm surroundings. Thanks to those that supplied the 'goodies' and to the impromptu 'choir' formed totally unrehearsed by several of the ladies.

Sadly, we had to cancel the Crib Services across the Parish due to the high incidents off COVID amongst children.

We had a first: a wedding on Christmas Day. What a wonderful event, which added to the joy of Christmas Day.

Sadly two funerals, however we did have one christening.

Sunday services are still being supported by booklet for those who still do not feel comfortable in joining an attended service. Details at chinnorunitedchurches.co.uk or oxford.anglican.org

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

Events/dates or changes for your diaries are:

Work Parties to be scheduled when the weather turns better. Volunteers noted with thanks. There will be plenty to do whatever your skills. Please check the Notice Board and the next issue of Parish Notes.

Please stay safe and continue to consider others who may still feel vulnerable.

Andy & Maggs Warman

(Church Wardens) 01844 351909

themwarmans@btinternet.com

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FEBRUARY AND MARCH SERVICE ROTA

	ST PETER AND ST PAUL'S Aston Rowant	ST ANDREW'S Chinnor	ST MARY'S Sydenham	BVM Crowell
1st Sunday 6th Feb	10am Children's Service Clare, Tessa and Jan 4pm Evening Prayer Jacky	10.30am Holy Communion Jacky	9am Holy Communion BCP Joan	
2nd Sunday 13th Feb	9am Holy Communion Brian	10.30am All age worship Margaret		4pm Evening Prayer with Holy Communion Des
3rd Sunday 20th Feb	9am Morning Prayer Margaret	10.30am Holy Communion Jacky	6pm Evensong Jacky	
4th Sunday 27th Feb	9am Holy Communion Des	10.30am Holy Communion Jacky and Brian		4pm Evening Prayer Joan



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ASTON ROWANT PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

I have often written about the strong sense of community in our Parish. There are, however, few opportunities for the whole community to come together as one. The celebrations planned for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June include The Big Jubilee Lunch. This encourages communities to celebrate their connections and get to know each other a little bit better, coming together in a spirit of fun and friendship. We in the Parish will be joining in these celebrations with our Big Jubilee Lunch planned to take place at Kingston Blount Village Hall on Sunday 5th June. Prior to the main event, the organising committee are planning a Quiz Night to raise funds for the celebrations over the Jubilee weekend. The Quiz is taking place on Friday 25th March – see the advertisements on pages 20 and 21 for more details.

It was pleasing to see a good turn out for the annual Parish walk, promoted jointly by the Parish Council and Thame and Wheatley Ramblers. Nearly 40 walkers set out on a crisp January morning for an enjoyable stroll in the countryside. Our thanks to Peter Hetherington for leading the walk and for his re-routing to take out the muddier parts of the original route!

The Parish Council recognises that a lot of the equipment in the playground in Kingston Blount is getting near the end of its life. The cost of replacing the equipment will significantly exceed the money the Council has available and so we are looking to form a small committee to help raise funds for new equipment. We would welcome those whose children make use of the playground (and others in the area) on the committee; if you are interested in contributing to this effort, please contact Tracy Lambourne, the Parish Clerk, at clerk@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk.

The December Council meeting is where the precept and budget for the coming financial year is discussed and agreed. I am pleased to advise that we have been able to keep a lid on our costs and as a result there will only be a very modest increase in the charge for Parish Council activities.

Finally, you may have read in the Chinnor Pump that a planning application has been submitted for over fifty residences on the western side of Chinnor with vehicle access onto the Crowell Road. Although the application is not in our Parish, it is on a site where previous applications have been refused and, should it be approved, will add further to the pressures on infrastructure and services in the area. We have submitted our objection to the proposal and will be writing to John Howell to express our concern about a developer using a loophole in planning regulations to override local wishes.

Peter Tinson

Chairman

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 NOTES

Parish Council meetings were held on Wednesday 8th of December 2021 and Wednesday 12th January 2022 where the planning applications detailed below were discussed. The next meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday 9th of February 2022.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

P21/S4781/HH Retrospective application for greenhouse at Lion House, Kingston Blount. SUPPORT.

P21/S1458/FUL Amendment No.3 as amplified by information received 9 December 2021 re: impact on Crested Newt - Wayside, Kingston Stert, OX39 4NL. Info only - our existing objection still stands.

WITHDRAWN APPLICATIONS:

None

PLANNING DECISIONS OF SODC:

P21-S3989-HH Single story side extension and first floor side/rear extension to existing house at 9 The Rise, 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

ARPC FOOTPATH AND AMENITIES GROUP

Happy New Year to all the walkers and dog walkers who use the wonderful footpaths in the parish. An especially warm welcome to the newcomers to the parish this spring. If you haven't yet had time to explore there are plenty of footpaths, but due to the recent damp weather please be aware of the mud.

