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# PARISH NOTES



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description of the facilities we can offer plus details of activities  
currently taking place in the hall.



## 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
Chinnor u3a [Chair]	07711 337243
Village Hall Hire/Bookings: Andrea Tinson	<a href="mailto:kbvhall@gmail.com">kbvhall@gmail.com</a>

## 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 August/September issue is 10th July.**

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

# 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 Matthew Day

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

07940752446

Vice Chairman Adam Bernstein

07785 905120

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

Councillor Helen Birks

07921 840360

[helen.birks@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:helen.birks@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Councillor Deborah Chaplin

01844 354648

[deborah.chaplin@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:deborah.chaplin@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Councillor Jason Clark-Hodgson

[jason.clark-hodgson@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:jason.clark-hodgson@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Councillor Trelawney Hill, Aston Rowant

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

01844 353051

Councillor Joanne Hunt

07825 789251

[joanne.hunt@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:joanne.hunt@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk)

## 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

This month with the local elections we have seen people come and people go as councillors. Firstly my thanks to all those who have worked as local councillors, at parish and district in the last four years or more. Having been a councillor myself I know very well the work that is involved and that sometimes it can be a thankless task. You can never please everyone and there are always more people ready to complain than to compliment. Welcome too to new councillors. I look forward to working with you in the future.

Turnout figures for local elections are generally low. Issues are often raised with me that I have to defer to local councils as the councils are fully autonomous and responsible for their own decisions. So perhaps it is timely to remind people what the different councils do and how elected representatives can help on the relevant issues.

Let me start with the most local level of democracy, the parish council. This the elected body closest to the community. Probably the most common topics that parish councils get involved with are planning matters and working for better services and facilities for the community. As a formal body parish councils have the ability to influence other organisations that make decisions affecting the community such as the district and county councils, health authorities, police. As such parish councils have an important role in local democracy and can be a great resource to support a thriving community. Some smaller communities do not have a parish council but instead have a parish meeting. These have fewer powers and are not required to meet as frequently as a parish council. However they are still formal bodies with a representative role for the community and can often help with relevant issues in the same way that a parish council can.

The next tier of local government in this area is the district council. The constituency is served by two district councils, Cherwell District Council and South Oxfordshire District Council. They are responsible for local services, including planning, housing and associated benefits, rubbish collection, environmental services, leisure services, some car parks and council tax collection.

Finally we have the County Council. This is a much larger council responsible for services across the whole of a county including education, social services, transport, roads (except trunk roads and motorways), public rights of way, libraries, the fire service, culture, trading standards, bus subsidies, minerals, waste and recycling (disposal) and the environment.

Each of these councils has elected representatives who take decisions on the relevant issues and are there to help residents in the areas of their responsibility. These people should be the first port of call to raise concerns with as they have direct access to information and, in the case of the larger councils, the officers employed to assist. From my own experience as a local councillor, and working alongside many other councillors, I know that most people who put themselves forward for these roles do it because they want to help and support their community. I would therefore encourage residents to take an interest in what they do and seek their support if necessary. Just as I can sometimes help with issues relating to central government departments, so local councillors can help with issues relating to their councils' areas of responsibility.

If there is a particular issue that concerns you, please do share your thoughts. My contact details are on my website - [www.johnhowell.org.uk](http://www.johnhowell.org.uk).

**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

April and May saw services remain well attended, along with Soul Space.

Details of all services can be found in the Parish Magazine and on the Parish website.

The Parish APCM took place on 22 March where Andy and Maggs, the two Crowell Wardens were reconfirmed into position. The formal 'Visitation' (swearing in) with the Bishop will take place at Dorchester Abbey on the 8 June for all Wardens in the United Parish and the other churches in the Deanery of Aston and Cuddesden.

The graveyard and carpark have complied with 'no mow May', although footpaths through the grass to tended grave areas have been maintained and thanks to those families attending their loved ones' graves. The carpark garden is being worked on and by the next report it should be completely weed free. The carpark will also have been mowed.

We are aware that the drive out view from the car park has become very restricted due to the rapid growth of hedges and ground cover, so we will be addressing that soonest.

Once 'no mow May' is over we will start to mow but still retain wildlife areas. Hopefully the ride on mower will be available again for the large areas. If not, anyone who has one and is happy to give a little time, would be most appreciated as manually mowing the east end by the pub is very time consuming. We already have evidence of specific plants in the recent wildlife areas which would indicate healthy wild areas.

