

ASTONS NEWS

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July 2026 issue 625

WHAT'S ON IN JULY/AUGUST

BINS: JULY Green & Brown: 9,23 Grey: 2,16,30. AUG G&B:6,20 Grey: 13,27

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
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	38
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Events in July

5 July	9am	5th Sunday after Trinity	All Saints' Upthorpe	31
9	pm	Ladies' Summer Supper	Astons Pavilion	11
15	7.30pm	An evening with the Nasio Trust	Centre for Reflection	33
15 -18		Wind in the Willows by the Blewbury Players	Orchard Dene, Blewbury	30
19	9am	7th Sunday after Trinity	St. Michael's, Tirrold	31

Events in August

2, 16	9am	9th, 11th after Trinity	All Saints' , St. Michael's	31
31	2-4pm	VH tea and cakes for new floor reveal	Village Hall	11

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

	P	P
SEPT 13th BOULES DAY	11	Sept 29th Astons Pottery & Gardens visit 21,22

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30	United Charities, Cholsey music show, Blewbury Players shows, making Wildflower bombs with kids, Scam phone calls
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Defibrillators Save Lives!

We have two defibrillators in the village:

- Village Hall, Aston Upthorpe (hall wall far end facing car park)
- Pavilion at Rec, Aston Tirrold (pavilion wall facing basketball hoop)

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CDJbJUEJu88n>, or for more detailed instruction, see

<http://revivr.bhf.org.uk>.

CPR training is also available in the village from time to time.

Katharine Verrill

DEADLINE for the SEPTEMBER edition is AUGUST 20th

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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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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Editorial:

Sad news to begin, with the untimely death of Ian Gibson. A stalwart of village organisations, functions and projects, he has left a lasting legacy that enriched us all, and will continue to do so. Very much a man who enjoyed life, and he would want us to celebrate his life in the same inimitable fashion! (see below).

Good News: Astonbury was a great success; fabulous weather, and the best music line-up that we've had in its 12 year existence. Such great talent and ability all through; I hate people with talent and ability! Congratulations to the Queen of Astonbury and her whole committee, plus the army of helpers over the three days.(P15)

Another large pat on the collective back goes to the Village Hall Committee, who have done outstanding work over the last few years, culminating in a brand new parquet flooring; go and christen it with some spilt tea and cake crumbs! (p11)

Ian Gibson 26/12/1962 - 11/06/2026

With great sorrow, the family of Ian Gibson announce that, surrounded by the love of them all, near and far, he passed away in the early hours of 11th June 2026 at the Royal Berkshire hospital. Born in Princeton, New Jersey, USA Ian grew up in & lived in Oxfordshire. Ian will be deeply missed and remembered for his courage, kind heart and exuberant love of life.

He was predeceased by his father Alan Gibson and his mother Jean Irene Gibson née McKnight.

His funeral will take place at St Mary's Church, Cholsey at 12 noon on 7th July followed by a Celebration of Ian at Amwell Springs, Cholsey from 2.00pm.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the RNLI
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Andrew Gibson

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

The Astons Café is a 'low maintenance' community effort, sponsored by the Village Hall Committee, which gives village individuals and groups an opportunity to meet and chat, sell or donate items for use or re-use, publicise their activities or fundraise, and village enterprises an outlet for their initiatives. Your support is appreciated.



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You are invited to tea and cakes at the village hall on Monday 31st August, 2-4pm.

Thanks to a huge community effort we have been able to replace the worn out flooring at the village hall. We wanted to let you all see how smart your village hall looks and say thank you to everyone that helped.

If you have a spare half hour on Bank Holiday Monday, please pop in and take a look.

The VH Committee

VILLAGE BOULES TOURNAMENT

SUNDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER

Please contact us to enter this year's Boules event at the rec on the date above. The format will be very much as last year, with a pairs event taking place throughout the day - round robin to start, leading to a knock-out stage and ultimate final.

- Entry numbers will determine the exact playing format and start times, which will all be confirmed nearer the date. There will be a small entry fee per player to cover prizes.

Please register your playing couple by email to jaynegibson64@hotmail.co.uk

- If you do not have a playing partner, please register and we will find you one on the day ..if you leave it late you might end up with the Editor...!
- There may be a limit to the number of teams so please register early to avoid disappointment ...!

We are planning a very similar day to last year with a BYO picnic and drinks affair, and more details will be confirmed once entries are received. Get practising ...!

Guy Liverton

A Miracle in Amber - Solution

The poem in the June edition of the VN gives voice to a fossil larva (a planidium) of a spider-fly family (Acroceridae) preserved in Baltic amber along with a mite. Spider-flies are considered rare and generally not well known but they have a distinct hump-backed appearance with a very small head. This amber is unusual as these larvae are almost never fossilised and since spider-flies are considered practically exclusive endoparasites of spiders - hence their name - the fossil's association with a mite is extraordinary.

Although the specimen is exquisitely preserved, amber cannot be directly dated using techniques such as isotopic radiometry, and the geological processes affecting it can make its age uncertain. The poem explores the tension between near-perfect preservation and the inability to put specimens such as this into a chronology. It also reflects on the limits of what science can answer and the improbability that such a fossil survived long enough to be discovered at all.

If you guessed it was a mosquito – kudos – you may pat yourself on the back.

Chloe Cooper

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Weekly

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

Monthly

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

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Astonbury

Thank You from the Astonbury Committee



What a fantastic day Astonbury 2026 turned out to be!

