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PARISH NOTES



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

Email: sallyparishnotes@gmail.com

Copy deadline for the Aug/Sept issue is 20th July 2025

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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With special thanks to our team of distributors, for their continuing hard work.



(Hillwerke Recreational Trust Reg Charity No. 279656)

Charges for Hire – Effective 1st April 2024

For Residents of the Parish of Aston Rowant

Monday–Sunday & Bank Holidays

Main Hall (8am–midnight)	£15.00 per hour
Committee Room only	£8.50 per hour
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For Non-Residents of the Parish of Aston Rowant

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shine-holly@hotmail.com
07834 994699

USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

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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
Chinnor u3a [Chair]	07711 337243
Village Hall Hire/Bookings: Hayley Hopwood	07470 441857

CHAIRMAN'S NOTE

Litter pick

Early May saw the running of the Spring litter pick – on Saturday 10 May up Kingston Hill, and the day after around the A40 and B4009 from the Lambert Arms to Woodway Farm.

Not so much litter was collected on the Sunday – just six bags full, and five were filled the day before. That might be partly down to the regularity of the picks – Spring and Autumn, keeping the roads clear. But it's possibly also a combination of Oxfordshire County Council's 'No now May' policy, exceptionally good weather, and the rapid rate of growth of foliage along the roads making it hard to see some of the litter.

It will all be collected in the end.

However, I want to offer a comment.

That of a parish of some 1300 souls, only two people turned up on the Saturday – a parish councillor and another – and the same on the Sunday – myself and a neighbour. With more people we could have picked more.

The litter pick was publicised on the parish website, astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk, late April, and in the last issue of the Parish Notes that was dropped through every letterbox.

It is shame that only four people turned out to help keep the parish tidy. We need to remember that this is our parish and we should all take pride in keeping what is a very special place tidy; it's not a job for the few.

Cricket Club

Over the VE Day weekend, Aston Rowant cricket Club hired out its grounds for an event hosted by Oxford Brookes University. The goal was for the club to (laudably) raise funds for its activities and premises.

ARCC only organised the bar – the university was to organise security, catering, toileting and litter collection. Regrettably, the organisers fell very short of what was needed; they provided just three portable toilets for 600 people and failed to collect litter.

Complaints have been received over attendees 'nipping into the bushes' to relieve themselves and the debris from their activities being left for local residents to view. The matter has been raised with the club which itself has expressed a combination of embarrassment, disappointment, and irritation with Oxford Brookes.

The club has apologised – through the council – to residents and has made clear that lessons have been learned over the conduct of future hires.

New councillor

I am pleased to say that following the resignation of Jo Hunt, who will be missed for her sterling work with regard to the Hillwerke Recreational Trust, the parish council has a new councillor – Richard Payling, a resident of Aston Rowant.

He, like others, came along to parish council meetings and liked what he saw.

I would encourage every resident – not all at once, please – to come along and see what we do.

Remember, the parish council acts on your behalf, listens to what it is told and tries to help where it can. If councillors do not hear, then they cannot understand.

Cedar tree

Lastly, to forestall any questions and comments... the cedar tree in Aston Park that has stood for nigh on 300 years, formerly in front of the long-demolished Aston House, is to be felled.

It's a great shame for those that know and see it, but it's been on the decline for years and is now considered very unsafe, with insurers removing cover for it from the end of June.

Adam Bernstein

Chairman, Aston Rowant Parish Council

adam.bernstein@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk



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PARISH COUNCIL & LOCAL CONTACTS

Parish Website

www.astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk

Parish Clerk

Tracy Lambourne
clerk@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk 01844 353989

Parish Councillors:

Chairman Adam Bernstein
adam.bernstein@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk 07785 905120
Councillor Helen Birks
helen.birks@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk 07921 840360
Councillor Deborah Chaplin
deborah.chaplin@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk 01844 354648
Councillor Matthew Day
matthew.day@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk 01844 351300
Councillor Trelawney Hill
trelawney.hill@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk 01844 353051
Councillor Hayley Hopwood
hayley.hopwood@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk 07515 774871

District Councillors:

Ali Gordon-Creed ali.gordon-creed@southoxon.gov.uk
Ed Sadler ed.sadler@southoxon.gov.uk 07842 602398