Work parties were carried out in April and May. Sadly only two people turned up on each occasion but much work was done in the time. Next work parties will be 17 June and 15 July, each at 10am.

We will replace the notices regarding no plastic waste on the compost heap and the correct use of the black and brown bins. These continue to be problem areas with thoughtless disposal.

The Quinquennial Inspection will take place on 15 June, so we should have an idea, after that, what work if any needs doing to the structure and fabric in the next 5 years. The architect will also start the process of getting the damaged west window repaired under insurance and an outline plan for toilet and kitchenette facilities to cost for feasibility.

The church will always be open when the Wardens are working in it or working in the churchyard. Please call if you would like access for private prayer at other times.

Copies of the United Parish Magazine are available in the church porch and inside the church. If anyone would like an e-copy of the monthly United Parish Magazine and/or the weekly on-line service booklet then please e-mail the parish office at [csarc@btinternet.com](mailto:csarc@btinternet.com)

**Andy & Maggs Warman**

(Church Wardens) 01844 351909

[themwarmans@btinternet.com](mailto:themwarmans@btinternet.com)

## OBITUARIES

It is with sadness we record the deaths of four of the Parish's longer term residents.

**Nigel Bennett** was born in Kingston Blount in 1933. He served in the RAF after the war and then returned to work in the family firm with his father and two brothers. He married Pauline and in the mid 80s moved to Icknield Place in Aston Rowant, where he developed his love for racing pigeons. More recently both suffered from bad illnesses, Pauline died a few years ago and Nigel in January this year.

**Colin Wainwright** married Elspeth in 1988 and moved into Aston Park with her children Lara and Gavin, whom he always loved and supported as his own. While pursuing a demanding career, he involved himself in many community activities, notably as a churchwarden for St. Peter and St. Paul's church here for 16 years. He was a fine singer and led the church choir when assembled. In retirement he played a strong supporting role in the development of Elspeth's Quince Products business. Colin died in March.

**Allen Smith** was born in 1930 and after a first career in the aircraft building industry he went on to teach engineering at colleges in Buxton and then High Wycombe. With his wife Shirley and two sons they moved to Pleck Lane in KB in 1989, after which time Allen has busied himself as a contributor to every form of community life and action – Parish Council, Church PCC, the old village hall, the Fete and anything else that was going on. Allen suffered from bad health for many years, something which he bore stoically till his death in early March.

**Ann Speechley** left home at 15 to pursue her passion for horseriding and it was as an instructor that she met and married Roger in 1964. Together they built a highly successful business, but found time to have a daughter, Sarah, and in the late 60s they were among the first to move into the then newly developing Aston Park. Ann had a strong Christian faith and did much to support the local church and community. She also had a difficult time through poor health for some years and she died on 24th April in Stoke Mandeville.

## ALLAN SMITH

Please could I use the medium of the Parish Notes to say a very big thank you to friends, neighbours and church family for their kindness and support when Allan's health was slowly deteriorating.

The love shown to me by the cards, letters and flowers when Allan died have been such a great comfort to know how much he was thought of and liked.

When we came in church for his Service of Thanksgiving it was just a sea of faces - he would have been overwhelmed. Thank you to everyone who came and sorry - yes that 's' word - that I did not manage to speak to you all, but your friendship, love and kindness are greatly appreciated.

Thank you so much,  
Shirley Smith

# ASTON ROWANT PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

A new Parish Council was formed on 17th of May. I am pleased to say that we have three new councillors and four carried over from the previous council. We have a good representation of the villages, with four councillors from Aston Rowant and three from Kingston Blount. This council is a mixture of young parents and some of us with more experience, and for the first time we have more women than men on the council. You can find a full list of councillors and contact details on page 6.

I would like to thank our previous Chair, Peter Tinson, for his hard work during seven years in the seat. Well done Peter – we are all very grateful for everything you have done for the community.

In taking on the role of chair I was interested to understand a bit more of the history of Parish Councils and was surprised to find that Parish Councils have only been in existence for 129 years. Before 1894, when the Local Government Act was passed and Parish Councils were created local governance was by lord-lieutenants appointed by the Crown with administration run by the church. Prior to this, regional areas such as ours were controlled by Norman Lords and before them, Saxon Lords appointed by the King dating back to 700AD. Self-governance is still comparatively young compared to 1,200 years of Lords being in control!

