

ASTONS NEWS

Part of the Comms information group:

Astonsnews: enews@theastons.net, theastons.net

The Astons Villagers Facebook Community

Astonsonline Twitter (X)

February 2026 issue 620

WHAT'S ON IN FEBRUARY

BINS: Green & Brown: 5 & 19. GREY: 12 & 26

The SODC Binzone app is no longer supported due to internet security changes. Go to SODC Website

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Weekly Events

Day	Time	Event	Location	Page
M to F	various	various classes	Village Hall	13
Tues	10-00-12.00	Astons Café	Village Hall	9
“	10.00-12.00	Post Office	“	9
“	10.00-12.00	Free Superfast Internet Access	“	9, 19
Fri	9.30-11.30am	Toddler Group (Term time only)	Centre for Reflection	29

Events in February

1st	9am	Candlemas	All Saints'	32
7th	7pm	Jennie's Children's Dinner	Village Hall	15
14	10.30.a.m	Wildlife refuges (hands on)	St. Michael's Churchyard	11
15	9am	2nd Sunday before Lent	St. Michael's	32
17th	10-12	Astons online	Village Hall	9,19

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

			P		P
March 17th	Have your say meeting	VH	7	June 27th ASTONBURY	The rec -
May 3rd	Astonathlon		31		

LONDON TUBE STATION CHRISTMAS QUIZ ANSWERS (PICTURE ON P35). MORE ON P 34

1	Elephant & Castle	17	Kew Gardens	33	Mile End	49	Leytonstone	65	Marylebone
2	Seven Sisters	18	Barking	34	Hatton Cross	50	Blackhorse Road	66	Holburn
3	Barbican	19	West Ham	35	Hammersmith	51	Redbridge	67	Covent Garden
4	Angel	20	Blackfriars	36	Cannon Street	52	Mill Hill	68	Tower Hill
5	Knightsbridge	21	High Barnet	37	Aldgate	53	Borough	69	New Cross
6	Lambeth North	22	Warren Street	38	Monument	54	Pinner	70	Gunnersbury
7	Kings Cross	23	Whitechapel	39	Canada Water	55	Becontree	71	Bayswater
8	Bow Road	24	Bank	40	Stockwell	56	Kilburn	72	Bounds Green

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ARTICLES

- 1 What's on at a glance, Christmas Quiz answers (Part 1. For part 2, see p34 . Quiz on P35)
- 3 Articles, Copy deadline, Asylum welcome -bicycles sought for, Help wildlife in the garden over winter.
- 5 Advertisers' Index, Advertising rates
- 7 Editorial, Church flowers- help wanted, Oxford Congestion Charge Permits, Free Park & Ride tickets in Oxford, Compulsory Recycling Centre booking, Police have your say meeting.
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Tips for looking after wildlife this winter:

- * Always move your burn piles before you light them. Many creatures use burn piles to sleep in, including hedgehogs, frogs, voles, and lizards.
- * Leave area(s) of your garden undisturbed. Some invertebrates hibernate in hollow stems cow parsley and other umbellifers. Avoid cutting these as they might house sleeping beetles, bees, spiders or ladybirds.
- * Log piles: try to leave a pile untouched to allow hedgehogs and other wildlife to sleep over winter.

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. Please contact Nasser, or Mark and Tino, our Bike Project volunteers at bike@asylum-welcome.org -Tessa Mayhew, tessamayhew@btinternet.com.

DEADLINE for the MARCH edition is FEBRUARY 19th

SEND COPY TO: editorastonsnews@gmail.com

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

OR in writing to: Astons News, The Barn, Baker Street, Aston Tirrold Oxon OX11 9DD

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ASTONS NEWS Advertising Rates 2026 (Community Adverts are free)

ASTONS NEWS Advertising Rates 2026

Advert size	width	x height	10 issues	5 issues	1 issue
1/8 page	(90mm	x 65mm)	£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: Happy New Year All!

Well done everyone for exceptional behaviour over the busy Fireworks/Bonfires/Hallowe'en/Christmas/New Year period!

Events to note:

- ◆ 7th February Jennie's Children's Trust Fund Raising Dinner (P15)
- ◆ 14th Wildlife refuge creation (P11)
- ◆ 17 March Have your say meeting WITH TVP (P7)
- ◆ 3rd May Astonathlon (P31)
- ◆ June 27th Astonbury is back! Save the date. *Update next month*
- ◆ No PC news this month

Arranging flowers at St. Michael's Church

Calling all flower arrangers! If you would like to be included on the rota for arranging flowers in St Michael's Church please do send me an email. No great skills required - just enthusiasm!

We tend to do just three a year - Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

lizziethorntonallan@gmail.com

OXFORD CONGESTION CHARGE Congestion Charge Permits –

The Oxford temporary congestion charge for cars came into effect on 29th October.

