

# ASTONS NEWS

Part of the Comms information group:  
 Astonsnews theastons.net  
 The Astons Villagers Facebook Community  
 Astonsonline Twitter (X)

April 2026 issue 622

## WHAT'S ON IN APRIL

**BINS: Green & Brown: 2, 16, 30. GREY: 9,23**

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

**ARTICLES LIST Page 3, ADVERTISERS' INDEX Page 5**

### 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, 23 |
| Fri    | 9.30-11.30am | Toddler Group (Term time only) | Centre for Reflection | 20    |
| Sun    | 7pm-8.30pm   | Indoor Cricket Nets            | Moulsford School      | 25    |

### Monthly

|         |         |                                  |                           |    |
|---------|---------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|----|
| 4th Sun | 2pm-4pm | Reclaiming Picks Field with ANRG | Picks Field see back page | 36 |
|---------|---------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|----|

### Events in April

|    |                |                                 |                   |    |
|----|----------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|----|
| 5  | 10.30am        | Easter Day                      | All Saints'       | 29 |
| 11 | 10.00am-3.00pm | NM Book Sale                    | N. Moreton Church | 3  |
| 18 | 9.30am         | Rec clear-up day + Spring Clean | The Rec           | 7  |
| 19 | 9.00am         | 3rd Sunday of Easter            | St. Michael's     | 29 |
| 21 | 10-12 midday   | Astons Online                   | Village Hall      | 23 |

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

|                | P                          |    | P                                      |
|----------------|----------------------------|----|--|
| MAY 2          | Polly Vacher charity event | 26 |  |
| MAY 3          | ASTONATHLON                | 11 | JUNE 7th Village fayre & plant sale 15 |
| MAY 2,3,4,9,10 | Artweeks in the Astons     | 24 | JUNE 27th ASTONBURY 21                 |

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### **The North Moreton Book Sale**

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April in North Moreton Church, 10am until 3pm.**

As usual, thousands of books will be on sale, with all proceeds going to support the village hall and church. Tea, coffee and home-made cakes will be available. Free entry and car parking. Donations of spare books are always welcome. Email [northmoretonbooksale@gmail.com](mailto:northmoretonbooksale@gmail.com) or call 01235 818900 or 07908314771 if you have any books to give, and the organisers will happily collect them.

### **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](mailto:bike@asylum-welcome.org) -Tessa Mayhew, [tessamayhew@btinternet.com](mailto:tessamayhew@btinternet.com).

***DEADLINE for the MAY edition is APRIL 24th***

***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**

*Editor: Jeremy Imbush. Treasurer: Marcus Holburn*

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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***

To place an advert, or  
for further information  
please contact:

**Jeremy Imbush      01235 851053      editorastonsnews@gmail.com**

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Harwell Innovation Centre, Harwell Science and Innovation  
Campus. Building 173, Curie Avenue. Didcot OX11 0QG

## Editorial:

### Events to note:

- ◆ 18th April is the rec clear-up and spring clean day, when winter's ravages are repaired, and the pavilion and rec are spruced up for the summer. Please be ready to help- even an hour can be useful. It coincides with the village cleanup days, 18 & 19th (P7).
- ◆ 3rd May Astonathlon -REGISTER NOW! (P11)
- ◆ June 27th Astonbury is back! Save the date. Helpers are always needed. (p 21)

## The Astons Post Office in peril

Some villagers are regulars at the Tuesday Post Office slot at the village hall. For others it may be an occasional visit or an annual event with Christmas cards and parcels. Whichever group you fall into, those visits may soon become a thing of the past.

Our local Post Office provider is keen to continue the Astons Post Office outreach service but at the moment there isn't enough demand to justify doing so. If we want the service to continue, we will need to use it more.

**The Post Office is available in the village hall from 10-12 on a Tuesday morning.**

If we don't use it, we will lose it, so please pop along and support it if you can.

## Aston Recreation Ground - Spring Clean Up - 18th April 9.30 am

### HELP NEEDED

Please come to help prepare the Rec Ground for the Spring and Summer of fun - including Astonbury!!!!

- The more people who come to help, the quicker it will be and more of the jobs will be done
- Inside and outside jobs
- Sign up genius for specific jobs or just come along on the day (BYO rubber gloves if needed)

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0A4DAFA72AA1F49-62965249-aston>

Fry-up/healthy options to be provided at the end of the clean up

## Village Clean-up day 18/19<sup>th</sup> April

The litter picking equipment has been booked for the weekend of 18/19 April, when the Rec workday is also happening.

Exact meeting details will be posted on Facebook / WhatsApp /enews nearer the time.