I grew up in Kingston Blount, and when I started on the Parish Council ten years ago, we had recently moved back to the village with small children. With the school and Montessori, and many fêtes and street fairs, it's been a wonderful place for them to grow up, and it's great to see so many young families helping to make this a thriving parish community. I'm honoured to take on the responsibility of Chair. With a role like this, there is always a lot of admin involved, but it is both interesting and fulfilling to play an active role in making improvements to our Parish so that it continues to be a great place to live and enjoy.

Many of the projects the Parish Council are currently working on are well underway and carried over from the last council. We are looking at installing new playground equipment and sports facilities for the playing field. There are, of course, many more mundane jobs and tasks that need to be done to keep our villages well maintained, but I'm excited to be looking at creating more footpaths and improving the ones we have, as well as undertaking more conservation projects. If you would like to help or find out more, or join in, please do send me an email, or come along to the next meeting.

**Matthew Day**

Chairman

Aston Rowant Parish Council



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# ASTON ROWANT PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

Parish Council meetings were held on Wednesday 12th of April 2022 and Wednesday 17th of May where the planning applications detailed below were discussed.  
(The next meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday 14th of June 2023).

## PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

**P23/S0875/DIS** Discharge of condition 4: (Submission of details) parts a), b) and c) on planning application P22/S0907/LB at Chalford Manor Farm, Chalford. For information only.

**P23/S0007/HH** Amendment No. 1, plans received 10 March 2023 removing the proposed new car port and store and new boundary wall and fencing from the application at 3 The Green Aston Rowant. Major objection points have been removed, response made to say no ongoing objections.

**P23/S0961/LB** Repair under floor pipework in kitchen. Remove wall between boot room and kitchen, relocate radiator and install new pipework. Replace flooring with York stone at Grade 2 Listed Building - 20 Church Lane, Aston Rowant, OX49 5SS. No Objection.

**P23/S0961/LB** Amendment (no. 1), on application for development work at 20 Church Lane, AR. Aston Rowant, as amended by plan received 28 April 2023. For information only.

**P23/S0337/s73** Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) on application P20/S1180/FUL-internal and external changes (as amended by plans received 22 March 2023), incorporating flint panels and alteration to roof to reposition dormer windows above the eaves). (The erection of a single dwelling with access derived from the existing drive, and 2 parking spaces will be provided, together with a turning area, to enable vehicles to leave the site in forward gear) granted at appeal APP/Q3115/W/20/3263533 to improve the internal layout and external fenestration at Aston Cottage 18 Church Lane Aston Rowant OX49 5SS.

Following the reinstatement of the flint panels and the relocation of the dormer windows above the eaves line, the SODC Planning Officer has no issue with the minor changes proposed. SODC Conservation Officer has also withdrawn their objection. No further objections to what are now minor amendments.

## WITHDRAWN APPLICATIONS:

**P21/S5321/O** 54 age restricted dwellings (for people aged 55 and over), including 40% affordable housing and communal facilities, on land to the north of Crowell road, Chinnor. We submitted an objection..

## PLANNING DECISIONS OF SODC:

**P23/S0007/HH** Amendment No. 1, plans received 10 March 2023 removing the proposed new car port and store and new boundary wall and fencing from the application at 3 The Green Aston Rowant. GRANTED. ➤



## **LITTER PICKER - VACANCY**

**Are you keen to keep our community looking it's best, while earning some pocket money?**

Aston Rowant Parish Council are once again seeking a litter picker to help keep our parish clean and tidy. This would be for a maximum of 4 hours per month in and around the parish, excluding the B4009, Kingston Stert Road and Kingston Hill.

### **Rate of pay £7.00 per hour**

(National minimum wage for under 17's is currently £5.28 p/h)

- Minimum age 13
- Work permit required (the Parish Council will arrange)
- All equipment will be provided

Please send a letter of application to:

Tracy Lambourne, Parish Clerk, The Cottage, High Street,  
Kingston Blount, Oxon, OX39 4SJ

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

**P23/S0348/FUL** Retention of 3 Portakabins, shipping container and scoring hut as approved on previous application P19/S4241/FUL, for a further 3 years at Aston Rowant Cricket Club. GRANTED.