County Councillor

Kate Gregory kate.gregory@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Nigel Champken-Woods nigel.champken-woods@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Georgina Heritage georgina.heritage@oxfordshire.co.uk

MP

Freddie van Mierlo freddie.vanmierlo.mp@parliament.uk

Police Community Support Office

tel: 101 ThameHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

Village Hall Hire/Bookings

Hayley Hopwood 07470 441857 bookings@kbvh.org

Play Area

Tracy Lambourne 01844 353989 clerk@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk

Aston Rowant Cricket Club Chairman

Josh Smith 07894 201929 chairman@astonrowantcc.com

ASTON ROWANT PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

Parish Council meetings were held on Wednesday 9th April 2025 and Wednesday 14th May 2025 where the planning applications detailed below were discussed. The next meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday 11th June.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

P25/S0193/HH Amendment (no. 1) for development work at 10 The Green Aston Rowant, per information received 18 March 2025 relating to an Ecological Assessment Report. We maintained our objection.

P25/S0193/HH Further discussion on potential amendments to plans for development at 10 The Green, Aston Rowant, email received from Architect. See above

P25/S0999/DIS Discharge of conditions 5 (Tree Protection) & 6 (Construction Traffic Management) on planning application P24/S1444/HH at Chiltern House, 5 Plowden Park, Aston Rowant. FYI only, no response required.

P25/S0193/HH Amendment No. 2 for development work at 10 The Green Aston Rowant. Amended plans received 24 April 2025, no change to our position, as above.

WITHDRAWN APPLICATIONS: None.

PLANNING DECISIONS OF SODC:

P25/S0143/HH Remove existing conservatory and erection of single storey side and rear extensions at 6 Bennetts Yard Kingston Blount. GRANTED.

P25/S0403/HH Construction of a single-storey new greenhouse within the existing rear garden and the adaption of the existing boundary brick wall to reform an existing entrance and provide a new entrance and railings at Lower Farmhouse, Stert Road, KB. GRANTED.

P25/S0585/FUL Installation of new powder-coated metal bow-top fencing and entrance gates, reaching a maximum height of 1.8m along the boundary at Aston Rowant school. GRANTED.

PLANNING DECISIONS MADE SINCE THE LAST MEETING:

None.

PLANNING APPLICATION APPEALS:

P24/S3844/PIP The Paddock Church Lane Aston Rowant OX49 5SW for permission in principle for the construction of a minimum of one dwelling and a maximum of one dwelling. Refused by SODC. Appeal reference : APP/Q3115/W/25/3361560. Submission made 15/Apr, maintaining our objection.

>>

A decorative border surrounds the text, featuring a background of piano keys and musical notes, with various colored roses (pink, yellow, red) and green leaves interspersed.

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APPLICATIONS IN NEIGHBOURING PARISHES (which may affect Aston Rowant Parish)

P23/S4262/FUL Full application for 111 residential dwellings including new highways, associated infrastructure, sustainable urban drainage systems, pumping stations, demolition of agricultural buildings, green infrastructure and ancillary works (additional Information received 7 February, 20 March 2024 and 08 April 2025 and amended plans received 24 October 2024, 08 April 2025 and amended description to reduce number of dwellings 08 April 2025), on land N. of Oxford Road, Thame. We have objected twice previously and no further action was deemed necessary.

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



What's On this June/July

Waterperry Gardens

CONCERT: 7th June – JUBILEE BRASS BAND, AMPHITHEATRE

EVENT: 8th June – RARE PLANT FAIR

FREE EXHIBITION: (12th June until 1st Sept)
– BUG, BIRD, BEAST, GALLERY

EVENT: 12th-14th June – HANDMADE OXFORD

COURSE: 13th June – HERBACEOUS BORDERS OLD & NEW*

THEATRE: 29th June – TWELFTH NIGHT, ON THE LAWN

EVENT: 11th-13th July – CELEBRATING CERAMICS

CONCERT: 12th July – HEALING LIGHT, AMPHITHEATRE

SUMMER HOLIDAYS TRAIL: (12th July until 1st Sept)

THEATRE: 19th July – ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS, AMPHITHEATRE

CONCERT: 27th July – MOONRAKERS, AMPHITHEATRE

OPEN DAILY
10:00AM - 5:30PM

*Please see our website for more information or to book.

