

ASTON ROWANT, KINGSTON BLOUNT & CROWELL

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 June/July issue is 20th May 2026

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.

Editor

Sally Brodermann
07841 838780
sallyparishnotes@gmail.com

Advertising

Rachel Lockwood
rachel.parishnotes@gmail.com

Treasurer & Distribution

Peter Lambert
07866 265978
peter.lambert123@btinternet.com

Proofreading

Edward Meade-King

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
Whole Day Hire (8am–11pm)	£210.00

For Non-Residents of the Parish of Aston Rowant

Monday–Sunday & Bank Holidays

Main Hall (8am–midnight)	£16.00 per hour
Committee Room only	£9.50 per hour
Whole Day Hire (8am–11pm)	£225.00

Bar Licence (if required) will incur an additional charge of £20

To make a booking, email bookings@kbvh.org,
phone **07470 441857** or visit our website www.kbvh.org
where you will also find a full description of the facilities we can
offer plus details of activities currently taking place in the hall.



KINGSTON BLOUNT VILLAGE HALL DIARY

Harmony Pilates

Tuesdays: 9am-10am
saracroker@hotmail.com

Pilates for Beginners

Wednesdays: 10am-11am
shine-holly@hotmail.com 07834 994699

Friday Coffee Mornings

10 & 24 April
8 & 22 May
10.15am-12pm

www.kbvh.org

USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

CAB Local office www.adviceguide.org.uk	01844 214827
Chinnor Village Centre	01844 353733
Church Tower, Aston Rowant: R Newton	01844 352926
Dial-a-ride (for people with mobility problems)	01869 327048
Highways Pothole Hotline	0845 3101111
Highways Street Light Hotline	0800 317802
Library-Chinnor	01844 351721
Oil Syndicate adam.bernstein@mac.com	01844 350440
Oxon County Council www.oxfordshire.gov.uk	01865 792422
Police-Thame (Thames Valley)	101 or 999
Poor's Hillock Allotments: Francesca Musaeus francesca.musaeus@hotmail.com	
Porch: S Thompson	01844 351334
Porch: J Rooksby	01844 352320
Post office-Chinnor	01844 351214
Schools:	
Aston Rowant C of E School	01844 351671
Icknield Community College Watlington	01491 612691
Lord Williams School Thame	01844 210510
Mill Lane School Chinnor	01844 352106
St Andrew's C of E, Chinnor	01844 351353
SODC Main Customer Services	01235 422422
SODC Refuse/Recycling	03000 610610
SODC Planning	01235 422600
Reporting Fly-tipping	03000 610610
SODC Environmental Department	01235 422403
Chinnor u3a [Chair]	07711 337243
Village Hall Hire/Bookings: Hayley Hopwood	07470 441857

CHAIRMAN'S NOTE

Floods and riparian obligations

The first couple of months of 2026 really were unpleasant. Cold, dark and very wet. It's no surprise, then, that the council received comments from residents about flooding. Some of it was a function of the sheer volume of rainfall we had. However, it didn't help that a number of ditches hadn't been kept clear.

OCC, when pressed, prioritises those in greatest need. Even though a highways officer came out, there was, in this instance, little he could do in the short term.

That leaves us collectively doing what we can. It's important to note that residents have what is known as riparian obligations to keep ditches adjacent to their properties clear and free flowing – even if the ditch is not on their land.

OCC has a helpful guide on the subject - <https://tinyurl.com/5n73wj3x>.

As the guide states: "A 'riparian owner' is someone who has a watercourse within or adjacent to any boundary of their land. It is presumed that they own the land up to the centre of the watercourse – unless it is known to be owned by someone else."

It adds that riparian owners have responsibilities and must "maintain the bed and banks of the watercourse, and also the trees and shrubs growing on the banks; clear away any natural or man-made debris, even if it did not originate from the owner's land; keep any structures they own (such as culverts, trash screens, weirs or mill gates) clear of debris; let water flow through their land without any obstruction, pollution or diversion which affects the rights of others; and accept flood waters through their land."