Blessed with glorious sunshine, outstanding live music, delicious food, children's activities, a busy bar and a wonderful atmosphere from start to finish, it was a joy to see so many people from Aston Tirrold, Aston Upthorpe and the surrounding villages coming together to enjoy another memorable Astonbury.

A huge thank you to everyone who helped make Astonbury such a success.

To our wonderful supporters, volunteers, committee members, performers, stallholders, activity providers and everyone who gave their time, skills, equipment or encouragement – we are incredibly grateful. Whether you helped for months behind the scenes, volunteered on the day, performed on stage or simply came along to support the event, every contribution made a difference.

Astonbury is a true community event and simply wouldn't be possible without the generosity, enthusiasm and hard work of so many people.

We're also delighted that, thanks to the incredible support of everyone involved, Astonbury has raised valuable funds for **Style Acre** and the **Astons Recreation Committee (ARC)**, helping to support our local community and recreation ground for years to come.

Finally, thank you to everyone who came along and helped create such a wonderful atmosphere throughout the day. Seeing the recreation ground filled with families, friends and neighbours enjoying themselves is exactly what Astonbury is all about.

We'd also like to thank those who didn't attend Astonbury for their patience and understanding. We appreciate that Astonbury isn't for everyone, and we're grateful for the goodwill, tolerance and support shown by our neighbours, helping make this community event possible.

..... *With grateful thanks to our supporters*

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Astons Nature Recovery Group

Who are we?

We are a small group of volunteers (Anna Dillon, Nick Isaac, Serian Sumner, Jolyon Tidmarsh and Bob Picken who are working (with the consent of the landowners) to manage Picks Field as a sustainable wildlife haven.

Why does the field need management?

The field includes chalk grassland, an internationally rare, fragile, and wildlife-rich habitat.

What have we achieved so far?

We have secured two grants that have allowed us to start managing the land.

£2,500 from the Trust for Oxford's Environment and Grundon, and £200 from Chestnut Fund.

Picks Field is now registered with Butterfly Conservation for annual surveying. Many thanks to Pippa Clark for the work she has put in to make this happen.



To graze or not to graze?

Those who have lived in the village for many years may remember seeing livestock grazing in the field. Grazing is important because it keeps the grasses under control. This allows more wildflower species to flourish.

We have discussed reintroducing grazing, but have not yet found an affordable, practical system to prevent livestock from escaping while still keeping the field accessible to dog walkers.

We have a short-term solution. It turns out that scything is the method of choice for manual nature restoration, as it produces results similar to grazing. So we spent some of our grant funds on a set of scythes and on training 12 scythers.

It is a big field



We have chosen to focus our initial efforts on the escarpment to the western edge that borders Blewburton Hill. This has the lowest soil quality yet perversely offers the greatest biodiversity. If you walk through the field towards Blewburton Hill and take the path above the kissing gate (leading to the bridle path), you will see the area that has been scythed.

This area is also significantly affected by an invasive species: European privet. We are therefore also removing the privet from this area. Thanks to the grants, we have bought a set of root poppers to do the job effectively. We have cleared a substantial amount of privet already.

If you look carefully in this area, you'll see some small patches of bare soil where we've sown yellow rattle. This plant is commonly used to restore wildflower meadows, where it maintains species diversity by suppressing dominant grasses and recycling soil nutrients. Alongside the bridle path, you will also see where we have started a dead hedge with the uprooted privet and mown grass. This is a sustainable, on-site, wildlife-friendly habitat that offers shelter for birds, hedgehogs, and insects.

Many hands

The small group mentioned at the top of this article cannot do this on their own. Thankfully, a loyal and growing band of helpers has been coming to a series of workdays to scythe, pop roots, chat and eat biscuits. They are very sociable events. We are now organising regular sessions from 2 pm to 4 pm on the 4th Sunday of the month (weather permitting) as there is still plenty to do. If you would like to join, we would love to hear from you. You can register your interest at <https://pfr.tidyhq.com/> or by contacting one of us. We will add you to the WhatsApp group and share details about upcoming workdays.



What is next?

We have started to develop a management plan for the field. As part of this process, we will consult with the neighbouring landowners. We also need to raise more grant funds.

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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**

First things first, THANK YOU to all those that contributed in so many ways to enable us to hold the Village Fayre and Plant Sale. It was great to see families and friends of the Astons enjoying themselves. It was a fabulous event, with some lovely feedback. We have said it before, but genuinely, it can't be done without you 😊, we really value your support. You helped raise approximately £2,000. If you have any suggestions of small projects that we can do to improve the community with the funds raised at Aston Outdoors events, please contact us.

Dates for your Diary

- **Visit to Astons Pottery & Gardens** Sunday 29th September please read below for more information
- **Wreath Making Workshop** Tuesday 15th December at Astons Village Hall (evening)

September seems a while away yet however as in previous years, we will be coordinating a bulk order of Mulch and Compost, in the large tonne bags, for delivery, to homes in the Astons, at the end of September. In doing the order this way, it will be slightly cheaper for everyone who orders but also it will be a more efficient use of delivery transport. For those that have used the mulch for a number of years, depending on what it is used on, it might be worth considering a compost mix which contains mushroom compost. This is very slightly heavier than the standard mulch and contains more nutrients to help improve soil biology (the worms come up to the surface and take the goodness down into the soil). Layering both on our beds and borders helps to protect the less hardy plants over the colder / winter months and acts as a weed suppressant. If you are interested and would like to talk to us about this, please let us know. We tend to order from Aspley's Farm or Dandy's Topsoil and landscaping.

