

ASTONS NEWS

Astonsenews theastons.net
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May 2026 issue 623

WHAT'S ON IN MAY

BINS: Green & Brown: 14, 28 GREY: 8, 21,

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

Monthly

4th Sun	2pm-4pm	Reclaiming Picks Field with ANRG	Picks Field see back page	40
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Events in May

2,3,4,9,10	11am-6pm	Artweeks in the Astons	Around the village	22, 23
3	4pm	Astonathlon	The Chequers Start/finish	
3	9.30am	Church Service	All Saints'	31
17	9.30am	Church Service	St. Michael's	31
17	1.30pm	Cricket	The Rec	7
	10-12 midday	Astons Online	Village Hall	23

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

JUNE 7th	Village fayre & plant sale	P			P
JUNE 27th	ASTONBURY	11	SEPT 13th	BOULES DAY	-

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ARTICLES

- 1 What's on at a glance
- 3 Articles, Copy deadline, Village Hall AGM .
- 5 Advertisers' Index, Advertising rates Asylum welcome -bicycles sought
- 7 Editorial, Astons Cricket Club, United Charities
- 9 Astons Café
- 11 ASTONBURY
- 13 Village Hall
- 15, 17 Astons Outdoors
- 19 Astons Pavilion
- 20 Toddler group, SM preschool
- 21 Picks Field, Water testing at S Moreton Mill stream sewage works
- 22, 23 Oxfordshire Artweeks in the Astons, Astons enews,
- 24 Astons CIC, Astons Fb page
- 25 Astons online
- 26, 27 Astons History Group
- 28 Rector's Reflections, Olly Glover
- 29 Blewbury Players productions, Matthew Barber, Police Commissioner
- 30 Speedwatch, Woolpack
- 31 Church Services
- 32, 33 Parish Council meeting
- 34 URC, Mothers' Union
- 35 Olly Glover MP, Investment Fraud
- 36, 37 Recommended tradesmen, U3A
- 38 Baby sitting
- 39 Community services and police information
- 40 Village Representative Organisations & Village Information

Aston Tirrold & Upthorpe Village Hall



The Annual General meeting of the Village Hall Management Committee will take place on **Wednesday 13th May at 7.00 pm** in the Library Room.
All welcome.

DEADLINE for the JUNE edition is MAY 21st

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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ADVERTISERS INDEX

Also see Recommended Tradesmen on pages 36,37

<u>Accommodation</u>	page	<u>Home & Office Services</u>	page
The Red Lion, Blewbury	4	Didcot Home Care	10
Where It All Began Travel	18	Jackie's Care	8
<u>Art</u>		Specialist dress maker	20
Anna Dillon	2	<u>Horticulture</u>	
<u>Body & Fitness</u>		Purely Plants	14
Caroline Kinash Physiotherapy and pilates	6	First Class Tree services	14
Clippers hairdressing	8	J J Woodage Tree & Ground maintenance	20
Principal Pilates	8	N. Drum Landscaping	14
Sweet Lavender Facial & Beauty Treatments	8	<u>Pet Services</u>	
Resonate Hearing Centre	6	Astons Pet Services	10
Toe-Tally Perfect foot health care	8	Vet –Larkmead	10
<u>Children:</u>		<u>Trades etc</u>	
Babysitting	40	Didcot Plant Hire	12
<u>Food + Wine</u>		Highwood Bespoke Joinery	12
Le Clos Wine Bar	4	Howard Chadwick Funeral Service	10
Olivier at The Chequers	4	JF Kleen carpet cleaning + repairs	4
Red Lion	4	Longpine roofing & property maintenance	14
<u>Garage Services</u>		Orchard Building	12
Chequers Garage	2	Pest Wizards	20
Scotlands Ash Garage	2	Ridgeway Funeral Services	6
		Secure Electrical Ltd	18
		SCS Oxon Surfacing Contractors	16

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.

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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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:

Nothing to report; everyone behaving!

- ◆ Great work done by volunteers on the rec and village clear-up day
- ◆ **More house building proposed on Ham Paddock behind Ham Yard/ Alisons Lane** [pp 32, 33]
- ◆ Astonathlon 3rd May. The Chequers
- ◆ ARTWEEKS in May. [p22, 23]
- ◆ June 7th Village Fayre [P15]
- ◆ June 27th Astonbury is back! Save the date. Helpers are always needed. [p 11]
- ◆ SAVE THE DATE; BOULES DAY. Sunday 13th September; details next month

ASTONS CRICKET CLUB

Looking for a relaxed way to enjoy the summer and meet new people in the village? ACC is always happy to welcome new faces!



We're a friendly, mixed-ability side that plays purely social matches, so whether you're an experienced cricketer or haven't picked up a bat in years, you'll fit right in. There's no pressure, just good company, a bit of healthy competition, and plenty of laughs along the way.

Matches are played locally throughout the season, on Sundays, with a focus on enjoying the game and bringing the community together. If you fancy giving it a go, we'd love to hear from you. Or, just come along and watch your village team in action

Ralph on 07340 346 511 or at astonscricketclub@hotmail.co.uk

ACC HOME FIXTURES 2026			
All Start at 1.30pm			
Month	Date	Month	Date
APRIL	19, 26	JULY	5, 26
MAY	3, 17	AUGUST	16, 23
JUNE	7, 21	SEPTEMBER	6



DO YOU NEED HELP WITH LIVING COSTS?

It can be expensive running a home, and this has been made even more difficult recently by global events which mean we are now facing rising heating and petrol costs on top of affording day to day living.

