

ASTONS

Sept 2026 issue 626

NEWS

WHAT'S ON IN SEPTEMBER

BINS: Green & Brown: 4, 17 Grey: 10, 24

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, 13
Fri	9.30-11.30am	Toddler Group (Term time only)	Centre for Reflection	18

Monthly

4th Sun	2pm-4pm	Astons Nature Recovery Group in Picks Field	Picks Field	40
AUGUST 31st 2-4pm. VILLAGE HALL TEA & CAKES TO SEE THE NEW RENOVATIONS				34

Events in September

6th	9am	14th Sunday after Trinity	All Saints', Aston Upthorpe	31
12th	7.30pm-late	Safari Supper- LAST CHANCE TO BOOK 31st AUG	Around Aston	11
13th	Am + pm	Boules Day- <i>Last chance to register a team</i>	The Rec	11
15th	10-12	Astons Online	Village Hall	13
20th	9am	16th Sunday after Trinity + Harvest Festival	St. Michael's, Aston Tirrold	31
20th	tbc	Astons Pottery & Gardens visit	-	22

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

		P		P
Oct 1st	Riding for the Disabled gift fair	30	Oct 17th	Race Night Village Hall 15
Oct 7th	History meeting VH Archive Room 7.30	-	Nov 7	Bonfire & Fireworks Night 11

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ARTICLES

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13	Astons Online
15	Race Night at the Village Hall
17	Village Hall
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24	Olly Glover MP, United Charities-support and financial help offered.
25, 26	Astons History Project
27	FORE! -ALL ASTONS GOLFERS -NEW FORMAT DISCUSSION, Retired Gentlemen's Lunch
28, 29	Speedwatch, Woolpack, Speedwatch village sign competition
30	Parish Council Meeting, Riding for the Disabled (RDA) Gift Fair fund raising event
31, 32	Church Services & news, Rector's Reflections, Ride & Stride
33	URC, South Moreton Pre School
34	AUGUST 31st , 2-4pm VILLAGE HALL TEA & CAKES TO VIEW NEW WOODEN FLOOR Birds in Picks Field, U3A
35	Wild Oxfordshire: Farm Clusters
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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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DEADLINE for the OCTOBER edition is SEPTEMBER 24th

SEND COPY TO: editorastonsnews@gmail.com

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

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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:

Lots of good things going on over the next in the village in the next five weeks. 31st Aug is the last chance to get tickets for the Safari Supper on 12th September, and register for the Boules day (13th September)

However, the main issue in the village is the unauthorised development of land in the National Landscape (formerly AONB) on Moreton Road, half a mile from the end of the village. This method is often used by unscrupulous developers as the first step in the process of trying to obtain retrospective planning with a view to getting development consent further down the line. The owner's father is Chair of Berensfield PC, so you would expect him to be acquainted with planning law. There is a restriction on the land that requires full planning permission to be applied for and granted in advance of any work being undertaken. An enforcement notice has been applied for and granted by SODC planning department where the current activity has been disputed by the Astons PC. **See below**

UNAUTHORISED DEVELOPMENT OF LAND ON MORETON ROAD

This was the response sent to SODC after the July meeting

The applicant, Mr Jordan Scott-Ely represented himself at the meeting.

This is retrospective application is for "amendments to an existing access and laying of hardstanding to improve an existing track ". It is not an application for "a proposed agricultural enterprise" – intended to be a poultry farm - although the applicant made it clear that this was his longer-term ambition.

The PC made the following comments:

1. The land is not being used for any agricultural use at the moment, nor has any evidence been provided that it is going to be used for agriculture, so there is no justification for the track to be improved. The suggestion in the DAS that it will be used for a poultry farm is not enough to overcome this objection. The complex planning history is also noted, including the previous failed appeal.

2. No justification is provided in technical highways terms for the new entrance, including the geometry of visibility splays. The design needs to be supported by the evidence from a highways engineer and agreed with OCC officers.

3. With regard to permitted development, whilst not relevant to this application but raised at para 4.13 of the DAS (Design and Access Statement), the use of the word 'chattels' to describe the placing of 'small portable poultry houses' and rotated around the site is not agreed without sight of what these are exactly, and a legal view based in case law on this subject. The courts have ruled that large or heavy moveable structures may still require planning permission because of the visual impact on the landscape; this is particularly so because the land is within the National Landscape.

4. The retention of any existing buildings or structures at the site must be subject to a separate application for a Certificate of Lawful Existing Use or Development, with the onus placed on the applicant to provide the appropriate evidence.

5. There is great concern about the continuing unauthorised activity on the site, such as the installation of the container, which was carried there on a very large vehicle with difficulty negotiating the narrow lanes of the village. The applicant stated that the container is temporary, however there appeared to be no notification made to the planning authority to check the legality of this, despite it being subject to planning enforcement action.

6. There is a significant lack of trust between the applicant and the PC:

- * For example, the applicant stated verbally at the April 2026 PC meeting that he wishes to **live on the site**, however this was then denied at the July meeting.
- * He also stated that he thought planning permission was not required for the track **despite his father (who is chair of Berinsfield PC and presumably therefore well-versed in these matters)** also supporting him at the meeting.
- * The PC also considered that the applicant's planning advisers should have alerted him to the need to seek planning permission because they visited the site in January 2026 (before work commenced) and in April (after the work had been reported to the Enforcement Team)

7. The name taken for the site, 'Aston Farm' is in fact already used in the village and could have potentially dangerous consequences if, in the event of a fire, the Fire Service was called to the wrong property.

