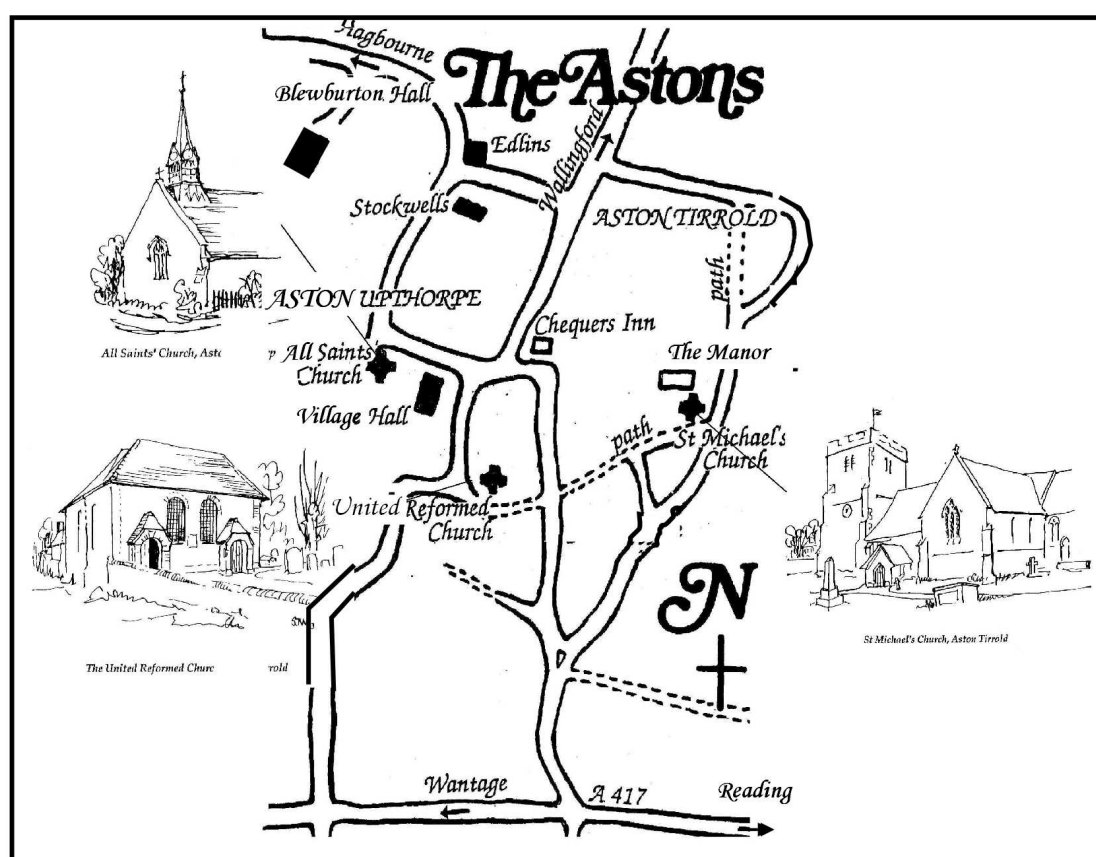


Information Pack for new Arrivals to the Astons, December 2010:

This Information Pack is sponsored by the Astons Parochial Church Council. You are most welcome in our historic Churches to look around for a quiet moment or to join our weekly service in St Michaels, Aston Tirrold at 9am every Sunday and in All Saints Aston Upthorpe at 6pm on the last Sunday in the Month. The weekday service is 8.30 Morning Prayer and 9.00 Holy Eucharist at All Saints, Aston Upthorpe on Fridays.



Welcome to the Astons!

The Astons News

The Village News is delivered free every month. The editor is Jeremy Imbush editor@theastons.net and fax 01235 851053 who takes articles and advertisements by the 17th of the previous month for each month's issue. This sometimes 28 page publication contains information on whatever is going on and many advertisements for local businesses and services.

The Astons Web Site

Much of the following information is extracted from the Village website www.theastons.net. Many of the organisations listed below have further information on their own web sites which are linked to the Village website. The website also gives details of village events each month and the dates of grey, green and brown refuse bin collection. Please email any enquiries about The Astons.net to: webmaster@theastons.net.

Regular Weekly Events

Astons Cafe - Every Tuesday from 10.00 to 12.00 - Village Hall.

