

VOL XXXIX NO 2

APRIL/MAY 2022

ASTON ROWANT, KINGSTON BLOUNT & CROWELL

# PARISH NOTES



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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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Children's Parties (daytime)	£40.00 (3-4 hours)

For Non-Residents of the Parish of Aston Rowant

Monday–Sunday & Bank Holidays

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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: Francesca Musaeus <a href="mailto:francesca.musaeus@hotmail.com">francesca.musaeus@hotmail.com</a>	
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](http://www.astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk)

## Parish Clerk

Tracy Lambourne

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

01844 353989

07971 039612

## 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

Kate Gregory

[kate.gregory@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:kate.gregory@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

Nigel Champken-Woods

[nigel.champken-woods@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:nigel.champken-woods@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

Josh Smith

07894 201 929

[chairman@astonrowantcc.com](mailto:chairman@astonrowantcc.com)

## LETTER FROM JOHN HOWELL MP

As I write at the beginning of this month the issue that is most dominant is the dreadful situation that has been unfolding in Ukraine. I have added my voice to the many who unequivocally condemn Russia for the action that it has taken and continues to take. Our government has joined others across the world in imposing sanctions against Russia and through my own work as Leader of the UK delegation to the Council of Europe I have helped lead the way in getting Russia suspended from the Council. It is also the Council of Europe, which has a remit for displaced people in Europe that is best placed to assist.

Perhaps foremost in people's minds is the humanitarian situation that arises from the hostile action. I know that for many constituents it is the effect on the lives of innocent people that such situations bring that has stirred them to offer support in whatever way that they can, and I thank all those who have contacted me on this for their concern. Most of the refugees want to stay close to Ukraine. I have volunteered to work with the Home Secretary to liaise with the countries neighbouring Ukraine to provide aid and assistance. In terms of aid what is most needed is money. The Government has given £220 million in aid within the region and a further £175 million to bolster the Ukrainian economy, reduce Ukraine's reliance on Russian gas imports and to mitigate other financial pressures created by the invasion. Although I know that some people want to send goods I would encourage financial support first and foremost. There are complexities in sending goods and much does not get to where it is most needed. Recognised aid organisations have established mechanisms to get things to where they are most needed and have staff who can be deployed to assist. Financial donations support their work and allow for flexibility to meet changing needs as circumstances change. Many people crossing into neighbouring countries are going to stay with family and friends and need financial assistance rather than material aid.

More formally, the Home Office has set up a series of measures to support people in the region. Details can be found on the Gov.UK website. The Home Office has also set up a customer hub in Parliament for MPs and their staff to raise concerns in relation to Ukrainian issues such as access to the UK. If anyone would like to raise an individual case please email me with details at the address below.

This is a continually evolving situation and I will do my best to keep my website updated with new information as it becomes available.

While this terrible situation unfolds parliament continues with its ongoing programme of business. 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 [john.howell.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:john.howell.mp@parliament.uk). If you would like to know more about my work on behalf of the Government and the Constituency please do look at my website [www.johnhowellmp.com](http://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 Ministers:

### Aston Rowant

The Rev'd Des Foote 01844 355945  
The Rev'd Dr. Brian Griffiths 01844 355953  
The Rev'd Joan De Val 01844 353404  
Margaret Poole 01844 281042

### 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

Starting in April, Sunday services on the second and fourth Sundays are at 6pm until the clocks change in October 2022. Soul Space remains at 5pm on the first Sunday of the month. About  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an hour of poetry, music and silent reflection. This is becoming a well-attended event.

Masks are no longer required but if you feel you need to wear one then please do so. No need to sign in anymore. Refreshments will again be available at some services. Please continue to check with other people if you intend to sit next to them.

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.

As we run up to Easter there are many services during the week across the Parish, so please check the magazines and website for a service to suit you. The services are also displayed on the notice boards in the porches.

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](http://chinnorunitedchurches.co.uk) or [oxford.anglican.org](http://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](mailto:csarc@btinternet.com)

Now the better weather is here we will be attending to the car park garden and the churchyard. We will be scheduling work party dates for anyone that wants to turn up and help for whatever time you can spare. Please watch the notice board. There will be plenty to do whatever your skills.

The APCM will be held on 25 April at 7pm in the Chinnor Village Centre.

Should you wish to join the Electoral Roll, forms are available in the church or from Maggs Warman, the Electoral Roll Officer. This allows you to have a vote at the APCM. To qualify, you need to have been a regular attender at the church for 6 months.