- * Oxfordshire residents can apply for a free permit that gives you 25 day passes per car per calendar year.
- * Households can apply for a maximum of two cars.
- * Each pass is valid for one day's travel for all six congestion charge locations.
- * Without a permit, car drivers can choose an alternative route or mode of transport or pay the daily charge.
- * Additional permits are available for certain groups including Blue Badge holders, unpaid carers, community health and care workers, mobile traders and patients required to attend frequent hospital appointments in Oxford.

Apply here: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/transport-and-travel/oxfords-temporary-congestion-chargecars/congestion-charge-permits>

Free park and ride tickets in Oxford until March 31st

- A free travel ticket is not limited to the dedicated Park and Ride services; it can be used on any Stagecoach, Oxford Bus Company, or Thames Travel bus that stops at a Park and Ride site.

How it works

1. Park your car at any park and ride site and pay just £2.50 for up to 16 hours.
2. Show your parking proof (ticket or app) to the bus driver when you board.
3. Get free return bus travel for you, another adult, and up to three children.

COMPULSORY BOOKING SYSTEM FOR WASTE RECYCLING CENTRES: NOW!

A COMPULSORY booking system is now in place at Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs)

- Everyone will need to book a time slot to visit one of the HWRCs.
- A slot can be booked 30 minutes before the visit (subject to availability), or up to two weeks in advance.

We are also asking people to sort their recyclable items from their waste, either before they arrive, which will speed up their visit, or they can use the sorting area on site.

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling/book-recycling-centre-visit> or phone 01865 519800

Thames Valley Police Have Your Say meeting at the Village Hall 10-10.30a.m on 17th March.

This is an opportunity for the community to come and speak to us about any issues and concerns, or just a chat, rather than any kind of official talk about a particular subject.


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Tea & Tech session Third Tuesday of the month

Need help with technology?

Astons Online provide face-to-face sessions for computer users on the third Tuesday of every month. Sessions will be by appointment:

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- **History table:** always something interesting to see
- **Wi-Fi:** internet & email
- **BBC/ITV iPlayer**
- **Community book scheme:** books to buy, borrow and donate
- **Children's corner**
- **Accessible & baby-changing facilities**

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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2025 Astons Poppy Appeal

I'd like to say a huge "thank you" to Astons' villagers for their generosity in helping to raise £1,121 for this year's Poppy Appeal. A great result, which will go to help support veterans, serving personnel, and their families. It serves as a symbol of remembrance for those who lost their lives in conflict and promotes hope for a peaceful future.

Also, many thanks to those people who toured the village knocking on doors and rattling their tins. The first 'Poppy Day' was on 11th November 1921, inspired by the 1915 poem "In Flanders Fields", written by Canadian Lieutenant-Colonel John McCray:

In Flanders' fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place: and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders' fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe;
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high,
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders' Fields.

Justin Keeble

-Well done, J. Top work-Ed

St Michael's Church joins the Springline Project, 14th Feb 10.30a.m.

Help in planting and building wild life refuges and recording what is there will be very welcome, especially from younger members of the community!

The object of the Springline project is to bring wildlife, art, and citizen science to our community. In 2025 it focussed on land between the Astons and Cholsey. It is now being extended to cover St Michaels churchyard, the burial ground and any gardens where the gardeners would like to participate.

We will meet at **10:30a.m. on Saturday, the 14th of February** in St Michaels Church yard where Jenny Loudon of the Mindful Garden company will make suggestions on bird friendly plants and will help us to construct dead hedges, wildlife refuges, bug hotels, bee posts and toad halls.

The timing on the 14th of February is being coordinated with a national show the love campaign being organised by the climate coalition. The purpose is to tell all MPs that their constituents are doing their bit to look after the environment.

Our MP Ollie Glover has been invited. Unfortunately, he is not able to attend, but he sends his good wishes to all who do attend.



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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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All funds raised in support of Jennie's Children's Trust who work 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

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◆

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◆

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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,.

Ollie Glover, MP

In December, I visited Didcot Railway Centre. I attended an event at Grove Business Park around its expansion plans, and the new Sigma building. It met Ian, Dave and Robin from the Earth Trust. I visited Fir Tree Junior School in Wallingford, and King Alfred's School. I have been meeting with concerned local residents to hear their views on the Thames Water's reservoir. I was able to raise the concerns in Parliament, raised by residents about the escalating costs and the lack of trust in Thames Water to safely build a the largest bunded reservoir in the county.

Great Western Park's promised GP surgery: The Health Secretary confirmed that the local Integrated Care Board is responsible for the stalled progress and is seeking a new developer. Taking part in an e-petition debate on Parkinson's. I sponsored the Oxfordshire Innovation Showcase. I pressed the Government on the lack of support for small breweries and other small businesses following changes to beer duty.

I challenged the Secretary of State on the poor affordability of rail travel. I highlighted that an annual season ticket from Didcot to the London Travelcard area now costs £7,780 - representing terrible value for money for my constituents. I also raised concerns that passenger services have still not begun on the new railway between Oxford, Bicester and Milton Keynes, despite the line being open for over a year and already running freight and charter trains. I have used my role as Liberal Democrat Transport Spokesperson to ensure that passengers are at the centre of these discussions. It is essential they improve the ongoing issues, such as train delays and expensive tickets.