It's a long list of obligations but the guide says, in block caps, that "IF AN OWNER FAILS TO DO THESE THINGS THEY MAY FACE LEGAL ACTION."

Please help the parish keep flooding at bay by ensuring ditches adjacent to where you live are clear. It would be awkward if SODC or OCC were put in a position where they had to threaten legal action.

Dogs

The council from time to time receives complaints about dog excrement – whether it's from a dog that's relieved themselves while on the loose, or an owner that's bagged up what their dog has deposited but left the bag – hanging on a tree branch or similar – for later collection.

Not everyone appreciates this.

Please take the bag and put it in one of the bins that the parish council spends nearly £1000 a year – close on one thirtieth of the annual precept – having emptied.

Speeding

It's an old bone, but the council receives comments about speeding – not necessarily from residents, but rather, those passing through the parish.

The chicanes have helped somewhat, although there are some who will always try and run them as fast as possible. The Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) have also played a role in reducing speed. Notably, while not everyone passes them at green, those that speed and turn the sign red tend to do so near the speed limit than well in excess.

Another option is for the parish to set up a Thames Valley Police approved

Community Speedwatch. Under this, residents are trained in how to use a speed gun and report offenders to the police.

The problem is that this requires a good number of residents who work together in groups of at least four for technical and safety reasons. There is detail on how this works at <https://tinyurl.com/wfcxts4v>.

A few years ago, the parish tried to get this off the ground but only received interest from one resident. Is there any more appetite for this? If so, please email the clerk - clerk@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk.

Council Tax bill

Lastly, you'll have all received your 2026-7 Council Tax bill by the time that the Parish Notes have been published and delivered. While the OCC, SODC and police elements of the bill have all risen by as much as 5.3%, I am pleased to report that your parish council precept has dropped by 1.1% through a combination of careful budgeting, using up 'excess' funds that have been built up over a number of years, and more homes in the parish.

While the council levies what is essentially a tax to fund what it does and to maintain basic reserves, it shouldn't have so much put aside that it operates a savings account at the expense of residents.

Adam Bernstein

Chairman, Aston Rowant Parish Council

adam.bernstein@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk

YOUR VILLAGE HALL NEEDS YOU!

The Village Hall committee are looking for a new Chair to help run the Hall and lead the meetings. If you are interested and want to know what is involved please contact Andrea Tinson on kbvhall@gmail.com

We are a friendly group of people who volunteer to help run the Village Hall. We meet formally four times a year and use email to contact each other outside of those times. One perk of the role is that you have two free hirings a year.

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 Steve Bain
steve.bain@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk 07578 142342
Councillor Deborah Chaplin
deborah.chaplin@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk 01844 354648
Councillor Matthew Day
matthew.day@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk 01844 351300
Councillor Hayley Hopwood
hayley.hopwood@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk 07515 774871
Councillor Trelawney Hill
trelawney.hill@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk 01844 353051
Councillor Richard Payling
richard.payling@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk 07801 764019

District Councillors:

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

County Councillor

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

James Robinson
chairman@astonrowantcricket.co.uk 07786 393954

ASTON ROWANT PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

Parish Council meetings were held on Wednesday 11th February 2026 and Wednesday 11th March 2026 where the planning applications detailed below were discussed. The next meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday 8th April.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

P26/S0103/NM Non-material amendment to application ref P21/S1458/FUL (Demolition of existing three bedroom detached dwelling house and outbuildings; Construction of new private self-contained seven-bedroom dwelling house with landscaping) – to change the wall facing materials (specifically the bricks and render types) as set out in the information supplied to discharge Condition 3.

At: Wayside, Kingston Stert. Noted, for information only.

P25/S1671/O Amendments 3,4 & 5 Per: Drainage & Ecology Information received 4 Feb 2026, and other points detailed via Planning Portal link. Noted, for information only.

P25/S2653/FUL Amendment (no. 1) for proposed erection of single-story building at: Aston Rowant CofE Primary School further to information received 04 February 2026 (Arboricultural Impact Assessment). Noted, for information only.