## Giant mole found on old Harwell nuclear AEA Site



A giant cat-sized mole has been discovered during the excavation for a new wildlife garden at Harwell. An experimental nuclear reactor ran there in the late 1940's and early 50's, which was encased in concrete when the site was shut down in 1970. It is thought that there has been a slow leak of radioactive flux capacitance into the ground, (rather like with the mutant ninja turtles), which has caused a gigantism gene to mutate in the moles' genetic DNA sequence over the last 50 years. An especially weird mutation was that the mole had developed 20:20 vision. In addition, it has to be kept in a steel cage, because it can claw and bite through any wood. The mole can be visited for a limited time from the first of this month; contact mole@harwell.org. ps take some worms.- **AEAHQ**


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|                  |                    |
|------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Monday</b>    | 8.30 am - 17.30 pm |
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | 8.30 am - 17.30 pm |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | 8.30 am - 17.30 pm |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | 8.30 am - 19.30 pm |
| <b>Friday</b>    | 8.30 am - 17.30 pm |
| <b>Saturday</b>  | 7.30 am - 17.00 pm |

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email [theastononline@gmail.com](mailto:theastononline@gmail.com)

or phone 07780 958249 to book yours



- **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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**Café contacts:** Margaret Morant (850895), Louise Binder (851433)

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# REGISTRATION OPEN

- Teams of two – one runner, one cyclist – will take part in the annual duathlon around our villages.
- Sprint (5km run/ 12km cycle) and Olympic (10km run/36km cycle) options.
- Register via the QR code by 12 April.
- This is a fun, village social event so all are welcome to participate or support.



# ASTONATHLON

## MAY 3RD 2026

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| Weekly   |                    |                       |
|----------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Monday   | <b>Yoga</b>        | 12:30-1:30pm<br>8-9pm |
| Tuesday  | <b>Astons Café</b> | 10am-12               |
|          | <b>Post Office</b> | 10am-12               |
| Thursday | <b>Pilates</b>     | 9:30-11:30am          |
|          | <b>Yoga</b>        | 8-9pm                 |

| Monthly                   |   |         |
|---------------------------|---|---------|
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday | <b>Parish Council</b>                           | 8pm     |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday   | <b>Tea &amp; Tech</b><br><b>(Astons Online)</b> | 10am-12 |

## Friends of the Village Hall

For more information: [villagehall@theastons.net](mailto:villagehall@theastons.net)

All Village Hall booking enquiries  
[astons.vhbooking@gmail.com](mailto:astons.vhbooking@gmail.com)

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**Dates for your Diary:**

- Kingston Bagpuise House - Rare plant Sale and Open Gardens - Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May 11am – 4pm  
Entry fee £8 Refreshments supplied by SeeSaw and the RDA
- Village Fayre & Plant Sale Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June at Astons Village Hall
- Open Gardens in Goring & Streatley – Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June 1pm – 5pm
- <https://www.thegapfestival.org/events/open-gardens-in-goring-streatley/>
- Visit to Astons Pottery & Gardens Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> September
- Wreath Making Workshop Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December at Astons Village Hall

**Can you contribute?** As with previous years we couldn't do it without your help in preparing for the plant sale, and now is the time!!

Please get in touch If you are sowing seeds, lifting, dividing or perhaps changing a planting Scheme and have unwanted or extra plants. We are happy to come and collect donations that we can pot/grow on for the Plant Sale. *Thank you*



If April showers should come our way, they bring the flowers that bloom in May – **A balance of gentle showers and occasional warmth would be nice though**



*How to get in touch, please contact :*  
 Naomi ([contactnaomi@icloud.com](mailto:contactnaomi@icloud.com))  
 Louise ([louise.binder@live.co.uk](mailto:louise.binder@live.co.uk))  
 Emma ([emma.machin2018@gmail.com](mailto:emma.machin2018@gmail.com))

*April is a month of renewal, growth and hope, inspiring reflections on nature, life in general and new beginnings. If you can find some time, below are some outdoor jobs for April but if you don't happen to be keen on gardening – Relax, reflect or go for a walk and take in this beautiful area we live in.*

- Feed the birds that are busy building nests and preparing to raise their young
- Lift, divide and replant herbaceous perennials and grasses, many benefit and are healthier by doing so
- When mowing the grass, it is better to set the blades on a higher setting initially. If you scalp the turf, weeds and moss are more likely to grow. Feed and reseed thinning or patchy areas
- Remove weeds by hand while they are young to avoid roots establishing
- To avoid damage to the plants, stake perennials as they begin to grow
- Care for Camelias, a light prune should be all they need after flowering. If grown in pots, remove the top few centimetres and replace with ericaceous compost.
- Plant potatoes and sow tender veg
- Make sure your patio and garden furniture is ready just in case we get some sunny days to sit outside
- If you feel like a project that will support wildlife, see page 2



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## **SPRING is the ideal time to build a BUG SNUG and it is really easy**

If you would like to do more for wildlife in your garden a bug snug is ideal for any garden. It is a great way to create wildlife habitat in a structured / tidy and intentional way, particularly in more formal or designed gardens. It is a mini-habitat made from things you probably already have to hand in your garden.

Bug snugs are brilliant things to build with children as they become good places to return to and look at which bugs have moved in over the course of the year. Small insects like ladybirds, moths and butterflies use them for shelter. Birds can use them to hunt for food or to collect nesting material. There are a few examples already dotted around the village. You might have already spotted the new addition in St Michael's churchyard which was installed by a local wildlife gardener, Jenny Loudon and volunteers as part of the Springline and Nature in our Environment projects,

### How to build

To make one, all you need is 3 or 4 canes tied together at the top in the shape of a wigwam. You can use dried leaves, twigs and sticks hedge clippings and stems from your garden tidying. You may also have suitable materials at the top of your compost bin or leaf mould pile or hedge clippings, Other materials such as dry grasses, straw, dried flower heads, old moss you rake out of the lawn. You could wrap ivy or twine around the outside of the canes and pile to hold everything in place. This can stop things from blowing away if we get windy weather.