Astons Pottery & Gardens visit Sunday 29th September: The gardens are free to visit and the café has lots of homemade savoury and sweet treats. The gift shop displays pottery over two floors as well as gifts, home and kitchen ware, children's toys, ladies accessories, food treats and books. If you haven't been before, there is something for everyone.



Whether you're spending July and August traveling, relaxing, or tackling new projects, there's no shortage of activities to fill your calendar. If you would like some ideas for gardening activities, we have provided a whole separate page to keep you occupied!!!

How to get in touch, please contact :

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

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

Emma (emma.machin2018@gmail.com)

Things get solved if you get involved

THINK WILDLIFE : Top up ponds and if you have small dishes and a large pebble to go in the middle you can make a great drinking stations for the little creatures to visit, not drown. Put them in a shaded spot. It's better not to be too tidy in the garden so that there are areas offering shelter whether this be plants, leaves, a collection of stones, small branches in a heap, it all helps increase the biodiversity.

Things to do in July:

The midsummer garden can deliver lots of blooms scents and colours. Plants can be jostling for attention in the sunlight, whilst others quietly peep out of a shady spot to catch the eye of passing pollinators. Watering plants and deadheading is definitely worth the time as it keeps the show going. Grouping pots to shade each other can reduce the amount of watering. In the hot weather we have had recently your lawn may look in need of a water, but they will soon recover when the rain returns.

If you are going away for a week or two and have no one to look after your houseplants. Place them in a tray outside, in a sheltered spot. Just make sure they have drainage holes in the base of the pots, allowing the roots to take up the water from below.

Deadhead flowering perennials that self-seed prolifically such as Alchemilla Mollis, Geranium nodosum and Valeriana officialness to prevent them spreading throughout the garden.

Cut off hollyhock (Alcea Rosea) leaves that show signs of rust, then water and feed them to help protect them from the disease.

Feed pot grown plants - Tomatoes, Peppers and Aubergines every couple of weeks when the fruits start to develop, using a potassium rich organic-based fertilizer, such as ~~Tomerite~~ (we are not being paid to promote the product, other brands are available 😊)

Things to do in August:

Mature plants' roots are buried deep enough in the soil to survive periods of drought while we take a holiday, however containers and pots will need attention. Earlier flowers may have gone to seed but there can be plenty waiting to have their time to shine, with ~~Viticella~~ Clematis, Rudbeckias, asters and Michaelmas Daisies bloom as the days gradually shorten 😞

Prune rambling roses if they are too large and need to be kept in check. Harvest seeds in paper bags or envelopes. Remember that only seeds from plant species will produce off-spring that look like their parents. Those from cultivars and hybrids will be more varied.

Apply an organic based fertiliser such as seaweed feed to potted plants every fortnight, to boost growth and keep them flowering.

Deadhead ~~Dhalias~~ regularly for a longer flowering period (The old, spent flowerheads are cone shaped, while the buds are round and firm).

Check plants for diseases and unwelcome visitors, washing off insects and their eggs and remove diseased leaves to keep them in check.

Trim Lavenders and hedges after flowering down to the new shoots further down the stems

Above all – Have a great July and August everyone

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)

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 or to provide information for a future eNews email.

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.

Update from Olly Glover MP

I was pleased to host Alistair Carmichael MP, who chairs the cross-party Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (EFRA) Select Committee, and Charlie Maynard MP, Member of Parliament for Witney, on a tour of Ed and David Clayton's farm in West Hendred. We spent the afternoon with farmers and representatives from both the National Farmers' Union and the Country Land and Business Association, listening to concerns about rising fuel and fertiliser costs and sustainable farming. We will continue to push the Government to recognise the importance of investing in British food production and to support those who provide the food we consume.

In addition, I questioned the Secretary of State for Business and Trade on what support is available for local high streets, such as Broadway in Didcot, which are struggling amid overwhelming operating costs. The Minister claimed that delivering a 'fast-growing economy' is the solution, but many small and independent businesses have yet to benefit from this. I also led a backbench Westminster Hall debate on government support for high streets and raised a wide range of concerns on behalf of local businesses and town councils. You can find the debate here: [Hansard - UK Parliament](#).

It was a pleasure to visit Stanford in the Vale Pre-school, where I met with staff and children and discussed SEND support, transport services, and other local challenges. I also participated in the Kingsgrove ground-breaking ceremony, marking the start of construction on the community hub, which will become a valuable venue for the new estate. I visited Clifton Hampden Primary School after they contacted me about long-standing repairs needed to their roof, which have prevented children from using one of the classrooms. I will continue to facilitate discussions between Oxfordshire County Council and the school to ensure repairs are completed promptly and effectively. Finally, senior staff at Harwell Campus gave me a tour of their new CO:LABS facility, which will provide local jobs in innovative scientific research.

At Prime Minister's Questions, I expressed both my own frustration and that of many constituents regarding widespread dissatisfaction with the political system. In his response, Keir Starmer said he has full confidence in First Past the Post to provide stable government, but cross-party momentum is building in favour of a more proportional voting system, where the number of votes a party receives more closely reflects the number of seats it holds. I will continue to make the case for a fairer voting system for elections to Westminster and local councils when the Representation of the People Bill returns to the House of Commons.

Other matters I will be working on in the coming weeks include debating improvements to the Railways Bill, visiting more local schools and businesses, and responding to individuals across the constituency in need of help and support.

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.

