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September 2025 issue 616

WHAT'S ON IN SEPTEMBER

BINS:- Green & Brown: 4, 18. GREY: 11, 25

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
Wed	7pm	Summer football	Rec	36
Fri	9.30-11.30am	Toddler Group (Term time only)	Centre for Reflection	14

Events in September

6	11am	Boules Day at the Rec	The Rec	-
6	10am-12pm	1) Make a wasp trap	Pavilion	9
7	9am	Parish Eucharist	All Saints', Upthorpe	28
7	3pm	EMERGCENCY ALERT TEST	ON YOUR MOBILE PHONE	4
11	7.30-9.15pm	Blewsing-Singing for pleasure	Blewbury	20
13	?	Ride & Stride	?	29
13	2pm-4pm	2) Identify your insect catch	Pavilion	9
16	10am-12pm	Astons online	Village Hall	19
16	All day	Newbury Riding for the disabled	Yattendon	26
18	?	Burford garden Centre	Astons Outdoors (see back page)	36
21	9am	Parish Eucharist	St. Michael's, Tirrold	28
21	2-4pm	Apple Juicing	Blewbury	24

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

			P			P
11 Oct	Safari Supper	Village	13	Nov 7-9	WW2 exhibition	VH 27
1 Nov	Auction of Promises	V Hall	25	Nov 8th	Fireworks night	The Rec -
				Feb 7th	Jennie's Children's Dinner	V Hall 20

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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 October edition is September 18th

SEND COPY TO: editorastonsnews@gmail.com

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

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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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Editorial:

Hello sun lovers!. If you are one, it's been a bumper year for you. For those of us who are pale, delicate flowers, and burn to a nice shade of pulsating pink, it's been a case of hiding under an awning or wearing Factor 'clothes'. Here's hoping for an Indian Summer, this Autumn. Everyone has seemed to be behaving themselves, so well done all.

For those of you who are new to the villages, especially those at Ham Yard, do come along to check out the Boules day on 6th September. A metaphorical doffing of the beret to our local chef hero, Olivier at the pub, who helped to initiate it 20 years ago. On the 7th, from 2pm, Astons Cricket Club is playing in a cup final, so do come and support the team at The Rec. Finally, don't forget the Autumn Safari Supper (see page 13)

The Orchard Centre Car Park: charges now apply for evenings and Sundays

Public testing of the Emergency Alerts system on 7 September 2025 at 3pm

The government will be carrying out a national test of the UK Emergency Alerts system. The system is designed to provide vital information and advice during emergencies. The test alert will be sent to all compatible 4G and 5G mobile phones and compatible tablets across the UK.

What the test will look and sound like

An emergency alert looks and sounds very different to other types of messages you might receive on your phone. You'll hear a loud, siren-like sound and your phone or tablet will vibrate.

If you have a vision or hearing impairment, audio and vibration attention signals will let you know you have received the test.

Why the test is taking place

Regular testing ensures the system is functioning correctly, should it be needed in an emergency.

The test is not intended to alert you to real danger and you will not need to take any further action.

Opt out of the test

You can opt out of emergency alerts, including the national test, but you should keep them switched on for your own safety. Learn more about how to opt out at www.gov.uk

Proposed Changes to local government in Oxfordshire will affect everything currently covered by SODC and OCC, including roads, schools, planning, social care, bin collection etc. Parishes aren't even mentioned in the government's White Paper. Also, the effects of centralising planning on NDP's and local planning in general. These concerns notwithstanding, Westminster has asked local authorities to draw up plans for new unitary councils across England of around 500,000 people each, which, in Oxfordshire, would replace the current two-tier system (SODC, and OCC).

Vale, SODC, West Oxfordshire, Cherwell and West Berkshire Councils support the formation of two new unitaries, splitting the county in two – ours falls into 'Ridgeway', including West Berks, SODC and Vale. The other includes Oxford City, WODC and Cherwell.

Oxford City Council does not support this – they would prefer a 'doughnut' council encompassing the city and its greenbelt, plus northern and southern unitaries (both would not contain enough people), or a single unitary covering the whole county.

There are 70 parishes within the proposed new Ridgeway council. If it was a bigger unitary council, our parish input (e.g. to influence speeding measures, road plans, schools etc) would likely become more limited. There is a question over what would happen to assets such as Cornerstone and various leisure centres. If the local authority is Oxford-based, it may be that outlying facilities could be rationalised or closed.