The majority of the footpaths news has been very eloquently covered by Mike Eaton in his Fiveways column (page 22) and without repeating it all can I bring to your attention his sections on the Duck Race and the owl boxes.

Thank you to Peter Hetherington for organising and leading the Annual Parish walk on the 9th Jan; a total of 39 people, parishioners boosted by Thame and Wheatley Ramblers enjoyed the beautiful sunny morning. This walk is normally the second Sunday in the New Year so please put it in your diary for next year. A second Parish walk will be held in the summer, details to follow. Peter will take you to parts of the parish you may never have been to.

In the last edition of these notes I drew peoples attention to the problems of blocked ditches and drains. Once again, I respectfully ask all landowners to address these to ensure we don't have the flooding issues of last winter – thank you in advance for your work.

We are still looking to improve the condition of the 'lanes' in Kingston Blount this spring and are consulting with both the District and County councils to see what is both feasible and practical.

Finally, can I once again repeat the request from previous notes, if you have any ideas or projects you would like us to consider please contact me. As a group we will meet on February 15th to discuss next year's objectives. If you would like to join the group, again please get in touch, my contact details are on page 6.

Steven Sowerby

Chair of Footpaths and Amenities Group

steven.sowerby@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk

01844 351392





Thank you to Steven and ARPC for specifying and contracting the improvements to the Church Lane Bridleway and for the leaf clearance off the surface of the path between KB and AR that is across the cricket ground and Aston Rowant Green.

P Hetherington



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ASTON ROWANT PARISH QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS 2-5 JUNE 2022

'Bringing our communities together'

We are a group organising the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations for Aston Rowant Parish.

We plan to start the celebrations with a Jubilee Beacon on Thursday 2 June on the Cricket Field, which will be hosted by the Cricket Club.

On Sunday 5 June we will be joining the National Big Jubilee Lunch at the Kingston Blount Village Hall and Playing fields. All events are free and open to everyone.



Times and activities are to be confirmed nearer the Jubilee weekend.

The current plan is to start the day in Aston Rowant possibly with Maypole dancing and then to have a musical procession to Kingston Blount for the Big Jubilee Lunch. Come and join the procession, dress up as a King or Queen or in period from the 1950's, 60's 70's, 80's and 90's.

Bring your own table and chairs to the lunch, set up your gazebos, picnics, decorate your tables.

The Inter Village Football Match will be held on the fields followed by early evening musical entertainment. On the fields there will be children's games and stalls and in the hall there will be a display of old village photographs. There will be Jubilee cake and maybe even a Jubilee Pudding!

We will be hosting a Quiz Night on Friday 25 March at KB Village Hall – this is to raise funds for the Big Lunch, promote the Jubilee and have a community event.

We invite everybody in our village to join us in the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations. If you wish to get involved please contact us on the email below.

Please see our adverts on pages 20 and 21.

kbarjubilee@gmail.com

supported by

Aston Rowant Parish Council and The Hillwerke Trust



Raising funds for
The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

Big Jubilee QUIZ

Kingston Blount Village Hall
Friday 25th March 2022

7.30pm – 11pm

Come along for a fun filled evening, all proceeds to raise funds
for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee **Big Lunch Celebrations**

Tables of 8 – Bar and nibbles – Raffle – Jubilee Themed Round
Tickets £10



To book tables or for further information please contact the Jubilee Team at
kbarjubilee@gmail.com or call Alex on 01844 353819

"bringing our communities together"

ASTON ROWANT AND KINGSTON BLOUNT



The Queen's Platinum Jubilee



Sunday 5th June 2022

Big Jubilee Lunch

Kingston Blount Village Hall and Field

BYO Picnic and Drinks – Share friendship, food and fun – Free event

Maypole Dancing – Inter-Village Football Challenge – Live Band – Tea Stall

Period dress or red, white and blue 🏰 Dress up your dog 🏰 Prizes

Kindly supported by ARPC and Hillwerke Trust



For ideas, enquiries and to get involved contact the Jubilee Team at kbariubilee@gmail.com or call Alex on 01844 353819

“bringing our communities together”



NEWS FROM FIVEWAYS

Well Christmas is over for another year and the snowdrops are starting to emerge. It is also the time of year when I wage war on Pacific Coast Irises. They are rampant in the parish – and my garden – but less so every year. They spread well but have uninteresting flowers and, not as far as I know, any value for wildlife. The best tool to remove them is a flat crow bar which is good as a hoe in our soil. There are none at Fiveways.