Waterperry Gardens, Waterperry, Near Wheatley, Oxfordshire OX33 1JZ | 01844 339254 | www.waterperrygardens.co.uk  

THE UNITED PARISH TEAM

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Rev'd Dr. Jacky Barr 07769 825305
rector@unitedparish.church
01844 352027

Associate Priest

Rev'd Joan DeVal 01844 353404

Licensed Lay Minister (L.L.M)

Margaret Poole 01844 281042

Retired Priests

Rev'd Des Foote 01844 355945

Rev'd Dr. Brian Griffiths

01844 355953

Rev'd Tony Whittaker

01844 352472

United Parish Office

Tricia Prescott 01844 352472
office@unitedparish.church

Parish Safeguarding Officer

Jane Tucker 07890 346781
safeguarding@unitedparish.church

Churchwarden at Aston Rowant

Richard Boarder 07795681263
Vacancy

Churchwardens at Crowell

Andy Warman 01844351909

Maggs Warman 01844351909

CROWELL CHURCH

Normal evening services on 2nd and 4th Sundays at 18:00 but a few changes of location so please see the noticeboard or the Parish Magazine/website for those changes.

Soul Space has a solid following which is pleasing to see. 3rd Sunday at 16:00.

The weather did improve and work began in the churchyard and in the carpark garden. We didn't manage to repair the carpark as planned as the stones were not made available in the end. We will continue to pursue this. The drive out view has been improved but still requires the nettles, etc. to be killed off.

The churchyard has been subject to 'No Mow May' and will be mown from 1st June, provided the rain holds off. The Wardens are completely committed to other activities from 3rd June for about 3 weeks so areas will not be tended after that except by a couple of much needed volunteers and families.

Work Parties continued on the 2nd Saturdays at 10:00, with only the Wardens attending – very disappointing. The locals claim it is 'their church' but rarely turn up to services. There are moans about the state of the churchyard but very few turn out to help. Thank you so much to the families that do attend their graves and more. Comments such as, "why can't it be like St Andrew's?". Well there is no Crowell Parish Council to pick up the cost as with other churches, only a Parish Meeting which doesn't contribute as Councils are obliged to do. We only have the volunteer wardens plus a few families who tend their graves and the surrounding areas. Because of this, the PCC designated Crowell as the 'wild churchyard' of the four in the Parish as part of the 'greening initiative' of the Diocese along with ARocha. Crowell income does not cover its daily running, let alone maintenance or the luxury of being able to afford gardeners. We are totally reliant on the good will of the other three churches because we are a Combined Parish. That will become unsustainable unless we can receive some tangible long term financial support.

A good news item: We are expecting the stained glass window to be refitted in June. Outstanding jobs for which help or sponsorship/donations would be gratefully accepted:

1. Stained glass window repair (insurance job) but needs to have a protective screen fitted when back in position. Need to consider a screen for the other stained glass window.
2. 2 x churchyard walls rebuilt and or removed. (Some ongoing talks re one and tendering in progress)
3. Bell Cote and Bell restored. (Some sponsorship already received)
4. South West Buttress wall base rebuilt. (Tendering in progress)
5. Altar furniture and linen. (Some sponsorship already received)
6. Remove dead trees on B4009 and replant with native species.
7. Open up the view on exit from the carpark drive-out. (Done but needs more work on weeds)

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 United Parish Magazine and/or the weekly on-line service booklet then please e-mail the parish office at office@unitedparish.church

Sorry but a bit of a moan article this time as we are getting very close to having to make some drastic decisions regarding the viability of the church.

Andy & Maggs Warman

(Church Wardens) 01844 351909 themwarmans@btinternet.com

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CELEBRATION OF CHINNOR CHURCHES GO WILD! 18th ANNIVERSARY CONVENTION

28th June 2025

Venue: St Andrews Church, Chinnor OX39 4PG

Chinnor Churches Go Wild (CCGW) is celebrating its 18th birthday since its foundation by Bob Sluka and Jo Whitfield. We wanted to celebrate this milestone by hosting a CONVENTION which will try to bring together all the major players and ask them to see what we have learnt over the last few years and what are the things we must be aware of for the future, ie a glance into the past and strategic recommendations for the future. What we don't want to do is repeat what each organisation is doing at the moment, that would be a conference rather than what we think is needed which is a convention. We want to include anyone who has a view or is involved in things ECO. The following is a draft programme:

9.30am Church open for people to set up stalls

10.30am Registration and refreshments

11.00am Speaker 1 Keynote: Dr Bob Sluka, A Rocha International.