Post Office - Every Tuesday from 9.30 to 12.30 - Village Hall.

Football - Wednesday 6pm until dark - Recreation Ground.

Cricket - Sundays depends on time of year - Recreation Ground

Pubs

Situated in the heart of Aston Tirrold in the South of Oxfordshire lies The Sweet Olive Restaurant run by Frenchmen chef patron Olivier Bouet and his business partner Stephane Brun.

Whilst Olivier focuses on food and Stephane on front of house and the wine, The Sweet Olive has become an increasingly popular gastropub. A cosy and welcoming pub, with pillars and the bar clad in empty French wine boxes, the modest restaurant and pub fill quickly, so booking is recommended. In the summer months take your pint outside and enjoy the beer garden whilst the children play.

Bed & Breakfast

The Old Boot

Peter and Amanda Le Conte: The Old Boot House in Aston Upton. Contact us: Middle Fell

Christine and Tim Millin: Moreton Road, Aston Upton. Contact us: Email us here.

Local Garages

The Chequers Garage

We pride ourselves on keeping up with technology and supplying as good and, we believe, better service than a lot of main dealers. We have all the latest engine management diagnostic equipment and any special tools needed once are purchased almost immediately ready for the next time. Air conditioning diagnostic and repair equipment has recently been purchased and is always in use meaning there isn't a lot that we can't contend with but we still keep that local friendly garage feel which our staff like and our customers keep coming back for.

Scotlands Ash Garage

We have been an Independent local trader since 1979. We moved to the present site in October 1991. We pride ourselves in providing excellent all round servicing and repairs to all makes of vehicles, using up to date tools and technology.

Fitness Classes

Pilates Plus Physio, Physiotherapy and Pilates in The Astons.

Pilates classes are a gentle mind body conditioning exercise. Pilates gives you a leaner shape, better posture, more mobility and above all greater core stability. Targeting the deep postural muscles pilates strengthens from the inside out, looks at improving movement patterns and re-balancing the body by stretching tight muscles and working long weak muscles.

The classes are suitable for young and old, male and female, it is suitable for athletes wanting to improve performance, people returning to exercise after a break, pre- and post- natal clients and is recommended by the medical profession for people with back pain. A lot of people also find the classes relaxing and de-stressing.

To get effective results I recommend at least 2 courses of 6 weeks. Classes run as a course or private one to one sessions can be booked. Places on the course must be booked in advance.

Rachels website :Email Rachel

Local Village Produce

The Astons Homemade Cake Delivery Service.

Choose from a range of freshly baked, homemade cakes.

Enjoy the luxury of these tempting treats being delivered direct to your door in time for the weekend. As well as our range of family favourites, you will be able to choose from our more adventurous monthly specials.

Cakes from Something for the Weekend

To order, call Emma (851142) and Amberley (851421) or e-mail

something_fortheweekend@hotmail.co.uk

The Astons Recreation Ground

Management of the recreation ground

The recreation ground is jointly owned by the two parish councils of Aston Tirrold and Upthorpe but managed and maintained by a committee of the parish councils. It includes representatives of village groups and clubs and interested individuals and meets regularly at The Pavilion. Members of the public are welcome at these meetings.

The pavilion, playground and play areas are inspected each month by ARC, and annually by RoSPA - however if you become aware of any fault or problem please contact the Parish Councils. We ask all visitors to the recreation ground to help us keep this beautiful village facility clean and tidy by either taking litter home, or by using the bins provided.

Facilities;

We have a good range of sporting and leisure facilities at the recreation ground:

- cricket pitch
- football pitch
- two boules pitches
- multi-game all weather hard surface
- adventure playground
- BMX area
- pavilion

The grounds are well used by a range of village clubs plus general leisure use by the villagers.

The Astons Cricket Club plays a full fixtures list each summer.

Football has a long history in the Astons, and continues to be played throughout the summer and winter months for both adult and junior players.

Our hugely popular Bonfire Night has been held each November since 1989 and is a major fund raiser for recreation ground funds.

The Annual Astons Boules Tournament has been an extremely successful addition to the villages' sporting calendar, raising funds for the maintenance of the pitch and for a charity chosen each year by the Tournament Committee. The annual village fete is held here of course, providing funds for both the village churches and the recreation ground.

The Pavilion

The official opening of the newly built pavilion took place in spring 2009.