P26/S0322/AG Upgrade existing shed to grain store at Hill Farm near Aston Rowant, HP14 3YJ (top of Aston Hill and first right on Christmas Common Road). NO OBJECTION.

P26/S0219/HH To convert a conservatory to a garden store at The Old Vicarage, AR. NO OBJECTION.

WITHDRAWN APPLICATIONS: None.

PLANNING DECISIONS OF SODC:

P25/S3778/HH Demolish existing prefabricated detached garage and side projection to main house. Construct single story rear/side extension, front porch and detached garage at 13 Icknield Close, Kingston Blount, OX39 4RS. GRANTED.

P25/S4094/AG General purpose agricultural storage building at Town Farm Cottage, Stert Road, Kingston Blount, OX39 4SA. NO OBJECTION.

P26/S0322/AG Upgrade existing shed to grain store at Hill Farm near Aston Rowant HP14 3YJ. A FORMAL APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION IS NOT REQUIRED.

PLANNING DECISIONS MADE SINCE THE LAST MEETING:

None.

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

THE UNITED PARISH TEAM

Rector to the United Parish

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

Our other ministers

Margaret Poole (LLM) 01844 281042
 The Rev'd Tony Whitaker 01844 761267

Parish Administrator

Mrs Tricia Prescott phone 01844 352472
 or office@unitedparish.church
 The Parish Office is at St Andrew's church in Chinnor and is usually open for in-person enquiries Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 13:30-15:30

Churchwardens

Aston Rowant

Richard Boarder 07795 681263

Crowell

Andy and Maggie Warman
 01844 351909

Sydenham

Roy Harrison 01844 353887

St Andrew's, Chinnor

Lauretta Milligan 01844 355290
 and Robert Pegg 01844 698109

OUR USUAL SERVICE PATTERN

ASTON ROWANT	ST ANDREW'S CHINNOR	CROWELL	SYDENHAM
Every Sunday 09:00	Every Sunday 10:30	2nd and 4th Sundays 16:00 GMT 18:00 BST	2nd Sun 10:30 3rd Sun 18:00
2nd and 4th Sundays are Holy Communion	Holy Communion except 2nd Sunday is All Age Worship First Sunday: 08:00 H.C 18:00 Taize	2nd Sunday Holy Communion 4th Sunday Evening Prayer	2nd Sunday BCP Holy Communion 3rd Sunday BCP Evensong
5th Sunday one United Parish service held, 10:30. Church tbc.			

LITTER PICKER VACANCY



Are you keen to keep our community looking its best?

Aston Rowant Parish Council are once again seeking a litter picker to help keep our parish clean and tidy between official visits by SODC. This would be

for a maximum of 4 hours per month in and around the parish, including the KB Play Area but excluding the B4009, Kingston Stert Road and Kingston Hill.

Rate of pay £15.00 per hour

(National minimum wage for under 17's WEF: 1 April 2026 is £8/h)

All equipment will be provided, and the role is ideally suited for:

- A Young Adult wishing to earn a bit of “pocket money” – minimum age 13, and a work permit will be required if still at school (we will arrange).
- Any young person in the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme undertaking volunteer work.
- University students during their holidays, or who are still living at home while studying.
- Retirees or anyone with a bit of time on their hands who wishes to give something back to their community.

Please send a letter of application to:

Tracy Lambourne, Clerk to the Council, The Cottage, High Street, Kingston Blount, Oxon, OX39 4SJ.

Or by email: clerk@astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk

PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE



The Aston Rowant Parish Council website is the place to find out what's going on at the Parish Council for Aston Rowant, Kingston Blount, Kingston Stert and Chalford. It gives easy access to the dates of council meetings, minutes, agendas, planning applications, etc. There are links to the District and County Council websites for access to the wealth of information that these provide. There's also a weekly newsletter with links on recent developments in the parish.

www.astonrowantparishcouncil.gov.uk



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Traditional family run butchers

20 Church Road, Chinnor, Oxon. OX39 4PG
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We look forward to seeing you

Opening Hours

Monday - 8am till 1pm

Tuesday to Friday - 8am till 5pm

Saturday - 8am till 2pm

Sunday - Closed

ARPC FOOTPATH AND AMENITIES GROUP

Firstly, my apologies for the decision to cancel the Duck Race at relatively short notice – it was not done easily, but Church Lane was in a dreadful state and it would have been unsafe to walk down. Also, the stream was the highest and fastest I've ever seen it and the children would not have been able to walk down the stream as usual. It was a pity as snowdrops were better than ever. But there is always next year.

