

ASTONS NEWS

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October 2025 issue 617

WHAT'S ON IN OCTOBER

BINS:- Green & Brown: 13, 27th GREY: 6, 20th

ARTICLES LIST Page 3, ADVERTISERS' INDEX Page 5

Weekly Events

Day	Time	Event	Location	Page
M to F	various	various classes	Village Hall	15
Tues	10-00-12.00	Astons Café	Village Hall	11
“	10.00-12.00	Post Office	“	11
“	10.00-12.00	Free Superfast Internet Access	“	11, 19
Fri	9.30-11.30am	Toddler Group (Term time only)	Centre for Reflection	14

Events in October

4th	7pm	Cricket Club Dinner	Village Hall	25
5th	10.30am	Harvest Festival Service	All Saints' Church	28
11th	7-till late	Safari Supper	Around the Astons	-
19th	9am	18th Sunday after Trinity	St Michael's Church	28
21st	10-12	Astons Online	Village Hall	19
23rd	10am	TV Police Webinar	Online	19
27th	7.30	VH fund-raising meal	Olivier's at The Chequers	9
31st	-	Last day for PC Grant Applications	-	7

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

			P			P
1 Nov	Auction of Promises	V Hall	13	Nov 8th	Fireworks night	The Rec 17
1 Nov	N. Moreton book sale	NM church.	17	Nov 9th	Remembrance Service	Memorial 28
1/2, 8/9	Poppy Appeal	Astons	7	Nov 29th	Cricket Club Quiz	V Hall 25
7-9 Nov	WW2 exhibition	VH	-	Dec 9th	Wreath workshop	V Hall 27
				Feb 7th	Jennie's Children's Dinner	V Hall -

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ARTICLES

- 1 What's on at a glance
- 3 Articles, Copy deadline, Asylum welcome -bicycles sought for
- 5 Advertisers' Index, Advertising rates Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum exhibition
- 7 Editorial, Poppy Appeal Collection, PC Vacancies, PC Grant Applications deadline, ARC playground refurb
- 9 Village Hall fund raising meal at Olivier's at The Chequers
- 11 Astons Café
- 13 Auction of Promises: Fund-raising for the Village Hall
- 14 South Moreton Pre-School, Astons Toddler Group
- 15 Village Hall
- 17 Bonfire and Fireworks Night, N. Moreton Book sale
- 18 Speedwatch, Woolpack
- 19 Astons online
- 20 Astons enews, Astons CIC, Astons Fb page
- 21 Pavilion
- 22 Boules Tournament result, Boules Pistes renovation, Olly Glover MP
- 23, 24 The Astons History Project
- 25 Astons Cricket Club Quiz Night, Astons CC Cup Win report
- 25 Olly Glover MP
- 26 PARISH COUNCIL NEWS
- 27 Astons Outdoors
- 28 Church Services
- 29 URC, Rectors Reflections
- 30, 31 Recommended tradesmen, U3A
- 32 Baby sitting
- 33 Community services and police information
- 34 Village Representative Organisations & Village Information

Asylum Welcome

Asylum Welcome is always looking for more donated bikes for men, women and children. We can only accept donated bikes if they are in reasonable working (rideable) condition – gears and brakes fully functioning, needing no more than lubrication, adjustment or very minor repairs.. We currently accept bikes by appointment only. Please contact Nasser, our Bike Project Coordinator, or Mark and Tino, our Bike Project volunteers at bike@asylum-welcome.org I go in to Asylum Welcome on Wednesdays and am happy to take in any bikes that have been accepted by AW. *Tessa Mayhew*, tessamayhew@btinternet.com.

DEADLINE for the November edition is October 23rd

SEND COPY TO: editorastonsnews@gmail.com

(*Send in Microsoft 'WORD' main text in **font size 11**, or as a PDF)

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ADVERTISERS INDEX

Also see Recommended Tradesmen on pages 30,31

<u>Accommodation</u>	page	<u>Home & Office Services</u>	page
Middle Fell B&B	4	Didcot Home Care	16
South Wales Holiday Home	4	Jackie's Care	8
Where It All Began Travel	16	SC Interior Murals	16
<u>Art</u>		Specialist dress maker	8
Anna Dillon	10	LesleyAnn Gentry Interior Design	2
<u>Body & Fitness</u>		Maths Tutor	16
Caroline Kinash Physiotherapy and pilates	4	<u>Horticulture</u>	
Clippers hairdressing	8	First Class Tree services	12
Principal Pilates	8	Milton Garden Machinery	12
Sweet Lavender Facial & Beauty Treatments	8	Mossinator roof cleaning service	12
Resonate Hearing Centre	6	N. Drum Landscaping	12
<u>Children:</u>		Purely Plants	6
Babysitting	34	<u>Pet Services</u>	
<u>Food + Wine</u>		Astons Pet Services	14
Le Clos Wine Bar	4	Vet –Larkmead	14
Olivier at The Chequers	4	<u>Trades etc</u>	
<u>Garage Services</u>		Didcot Plant Hire	10
Chequers Garage	2	Howard Chadwick Funeral Service	14
Scotlands Ash Garage	2	JF Kleen carpet cleaning+ repairs	2
		Longpine roofing & property maintenance	6
		Oxford Window Repairs	10

Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum launches new exhibition.

Victory and liberation in Europe 1945

New exhibition featuring stories of Oxfordshire celebrating VE & VJ Day 80 years ago. Accounts of soldiers from Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire who liberated towns, POWs and concentration camps in the latter stages of the Second World War, will go on display from 1 April to 18 November 2025.

ASTONS NEWS Advertising Rates 2025 (Community Adverts are free)

ASTONS NEWS Advertising Rates 2025

Advert size	width	x height	10 issues	5 issues	1 issue
1/8 page	(90mm	x 70mm)	£55	£40	£15
1/4 page	(90mm	x 135mm)	£80	£50	£25
1/2 page	(185mm	x 135mm)	£145	£85	£35
A4 page	(185mm	x 270mm)	£200	£130	£45
Loose inserts (Flyers)			£25		
Community adverts & flyers free					

Please note that there are no issues in January or August

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Jeremy Imbush

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Editorial:

The season of 'mists and mellow fruitfulness' is upon us (Keats, in case that you are wondering). With that advent of that season stalks the spectre of Autumn bonfires! Much better to compost; but if you have one, do remember that your neighbours may have washing out, or windows wide open, to catch the last of the year's warmth and freshness on a sunny day.

Lots of things for villagers to join in/help this month: ARC (p7), Parish Council (p7), Bonfire night (p17), Village Hall fund-raising: meal at Olivier's (p9), and Auction of Promises (p13).

Many congratulations to the Astons Cricket Club for bringing home some silverware this season (p25).