At United Charities, we can offer support to individuals, couples and families living in the Astons, Blewbury and Upton, who may be struggling to keep on top of paying bills. From the weekly food shop, clothing and school trips or equipment, to energy bills, or a one-off payment for essential items, we have funds available to help you.

You can pick up a short application from the porch of All Saints Church, or make a request by email to: united-charities@outlook.com

We can help you fill in the form so please don't be reluctant to ask for help, and all applications are totally confidential. United Charities of the Ancient Parish of Blewbury Registered Charity No: 203538

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Saturday	7.30 am - 17.00 pm

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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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Weekly

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

Monthly

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

Friends of the Village Hall

For more information: villagehall@theastons.net

All Village Hall booking enquiries
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Dates for your Diary

- **Kingston Bagpuise House - Rare plant Sale and Open Gardens** - Sunday 24th May
11am – 4pm Entry fee £8 Refreshments supplied by SeeSaw and the RDA. *Please get in touch if you would like a lift / to join us*
- **Village Fayre & Plant Sale** Sunday 7th June at Astons Village Hall – A lovely community event for all the family
- **Open Gardens in Goring & Streatley** – Saturday 20th June 1pm – 5pm
<https://www.thegapfestival.org/events/open-gardens-in-goring-streatley/>
- **Visit to Astons Pottery & Gardens** Sunday 29th September
- **Wreath Making Workshop** Tuesday 15th December at Astons Village Hall

Village Fayre & Plant Sale Preparations continue**Are you able to help?**

We would be delighted to receive contributions of home produce, plants, raffle and tombola prizes, as well as volunteers to help out for an hour or two on the day. If you have any spares when sowing seeds, dividing perennials or lifting shrubs and unwanted plants, we can collect and grow them on in readiness for the sale on **Sunday 7th June**.



May is a great time to be mindful of our surroundings and to quote Mother Teresa, "Be happy in that moment, that is enough. Each moment is all we need, nothing more"

Whatever you do have a wonderful May everyone



How to get in touch, please contact :

Naomi (contactnaomi@icloud.com) (M) 07495310676

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

Emma (emma.machin2018@gmail.com)



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Astons Outdoors

Things get solved if you get involved

May already!!

With the concerning news regarding the widespread British wild bird virus strains of Avian Poxvirus, we have been advised to help by reducing the indirect contact via contaminated surfaces such as perches, bird tables and feeders. Regular cleaning, at least once a week will help but perhaps now is the time to think of introducing more plants specifically for our feathered friends. Berry and fruit plants, seed and nut plants, nesting and shelter plants. A list of these can be found on the RHS website.

Fancy a cuppa? Why not try something you might have in your garden or find around the Astons, such as leaves from Fig, Raspberry, Nettle (stinging) and various Mint plants. Also, Lemongrass stalks, Dandelion, Echinacea, Lavender, Violet and Camomile, Dianthus and Dahlia flowers.

Now the weather is getting warmer, May is an ideal time for spending more time outdoors with children. A sound hunt, a number hunt, a bug hunt, hide and seek, throwing and catching or kicking a ball about at the recreation ground are great ways to engage with the outside and tire them out. May 13th is World Orienteering Day - why not have a go 🏃

OR...

If the above doesn't float your boat, here are some jobs to do in your garden during May:

- ✓ Grass is growing strongly and will need a weekly cut. Raising the height of the blades helps really helps the health of a lawn, you may notice plants such as daisies and clover can bloom and help pollinators.
- ✓ Water anything newly planted (trees, turf, shrubs, veg and flowers) to ensure roots are put down into the soil.
- ✓ A dry day is the best time to hoe weeds
- ✓ Sow beans, plant tomatoes, leeks, maincrop potatoes, sow veg outside (towards the end of the month)
- ✓ Look after your finished spring bulbs for next year, don't be tempted to cut back the foliage, let it die back and break down and add liquid fertiliser for a better display next spring
- ✓ Stake perennials – It seems that they put on growth as soon as you close the curtains!!
- ✓ Water peonies – they really dislike dry weather in spring
- ✓ Prune penstemons – cut all the old shoots to the base (providing there is new growth at the bottom of the plant). If there are no new shoots at the base, cut just above the lowest set of leaves
- ✓ Don't forget to water and feed your pots!!
- ✓ Start collecting and recycling water whenever possible

How to get in touch, please contact :

Naomi (contactnaomi@icloud.com) (M) 07495 310676

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

Emma (emma.machin2018@gmail.com)



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◆

Pavilion Hire Charges

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

◆

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Call Wallingford 01491 833282 - info@pestwizards.co.uk

South Moreton



Pre-School

Contact us on 01235 819657

or email

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

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

Butterflies in Picks Field

Butterflies are more than just pretty insects, they are sensitive indicators of the health of our local countryside. Last year, from April to September, a weekly butterfly survey was begun on Picks Field. The aim was to get a base rate before any improvements of the habitat were made.

Each survey followed a fixed route or “transit” that sampled the different habitats and the number of each species seen was noted. 23 different species of butterflies were identified. They were typical species of chalk meadowland such as Meadow Browns, Marbled Whites and Common Blues. As found by other surveys it was a bumper year for Gatekeepers (284 seen one survey) and Large Whites. The most exciting spot was a Green Hairstreak [see photo] :

So, if you’re walking in Pick’s field this spring, keep an eye out for a tiny flash of emerald in the hedgerows. The Green Hairstreak (*Callophrys rubi*) is the UK’s only truly green butterfly, and its colour isn’t pigment at all — it’s created by microscopic structures in the wing scales that scatter the light like a natural prism. This little butterfly is easy to overlook as it almost always sits with its wings closed, showing only the bright green underside with its faint white streak, which can be anything from a neat line to just a few dots. Males sometimes spiral around shrubs in territorial flights, while the quieter females slip between bramble and blackthorn to lay their eggs.