My thanks to the volunteers who turned out for the Spring Litter Pick over the weekend of the 7th and 8th of March, the amount of litter appears to be getting worse, over 30 bags of rubbish were picked up.

Two pieces of news from the County Council, they have agreed in principle to re-route the footpath through the KB playing field from the back of the play ground to the other side of the playing field. Also, they have, finally, looked at the state of Church Lane in AR and agreed to help clear the ditches, but have given no date for this work.

The daffodils at Fiveways are looking great – as Mike has put in the Fiveways notes, we have ordered 200 more to plant to increase the show in spring.

Please see Peter Hetherington's notes on the Parish Walk (p20) – I can only reinforce Peter's comments – it is a good way to meet people in the parish.

The Parish Council completed the annual review of the Parish Maintenance tasks, which are available on the Parish Website under the heading Policies and Publications.

Finally, can I remind everyone that our next meeting is on May 19th at 7.30pm in Kingston Blount Village Hall, everyone is welcome.

Steven Sowerby

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

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- * Skin Resurfacing
- * Laser Tattoo Removal



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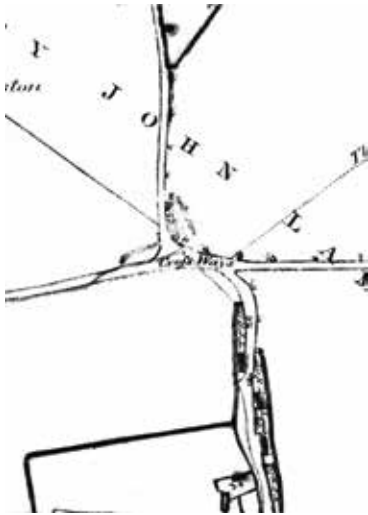
info@meadowviewaesthetics.co.uk

07979 652460

meadowviewaesthetics.co.uk

MeadowView Aesthetics
High Street
Kingston Blount
OX39 4SJ

The signage at Fiveways, marked as Crofsways on the 1835 map, shows that there was once a cottage at the top end of the Holbrook. The map marks its location, behind the sign, with a black rectangle. The area is now overgrown, but there are still hints of foundations near the stream. Two further cottages once stood upstream on the opposite side of Church Lane. The snowdrops and lilac now growing on the site are almost certainly remnants of the old cottage garden.



At the very top of the old map is another black square, marking one of the cottages belonging to the long lost hamlet of Penn. I know some of you will look out for it!

The daffodils have been superb this year. They were planted in autumn 2016 and after ten years they are now self-seeding and spreading well in several areas. The plan is to add more bulbs to create a fuller display across the whole site. The wild garlic is already increasing and will be in flower very soon. Look out for the Fritillaries which are just coming into flower as well. The flower is very impressive and we should perhaps plant more. The wood anemones are just appearing and in flower by the entrance – they were planted in memory of my Mother-in-Law ten years ago. Again it takes 50 years to get a good patch. Wild flowers take decades.

The bluebells will follow on in April but they would benefit from more light. I hope we can remove a few of the older, declining trees on the south side of the stream to allow more light to reach the ground flora. This was recommended by the Environment Agency when we first began work on the site, but we have not kept up with it in recent years.

The dog pool has benefited from the addition of stones, which have increased its depth, without creating any barrier to fish movement or flow. Over time this should improve habitat quality for fish. If anyone has a few large natural stones



(around 18 inches) that could be used for further habitat enhancements, please let me know.

No fish have been seen since the floods but at the time of writing the white egret has again been seen fishing.

Rabbits are living in the burrows near the lower bridge. Stoats can be seen from time to time.