Astons Poppy Appeal Donations: Door-to-door collection

Volunteers will be coming around the Astons on the weekends of 1/2 and 8/9 November, door-to-door, collecting donations for the annual poppy appeal. Please do make a donation, if you can, to this worthy charity, to help ex-servicemen and their families.

Grant Applications in the Village. The Parish Council would like to remind the groups in the village that the deadline for Grant Applications for next year is the end of October 2025. All applications must be sent to the Clerk in writing by the end of October please, to: astons.parishclerk@gmail.com

Parish Council Vacancies

There are currently 2 vacancies on the PC and we would be delighted to receive expressions of interest from anyone who could support the villages by joining. We would be very keen to hear from applicants new to the village could bring a new perspective.

There are 11 meetings a year (no meeting in August) in the Village Hall on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 19:30 hours.

If you have a sense of community and want to support the work to enable the villages to thrive, then please call Jane Imbush, Chair on **07739 644064** or by email to jimbushpc@gmail.com

ARC Play Area Projects-have your say- and Bonfire Night volunteers

As another busy year at the Recreation Ground comes to an end, we start to look forward to Bonfire Night. As ever, these village events can only take place with the generous time given by volunteers.

We need as many willing hands as possible on Saturday Morning 8th November to collect wood, build the bonfire and set up the Recreation Ground. Just come down after 10am and join the happy team – coffee and bacon butties provided! ***See page 17 for more details.***

Thanks to recent fund raising the ARC has some funds we would like to put to work on improving the play area. We would love to hear from parents and children what they would like to see. We are also looking for someone who can take on the project management of the improvements – perhaps someone with children who use the play area? Please let me know if you are able to take this project on.

Finally, a big thank you to everyone who contributes to the maintenance of the Recreation Ground in any way a special thank you to the cricket club who spend countless hours maintaining the cricket pitch, to Jeremy for his dedication in keep the pavilion in such wonderful condition and to the many people who upgraded the boules court this summer.

The Recreation Ground is crucial asset for the village but needs all our help to look after it.
Gavin Wood, Astons Recreation Committee

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Saturday	7.30 am - 17.00 pm

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VILLAGE HALL FUNDRAISING MEAL AT OLIVIER'S

Our village hall needs our support so we have decided to open the restaurant on **Monday 27th October** for a fund-raising meal.

We will be asking for a minimum **of £45 per head** for the meal. All proceeds from the meal will be going to the village hall. Prepayment by bank transfer will be required which will be non refundable.

The bar will be open from 6.30pm and we will all be sitting down at 7.45pm. Drinks can be purchased on the night .

We're expecting this to be a popular event so please book well in advance

For all reservations and enquiries please email Stephanie at

stephaniebouet123@gmail.com

We will have the following tables available, so rally up your friends and join us for a fantastic community spirited fundraiser.

1x14 pax

1x11 pax

2x5 pax

3x4 pax

2x2 pax

MENU*

Starters

Black tiger prawns in tempura & spicy soy dressing

Double baked cheese soufflé, mixed leaf, radish & sun dried tomato salad (v)

Mains

Beef & venison bourguignon, mash

Home made pasta, pan fried sea bass, wilted spinach, creamy wild mushroom sauce, Parmesan shavings

(vegetarian option also available without fish)

Desserts

Gooseberry mess, raspberry coulis, sorbet

Tarte aux pommes, vanilla ice cream

Menu subject to change due to market availability.

***Unfortunately we will not be able to cater for any specific dietary requirements on this occasion.**



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- **Community book scheme:** books to buy and borrow
- **Children's corner**
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Pick-up & drop-off service available for those who aren't easily able to get to and from the Café - let us know if you would like a lift.

The Astons Café is a 'low maintenance' community effort, sponsored by the Village Hall Committee, which gives village individuals and 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. Your support is appreciated.



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AUCTION OF PROMISES!

Saturday 1 November 7.30pm

A very BIG thank you to all of you who have already offered promises for the auction – you have been hugely generous and have set up what will be a great evening.

There is still time to offer a promise. If you want to do something but are stuck for an idea, please get in touch with either Christa or Tracey (Astons.vhbookings@gmail.com or telephone 01235 851015).

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Weekly

Monday	Yoga	12:30-1:30pm 8-9pm
Tuesday	Astons Café	10am-12
	Post Office	10am-12
Thursday	Pilates	9:30-11:30am
	Yoga	8-9pm

Monthly

3 rd Wednesday	Parish Council	8pm
3 rd Tuesday	Tea & Tech (Astons Online)	10am-12

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For more information: villagehall@theastons.net

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ASTONS BONFIRE NIGHT

Saturday 8th November

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Licensed **bar** serving draft real ale, cider, mulled wine, wine, soft drinks.

Children's stall selling sweets, soft drinks, luminous novelties, crisps.

Timings:

5pm – Gate, Bar & BBQ open

5.45pm – Lighting of the bonfire

6:15pm – Children's Fireworks Display, followed by the MAIN stunning fireworks display (choreographed by our very own Master of the Bangs, Richard Cox)

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

As always, the success of these village events lies in your hands. The more volunteers we get, the smoother the events run and the chirpier we are on the day!

Please go to **Sign Up Genius** to volunteer for bar/food or gate duty. You can find the event by searching under the following email address amberleyjones@hotmail.com or message any one of the numbers below and we can send you the link.

OR pledge your support by contacting

Bar shift – Susan 07873 507174 or email susanpallett1@gmail.com

Food prep/service – Kate – 07834218310 or email kateholburn@gmail.com

Bonfire Building – Nick – 07794 670127 or email njbisaac@gmail.com

General volunteering/support – Amberley 07771 995906, amberleyjones@hotmail.com

ALL HANDS ON DECK AT 10AM ON SATURDAY MORNING TO HELP SET UP AND 10AM ON SUNDAY MORNING TO HELP CLEAR UP.

We would also love to hear from any local businesses who might like to make a donation to keep the event running, year on year.

North Moreton Book Sale Saturday 1st November in North Moreton Church 10am until 3pm.

All proceeds going to support the village hall and church. Donations of books are always welcome.

Email northmoretonbooksale@gmail.com or call 01235 818900 or 07908314771 if you have any books to give.

Astons Community Speedwatch

"A national initiative where proactive members of local communities join, with the support and supervision of their local police, to record details of speeding vehicles using approved detection devices in their local community"

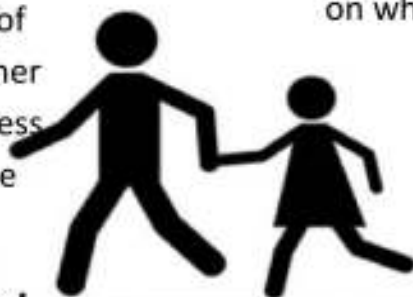
More volunteers always welcome



Our Speedwatch activity is about raising awareness of the dangers of driving fast in a residential area with no pavements, narrow roads, children, older people, walkers and dog-walkers.