**P22/S4643/O** Outline planning application for up to 150 residential dwellings including up to 40% affordable housing, creation of new vehicular access off Thame Road and provision of public open space including a children's play area with associated infrastructure and earthworks. REFUSED.

**P23/S0337/S73** Variation of condition 2(approved plans) on application P20/S1180/FUL-internal and external changes.(as amended by plan received 22 March 2023, incorporating flint panels and alteration to roof to reposition dormer windows above the eaves) at Aston Cottage, 18 Church Lane, Aston Rowant. GRANTED.

**P23/S0961/LB** Repair under floor pipework in kitchen. Remove wall between boot room and kitchen, relocate radiator and install new pipework. Replace flooring with York stone (as amended by plan received 28 April 2023) at 20 Church Lane Aston Rowant OX49 5SS. 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



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## ARPC FOOTPATH AND AMENITIES GROUP

Please see Mike Eaton's notes on Fiveways (p22) for the news from the Nature Reserve.

Well spring has well and truly sprung. The combination of the wet weather and the (slowly) increasing temperatures has led to a massive growth spread of all plants. You may be aware that Councils across Oxfordshire will be supporting No Mow May by allowing grass verges to grow long in May and beyond – in order to prioritise and promote biodiversity across the county. Unfortunately, this combined with what was effectively a no mow April as the expected cut from Oxfordshire County Council did not happen has meant the verges and footpaths have grown to the point that they are out of control. My thanks to Adam Bernstein, Matt Day, Peter Hulse and Jim Donald who have volunteered their time to cut back both the verges and footpaths. By the time you read this the footpaths will have been cut back and hopefully we will have a new contractor on board.

The permissive path to Crowell has also been damaged by the recent water problems. Thames Water are responsible for the damage and will repair the path and remove the barriers but at the time of writing this has not happened.

In the last edition of the Notes, I referred to the updated Walks at the Foot of the Chilterns booklet which has been rewritten and updated by Peter Hetherington. All new parishioners are historically given a copy from the Parish Council. If you are new to the parish please contact Tracy Lambourne the parish clerk. Additionally, copies are on sale at the Lockdown Larder, the Leathern Bottle and Chinnor Village Centre – at £3 it is very good value.

The removal work in the 'lanes' in Kingston Blount has now been finished with the removal of the tree stumps behind the Old Shepherd of Mutton. We will look to replant native plants in the autumn.

It is sad to report that on March 31st a sewer pipe burst in Aston Rowant and sewage ran down Church Lane, Aston Rowant Road and on into Fiveways. This was caused in part by wet wipes blocking the pipes. Please remember not to flush these and risk the chance of a blockage.

The meeting due for May 16th had to be rescheduled, but we still have a vacancy on the Group and if that person could help with Pleck Wood in Kingston Blount they would be doubly welcomed.

### Steven Sowerby

Chair of Footpaths and Amenities Group

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

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[www.arbocare.co.uk](http://www.arbocare.co.uk)

## FRIDAY COFFEE MORNINGS

As part of our aim to bring the community together we have started a regular Friday coffee morning from 10.00am – 12.00pm. The first was held on Friday 14th April and was to raise money for two local hospices. In addition to hot drinks and cakes we had books, plants and a raffle, and in addition there was a used sale for childrens' items which raised almost £40 towards the playground refurbishment. We had a good turnout of both young and old parishioners and we are pleased to announce that £125 was given to both Rennie Grove and Sue Ryder hospices.

Since then we have been open weekly for a chat/coffee/cakes and a book swap. There is a bookcase in the entrance hall if you wish to donate books or to take a few to read.

Following discussions with people on Fridays we have decided that in future they will be held either biweekly or monthly and we will try to have different themes which will be advertised separately. The playground refurbishment committee are going to be involved monthly on the last Friday of the month and hold a regular sale of children's items and will provide toys for children to come along and play together during the morning.

Once the Hall floor has been replaced we will hopefully be open on regular biweekly or monthly basis depending on the success of this initial period. Please see further announcements on KBAR and the notice board outside the hall.

We are looking for regular volunteers to help out with the running of these mornings. So please come along to the next one if you feel you might be able to spare a few hours on a Friday. Ideas for new themes also very welcome.

Upcoming dates up to hall closure for floor replacement:

9th June. Coffee morning

30th June. Coffee morning. Childrens items sale and play area.



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY OLIVE!