This fantastic facility, the envy of many a recreation committee!, is home to both the Cricket Club and the Soccer Club. It also has excellent facilities to support other events such as the annual Fireworks Display.

Astons Cafe: Coffee, Cake and a Chat

Opening times: Tuesday mornings from 10am to 12pm (Post Office Hours 9.30am to 12.30pm)

The Astons Cafe is a low maintenance community effort that gives village individuals, groups an opportunity to meet and chat, sell or donate items for use or re-use, publicise their activities or fundraise, and village enterprises an outlet for their initiatives. People can browse a range of stalls, or sit and chat over a cup of coffee and a delicious cake, courtesy of 'Something for the Weekend'. Cakes are also available to buy or order in advance.

- Hand crafted Jewellery
- Seasonal produce
- Kiddies' Corner
- Books to swap or buy
- Astons Artists cards
- History Group publications & exhibitions
- Chalk Hill Cottage Preserves & Pickles
- Appletree Designs

Contacts for any comments or suggestions, or offers of help: Emma Shuttleworth (851142).

Astons Post Office

An "outreach" service opened at the Village Hall in June of 2009, and provides a wide range of postal and financial services.

Services available are:

- Euros and dollars - instant availability, plus ordering facility for all currencies
- Parcel Force pick up point
- Bill payment
- Cash by card payment
- And much much more

Weekly service: Tuesday mornings from 9.30am to 12.30pm.

Contact: (Pangbourne Post Office) 0118 984 2126.

Blewbury Post Office and Village Hall

Mon, Tues, Thurs and Friday: 8.30-12 and 2.30 - 5.00

Wednesdays: 8.30 -12.00

Saturday: 9.30 - 12.00

Cholsey Post Office (inside Tescos)

Monday to Friday: 9.00-17.30 (Closed 1-2pm)

Saturday: 9.00 - 12.00

East Hagbourne

Monday to Saturday: 8.00-12.30

Monday & Thursday also 2.00 - 5.30

Churches

Our two villages have three churches between them:

- St Michael's in Aston Tirrold.
- The United Reform Church in Aston Tirrold.
- All Saints in Aston Upthorpe.

The churches are a vital organ of the community and many of the organised activities are generated by and on behalf of the churches. Wonderful events such as 'Ride and Stride', the Harvest Festival, a summer Safari Supper, Quiet Days, talks, watercolour painting days, film afternoons, and fundraising sales.

Church of England Church Services are normally Parish Eucharist at 9am every Sunday in St Michael's Aston Tirrold, Evening Prayer at All Saints, Aston Upthorpe, on the last Sunday of the month and the weekday service is 8.30 Morning Prayer and 9.00 Holy Eucharist at All Saints, Aston Upthorpe on Fridays. Timings may differ for Church Festivals. The times of services for the next week are displayed on notice boards outside the churches. See here for all services within the Churn Benefice.

United Reform Church services are held every Sunday at 10.30am or 6pm. (see their website for further details on days and times).

The United Reform Church Centre for Reflection.

Quiet days for reflection at a centre behind an attractive country church; garden with a water feature; nearby country footpaths and walks, ideal for exploring the link between the outer landscape and our spiritual journey.

The Mobile Library

This service calls every second Friday at:
The Sweet Olive, Fullers: 10.00 - 10.10am
The Close, Aston Street: 10.15 - 10.25am
Contact Information
01235 813103

Aston Tirrold & Upthorpe Village Hall

Our Village Hall is the most wonderful resource for our villages, and adjoining areas. The hall hosts a wide range of leisure activities - pilates, badminton and short mat bowls - while village groups and clubs regularly use it for meetings or fundraising events. Our latest additions are a weekly Post Office service, and a popular "Astons Cafe" venture. The Hall is a particularly attractive one, and this together with its picturesque setting, and

wide range of facilities means that it is a popular choice for family and social events. Contact for booking enquiries : 01235 851324.

CLUBS

The Astons' Artists

The Astons' Artists are a group of amateur and professional artists that meet once per month to paint together. The aims being to enjoy each other's company, learn from one another and to have fun whilst getting down to the serious business of creating masterpieces.

We hope to exhibit our work locally each summer so keep an eye out on this website for dates and times.

Astons News

Our village newsletter 'The Astons News' is published monthly and is delivered free of charge to all households within the villages of Aston Tirrold and Aston Upthorpe.