Speeding is a real problem in our villages. If **we** make every effort to drive within the 20mph speed limit it should encourage others to do the same and slow down those following us.

We are a small band of volunteers who give an hour of our time when we can to gather statistics and to raise awareness with those driving at excessive speeds.



We would appreciate your feedback on what we are doing (in confidence) and are happy to answer any questions you may have.

Please help us if you can.

Contact: 07887 567261

bob_pickens@hotmail.com

Volunteers needed please!

The Woolpack



The Woolpack meets every Tuesday at the Astons Café in the village hall from 10am to 12 noon. We hope to see you there and we'd love to see all types of crafts represented, so if sewing is your thing or you're bonkers about beading, come on in! Margaret Morant 07899 748209

Free & friendly support for digital users

Village Hall Aston Upthorpe (OX11 9EQ)

Tuesday 21 October 10:00 - 12:00

Please email theastononline@gmail.com
or phone 07780958249 to book your appointment

Webinar using Zoom Thursday 23 October 10:00

**Thames Valley Police guidance for
dealing with online fraud, cyber crime,
ransomware, viruses etc**

**Join the discussion about the best ways
to stay safe and secure online today**

see www.astononline.uk,
click <https://tinyurl.com/ycxe9xu5> to join in
or email theastononline@gmail.com

Astons eNews

Over the past few months Astons eNews has changed. Until this year, eNews emails were sent out to the Astons community from a personal Gmail address. This has been replaced by a web mail app made available by Web Boutiques who host our community website.

There are now 7 editors taking turns distributing Astons eNews emails. Astons eNews has become a resilient service instead of relying on one or two people if or when they were available.

Astons eNews Protocol

All Astons residents are welcome to sign up to the Astons eNews - the Astons community email service. About 250 already have done so.

Astons eNews sends infrequent village-wide emails with important news/information that cannot wait for the next monthly Astons News.

The following criteria apply to eNews emails:

- The email will be available to everyone in the two parishes.
- Addressees will be invisible to all other recipients to preserve privacy.
- There is an unsubscribe facility on every email.
- No commercials, no jokes, no opinions etc - just succinct information about events/activities.
- eNews are normally sent out at the request of the Parish Council, community clubs/groups or individual residents. Occasionally editors may send one out if, for example, they have spotted an unadvertised road closure.
- eNews emails are not sent to highlight individual community events; these are included in the monthly round-up eNews emails sent out a week before each Parish Council meeting.
- eNews requests received within 36 hours of, for example, road or post office closures, power outages etc will be processed if editorial resources are available.
- Email addresses supplied to Astons eNews are not used for any other purpose nor are they passed on to other groups, clubs or organisations.

Please email **enews@theastons.net** to receive eNews.

Astons Online CIC

Astons Online community interest company (CIC) has been providing support to computer users since 2011. We started as a community group with a BT grant resulting from the Race to Infinity, won by Blewbury exchange area, which included the Astons. We also had generous support from our Oxfordshire County Councillor, Astons Parish Council and Astons News.

Astons Online has provided support to over 600 computer users, free of charge. People have contacted us from all over South Oxfordshire. Astons Online CIC has recently been highlighted on the Oxfordshire County Council website and in a survey of digital inclusion in the county. We mainly support older people who are uncertain or apprehensive at the rollout of digital services replacing their face-to-face, telephone and postal services. We do this by reaching out to community groups that focus on older people, offering our support to their members.

The Astons Villagers Facebook Community (AVFC)

The Astons Villagers Facebook Community is an Fb group for residents of the Astons only (plus a small number of approved non-villagers). It is a closed group, so posts cannot be seen by anyone outside the membership. It is a valuable channel for all types of local information and knowledge-sharing in real time.

TO JOIN: If you already use Facebook, please search for Astons Villagers Facebook **Community**; For any questions about the group, please contact Kathryn Hawkey at **kathryn.hawkey@gmail.com** who is the administrator for our Facebook group,.

THE ASTONS' *Pavilion*

Perfect venue
for parties, meetings, clubs
and groups.



Up to 50 seated and
100 standing guests.

The Pavilion comprises a main entertaining area, fully equipped kitchen, toilets, disabled access, changing rooms, baby changing and showers. There is plenty of parking and hirers are able to use the outdoor space for games and bouncy castles.

◆

Pavilion Hire Charges

Receptions/General Parties:	£60 (villager)	£100 (non-villager)
Children's Parties/Charity Events:	£40 (villager)	£60 (non-villager)

◆

To arrange a viewing, and/or booking, contact Donna Bushnell via email:

astonspavilion@gmail.com

Boules Pitches at the Rec



Hopefully you will have noticed that the boules pitches at the Rec have had their makeover and new sleeper benches have been installed. Firstly, thanks go to the Parish Council for funding the materials needed and also to ARC for their support in this project.

We have given the base structure a facelift with new timbers and added new limestone surface material, which over time will settle down and become a compacted true playing surface again – the more playing the quicker this will happen ...!

There will shortly be a rake discreetly housed at the pitches which can be used to prepare a neat, even surface before playing.

I may have been involved in much of the planning, however thanks must go especially to Mike Wigg, and also Tom Coates, who did most of the heavy lifting in the project.

2025 Boules Tournament



On Saturday 6th September we revived the annual boules tournament after Jayne Gibson prompted the idea and reminded everyone what a fun event it was, and that we should start again ... after a pause of many years.

First year back we aimed for a fairly low-key event, although we did have 32 players who brought picnics and drinks and we had a great day – helped by some superb end of summer weather.

There were very few tantrums and no need for yellow or red cards from the referee, with the main surprise being the quality of play from unheralded outsiders... Matches were played all day and pre-event favourites were dismissed one by one, with the final being fought between Emma & Clem Lewins and Jayne Gibson & Christian RA, with Jayne and Chris triumphant and scooping the Champagne ...

All in all great fun; thanks to everyone for supporting the event and get practising for next year's tournament ...

Guy Liverton

Olly Glover, MP

After a short holiday at the end of summer, Parliament started sitting on 1st September with a very busy first few weeks for myself and my team.

At Prime Minister's Questions, I challenged Keir Starmer on the government's decisions to scrap the UK Space Agency - based at Harwell - as an executive body and make it part of a government department. With so many local businesses relying on the Space Sector, I will be keeping an eye on how this change impacts funding and governance.

In other debates at Westminster, I raised local concerns about vehicles parking on pavements, and spoke about car-sharing schemes in rural areas. I also had the pleasure of hosting local teenager, Mikayla, whose charity supports children being treated in hospitals across the UK.

My first appearance on ITV's The Last Word gave me the opportunity to talk about the government's cabinet reshuffle and how that impacts on our constituency. –

At a Palestine Solidarity Campaign lobby event, I met with constituents opposing the selling of arms to Israel. Engaging with my constituents on Palestine is vital. Alongside my Liberal Democrat colleagues, I will continue to urge the Government to take action to bring an end to this devastating situation.