Position your snug somewhere it can stay in the garden throughout the year. The back of borders or flower beds works well.



**We would love to see photos of you Snug Bugs**

*How to get in touch, please contact :*

Naomi ([contactnaomi@icloud.com](mailto:contactnaomi@icloud.com))

Louise ([louise.binder@live.co.uk](mailto:louise.binder@live.co.uk))

Emma ([emma.machin2018@gmail.com](mailto:emma.machin2018@gmail.com))



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Up to 50 seated and  
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◆

## Pavilion Hire Charges

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

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*To arrange a viewing, and/or booking, contact Liz Pattison via email:*

**[astonspavilion@gmail.com](mailto:astonspavilion@gmail.com)**

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## South Moreton



## Pre-School

Contact us on 01235 819657

or email

[southmoretonpreschool@gmail.com](mailto:southmoretonpreschool@gmail.com)

## ASTONS TODDLER GROUP

FRIDAYS  
(TERM TIME)

9:30 - 11:30

The Centre for Reflection, Spring Lane  
Aston Tirrold

Suggested donation £1 per person

Free play, enclosed outdoor play area,  
snack time, song time, coffee & biscuits

CONTACT AMANDA OR CHARLOTTE  
[ASTONSTODDLERSGROUP@GMAIL.COM](mailto:ASTONSTODDLERSGROUP@GMAIL.COM)

NO BOOKING REQUIRED. COME AND DROP  
IN AT ANY TIME - EVERYONE WELCOME



***Join us for another year of amazing music, family fun, great local beers, Pimms, Wine and much more.***

*We have already signed up a fantastic array of local bands/performers including the Big Cheese, Cheap Suits, The Mysteries, Denizen, From the Ashes and many more, ending with DJ Si to round the evening off!*

***2pm-11.30pm***

Tickets £20 per adult on gate, £17 in advance using the QR code, £7 teens (13-17), FREE for 12 and under. FIRST 100 TICKETS AT BARGAIN PRICE F £15 – GRAB THEM BEFORE THEY GO!



Look out for volunteering sign up lists in next month's edition or email [amberleyjones@hotmail.com](mailto:amberleyjones@hotmail.com) for more details.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:kathryn.hawkey@gmail.com) who is the administrator for our Facebook group,.

# Landline switchover

is 9 months away affecting home telephones & alarms.

Come with your questions to our free & friendly meeting

Village Hall Aston Upthorpe (OX11 9EQ)

Tuesday 21 April 10:00 - 12:00

For a 1-2-1 conversation please email

[theastononline@gmail.com](mailto:theastononline@gmail.com)

or phone 07780958249 to book your appointment

**Astons Online** supports people who want to be digitally confident on the Internet, with smartphone apps and 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 most Tuesday mornings between 10:00 and 12:00.

Website: [www.astononline.uk](http://www.astononline.uk)

email: [theastononline@gmail.com](mailto:theastononline@gmail.com)

## Oxfordshire Artweeks in the Astons

In May the Aston Artists warmly welcome you to visit their studios, open once again as part of the county-wide Oxfordshire Artweeks exhibitions. There will be 3 venues open this year with eight talented exhibitors showing their paintings, ceramics, photography, engravings and prints.

Studio doors will be open during the first two weekends of **May: 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 9th & 10th from 11am to 6pm**. Details also available on [village website](#) and [www.artweeks.org](http://www.artweeks.org)

'We love chatting and sharing what we do, and what an enjoyable way to spend some time, especially as you can wend your way through our beautiful village walking between the sites. We welcome children so makes a lovely family outing'

Anna Dillon needs no introduction; come and see her recent paintings in her studio at Heathersage in Aston Street, alongside those of fellow Springline Project artist Rebecca Carrozza. Hedley Thorne will also be exhibiting his aerial photography here.

Susanna Brunskill's paintings will be in her cottage garden studio at Twitten in Aston Street, with the pottery of Mel Edwards who recently moved to the area from Wiltshire.

Caroline Vivian will show her local landscapes and still life paintings again in her barn at Finches, Baker Street, alongside wood engravings of Deb Sutcliffe, and the ceramics of Sarah Keogh.

'We are expecting many visitors spread over the five days, creating a fun buzz in the village. but it never feels too busy nor creates parking problems (so far!). There will be lots of helpful directional signs and the sites will be well signposted. Please drop in to say hello, to browse and possibly to buy original and one off pieces of art. Cards, prints and small gifts will also be available. We're really looking forward to seeing you!'

## TV Police: Local car thefts from surrounding villages

Good afternoon Aston,

We have been made aware of keyless car thefts in the Didcot & Wallingford area where offenders have been using cloned key signals to access and drive away stolen vehicles.

We are encouraging owners of keyless cars to make sure their fobs are secured and consider using faraday bags/ boxes/ signal-blocking items to store them in for better security.