I am very grateful to Calum for his DoE contributions to Fiveways. I hope to carry out a deep clean this year and we need more helpers to do it. I think with enough “younger” manpower we can complete it in 2-3 sessions. There is a lot of pruning, tree removal and chipping to be done on site. Please get in touch if you can help.

Mike Eaton

mike.eaton@btopenworld.com

What's On this April/May  **Waterperry Gardens**

RETREAT: 3rd - 6th April - 4-DAY SPRING CLEANSE RETREAT – IN THE MAIN HOUSE*

TRAIL: until 19th April - BIG EASTER BUNNY HUNT – IN THE GARDENS

FREE EVENT: until 26th April - GREEN WORKS, SPRING EXHIBITION, IN THE GALLERY

WORKSHOP: 16th May - WILLOW GARDEN STRUCTURES*

EXHIBITION: 1st-10th May - OXFORDSHIRE ART WEEKS

EVENT: 23rd May - SAXIFRAGA DAY

HALF-TERM TRAIL: until 31st May - GNOMETASTIC

FREE EVENT: until 28th June - MODERN MAKERS COLLECTIVE SHOWCASE, IN THE GALLERY

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  

NEWS FROM ARCC

After the long wet miserable winter, it is now only a matter of weeks before the cricket season starts and we can look forward to some sunny days watching good games.

Whilst you may see people in the nets, working on the ground and preparing the pitches, the season will really start with the first junior training night on Friday 17th April which will also see the bar reopening.

This will be followed by the first home friendly game on Saturday 18th against an Oxford Downs XI and on Sunday by the first round of the Village Knockout when we make the short journey to Tiddington. There will then be friendlies at home every weekend up to the start of the League season on the 9th May. Details of all the games including the junior matches, of which there are many, are on the club website astonrowantcricket.co.uk.

Also on the website are the membership details including the 1881 club which entitles the member to 20% discount at the bar. All memberships are due for renewal on the 1st April.

Before all of this Wes Merrick is running a Cricket Camp over Easter and then the school half terms, the details are also on the website or you can contact Wes directly on 07984 343743.

As usual at the start of the season we are looking for new players, not only for the first team. If you want to restart playing cricket we have opportunities for players of all abilities. We are also always looking for umpires and scorers both of which are paid positions and training will be given to both roles.

We must congratulate James Coles, Linsey Smith and Mia Boucher for being successful in the Cricket Hundred Auctions – we can look forward to see all three on TV later this summer. Their success is testament to the coaching and junior pathways at the club.

Finally – dates for your diary:

All Stars starts 5th June.

Electric Hills 20th June, tickets on sale via web site.

MCC XI playing an Aston Rowant XI on 19th July.

As ever you can keep up with all that's happening at the club on our website and we will update the weekend fixtures on the weekly parish council website.

See you soon at the club

Steven Sowerby

www.astonrowantcc.com

07802 814625

NOTICEBOARD

WHAT'S GOING ON IN KINGSTON BLOUNT, ASTON ROWANT & NEARBY

FRIDAY COFFEE MORNINGS

Kingston Blount Village Hall.

All welcome!

We will be open for business
from 10.15am – 12pm on:

May 8th and 22nd.

Come and enjoy a hot drink and a cake
or snack.

Browse the bookshelf, feel free to select as
many as you like.

Bring some new ones along to add to the collection.



PARISH WALK

Sunday 19th April 10.00

Please meet in the car park in Stokenchurch by the fire damaged Kings Hotel in the centre of the village. The walk is 4.5m and is very varied, passing through Beech Woods and along ancient pathways,

It was selected as a route which is recommended at this time of year as it is dry when other ways can be very wet and muddy. There are a few inclines but no stiles.

We will make a brief stop halfway round, so please bring water and a light snack. Wear walking boots or walking shoes.

Please meet at 9.50 for a 10.00 start and expect to be back by 12.15. Unfortunately, the café in Stokenchurch is closed but the Cherry Tree in Kingston Blount will be open after the walk.

Organised by the Aston Rowant Footpath and Amenities Group and Thame and Wheatley Ramblers but open to allcomers.