Although fairly widespread and not the rarest hairstreak in Britain (that title goes to the black hairstreak), it often occurs in small colonies, and many people never realise it’s right on their doorstep. We’ve long known it was present on the far side of the road, but this is a lovely reminder that even our slightly “messy” field can hold wildlife surprises. Like many of our butterflies, it has declined in recent decades — national monitoring shows numbers down by around a third, and its range shrinking too — which makes finding it here in the Astons all the more special.

Over the winter, volunteers have been working hard to clear the privet on the slope in the hopes of encouraging more diverse flora. These efforts make a real difference to species like the Green Hairstreak, which love warm, sunny banks, blackthorn thickets, and slightly untidy hedgerows.

You may have already seen the odd Small Tortoiseshell (*Aglais urticae*) or Brimstone (*Gonepteryx rhamni*) so spring is definitely here! Between April and June look out for Green Hairstreaks perched low on bramble, blackthorn, or dogwood— the scrubby shrubs they favour for basking and patrolling. Their caterpillars feed on plants such as Common Rock rose and Bird’s foot trefoil, but the adults are far more often seen resting on the surrounding shrubs.

Picks Field is now registered with UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme and our results will be entered into their data from which scientists can track how butterflies are responding to climate change and land use over decades. These long term studies have already revealed earlier spring emergence, range shifts and success of some conservation projects We are also in contact with the groups that survey on the Astons Upton Downs.

If you’d like to help or find out more then go to <https://pfr.tidyhq.com/> Special thanks to our resident lepidopterists: Pippa Clarke for performing the surveys and Chloe Cooper for her butterfly facts.

Riverfly and Water quality testing training days - Wallingford Brook

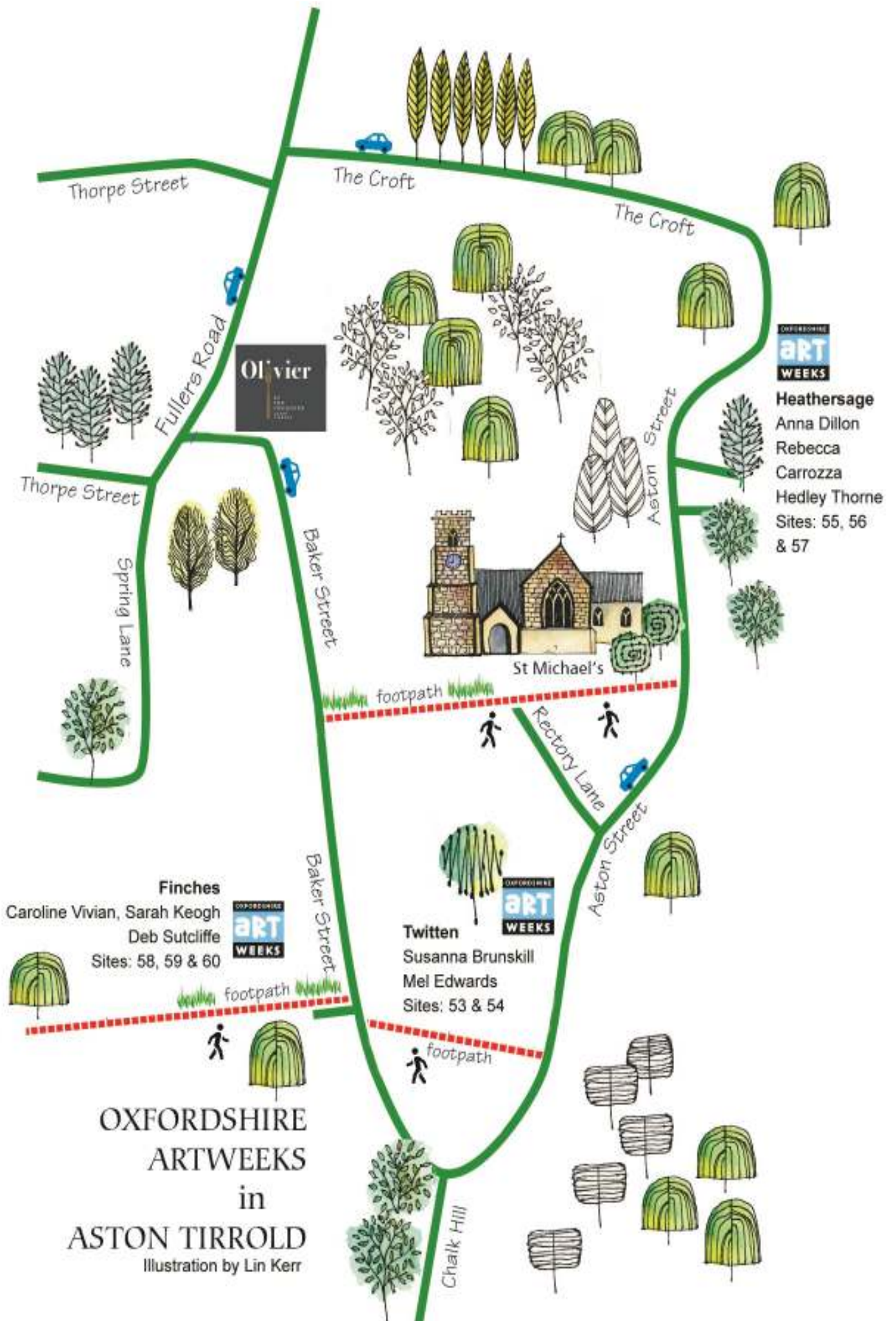
You maybe aware of a catchment partnership initiative hosted by The Action for the River Kennet (ARK) team focussing on the Mill & Bradfords Brooks in the Blewbury and South Moreton areas.