I have also engaged with local media and the about problems with postal delivery services, including Evri, and the delayed parcels in Grove and other areas of the constituency. In an interview with the BBC, I spoke about the GP surgery delays specifically affecting Great Western Park.

I have been spending time with some of our small business to better understand the impact of last year's budget, the support they need to keep trading, and providing us with products and food. Visiting local businesses and community groups makes sure that I am well informed when raising their needs in when in parliament.

I met many residents in Stanford in the Vale and Didcot on their doorsteps recently, and in Wantage at one of my regular surgeries. My team and I have now closed over 10,000 constituent cases, supporting individuals, families and businesses to resolve a huge variety of problems.

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.

Ollie Glover, MP for Didcot and Wantage

Thames Valley Police: Using facial recognition technology

Just before Christmas Thames Valley Police rolled out a live facial recognition operation in Oxford. The use of live facial-recognition technology can bring great benefits to help cut crime and catch criminals.

Whilst the use of this technology is widely welcomed by most people, there are understandable concerns by some. I have worked closely with the police to ensure that all the necessary safeguards are put in place to protect privacy, and the only people who should have anything to fear from the use of live facial-recognition are criminals seeking to target people and property in our community.

The system is looking for those on a specific watchlist. It does not - and cannot - identify everyone that it sees.

It looks for those who are either wanted by the police or have a warrant issued for them by the courts; it doesn't recognise anyone else.

It is important that the police explain the use of this tactic and ensure widespread consent from the public. The use of any technology just provides a tool to the police

The effectiveness of these operations will continually be evaluated, alongside other tactics the police use. With more officers in neighbourhood policing roles and overall crime falling, it remains important that the police are able to address the issues that matter most to the public.

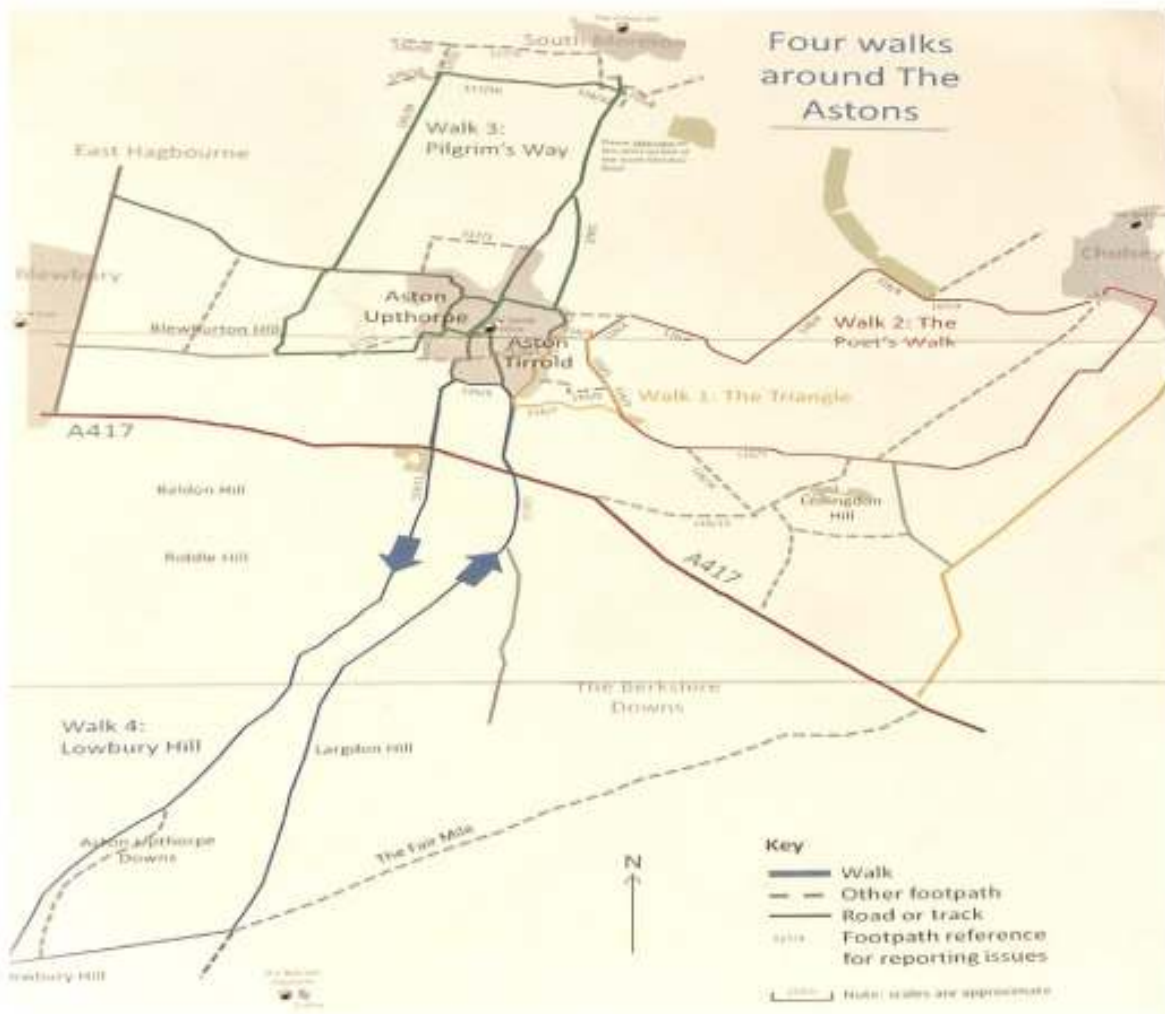
On the first operation in Oxford eight arrests were made, several for domestic abuse offences; dangerous people being taken off the streets to prevent crime.