If you are interested in how these proposed changes will affect you, find out more & have your say at

twocouncils.org. Planning Applications

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Family Wasp survey



Event 1: Sat 6th Sept 10am–12pm Aston Tirrold Pavilion

• Making a trap for Big Wasp Survey 2025

Come join us for a hands-on trap making session for the Big Wasp Survey. Bring along a 1ltr or 1.5ltr plastic bottle (see-through – colour doesn't matter). We will provide string and scissors.

There will also be the opportunity to chat with local wasp expert Seirian Sumner, look at some wasp specimens, and engage with some child-friendly wasp-themed art activities.

All children must be accompanied and assisted in the activities by an adult.

Event 2: Sat 13th Sept 2–4pm Aston Tirrold Pavilion

• Identify your catch

Collect your trap and bring it along to the Pavilion to learn how to identify the wasps. NB this involves handling dead insects. You will learn some basic entomological identification methods, follow a key and identify your wasps to species level and submit them online here: <https://www.bigwaspsurvey.org/taking-part/#4-5-identify-your-wasps>



**Big
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<https://www.bigwaspsurvey.org/>

2025 is the 9th year of our survey!

We always welcome new citizen scientists to take part!



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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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SAFARI SUPPER

Saturday 11th October 2025

The Annual ARC Safari Supper returns on Saturday 11th October. The format will stay exactly the same as in previous years as this is such a wonderful, all inclusive village tradition. For the uninitiated, the format of this popular event is very simple. The evening begins with everyone going to their allocated Starter venues. At the allotted time they then move on to their Main Course Venue and for the finale of the event everyone then meets for desserts and generally a bit of a party at the Dessert Venue.

Tickets are £20 per head which includes your meal. You take your own drinks and glasses with you from course to course. You will only know where you are going for Main Course when you pull out your venue and Main Course hosts will only know who they are hosting when you arrive at their door. When booking tickets please tell us if you have any special dietary requirements – particularly allergies!

In order to make this as successful as previous years we are looking for volunteers to host the courses. Ideally we would like to have Starters of between 10 and 20 people and mains of 8 to 12. As a host you provide the food for your guests but will be given an allowance for everyone at your house. We particularly need offers to host Main Courses.

So, if you would like more information or would like to book tickets, and/or if you would like to host a course or provide a dessert please contact either:

LAURA: mrslaurahaigh@yahoo.com

SUSAN: susanpallett1@gmail.com

AMBERLEY: amberleyjones@hotmail.com

This is a very popular event and there will be a finite number tickets available due to the capacity of the hosts. The closing date to book tickets is Friday 19th September

Once you have booked please drop your payment in to either Laura (8 Moreton Road), Susan (Hawthorn Cottage, The Croft) or Amberley (Jervis Cottage, Aston Street) as soon as possible.

However, if you are hosting please wait until you know how many guests you will have and deduct the allowance of £1.50 per person for a Starter and £2.50 per person for a Main from your payment. Please include your e-mail address with your payment so we can email you your starter venue.

50% of this year's profits will be spent on food donations for the Didcot Food Bank

PLEASE DO SUPPORT OUR VILLAGE SAFARI SUPPER, EITHER AS A VETERAN, OR BY GIVING IT A TRY IF YOU HAVE NEVER BEEN TO ONE BEFORE.

Many Thanks

Amberley, Susan & Laura

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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

All Village Hall booking enquiries
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resident living in Cape Town.

www.wheretailbegan.travel



**WHERE IT
ALL BEGAN**



**Elevating indoor spaces
with beautiful hand
painted murals.**



If you have an idea for a project, please get in touch:
scarletteaporn@semurals.co.uk

semurals.co.uk

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Didcot Home Care Ltd

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Local family run domiciliary care company providing professional home care services to the elderly and those with clinical needs. Our staff are fully trained in specialist areas such as dementia, catheterisation, compression stockings