ARK are running two citizen science training events, one on May 9th on how to monitor riverfly living on the Mill Brook, and another on June 9th setting up volunteers with water quality testing sites on the Mill and Cholsey Brook.

These events need no prior knowledge and are free to attend, just an enthusiasm to learn about your local river and commitment to maintain monthly testing at your site.

For more information or the sign up to either event, please contact james@kennetandpang.org and copy in anna@kennetandpang.org if you would like to attend the Riverfly training, as she will be running the day.

Roselle Chapman, Nature Recovery Officer



Oxfordshire Artweeks in the Astons

May 2–4 (Bank Holiday weekend) & May 9–10
11am – 6pm

The Aston Artists warmly invite you to explore their studios this May as part of Oxfordshire Artweeks, a wonderful opportunity to meet local artists, see their creative spaces, and enjoy our beautiful village in springtime. Across three village venues, you'll find eight talented exhibitors and discover an inspiring range of work including paintings, ceramics, photography, engravings, and prints.

Meet the Artists

- Anna Dillon (site 56) — renowned local painter, exhibits her latest work at Heathersage, Aston Street, alongside Springline Project artist Rebecca Carrozza (site 55) and aerial photographer Hedley Thorne (site 57).
- Susanna Brunskill (site 53) welcomes you to her cottage garden studio at Twitten, Aston Street, sharing space with potter Mel Edwards (site 54) who recently relocated to this area from Wiltshire.
- At Finches, Baker Street, Caroline Vivian (site 60) presents her recent oil paintings of local landscapes and still lifes, showing alongside Deb Sutcliffe (site 59), who brings intricate wood engravings & ceramicist Sarah Keogh (site 58).



Live Demonstrations

- Pottery throwing with Sarah Keogh — Saturdays, May 2 & 9, 1-5pm — watch Sarah at the wheel at Finches studio.
- Letterpress printing at Finches — Monday, May 4, 1-5pm — print your own keepsake!

Take a gentle stroll between venues, enjoy the village's charm, and chat with artists about their work. Children and dogs are very welcome. Expect a friendly buzz and plenty of signs to guide you between the sites. Original and one off pieces of art, cards, prints and small gifts will be available to buy, but absolutely no pressure to do so, please just pop in to say hello!

For full details and more information about the artists and their work visit www.artweeks.org or the [Aston village website](http://www.astonvillage.org).

2,3,4,9 &
10th May
11-6pm

TWITTEN ASTON STREET OX11 9DQ	HEATHERSAGE ASTON STREET OX11 9DJ	FINCHES BAKER STREET OX11 9DD
53 & 54	55, 56 & 57	58, 59 & 60

ART IN THE ASTONS

"We love sharing what we do and what a lovely way to spend a few hours, wandering through the Astons with art, conversation, and creativity all around."

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,.

Bring tech questions to Astons Village Hall Tuesday 19 May 10 – 12

Digital helpers will
give you free &
friendly 1-2-1
support & advice



There's also a landline switchover briefing at 10:30



By January 2027 all
landlines must be digital
not analogue using copper
cables. This will affect
telephones & alarms.

Register by email theastononline@gmail.com
or by phone 07780958249

Website www.astononline.uk

THE ASTONS' NEWS

The Newsletter of the Villages of Aston Tirrold & Aston Upthorpe
Established 1968

www.theastons.net (established 2005)

Well, it's a really sad day for the village.

The Post Office in Baker Street is finally closing for business on October 21st, and will be very sorely missed. Best wishes go to Neil and Cynthia Cox for their move to Crowmarsh, and grateful thanks for keeping the service available to the villages for so long.

I'll never forget the day they woke up to find that the Royal Mail had moved the letter box to the other side of the road without telling them! The village was in uproar, and Royal Mail had to move it back again! Ah, happy days.

For nostalgia's sake, here is the shop as it looked in the 1980s, and below, the earlier Clement's shop that preceded it.



One last push !!

We have now raised a staggering £252,800 towards the Pavilion Project, £44,245 of which is in individual pledges and donations!

You may remember that if we reach the magic figure of £50k in pledges we can claim matched funding from the National Sports Federation. - a huge boost that would mean we might just reach our total in time for next year's fete !!

Don't hold back - every £1 pledged gets us £2 nearer our goal. - see page 11 for the Pledge Form.

The Astons Pavilion Project Committee

OCTOBER 2006

ISSUE 424

ARC News & Events	3
The Astons' Boat Club	5
Arts and Crafts Exhibition	5
Cricket AND Football	9
Pavilion Pledge Form	11
Parish Plans (ORCC)	12
A View from The Hill	13
Village Organisations	14
Parish Council Report	15
Church News	16
Village Ads	17
Village Information	18/19
What's On	20

Another watch found on Blewburton Hill !
What is going on up there? If you've recently lost a watch please contact 859262.

The Poppy Appeal 2006

This year the official Poppy Day is SATURDAY, 11th November - and Remembrance Day is on SUNDAY, 12th November. Armistice day is on Saturday, 11th November. House to house collections can take place at any time between Saturday 28th October and Saturday 11th November. If you plan to collect after dark, please do not do this on your own - your safety and security is every bit as important as the money that you raise.

PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY - the work of the British Legion is never ending. May I remind everyone that the Act of Remembrance will take place at the Village War Memorial at 10.50am on Sunday 12th November. This will be followed by a Remembrance Service at either the United Reformed Church or at All Saints' Church in Aston Upthorpe. Confirmation will follow in due course. The wearing of medals and decorations is entirely optional.

Robin Sewell.

Would you like to view the Astons History Project archive in the Whitwell Page Archive Room?

Contacts: Jancis Smith 07734 44414 and Anna Dillon 07786 876411.

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

A Different Perspective on the 1st May

I wonder if you have anything planned for the 1st May? May Day is rich in customs, many of which go back centuries. Indeed, back in the days of Ancient Rome, there was a custom that on this day the priest of Vulcan would sacrifice a pregnant sow to the goddess Maia. The custom of sacrificing pigs has, fortunately, fallen out of favour, but there are lots of other customs to be celebrated at this time of year. We might choose to dance around a Maypole, or to hold a procession, led by a young girl or woman specially chosen to be the Queen of the May. In Oxford, there is still the tradition of May Morning – this involves standing at the bottom of the base of Magdalen tower at 6 in the morning in order to hear the choir sing a Latin hymn. I have not attended this event myself, but perhaps you have done so.

In more recent years, the 1st May has been an occasion to celebrate the importance of workers in our society, and all the improvements in working conditions which have won over the last hundred years or so. Indeed, in the UK, the May Day Bank Holiday was first instituted, back in 1978, in order to allow time for trade unionists to hold their celebrations. Some years before, in 1955, Pope Pius XII declared that the 1st May would from now on be celebrated as the feast of Joseph the Worker. It would be a public reminder that workers mattered, and that as a society we should ensure that all workers have safe conditions of work and fair remuneration for their labour.

The world of work has changed almost beyond recognition since the days of 1950s, but the need for appropriate regulation and protection remains the same as ever. Employees have the right to expect a safe place of work and fair treatment. There will be disagreements as to what this means in practice, but the general principle remains. We need to treat workers fairly.

For Christians, this is about respecting the value of every human being, and the Christian belief that we should treat one another fairly and with justice. I wonder what this might mean for us? How might we improve the lives of the men and women on whose labour we depend? There are lots of things we might do, but perhaps a good starting point is to appreciate the workers we meet in our everyday lives – the workers who make our own lives possible. I wonder: when was the last time we bothered to thank the delivery driver who dropped off the package we ordered on the Internet? Or the customer service agent who dealt with our query? Everyone deserves to be appreciated, perhaps especially those we can so easily ignore.

- Father Jason

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INTENTIONALLY
BLANK**



Whilst our production team and cast beaver away designing, building, sewing, and line learning for *The Wind in The Willows* (15-18 July) our next event is...

A FLY ON THE WALL, By Catherine Flye

An entertainment of Songs, Sketches, Memories and Merriment to celebrate our Venerable Village and the 50th anniversary of the Blewbury Players.

St Michael's Church, 20 June, Starts 7.30pm. Our online box office will open on 29 May. Tickets: £15 (to include a glass of wine). Based on the beloved tradition of the British Music Hall, the cast includes a company of old friends - Catie Flye and her cousin Ian Clarke tapping the ivories with gusto: Actor Garth Bardsley hot foot from the West End: Soprano Rosa Lamoreaux all the way from Washington DC and our very own local thespian, Chris Mousley Jones. The show also includes musical favourites together with audience participation.



We are looking for artifacts!

EXHIBITION - Fifty Years of the Blewbury Players, Orchard Dene Garden, 15-18 July. If you have props, costumes pieces of scenery, which were produced for any of the many shows (including old time music halls and operas) produced over the last fifty years, we would love to borrow them for the week of 13-19 July. Please contact Jo at laugharne355@btinternet.com if you can help.

Drama in an Oxfordshire Village - Fifty Years of the Blewbury Players. Publication date: 14 July 2026. Price: £25

We would be very grateful if you would consider pre-ordering to help us cover the up-front costs of printing. Every pre-ordered copy will be signed by Steve! Orders at www.blewburyplayers.co.uk or using this QR code. Explore 300 pages packed with 270 images and reviews of 62 major Blewbury Players productions. Perfect for Blewbury locals, past cast and crew, theatre-lovers, and anyone who loves the charm (and chaos) of village life. Funny, factual and brilliantly researched, this book takes you behind the scenes—from post-war Blewbury and the buzzing drama years of the 60s and 70s to the moment the Players was born. See how a local group became a true community cornerstone—and earned a reputation far beyond the village.



Details of all our 2026 plans are at www.blewburyplayers.co.uk
or you contact us at blewburyplayers@gmail.com.

Matthew Barber Police Commissioner

Keeping phones out of the classroom

Most schools will have some kind of “phone free” policy; but how effectively these are enforced varies hugely. Last month I met with teachers and governors from several schools to talk about their approach to banning phones in school.

They have adopted a particular system, using lockable pouches, but there are lots of those things used by schools, such as lock boxes. During the school day they distract pupils, disrupt classes, can lead to poor discipline and lower attainment.

There are a number of perceived barriers to implementing a proper phone free policy in school - phones connected to medical devices, and young carers for example - but the experience of schools that have embraced a proper ban shows that these problems can be overcome. The benefits of removing the distraction can hugely outweigh the costs, reducing disruption, truancy and bullying.