Mathew Barber, Police Commissioner

Astons Outdoors

Happy February and thank you for all those that came to the wreath making event in December. The workshop raised £350 which was used to purchase food for local food banks. The balance sheet is very healthy, and as such we have donated £1,000 to Oxfordshire Wildlife Rescue and £1,220 to The Owl Conservation Project. The end of year accounts have been produced and will be audited by Steve Marrant – Thanks again Steve 😊. Please email us if you would like to receive a copy.

Despite the rain we have had recently, 2026 has started well. The village bulbs have started to arrive, which is a sign of mild weather and hope that Spring is approaching, bringing longer, lighter days and more time to be Outside. With this in mind, it's worth downloading the Merlin App onto your phone to help identify birds you may be listening to. Need somewhere to go bird watching / listening or just a walk? Below is a map of some great walks in the Astons. We can send you a larger PDF copy if you email us. A copy can also be found on the village notice boards. More information about the map can be found on Page 2



Please contact Naomi (contactnaomi@icloud.com) Louise (louise.binder@live.co.uk) or Emma (emma.machin2018@gmail.com)

Astons Outdoors

The Astons have over 20km of Bridleways and footpaths, stretching from the Ridgeway to the South to South Moreton Road to the North of the Astons. Each of the 4 walks provides a little bit of Astons History.

Walk 1 – THE TRIANGLE - Range 1 mile – 30 mins. Passes the Recreation Ground towards Lollington Hill, then turns left and comes out by Races Farm, Aston Street.

Walk 2 – THE POET’S WALK - Range 5 miles – 2.5 Hours. Edward Thomas, the war poet wrote about walking Lollington Track in his book, The Icknield Way. The Poet Laureate, John Masefield, lived at Lollington House between 1914-1917. You have the option to climb Lollington Hill and the walk leads you on to Cholsey.

Walk 3 – PILGRIMS WAY – Range 3.5 miles – 1.5 hours. This walk follows parts of the Old St. Birinus Pilgrimage, taking you up and over Blewburton Hill and then to South Moreton.

Walk 4 – LOWBURY HILL – Range 6 miles – 3 hours. This walk takes you up the Old Icknield Way, past an old WW2 bomb Shelter, to the site of a Roman Temple at the top of Lowbury Hill and, if you are feeling fit, on to the Risgeway.

Gardening jobs for February

As gardeners, we should expect the unexpected and perhaps choose plants that are resilient and able to cope with the contrast of weather. It is a good time to take advantage of the cosy evenings by looking back at what we can learn from last year to help us plan the year ahead, what is to be planted and where to plant it.

There is still time to....

Mulch bare soil: Spread soil improver over your beds before they fill up in spring. You may need to do it by hand in places to avoid swamping plants.

Take hardwood cuttings of shrubs: Pop them in a pot in a quiet corner and keep them watered. Don't pot on or plant in the garden until roots emerge from the pot. If you haven't done this before Cronus also known as 'Dogwood' is very easy.

When the frost has gone Evergreen hedges, shrubs and climbers such as wisteria can be pruned.

Whatever you do it's great to know that spring is not far away, and we will soon be enjoying longer days outside.

Please contact Naomi (contactnaomi@icloud.com) Louise (louise.binder@live.co.uk) or Emma (emma.machin2018@gmail.com)

THE ASTONS HISTORY PROJECT

OUR LATEST eBay purchase: A 1698 William III tripartite indenture with seals (below).

We're not too sure what its about yet, but our in-house transcription experts are going to decipher it for us. Contracts or legal agreements were often called indentures - referring to the wavy edge of documents which were created to give a physical 'security system' to the agreement. If the two documents did not fit exactly it meant one was a forgery, and therefore invalid.



ASTONS Playgroup, 1969-1993.

We have recently needed to re-mount the Astons Playgroup photo album due to the deterioration of the album. The playgroup was started in 1969 by Jean Harris, the wife of the newly installed Presbyterian minister, Gordon Harris, who had started the Astons News the previous year. Unfortunately the playgroup closed in 1993, (see Astons News extracts on the next page) but successfully merged with the Moreton Playgroup the same year (*now South Moreton Pre-School*). Luckily the Astons Toddlers Group - which also started in the 1960s - continues to thrive, and indeed meets in the URC Hall as the playgroup did. I wonder if any of the original toys are still there!