I have over recent years been involved, along with others, in testing all the local streams for common pollutants along the Chiltern spring line. The stream at Fiveways is the Holbrook, which derives from “Old Brook” – a common name. However, I have not found any names for the other streams in the parish, can you help? You cannot protect something unless you know what it is called. They would all have had names, as centuries ago everything was named. This brings me to Aston Rowant Cow Common which I think I have recently found. Cow Common can be viewed from the Fiveways to Sydenham footpath.

A good starting point is the old map on the PC website/ About / use map 3 - however these maps were not very exact as you can imagine! It shows the Stad Way which is “Way Stop” in Old English. Today it is a strong line of trees at right angles to the old London to Oxford Road (Church Lane) beyond Fiveways. To the North of the Stad Way is Drove Way which leads on to Aston Rowant Cow Common. My hypothesis is that animals were driven along the Icknield Way and the Oxford to London Road and this was a way stop for watering and pasture using the Drove Way. Old maps and Google Earth (there are historical imagery here if switched on) show there is a stream coming from the East of the Stad way. If the map is overlaid with Google Earth then the Ancient Aston Rowant Cow Common fits very well. The area/ streams can also be seen in detail on the Scottish Library site listed on the PC website. If anyone has any thoughts on this please let me know. I accept what3Words, photos and objects as markers!

Talking of the PC website / your community/ Fiveways corner – this is where the videos are located. Many people have stopped me and said they cannot see the crayfish with the rat! You do need to watch it several times, so try again. On the subject of videos I have been surprised how many large mammals live in the shrubby area to the left of Church Lane approaching Fiveways. This seems to be a real wildlife corridor at night.

A great big thank you goes to Mike who lives in Church Lane. I have in my garage a number of bat boxes which he has constructed. If anyone wants one, and ideally is fit enough to put them into position somewhere in the parish, then let me know. They are free! It would be nice to think that people could monitor them but you should note that when occupied it is illegal to take them down. Also, courtesy of Mike we have owls boxes – 1 tawny and 1 barn box. The barn owl box is large and needs some thought on where to put it. The Footpaths and Amenities Group would be interested

to hear of anyone with an interest in the owl boxes as well, or a bat /owl expert.

With the snowdrops poking through I hope we can have duck racing at 2-4pm on Sunday 20th February with the associated church opening and snowdrop viewing. The plan is to extend the course with the ducks waddling out at the dog pool. This gives more space and allows the path and footbridge to be used. It also allows more children to fall in from the footbridge! The ducks have spent the last two years in my garage so I can provide them. The self-righting racing ducks came from Just Ducks and make good presents.

Any help with duck racing would be greatly appreciated.

Mike Eaton

mike.eaton@bopenworld.com



Nigel Williams



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Happy New Year to everyone, both members of the cricket club and the rest of the parish.

This time of year is quiet in terms of cricket on the field but a lot is happening off the field. Firstly, can I introduce the new Chairman Josh Smith who has stepped up from 1st Team Captain to become Chairman – welcome Josh and good luck. Karl Penhale has replaced Josh as 1st Team Captain.

I know that one of Josh's key objectives is to further integrate the club into the community. The previous Chair Simon Tremlin was very successful at doing this and Josh and the rest of the club are very keen for this to continue. The successful events of last year, the Barmy Army Six-a-side competition and the Bear in the Air production of Twelfth Night on the bottom field together with an MCC game will hopefully be repeated. We also want to play our part in the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations, explained in more detail elsewhere in these notes.

The fixture lists for the new season are not yet published but more details in the next notes. We will, as last season have 4 senior teams on a Saturday and the junior section will operate as last year. We will continue to encourage the growth of junior cricket and will continue with the popular Friday night training sessions.

As ever we are looking for new members, both social and playing members. Everyone is welcome and whilst it would be great to recruit 1st team players we have cricket for all levels, including a social Sunday team if you want an odd game rather than commit to every week. The social membership is also open to everyone; I can speak from personal experience that a cold drink in summer watching good cricket is a very enjoyable way to spend a summer's evening.

If you don't fancy playing, then umpires and scorers are also essential for cricket. Training will be provided for newcomers. Both are paid positions – perhaps the scorer's role would appeal to a computer literate teenager.

All memberships both playing and social will be available for renewal from 1st April. Please go to our website astonrowantcc.com for details. The website will also have the details of what is happening at the club as the season unfolds.