I've already been in touch with other schools and discussing how we can spread best practice to all schools in Thames Valley and will hopefully be launching a new project later this year.

As well as increasing the number of neighbourhood police officers locally, as part of my Education Strategy, every secondary school in Thames Valley now has a named schools police officer - and primary school also have access to local support. The important role these officers play can be both dealing with incidents involving children - as either victims or perpetrators; but also working with teachers to educate children - and parents - about some of the risks facing them.

Matthew Barber

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

Churn Church News and Services April 2026

date	Event/time	Prayer Focus
+Sunday 3rd May	5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER 9.00am All Saints' Aston Upthorpe: Parish Eucharist	Weddings and God's blessing on new and existing marriages
+Sunday 17th May	7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER 9.00am St Michael's Aston Tirrold: Parish Eucharist followed by APCM	PCC's, all in leadership & our Benefice operations manager

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**.

News from St Michael's and All Saints' PCC

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.

Please note that St Michael's will be closed from 27th May for approximately one month for refurbishment. Services will be held at All Saints' during this time.

'Moonrakers' Concert 4th May at 7.30pm at St Michael's Blewbury. Tickets are £15, available at Blewbury PO

FREE ORGAN RECITAL St Andrew's Hagbourne **Sunday 3rd May 2026, 5pm**, Featuring Father Jason's new work.

Parish Council Business

Parish Council meeting 15th April 2026 was held face to face in the village hall.

Planning

P26/S0727/HH – For development work at the following location: 1 Rectory Lane, Aston Tirrold, OX11 9DH.

The application is for: Proposed ground floor rear extension. New twin wall external black flue to rear elevation, fenestration changes and associated internal layout changes.

The PC support the application.

P26/S0835/O

- For development work at : Ham Paddock, Alison's Lane, Moreton Road, Aston Tirrold, OX11 9GW

The application is for: Two dwellings and associated works (phased development).

There were 24 representatives from the village who attended the meeting with regard to this application. There were many concerns expressed by villagers and the PC. JPPC represented the BM Cook Settlement 1965. The representative was provided the opportunity to explain both the application and the rationale for the application, stating that the Trustees of the Settlement needed to act in the best interest of the Trust.

Salient Points

The land in question is subject to an Article 4 Direction.

- ◆ Ham Paddock can only be accessed via a private road and residents using Alison's Lane (9 houses in total) are concerned that the ownership of the road has not been transferred to the residents of the properties on Alison's Lane. They are pursuing this separately. The road is narrow (4.8m) and not as described in the planning consultation document. It is not suitable for 2 way traffic for HGVs and cars, nor is the surface suitable for HGVs. It is understood that there is a restriction of vehicles up to 120bhp using the lane for access to Ham Paddock
- ◆ The PC feels this is a material consideration and **does not support** this application on the grounds of poor access and concerns regarding the legal ownership of the lane.
- ◆ The habitat report presented with the outline application was undertaken in February 2026. The PC has requested that an updated and more thorough ecological assessment be conducted in May. The history of the site is complex and the Biodiversity Net Gain of the site currently is diminished from October 2025 when the site was cleared of trees and ground cover without due regard to species habitat or the ponds in gardens immediately adjacent to the land.
- ◆ It is clear from correspondence held by villagers that there has been an intention to build (citing also the dryers and barn) well in advance of this application and was indicated in October 2025 when Ham Paddock was cleared. The applicant's representative will contact one of the villagers present to discuss further. The PC feel this is a material consideration and **cannot not support this application until further information is available.**
- ◆ The land is visible from the National Landscape and this in part was given as a reason for refusal of planning in 2022 at number 8 The Croft (immediately adjacent to the south of this application Planning Application P22/S3052/HH). The PC feels this is a material consideration and **does not support this application on the grounds of detriment to views and outlook from and to the National Landscape**
- ◆ The village has seen 24 planning applications approved for new build or converted agricultural barns since 2017. 22 have been built with 2 awaiting construction to commence. This is an increase on residential houses of 9% from that date. As a small village with little infrastructure to support new development, the PC does not see the development as sustainable.
- ◆ The village has seen 24 planning applications approved for new build or converted agricultural barns since 2017. 22 have been built with 2 awaiting construction to commence. This is an increase on residential houses of 9% from that date. As a small village with little infrastructure to support new development, the PC does not see the development as sustainable.

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- ◆ The appeal decision of 6th December 2019 for planning application **no. P18/S4124/O** which recognises that we have limited sustainability for new developments, no schools, limited bus service, heavy reliance on car journeys, very limited employment provision, no grocery shops or doctors surgery, and the cumulative effect of the 22 dwellings since 2017 has put additional pressure on village infrastructure. The PC feel this is a material consideration and **does not support this application on the grounds of sustainability.**
- ◆ In 2019, the planning inspectorate refused an applications for 9 houses on the site immediately to the west of this field. Five were subsequently approved and built accessing Alison's Lane. The PC feels that an additional 2 houses does not accord with the Planning inspectors views of 2019 where nothing has changed in the village since that time. The PC feels this is a material consideration and **does not support this application on the in line with the planning inspectors findings in 2019.**
- ◆ There are extremely limited employment opportunities in the village. There are no medical facilities, no school, no shop and public transport is extremely limited. Car journeys will increase and it is expected that between 3 and 4 cars per house is not unrealistic. plus deliveries etc. The PC feels this is a material consideration and **does not support this application on the grounds of increased traffic movements.**
- ◆ A decision on the previous application, **P18/S4124/O** for 9 dwellings adjacent the current application site well as the site where the agriculture buildings sit, demonstrates this. That application was refused and an appeal, dated 6th December 2019, **at para. 8.** It was stated that that the proposal would not comply with the definition of 'infill'. The boundary to the east of the application site is countryside and part of the National Landscapes designation. The application site is not, therefore 'closely surrounded by buildings', and not therefore infill". The PC feel this is a material consideration and **does not support this application on the grounds of proposed infill.**

P26/S0798/HH - For development work at the following location: Post Office, Baker Street, Aston Tirrold, Didcot, OX11 9DD

The application is for: First floor extension over existing ground floor, rebuilding of annex to the side, new wall and roof to garage, front ground floor extension and roof lights to the study.