Regards, The Didcot & Wallingford Neighbourhood team

*P.s. As a reminder, this happened to several houses in the village only last year, so remain vigilant.*

## Update from Olly Glover, MP for Didcot and Wantage

The roads have been a main topic of discussion, particularly the ongoing roadworks near Milton and Culham to improve road safety and the stepping up of pothole repairs now the weather has improved. Please continue reporting potholes and other defects on [www.fixmystreet.com](http://www.fixmystreet.com) to make sure they are recorded by OCC.

As a regular cyclist myself, I raised concerns in parliament about the lack of government investment in active travel, which in many areas could reduce congestion, improve public health, and lower carbon emissions. In a Transport Committee meeting, we heard interesting evidence about the future of electric vehicles and the barriers which prevent them from being more widely used.

I asked the Department for Culture Media and Sport minister about the much-loved Vale and Downland Museum in Wantage, which has battled against funding cuts to keep up the valuable work that they do for the community. In debate on Environmental Protection and Biodiversity, I had raised the outstanding work of many local groups and organisations. Community action groups including The Letcombe Brooke Project, The Earth Trust, and Sustainable Didcot, need adequate support from the government to continue to protect the countryside.

My team has received a significant amount of casework on student loan repayment plans, and I was able to raise two of these cases in a parliamentary debate. The Treasury Committee have now launched an inquiry into student and graduate finance to identify ways to make it fairer.

If you are over 16 you can respond to their survey via [www.parliament.uk/treascom](http://www.parliament.uk/treascom)

Back in the constituency, I have had the pleasure of meeting Carbon-ion Energy, a tech company developing next-generation energy storage, and the Agratas Innovation Lab, a cutting-edge research facility on battery manufacturing. At UTC in Didcot, I spoke with students and staff, answering questions about local and national political activities.

As always, if there is anything you feel I can help with, please do not hesitate to contact me and my team at [olly.glover.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:olly.glover.mp@parliament.uk) or by leaving a voice message on 0207 219 7657. **Olly Glover, MP**

# ASTONS CRICKET CLUB



The triumphant Cup-winning squad from last September

For over 40 years now, the club has played friendly (non-competitive) fixtures every Sunday afternoon against local villages, providing the opportunity for villagers of any standard to play cricket.

Fundamentally, cricket in the Astons has always been more about the social experience for the players (standing around in a field in the sun with friends and eating sandwiches halfway through), which is the main reason the club has thrived in recent years when other village clubs have struggled. The Astons' are lucky enough to still have a thriving cricket club that offers senior cricket to all comers

Indoor Practice nets continue for the next two on Sundays (5th and 12th April) at Moultsford Prep School 19:00-20:30pm; you don't have to come for the whole session. Games start in mid-April.

So, if you're interested in discovering what it's all about, please do contact me:

**Ralph on 07340 346 511 or at [astonscricketclub@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:astonscricketclub@hotmail.co.uk)**

## Matthew Barber Police Commissioner

### New team launched to help tackle criminals on our roads

Last month I joined Thames Valley Police Officers for the launch of the Force's new Roads Policing Unit (RPU) Tasking Team. The RPU Tasking Team will deliver a more strategic and targeted approach to road safety across the Thames Valley using data and intelligence to identify areas of greatest risk and highest harm. The team will then proactively deploy to these locations to directly address the behaviours and offences driving those risks.

The creation of the Roads Policing Unit Tasking Team will be a major boost to Thames Valley Police's capability to bear down on the dangerous and illegal drivers who put others at risk and criminals using our roads. In addition to their proactive work, the team will support local policing operations wherever possible and will also target those individuals known to us through intelligence, including those involved in drink or drug driving.

In a two day operation last month to mark the launch of the new team, police officers were joined by other agencies including Immigration Enforcement, HMRC, taxi licensing and Environmental Health. During the operation 16 arrests were made for drug driving and immigration offences along with over a hundred dangerous vehicles taken off the road.

Roads Policing Officers do this every day, of course, but this team is to be much more proactive. Previously, officers would often be called on to respond to collisions on our roads or to assist other officers with arrests. The RPU Tasking Team is intended to focus more dedicated resources to take criminals and dangerous drivers off our roads.

## **Polly Vacher MBE (see her CV on wikipedia) is on a mission, once more!**

Residents who have moved into the Astons in the last ten years will probably not be aware of Polly and her exploits. Most notable, perhaps, was her solo circumnavigation of the world in a single engined plane at the age of 60. Part Queen Elizabeth, part Mother Theresa, part Amy Johnson, Polly is a serial and indomitable charity fundraiser! At 80, she should be resting on her many laurels; however she is back in the fund-raising saddle and has asked me to encourage Astonians to help with her latest project, so here goes:



As the result of a very special trip to Zambia to see the work that the David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation (DSWF) does, and taken by David's daughter Mandy, a good friend of ours, for my 80th birthday, we visited a remote school where they have 160 students ranging from ages 5 to 15 and only three teachers. The teachers are available but refuse to go to such a remote village as there is no-where to live - hence 'Project New Ngoma' took roots!!