March 1969: There has been a very encouraging response to the idea of starting a Playgroup for the 3-5 year olds. Getting permission from the various authorities is a slow business, but I will keep the mothers informed who have shown interest. Jean Harris.

May 1969: The playgroup will be starting on Tuesday 3rd. June. It will be held in the Presbyterian Hall twice a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9-30-12 during school terms. The charge would be 2/6 a session and this will pay for the hire of the Hall and go towards buying equipment. It is a non-profit making venture. The jumble sale held recently raised over £15, and I am very grateful to all who helped organise it and all those people who came and bought'. Jean Harris.

November 1993: It was with regret and great sadness that the children of this village met at Playgroup in the URC Hall for the last time on 4th October. This was caused by the decline in the number of young children within the village, together with the increasing financial cost of running such a venture.

The committee approached the Playgroup at South Moreton to consider the possibilities of merging and we were happy that they accepted our request. We are very grateful to members of the village who have supported us over the past years. The Playgroup at South Moreton meets each morning The first joint activity will be a Sherry and Mince Pie morning on Saturday 4th December at 11:30 a.m. in North Moreton Village Hall - all are invited. Liz Carroll & Members of the Committee.



Astons Playgroup March 1989

Remember you can see photos in colour and zoomable detail on the village website copy of the Astons News.
Astons History Project contacts: Jancis Smith 07734 44414 and Anna Dillon 07786 876411.

Species Recovery in Juniper Valley

As part of Plantlife's ongoing species recovery programme, we have been working on the translocation of Pasqueflower in Juniper Valley at Aston Upton. This historically valuable Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) supports typical lowland calcareous grassland species. Many of these have declined massively across the south over the last 50–60 years due to changing farming practices, lack of grazing, nitrogen deposition, and climate change. Local volunteer Kathy Warden has been working tirelessly over many years to increase the number of Pasqueflowers in the valley.

The Challenges



The main problem at the site is the build-up of thatch and growth of large quantities of moss within the chalk grassland, which blocks seeding opportunities for rare species such as Pasqueflower, Burnt-tip Orchid and Field Fleawort. This is compounded by historic and current rabbit grazing, which stops many species flowering and setting seed.

The Approach

Funded by the North Wessex Downs National Landscape, Plantlife has been working closely with the landowner, local volunteers from the Oxford Flora Group and specialist botanical experts to deliver a series of interventions:

- Rabbit fencing around approximately three hectares where the historic remnant Pasqueflower population persists
- Scratch-and-sow plots using brush cutters to remove thatch and moss in 2 × 2 metre plots, which were then sown with Pasqueflower seed collected from the site over the last three years



These small-scale trials have demonstrated this approach creates the right conditions for successful establishment of new Pasqueflowers.

Scaling Up



To expand this work, we used a BCS tractor unit with a scarifier head—more commonly seen in steep alpine meadows—combined with volunteer labour and backpack leaf blowers to remove moss and thatch from the downland banks. This approach was necessary as conventional farm machinery could not operate on such steep slopes. We have now cleared over 1 hectare.

Monitoring and Outcomes

The cleared areas will be monitored over the coming years to assess how the vegetation removal impacts the existing calcareous plant community and to see which species reappear from the liberated seed bank. The smaller scratch plots from two years ago have already shown promising results, with species such as Field Fleawort suddenly reappearing. It is hoped that these species will re-establish alongside orchids and other common chalk grassland plants.

The idea of this work is to reset the grassland and improve the long-term grazing management on the site. This project will hopefully demonstrate the effectiveness of these novel approaches that enable us to scale up the translocation and re-establishment of rare species on calcareous lowland grasslands, and should act as a blueprint for similar conservation projects elsewhere.

Long Term

Access and Fencing

Although some of Juniper Valley has now been fenced with more robust rabbit-proof fencing, this does not impact on the open access of the valley. Gates and stiles have been installed in the fenced area which still allow full public access.

Why Permanent Fencing?

The fencing will be permanent as it allows an area to be completely cleared of rabbits and gives us the ability to control sheep or cattle grazing more carefully over the coming years. Unfortunately, many of the rare species on the site have suffered over many years because of ongoing rabbit grazing. It is therefore hoped that in the long term, creating a completely rabbit-proof area of the downland will be beneficial to many of the rarest species that were once more widespread in Juniper Valley.



Supporting Juniper Regeneration

Fencing also has the potential to allow for more natural regeneration of juniper, which has been sadly lacking over the last 50 to 60 years in Juniper Valley, due to the constant rabbit grazing, which stops any natural juniper regeneration.