Matthew Barber, Police and Crime Commissioner

Free tool marking as part of efforts to reduce vehicle crime

Last month, in collaboration with Thames Valley Police, I launched a new Vehicle Crime Strategy which aims to reduce cut crime - particularly theft of, and theft from vehicles. Whilst we have seen a reduction in vehicle crime across Thames Valley, with almost 2,000 less incidents of theft from or theft of a motor vehicle in 2025 compared with 2024, there is more to do.

We launched the plan at the latest of a series of free tool marking events. Tradespeople are significantly more likely to experience vehicle crime because their tools are seen as high-reward, low-risk targets for thieves. According to statistics from Wickes, 4 in 10 tradespeople have experienced tool theft across the UK. Tool marking is one of the simplest ways tradespeople can protect themselves from tool theft.

Since March, my office has distributed over 500 SelectaDNA tool marking kits to electricians, plumbers, carpenters and other traders across the Thames Valley, increasing the number of tools marked, making them less desirable to thieves and protecting more tradespeople's tools and livelihoods.

There is more information about future vehicle marking sessions and how to get hold of a kit directly if you can't attend one of the sessions on my website: thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk/vehiclecrime.

U3A. For details, email membership@didcotu3a.org or visit <https://didcot.u3asite.uk/>.

July 21st A is for Arsenic (Poisons used in Agatha Christie novels) by Dr Kathryn Harkup

August 18th - The Flanders and Swan story - James Mitchell and James Williams

THE ASTONS HISTORY PROJECT

STOCKWELLS PLAYERS HISTORY RE-PRINT

I'm very pleased to say we have done a reprint of Robin Sewell's 2000 history of Paulise Lugg's Stockwells Players (1934-1974), with loads of extra pictures taken by Robin, plus forewords by Robin's children, Christine and Philip, and Sonia York-Pryce (Paulise's granddaughter) always known as Muffin.

They have such fond memories of acting in productions such as this 1970 production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Christine and Muffin can be seen as fairies in the bottom photo, while top right is a photo of Robin himself as Oberon - not quite in role!

On the next page is the programme for Paulise's first play in 1934 - notice it is staged in the 'Play Barn' (now Manor Barn) as there was no village hall at that time. Village events were held in gardens such as the Rectory or Manor, and meetings, such as parish council meetings, in church or school halls.

Items from our Stockwells Archive will be on show at the Blewbury Players' 50th Anniversary Exhibition at Orchard Dene on 18th July 11-1.30pm and on *Wind in the Willows* performance days, as they followed on the dramatic tradition after Paulise's death.



In The Play Barn.
at
ASTON TIRROLD MANOR.
(By kind permission.)

Saturday, 28th December, 1934.

"Arms and the Man."

By G. Bernard Shaw.

CAST.

<i>Major Paul Petkoff</i>	...	...	...	STUART BULL,
<i>Nicola</i>	...	...	...	STANLEY JACOMB-HOOD,
<i>Major Sergius Saranoff</i>	...	...	...	PAUL NELSON,
<i>Captain Bluntschli</i>	...	...	...	J. C. LEDWARD,
<i>Catherine Petkoff</i>	...	...	...	NANCY MALONE,
<i>Louka</i>	...	...	...	PAULINE DE BUSH,
<i>Raina</i>	...	...	...	CICELY PAGET BOWMAN,

SCENES :

- ACT I. Raina's bedroom in the house of the Petkoffs, in a small Bulgarian town, November, 1885.
- ACT II. A Courtyard in Petkoff's House, in March, 1886.
- ACT III. A room in the house. Afternoon.

*Play Produced and Stage managed by
Herbert Lugg.*

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.

Our database is on the village website (www.theastons.net) on the 'Introduction to Astons history' page. If you fancy a guide to village history road by road you'll find the Astons' Walkabout pdf link there as well.