Please see [www.projectnewngoma.org](http://www.projectnewngoma.org) The contrast between New Ngoma and here was stark. We were coming back to a beautiful home with everything we need to live comfortably and there they have no electricity, no running water and no proper roads.

### ***Building Homes for Teachers in Zambia***

New Ngoma is a tiny village on the edge of the vast Kafue National Park in Zambia and the following project will enable the school, which has 160 students aged between 5 and 15, to reach its full potential. There is undoubtedly a great thirst for education here as children from the surrounding areas walk for miles to attend. Education is the pathway out of poverty and importantly towards a more sustainable future for the land itself and its wildlife-rich habitat.

With three teachers the school is understaffed. Despite more teachers being available through the sponsorship of the Zambian Government, there is nowhere for teachers to stay in this village. The headmaster himself walks 5 miles to school and 5 miles back each day,



The answer lies in staff accommodation. The project has undertaken to support the building of three units for teacher accommodation at a cost of approximately £12,000 each.

The work will be overseen by a Scottish Charity called *Game Rangers international (GRI)*, which has a permit to work in Zambia. This was established by *The David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation (DSWF)* – uk charity no: 1106893 and is closely linked. All donations go through DSWF.



The David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation was established by the late famous wildlife artist, David Shepherd to help save the large animals such as elephants, lions, and smaller species threatened with extinction such as the Pangolin. In order to help save these animals, Education is the key.

See our website [www.projectnewngoma.org](http://www.projectnewngoma.org) for more details

## **PROJECT NEW NGOMA DINNER & THEATRE NIGHT**

**SATURDAY 2 MAY 2026 AT 5:30PM at THE MILL AT SONNING, RG4 6TY**

**YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR A TWO COURSE DINNER**

**WITH A LIVE ROMANTIC COMEDY 'JACK AND SARAH' BASED ON THE ORIGINAL FILM**

**STARRING RICHARD E. GRANT, JUDI DENCH AND IAN MCKELLEN.**

**£120 PER PERSON TO INCLUDE 2 COURSE DINNER, COFFEE & SHOW.**

**BEVERAGES, RAFFLE TICKETS, & GRAND AUCTION ITEMS SOLD SEPARATELY.**

**TICKETS WILL BE ALLOCATED ON A FIRST COME FIRST SERVED BASIS. TICKETS MUST BE BOOKED IN ADVANCE VIA [WWW.PROJECTNEWNGOMA.ORG](http://WWW.PROJECTNEWNGOMA.ORG) (EVENTS TAB) OR SCAN THE QR CODE ABOVE.**

***ALL PROFITS WILL GO TO PROJECT NEW NGOMA***

## THE ASTONS HISTORY PROJECT

### *Our latest eBay Purchase:*

This postcard shows Springfield House in 1906, and was sent by its owner to a friend living in Aston, near Stevenage in Hertfordshire. Our '*in house genealogy expert*' is researching for sender and recipient information, and thinks the couple shown on the card were probably the owners of Springfield House at the time of sending.

The card shows clearly the three elements of the property - Springfield House itself, the adjacent cottage, and on the right what is now called The Coach House, where you can also see (if you go to the website copy of the Astons News and zoom in) what look like a hoist and a first floor loading bay.



These two photos are of an All Saints' Church offertory dish which Tim Lake noticed recently had a brass plaque inscription on its back. It says, 'In memory of ancestors who lived in the parish of Aston Tirrold from A.D. 1718. A gift of Wilfrid Fuller'. This is intriguing as the Fuller family was at that time a key Dissenting family, who gave the land for the Presbyterian chapel in Spring Lane (1728), and also a house for the minister - now The Old Manse in Baker Street. More research to follow!

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.

# 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](mailto: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

## Churn Church News and Services April 2026

| date                                     | Event/time  | Prayer Focus                                   |
|--|---|--|
| <b>+Sunday<br/>5<sup>th</sup> April</b>  | <b>EASTER DAY</b><br>10.30am All Saints' Aston Upton:<br>Parish Eucharist               | Children, our village<br>schools & Sunday club |
| <b>+Sunday<br/>15<sup>th</sup> March</b> | <b>THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER</b><br>9.00am St Michael's Aston Tirrold:<br>Parish Eucharist | Our new youth group<br>& teenagers             |

### 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 | revlouseb@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**.

### **News from St Michael's and All Saints' PCC**

#### **PCC secretary**

The Astons PCC are looking for a secretary to help us with our quarterly meetings and the annual meeting. The applicant does not need to be a regular church attendee, we just need someone to keep us organised. Please contact Amanda le Conte if you wish to discuss.

#### **Church Flowers**

We have a new lead for the church flower arrangers and she is busy getting new helpers. If you wish to join Lizzie please contact her.

Details of Amanda and Lizzie are on the back page.

*We would like to thank **Penelope Curtis** for the many years of organising the church flowers, her contribution has been enormous and kept our lovely churches looking lovely.*

**Free Organ recital.** Easter Day 5th April at 5pm St Andrew's Church East Hagbourne. Father Jason will play an Easter programme.