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See page 5 for details



Aston Tirrold and Aston Upthorpe Village Hall Funding Appeal update

Registered Charity 300114

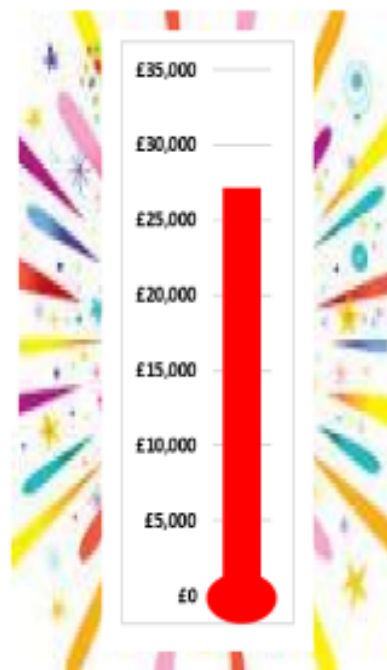
Our fundraising appeal has had a massive boost! Our grant application to the National Lottery was successful and we have a pledge from the Bernard Sunley Foundation, but to receive that pledge, we need to meet a new target - £35,000. You can donate by bank transfer, details below. If you would like to gift aid your donation, please complete the form below and either e-mail it to: villagehall@theastons.net or drop off a copy in the hall post box

You can also nominate the hall for the Movement for Good prize draw:

<https://movementforgood.com/#nominateACharity>

Charity number 300114

Bank transfer to:
Barclays Bank plc
Account name: Aston Tirrold and Upthorpe
Village Hall
Sort code: 20-01-09
Account no: 90120227



Total as at
21/8/2025

I would like to support the Village Hall programme of works with a donation of £_____

In order to Gift Aid your donation you must tick the box below:

Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate

Gift Aid is reclaimed from the tax you pay for the current tax year. Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer.

I would like to Gift Aid my donation of £_____ and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to:

Village Hall Aston Tirrold and Aston Upthorpe
Registered Charity: 300114

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

First name: _____ Surname: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Email: _____ Date: _____

Please make your donation either by bank transfer to:

Barclays Bank plc, Account name: Aston Tirrold and Upthorpe Village Hall, Sort code: 20-01-09, Account no: 90120227

Please post this form in the Village Hall letter box, or take a photo of it and email to villagehall@theastons.net

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"

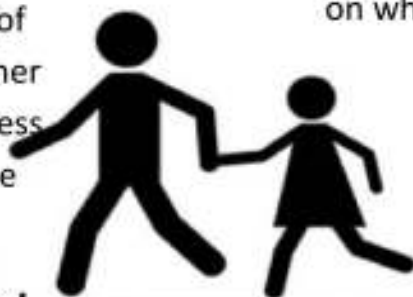
More volunteers always welcome



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 and
friendly
support**

for computer users

**Astons Village Hall (OX11 9EQ) on
Tuesday 16 September 10:00 - 12:00**

Appointments Only

please email theastonsonline@gmail.com

or phone 07780958249 to book yours

Astons Online supports people who want to be digitally confident on the Internet, with smartphone apps or online services like health and banking.

Astons Online events and support are free of charge and open to everyone.

Astons Online is available for Zoom, Facetime, WhatsApp or telephone one-to-one sessions on Tuesday mornings between 10:00 and 12:00.

Website: www.astonsonline.uk

email: theastonsonline@gmail.com

Picks Field Update

It's been a glorious summer, and the Field has been looking glorious too! We've loved seeing villagers' posts about the fabulous nature they've enjoyed there.

Members of the Aston's Nature Recovery Group spent a hot July day training to scythe with the fabulous Nicole from <https://joyofscything.uk/>. Astons now has its own team of trained scythers! It was so much easier and more fun than we could ever have imagined, despite the 32C heat... And extremely satisfying!

We learned to use Austrian scythes, which are half the weight of the Poldark-style English scythes, making them easy to use irrespective of your strength and stature. We learned about the physics and mechanics of blades, blade maintenance, how to scythe effectively with little effort, and about the history of scything.

Why? Scything is a traditional nature-sensitive method to help control dominant grasses which threaten the special chalk grassland ecosystem in Picks Field. We have a grant from TOE (Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment) which has funded training and equipment purchase for this purpose.

Fancy it? We have funding to train a further six villagers. Nicole is coming back to the village on the 20th Sept to do this training. And we're still looking for some keen wannabe-scythers! It's free to villagers who are willing to commit to becoming a regular scyther for Picks Field. If you're interested, please register here, and we'll be in touch: <https://pfr.tidyhq.com/> Or feel free to have a chat with one of us about it.