Happy Birthday and congratulations to Olive Crossley who was 92 in April. Olive rightly pointed out that she's lived through five monarchs and has been able to watch two coronations. To celebrate the recent one, she planted red, white and blue flowers and hung out the bunting.

## 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)**

## NEWS FROM THE VILLAGE HALL, HILLWERKE RECREATIONAL TRUST (HRT)

The Village Hall will be closed during the months of July and August to replace the damp proof course which has failed and to lay a new floor. We apologise in advance to those who live close to the Hall whilst the floor is being dug out. The first part of the work is scheduled to start on the 10th July and will finish on the 24th July we then need to allow the screed to dry so that the new floor can be laid. We expect to be up and running again by the end of August.

The Committee is aware that the goal posts have not yet been replaced. This is something that we will be addressing once the floor has been completed. We are keeping a financial contingency back due to the fact that the replacement of the hall floor is not covered by our insurance and HRT are having to fund the work. Grants are being applied for to help in the payment of the floor and we will be applying to SODC for help towards the purchase of the goal posts.

Whilst the playground is not the responsibility of HRT we have paid for the play equipment outside of the park and for the fitness area. Over the last couple of years we have also approved two donations of £2,000 one to help fund maintenance work on the playground and the other to help repair the fence. We acknowledge that we have many bookings from people for family/children's parties because of the playground and as such we will continue to support the fund raising activities by allowing use of the Hall for no charge.

As part of our aim to bring the community together we have started a Friday coffee morning. Please see article elsewhere in the notes for further information.

Keep an eye out on the troughs over the next few weeks as these are currently being replanted with herbs. There is already sage and rosemary in two of them, oregano, thyme, parsley and mint will be planted in the others. So if you need some herbs pop down and take a piece.





## NEWS FROM FIVEWAYS

As I write this the early spring flowers are gone - however I have been encouraged by the spread of many of our wild flower introductions. In particular the wild daffodils have dropped seed and after nearly ten years there are very many young seedlings. This contrasts with cultivated daffodils. The same is true of the cowslips, greater stitchwort, toadflax and wood anemones. It does take decades for many of them to establish themselves. It is possible in the decades to come that Fiveways will seed the surrounding areas with wild daffodils.

A few fish have been seen – probably Sticklebacks and Bullheads. To be sure I will try and catch a Bullhead – I think I saw one, but you need a net (and camera) to be sure. They are very rarely seen, hiding away during the day and only coming out at night to feed. The Sticklebacks had a hard time here last year as many were seen dead from the heat. Locally trout were also killed, this happens once the water temperature gets above 20 degrees. Trout fishing is banned then as the fish cannot take the extra stress of being caught. I have seen otters in the local area too.

The deer have taken a liking to the Holm Oak now that protection has been removed but to date it is fairly superficial.

I am pleased to see the public have become more aware of our streams but I remain unconvinced that politicians, including local ones, take the subject seriously. The problem is deep rooted with poor documentation on existing drains and even poorer records of the discharges. Many drains are very old and have erroneously set discharge limits into streams that are toxic levels for water-life. However more houses keep being built without any evidence the drainage system can cope. We should all do our bit in ensuring our ditches and streams are as nature intended.

There was a sewage leakage recently in Aston Rowant – the sewer involved runs from the Lambert Arms down Chinnor Road and into Aston Road and down Church Lane before going across the fields. The blockage was caused by wet wipes - they are still in use and cause most blockages!! The sewage ran as far as Fiveways before it was sorted. This was not the fault of the water company. Shortly afterwards we had a water-main burst in Church Lane with significant flooding as far as Fiveways - some thought it may help to wash the sewage away!

I would be interested to hear from anyone keen to collect wild flower seed or anyone with useful tree seedlings as we are always keen to continue planting the area.





We have spread out a bit from Fiveways and replaced some trees which were planted by the parish council and have died – perhaps due to drought (see picture). The trees originally planted were quite large and couldn't cope so we have replaced them with much smaller ones. Two oaks are between KB recreation ground and the Icknield Way. I hope to keep better records so we know where they are and it would be useful to have a person responsible for keeping these records.

The Forest School visited Fiveways again on May 9. It is always nice to join them for their visit and again we were impressed by the resilience of the children and their interest in nature. As usual we found loads of 'treasure' in the stream and we are always amazed by the amount of metal that comes out of the stream with the magnet.