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

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_pickens@hotmail.com



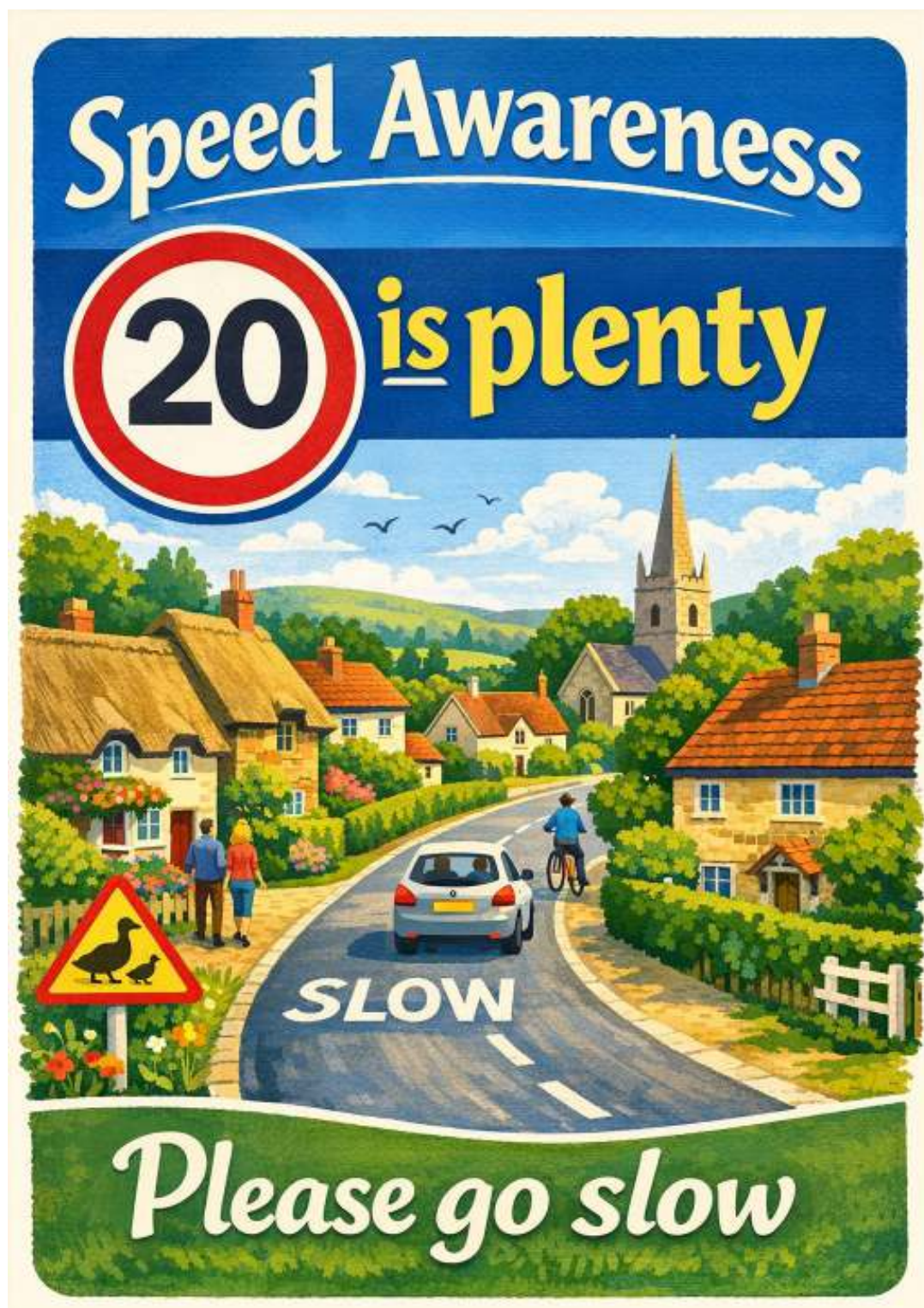
The Woolpack



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

Astons Speed Awareness Competition

Get your pens out or your CAD loaded and **design a village sign** for:



There is an handsome prize for the best design in three age groups;
10 and under, or 11 to 16 , or 17 plus

Please submit your design to parishclerk@theastons.net or deliver to **Old Stable Lads House, Thorpe Street, Aston Upthorpe**, with your name, contact details and age category.



ASTON TIRROLD AND ASTON UPTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council meeting 17th June 2026 was held face to face in the village hall.

Planning

P26/S1618/HH – For development work at the following location: Carrimers Farmhouse Aston Tirrold Didcot OX11 9DP

The application is for: Installation of tennis court

The PC support the application.

P26/S0835/O - For development work at the following location:

Ham Paddock, Alison's Lane, Moreton Road, Aston Tirrold, OX11 9GW

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

At its meeting on June 17th 2026, the Parish Council considered the new drawings submitted for the planning application detailed above.

The drawings are crude and poor quality and have not addressed the concerns expressed by the PC within their response to the original application.

The views contained within PCs response submitted on April 30th 2026 remain unchanged. This response is an adjunct to the original reply and should also be read in conjunction with the professional advice that was sought from Bluestone Planning and submitted to SODC for their consideration.

The PC does NOT support this application.

- Access and egress over a private road already used by 9 houses to either directly access their property or garage. It is our understanding that this is at odds with local plan **TRANS5**.
- We also note the objection from Highways.
- The ownership of Alison's Lane is still under discussion between residents and Grange Mill Developments. The PC acknowledges that this is a private matter.
- With regard to Biodiversity and ecology, there has been no indication that the reservations identified from the original planning application have been addressed.
- There is no update to the biodiversity survey.
- There is no tree survey which the original report said was included. This should also include an assessment of the site **pre-October 2025** when the land was cleared of trees and vegetation as demonstrated on The Planning Practice Guidance website, explained at **Paragraph: 036 Reference ID: 74-036-2024021**
- The site lies within the North Wessex National Landscape and the development will have a detrimental impact of views and landscape. This application does not comply with **ENV1** and **NPPF paragraph 189**.

Roads and Traffic

Chalk Hill has been put forward as a priority location by our Councillor from OCC for the 2027/28 Highway Maintenance Programme.

Competition posters for the village speed awareness signs will be in the July village news.

Environment group

Hedgrow plan is being taken up at OCC level.

SODC/OCC

See link for SODC report

See link for OCC report: [County Councillor Parish Report June 2026.docx](#)

The Parish Council have been notified of the sad and untimely death of Ian Gibson, A village resident for many years, Ian was also a parish councillor and a very keen supporter of ARC. His contribution to village life was welcomed by all, in particular his support and help over many years managing Bonfire Night events at the Rec. The PC would like to express their condolences to his family.

Next Meeting The next meeting will be on Wednesday 8th July 2026 and will be held in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.



HELP OVER THE SUMMER HOLIDAY

We are a local charity which supports people of all ages living in the Astons, Blewbury and Upton, with funding available to give a helping hand to those struggling financially.

As the summer holiday approaches, families with school age children in particular may find it hard to provide essentials for their children. We can provide one off payments, help pay for unexpected expenses, the weekly food shop, or other day-to-day living costs.