Peter Hetherington

07767 647714

Accredited Ramblers Walk Leader.

HUNGER LUNCH

A hunger lunch was held in Aston Rowant church on 2nd March and I'm pleased to say that we raised £335.00, as well as a good quantity of dried and tinned foodstuffs. This has all gone to The Porch – a charity in Oxford that supports the homeless and which we have supported for very many years.

We never know how many people are going to turn up for a bowl of soup, but it was very well supported - thank you. And a big thank you to the soup makers and washer-uppers!

Rona Knight



GOOD FRIDAY 3RD APRIL 2026

CHINNOR CROSS WALK – STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The annual event of Chinnor Cross Walk will take place as normal on Good Friday 3rd April. The initial starting point is the Village Centre, setting off at 10.00 am.

2026 sees a different kind of Cross Walk. It will be visiting 11 Stations of the Cross. Paintings done by local artists and children of the village, will be on display around the village and will be the stopping points for the cross walk this year. The 'Stations' depict the journey taken by Jesus from his arrest, through Jerusalem to the cross. The paintings will be in the village from Wednesday 1st April to Wednesday 8th April so if you are unable to join the Cross Walk you still will be able to see the paintings. A local map is available showing where the paintings have been erected in the village.

If you have never been on the Cross Walk, come and enjoy it, the company, the paintings and refreshments at the end in Chinnor Community Church.

Organised by St Andrew's Church, Chinnor Community Church and the Methodist Church.

Thanks to all artists and those taking part.

PARISH NOTES

PLEASE do get in touch if you have anything you think might be of interest for future issues of the Parish Notes. Email: sallyparishnotes@gmail.com

Copy deadline for the June/July issue is 20th May 2026



ROWLANDSCAPES

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Email: rowlandscapes@googlemail.com **Website:** www.rowlandscapes.com

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LETTER FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Belonging, Inclusion and Community: What Makes Our School Strong

One of the things that makes our school such a special place is the genuine sense of belonging that threads through daily life here. As a small, nurturing community, we know our children as individuals - their strengths, their quirks, their challenges and, most importantly, their unique potential. Inclusion is not a separate initiative for us; it is simply the way we work. Every child matters, every family is valued, and every member of our staff team is committed to removing barriers so our pupils can thrive.

Inclusion at our school is built on the belief that every child has something important to contribute. This means ensuring that pupils feel welcomed, respected and understood, but also that they can take an active and confident role in school life. From personalised support in the classroom, to purposeful pastoral care, to the everyday choices we make about curriculum and environment, we are always working to ensure that all children - whatever their needs, backgrounds or starting points - experience success, joy and a real sense of belonging.

But inclusion extends far beyond what happens within the school walls. We believe strongly that schools thrive when they work in partnership with their local community, and we are grateful to be part of one that supports us so wholeheartedly. Whether it is parents sharing their expertise, local groups offering opportunities, or our neighbours cheering our children on at events, these connections make our school a richer, kinder and more outward looking place. They also ensure that the values we teach - compassion, respect, resilience and responsibility - are modelled and reinforced in the wider community.

A key priority for us this year is strengthening communication and collaboration with families and community partners so that everyone understands not only what our priorities are, but why they matter for our children. We want families to feel confident about how we support pupils with additional needs, how we ensure equality of opportunity, and how our inclusive ethos underpins both our curriculum and our pastoral work.

We are also working closely with local services, health professionals, and other schools to ensure the children in our care benefit from the collective expertise of the community around them. By sharing information responsibly, planning together and seeking external guidance where needed, we aim to give every child the best possible chance to flourish - academically, socially and emotionally.

Inclusion is not a destination; it is an ongoing commitment. It requires listening, reflection, training, creativity and, above all, genuine care. We are proud of the progress we continue to make, proud of the warm and welcoming community we serve, and proud of the children whose kindness and courage remind us daily why inclusion matters so deeply.

As ever, thank you for your continued support. We look forward to strengthening these partnerships even further as we work together to ensure that every child in our school feels seen, heard, supported and able to shine.