I visited the RWE Combined-cycle gas and steam turbine power plant at Milton Park, met with County Council officers to discuss poor broadband coverage in our villages, attended the Wilding and Andrew Service in Wallingford to remember the Canadian servicemen who gave their lives to save the town in 1944, and I met with Post Office staff in Didcot to discuss their challenges and changes to the services they provide.

It has been a busy month. As always, if there is anything you feel I can help you with, please do not hesitate to contact me and my team at olly.glover.mp@parliament.uk, or by leaving a voice message on **0207 219 7657**.

Olly Glover, MP for Didcot and Wantage

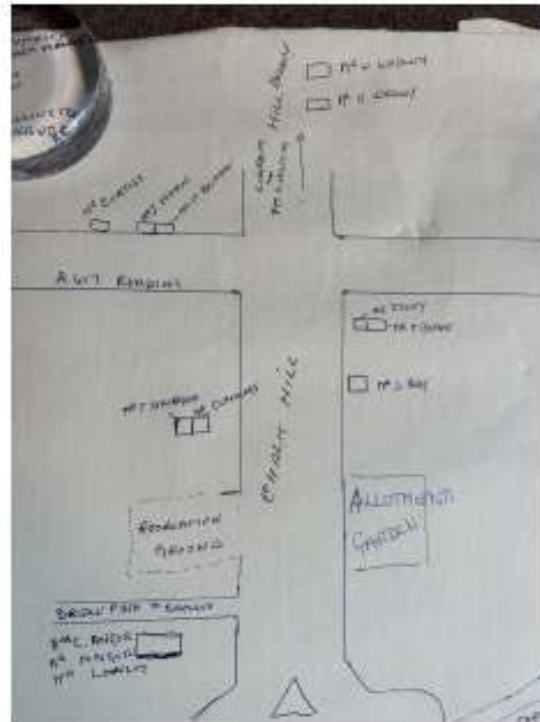
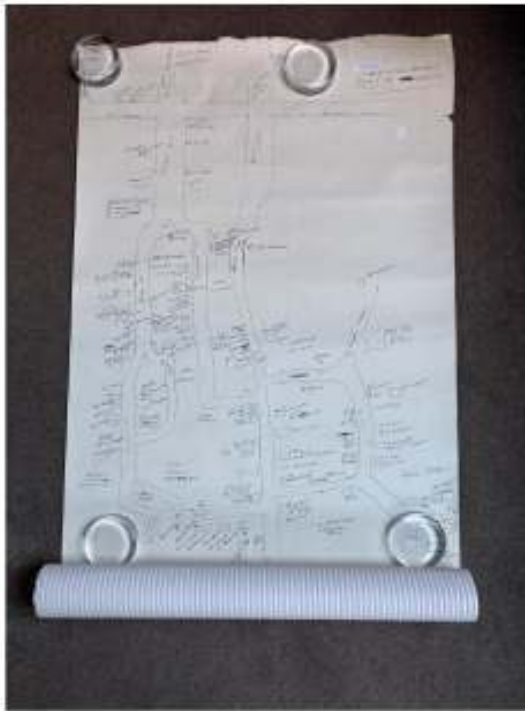
THE ASTONS HISTORY PROJECT

Discovering and recording the Astons through the ages

I'D FORGOTTEN ABOUT THAT!

When Judy was researching the life of Frederick Ray, one of the Astons soldiers who died during WW2, she was told by family members that the family used to live in a cottage (since demolished) on the right hand side of Chalk Hill opposite the recreation ground.

That reminded me of a village map drawn for us - on the back of a roll of wallpaper - by Les Ray back in the 1990s. I had a look, and there the cottage was. Bingo.



The cottage is also visible in this 1890s photo taken by the Presbyterian minister Thomas Curry (below).





Les had drawn the map to show the positions of lost cottages around the villages. I had known about this period of demolition in the 1950s and 60s, and often wondered why this had happened.

Apparently there was an agricultural depression following World War II, happening at the same time as a statutory increase in wages, which meant farmers could not afford as many workers. This coupled with an increase in mechanisation led to fewer farm workers being employed, and as a result empty cottages fell into disrepair.

Above is a cottage next to the school in Aston Street in about 1950 - does anyone know what it was called? - and on the right the vacant plot left after its demolition in about 1970 (where Ashdown now stands).

Below are two photos of Thatch Cottage on Aston Street (now Abbey Thorn Cottage) showing the kind of neglect that often preceded such demolitions. Luckily commuting became much more common in the 1970s, and cottages became the desirable properties they are today.



Remember you can see photos in zoomable detail - and in colour - on the village website
copy of the Astons News. <https://theastons.net>

If you have any photos or documents of interest - and remember history started yesterday - we
would love to have digital copies for our increasingly large digital archive.

Astons History Project contacts: Jancis Smith 07734 44414 and Anna Dillon 07786 876411

Astons Village Quiz Night

Saturday 29th November

Hosted by the Diamonds and Astons Cricket Club

- Tickets are £15 a head
- Teams of up to 8 people
- Home-cooked 2 course meal included
- Bar and Raffle
- Arrive for 7pm

For tickets or more information, email astonscricketclub@hotmail.co.uk

Astons CC Wins The Cup!!!

Early in September, Astons won the 'friendly cup' in a hard fought game against Hampstead Norreys for their first silverware in 20 years.

For context, the village cricket side don't play in a competitive league, rather we just play friendlies against other local villages, with the exception being the 'friendly cup', in which local sides play games against each other in pools to try and reach the final (so still a pretty friendly level of cricket)..

Having lost two previous finals against the old enemy Moreton, this season we faced a new opposition in Hampstead Norreys who are based on the Downs.



On a humid day with the pitch still a bit soft from some morning rain, Astons won a key toss and elected to bowl first. Despite some lusty blows from the Norreys no.3, Astons bowled well to restrict their opposition to just 160 runs off of the allotted 40 overs, with Upthorpe's finest, Dan White, the pick of the bowlers with 4-32 off his 8 overs.

In reply, Astons seemed to be cantering to victory with Ralph Smith and Ollie Corbett putting on 80 for the first wicket, before a top order collapse left the game in the balance. In the face of some impressive leg-spin bowling, Astons slowly manoeuvred their way across the finish line with a couple of overs to go, much to the joy of a packed pavilion veranda.

It was great to see so many villagers and friends of the club supporting during the course of the afternoon to mark on what was a great day for the club.