The Rectors Ramble will take place this year on 2nd July. A walk around the Parish, visiting all four churches for a bit of fun and fund raising. Chinnor, Crowell, Aston Rowant (lunch), Sydenham (refreshments).

**Andy & Maggs Warman**

(Church Wardens) 01844 351909  
[themwarmans@btinternet.com](mailto:themwarmans@btinternet.com)



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## Holy Week 2022



	<b>St Andrew's</b>		<b>Aston Rowant</b>	<b>Sydenham</b>	<b>Crowell</b>
<b>Palm Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April</b>	1030am Holy Communion		9am Holy Communion	No Service	4pm Family Service
<b>Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April</b>		Stations of the Cross set up in St Andrew's for personal reflection	7pm Holy Communion		
<b>Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April</b>					7pm Holy Communion
<b>Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> April</b>				7pm Holy Communion	
<b>Maundy Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April</b>	10am midweek Communion				
	7pm Holy Communion With Foot Washing				
<b>Good Friday 15<sup>th</sup> April</b>	Meditation Noon-3pm			Meditation 10am	
<b>Easter Eve 16<sup>th</sup> April</b>	Easter Vigil @Sunset				
<b>Easter Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April</b>	1030 am Holy Communion		10am Holy Communion	10am Holy Communion	4pm Stations Of Resurrection

# THE COUNTRY WORKSHOP



*Sam Hunt*

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# ASTON ROWANT PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

It has been an interesting few months since I last put pen to paper for the Parish Notes. I have often written about how fortunate we are to live in a beautiful and peaceful area of the country. This is brought into sharp focus by events in Ukraine – few of us can comprehend what it is like to pack as much of your possessions as you can into a suitcase and leave your home, not knowing when or if you will return. We are indeed fortunate.

The Parish was severely impacted by Storms Eunice and Franklin in February with several properties being without power for over eighty hours. Once again the strong sense of community in our Parish came to the fore with those with power assisting those without. Whilst SSE Networks were operating under severe pressure to repair the damage caused by the two storms, they have recognised that there were things that they could have done better. We will be writing to SSEN to give our views and would welcome your perspectives.

Work towards establishing a Community Speedwatch scheme continues. There are now four approved sites in the Parish and training on the use of the equipment will be scheduled in the near future. A number of parishioners have already joined the scheme; more would be welcome to help monitor speed throughout the Parish. Volunteers need to register on the Community Speedwatch website (<https://www.communityspeedwatch.org/>), complete training on the code of conduct and health and safety measures and join the Kingston Blount Aston Rowant group.

Finally a reminder that we are looking to form a small committee to help raise funds for new equipment for the playground in Kingston Blount. 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](mailto:clerk@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk).

## Peter Tinson

Chairman

Aston Rowant Parish Council



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# ASTON ROWANT PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

Parish Council meetings were held on Wednesday 9th of February 2021 and Wednesday 9th March 2022 where the planning applications detailed below were discussed.

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday 13th of April 2022.

## PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

**P21/S5321/O** 54 age-restricted dwellings at Crowell Road, Chinnor.

See also previous as yet unresolved application P21/S0804/O.

**CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN OUR OBJECTION, PER PREVIOUS APPLICATION.**

**P21/S5391/HH** Single Storey rear extension, replacing existing conservatory at Rickyard Cottage, Kingston Stert. **SUPPORT.**

## WITHDRAWN APPLICATIONS:

None

## PLANNING DECISIONS OF SODC:

**P21/S4781/HH** Greenhouse at Lion House, Kingston Blount. **GRANTED.**

**P21/S5391/HH** Single storey rear extension, replacing existing conservatory at Rickyard Cottage, Kingston Stert. **GRANTED.**

## PLANNING DECISIONS MADE SINCE THE LAST MEETING:

**P21/S1458/FUL** Demolition of existing three bedroom detached dwelling house and out buildings; Construction of new private self-contained seven bedroom dwelling house with landscaping a Wayside, Kingston Stert. **GRANTED.**

## PLANNING INSPECTORATE APPEAL:

**P20/S1180/FUL** Appeal against planning refusal at Aston Cottage, 18 Church Lane, AR.

Appeal Ref: APP/Q3115/W/20/3263533 by Leo Homes Developments Ltd.  
APPEAL ALLOWED and Planning Permission is **GRANTED.**

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

# ASTON ROWANT PARISH WALK

## SUNDAY 29 MAY 10am

Following the huge success of the New Year Walk, we have chosen another route which is mainly within Aston Rowant Parish. And it will take you to many parts of the Parish that you have never visited before.