The PC support the application.

P26/S0706/LB - For development work at the following location: Aston Tirrold Manor, Aston Street, Aston Tirrold, OX11 9DJ

The application is for: Repairs to front boundary wall.

The PC **supports** this application but makes the following observation. The work has already commenced and asks the heritage and conservation officer to ensure that the material used are appropriate.

Roads and Traffic

Cllr Knight has registered to be the village flood contact and will receive training from OCC. Cllr Imbush met with a representative from OCC to discuss the ongoing issues on Chalk Hill. OCC will contact the farmer responsible for the ditch on the west side of Chalk Hill and it may be that 2 trees will need to be removed to assist in the free flow of water. The representative noted the ongoing issues and stop gap solutions over years and acknowledged that a long-term solution was needed. He will instruct operatives that all drains on the hill will be blasted to improve flow.

Jl also pointed out the significant damage to verges as a consequence of pot holes and flooding on the road. This is as a direct consequence of poor maintenance and lack of long-term solutions.

Environment group

Village work day was on April 18th

Cllr Carter submitted a comprehensive verge and hedgerow management plan for the village 6 weeks ago. Sadly, there has been no response or acknowledgement from OCC.

SODC/OCC: See link for SODC report **Aston Tirrold Aston Upthorpe Parish Council DC Report 150426.docx**

See link for OCC report **County Councillor Parish Report Apr 2026.docx** [next PC meeting 26th May 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

Sunday 3 May 11am	Morning Worship with communion led by Rev Dr Margaret Yee.
Sunday 10 May 11am	Morning Worship led by Keith Whyte.
Sunday 17 May 11am	Morning Worship led by Rev Ray Stanyon.
Sunday 24 May 11am	Morning Worship led by Rev Dr Richard Bittleston.
Sunday 31 May 6pm	Evening Worship led by Rev Glyn Millington. Afternoon tea served beforehand.

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

We are delighted to announce that the refurbishment of the Centre for Reflection has been completed and will be in use from this month. We hope that the work didn't cause too much disturbance to our neighbours.

The Toddler Group are due to move back into the Centre on Friday 8 May 9.30-11.30am.

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.

The Meditation Group meet twice monthly on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 11.45am. The Writing Group meet on the first Thursday of the month at 1.30pm. Please contact Julian as above for further information.

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.

MOTHERS' UNION-MAKE MAY MATTER has become a catchphrase for MU members across the Oxford Diocese to encourage each of us to make a difference in our villages and communities. MU is a "grassroots" organisation which means that every member has a contribution to make in their local neighbourhood or indeed world-wide. Locally, we organise the weekly Blewbury Drop In, providing a supportive meeting place and monthly, a baby and toddler group, "Coffee & Kids", in Blewbury Village Hall. We keep our ears open to respond to any need in other villages.

Our Diocese sets up projects which members can support. One of these is to support parents of very sick children at the JR. For several years now we have been collecting toiletry items which are distributed at Ronald MacDonald House. Welcome packs of these goods are made up for parents who suddenly find they need to stay overnight, or often for prolonged periods.

Can you help us to MAKE MAY MATTER? Items required are:

Toothbrushes and Toothpaste; Shaving foam/gel; razors; Deodorant; Small bars of soap; Packets of tissues; Combs; Body lotion; Body wash; Shampoo

There will be collection boxes in our churches. Thank you for supporting this.

Our branch continues to meet monthly for a Holy Communion service followed by refreshments. This month the service is at 10am at St. Michael's Church, Blewbury on Thursday 28th May. All are very welcome.

Join us and Join in.

- Revd Louise Butler 07837 009730, leader, Churn MU branch

Update from Olly Glover MP

The sudden closure of East Hagbourne Post Office. I met with the shop's dedicated volunteers. They explained that the post office closure limits residents' access to essential services and risks the future of the community shop. This shop brings so much value to the community; its loss would be felt significantly. Having already met with the national Post Office organisation directly, I will continue to work with the East Hagbourne community and raise this case with government ministers to find a solution.

Trump's illegal military actions in Iran have caused significant death and global disruption to gas and oil supplies, which rural areas have felt the brunt of. I signed an Early Day Motion to introduce a three-month zero rating of VAT and price caps to help alleviate some of this financial burden. The government must take further action to protect rural residents who are vulnerable to sudden price rises.

In Parliament I raised concerns about local government funding, road safety, and improving women's health. In a debate on the condition of rural roads, attended by MPs representing dozens of counties all frustrated by the state of their roads, I spoke about the need for better approaches to road design, maintenance, and repair across the country. Funding to maintain our roads must be spent both on fixing potholes, and on long-term, preventative work, such as drainage improvements and surface dressing.

Back in the constituency, I had a beautiful tour of the nature reserve at the Sutton Courtenay Environmental Education Centre, near Milton Park, run by the Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust (BBOWT). In addition, I answered questions from Year 12 Politics students at Wallingford School.