Hampstead Norreys CC **160 all out**
Astons CC **161 for 5 (38 overs)**

Batting

Ralph Smith 61 not out
Ollie Corbett 48
Colin Allen 24 not out

Bowling

Dan White 8-0-32-4
Sam Saunders 8-1-40-2
Colin Allen 8-4-20-1

Astons won by 5 wickets

The season is now over, but if anyone (from 12 years up) is interested in giving cricket a go (however little cricket you may have played before!), feel free to get in touch at astonscricketclub@hotmail.co.uk

Team: Steve Smith, Jeremy Imbush, Colin Allen, Rob Harris, Dave Kilcoyne, Ralph Smith, Dan White, Tom Swainston (Captain), Stuart Massingham (WK), Ollie Corbett, Sam Saunders.

Parish Council Business

Parish Council meeting 17th September 2025 was held face to face in the village hall.

Planning

P25/S2440/LB - For development work at Aston Tirrold Manor, Aston Street, Aston Tirrold.

The application is for:

- ◆ Roof works: Recover and repair clay tile roof using salvaged and handmade tiles; upgrade insulation with breathable wood fibre; repair timbers and redecorate joinery.
- ◆ Chimneys: Localised repointing, repairs, and new flashings.
- ◆ Windows and dormers: Replace/ repair all second-floor windows and dormers like-for-like in timber with conservation double glazing.
- ◆ Internal reconfiguration: Refurbish second floor to create new bathroom, laundry, cinema and games rooms; restructure stair; upgrade services with minimal intervention, thermal upgrades generally.

Following the report from Listed Buildings the PC are happy to support the application.

P25/S2472/HH

P25/S2473/LB - For development work at Aston Tirrold Manor, Aston Street, Aston Tirrold.

The application is for: Demolition of 2 existing glasshouses and 1 cold frame and the construction of a pool house in its place.

The PC raised some concerns around the lighting the pool house would give off when dark however the owners were able to reassure the PC that there is not going to be significant lighting. On this basis and following the report from Listed Buildings the PC are happy to support the application.

P25/S2524/DIS - For development work at Aston Tirrold Manor, Aston Street, Aston Tirrold.

The application is for: Discharge of condition 3 (details of extract mechanisms) & 4 (material samples/photos) on application ref. P25/S0324/LB (Amalgamation of one dwellinghouse and two self-contained units back into a single-family dwelling, together with associated alterations, including changes to fenestrations. Demolition of existing orangery extension & replacement with new orangery extension in the same footprint. Alterations to existing driveway to facilitate access and new pedestrian gate, with associated landscaping. Addition of 2 x EV charging points.)

The PC acknowledge the application.

P25/S2525/DIS - For development work at Aston Tirrold Manor, Aston Street, Aston Tirrold.

The application is for: Discharge of conditions 7 (Surface Water Drainage) & 8 (Schedule of Materials) on Planning Application P25/S0323/FUL (Amalgamation of one dwellinghouse and two self-contained units back into a single-family dwelling, together with associated alterations, including changes to fenestrations. Demolition of existing orangery extension & replacement with new orangery extension in the same footprint. Alterations to existing driveway to facilitate access and new pedestrian gate, with associated landscaping. Addition of 2 x EV charging points.)

The PC acknowledge the application.

Roads and Traffic

A417 speed limit reducing proposal has been submitted to change from 50 to 40mph from west of Spring Lane to Aston Tirrold to east of Carrimers Farm. It was agreed the Clerk will respond to the proposal saying the PC strongly support this proposal. However, feel the road should remain 40mph once turning into the village and not increase back to 50mph. It was also noted at the bottom of Spring Lane some potholes are still waiting to be filled which were marked a few month ago.

Environmental

- Current thoughts are to put sleepers along the side of the road on Chalk Hill where unofficial pull-ins have damaged the verge, and also along side the two pull-ins on Spring Lane, where there is repeated fly-tipping. Once repaired, the PC will look to plant a variety of flowers. The aim is to prevent people from pulling in on non-maintained areas causing damage to the verge. The PC will look to receive some grants for funding this project.
- Behind the war memorial, and the triangle by Aston Street, where currently daffodils are planted, the plan is to add some flowers and planting to provide biodiversity and interest all year.
- The PC also noted a blocked a metal pipe has emerged from the ground on Spring Lane near Copsestile Farm drain/stream; this part of the village already floods easily so the PC will ask the Flood team at OCC to see what can be done.

SODC

No report has been received to date

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 15th October 2025 and will be held in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Astons Outdoors

Things get solved if you get involved

Dates for you Diary:

Tuesday 9th December 7pm – 9pm Wreath & Centre Piece workshop.
£30 per person, with complimentary nibbles and glass of fizz.

All proceeds will be used to purchase food for a local food bank.

This is a popular, fun annual event with limited spaces available. Please get in touch to secure a place.

Village Christmas Card Distribution: As with previous years we will have a post box located in the Chequers Garage from 1st – 19th December, for you to drop of Christmas cards for friends and neighbours that live in the Astons. In exchange for a small donation (also to be posted in the card box), we will deliver the cards for you on 20th & 21st December. All donations will be used to buy food for a local food bank.



If you would like more information, please
contact

Naomi (contactnaomi@icloud.com)

Louise (louise.binder@live.co.uk)

Emma (emma.machin2018@gmail.com)

Gardening jobs for October:

- If your **greenhouse** is fairly empty, now's a good time to clean and disinfect it. This lets in more light, and prevents pests and diseases from over-wintering.
- Protect **half-hardy plants** with fleece or bring them into a frost-free greenhouse.
- Sweep up any fallen leaves that harbour fungal spores and provide ideal hiding places for slugs and snails. Use them to make leaf mould for the garden.
- Lift and divide any overcrowded herbaceous **perennials** whilst the soil is still warm.
- Lift **dahlia tubers**, **begonia tubers** and gladioli corms to store over the winter months. Remove any dead foliage before storing them.
- You can take hardwood cuttings from **deciduous shrubs** now.
- Prune rambling and **climbing roses** once they've finished flowering, and tie in the stems before autumn winds cause damage.
- Clear up fallen rose leaves to prevent diseases such as black spot from over-wintering. To avoid the spread of damaging fungi, don't compost the leaves.
- Cut back perennial plants that have died down. Alternatively leave the dead foliage in place to shelter friendly **wildlife**.
- This month is the ideal time to plant **hedges**, **edible hedging**, and move **trees** and **shrubs**.

Churn Church Services July & Auguste 2025

		Prayer Focus
+Sunday 5th October	16TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY 10.30am Harvest Festival All Saints' Aston Upthorpe	Outreach & Parish magazines
+Sunday 19th October	18TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY 9.00am Parish Eucharist St Michael's Aston Tirrold	Those recently baptised & baptism visitors

How to contact us:

Bookings for weddings, baptisms and funerals can be made by contacting the Benefice Office **01235 850267** or **office@churnchurches.co.uk**

You can contact the clergy & staff on: -

Father Jason St. John Nicolle	01235 850267	office@churnchurches.co.uk
Revd Louise Butler	07837 009730	revlouiseb@aol.com
Revd John Clarke	01235 510073	jphclarke@gmail.com
Revd Dr Mark Rhodes-Smith	01235 850267	mark.rhodes-smith@churnchurches.co.uk
Elaine de Ridder	01235 850267	office@churnchurches.co.uk

The Benefice Operations Manager, Elaine de Ridder, is in the office from 9.00am - 2.30pm, Monday to Friday.
The Astons Churchwarden email is **tirroldupthorpechurch@gmail.com** if you wish to find out information locally.