Aston's inaugural scything team:

Anna Dillon, Bob Picken, Nick Isaac, Guy Liverton, Jolyon Tidmarsh, Seirian Sumner.



Jennie's Children's Trust Fundraising Dinner 2026

Come with your friends and enjoy a wonderful evening with fine food and wine, on **Saturday, 7th February 2026** at the Astons Village Hall. Put the date in your diary now, and gather a group of 8-10 guests before booking your table.

We will be serving a three course set menu along with a selection of amuse-bouches on arrival. Dietary requirements will be catered for -please specify when booking. The suggested donation is £50 per person or £400-£500 per table. To reserve your table, please email gracelancaster@gmail.com.

Payment will be due by the 7th January 2026 with all funds raised in support of Jennie's Children's Trust.

Jennie's Children's Trust works to create happy memories for children and their families, who have suffered trauma. To find out more about the work they do, please visit www.jennieschildrenstrust.org



BLEWSING - Blewbury Choir

Do you like singing? You are most welcome to join Blewsing and our Autumn sessions start on **Thursday September 11th**.

BlewSing meet weekly in term times on Thursday evenings at the Melland Room on the Recreation Ground on Blewbury 7.30 – 9.15 p.m. with Mark Stanley as their teacher and conductor. The choir always sings for pleasure. There are no auditions and no requirement to read music; the only requirement is simply a love of singing.

We need to know who is coming along so, if you would like to join us and/or would like further information re dates, fees, repertoire etc, please contact Sheila Loy on sloy24@gmail.com or have a look at our website: <http://www.blewsing.org/>

THE ASTONS' *Pavilion*

Perfect venue
for parties, meetings, clubs
and groups.



Up to 50 seating 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

THE ASTONS HISTORY PROJECT

OUR LATEST eBay PURCHASE:

When I saw this postcard (below left) of Baker Street in the 1930s on eBay I knew straight away that the house on the left was The Lanes. But the distinctive porch on the house to the right confused me - from its position I thought it must be Baldons, but Baldons has no door onto the road.

Then I remembered that at last year's Freshers' Day at the Village Hall I was chatting to Berenice Cox (who lives at Baldons) about a photo of a shop on Baker Street that we had, and she told me about an old photo showing the shop that they had - which she has very kindly let me scan for the archive. I think you'll agree that it is a really charming photo (below right).

Anyway, looking at Baldons in the background you can see that Baldons at that time did have a door and porch on the roadside wall. Bingo! At the bottom of this page is the photo we already had, and in which I assumed the shop was facing the road - but from Berenice's photo it looks as if it is side on to the road. So, as ever, it shows that you can learn new things about village history in unexpected ways.



Above: our recent eBay purchase. Right: Berenice's photo.

Below: a super photo of Clement's shop and staff in the 1950s



Remember you can see photos in zoomable detail on the village website copy of the Astons News

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

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,.

Apple juicing in Blewbury.

We offer a service in apple juicing each year so that your fallen apples can be put to good use by juicing and preserving them. Our sessions will take place at the Manor, Berry Lane on 31 August, 21 September, 5 and 24 October from 2 to 4pm.

Bring washed apples (bad bits removed but not cores) and your own clean bottles or containers. Arrive by 3pm if you want to pasteurise your juice (which will need glass screw top bottles).

Costs: £1.50 to press a large bucket or basket of apples plus 30p per bottle to pasteurize. You can also freeze unpasteurised juice (in plastic containers).

We do not supply bottles or containers. If you have a large quantity of apples, you can hire our equipment for a charge of £20 per day.

For further information email Andy: andy3210123@gmail.com

Online Ticket Scams

In a ticket scam, the seller tells you they'll post or email the tickets as soon as you've transferred the money to their bank account. But when you try to contact them after you've paid, and nothing's arrived, they've disappeared into thin air. Before buying tickets, check out the expert advice on our website:

[Buying and selling tickets – your safety guide - Get Safe Online](#)

Olly Glover, MP

I was very pleased with the attendance at my summer surgeries in Sutton Courtenay, Uffington, Stanford in the Vale, Moulsoford, Blewbury, Didcot, Clifton Hampden, and Letcombe Regis: thank you to everybody who took the time to come and discuss a huge range of topics and concerns.