Finally, whilst the news from Australia has not been good for followers of the men's cricket team, we wish better fortune to the ladies' team which will include Maia Boucher in their squad. Good luck too to James Coles who is travelling to the West Indies (not really jealous) as part of the England Under 19's World Cup squad.

Steven Sowerby

Aston Rowant CC



MARK LORD, LOCAL PHOTOGRAPHER

Many of you may have met Mark during his doorstep project in 2020 when he photographed the residents of Kingston Blount & Aston Rowant to mark 75 years since VE Day. In all Mark photographed 75 households on their doorsteps during lockdown 1 & last Summer. The images will be on display in the village hall soon. Mark has lived in Aston Rowant for almost ten years & is often seen out with his camera photographing his clients using our lovely local countryside as a backdrop. Book Mark to photograph your family & you will meet at his home in Aston Rowant before walking down towards Fiveways. A relaxed family shoot, the walk helps everyone unwind, interact & 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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LETTER FROM THE HEADTEACHER



I was recently challenged to articulate what learning looks like at Aston Rowant School. It was such a great question. It really made me hone down the fundamental philosophy and goals behind our long term vision, our short term goals and our daily working practice. What we arrived at as a team was this:

The goal of education in Aston Rowant C+E Primary School is to enable our children to be **curious** in their approach to learning, to be **courageous** in their attitude to learning, to be empowered to work both **independently** and **collaboratively**, to understand the impact their learning has had on them so far and be **inspired** to keep learning.

Each element can be described as:

Curious We openly involve the children in their learning by meeting them where they are at and then encouraging them to explore their interests further, expand upon their ideas, and engage them in meaningful dialogue which encourages them to fully engage with, own and develop their own learning.

Courageous To build courage we cultivate a growth mindset culture, encourage failure by modelling it and showing how to reframe events in a positive light, so children are willing to try new things whilst embracing failure and the opportunities it brings. We let the children learn to have control over their own actions, including trying again if they don't succeed.

Independent We develop our children into independent learners to empower them to take control of their own learning – both inside and outside the classroom. Teachers have faith that our pedagogical approach cultivates independent habits of mind in the students we teach and the children want to explore the truths of the world for themselves.

Collaborative The whole school team grows together, sharing our knowledge, understanding and experience. We will question, encourage and support one another on our learning journey whether adults or children.

Inspired Children leave Aston Rowant C+E Primary School with an enthusiasm and thirst for learning that continues for the next stage of education and is a foundation for life.

So if you are ever passing our wonderful school and wonder what learning looks like inside and outside of the classroom then this is just a little glimpse of our vision and working practices. Do look at our website if you want to see how this works out in each subject.

Mrs Helen France

Headteacher,
Aston Rowant School

TESSA WYATT'S COUNTRYSIDE DIARY

2 Nov Time to cover up the garden furniture, so out came the tarpaulins, ably helped by Tinker, who made sure they were all still waterproof by sitting on them. For quite a long time. So I just got on with some pruning, as you do when you've got a Tinker ...

22 Nov Despite the chill and the misty morning, there is a song thrush singing an aria in the garden. His music is hauntingly beautiful and at first I thought it was a nightingale, until I remembered that they only sing in spring and summer. The concert has been going on for at least 20 minutes, with no sign of stopping. He sounds so passionately joyful I can't help but feel happy too.

29 Nov A deep frost has announced that winter has arrived. The grass, the hedgerows and all the trees are standing white with hoar frost, motionless in the windless air. Katie my pony has icicles in her moustache and beard but seems happy enough, though Tinker the cat is absolutely adamant on staying indoors on the bed. Can't say I blame her!

Dec 7 Lots of Old Man's Beard or Traveller's Joy found on my walks and rides. It displays the seed heads of Clematis Vitalba, and is a member of the buttercup family, of all things. A very useful plant, you can make ropes and baskets out of the best stems, light fires with the thicker pieces, and treat saddle sores and blisters with the boiled down sap. It's got loads more medicinal uses and the Italians are very fond of making potions out of it. I've never taken too much notice of it till now, and then decided that this old friend deserved some attention.

Dec 21 'Tis the Winter Solstice, and I found this lovely blessing on Facebook, which I shall now share with you:



Carol Cross

On the shortest day when the sun stands still,
I wish you joy.
In the darkest womb of the Longest Night,
I wish you peace.
When the sun is reborn on the morrow,
I wish you hope.
(Anon)

Dec 28 A rather bare looking winter garden with only the red buds of the skimmias to brighten the black soil. However, our tame blackbird, Mrs B, was waiting on the lawn for me to come out and feed her. Her mate, Mr B, is a bit mean to her at this time of year and tends to chase her off any spoils, so I supplement her diet as she will be growing eggs in a couple of months. Only a few weeks ago the grass was covered with a thick layer of fallen leaves (and I dare say hundreds of sycamore seeds.) Gradually the worms have drawn the rotting leaves down beneath the surface leaving the green once more exposed. This is nature's fertiliser. Nothing goes to waste and recycling is as natural as breathing.