Online Services

The online services continue every Sunday at 10.30am. Login after 10.00 to chat beforehand or to check your technology. We will also have Christmas services, including a carol service!

For login details and how to join, go to the Churn Churches website :

<https://www.churnchurches.co.uk/services-this-week/sunday-service.php>

The new permanent link for the Sunday service is **<https://meet.goto.com/ChurnBenefice/sundayservice>**

Weekday evenings Compline at 8.00pm for 10 minutes. Access via **<https://meet.goto.com/312446493>**

Home Communion

Home Communion is available to anyone who is unable to get to church through sickness or frailty, either for a short time or on a long term basis. If you, or anyone you know, would like to receive Holy Communion at home, please contact Elaine in the Office or Revd Louise Butler on **07837 009730**.

Free Organ recitals at St Andrew's Church East Hagbourne OX11 9LP. Every first Sunday of the month at 5pm.

Harvest Festival will be on **Sunday 5th October at 10.30am** at All Saints' Aston Upthorpe. We would be very grateful for donations to the foodbank if you are coming to the service. You can also make regular or one-off financial donations to the Didcot Foodbank choosing "Foodbank" as your option via **<https://didcotbaptist.churchsuite.com/donate/>**

Services in November – ALL CHANGE!

Our services will be different in November due to Remembrance Day.

2nd November the service will be at St Michael's at 10.30am and it will include a baptism.

9th November Remembrance service will be at All Saints' at 10am with our friends from URC. Then we will meet up at the war memorial for a service from 10.50am.

The village hall will be open for refreshments and the WWII exhibition

There is no service on 16th November at St Michael's.

ASTON TIRROLD UNITED REFORMED CHURCH & CENTRE FOR REFLECTION

Spring Lane, Aston Tirrold

September Services

For a Zoom invitation please contact by email: JULIAN GALLOP – jgallop@freeuk.com

Sunday 5 October 11am	Morning Worship with communion led by Peg Shearer.
Sunday 12 October 11am	Morning Worship led by Becky Fisher – Harvest Festival
Sunday 19 October 11am	Morning Worship led by Rev Dr Richard Bittleston
Sunday 26 October 11am	Morning Worship led by A Yates. Zoom only.

Refreshments in the Centre for Reflection after the service.
All are welcome.

The next Quiet Garden Day will take place on Saturday 22 November 10 – 4pm. Please bring your own lunch. Suggested donation of £10. To book please contact Josie.midwinter@gmail.com. (Depending on the situation regarding the refurbishment of the Centre, the venue may change).

The Meditation Group meet twice monthly on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 11.45am. The Writing Group meet on the first Thursday of the month at 1.30pm.

Please contact Julian as above for further information.

Are you interested in Charles Darwin?

I wonder if you have ever wanted to find out more about the life of Charles Darwin, and about the science of Evolution?

Well, here is your opportunity! As part our commitment to science, our churches will be holding a celebration of the life and work of Charles Darwin, at **St Andrew's East Hagbourne on Sunday 19th October. We will do this in both our morning service (10.30am) and our evening service (6pm) – do come along to which ever suits you best.**

The talks are designed for a general audience, and assume no specialist scientific knowledge. The talks also make no assumptions about religious belief – they are accessible to people of all faiths and none. You don't have to believe in God to come along. And, rest assured, they aren't a hidden attempt to try and "convert" people to Christianity. The aim is to celebrate science. So as well as an occasion to celebrate the life and work of Charles Darwin, we will be looking more generally at the science of Evolution, and some of the key developments in this field over the last 150 years or so.

Some people feel or fear that there is a tension or even a contradiction between the science of Evolution and what Christians have traditionally believed about the origin of life and about what it means to be a Human Being made in the image of God. But in fact there is no necessary tension between the Christian faith and the science of Evolution. It is perfectly possible to believe in Jesus Christ and also to believe in the science of Evolution.

And I should add that although I have referred to the "science of Evolution", Evolution is itself a complex area of study with many different approaches and a variety of different theories. There are many different ways of understanding what is meant by "the science of Evolution", and the subject has been continually developing as a scientific discipline since at least the 18th Century. Charles Darwin is a key figure in its development, but there are lots of other scientists who have made significant contributions to the subject.

Interested? Well, do come along on Sunday 19th October to learn more. You will be very welcome!

Father Jason

Recommended Tradespersons

If you have a personal recommendation, send it to editorastonsnews@gmail.com

Recommended Tradesmen Advice: You are advised to contact the recommender before you employ the tradesperson, especially if the last recommendation is several years old. Tradespersons are kept on the list for three years, after which they are removed, so they need a new recommendation in order to stay on the list after that time.

Name	Comments	Recommended by
Builders, Decorators, Property Maintenance, Handyman		
Luke Porter porterluke9873@gmail.com 07714788423	Luke Porter is a local tradesman living in the village whom I have used on many occasions to replace fascias / gutters; repairs to flat roof ; drive refurbish etc etc Luke is conscientious; hard working and cost effective ----- Highly recommended	Tim Millin 01235 850207 0770 666 36 31 middlefell@ic24.net (2024)
Ben Whitehead BPW Painting & Decorating, 24 Blake Crescent, Swindon SN3 4LR Email: bpwpainting@hotmail.com Tel: 07532262077	We have used him for four years for different jobs, recommended to us by Greg Locke, and he has been in the VN as a recommended supplier. Ben is young, very hardworking and produces great results every time. He works with a number of people in the Astons.	Peter Le Conte peterleconte20@gmail.com (2024)
Jamie Weatherley. Mobile: 07951 852690 Landline: 01189 615234	We use Jamie regularly for internal and external painting and decorating. He has recently repainted our windows and doors externally, all to his (and my!) usual high standards. Recommended unreservedly.	Mike Hill 851149 (2024)
Ridgeway Carpentry Ryan Quinlan info@ridgewaycarpentry.co.uk 07881 361595	Ryan has done a really good job refurbishing the washrooms at the Village Hall. He is a bit of a perfectionist, reliable, brought in any extra trades when needed and always returned my calls. I can recommend him for large or small jobs/projects. You can find more reviews on Checkatrade.	Margaret Morant margmorant@gmail.com (2024)
Computers + electronics etc		
Steve Wicks, PC Technician 01491 825449 , 07513 297 547 www.thepctechnicians.co.uk , contact @thepctechnicians.co.uk	Desktop / laptop / tablet / printer? Problems with hardware/software, e-mail, internet, wi-fi, or peripherals? Steve makes things very simple and straightforward and manages not to make me feel like an IT simpleton!	Christopher Hawker 850534 c.hawker433@btinternet.com (2023)
Domestic: Cleaners, Ironing etc		
Carpet, Rug & Upholstery Cleaner Garlands - Colin Garland 0118 950 0365. 0797 475 4056 www.garlandsclean.co.uk	We had Colin Garland clean our 35 year old Persian rug. He took great care and the rug is looking much brighter and cleaner as a result.	Mike Hill 851149 (2024)
House Cleaning Gabriella 07845 782906	Gabriella has worked for several villagers and currently has space for another client. I can thoroughly vouch for her as hard working, with attention to detail and honest..	Lizzie Thornton-Allan 851732 (2021)
Theresa James Ironing 07780 820754	Theresa will pick up and deliver your ironing back within a couple of days. A friendly, reliable and quality service.	Lizzie Thornton-Allen 851732 (2019)
Electricians		
Robin Wilkinson Causeway Electrical Solutions Ltd. E-mail: info@causewayes.co.uk Mob: 07802 487159	Robin has done lots of excellent work in the churches, in the Village Hall and in my house. Efficient, reliable, reasonably priced and very competent, I have always been more than happy to entrust him with any electrical task or project	Christopher Hawker 850534 c.hawker433@btinternet.com (2019)