If you, or someone you know needs help, please do get in touch. You can pick up a short application from the porch of All Saints Church, or make a request by email to unitedcharities@outlook.com Please deliver completed forms to April Cottage, Blewbury (next door to the Post Office).

We can help you fill in the form if needed. All applications are dealt with confidentially.

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

As part of Cholsey's Month of Music,

Three Pressed Men will give a concert at The Cholsey Pavilion on Friday 10th July, starting at 7.30 pm.

With a rare talent for harmony and a repertoire of English traditional folk music that's as large as it is varied, Three Pressed Men have been delighting audiences in Berkshire and Oxfordshire for many years. Whether playing lively dance tunes or blending unaccompanied voices, there is always something fresh in their arrangements and a story to be told about the origins of the piece. Who else can present multiple concertinas, guitars, accordion, melodeon, keyboard and even a smattering of cutlery?

Tickets are £10 at the door (cash or card) and there will be a reasonably priced real-ale bar. An email to concerts@cholsey.com or a call to 01491 652295 will help us plan seating and provisioning, so we'd love to hear from you.

The Blewbury Players 50th Anniversary Shows

15th -18th July 2026

THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS, By Kenneth Grahame, Adapted by Alan Bennett. Orchard Dene Garden Theatre, Blewbury. Our online box office is open (<https://www.blewburyplayers.co.uk/wind-in-the-willocks-2026>); tickets: Adult £17, child £9.

AUDITIONS FOR A CHRISTMAS CAROL will be held on 12th and 13th September at St Michael's Church. Performances will be on 25-28 November. Rehearsals will be mainly at weekends starting 3 October. Singing roles are optional. Please contact us to book your audition at blewburyplayers@gmail.com.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS: Making seed bombs

Seed bombs - rewilding in the palm of your hand! What you'll need: • 1 cup natural powdered clay • 1 cup peat-free compost • 1-2 packets of native wildflower seeds (pollinator-friendly is best) • Water (a little at a time) • Bowl for mixing • Tray or cardboard for drying

1. Mix the dry ingredients. In a bowl, mix 1 part powdered clay, 1 part compost and the seeds. 2. Add water, slowly a little at a time, and mix with your hands until the mixture sticks together. It should not be too wet or crumbly. 3. Roll the mix into small balls. 4. Put the seed bombs on a tray or cardboard and leave them to dry for 24-48 hours in a warm place. 5. Throw and grow! Once dry, the seed bombs are ready to be tossed into bare soil areas in gardens or school grounds. Try and plant before rain is forecast or water them lightly. Jessica Bouwer, Wild Oxon.

Scam phone calls: Criminals use 'spoofing' software to intentionally cover up their real caller ID and instead, mirror the phone number of a legitimate organisation. They do this to make it appear that calls or text messages are coming from a trusted organisation like the police, banks or government agencies.

These scam calls may be automated, or from a real person. Their main goal is to trick you into sharing personal information or to transfer money. If you've lost money or have been hacked as a result of responding to a phishing message or scam call, you should report it to Report Fraud at <https://www.reportfraud.police.uk/> or call **0300 123 2040**. You should also report suspected scam calls by sending a text to 7726 with the word 'Call' and the caller's number.

Churn Church News and Services July & August 2026

date	Event/time	Prayer Focus
Sunday 5th July	5TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY 9.00am All Saints' Aston Upthorpe: Parish Eucharist	Children, our village schools and Sunday club
Sunday 19th July	7TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY 9.00am St Michael's Aston Tirrold: Parish Eucharist	Youth group & teenagers
Sunday 2nd August	9TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY 9.00am All Saints' Aston Upthorpe: Parish Eucharist	Weddings and God's blessing on new and existing marriages
Sunday 16th August	11TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY 9.00am St Michael's Aston Tirrold: Parish Eucharist	Families, children's outreach, family services & Mothers' Union

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.

The Astons PCC has 2 vacancies for anyone who would like to be part of the church community. Please contact Amanda or Tim if you are interested.

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**

Online Services

The online services continue every Sunday at 10.30am.

Login after 10.00 to chat beforehand or to check your technology.

Access the Churn Churches website for login details on how to join:

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

The permanent link for the Sunday service is

<https://meet.goto.com/ChurnBenefice/sundayservice>

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

St Michael's church gives a very warm welcome to the Barwick and le Conte families who will bring *Persephone Jane Barwick* to be baptised on 22nd August at St Michael's Aston Tirrold. *May God's blessing of peace and joy be with her and protect her all of her days.*

Annual Teddy Bears Picnic: Wednesday 5th August 12 noon - 2pm.

We meet in the garden of **Orchard House, Chapel Lane, Blewbury OX11 9PQ** (Adjacent to the Red Lion). Some parking available in the driveway. We welcome all babies and pre-school children with siblings, parents, grandparents or carers. Please bring a teddy bear, picnic and a rug to sit on. Soft drinks and ice-creams will be provided.

News from the Churn Benefice

A Glimpse of Heaven

I wonder if you fancy a glimpse of Heaven? Glimpses of Heaven can come upon us in so many different ways, and they are often quite unexpected. For example, we might be going for a walk on a dull or wet day, and then suddenly the sun comes out and the scene in front of us is bathed in glorious light, and we feel that we have entered a different realm. We know the experience will be temporary, but while it lasts, our hearts are full of joy. It is a glimpse of Heaven!