## **Rector's Reflections: Dying in Order to Release New Life**

There are so many hymns and songs which have been written to celebrate the feast of Easter. I wonder if you have a favourite? One of my favourites begins:

"Now the green blade riseth from the buried grain, wheat that in the dark earth many days hath lain; love lives again, that with the dead has been: Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green". These words were written by the Revd John Macleod Campbell Crum, a Church of England clergyman who served as Rector of Farnham in Surrey and as a Canon of Canterbury Cathedral.

The hymn focusses on a simple but profound image: if a seed is to release new life, it has to die to itself. Jesus used this image in a conversation with some of his disciples: "very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit" (John's Gospel, chapter 12, verse 24).

At one level, this saying is about the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Christians believe that Jesus' death was necessary in order to release the power of the resurrection: that new life lived in the power of the Holy Spirit, which brings new hope to us all, transforming our own lives and our relationships with God and with one another.

At another level, the death and resurrection of Jesus reveals a more general truth. Sometimes things have to come to an end before there can be a new beginning. It can be hard for us to let things die, in order that something new can start. We can gain a sense of security from keeping to the familiar and the well-tested. But sometimes we need to let go of what has gone before, and open ourselves to a new beginning in our lives. We need to have the courage to die to the old, so that we can welcome in the new.

Easter is the great celebration of the new life which comes to us as God's gift in Jesus. This new life gives us hope, even in the face of death itself. We can look with confidence to the future, knowing that we have nothing to fear from the changes in our life and in our world. In the words of the hymn, love will "come again, like wheat that springeth green". The death and resurrection of Jesus teaches us that God's love never dies – it always "lives again". No wonder Easter is the greatest festival of the Church's year!

- Father Jason

## **Parish Council Business**

Parish Council meeting 18th March 2026 was held face to face in the village hall.

### **Roads and Traffic**

The flood on Baker Street have been resolved. The road surface on the southern edge opposite Downs View has been damaged. JBK will photograph and log the issues on fix my street. Councillor Knight has also agreed to cover roads and potholes.

Chalk Hill has received a temporary repair. JI has spoken to a representative from OCC with a view to a more substantive repair to the bank bordering the drain which is running freely.

In addition, JI mentioned the considerable damage to verges where motorists have avoided potholes and damaged road surface to bypass potholes. This is a Highways issues rather than Flood Management.

Cllr Jane Barr-Knight will contact South Moreton School regarding some possible 20mph posters that the children could make to draw attention to speed limit on Moreton Road.

### **Environment group**

The Hedgerows and verges plan has been submitted to OCC. Thanks to NC for this

### **SODC/OCC**

See link for SODC report: [Aston\\_Tirrold\\_\\_\\_Aston\\_Upthorpe\\_Parish\\_Council\\_DC\\_Report\\_180326.docx](#)

See link for OCC report: [County\\_Councillor\\_Parish\\_Report\\_Mar\\_2026.docx](#)

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 15th April 2026 and will be held in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

# ASTON TIRROLD UNITED REFORMED CHURCH & CENTRE FOR REFLECTION

Spring Lane, Aston Tirrold OX11 9EJ

**April news and Services.**

For a Zoom invitation please contact by email:

**JULIAN GALLOP – [jgallop@freeuk.com](mailto:jgallop@freeuk.com)**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Friday 3 April – Good Friday 11am       | Readings & Reflection led by the Worship Group.                                     |
| Sunday 5 April – Easter Sunday 10.30 am | Morning Worship led by Rev Glyn Millington at <b>Henley United Reformed Church.</b> |
| Sunday 12 April 11am                    | Morning Worship led by A Telfer.  |
| Sunday 19 April 11am                    | Morning Worship led by Rev Philip Mader-Grayson.                                    |
| Sunday 26 April 11am                    | Evening Worship led by Robert Lewis.  |

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

The next Quiet Garden Day will take place on Saturday 6 June 10 – 4pm. Please bring your own lunch. Suggested donation of £10.

To book please contact [Josie.midwinter@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:jgallop@freeuk.com)**

## Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire

supports families with young children via our trained home-visiting volunteers. Our volunteers are matched with a local family that is struggling and they visit the family every week to provide peer support.

We are currently trying to recruit more volunteers around the Astons area so that we can help more families – we currently have to turn away approximately 40% of the families referred to us as we don't have enough volunteers to visit them.

If you'd like to help local families in your community, Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire would love you to join their team of home-visiting volunteers! They'll be holding their next Volunteer Preparation Course from Tuesday 21st April in their Didcot office.

If you'd like to find out more about what volunteering in this role involves and can spare a couple of hours each week to help a local family, please email Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire at [admin@homestartso.org](mailto:admin@homestartso.org), have a look at the website [www.homestart-southernoxfordshire.org.uk/volunteer](http://www.homestart-southernoxfordshire.org.uk/volunteer) or call **01235 511152**.