Jan 13 The fields look very pretty, but it's extremely chilly! I took a photograph, but the frost looks a lot thicker to the naked eye as the camera is picking up the yellow in the sunlight. I have found all kinds of signs of growth, the aconites are nearly out, my outdoor pelargoniums are flowering under their bubble wrap, and the song thrush was in full song this morning. We may have a few frosty weeks to come but the year has turned, for sure.

Tessa Wyatt



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Our main offices are in Abingdon, Didcot, Henley and Thame. Since March 2020 our volunteers and staff have been advising the public from home on our Adviceline service. Recently we partially re-opened our offices, in part to train new advisers.

What will you get out of it? You will join a friendly team, meet new people, develop your skills and make a real difference to people's lives.

You'll need to have good listening and interpersonal skills, a willingness to learn and be confident with computers. Full training will be provided.

Henley adviser Amanda says: "I am proud to volunteer with Citizens Advice because they offer crucial support to those that need it most, and my colleagues, both volunteers and employees, make volunteering a pleasure."

We welcome applications from all sections of the community and are committed to equality and diversity.

If you have eight hours a week to spare for the next two years or more and are looking for a satisfying and stimulating volunteer role in your local community, please contact us at:

www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale/volunteer/





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WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2022

(A women led, global, ecumenical movement)

Friday 4th March 2022



2022 is a special year for World Day of Prayer in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. This year, we have prepared the World Day of Prayer service. It has been both challenging and rewarding to write about the three countries that make up our area: our landscape, people and culture all shaped by our history. We celebrate our diversity and the contribution made to our countries by the many

groups and individuals who have made their home here. We use our Bible text “I know the plans I have for you” from Jeremiah to reflect on some of the issues facing us today: poverty, domestic abuse and disability, finding hope in difficult situations and encouragement in the help we can give to each other.

World Day of Prayer is an international, ecumenical organisation which enables women all over the world to share the ideas and concerns of the writing country. Preparation for the day has taken several years. Our International Committee based in New York coordinates the work of the National Committees and facilitates the creation of our annual World Day of Prayer service on the first Friday in March. The service outline, created by the writing country, is distributed to the rest of the world, along with a Bible reflection, country background and children’s and – for the first time – young people’s activities.

All this work will come to fruition on Friday 4th March 2022 when services will take place beginning in Samoa and moving on through New Zealand and Australia, across Asia, Africa and Europe and finally the United States and South America before finishing in American Samoa. Across England, Wales and Northern Ireland services will take place in large urban centres, such as Central Hall Westminster, and in remote village churches. We will use modern technology to reach those unable to access a service but hope to be able to extend a welcome and hospitality once released from lockdown.

We hope to offer hybrid services at 10.30am and 7.30pm at the Community Church and via Zoom on Friday 4th March 2022.

Do save the date as we look forward to sharing this service with you.

Information will also be available through the Parish Council newsletter/website; church notices and newsletters and on the WDP website www.wwdp.org.uk

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

FEBRUARY

- 6 Soul Space, NBVM Crowell 5pm
- 9 Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm
- 20 Duck Racing at Fiveways 2-4pm

MARCH

- 4 World Day of Prayer 10.30am and 7.30pm (p33)
- 6 Soul Space, NBVM Crowell 5pm
- 9 Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm
- 25 Quiz Night KB Village Hall 7.30pm
- 27 British Summer Time begins

JUNE

- 5 Big Jubilee lunch

ADVERTISING IN THE PARISH NOTES

The Parish Notes are an excellent and affordable way to advertise locally. They are published every two months and delivered to every household in the area. Please email Julian Knight if you are interested in advertising: jknight652@aol.com

1/4 page – £10 for one issue or six issues for £40

1/2 page – £15 for one issue or six issues for £60

Full page – £30 for one issue or six issues for £120

PARISH NOTES

Please get in touch if you have anything you think we could feature in future issues of the Parish Notes: If you have a new neighbour, or would like to announce any births, marriages or deaths. Maybe you have an interesting story about the area or someone who lives in the area. It would also be great to feature photos and illustrations – I'm always looking for pictures to add to the pages! All ideas welcome.

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

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

Email: sallyparishnotes@gmail.com