Landscape Considerations

It is acknowledged that fencing does impact on the landscape in the valley. However, in most places where thin metal posts and wire have been used, over time these gradually become less visible as they start to weather and fade. This is a working landscape which requires ongoing grazing management and rabbit control to maintain and increase the rare species that made Juniper Valley so important in the first place. It's hoped that in the long term the fencing will allow wildflowers to become more abundant in the valley once more, so this should ultimately enhance the landscape.

Your Help

Plantlife is also looking for local volunteers to help with the ongoing monitoring of the site and any other potential future work. If you're interested in finding out more, or have any questions about the work in Juniper Valley, please contact **Matt.pitts@plantlife.org.uk** Matt Pitts from Plantlife. **Photo credit:** Jim Asher

ARC Play Area Projects -have your say

Thanks to recent fund raising, 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.

The Recreation Ground is crucial asset for the village but needs all our help to look after it.

Gavin Wood, Astons Recreation Committee



CAN YOU HELP US MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

In 2025 we were able to support individuals, couples and families in the Astons, Blewbury and Upton, who were struggling during a year of rising living costs, and we hope to continue to offer the same level of support throughout 2026. But like many charities, we rely on the generosity of donations to make this possible.

We are aware that we have reached out to our local community before and are grateful to those of you who have generously made it possible for us to help local people in need. However, as the economy this year is likely to still leave household stretched for cash, we continue to look for a helping hand.

Any amount of money would be appreciated and can be donated through our Just Giving page www.justgiving.com/ucab

We thank you very much in advance and if you have any questions, please do get in touch with us by email at unitedcharities@outlook.com

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



Contact us on 01235 819657

or email

southmoretonpreschool@gmail.com



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.

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.

Volunteers needed please!



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 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_picken@hotmail.com

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

SAVE THE DATE



ASTONATHLON

MAY 3RD 2026

Churn Church Services November 2025

date	Event/time	Prayer Focus
+Sunday 1st February	CANDLEMAS / PRESENTATION OF CHRIST 9.00am All Saints' Aston Upton Parish Eucharist	Churchwardens, fabric & churchyards. Church cleaners
+Sunday 15th February	2ND SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT 9.00am St Michael's Aston Tirrold: Parish Eucharist	Clergy & all who preach or lead

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**.

Lent is almost upon us! This year Ash Wednesday falls on 18th February and we will celebrate this with a service at St Mary's Upton at 8pm. During Lent itself we will put on a pattern of Lent courses. There will also be a special Easter Vigil service on Saturday 4th April at 8pm at St Michael's Blewbury. This Easter Vigil service will be in addition to services on Good Friday and Easter Day. More details will be published on a leaflet which will be available in our churches and on our website.

Free organ recitals at St Andrew's Hagbourne

East Hagbourne OX11 9LP

Every first Sunday of the month at 5pm.

Our next organ recital at 5pm on Sunday 1st February will feature the music of one the great English romantic composers of the 19th century Samuel Sebastian Wesley. Father Jason will play, all welcome!

Love in Three Dimensions

I wonder if you plan on celebrating St. Valentine's Day? No one is quite sure why this day has become connected with the celebration of love, but the connection is now firmly embedded in our culture. I would add that it is also the case that no one is quite sure who St Valentine was – or indeed, whether there were actually two different St. Valentines, who happened to share the same name. The best guess is that there was in fact only one St. Valentine, who was martyred for his faith back in the Third Century AD.

St. Valentine's Day is, of course, all about love. But what do mean by the word "love"?

Christians have been exploring the nature of love since the days of Jesus himself. Jesus himself summed up his teaching in terms of love: we are to love God and to love one another. This is not always easy to do, and we will often fall short and make mistakes.

But we should at least make the effort. The Church as an institution should have love at its heart: the Church is a means of celebrating God's love and sharing that love with his world. Unfortunately, the Church doesn't always live up to this calling, and there are times when it doesn't behave in a particularly loving way. But at least it tries to put love at the heart of all that it does, and when it makes mistakes, it usually tries its best to own up to its failings and to try and put things right.

The Church also thinks hard about what "love" means in practice. It sees love as being exercised in three dimensions. There is the love we share with other human beings – the love which is usually celebrated on St. Valentine's Day. But there is also the love we share with God: our love for God and God's love for us. And finally there is the third dimension of love, which is perhaps the most surprising: the love we show towards ourselves. Down the centuries, Christians have come to the understanding that we cannot truly love others or even love God, if we do not also love ourselves.

I wonder if you would agree that we cannot truly love others unless we have learnt to love ourselves?

A challenging thought for St Valentine's Day!

With every blessing, *Father Jason*

In 2026, Mothers' Union celebrates its 150th anniversary.

In 1876 the vision, prayer and action of one woman, Mary Sumner, founded the Mothers' Union. It has become a global Christian movement of 4 million members across 84 countries. Our previous Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, said that MU is the Church's "best kept secret", so we need to tell others!

In 2026 members of the Churn Branch continue to work with members worldwide to show Christian Care for Families through:

CAMPAIGNING – to raise awareness and lobby against gender-based violence;

PRAYER – to support members across the world and the projects undertaken;

ACTION – local projects and support to overseas projects such as starting credit unions.