Helen France

Headteacher office@aston-rowant.oxon.sch.uk

ASTON ROWANT SCHOOL HOUSE EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Thank you and farewell to Peter Lambert



The trust was set up after the sale of the school house, adjoined to the school.

The proceeds of the sale were invested and the trust is responsible for distributing grants for the purposes of educational development to young people under the age of 25 who live in the parish or attended Aston Rowant primary school.

After nearly 20 years Peter has said goodbye to being the administrator for the Aston Rowant School House Educational Trust. Peter oversaw the distribution of over £55,000 of grants. He is most proud of the significant donation that was made to the school toward the building of their early years classroom. He also remembers visiting the school to view the interactive white boards that the trust contributed a grant towards.

As well as grants to the school Peter has administered countless grants to young people from contributions to World challenge and Duke of Edinburgh kit to rugby, cricket, gymnastics and tennis coaching.

Our huge thanks go to Peter for all he has done for the trust and the young people of the Parish. We held a little tea party to thank him in February and I am sure all those who have benefited would agree he has been amazing – thank you Peter.

.....

Are you under the age of 25? Do you live in the Parish of Aston Rowant and Kingston Blount or attended Aston Rowant Primary school? If you are looking for financial support in any activity that has an educational benefit, then the Aston Rowant School House Trust may be able to help you with a grant. Examples include music, sport, Duke of Edinburgh & university books.

We meet twice a year in May and November to discuss grant applications and award grants. If you think you might qualify, we would love to hear from you. Send us an email with details of the activity you are undertaking and the cost.

[c/o rachel.p parishnotes@gmail.com](mailto:c/o.rachel.p parishnotes@gmail.com)

POOR'S HILLOCK GARDEN ALLOTMENT

Spring has arrived at Poor's Hillock Garden Allotments, bringing with it fresh optimism, longer days, and, inevitably, slightly damp socks. This is the time of year when plot holders reappear with renewed determination, confidently announcing, "This is the year I'll stay on top of everything," while surveying a patch of earth that looks more like an archaeological dig than a vegetable plot.

Sheds are opened for the first time since autumn, releasing the familiar scent of soil and forgotten projects. Inside, gardeners rediscover long misplaced tools, mysterious seed packets, and at least one trowel that no one can remember buying.

As always, the great spring debate begins:

Is it warm enough to plant?

Will there be another frost?

Should we wait just one more week?

For every cautious gardener, there's always one who plants boldly "to see what happens," and that's part of the charm of spring on the allotments. Despite the weeds, already suspiciously enthusiastic, there's a shared sense of awakening as people lean on spades, chat about potatoes, and quietly accept that, by summer, there will almost certainly be too many courgettes again.

If you've ever considered joining our allotment community, now is the perfect time. We welcome new members and can provide information on available plots.

Francesca.musaeus@hotmail.com



Illustration by Christopher Stockley



Don't throw it away!



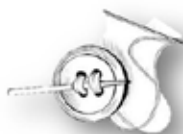
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St Andrew's Church
Church Rd, Chinnor OX39 4PQ

May 16th

July 11th

September 12th

10:00am - 1:00pm

Last item accepted at 12:30 pm

Repairs are free but please give a cash donation to cover costs.

Any extra will go towards the care and maintenance of St Andrew's Church. We can only accept cash.

For more information email: greeningchinnor@gmail.com or call 07973 78839

CROWELL CHURCH

Evening services are now on Summer time at 18:00 on 2nd and 4th Sunday each month. Please see notice boards for any changes

Soul Space is now three times per year. The next is on 19th July.

The Rector's Ramble is scheduled for 4th July. A walk to all churches in the Parish starting at Chinnor, then Crowell, then Aston Rowant for lunch, then on to Sydenham and back to Chinnor. Sponsorship would be gratefully accepted – to raise funds.

St Andrew's Flower Festival is planned for 6th and 7th June.

The Annual Parochial Council Meeting (APCM) is scheduled after the 10:30 service on Sunday 3rd May. Wardens, PCC members and other officials will be voted in. Full details will be posted on the church door when available.

The carpark drive out view is ok at present – it will be monitored as the hedge foliage grows.