We start at Kingston Blount Village Car Park at 10.00 prompt on Sunday 29 May. The circular walk is 6.5 miles, will be at a Leisurely pace, with 5 stiles but no hills.

We walk across fields to the edge of Sydenham village and their Church Way. We skirt Chalford, and onward to Copcourt. From there we proceed to Postcombe, and back past Fiveways, along Church Lane, Aston Rowant, past the Cricket pitch to Kingston Blount. The walk provides excellent views of the Chiltern Ridge, Prospect Hill, and on a good day Waddesdon Manor.

Please bring a drink and a snack and wear walking boots or walking shoes because the large part of this walk is on footpaths. This is a joint venture organised by Aston Rowant Parish Council with Thame and Wheatley Ramblers.

For those from outside the Parish, Kingston Blount Village Hall's postcode is OX39 4RY and Grid Reference SU 738 997. There is no need to book to join this walk.

### Peter Hetherington

Walk Leader and Footpath Warden for Aston Rowant Parish

Tel 07767 647714



Photo: Carol Cross



## ARPC FOOTPATH AND AMENITIES GROUP

Firstly, our apologies for having to cancel the Duck Race but with the wind on that day if we had held the race the ducks would have probably ended up in Chinnor! Hopefully we will be able to reschedule later in the spring, but at time of writing this had not been finalised. If a date is agreed we will notify by KBAR, Parish website and noticeboards.

We would like to thank Jamie Clarke for clearing away the debris from Church Lane after the storm - we have made arrangements to get all the wood removed from the lane.

We are organising a Spring Litter Pick for the parish over the weekend 2/3rd April, again see parish council website for details ([www.astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk)) as it is possible that you may not receive these Notes until very close to the date. On this occasion and going forward we will not be able to pick Kingston Hill as Oxfordshire County Council will no longer support or pick up waste from roads with over a 50mph speed limit. This means we will concentrate on the B4009 in the villages and the A40 by the Lambert Arms. Any volunteers should contact either Tracy Lambourne, the parish clerk or myself.

As ever please see Mike's notes on Fiveways (page 22).

Peter Hetherington is organising our summer parish walk – see his note opposite for more details.

At last, we have the OK from both SODC and OCC, to pursue the improvements to the 'Lanes' in Kingston Blount. This will mean more strimming than has been done in the past in an attempt to encourage the native plants to grow. We will also remove the dead and decaying trees from the lanes before doing a final clear up in autumn after the bird nesting season is over.

Finally, newcomers to the village may be interested in the 'Walks at the Foot of the Chilterns' booklet including the Aston Rowant Discovery Trail which is produced in association with the Parish Council. It has a short history of the parish and contains details of 4 illustrated walks in the local area. This was given out free to all households in the parish and if you haven't had a copy and wish to have one, please contact either Tracy Lambourne the parish clerk or myself. We have a small number of the 2015 edition available immediately and have just ordered a reprint. Further copies are available at £3 from Tracy. Once again thanks to Peter Hetherington for the booklet.

**Steven Sowerby**

Chair of Footpaths and Amenities Group

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

01844 351392



## ST PETER AND ST PAUL CHURCH ASTON ROWANT

### PREPARATION FOR THE QUEEN'S JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

In conjunction with the Parish Council Group, the Church will be organising the following events:

- **The Opening of the 'Aston Arms' on Friday 3rd of June**

No pub in Aston Rowant or Kingston Blount? We have a licence and will be opening the church as the village pub. So come to the 'Pub in the Church' for a pint or two, or perhaps a glass of wine, toast the Queen and have a grand evening in the Aston Arms.

- **Flowers in the Church**

We are looking for people to help decorate the church for the Jubilee weekend. It doesn't have to be flowers but could be something about the Jubilee, the parish or your organisation. If you would like to take part please contact Rona or Richard (details below).

- **A service of Thanksgiving**

A service of thanksgiving for the long and wonderful reign of the Queen will be held on Sunday the 5th of June at 10am.

### CHURCH REPAIRS

Good progress has been made but there are still outstanding jobs to be done. The repair of the plasterwork in the porch comes next, along with the decoration of the South Aisle, there is further stone work to complete and then there's some work to do on the drainage round the porch.