All contributions are welcome from our villagers, departed villagers, or interested parties or organisations and you can send your article or advertisement to the Editor, Jeremy Imbush, at the following email address: editor@theastons.net.

Book Club

The Astons' Book Club is a lively group of people, who love reading and debating works of fiction.

The subjects the books we read are varied but all are well worth the read. We meet once per month, so if you would like to hear more about what we've been reading and what is coming up in the future then follow the link to the Astons' Book Club.

Cricket Club

The Astons Cricket Club started life as the pub side for 'The Boot Public House' in Aston Upthorpe but shortly after it became the village club. Sadly the pub no longer exists - but the club certainly does!

For those of you who are unfamiliar with Astons CC, we are a friendly cricket club that plays every Sunday over the summer (14:30 start). Our membership is of varying ages and abilities that complement each other both on and off the pitch!

Garden Club

The Astons Garden Club was formed after an Open Meeting on January 2010 and currently has 40 members in the villages. The Club is for people of ALL abilities - we welcome novices and experienced gardeners, young and old.

History Group

The History Group meets regularly, usually in member's houses, but occasionally in other 'interesting buildings around the villages.

The group has accumulated a large archive of village papers and photographs, which are currently being recorded electronically.

The group has also published a range of booklets on different aspects of village history. See the History Group pages on the Village Web site:

<http://sites.google.com/site/astonshistory/>

Ladies' Running Club

We are an informal group of varying fitness who look forward to new members joining us for year round running and walking around the Astons villages - and beyond for those tempted by the hills!

In the summer months we usually meet in the evenings and at the weekends in the mornings throughout.

Neighbourhood Watch

We take our personal safety and that of our possessions very seriously in the Astons and that's why we have an excellent Neighbourhood Watch scheme.

Parish Councils

The Aston Tirrold and Aston Upton Parish Council is a joint council that meets monthly to discuss current planning applications and issues regarding the maintenance and care of the welfare, infrastructure and aesthetics of the two villages.

Parochial Church Council

The Parochial Church Council, consisting of a few village people, meets about four times a year. Their remit is to keep the fabric of our churches going and give support to the Rector for Church Services. Our work to maintain the fabric of the Churches is aided by the generous donations from villagers for which we are very thankful, as we receive no financial assistance otherwise. The Parochial Church Council is concerned with the Church of England Churches, St Michael's and All Saints, and the Astons Burial Ground in the Croft. Liaison is maintained with the United Reformed Church and combined services are held from time to time.

Toddler Group

We are incredibly lucky in the Astons' to have two successful toddler groups that are a fantastic resource for mums with pre-school aged children.

'Crafty Kids' meet every Monday morning and on Friday the original 'Astons Toddler Group' runs. Please refer to the Village Newsletter for more details.

Short Mat Bowls

The Astons Short Mat Bowls Club is a small and friendly club for casual or dedicated players. We are actively seeking new members from the Astons and surrounding area. So if you think you would like to give it a go, come and join us on Wednesday afternoons between 2.00 and 5.00pm in the Village Hall.

Village Hall Management Committee

Our Village Hall is the most wonderful resource for our villages, and adjoining areas. The hall hosts a wide range of leisure activities - pilates, badminton and short mat bowls - while village groups and clubs regularly use it for meetings or fundraising events.

Our latest additions are a weekly Post Office service, and a popular "Astons Cafe" venture.

Women's Institute

The Aston Tirrold and Upton Women's Institute is a vibrant group of local women who meet socially each month. In time honoured tradition we hear talks on many and varied subjects, but we also get out and about to the cinema, the theatre, and to places of interest - both locally and farther afield. We also contribute to important national debates and use our collective skills to actively support many of the locally organised activities.

Our membership is of all ages, and our hearts and spirits are young and fun loving.

Bus Links

Local buses connect the village to Didcot and Wallingford. The buses run six times a day to Didcot and back and once per week to Wallingford and back. See the Village news for timings.

Taxi Phone Numbers

Freedom Taxi Services, based in the Village
07739814181

Leo 07704547587 Airports Longer distances.

Pryors based in Didcot 01235 812345

Harolds, based in Didcot 01002305512345

Didcot Volunteer Drivers for disabled people who can walk a little 01235 816709

MEDICAL

Doctors

Didcot Heath Centre, Britwell Road, Didcot.
01235 512288.

Woodlands Road Surgery, 17 Mereland Road,
Didcot. 01235 511355.