12:00 noon Speaker 2 Keynote : Hannah Mann, Environment Programme Manager, Diocese of Oxford.

1pm Break for light lunch sandwiches and tea/coffee, networking.

1.45pm Speaker 3 : Maranda St John Nicolle, World Mission Officer, Diocesan of Oxford.

2:15pm Speaker 4 : Dr David Furze, St Peter's Church, Quarrenden, Aylesbury.

2:45pm Break for Refreshments, etc

3.15pm Speaker 5 : Helen Stephens, Head of Church Relations, A Rocha UK.

4.15pm Open Forum - discussions, questions and conclusions : Brian to chair with Bob and Andy to answer questions.

5.00pm Close

Organisations invited to host stalls:

Regina/Andy : A Rocha UK

Lily O'Neill : BBOWT

Greening Chinnor

Friends of the Earth

21st Century Thame

Tom Knowles : Village Farm, Emmington

Chilterns National Landscape

Wild Oxfordshire (jessica@wildoxfordshire.org.uk)

Marcus Woods

Rod Thorpe : Fairtrade

NEWS FROM ARCC

The cricket season is now up and running but can I first apologise for the scenes around the VE weekend. As the Parish Chairman has noted we are embarrassed by some of the actions of the spectators attending the Brookes University private hire function. We have made sure that if (ever) this booking is taken we will ensure that adequate facilities are supplied in advance. The chair of the club has also posted an apology on the Parish Council website.

Can I direct you to the separate article on Rowachella (p26), all fingers crossed for good weather.

On the field the club has had a mixed start to the senior league season. The first team have very unusually lost both games, whilst the third team have won both. The second and fourth teams have both won one and lost one.

In the cup competitions however, the club is doing very well, with all three teams winning their respective matches. The next rounds will be played before these notes are printed so I hope to be able to pass on the good news in the next edition.

In contrast, Aston Rowant junior cricket is off to a fantastic start this season with four well-attended training sessions already completed without interference from the weather. The teams are also all up and running in their respective leagues and are going well.

As ever, we are running training for juniors on Friday evenings (U9/U11 6-7pm and U13/U15 7-8pm) and we are very much open to new members. So if you have a child who fancies giving cricket a go, do encourage them to come along on a Friday for a taster session. For the adults, the bar is open and the barbecue lit, so please do come down for what is often a very convivial evening.

Further, for the first time, we are setting up a new girls only team at the club. This will initially be under the umbrella of the ECB Dynamos program and we hope to build up from there with a view to organising some fixtures later this season and into next. Our Dynamo girls team is for girls aged 8 to 11, though we absolutely welcome any girls older than that who wish to join in. For more information on this or any other aspect of junior cricket please contact Tim Hester (timhesteremail@yahoo.co.uk) and James Robinson (tigrobinson@icloud.com).

Can I finally just remind all current social and 1881 members that subscriptions are still open – for £60 you get 20% off all bar purchases and also our many newsletter updates to keep you in touch with what's happening at the club. Details of matches and results are available on the club website astonrowantcc.com where you can also see live updates on any games in progress.

Steven Sowerby

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ARPC FOOTPATH AND AMENITIES GROUP

Since the last Notes spring has come and gone, the daffodils, the bluebells and tree blossoms have all gone over for another year. The May blossom was noticeably very good this year – perhaps the wet winter helped.

As I write these notes the gardens are crying out for rain, but knowing the English weather it will all come over the Bank Holiday weekend.

It has been a quiet time for the group but I would like to thank the individuals who took part in the Litter Pick, but at the same time I would like to echo the words of the Parish Council Chairman (p6) in his notes.

I would like to direct you to Peter Hetherington's article on the Parish Walk (p21) on the 6th July. Hopefully I will be able to partake in some form, assuming my knee is up to it following its recent operation. If you are new to the parish or new to rambling, I can thoroughly recommend the morning.

Can I also direct you to Mike's piece on Fiveways (p18) – whilst the snowdrops and other spring flowers have gone over Fiveways is still worth a visit.

There is no meeting planned until the autumn but if anyone wants to raise a subject, please contact myself. In the meantime, enjoy the early summer and the wonderful countryside we are so lucky to be living in.