### SERVICES

Services are nearly back to normal with mask wearing and social distancing being voluntary and we have resumed coffee and chatting after services. So please come and join us.

#### **Richard Boarder**

Church Warden  
07795 681263

#### **Rona Knight**

jknight652@aol.com





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

*'Bringing our communities together'*

Plans are proceeding for the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations.

You may have seen our notices on KBAR to save the date for the Big Picnic on Kingston Blount Playing Fields on Sunday 5 June and the Jubilee Beacon at the Cricket Club on Thursday 2 June.

We are pleased to announce that the postponed Platinum Jubilee Quiz will now be held at 19.30 on Friday 3 June at the village hall.

Other parish organisations are getting involved, the church will be opening its doors during the weekend, the Poor's Hillocks plan to have a plant exchange and sunflower growing competition. The school will be decorated from bunting made from recycled school uniforms. Further details of all events and participating groups to follow.

You may have seen our video on how to make Jubilee Bunting. We wish to decorate the Parish and plan to have bunting from Aston Rowant to Kingston Blount. We will be holding a series of 'Sewing Bees' to make the bunting. The first one was held on Friday 4 March at the Village Hall, so far we have made 180 metres. We will be holding future workshops at the village hall on Friday 22 April 2-4pm and Thursday 5 May 7-9pm. Please come along all help is appreciated. Our target is 1,000 metres, please make some at home if you are not able to come along to the village hall.

The current Jubilee plan is to start the day in Aston Rowant and then to have a procession to Kingston Blount for the Big Jubilee Lunch. Come and join the procession, dress up as a King or Queen or in red white and blue.

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

The Inter Village Football Match will be held on the field followed by an early evening of musical entertainment, Bar and BBQ. On the field 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 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.

Times and activities are to be confirmed nearer the Jubilee weekend

Look out for our notices in Parish Notes and KBAR and posted around the parish.

[kbarjubilee@gmail.com](mailto:kbarjubilee@gmail.com)

supported by Aston Rowant Parish Council and The Hillwerke Trust



# The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> April at 2-4pm – Bunting Bee**

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May at 7-9pm – Evening Bunting Bee**

Thanks to everyone who came along to make bunting at the first Bunting Bee and we will be holding two further sessions at Kingston Blount Village Hall. Our target is 1500m to decorate the villages for the weekend and our wish is for as many people to be involved as possible, so everyone has a hand in making the villages look amazing!!

Please come and join us! Can't sew? Doesn't matter! Don't know anyone? We would love to meet you!

Please bring scissors, fabric of any colour, tape or ribbon of any colour, chalk, tape measure and sewing machine if you have one, don't worry if you have none of these!

## AND ON THE JUBILEE WEEKEND ITSELF ....

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June – Beacon Lighting Event at ARCC**

We'll be kicking off the Parish celebrations at Aston Rowant Cricket Club. ARCC are kindly opening the clubhouse for friends and neighbours to get together, to celebrate the start of the national celebrations. Beacons will be lit simultaneously around the country and for the first time, we will light our very own Parish beacon!

**ARCC Bar open from 7.30pm**

**Beacon lighting (weather permitting) 9.45pm**

Parking is limited so please enjoy walking to the event using the Moors path if you can





### Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June at 7pm for 7.45pm – Big Jubilee Quiz

A fun filled quiz evening to raise funds for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Big Lunch Celebrations. Note the new date for this event means we have a few places still available – contact [kbarjubilee@gmail.com](mailto:kbarjubilee@gmail.com) to book yours  
Good luck to all the teams!

A huge thank you to the Lockdown Larder, Baked by Milly and the Cherry Tree for their generous raffle prizes

### Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June – The **Big Jubilee Lunch** at Kingston Blount Village Hall and Field

free event – share friendship, food and fun

BYO Picnic and drinks

Inter village Football Challenge

Live Band

Dress up for the occasion in red, white and blue

Jubilee pudding

Back in Time photo display of our villages

Plant exchange

**Join in the celebrations by putting up your flags and bunting, dressing up your houses, dogs and buggies and let's make this a day of celebration to remember!** Look out for posters and info in the Lockdown Larder, and around the village!