In early August, we will have the opportunity to experience a glimpse of Heaven in our own local area. To be precise, this experience will be available at St Andrew's Hagbourne on Saturday 8th August, between 5.30pm and 6.30pm. It will take the form of a special Choral Evensong featuring the music of two great British Composers: Charles Villiers Stanford (1852 -1924) and Herbert Howells (1892 -1983). Stanford was born in Ireland but he spent his professional life in England, where he taught at the Royal College of Music. He was a prolific composer, and had a particular gift for writing choral music. Howells had a similar gift for choral music. Both Stanford and Howells wrote organ music as well.

There is no charge to attend this Choral Evensong. It is offered as an act of worship to God, in celebration of a feast in the Church's year called the Feast of the Transfiguration. All are welcome to attend- it is an experience open to Christian and non-Christian alike. It uses traditional words and beautiful music to take us all on a journey from this world to the world beyond: to give us a glimpse of Heaven. And if you are unfamiliar with the music of Stanford and Howells, all I can say is that you are in for a treat!

- Father Jason

Churn Benefice "Come and Sing" Choral Evensong - Saturday 8th August

Following on from Father Jason's piece above, we are inviting EVERYONE who loves to sing to join the choir for our "Come and Sing" Evensong.

On Saturday 8th August St Andrew's Hagbourne will host a Come and Sing BCP Evensong, celebrating the Transfiguration of Our Lord. It will be led by our regular visiting organ scholar, James Lord, with the support of Father Jason. There will be some beautiful music by Stanford, Howells and Rose for the Feast of Transfiguration (and some fabulous congregational hymns!) which we will distribute to the choir beforehand together with some YouTube links.

The proposed timings are:

Rehearsal 3-4.30pm

Tea 4.30-5.15

Evensong 5.30

Refreshments afterwards.

Please help spread the word! There will be no charge, but registration with Elaine in the office is needed so that we can have enough copies of the music ready. Email office@churnchurches.co.uk or phone 01235850267.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO EITHER JOIN THE CHOIR OR TO ATTEND THE SERVICE AT 5.30PM.

Mothers' Union

In this article for July & August I want to stress how MU is a grass roots organisation. Each member has a part to play. Here in the Churn benefice, we take "Christian concern for families worldwide" right to the local level.

After the pandemic we started a monthly baby and toddler group we call Coffee & Kids, supporting parents and enabling our very youngest children to begin to interact with others.

In August we hold a Teddy Bears Picnic, located in a secure private garden. Families bring picnics and we provide ice-cream and drinks with balloons to take home. We also organise a weekly coffee morning called the "Drop In", Wednesdays, 10.30am – 12 noon at the Blewbury Benefice centre to meet others and chat together. This warm, friendly space welcomes you too. So do "drop in"!

Our branch continues to meet monthly for a Holy Communion service followed by refreshments. These dates are July 16th and August 20th, 10am at St. Michael's Church, Blewbury. All are very welcome. Join us and Join in. *Revd Louise Butler 07837 009730, leader, Churn MU branch*



ASTON TIRROLD UNITED REFORMED CHURCH & CENTRE FOR REFLECTION

Spring Lane, Aston Tirrold OX11 9EJ

Minister: Rev Glyn Millington

JUNE SERVICES

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

Sunday 5 July 11am	Holy Communion led by Rev Stephen Thornton (collection for Hope and Faith Christian School, Ng'ombe, Zambia)
Sunday 12 July 11am	Morning Worship led by Aston Tirrold URC Worship Group (with an introduction to the Nasio Trust – see below)
Sunday 29 July 11am	Morning Worship led by Rev Dr Donald Norwood
Sunday 26 July 11am	Morning Worship led by Rev Glyn Millington (minister for Aston Tirrold, Henley and Caversham cluster of URCs)

This month:

15th July 7.30pm – **Bring your global citizenship to life through personal connections - an evening with the Nasio Trust.** The charity links South Oxfordshire with Musanda in western Kenya, and changes lives through child sponsorship, education, healthcare, and visits from supporters. Alfie Gammer-Flitcroft, Nasio's Strategy and Partnerships Manager in Kenya, will tell us more, with examples of the uplifting impact of the charity both in Kenya and the UK. Supporters from Wallingford and the Astons who have visited Musanda, met their sponsored children and joined a practical Nasio project for a week will be on hand to share their experiences. No registration or ticket purchase needed, although donations to Nasio are welcome.

Regular events:

- Astons Toddlers on termtime Friday mornings 9.30-11.30am
- Meditation Group on the first and third Wednesdays of the month, 11.45am - 1.15pm (meeting in South Moreton)
- Creative Writing Group on the first Thursday of the month, 1.30pm - 3.30pm

All July services are hybrid (in person and online) and are followed by coffee in the Centre. For a Zoom invitation to church services or for further information about events, contact Julian Gallop at jgallop@freeuk.com. Everyone is welcome in person, or online. Our aim is to be an accessible, inclusive church.