The churchyard will be mown now that Spring is here. Hopefully our volunteers will support that task again. Wardens will be working around the churchyard and to tidy the carpark garden. We are planning to get many of the outstanding jobs done over the next few months.

Outstanding jobs for which help or sponsorship/donations would be gratefully accepted.

1. Fit a protective screen to the East stained glass window. (Quote being obtained)
2. 2 x churchyard walls rebuilt and or removed. (Progressing to DAC for faculties)
3. Bell Cote and Bell restored. (Some sponsorship already received, progressing to DAC for a Faculty).
4. South West Buttress wall base rebuilt. (Tendering in progress, progressing to DAC for Faculty).
5. Clear out gutters repair any damaged downpipes.
6. Replace Altar furniture and linen. (Some sponsorship already received)
7. Remove dead trees on B4009 bank and replant with native species.
8. Remove weeds and nettles from B4009 bank and plant with bulbs and flowers
9. Add gravel to the carpark entrance to smooth surface. (Rain stopped progress).
10. Replace the electric cable to the flood light and install new solar lights to replace the vandalised ones.

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

Andy & Maggs Warman

(Church Wardens) 01844 351909 themwarmans@btinternet.com

PLECK WOOD 2026 UPDATE

I am pleased to report that much of the work in Pleck Wood outlined in the December/January edition of the Parish Notes has been carried out. The primary focus of our efforts was to remove many of the branches of the hazel trees on the south side of the wood to encourage those trees to grow more upright in order to provide better staves for hedging and plant support for members of the parish. As I mentioned in my earlier piece, hazel has long been grown to provide stakes and shoots for wattle fencing. A good quantity of stakes and staves have been cut and are (at the time of writing!) available on the right hand side of the central entrance to the wood.

In addition to cutting back the hazel trees, a significant amount of bramble has been removed from the north side of the park on the edge of the wood. Bramble is a strong growing plant which, if left unchecked, will choke other plants. This has particularly been the case on the western side of the wood where brambles had blocked the path through the wood and had smothered the hawthorn trees growing there. The path has now been cleared although given the volume of bramble that needed to be cut, it is not recommended for dog walkers as some thorns from the bramble branches may remain on the path.

The cut bramble and the cuttings from the hazel trees have been used to create four dead hedges in the wood. A dead hedge is an area where woody cuttings are woven between stakes to form a tangle of cuttings to provide an environment for birds, insects and small mammals to shelter. Typically dunnocks, wrens and robins will make use of a dead hedge to nest and forage – already both robins and wrens have been spotted flying into one of the dead hedges.



The work carried out has resulted in the wood being brighter. As a result, it is more likely that flowering plants will prosper. I hope that we can secure funding to purchase bulbs to add to the daffodils that were planted a few years ago and which continue to brighten the woods.

Finally, this was very much a team effort. I should like to thank Steve Bain, Dave Lester and Rick Scott for their contributions – having a team carrying out this work meant that what was an ambitious programme of work was completed. With many birds now preparing to nest work will now cease for summer. Once we get to autumn, we will look at what work is required and plan our work for next winter.

Peter Tinson

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CANTILENA WINDS CONCERT BAND

Friday 17 April: 11:00am-12:00 noon

St Andrew's Church, Chinnor

Followed by refreshments

Cantilena Winds Concert Band, Director of Music, Michael Pegram, was formed in February 2015 to provide extra music making for local musicians. The band rehearses fortnightly on Friday mornings throughout the year and enjoys playing Friday morning concerts for local communities.

Repertoire includes: marches, light classical pieces, film and TV themes, as well as pieces from 1940's swing to more modern popular music. The band offers its services free of charge and has played in such venues as local churches, care homes and bandstands, including Windsor and Henley on Thames.

A big thank you to the Cantilena Winds Concert Band for offering to host a free concert for the Friends of St Andrew's Church. Donations towards the care and maintenance of St Andrew's Church.



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- **St Andrew's Church Flower Guild Easter Displays**
- **Easter Trail for children (All children must be accompanied by Adults)**

Fundraising towards the ongoing care and
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