Kindly supported by ARPC and the Hillwerke Trust

For ideas, enquiries and to get involved contact the Jubilee Team at [kbarjubilee@gmail.com](mailto:kbarjubilee@gmail.com)

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## NEWS FROM FIVEWAYS

Duck racing is a frustrating and rare sport which has not happened for 3 years now - storm, covid and a near hurricane have stood in our way. Prior to that we succeeded every year. Last minute cancellations are sad for the church as they are left with lots of cakes. There was “one” participant shown below though but I’m not sure you can call it a race. We live in hope for next time.

Yet again the Duke of Edinburgh has come to my aid at Fiveways, as my eldest grandson is doing his D of E award. You can thank him and his friend for the clearance near the signpost. It has revealed some plants which may thrive when not overgrown. This now includes a small mulberry for the Jubilee which will eventually have a plaque on it. I will try and keep this area clear this year to replant next year. It is challenging digging in this area, as it contains a lot of 100 year old rubbish mainly in the form of bottles. There is a lot of metal too but no treasure as yet. The rubbish is a bit of a mystery as we thought the houses on the site had gone before 1900. So was this the village rubbish dump?

My younger grandson does magnet fishing here and this is also producing some interesting results. The stream is /or was full of small iron particles from around a millimetre or so. So where did it come from? Tiny magnetic flakes of scale and droplets of slag are dislodged from metal surfaces during smithing and accumulate on the smithy floor. When this ‘hammerscale’ is found on archaeological sites it indicates the site of a smithy. Smithing also generates slag waste, including bowl-shaped lumps of slag that collect in the smith’s hearth. Some more detail on this can be found at <https://historicensland.org.uk/images-books/publications/iha-preindustrial-ironworks/heag221-pre-industrial-ironworks/>

We have found slag (which is also magnetic) at Fiveways, an example is reproduced here. This came from near the old seat. So is this from smithing or smelting? We need some expert advice on this.

The appearance of the slag can indicate the type of ironworking taking place (smelting or smithing) and an estimate of the quantity of waste will suggest the scale of ironworking.

There is little iron in the area but apparently the most valuable commodity for smelting or smithing was charcoal and there would have been plenty of this about. Water was often used to drive bellows. This could have been a medieval service station as there was plenty of passing trade! Damage to horse drawn carriages was common and they carried a spare wheel like today. Whether there was smelting or smithing at Fiveways and at what date requires expert analysis.

Contact has been resumed with the River Thame Trust who are monitoring the chalk streams in our area. They will shortly be starting monitoring Lewknor which is the source of the only stream designated as a chalkstream on our side of the Chilterns and has trout. It is the subject of a super short video from the Watlington environmental





group which I would recommend to all residents and school children. I suggest you look at it... YouTube: search for Watlington Environmental Group > Chalgrove Brook. I am involved in some of the early studies in our catchment, by testing the streams which run in our parish to get a baseline. Myself and Mike Smith in Church Lane have been doing it in recent years. Any help is welcome.

I have worked with the River Thames Trust to stop raw sewage running through Lewknor and into the Lewknor Brook. We do not have sewage but we do seem to have lost the small fish in Church Lane which were once common. Apart from the Holbrook we have 3 streams in the parish - "named" as Kingston Ford, Aston Ford and Crowell stream. If anyone has a local name for any of them please get in touch. The Crowell stream could be impacted by new housing developments.

As I write the snowdrops are going over and the daffodils taking their place. We may plant more wild daffodils in the Autumn. Next will be garlic, wood anemones, and fritillaria. I have a hundred white, pink, red valerian to plant near the new bench in the near future. The seed was collected from Aston Churchyard and germinated well. More seed collectors are welcome from the walking community.

The other good news is the Footpath and Amenities Group is meeting again after Covid ground things to a halt. New members interested in our local environment are welcome.

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## NEWS FROM ARCC

Once again spring is with us which means the cricket season will follow shortly. Whilst we will through these notes try and keep people aware of what is happening, please use the club website [astonrowantcc.com](http://astonrowantcc.com) for the latest news. The site has a full fixture list and membership details on it as well as the latest news.

On the field our league season will start on May 7th and as per last season when the first team are at home on the top field the fourth team will be at home on the bottom field. When the first team are away the second and third teams will be at home.

In the last edition of the parish notes I introduced our new Chair Josh Smith and explained his wish to continue the integration of the club into the community, and as part of this we are delighted to be involved with the Jubilee celebrations in the village and will host the lighting of the beacon on the Thursday night – please see Jubilee Notes (page 20) for further details.