Pleck Wood has a mixture of Spanish and English bluebells - like Fiveways. Please do not plant Spanish bluebells in the wild as they will eventually eliminate the English natives. I spend time removing them from my garden and it is not easy. I also have a thing about Pacific Coast Irises but they are much easier to get out. Virtually all the bluebells in the parish are Spanish except those at the top of the Chilterns.

**Mike Eaton**

mike.eaton@btopenworld.com

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## NEWS FROM ARCC

Welcome to the cricket season. For anyone new to the parish, we are a friendly inclusive club – all are welcome either to come and play, watch or just have a beer at the ground. The bar is open every Friday night as well as at the weekend if cricket is being played.

So far this season the weather has been dreadful and although the outfield and surrounding foliage is looking lusher than it's ever looked in the club's history, we can't remember quite so many games being rained off. After 5 consecutive Saturdays having been washed out, we finally got the home league season on Saturday 20th May but unfortunately three of the 4 teams lost – only the 3rd team managed a win away at Chearsley by 7 runs.

The Sunday XI have had a couple of great victories so far – 2 weeks ago defeating Oxford and Bletchington Nondescripts in the VKO by 6 wickets after bowling them out for 98 and as a result progressed into the 3rd Round of the National Village Knockout competition. Unfortunately, this result did not go our way and so we are out of the competition for this year.

Last weekend the Sunday 1st XI also progressed in the National Club Championship after putting Brondesbury to the sword at Butts Way. Rowant face Ealing in the next round at home which will be another tough test – that match is due to be played on 28th May.

We are using a new platform for membership this season called club Spond, this will be used for registration and paying subs which are now due. Details on how to join and pay are on our website [astonrowantcc.com](http://astonrowantcc.com).

We are still looking to recruit and train both scorers and umpires. Whilst it would be good if the person was available every week, we need holiday cover for both roles. If you are interested, please contact the club via the above web site.

On the club facilities we have had a delay as the Cherwell League have asked us to incorporate showers and toilets into the proposed pavilion on the bottom field. But we are now getting back on track and we now have some initial drawings which we are working on producing costs for. As soon as we have more details we will come back and present these to the parish before we get anywhere near a planning application.

### **Aston Rowant's 1-night party is back for 2023! Saturday July 8th**

This family friendly event will be back again this summer at the cricket club with gates opening from 5pm. We encourage everyone to purchase their tickets via the website well in advance – we sold out last year.

We'll aim to confirm our line-up in the coming weeks but expect some great local indie, pop and rock acts plus DJs and some special guests...

Finally, can we congratulate James Coles on his maiden first class century playing for Sussex against Glamorgan – hopefully the first on many.

**Steven Sowerby**

Aston Rowant CC

[www.astonrowantcc.com](http://www.astonrowantcc.com)

## 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.

[info@marklordphotography.co.uk](mailto:info@marklordphotography.co.uk)

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# LETTER FROM THE HEADTEACHER

## Coronation Celebration

As I write the country has just marked an historic moment - the Coronations of Their Majesties The King and The Queen Consort. This presented us all at school with many exciting opportunities for learning and taking part in history. We marked the occasion in several different ways.

Firstly, we looked at the history of the occasion and explored the question 'What is a coronation?' We explored what happens at a coronation ceremony and explored key rituals and symbols, including the Coronation Regalia. We had a brief history of coronations, focusing on the elements that have stayed the same and those that have been adapted over time.

Secondly, we focused on the celebration of the event and how to build lasting memories of the event. We had our own Coronation party with maypole dancing and country dances, traditional games and members of the school choir gave a wonderful performance. Afterwards we had a traditional afternoon cream tea.

Finally, we wanted to create a lasting reminder of this significant historical occasion. We agreed that a mosaic would enable children of every age, as well as the adults, to participate and we launched a competition for the children to create a design that captured what the Coronation means to us. It was great fun to do and completing it drew on some of our values such as resilience, harmony and wonder. I hope that you have an opportunity to admire our finished work.



## Helen France

Headteacher





## JUNE

**Sunday, 4** 10am. 4 and 6 miles. Long or short introductory walks from Thame. Start Place: Thame, Christchurch opposite Upper High Street car park. Two walks using footpaths around Thame to introduce people to walking with the Ramblers. Coffee, tea and cakes will be available at the end of the walk in Memorial Hall, Christchurch.