Recommended Tradespersons Continued

House cleaning

Magda 07805375872	Magda has worked for several villagers over the years and has been cleaning our house since we moved to the village in 2022. I look forward to her visit every week where she leaves our house looking spotless. She is very hard working, reliable and I wholeheartedly recommend her services.	Lucy Cantwell 6 Lower Ham Yard Lucyecantwell@gmail.com (2025)
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Plasterer

mitchpurvisplastering@yahoo.co.uk 0756 3079829	Mitch Purvis We have used Mitch for many years for our various plastering/rendering requirements. He is fast; efficient; tidy and cost effective. Highly recommended.	Tim Millin 01235 850207 0770 6663631 middlefell@ic24.net (2020)
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Plumbing and Heating Engineers

Adam AA Plumbing Services, 0776 3221 257 www.aadplumbing.co.uk	Adam is a tidy fast worker with excellent results at a reasonable charge. He offers free estimates with no call out charge and covers anything from a simple leak to a complete bathroom installation, including associated electrics and tiling. A very experienced expert who has done many jobs for me over the last few years. Adam came replace the thermostat in our immersion heater. Excellent service!	Penelope Curtis 01235 850794 (2023)
KWC Heating Services Ltd www.kwc-heating.co.uk contact@kwc-heating.co.uk 01235 537389	Michael Clarke is a first-class heating engineer who I have used for many years (and his father before him) Professional Engineer with many years' experience in all types of boiler/central heating/plumbing/under floor heating etc. Cost effective and very tidy. Gas Safe certified Highly recommended	Tim Millin 01235 850207 0770 6663631 middlefell@ic24.net (2020)
Seamstress		
Sophie Morris Mobile:07765 355217 Landline 01235 815316.	Sophie has altered dresses, jackets and a coat beautifully for me. She has made clothes and done alterations for a number of others in the village. She is a former Annabelinda seamstress based in Didcot. A really lovely and helpful lady. Highly recommended.	Katharine Verrill kmvrrll@gmail.com (2023)
TV & Aerials		
Oxford Aerials (Shaun Guard) SHAUN@OXFORDAERIALS.CO.UK	came out v quick , helpful and reasonable priced	Tim Lake 07887 987 900 tim.lake@stepienlake.co.uk (2024)
Window Cleaner		
LB Windows Mobile 07936 493556 www.windowcleanerdidcot.co.uk	Liam Barson does a good and thorough job. He offers both traditional and waterfed pole window cleaning, gutter, solar panel and patio cleaning.	Lizzie Thornton-Allan 01235 851732 lizziethorntonallan@gmail.com (2025)

U3A (UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE) meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at 2pm at Didcot Civic Hall. Visitors are welcome to come to one meeting as a taster before joining. **Next Meeting: October 21st** - All about Swans - from author Dan Keel . For further information go to the **WEBSITE:** didcot.u3asite.uk or email membership@didcotu3a.org or visit <https://www.didcot.u3asite>

PLEASE NOTE:

**PARENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR
THEIR CHILD'S WELFARE AT ALL
TIMES WHEN EMPLOYING A
BABY SITTER**

Claire Belcher (39)

Experienced mother of two boys, with previous care and babysitter experience. Available for babysitting, evenings and weekends. References available. Weekday evenings £8phr, Weekend evenings £10phr.

07568 477 599

Zara Butcher (17)

Available for babysitting in the evening
Lives in the Astons
07377115093

Felix Diamond

- ♦ Aged 17
- ♦ Lives in the Astons
- ♦ Is available for babysitting duties
Phone **07553 763 980**.

Sam Ferguson (19) Phone 07555549201

Available for babysitting or pet sitting
weekends, evenings and school holidays.
Lives in the Astons

Katie Ferguson (17) Phone : 07523178076

Available for babysitting or pet care week-ends, evenings and school holidays.
Lives in the Astons

Eliza Haigh (16)

Available for babysitting/petsitting
weekends, evenings and holidays
Lives in the Astons
Has a recent first aid certificate
Mobile: 07884960386

James Hart (17)

Available for babysitting
weekends and school holidays.
Home 01235850517
Mobile 07485284784

Lottie Hart (16)

Available for babysitting
weekends and school holidays.
Home 01235850517
Mobile 07484295323

Eve Lancaster (16)

Available for babysitting
at weekends, evenings
and during school holidays.
Mobile: 07962 182844

Roselle Isaac (16)

Available for: Babysitting
Pet care/pet-sitting
weekends, evenings and school holidays
Lives in the Astons
Please contact: 07751195432

Alex McCarthy (17)

Available for babysitting
Saturday nights and during school holidays
Mobile number 07599 209177

Olivia McCarthy (20)

Available during school holiday
Lives in Aston Tirrold
07544 109 504

Billy Vallings (15)

Available for babysitting and pet care
(weekends and school holidays)
07510 495937
01235 850659

Lucy Vallings (16)

Available for babysitting and pet care
(weekends and school holidays).
07568 629963
01235 850659

COMMUNITY SERVICES AND POLICE INFORMATION

DEFIBRILLATOR SITES: VILLAGE HALL Car park [outside library room] & PAVILION at The REC. Ring 999 to get an access code to open the cabinet door.

Thames Valley Police Team for the Astons area

Police Community Support Officers and Non Urgent Polices Calls: 101; For Emergency calls: dial 999.