More will be explained over the year.

There is an opportunity to research some MU history in our parishes. **YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!**

MU in the Oxford Diocese started in 1888. Years ago, there were MU branches in most parishes and definitely branches in Hagbourne, Aston Tirrold and Blewbury. We currently have one branch in the Churn Benefice with around 30 members.

Was there an MU branch in the Moreton parishes?

Are there any MU banners in our benefice churches? In Blewbury Church we have a HUB MU banner (Hagbourne, Upton & Blewbury parishes) and a Wallingford Deanery Banner, which is quite ancient. Do pop into Blewbury Church and have a look in the Lady Chapel.

Was your mother or grandmother an MU member and have you any photos, certificates or records?

These days, men can become members as well as single people. In the Churn branch we have five male members.

Revd Louise would be very pleased hear if you have any answers to these questions. Come along to our AGM on 1st February and find out all we are doing in the Churn MU in 2026.

The Churn MU branch meet at 3pm on Sunday 1st February for their AGM in Blewbury Church with tea afterwards at Louise's house. Our monthly Holy Communion service is at 10am at St. Mary's Church, Upton on Thursday 19th February. All are very welcome. Join us and Join in.

ASTON TIRROLD UNITED REFORMED CHURCH & CENTRE FOR REFLECTION

Spring Lane, Aston Tirrold

February news and Services. For a Zoom invitation please contact by email:

JULIAN GALLOP – jgallop@freeuk.com

Sunday 1 February 11am	Morning Worship with communion led by Rev Dr Donald Norwood.
Sunday 8 February 11am	Morning Worship led by Rev Philip Mader-Grayson.
Sunday 15 February 11am	Morning Worship led by Rev Glyn Millington.
Sunday 22 February 11am	Morning Worship led by Joanna Tulloch. Zoom only.

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

We are very pleased to announce that we have a minister now, Rev Glyn Millington, whom we share with Christ Church Henley and Caversham Park Village Reformed churches.

Building work continues at the Centre for Reflection, to bring it up to date: heat-conserving windows and doors, new insulation and solar panels – plus revamped indoor facilities and complete redecoration. We hope to re-open in March.

The gardens surrounding the Centre and the toddlers' play area will be our next focus, followed by attention to the church itself in readiness for its 300th anniversary in 2028. Watch this space. To raise funds towards the building work, our congregation have compiled their favourite recipes and produced a recipe book which is now available.

The next Quiet Garden Day will take place on Saturday 7 March 10 – 4pm . Please bring your own lunch. Suggested donation of £10.

To book please contact Josie.midwinter@gmail.com.

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. Due to the refurbishment of the Centre, the venue for the meditation and writing groups have changed.

Please contact Julian for further information. jgallop@freeuk.com

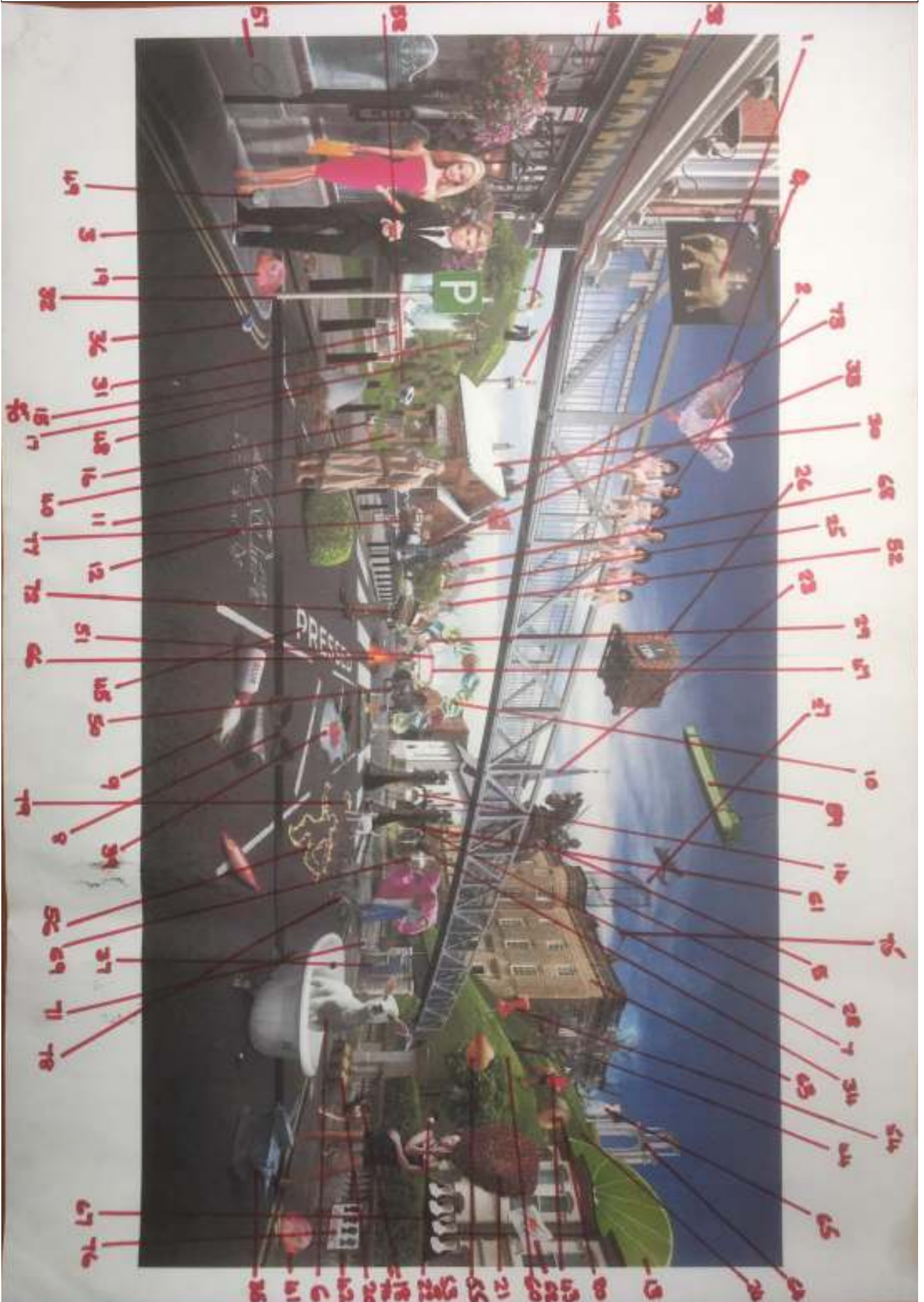
LONDON TUBE STATIONS CONTINUED.