I saw the scientific progress being made on Harwell Campus: from exciting startups like Astron Systems, Oxford Dynamics, and Space Solar, to local outposts of major organisations like the UK Space Agency.

I spent an eye-opening shift with Thames Valley Police, saw the work happening to renovate the Wantage Community Hospital, and met representatives from the NHS regional Integrated Care Board to push for progress on the new GP Surgery at Great Western Park, as key to further progress lies with the regional NHS.

I narrowly avoided a game of 'sponge the MP' at TRAIN's Didcot Youthfest, where young people were connected with vital projects to support their wellbeing.

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 leaving a voice message 0207 219 7657.

Olly Glover, MP for Didcot and Wantage

Matthew Barber, Police & Crime Commissioner

The most common crime: Domestic Abuse

Around a fifth of the jobs a police officer will have during a shift could be some form of domestic abuse, and it is a crime that exists in every community, urban and rural.

Domestic abuse isn't just physical—it can be emotional, financial, sexual, or controlling behaviour. It can be incredibly hard to reach out. Our specially trained domestic abuse teams offer a compassionate and confidential service. We work closely with local partners, such as victim support charities, housing services, and healthcare providers, to ensure people can access the right help at the right time.

You can contact us at any time by calling 101—or 999 in an emergency. If speaking isn't safe, you can press 55 when prompted after calling 999 (this is known as the "Silent Solution"). The call handler will do everything they can to determine your location so they can deploy officers to you; if you can say one thing, please say your address. You can also report online at thamesvalley.police.uk.

Victims First is the victims service run by my office that provides free support for anyone who has been a victim of crime in Thames Valley. Officers will talk to you about any emotional or practical needs you may have, and then will help you access help and support. They may offer to refer you to specialist local organisations who have experience in supporting those who have experienced abuse, but no referrals will be made without your consent.

You are welcome to contact Victims First to access support if you have reported the Domestic Abuse to the police, or if you have not made contact with the police at all.

Simply call 0300 1234 148 or visit victims-first.org.uk

JOIN US FOR

THE ASTONS VILLAGE HALL

AUCTION OF PROMISES!

Saturday 1st November 7.30pm

Our lovely village hall is a vital community space and it badly needs a new floor. Please help to bring the village together for a fun community-driven evening where villagers donate large or small promises and neighbours bid on them.

Please could you donate a promise?

Could you offer a lift to the airport? A home cooked meal? A family photo shoot? A few days in a holiday house or a weekend in a London flat? Gig/event tickets? DIY skills? Tutoring? Work experience for a young person? Professional advice? A boat/SUP trip on the river? A masterclass? A home-baked cake once a month? A gourmet picnic for an event? A piece of art?

Short on time? Why not donate a special gift such as a case of wine or a voucher? Perhaps the young people in your household could babysit, valet a car, waitress or wash up at a party, help with autumn leaf clearing or gardening?

THE ONLY LIMIT IS YOUR IMAGINATION!

Some items will be sold by silent auction and other prizes by live auction on the night, with a lively double-act pair of villager auctioneers to keep you entertained, a bar and the infamous Astons community spirit.

Help bring life back to your village hall - come and bid for some unique and exciting items and experiences, perfect for you or for Christmas presents.

Tickets £10 to include your first drink and nibbles (scan the QR code)



For more details or to donate a promise please contact
astons.vhbooking@gmail.com

ASTON TIRROLD AND ASTON UPTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

There was no meeting in August

Parish Council Vacancies

There are currently 3 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**



HELP WITH RISING COST OF LIVING

If you, or someone you know, is struggling financially, we are a local charity which supports people of all ages living in Aston Upthorpe, Blewbury and Upton. We have funds to give a helping hand with living costs, from the weekly food shop, clothing and equipment for the new school year, to energy bills, or a one-off payment if you find yourself running low on funds for essential items.

There is a short application form to complete which can be picked up All Saints Church, or requested by email to unitedcharities@outlook.com

We can help you fill in the form. Please don't be reluctant to ask for help, all applications are dealt with confidentially.

United Charities of the Ancient Parish of Blewbury Registered Charity No: 203538

Newbury Riding for the Disabled Autumn Gift Fair

Tuesday 16th September in Yattendon.