Inspector Neil Byrne: He is the overall responsible officer for the neighbourhood policing team.

Dan Howard: A Sergeant who **supervises** the constables and PCSOs.

Alex Glover: A Police Constable.

Beverley Kaur: A Police Constable.

Christopher Druce: A Police Constable.

Curtis Emery: A Police Constable.

Dan Mellor: A Police Constable.

Beth Saunders: A Police Community Support Officer (PCSO).

Emily Collins: A Police Community Support Officer (PCSO)

Police and Crime Commissioner to the Thames Valley matthew@matthewbarber.co.uk

Reporting Rural Crime: report it to police by calling the **non-emergency number, 101.**

If an incident is in progress, or there is **an immediate threat to life**, you should **call 999.**

Other agencies:

SODC Councillor: Ben Manning 07946 476733

SODC Councillor: Anne-Marie Simpson 07770 781 233

Citizens Advice Line: 08444 111 444

Waste collection information: southoxon.gov.uk/wastecalendar (or call Biffa on 03000 610 610)

Fly-Tipping– How to report it:

Go to southoxon.gov.uk, then click on ‘**services and advice**’ and type ‘**fly-tipping**’ into the search box; click ‘**Fly-tipping**’ when it appears & fill in the ‘**report fly-tipping online**’ form, or phone **03000 610 610**

Reporting Potholes in the Astons

Report potholes and other hazards on the roads in Aston Tirrold and Aston Upthorpe to:

www.potholes.co.uk and www.fixmystreet.com

Nuisance phone calls: To register your number with the telephone preference service to help prevent the receipt of live unsolicited sales and marketing calls, phone **0800 398 893** or go to **www.tpsonline.org.uk**. It will not stop computer generated calls or calls that are not sales and marketing related.

Didcot Volunteer Drivers

DVD volunteer drivers provide transport in their own cars for local people who are unable to use public transport, or for those living in rural areas where it is not available, to hospitals, health centres, clinics and other activities. They take telephone requests and make bookings for transport each weekday from 10.00 am to 12 noon (except Bank/Public Holidays). There is an answering machine on at all other times. Tel: 01235 816709

Countywide Dial a Ride Service for the disabled & mobility impaired.

0845 3101111 <http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/oxfordshire-dial-ride#routes>

Cineworld Didcot:-----0871 200 2000, cineworld.co.uk/didcot,

Cornerstone Arts Centre: 01235 515 144, cornerstone-arts.org

The Corn Exchange:----01491 825 000, [Www.comexchange.org.uk/boxoffice](http://www.comexchange.org.uk/boxoffice)

Village Representative Organisations & Village Information

AT & AU Parish Councillors

Jane Imbush (Chair) and H&D	07739 644064
Simon Young (Vice-chair) & Housing and Development	07934 401377
Joanna Hart (ARC)	850517
Peter Butcher (Footpaths)	07956 976159
Jane Barr Knight (Roads & Traffic)	07968 300282
Nigel Hawkey (ARC)	07748 704151
Mary Severin	

Parochial Church Council (PCC)

Tim Lake (Chair and Churchwarden)	850468
Amanda le Conte (Churchwarden)	851546
Christopher Hawker	850534
George Curtis (Deanery Synod Rep +treasurer)	850794
Penelope curtis (Secretary)	850794
Joanna Hart	850517
Email	tirroldupthorpechurch@gmail.com

Village Hall Management Committee

Nicole West (Chair)	07939 265555
Mike Hill (Treasurer & Vice-chair)	
Louise Binder (Astons Outdoors)	
Charlotte Kerr (bookings)	
astons.vhbooking@gmail.com	
Maria Martin (History Group)	
Rachael Peterson (Sustainability)	
Tracy Briggs (Events)	
Christa Blomfield (Events/Promotion)	
Mary Severin (Parish Council)	
Sandra-Reed-Jennings (Café)	
Amanda Porter (Caretaker)	

Astons Recreation Committee (ARC)

(ARC is a sub-committee of the Parish Councils)	
Gavin Wood	07932 257676
Jo Walshe (Treasurer)	850502
Joanna Hart	850517
Liz Pattison (Bookings)	astonspavilion@gmail.com
Nigel Hawkey	07748 704151
Amberley Diamond	07771 995906
Ben Prior	

CLP Groups

Roads and Traffic:- Jane Barr Knight	07968 300282
Housing and Development :- Simon Young:	
youngastonspc@gmail.com	07934 401377
Environment Group Anna Dillon: dillon.anna@gmail.com	

Village Clubs & Organisations

APAC	Emma Machin	07840 862946
Emma.machin2018@gmail.com		
Astons Artists:	astonsvillages@gmail.com	
Astons Café	Margaret Morant	07899 748209
Louise Binder		07713 314662
Astons History Project	Jan Smith	07714 734441
Astons Outdoors	Naomi Simmonds	01235 859218
	Louise Binder	01235 851433
Bell Ringing	Rachael Marffy	07780 814257
Book Club	Sarah Dalton: dalton_family@hotmail.com	
Church Cleaning	Katherine Verrill	07866 435377
Church Flowers	Penelope Curtis	850794
Astons Cricket Club:	Tom Swainston	07595 695668
Tom.swainston@hotmail.com		
Community speed watch	Bob Picken	07787 567261
bob_picken@hotmail.com		
Football	Adam Griffiths	07815105760
Pavilion Hire:	Liz Pattison astonspavilion@gmail.com	
South Moreton Pre-School		819647
Thames Valley Alert	Tirrold: Steve Morant	07561 315882
	Upthorpe: Ian Clark	850103
Toddlers' Group	asonstoddlersgroup@gmail.com	
Astons enews team:	enews@theastons.net	
Facebook team:	Kathryn.hawkey@gmail.com	
theAstons.net website team:	webmaster@theastons.net	
Bruno Brunskill, Anna Dillon, Jeremy Imbush, Anne & Steve White,		

Agencies and Emergency numbers

Citizens Advice Bureau	0344 411 1444
Didcot Volunteer Drivers	01235 816709
NHS non-emergency number	111
Police: non urgent calls	101
Police crime stoppers	0800 555 111
Power Cuts	105
Thames Water	0800 316 9800

Astons Village Hall Post office

Tuesdays 10.00am-12noon
[Pangbourne Post Office: 01189 842294]
Blewbury Post Office: Mon, Tues, Thurs, Friday 9-3pm
Wed 9-12pm. Sat, Sun closed
Cholsey Post office (inside Tesco) 6a.m.-10.00pm
East Hagbourne Post Office Mon-Fri 9am -12.30pm.

Bus: 94A The Astons To Didcot [Orchard Centre & Station]
 Mon to Sat: 08.08, 10.44, 12.44, 1444, 16.19, 18.54
 Sunday: no service
 Stops at N & S Moreton only. Runs Anticlockwise only