Leila Brown  
Volunteer Development Co-ordinator  
Charity No. 1113941  
**Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire**  
197 Broadway,  
Didcot,  
OX11 8RU

## Recommended Tradespersons

If you have a personal recommendation, send it to [editorastonsnews@gmail.com](mailto: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   |
|--|--|--|
| <b>Builders, Decorators, Property Maintenance, Handyman</b>  |  |  |
| Luke Porter<br><a href="mailto:porterluke9873@gmail.com">porterluke9873@gmail.com</a><br>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<br>Luke is conscientious; hard working and cost effective -----<br>Highly recommended                                     | Tim Millin 01235<br>850207<br>0770 666 36 31<br><a href="mailto:middlefell@ic24.net">middlefell@ic24.net</a><br>(2024) |
| Ben Whitehead<br>BPW Painting & Decorating,<br>24 Blake Crescent, Swindon SN3 4LR<br>Email: <a href="mailto:bpwpainting@hotmail.com">bpwpainting@hotmail.com</a><br>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<br><a href="mailto:peterleconte20@gmail.com">peterleconte20@gmail.com</a><br>(2024)                     |
| Jamie Weatherley.<br>Mobile: 07951 852690<br>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<br>(2024)   |
| Ridgeway Carpentry<br>Ryan Quinlan<br><a href="mailto:info@ridgewaycarpentry.co.uk">info@ridgewaycarpentry.co.uk</a><br>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<br><a href="mailto:margmorant@gmail.com">margmorant@gmail.com</a><br>(2024)                            |
| <b>Computers + electronics etc</b>   |  |  |
| Steve Wicks, PC Technician<br>01491 825449 , 07513 297 547<br><a href="http://www.thepctechnicians.co.uk">www.thepctechnicians.co.uk</a> ,<br>contact <a href="mailto:@thepctechnicians.co.uk">@thepctechnicians.co.uk</a> | 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<br>850534<br><a href="mailto:c.hawker433@btinternet.com">c.hawker433@btinternet.com</a><br>(2023)   |
| <b>Domestic: Cleaners, Ironing etc</b>   |  |  |
| Carpet, Rug & Upholstery Cleaner<br>Garlands - Colin Garland<br>0118 950 0365. 0797 475 4056<br><a href="http://www.garlandsclean.co.uk">www.garlandsclean.co.uk</a>   | 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<br>(2024)   |
| Carpet cleaning<br>J F Kleen 07961511903<br><a href="mailto:josh@jfkleen.co.uk">josh@jfkleen.co.uk</a><br>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<br><a href="mailto:ajlecontel@gmail.com">ajlecontel@gmail.com</a><br>(2025)                              |
| House Cleaning<br>Gabriella 07845 782906   | Gabriela 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<br>851732<br>(2023)  |
| House cleaning<br>Magda<br>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<br>6 Lower Ham Yard<br><a href="mailto:Lucycantwell@gmail.com">Lucycantwell@gmail.com</a><br>(2025)      |
| Aimee Greenaway<br>07947 349539  | The quality of her work is excellent and her customer service is outstanding. She picks up when she says she will and turns round ironing in 48 to 72 hours. away. I can't recommend her highly enough.  | Mary Robertson<br>0788 757 4127<br>(2026)  |

## Recommended Tradespersons Continued

### Electricians

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| Robin Wilkinson<br>Causeway Electrical Solutions Ltd.<br>E-mail: <a href="mailto:info@causewayes.co.uk">info@causewayes.co.uk</a><br>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<br>850534<br>c.hawker433@btinternet.com<br>(2019) |
|--|--|--|

### Plasterer

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <a href="mailto:mitchpurvisplastering@yahoo.co.uk">mitchpurvisplastering@yahoo.co.uk</a><br>0756 3079829 | Mitch Purvis<br>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<br>01235 850207<br>0770 6663631<br><a href="mailto:middlefell@ic24.net">middlefell@ic24.net</a><br>(2020) |
|--|--|--|

### Plumbing and Heating Engineers

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| Adam<br>AAD Plumbing Services,<br>0776 3221 257<br><a href="http://www.aadplumbing.co.uk">www.aadplumbing.co.uk</a><br><a href="mailto:aadplumbing@gmail.com">aadplumbing@gmail.com</a> | 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.<br><br>Adam came replace the thermostat in our immersion heater. Excellent service! | Penelope Curtis<br>01235 850794<br>(2023) |
|---|--|---|

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| KWC Heating Services Ltd<br><a href="http://www.kwc-heating.co.uk">www.kwc-heating.co.uk</a><br><a href="mailto:contact@kwc-heating.co.uk">contact@kwc-heating.co.uk</a><br>01235 537389 | Michael Clarke is a first-class heating engineer who I have used for many years (and his father before him)<br><br>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<br><br>Highly recommended | Tim Millin<br>01235 850207<br>0770 6663631<br><a href="mailto:middlefell@ic24.net">middlefell@ic24.net</a><br>(2020) |
|--|--|--|

|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| Seamstress   |   |   |
| Sophie Morris<br>Mobile:07765 355217<br>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<br><a href="mailto:kmvrrll@gmail.com">kmvrrll@gmail.com</a><br>(2023) |