You will also find a short questionnaire included in these notes. Please spend 10 mins completing the survey and follow the instructions on where to send it. We hope it demonstrates our willingness to both talk to and listen to the parishioners.

This is particularly relevant when we look to the future. The planning permission for the new pavilion of 3 years ago has now expired and we will not be trying to resurrect this project. But we must address the issue of the club facilities and we want to engage and have the support of the community. In order to do this, we will be holding a series of consultative meetings at the club in the early summer. Prior to these meetings we are exploring possibilities and are currently looking at a small wooden pavilion on the bottom field together with a later single-storey wooden pavilion on the same footprint as the current pavilion. We hope to have some drawings which we can use in the consultation process.

Nothing is fixed and nothing will go forward until the members and parishioners have had a chance to look and discuss the plans. The first step would ideally be the pavilion on the bottom field as this would reduce the need for four dressing rooms in the ‘new’ pavilion meaning we could have a much smaller building than the previous option which drew so many comments.

In other news, the bar will reopen when training starts on the 22nd of April and like last season will be open Thursday and Friday nights, Saturday from early afternoon and Sunday when cricket is being played. The times will appear on the website as we get closer to the season.

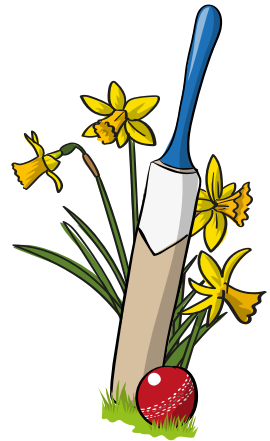
All memberships both playing and social will be available from April 1st, this includes the 1881 memberships which will have to be renewed to use at the club. Again, details on website or at the club once the bar opens. Everyone is welcome to come and share with us the cricket and possibly a drink with friends both old and new.

On the field it looks like an exciting time for the club. The first team are playing in League 1 of the Home Counties Premier League playing the likes of Oxford, High Wycombe, Henley and Banbury. The second team are in Division I of the

Cherwell League playing against the first teams of most of the competitions. The third team are in Division 4 playing mainly the first teams of many of the village teams. The fourths will play in Division 6 and will act as a development team for many of our talented junior players as they make their way into senior cricket.

We will once again be running the successful junior sections who have won age group cricket at all age groups in the last few years. Friday night junior training is highly popular with both juniors and parents.

On the field the future looks bright and we must know take the steps to be as successful off the field and to supply the facilities the players of all ages deserve.



**Steven Sowerby**

Aston Rowant CC

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## 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.

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# LETTER FROM THE HEADTEACHER

## Giving the Pupils a Voice

I wonder how often we feel listened to. I mean really listened to, and heard. Having an opportunity to speak from our heart and know that someone is taking the time to hear what we are saying and understand why we are saying it. Sometimes it feels like a luxury doesn't it?

Well not at Aston Rowant School! We work hard at a whole-school approach which means listening to the voices of everyone in the school community. This includes children as well as parents and school staff. Not only do we conduct regular parents and staff surveys our children are also provided with meaningful opportunities to share their experiences, views and hopes about their school. We call it 'pupil voice'.

Whilst there is no one way to promote the voice of children the key principle is to ensure that pupils know that it is safe to share, that we care about their views on what happens at school and that what they say is valued and will be listened to and considered.

Our School Council meets regularly and each year group has a representative who gathers views and ideas from their peers to share. We have a 'suggestion sheet' in the hall with the contents shared at the school council meetings. Our visitors and Governors also meet with the children to hear their views on a range of aspects of school life. Assemblies too can provide us with opportunities to make sure that children understand the school's commitment to knowing what they want and need and how this is part of our vision and values for the school.

We embed children's participation into all aspects of school life rather than just seeing it as an add-on. We ensure the children's voices are heard within the school and we act upon them, not only because they are valued members of the community, but also because they have some really perceptive feedback and truly great ideas!

For me, the luxury comes in being the one who is able to take time to listen and hear, to be encouraged and inspired by the incredible young people who make up our school community. It's priceless.

**Mrs Helen France**

Headteacher,  
Aston Rowant School







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## CHINNOR VILLAGE CENTRE NEWS

Spring has sprung and I am glad to report that all our services are back up and running. Numbers are increasing on a weekly basis for the Day Care/Friendship club, Stoke Support, Parkinson's Support, Stroke Club and Forget Me Knot Café, and its lovely to see new faces enjoy our facilities.