The Oak Tree Health Centre, Lostock Place,
Didcot. 01235 810099.

Ashbury Medical Centre, 18 Trent Road,
Didcot. 01235 510849.

Accident and Emergency:

The main hospital in the area is:

John Radcliffe Hospital, Headley Way,
Headington, Oxford. 01865 741166
and the Royal Berkshire in Reading 01189
875111

A Minor Injuries service for minor burns,
sprains and cuts operates at Wallingford
Community Hospital between 9am and 8pm on
weekdays.

There is also a Minor Injuries Unit at
Abingdon Hospital, Marcham Road, open
daily from 10.00am to 10.30pm (01235
208730).

For **Dental Emergencies** for non-registered
patients, contact NHS Direct 0845 4647

The Dentists, 200a The Broadway, Didcot.
01235 813245.

Dental Practice, Ladygrove Dental Practice, 8
Lostock Place, Didcot. 01235 815000.

Dental Practice, Busby House, 13 Hagbourne
Road, Didcot. 01235 816486.

Vets

Abivale Veterinary Group, The Hadden Hill,
Wallingford Road, Didcot. 01235 511553

Larkmead Veterinary Group, 111-113 Park
Road, Didcot. 01235 811013

Abbey Vale Veterinary Group,
www.abivale.com, 16 Queen's Avenue,
Wallingford - 01491 839 043

Larkmead Veterinary Group -
www.larkmead.co.uk, Ilges Lane, Cholsey,

Wallingford - 01491 651 479

SCHOOLS

Pre Schools

Bramleys Day Nursery, Mereland Road,
Didcot.

01235 511998

Scotlands Ash Day Nursery, Main Street, West
Hagborne, Didcot.

01235 851423

Ladygrove Pre-School, Meadows Loop, Cow
lane, Didcot.

01235 810136

Primary Schools

South Moreton School

Stephen Freeman County Primary School.
Freeman Road, Didcot. OX11 7BZ . 01235
814718.

Greenmere County Primary School Mereland
Road, Didcot. OX11 8BA. 01235 813304.

All Saints Church of England Primary School
Tamar Way, Didcot. OX11 7QH. 01235
819143.

Northbourne Church of England Primary
School 1-3 Cockcroft Road, Didcot. OX11
8LJ. 01235 817744.

Manor County Primary School Lydalls Close,
Didcot. OX11 7LB. 01235 812762.

Secondary Schools

Abingdon

Fitzharrys Secondary School Northcourt Road,
Abingdon. OX14 1NP. 1 ½ miles from the
quarter area. 01235 520698.

John Mason School Wooton Road, Abingdon.
OX14 1JB. 1 ½ miles from the quarter area.
01235 524664.

Larkmead School Faringdon Road, Abingdon.
OX14 1RF. 1/2 mile from the quarter area.
01235 520141.

Didcot

St Birinus School Mereland Road, Didcot.
OX11 8AZ. 1 ½ miles fro the quarter area.
01235

Grove & Wantage

King Alfred's Community and Sports College
Portway, Wantage. OX12 9BY. 1 ½ miles from
Wantage quarters. 2 miles from Grove quarters.
01235 225700.

Southmoor

The Kings School 12 Wesley Walk, Witney.
OX28 6ZJ. 9 miles from the quarter area.
01993 709985.

Shops and Supermarkets

General Stores

Blewbury Garage

TescoLocal Cholsey

Savages, Blewbury for Fruit, Vegetables,
Flowers, Garden Centre

Supermarkets

Tesco Didcot

Sainsbury Didcot

Waitrose - Wallingford

Butchers

Dews Meadows in the Village Hall 2nd and 4th
Tuesday mornings and Farm shop and delivery
service 01235 868634
RG Park, Cholsey, 01491 651200
Donald Russell on line
<http://www.donaldrussell.com/>

Fish

Kim Dickens, tel no. (home) 01472 581371
and mobile 07806 602776 delivers

Hairdresser

Stennings Studio Cholsey 01491 651890

Newspapers

M&S Pritchard of 6 Ridgeway Road Didcot
OX11 8HG 01235 812226

Milk Delivery

www.milkandmore.co.uk for milk delivery on
Mondays, Wednesdays & Thursdays

Organic Vegetables Delivery

Riverford organic deliver to the Astons every
Thursday; www.riverford.co.uk/norton or
email
jakeswinhoe@riverfordhomedelivery.co.uk