**Wednesday, 7** Sydenham and Copcourt. 10am. 6 miles. Start Place: Crown Inn, Sydenham opposite church. Going west from Sydenham to the grade 2 listed Copcourt House and returning via Chalford.

**Tuesday 13** Shabbington. 4.5 miles. Meet at Shabbington church 10am.

**Friday, 16** Nether Winchendon. Start Place: Nether Winchendon, near St Nicholas Church, Barrack Hill. 10am 8.3 miles. An easy walk via Cuddington, Haddenham and Chearsley with lovely views and pretty villages. Please bring picnic lunch.

**Tuesday 20** Start Place: Waterperry Gardens. Please park in overflow car parks 10.30am. Short walk for those preferring gentle exercise on footpaths and minor roads out and back to Waterstock. Coffee/tea at the Gardens Tea shop at the start and optional lunch there at the finish of the walk.

**Sunday, 25** Holton, near Wheatley, to Shotover Plain Start Place: Holton, Wheatley Park School car park near leisure centre. 5.5 mile scenic walk via Horspath, through woods and fields, to Shotover Plain for the Oxfordshire Area picnic. Return route via Shotover Country Park. Bring a picnic. Cakes provided by Oxford Ramblers group.

Taken from Ramblers website, please check the website to confirm details as programme subject to change: **[www.ramblers-oxon.org.uk/thame-wheatley/walking.html](http://www.ramblers-oxon.org.uk/thame-wheatley/walking.html)** or phone 01844 213608 Leaders' contact details and suitability of walks for dogs can also be found on the website.



## PARISH WALK

We will meet in Benson on Thames at 10am on 2 July. Park in the side roads near the Waterside Café, not in their car park. Meet in the Children's Playpark next to the Thames and the café. Wear walking shoes or boots and bring water. Also bring a snack if not eating in the café at the end of the walk.

The walk is a leisurely 5 miles. We take the Thames Path to and over Shillingford Bridge. And then we loop round on the river bank path to the site of the old ferry, returning over the Earth Trust's farmland and the Thames Path to Benson. We should be back at the café by 12.45. This is a walk suitable for all the family.

It is a joint venture between Aston Rowant Parish Council and Thame and Wheatley Ramblers.

The walk is free, with no booking required, and you don't have to be either a Ramblers Member or an Aston Rowant or Chinnor Parishioner.

### Peter Hetherington

AR Parish Walk Leader and member of Thame and Wheatley Ramblers  
Tel 07767 647714

The advertisement features a background image of a car's engine bay. On the left is the RCP Service Centre logo, which consists of the letters 'RCP' in a stylized font inside a blue oval, with 'SERVICE CENTRE' written in white on a blue rectangular background below it. On the right, contact information is listed in white text: 'Camp Industrial Estate', 'Milton Common', 'OX9 2NP', 'M40, Junction 7', 'Tel: 01844 278177', and 'Email: workshop@rcpservices.co.uk'. Below this information, a dark blue banner contains the text 'Present this voucher and choose from one of the following:'. Underneath the banner, a light blue box lists four services: '£10 off of your MOT', '£10 off of Air Con Regas', '£10 off of Wheel Alignment', and 'Free loan vehicle'. At the bottom, a grey box lists various services: 'Servicing', 'Tyres', 'Brakes', 'Clutches', 'Alignment', 'Suspension', 'MOT's', 'Air Con Regas', 'Engine Diagnosis', 'Exhausts', and 'Collect/Deliver'.



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For more details or to apply please contact the administrator:

**Peter Lambert**

01844 352617

1 Old Croft Close, Kingston Blount

[peter.lambert123@btinternet.com](mailto:peter.lambert123@btinternet.com)

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# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

## JUNE

- 3 Sydenham Fayre 12.30pm to 4pm
- 3/4 Chinnor Open Gardens
- 7 Parish Council Meeting, Aston Rowant Church 7:30 pm
- 9 Coffee morning, KB Village Hall (p19)
- 17 Crowell Church work party 10am
- 30 Coffee morning, KB Village Hall (p19)

## JULY

- 2 Parish Walk, Benson on Thames 10am (p29)
- 8 Rowachella music festival, ARCC (p25)
- 12 Parish Council Meeting, Aston Rowant Church 7:30 pm
- 15 Crowell Church work party 10am

## 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)

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

**Copy deadline for the August/September issue is 10th July.**

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