Steven Sowerby

Chair of Footpaths and Amenities Group
stevensowerby@hotmail.com 07802 81425.



FIVEWAYS

Well it has warmed up and the excellent display of spring flowers is over. The daffodils and wood anemones are proliferating and the Fritillaria were lovely too. The wild garlic flowered and appears to be starting to spread – sadly not enough yet for culinary purposes though!

The white Greater Stitchwort is in flower now near the new bench. It has taken nine years to get them established and this seems about normal. There is a Lesser Stitchwort but we do not have it. I have seen it growing in Scotland but it is just has smaller flowers.

The so called Green Alkanet is spreading, albeit I think the flowers are blue not green. It is a member of the Borage family and is long lived and deep rooted. The roots were used as a source of purple dye by ancient Britons. The yellow Marsh Marigold gave a spectacular display near the bridge.

The Jubilee tree is shooting well and some parishoners have offered to water it when they pass, as really dry weather is difficult for trees trying to get established.

Can I repeat a request for youngsters to refrain from damming the stream. I am very happy to meet them to improve their engineering skills! I did the same when I was fishing and bored as a boy- but fish do need to move up and down stream especially during the spawning season. Another problem is the potential to block the culvert(s). Our chalk streams do suffer from lower water levels in the Summer and the fish drop back into deeper water downstream. I have, with help, tried to create small “pools” to help the fish move about. Dams and culverts are a big problem for fish (especially trout) mobility



Greater Stitchwort



Fritillaria Meleagris

in the Upper River Thame catchment. Fish are very reluctant to enter narrow dark pipes. Two such pipes are in place at the top of Fiveways and in winter the fast flows can be another problem. Routes must be left for fish and other wildlife.

Fiveways is also good for magnet fishing, as the site we believe was either a smithy or a foundry at some point. The stream “produces” large quantities of iron filings every year. It can also be metal detected but I would ask that the site and safety are respected.

There is very good news in that the yellow Monkey Musk has survived the winter in two locations and has even spread a bit. We will give them a bit of support till they drop seed.



Mike Eaton

mike.eaton@btopenworld.com

Well known local celebrity dog Millie in the dog pool



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toys available for young children.
We will be open for business from 10.15am – 12pm on:

June 6th, 27th
July 11th, 25th



Come and enjoy a hot drink and a cake or snack. Browse the bookshelf, feel free to
select as many as you like. Maybe bring some new ones along to add to the collection.

.....

BELL RINGERS

The Bell Ringers recently held our AGM in the church with reduced members
attending due to illness. We send our best wishes for a speedy recovery to the Rev'd Dr.
Jacky Barr and Shirley Smith

Our annual supper took place during Holy week at the Peacock Inn which was a
very enjoyable evening, good food and good conversation.

We will be ringing for a wedding on 24th May and later on that day Aston Rowant
are hosting a branch practice. If you would like to be informed when extra ringing will
be taking place please contact Robert Newton 01844 352926

Three of our bells were rung on 8th May as part of the nationwide ringing to
commemorate VE day. The ringers came from Chinnor, Lewknor and Shabbington.

We need your help to maintain the tradition of bell ringing. You do not need to be
“religious”, or musical or good at maths – or have great strength!

Please contact Robert Newton if you would like to take up this challenge.

Wendy Hawkins

PARISH WALK

There will be a 6 mile circular walk on Sunday 6 July from The Leathern Bottel, High Street, Lewknor OX49 5TW.

It is organised by Aston Rowant Parish Council Footpath and Amenities Group and Thame and Wheatley Ramblers. The walk is open to anyone – you do not need to be a member of Ramblers nor live in the Parish to join the walk.

Meet at 9.50 for 10.00 departure. Park on the left side of the High Street and not in the pub car park please.

This is a leisurely walk and suitable for all fit people of 10 years or over. There are no stiles but there are two hills. Walking is on quiet roads, footpaths and bridleways. Our aim is to be back at the pub by 13.15 but as we walk at the speed of the slowest group member it may be a little later. Our average pace is about 2 miles per hour. We always have a back marker and no one gets lost! No dogs, except Guide Dogs please.