I had a fascinating visit to Moderna Innovation and Technology Centre, a biotechnology company manufacturing vaccines based on Harwell Campus, and learnt about Infinis, based in Sutton Courtenay, who are turning gases from landfill sites into renewable energy.

After an excellent lunch at the White Hart in Harwell, I spoke with the publican about ongoing pressures on the local hospitality industry. I have joined Liberal Democrat colleagues in calling for a 5% VAT cut for hospitality, and against government policies on business rates and employer national insurance contributions, which are making life very difficult for our hospitality sector. I also attended Wantage and Grove Street Pastors on an evening patrol, engaging with the local community.

These constituency activities help me understand the day-to-day challenges faced by people and organisations in the local area, and I will continue to hold the Labour government to account and push for change at a national level.

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 or by leaving a voice message on 0207 219 7657.

Olly Glover, MP for Didcot and Wantage

Investment Fraud

Victims of investment fraud lost an average of £1,675 every minute last year, new figures from the City of London Police, the National Lead Force for Fraud, have revealed.

Criminals stole £879.8 million through investment fraud last year - an average of £2.4 million a day.

In 2025, 34,673 people reported investment fraud to Report Fraud, the national service that replaced Action Fraud in December 2025. This marks a 31 per cent rise on the previous year. The rise in reporting is not only linked to an increase in investment fraud, but also due to the point at which victims realise what has happened. Reports began climbing steadily from March and spiked in July and September when many people review their investments, move money into new products or check their returns ahead of the new financial year.

As part of wider fraud prevention work, **we are urging the public to take simple steps to protect themselves.**

Before making any investment, use the FCA's [firm checker tool](#), to confirm whether a firm or individual is authorised. The tool can be accessed via the FCA website and is one of the most effective ways to avoid cloned firms and bogus advisers.

We encourage anyone considering an investment to be cautious of unsolicited messages, adverts promising unusually high returns, or requests to keep the offer "confidential".

You can also contact the Financial Conduct Authority's consumer helpline on 0800 111 6768 or report suspicious businesses or individuals by using the reporting form on their website.

Any suspicious activity should be reported to Report Fraud as soon as possible at www.reportfraud.police.uk or by calling 0300 123 2040. In Scotland, victims of fraud and cybercrime should report to Police Scotland on 101.

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.thepctechicians.co.uk , contact @thepctechicians.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	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 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)
Aimee Greenaway 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 0788 757 4127 (2026)

Recommended Tradespersons Continued

Plumbing and Heating Engineers

<p>Adam AAD Plumbing Services, 0776 3221 257 www.aadplumbing.co.uk aadplumbing@gmail.com</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Adam came replace the thermostat in our immersion heater. Excellent service!</p>	<p>Penelope Curtis 01235 850794 (2023)</p>
Seamstress		
<p>Sophie Morris Mobile:07765 355217 Landline 01235 815316.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Katharine Verrill kmvrrll@gmail.com (2023)</p>
TV & Aerials		
<p>Oxford Aerials (Shaun Guard) SHAUN@OXFORDAERIALS.CO.UK</p>	<p>came out v quick , helpful and reasonable priced</p>	<p>Tim Lake 07887 987 900 tim.lake@stepienlake.co.uk (2024)</p>
Window Cleaner		
<p>LB Windows Mobile 07936 493556 www.windowcleanerdidcot.co.uk</p>	<p>Liam Barson does a good and thorough job. He offers both traditional and waterfed pole window cleaning, gutter, solar panel and patio cleaning.</p>	<p>Lizzie Thornton-Allan 01235 851732 lizziethorntonallan@gmail.com (2025)</p>

U3A

With warmer days just around the corner and being 'time rich' for any newly retired or semi retired individuals, lazy days can be achieving days; 'Learn, Laugh, Live', why not learn a new language, or delve into your family history, enjoy walking with friends, learn to play an instrument by joining the Didcot & District U3A and with over 30 Interest Groups (full details can be found on Didcot.u3a.site.uk) there must be something for You.

New members are always warmly welcomed to join (first visit is 'free to see') and chat over tea and biscuits at the monthly meetings are held on the third Tuesday of every month for this nationwide self-help teaching and learning organisation in the Didcot Civic Hall, meetings start 2:30 pm.

Meetings for the coming months in 2026 will include;

April 21st Forensic Experience from Hayley Scott. This is your opportunity to hear all about the life of a real 'Crime Scene Investigator' when Hayley Scott shares her experiences working for the Metropolitan Police for 14 years as a CSI.

May 19th AGM plus Emma Teasdale, who will be raising the awareness of domestic abuse by reducing the risk.

June 16th an ABC of Victorian painters from Simon Evers. The Victorian era was the time of Queen Victoria's rule following the Georgian and Edwardian periods. They reacted to the social issues of the day by leveraging their positions as prominent personalities to publish articles in political periodicals, give their artworks to charity auctions, create banners or posters for social movements, or paint scenes that addressed the country's most urgent problems.

For further U3A details or information for those wishing to 'Learn, Laugh, Live'! head over to Didcot.u3a.site.uk
Brian and Lynn Burscough - PR Didcot & District U3a

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](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

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)	07308 736799
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:	
youngastonspc@gmail.com	07934 401377
Environment Group Anna Dillon:	
	<u>dillon.anna@gmail.com</u>
Astons Nature Recovery Group	
Jolyon Tidmarsh	oxtid2@hotmail.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	Lizzie T-A	lizziethorntonallan@gmail.com
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