Newbury RDA delivers equine therapy to local children with physical disabilities and/or special educational needs to help improve their mental health and physical wellbeing. Our RDA horse riding sessions benefit our participants by improving muscle tone and coordination; boosting concentration, communication and confidence and by giving them a huge sense of achievement and pleasure.

We'd love your help to spread the word about this event please. If you'd like any more information about our charity, please contact us at <https://newburyrda.co.uk/>

With many thanks,

Lucy Atherton

Chair of Trustees, Newbury RDA, Newbury Riding for the Disabled Limited, Wyld Court Stud, Hampstead Norreys, Thatcham, RG18 0TN. Charity No 1121113

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

REMEMBERING THE ASTONS DURING WW2

80 YEAR ANNIVERSARY EXHIBITION

SATURDAY 8th to SUNDAY 9th November

Open from 11.00am to 4.00pm each day

ASTON TIRROLD AND ASTON UPTHORPE VILLAGE HALL

The Astons History Project are holding an exhibition to mark 80 years since the end of WW2.

Soldier banners and village stories about child evacuees, land girls, photos and reflections.

The Redline Home Guard are a historical reenactment group dedicated to showcasing the important role of the British Home Guard during WW2 and they will be joining us.

TALKS

In addition to our exhibition, we are holding two talks on the evening of

Friday 7th November at the hall. **Doors open at 6.30pm.**



THE ROAD TO PEACE IS PAVED WITH HEADSTONES:

Starts at 7:00pm. We are grateful that Dick Richards, a volunteer for the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, will be giving a talk to our villages about his research of a Wellington Bomber crash that happened in the Parish of Aston Tirrold in 1944. Come and hear about his incredible research.

Short Break for refreshments



DECOYS: DECEIVING THE BOMBER DURING THE

SECOND WORLD WAR: Starts at 8:00pm. We are thrilled to host one of the country's leading Archaeologists and Second World War Defence Specialists, Chris Kolonko, to our villages where he will be talking to us about WW2 Decoy sites, how and why they were built and used during the war and with special interest in how the Astons' site and control room were used.

<https://chriskolonko.wordpress.com/>

ENTRANCE TO THE EXHIBITION AND TALKS ARE FREE.

EVERYONE WELCOME

THE ASTONS HISTORY PROJECT

Churn Church Services July & Auguste 2025

		Prayer Focus
+Sunday 7th September	12TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY 9.00am All Saints' Aston Upthorpe: Parish Eucharist	Children, our village schools and Sunday club
+Sunday 21st September	MATTHEW, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST 9.00am St Michael's Aston Tirrold: Parish Eucharist	Sidesmen, those who help with hospitality & catering. Flower ar- rangers
The congregation of St Michael's Aston Tirrold is warmly invited to the St Michael's Patronal Festival at St Michael's Blewbury, below		
+Sunday 28th September	MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS 10.30am St Michael's Blewbury: Patronal Festival and Parish Eucharist	Pastoral care & visiting

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.

Creationtide, also known as the Season of Creation, is a period in the church calendar dedicated to celebrating God as the Creator and Sustainer of all life. In the Church of England, it runs from **September 1st to October 4th**, culminating on St. Francis' Day. Churches use this time to reflect on humanity's responsibility for the Earth and all its inhabitants. The Church of England celebrates Creationtide and during this time we:

Focus on God as Creator: It's a time to acknowledge and give thanks for God's creation and to reflect on the relationship between God, humanity, and the natural world:

Focus on our environmental responsibility: It's an opportunity to consider the impact of human actions on the environment and to renew commitments to caring for the planet. Many churches incorporate Creationtide into their Harvest celebrations, giving thanks for the food and resources provided by God's creation.

Focus on a deepening connection with our faith: It encourages churches and individuals to connect their faith with environmental concerns, prompting reflection and action

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 7 September 11am	Morning Worship with communion led by Rev Paul Dean.
Sunday 14 September 11am	Morning Worship led by Rev Glyn Millington.
Sunday 21 September 11am	Morning Worship led by the Worship Group.
Sunday 28 September 11am	Morning Worship led by Joanna Tulloch. Zoom only.

Refreshments in the Centre for Reflection after the service.

All are welcome.

The next Quiet Garden Day will take place on Saturday 20 September 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 doing anything on 13th September?