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <b>TV &amp; Aerials</b>  |  |  |
| Oxford Aerials (Shaun Guard)<br><a href="mailto:SHAUN@OXFORDAERIALS.CO.UK">SHAUN@OXFORDAERIALS.CO.UK</a> | came out v quick , helpful and reasonable priced | Tim Lake<br>07887 987 900<br><a href="mailto:tim.lake@stepienlake.co.uk">tim.lake@stepienlake.co.uk</a> (2024) |

|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <b>Window Cleaner</b>  |   |   |
| LB Windows Mobile 07936 493556<br><a href="http://www.windowcleanerdidcot.co.uk">www.windowcleanerdidcot.co.uk</a> | 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<br>01235 851732<br><a href="mailto:lizziethorntonallan@gmail.com">lizziethorntonallan@gmail.com</a><br>(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](http://didcot.u3asite.uk) or email [membership@didcotu3a.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://southoxon.gov.uk/wastecalendar) (or call Biffa on 03000 610 610)

### Fly-Tipping– How to report it:

Go to [southoxon.gov.uk](http://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](http://www.potholes.co.uk) and [www.fixmystreet.com](http://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](http://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](http://cineworld.co.uk/didcot),

**Cornerstone Arts Centre:**01235 515 144, [cornerstone-arts.org](http://cornerstone-arts.org)

**The Corn Exchange:**---01491 825 000, [Wwww.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)                                  | 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                              | “ 850794                        |
| Joanna Hart                                  | “ 850517                        |
| Email  | tirroldupthorpechurch@gmail.com |

## Village Hall Management Committee (CIO 1216788)

To book the Village Hall, e-mail Charlotte Kerr at [astons.vhbooking@gmail.com](mailto:astons.vhbooking@gmail.com)

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| Nicole West (Chair)                        | 07939 265555 |
| Andrew Blakeman (Treasurer)                |              |
| Maria Martin (Secretary and History Group) |              |
| Louise Binder (Astons Outdoors)            |              |
| Rachael Peterson (Sustainability)          |              |
| Mary Severin (Parish Council)              |              |
| Tracy Briggs (Events)                      |              |

## Astons Recreation Committee (ARC)

|                                   |                          |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Gillian Golding (Co-Chair)        |                          |
| Joanna Hart                       | 01235 850517             |
| Amberley Diamond                  | 07771 995906             |
| Liz Pattison (Bookings/ Co-Chair) | astonspavilion@gmail.com |
| Susan Pallett                     |                          |
| Jo Walshe                         |                          |
| Sarah Munroe                      |                          |

## CLP Groups

|  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| Roads and Traffic:- Jane Barr Knight                                 | 07968 300282       |
| Housing and Development :- Simon Young:                              |                    |
| <a href="mailto:youngastonspc@gmail.com">youngastonspc@gmail.com</a> | 07934 401377       |
| Environment Group Anna Dillon:                                       |                    |
| <a href="mailto:dillon.anna@gmail.com">dillon.anna@gmail.com</a>     |                    |
| Astons Nature Recovery Group   |                    |
| Jolyon Tidmarsh  | oxtid2@hotmail.com |

## Village Clubs & Organisations

|                                    |   |              |
|------------------------------------|---|--------------|
| APAC                               | Emma Machin   | 07840 862946 |
|                                    | <a href="mailto:Emma.machin2018@gmail.com">Emma.machin2018@gmail.com</a>                    |              |
| Astons Artists:                    | <a href="mailto:astonsvillages@gmail.com">astonsvillages@gmail.com</a>                      |              |
| 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: <a href="mailto:dalton_family@hotmail.com">dalton_family@hotmail.com</a>      |              |
| Church Cleaning                    | Katharine Verrill   | 07866 435377 |
| Church Flowers                     | Lizzie T-A <a href="mailto:lizziethorntonallan@gmail.com">lizziethorntonallan@gmail.com</a> |              |
| Astons Cricket Club: Tom Swainston |   | 07595 695668 |
|                                    | <a href="mailto:Tom.swainston@hotmail.com">Tom.swainston@hotmail.com</a>                    |              |
| Community speed watch              | Bob Picken  | 07787 567261 |
|                                    | <a href="mailto:bob_picken@hotmail.com">bob_picken@hotmail.com</a>                          |              |
| Football: Adam Griffiths           |   | 07815 105760 |
| Pavilion Hire: Liz Pattison        | <a href="mailto:astonspavilion@gmail.com">astonspavilion@gmail.com</a>                      |              |
| South Moreton Pre-School           |   | 01235 819647 |
| Thames Valley Alert                | Tirrold: Steve Morant   | 07561 315882 |
|                                    | Upthorpe: Ian Clark   | 01235 850103 |
| Toddlers' Group                    | <a href="mailto:asonstoddlersgroup@gmail.com">asonstoddlersgroup@gmail.com</a>              |              |

## Astons Comms team

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Astons Enews & website team:  |  |
| Bruno Brunskill, Anna Dillon, Jeremy Imbush, Charlotte Kerr, Rachel Marffy, Anne & Steve White. |  |
| Astons News:  | <a href="mailto:editorastonsnews@gmail.com">editorastonsnews@gmail.com</a> |
| Astons enews team:  | <a href="mailto:enews@theastons.net">enews@theastons.net</a>               |
| Astons Website team:  | <a href="mailto:webmaster@theastons.net">webmaster@theastons.net</a>       |
| Astons Facebook:  | <a href="mailto:Kathryn.hawkey@gmail.com">Kathryn.hawkey@gmail.com</a>     |

## 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