No one in our community should be feeling lonely or isolated, so please get in touch. We would love to be able to help and support you. Contact us at [centreadmin@chinnorvillagecentre.org](mailto:centreadmin@chinnorvillagecentre.org) or 01844 353733 and ask for Sally who will connect you with the relevant groups, or just drop into our friendly coffee shop serving a variety of lovely refreshments, delicious lunches and snacks throughout the day – opens 9-4 weekdays and 9.30-2.30 on a Saturday.

Volunteers are the life blood of our centre – without you we couldn't operate and offer the services that we do. We are still in need of new volunteers to go on our database of people who very kindly offer their services. Lots of different opportunities, in the coffee shop, day care, forget me knot, Stroke Club, mini bus drivers, mini bus escorts, helping at events and functions, maintenance, gaining sponsorship, helping with fundraising etc.

The fundraising committee are always looking for new fundraising ideas, volunteers, and helpers for their events throughout the year. The next event is The Dung Beatles to be held at the Chinnor Village Hall on Friday 6 May – this will be a great event and tickets available from the centre.

**Social Prescriber** – is present in the Coffee Shop alternate Monday mornings to give free advice to all of those who are unaware of the financial, medical, emotional or educational help that may be available to them.

**Room Hire** – thinking of starting up your own group? Need to book a meeting room? We have two meeting rooms as well as a treatment room to hire on an hourly rate.

Every Tuesday we run a door-to-door minibus service to the Thame Market, at a minimum donation of £3.00 each. You'll get around an hour to browse in Thame. Please call before Monday at 3.00o'clock to book your seat.

There are also various other groups that meet weekly or monthly at the Centre – if you have a hobby or a passion talk to the Centre about running your own group or just email or call the Centre and see what groups you fancy joining.

Our doors are open to welcome the whole community to enjoy our many services.

[centreadmin@chinnorvillagecentre.org](mailto:centreadmin@chinnorvillagecentre.org)  
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For more details or to apply please contact the administrator:

**Peter Lambert**

01844 352617

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# CHILTERNSWALKING FESTIVAL

We are delighted to announce that the 9th Chilterns Walking Festival will take place 21 May to 5 June. It will feature a programme of over 70 walks and events throughout the Chilterns. We have a number of new walking experiences on offer this year, along with themed walks designed to celebrate some special anniversaries. Here is a flavour of what's on offer:

- Guided walks and events taking in some of our precious chalk streams.
- Nature walks at Barton Hills and Aston Rowant National Nature Reserves.
- Lacemaking and cream tea experience in Marlow – Bobbie will take you on a guided walk around historic Marlow, followed by a lace-making session and afternoon tea.
- Jubilee Walk – discover the Hedgerley Wood Deep Time walk in the hills above Chinnor followed by a scenic steam train ride.
- Wildsong Walks – come and sing in King's Wood! This ancient beech woodland has an abundance of wild songs for us. We will share simple walking chants and songs of the woods and of the beings that live there.
- Climate Action – connect with others on this walk and talk in the beautiful hills around Princes Risborough.

Plus map reading courses, pub walks, local produce tasting, Midsomer on the Misbourne walks, Hillfort and historic garden tours and much more.

Listings will go live on our website: [www.visitchilterns.co.uk/walkingfest](http://www.visitchilterns.co.uk/walkingfest) at the beginning of April.

To keep updated join our Chilterns Walking Festival facebook page.

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PLEASE NOTE: CBD is neither a medicine nor a cure for any illness and by no means do we make any medical claims. CBD can help to maintain and support your health and a healthy lifestyle.



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# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

## APRIL

- 2/3 Spring Litter Pick (p17)
- 10 Palm Sunday
- 13 Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm
- 17 Easter Sunday
- 22 Bunting Bee 2-4pm (p20)

## MAY

- 5 Bunting Bee 7-9pm (p20)
- 11 Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm
- 29 Aston Rowant Parish Walk 10am (p16)

## JUNE

- 2-5 Flowers in the Church, Aston Rowant
- 2 Jubilee Beacon, Cricket Club (p20)
- 3 'Aston Arms', Aston Rowant (p18)
- 3 Platinum Jubilee Quiz 7pm (p21)
- 5 Service of Thanksgiving 10am (p18)
- 5 Big Jubilee picnic (p21)

## 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](mailto: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. All ideas welcome.

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

**Copy deadline for the June/July issue is 15th May.**

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