The Route is: Hill Road, Bald Hill (part of Aston Rowant Nature Reserve), Cowleaze Wood, Wormsley Estate, and back to Lewknor via Linkey Down. Excellent views across the Oxfordshire Plain to Wittenham Clumps which are near Dorchester on Thames. Also there is a very good view into the Wormsley Estate from Cowleaze Wood.

Bring plenty of water and a banana or energy bar for water stops and a half way short break. Wearing walking boots or walking shoes is recommended.

There is no need to book but be prepared to give me an emergency contact name and phone number please on the day.

The Leathern Bottel does meals and snacks but takes no bookings. First come first served. Good indoor and outdoor seating.

Peter Hetherington

Leader for ARPC and Ramblers.
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POOR'S HILLOCK GARDENS

A very warm welcome to all new members. Wishing you a very productive season, and of course all other potholders.

5 - Allotment Jokes

- Biologists have crossed a water melon with a cauliflower. People who eat the new variety get a sense of sadness, known as meloncauli!
 - Why do potatoes make good detectives? Because they keep their eyes peeled!
 - What can you make from baked beans and onions? Tear gas!
 - Two old ladies chatting over the garden fence. One says 'my Bert died last Sunday. He picked a cabbage and had a heart attack'. The other old lady says 'I bet you were in a right state, what did you do?' First old lady sighs and shrugs and says 'I opened a tin of peas instead'.
 - What do you call two rows of cabbages? A dual cabbage way!
- Think that's enough for now folks!

We do have a number of vacant plots. Plots vary in size and you do not need a degree in horticulture to be successful.

If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Fran at: Francesca.museaus@hotmail.com

Our fees are listed below.

This amount is for the whole year and is inclusive of rent, water and insurance and is paid annually. Plot holders over 65 years will pay a reduced amount:

Resident

5 pole - £18
10 pole - £36

Non Resident

5 pole - £23
10 pole - £46
(The term 'pole' is an old fashioned measurement of the size of allotments. A 5 pole is 125 square meters.)



LETTER FROM THE HEADTEACHER

I wonder what you think about when asked about being British? My answer is usually tea (but I am from Yorkshire!) I wonder what traditions you mark and celebrate? I love anniversaries and celebrations and will generally find any excuse to put up balloons or bunting.

In May we marked the 80th anniversary of VE Day. This major historical milestone provided a valuable opportunity to engage pupils in learning about World War II, remembrance, and British history. We had whole school worship, made a human 80 on the field followed by a range of VE Day classroom activities designed to spark curiosity, build knowledge, and bring history to life – helping our children understand the past in meaningful, age-appropriate ways. We ended with a tea party and sing song. It has also been a chance to come together as a school community to celebrate the peace and freedom that we enjoy today.

In November 2014 the Government created an expectation on all schools to promote the fundamental British Values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

Democracy is fully integrated within Aston Rowant Primary School. Both pupil and parent/carer voice play a central part in developing school improvement priorities. We actively encourage children to have a voice and share their views and opinions regularly. School leaders talk regularly to children to establish their views as a way of ensuring that school self-evaluation is robust and accurate, and therefore help our school to be the very best it can be.

The Rule of Law – Children are taught to understand the value and need for laws; that they are there for individual protection, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. Children are taught that the freedom to hold other faiths and beliefs is protected in law. Collective Worship is for children of all faiths and none and discussions in class focus on recognising right from wrong. Children have to abide by school rules on a daily basis which they know, understand and adhere to.

Individual Liberty is shown within school, as the children are actively encouraged to make choices and decisions, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. Children are taught to understand their personal freedoms and how to use these rights to best effect to ensure they make choices in a safe manner. Through challenges in the classroom and participation in extra-curricular activities pupils are given the freedom to make choices and follow these through.

Mutual Respect – Children learn that their behaviours have an effect on their own rights and those of others. All members of the school community are expected to treat each other with respect and kindness. This is reflected in our core values of Growth, Resilience, Outreach, Wonder, Trust and Harmony.

Tolerance of Those of Different Faiths and Beliefs – Despite our setting we are a diverse school and actively promote it through our celebrations of different faiths and cultures. RE, PSHE lessons and collective worship reinforce messages of tolerance

and respect for others. Children learn about the beliefs and practices of people of the following world faiths; Christianity, Judaism, Sikhism, Hinduism, Buddhism and Islam as well as different world views.