There are 272 stations, but not all are in the photo.

View a clearer colour version in the online VN at theastons.net

9	Bond Street	25	Royal Oak	41	Eastham	57	Oval	73	Forest Hill
10	Marble Arch	26	Brixton	42	Queensway	58	Snaresbrook	74	Barkingside
11	Shepherds Bush	27	Lancaster gate	43	Upney	59	Wood Green	75	Mudchute
12	Chalk farm	28	Highgate	44	Burnt Oak	60	Bank	76	Westminster
13	Limehouse	29	Temple	45	Preston Road	61	Brent Cross	77	Maida Vale
14	Baker Street	30	Swiss Cottage	46	Turnham Green	62	Cyprus	78	Hampstead
15	Arsenal	31	Waterloo	47	White City	63	Mansion House	79	Victoria
16	Balham	32	Green Park	48	Finsbury Park	64	Archway	80	Hainault

CHRISTMAS QUIZ TUBE STATION ANSWERS MAP. ANSWERS ON PAGE1 AND 34



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)
Carpet cleaning J F Kleen 07961511903 josh@jfkleen.co.uk Crisp Road Henley-on-Thames RG9	We've had our sitting room and bedroom carpets cleaned by Joshua Fahey of JFKleen. He is such a professional and thorough person and his prices are really good value. I would recommend him to anyone.	Peter leConte ajlecontel@gmail.com (2025)
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 (2023)
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 Lucycantwell@gmail.com (2025)
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)

Recommended Tradespersons Continued

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)
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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 AAD Plumbing Services, 0776 3221 257 www.aadplumbing.co.uk aadplumbing@gmail.com	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		
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. 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

07377 115093

Mia Diamond (16)

Available for baby sitting
Lives in the Astons

07769 182367

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

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)	01235 850517
Peter Butcher (Footpaths)	07956 976159
Jane Barr Knight (Roads & Traffic)	07968 300282
Neil Carter	
Mary Severin (Village Hall)	
Tom Mooney	
Sarah Munro ARC)	

Parochial Church Council (PCC)

Tim Lake (Chair and Churchwarden)	01235 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)

Gavin Wood (Chair)	07932 257676
Joanna Hart	01235 850517
Amberley Diamond	07771 995906
Liz Pattison (Bookings)	astonspavilion@gmail.com
Susan Pallett	
Laura Haigh	
Gillian Golding	
Sarah Munroe	

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	Katharine Verrill	07866 435377
Church Flowers	Penelope Curtis	01235 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		07815 105760
Pavilion Hire: Liz Pattison	astonspavilion@gmail.com	
South Moreton Pre-School		01235 819647
Thames Valley Alert	Tirrold: Steve Morant	07561 315882
	Upthorpe: Ian Clark	01235 850103
Toddlers' Group	asonstoddlersgroup@gmail.com	

Astons Comms team

Astons Enews & website team:	
Bruno Brunskill, Anna Dillon, Jeremy Imbush, Charlotte Kerr, Rachel Marffy, Anne & Steve White.	
Astons News:	editorastonsnews@gmail.com
Astons enews team:	enews@theastons.net
Astons Website team:	webmaster@theastons.net
Astons Facebook:	Kathryn.hawkey@gmail.com

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 9-12noon. Closed Sat & Sun
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