I wonder if you have heard of a charity called the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust? The charity exists to give grants to churches of all denominations towards the costs of repair and maintenance, and will also support plans to improve and upgrade church facilities. Every year, they promote an event called “Ride and Stride”, which encourages people to be sponsored to visit as many churches as possible. Funds raised are split equally between a designated church and the charity as a whole. This year, Ride and Stride takes place on Saturday 13th September.

Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust is an excellent charity, and many churches in our area have successfully applied for grants from the trust. (I should add that I serve as the local Area Representative, so do be in touch if you have any further questions!)

Why is the work of the trust so important? In short, it is because it is getting harder and harder for churches to find the money and volunteers to look after their buildings and to adapt them appropriately for the 21st Century. Looking at England, Wales and Scotland as a whole, it is widely recognised that the situation has reached a crisis point. Christian denominations are no longer able to look after their historic buildings. They simply don't have the money or the people to do so.

Some denominations, such as the Church of Scotland, are undertaking a radical programme of church closure. However, the Church of England has avoided taking such a radical step, and is trying its best to muddle through. Individual churches are encouraged to keep on top of regular maintenance, in the hope that regular maintenance will forestall major problems with the building. Churches are also encouraged to open themselves to wider use by community groups. Some grants are also available, and charities such as Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust play a significant role. Many churches also benefit from “Friends” schemes.

But at the end of the day, it would be fair to say that as a whole, the Church of England is finding it harder and harder to care for the historic church buildings for which it is responsible. It simply doesn't have the money or the volunteers needed to take care of the thousands of buildings under its care. Something needs to be done. But what? All thoughts gratefully received!

In the meantime, if you value our historic churches, I would encourage you to support the work of charities such as the Oxford Historic Churches Trust. Perhaps you might be tempted to take part in the Ride and Stride on Saturday 13th September? It's great fun, and you will be playing your part in helping us to preserve our precious church buildings, not only for own generation but also for generations to come.

Father Jason



Retired Gentleman's Lunch Club [OFLC]



Last month, 18 of the Aston's most venerable elder statesmen assembled on a lovely summer's afternoon for a most enjoyable BBQ lunch, created by Ghislain (not that one), which was, as ever, magnificent in it's breadth of offerings, and quality of its execution.

He was expertly assisted by two young sous chefs. This year, Mike Wigg graciously hosted the event in the grounds of his estate, Greg Locke's gaff being unavailable due to gym-building (what? and why? I hear your cry) works. Wines expertly matched, with a lightness of touch, for the food were chosen by Greg, reflecting his deep wine

knowledge, and size of his wine cellar. Stellar admin, as usual.

A new light-entertainment element (which I hope will continue), was introduced by Mike with the production of a comedy collapsing chair, and John gamely took on the role of stool pigeon in the true style of silent movies of old, and flattened it.

Bravo! JRI



Cash boost available for local rural projects

If you are involved in a project or have an idea that could benefit your community, you may want to find out more about the funding on offer for the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF). Applications have now opened for grants of up to £30,000. REPF provides capital grant funding to:

- Support new and existing rural businesses to develop new products and facilities that will be of wider benefit to the local economy. This includes farm businesses looking to diversify income streams outside of agriculture.
- Support new and improved community infrastructure, providing essential community services and assets for local people and businesses to benefit the local economy.

In the past this fund has helped projects ranging from creating outdoor learning centres and local tourism websites, to setting up a free Winter Blues and Jazz Festival, improving accessibility in play areas, supporting sustainable food initiatives and funding arts projects.

For more information and eligibility criteria you can visit our [South Oxfordshire REPF page](#).

Funds available from district council

Did you know your local district councillor has funds available that could help your local community?

Each South Oxfordshire district councillor has £7,500 to award to projects and activities that offer community benefits in their ward area. The grant is open to community and non-for profit organisations across South Oxfordshire. If a project close to you needs a financial boost, contact your local district councillor to tell them about how they can help. Head to [**Southoxon.gov.uk/grants**](https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/grants) to find out more.

Cholsey Repair Café 20th September

On the third Saturday of odd-numbered months, between 10.00 and 12.45, you can visit Cholsey Repair Cafe with your broken household items, for help with getting them back into regular use. The venue is The Cholsey Pavilion on Station Road..

Volunteer fixers will do their best to help and advise, and have many repair skills.