British Values are important because they form a shared framework for behaviour and interactions in the UK, fostering a society that values democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect. These values promote national identity, social cohesion, and fairness for all, ensuring a more inclusive and harmonious society for this generation and for generations to come.

I wonder how you would define what it is to be British and what special traditions and customs you embrace and enjoy?

Helen France

Headteacher

office@aston-rowant.oxon.sch.uk

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Alexandra Cawte-McDermid

(PA to Dr Lesley Parkinson)

Telephone enquiries: 07958 198214

or pa.brainhealthclinic@outlook.com

ROWACHELLA 2025

Saturday 14th June | 4:00 PM – 1:30 AM | Aston Rowant Cricket Club

Rowachella returns for its fourth and most exciting edition yet on Saturday 14th June, set once again against the scenic backdrop of Aston Rowant Cricket Club. This year, we're turning up the volume with a headline performance from world-renowned dance producer and DJ Goddard., whose unmistakable sound has electrified festival crowds across the globe. Supporting him on the main stage is none other than Charlie Hedges, the high-energy Radio 1 DJ known for her crowd-commanding sets and infectious dancefloor anthems.

Beyond the headline acts, Rowachella 2025 promises an immersive day and night of music across two stages, featuring a blend of live local talent and cutting-edge DJs. Whether you're after the pulse of the dance tent or the festival buzz of the main stage, our carefully curated line-up will deliver rhythm, energy and unforgettable moments from start to finish. Gates open at 4 PM and the music keeps playing until 1:00 AM, so come and enjoy the sunshine with us!

Festival-goers will be spoilt for choice when it comes to food and drink. A diverse selection of vendors will be on site to keep you fueled, including Squires of Benson, Vegan Indian, PizzaPlease and Burgervore, as well as Astore and Sons, dishing out traditional Italian ice cream. To keep thirst at bay, the Renegade Brewery bar will be pouring local beers and ciders, while The Rum Shack will be serving up rum-based cocktails. A full range of soft drinks and alcohol-free options will be available all night, so there's something for everyone.



Tickets are available now at rowachella.co.uk/tickets, and residents of the parish can enjoy an exclusive discount using the code `kbarchella25`. There is also the opportunity to volunteer before, during or after the festival - anyone interested in helping at this year's event please dm us on social media or email tom@rowachella.co.uk.

Whether you're a returning regular or joining us for the first time, we can't wait to welcome you to another unforgettable summer celebration. For updates, line-up reveals and behind-the-scenes sneak peeks, check out our website or follow Rowachella on Facebook and Instagram.



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SYDENHAM FAYRE 2025

Sydenham village in South Oxfordshire will once again be welcoming visitors to its much-anticipated Sydenham Fayre. The Fayre will take place on Saturday 7th June between 12.30 and 4pm.

The long-established event, co-ordinated and run entirely by villagers, raises funds for local groups and causes, supporting schools, community organisations and facilities in the surrounding area.

This year's programme is packed with exciting shows and activities including...

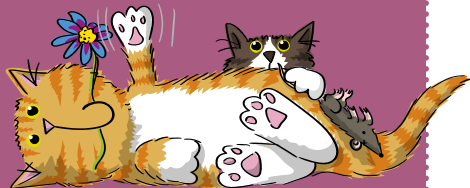
- Live music and performances
- Kids activities in 'Kids Corner' with shows from the magical Mr Marvel and various games for all ages. Plus face painting and the giant inflatable assault course.
- Sydenham Fayre Car and Motorbike Show with new gems to its collection of vintage and envy-inducing automobiles.
- The much much-anticipated Sydenham Dog Show with a variety of classes to suit most canine competitors. Be sure to bring along your pampered pooches to compete for the coveted title 'Sydenham Supreme'.
- Plenty of food and drink with our superb BBQ, Gin & Pimms Palace, ice creams plus our tea room that will be selling delicious cakes!
- Lots of stalls selling quality gifts and goodies from local producers, plus the ever-popular Bottle Tombola, Plate Smash, Plant Sale, Bric-A-Brac, Jewellery and Vintage Clothing and Tarot reader.

PARISH NOTES

Please get in touch if you have anything you think might be of interest for future issues of the Parish Notes. Plus I'm always looking for photos to add to the pages! All ideas welcome.

Email: sallyparishnotes@gmail.com

Copy deadline for the Aug/Sept issue is 20th July 2025



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