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	Month	Date
JULY	5, 26	AUGUST	16, 23	SEPTEMBER	6

Recommended Tradespersons

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

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

Name	Comments	Recommended by
Builders, Decorators, Property Maintenance, Handyman		
Luke Porter porterluke9873@gmail.com 07714788423	Luke Porter is a local tradesman living in the village whom I have used on many occasions to replace fascias / gutters; repairs to flat roof ; drive refurbish etc etc Luke is conscientious; hard working and cost effective ----- Highly recommended	Tim Millin 01235 850207 0770 666 36 31 middlefell@ic24.net (2024)
Ben Whitehead BPW Painting & Decorating, 24 Blake Crescent, Swindon SN3 4LR Email: bpwpainting@hotmail.com Tel: 07532262077	We have used him for four years for different jobs, recommended to us by Greg Locke, and he has been in the VN as a recommended supplier. Ben is young, very hardworking and produces great results every time. He works with a number of people in the Astons.	Peter Le Conte peterleconte20@gmail.com (2024)
Jamie Weatherley. Mobile: 07951 852690 Landline: 01189 615234	We use Jamie regularly for internal and external painting and decorating. He has recently repainted our windows and doors externally, all to his (and my!) usual high standards. Recommended unreservedly.	Mike Hill 851149 (2024)
Ridgeway Carpentry Ryan Quinlan info@ridgewaycarpentry.co.uk 07881 361595	Ryan has done a really good job refurbishing the washrooms at the Village Hall. He is a bit of a perfectionist, reliable, brought in any extra trades when needed and always returned my calls. I can recommend him for large or small jobs/projects. You can find more reviews on Checkatrade.	Margaret Morant margmorant@gmail.com (2024)
Computers + electronics etc		
Steve Wicks, PC Technician 01491 825449 , 07513 297 547 www.thepctechnicians.co.uk , contact @thepctechnicians.co.uk	Desktop / laptop / tablet / printer? Problems with hardware/software, e-mail, internet, wi-fi, or peripherals? Steve makes things very simple and straightforward and manages not to make me feel like an IT simpleton!	Christopher Hawker 850534 c.hawker433@btinternet.com (2023)
Domestic: Cleaners, Ironing etc		
Carpet, Rug & Upholstery Cleaner Garlands - Colin Garland 0118 950 0365. 0797 475 4056 www.garlandsclean.co.uk	We had Colin Garland clean our 35 year old Persian rug. He took great care and the rug is looking much brighter and cleaner as a result.	Mike Hill 851149 (2024)
Carpet cleaning J F Kleen 07961511903 josh@jfkleen.co.uk Crisp Road Henley-on-Thames RG9	We've had our sitting room and bedroom carpets cleaned by Joshua Fahey of JFKleen. He is such a professional and thorough person and his prices are really good value. I would recommend him to anyone.	Peter leConte ajleconte1@gmail.com (2025)
House Cleaning Gabiella 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

Adam AAD Plumbing Services, 0776 3221 257 www.aadplumbing.co.uk aadplumbing@gmail.com	Adam is a tidy fast worker with excellent results at a reasonable charge. He offers free estimates with no call out charge and covers anything from a simple leak to a complete bathroom installation, including associated electrics and tiling. A very experienced expert who has done many jobs for me over the last few years. Adam came replace the thermostat in our immersion heater. Excellent service!	Penelope Curtis 01235 850794 (2023)
E&W Plumbing and Heating eandwplumbingandheating.com 01491 839675	They did a fantastic emergency job for my Gran, They were also used to repair the pavilion central heating. Efficient and professional service.	Joanna Hart 01235 850517 (2026)
Seamstress		
Sophie Morris Mobile:07765 355217 Landline 01235 815316.	Sophie has altered dresses, jackets and a coat beautifully for me. She has made clothes and done alterations for a number of others in the village. She is a former Annabelinda seamstress based in Didcot. A really lovely and helpful lady. Highly recommended.	Katharine Verrill kmvrrll@gmail.com (2023)
TV & Aerials		
Oxford Aerials (Shaun Guard) SHAUN@OXFORDAERIALS.CO.UK	came out v quick , helpful and reasonable priced	Tim Lake 07887 987 900 tim.lake@stepienlake.co.uk (2024)
Window Cleaner		
LB Windows Mobile 07936 493556 www.windowcleanerdidcot.co.uk	Liam Barson does a good and thorough job. He offers both traditional and waterfed pole window cleaning, gutter, solar panel and patio cleaning.	Lizzie Thornton-Allan 01235 851732 lizziethorntonal-lan@gmail.com (2025)

TVP Heatwave: swimming advice.

It's tempting to cool off in local rivers, streams, and lakes., but we would remind everyone of the serious risks associated with open water. These can include strong currents, hidden hazards, sudden drops in depth, and cold-water shock — all of which can be extremely dangerous, even for strong swimmers.

We strongly advise you refrain from entering the water. Please also keep an eye on children and ensure they understand the risks. It may look safe from the outside, but what's underneath can be extremely dangerous, and at times fatal. If you see anyone struggling and in distress, call 999 immediately.

TVP Annual Report: highlighting progress made in the 'Police and Crime Plan'.

Key updates over the last 12 months include:

- 6.2% reduction in neighbourhood crime
- 800 young people received interventions through Op Deter Youth
- Overall vehicle theft offences have reduced by 9% with theft from vehicle offences falling by 17%
- Further 12% reduction in knife crime
- 9% reduction in shoplifting offences with over 900 new sign-ups to DISC (retail crime reporting platform)
- Year-on-year reduction in rural crime by 34%
- Over 350 active Community Speedwatch schemes have observed and recorded over 146,000 speeding vehicles since 2020
- 95.4% of 999 calls answered within 10 seconds, up from 92.6% last year

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

Mia Diamond (17)

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 weekends, 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 (17)

Available for babysitting weekends and school holidays.

Home 01235850517

Mobile 07484295323

Eve Lancaster (17)

Available for babysitting at weekends, evenings and during school holidays.

Mobile: 07962 182844

Roselle Isaac (17)

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 (16)

Available for babysitting and pet care (weekends and school holidays)

07510 495937

01235 850659

Lucy Vallings (17)

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
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 Munro	

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	astonstoddlersgroup@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