No charge is made for repair work, although parts need to be paid for and a donation towards operating costs is greatly appreciated. See also [**www.cholseyrepaircafe.com**](http://www.cholseyrepaircafe.com) or email [**repaircafe@cholsey.com**](mailto:repaircafe@cholsey.com)

Happy birthday Rainbow Warrior

[**www.greenpeace.org.uk**](http://www.greenpeace.org.uk). Greenpeace celebrates a 40th Anniversary this year. It is respectable now: governments consult them on climate issues, but 40 years ago they were extremely controversial.

In July 1985, the Greenpeace flagship Rainbow Warrior, a symbol of peace, had just returned from a visit to the Marshall Islands, whose inhabitants were still suffering the horrific effects of nuclear fallout following the 1954 testing of the American H-bomb Bravo – a weapon 1,000 times more powerful than the Hiroshima bomb.

It arrived in Auckland Harbour, New Zealand, where they were planning to protest against French nuclear tests in French Polynesia, but two explosions sank the ship, killing a crew member. The bombs had been placed by French divers, but the French stated that their purpose was never to endanger crew members.

Thames Valley Police statistics released

As part of our ongoing commitment to inform the public of the work we do, Thames Valley Police is today (29/4) releasing statistics on our activity from the last financial year, from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024.

There have been over 400,000 calls to 999, over 470,000 calls to 101, and over 108,000 online reports to our contact management centres.

We have attended 160,000 incidents, made 33,000 arrests, and helped find 5,687 missing people.

We policed the King's Coronation in Windsor, which was another of the most significant policing operations in the history of the Force. We helped people to stay safe at many other events including Reading Festival, Royal Ascot and Henley Regatta.

Numbers at a glance

- 984,280 total contacts from the public – increase of 2% from 2022/23
- 404,654 calls to 999
- 471,512 calls to 101
- 108,114 online reports – an increase of 15% from 2022/23
- 638 missing people found deemed 'high risk'
- 160,127 incidents attended
- 33,006 arrests made
- 755 knife crime arrests
- 9,253 domestic abuse arrests
- 6% increase in personal robbery (1,022 incidents to 1,088)
- 3% increase in residential burglary (4,942 to 5,075)
- 17.4% increase in charges for rape offences (121 to 142)
- 13.6% increase in charges for sexual offences (426 to 484)

For further details into our end of year statistics, please visit our news page.

Oxfordshire Trading Standards : Courier Fraud

Courier fraud occurs when a criminal arranges for someone to withdraw large sums of money or purchase expensive items such as gold, jewellery or expensive watches on their behalf, usually after convincing them it needs to be seized as part of an

ongoing police investigation. In many cases victims are instructed to visit a jewellers via a cab — often incurring steep travel costs.

In one case, an 84-year-old person was targeted by scammers impersonating a Police Officer and persuaded to withdraw cash and travel via taxi to a bullion dealer to buy gold. The fraudsters remained on the phone throughout and attempted to arrange a courier pickup. Fortunately, the family intervened before the assets were handed over

To stay safe and protect yourself:

- Your bank or the police will never call you to ask you to verify your personal details or PIN by phone or offer to pick up your card by courier. Hang up, wait a few minutes and call your bank on a number you know to be genuine, such as the one on the back of your card, or by calling 159 (a operator will transfer you straight to your bank)
- The police or your bank will not contact you out of the blue to participate in an investigation or send a courier to your home to collect bank cards, cash, or other valuable items. Any requests to do so are a scam.
- Don't trust Caller ID display on your phone – it's not proof of ID.
- Remember, staying cautious and sceptical can go a long way in protecting yourself from courier fraud. Take the time to verify information, seek advice from trusted sources, and never rush into making financial decisions under pressure.

If you think you've been a victim of fraud, contact your bank immediately and report it to Action Fraud online at www.actionfraud.police.uk or by calling 0300 123 2040.

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: September 16th - Coleshill** - the Nerve Centre for British Resistance by Gillian Cane
For further information go to the **WEBSITE:** didcot.u3asite.uk
or email membership@didcotu3a.org or visit <https://www.didcot.u3asite>

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)
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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)
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Seamstress		
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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)
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TV & Aerials		
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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)
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Window Cleaner		
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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)
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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 weekends, evenings and school holidays.
Lives in the Astons

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

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

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	Biddy Hawker	850534
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		
Downs Rescue		911
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		

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