Jane Imbush

Chair, Aston Tirrold and Aston Upthorpe PC

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Safari Supper – Saturday 12th September

LAST CHANCE to buy tickets is **31st August** so please contact Laura, Susan or Amberley (amberleyjones@hotmail.com or 07771995906). if you still have not booked your place. As soon as the deadline passes, we will be in contact with attendees and hosts with further instructions.

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 practicing ...!

Guy Liverton

Bonfire Night – Saturday 7th November

Full details of the event will be in the October edition of the Village News. However, we are looking for two new members of the team...

Children's Stall Coordinator.

Stock, organise and staff the children's stall. Over the past few years, teens and children from the village have loved helping on the stall, giving them great experience in customer service. We just need someone to oversee them and help choose the sweets, drinks and novelty items. Plenty of guidance will be given, although there is an opportunity to bring new ideas to this role too.

Bonfire Coordinator.

This will be Nick's last year as leader of the fire team, so it is the perfect opportunity for a new volunteer (or 2-3 new volunteers) to get full training and a detailed handover, ready to take on the role in 2027. The role involves coordinating the collection of the wood round the village (hopefully with Tom's help as always), building the bonfire, lighting and manning it on the night, then helping to restore the area back to its original condition. There are many helpers who are always willing to come to assist with all of these jobs...I just need one person to jump on the Committee to ensure everything is planned/executed safely.

If you would be interested in either of these roles, or even just to learn more about them, please contact Amberley Diamond (amberleyjones@hotmail.com or 07771995906).

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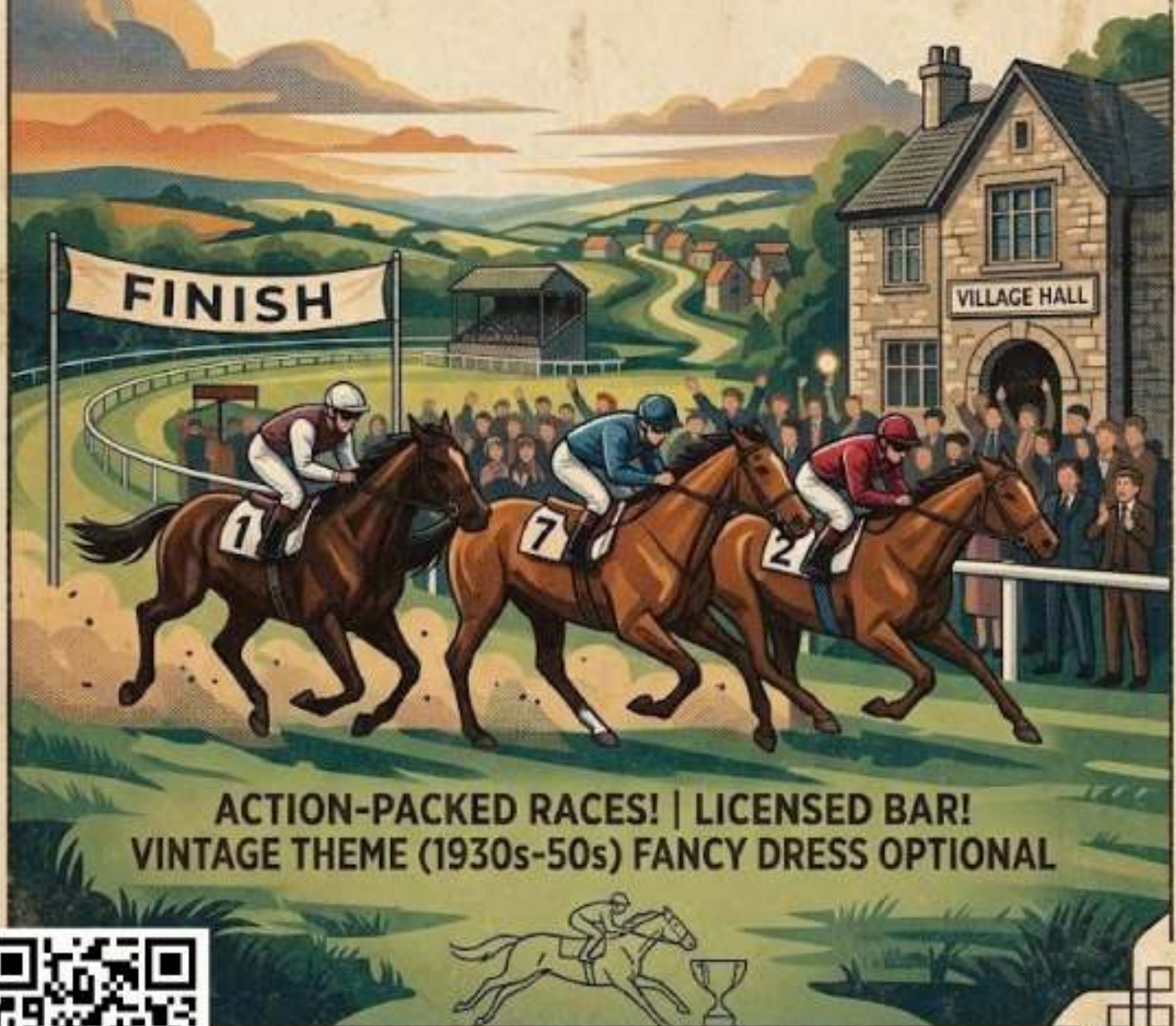
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	Post Office	10.00am – 12.00pm
Thursday	Pilates	8.30am – 11.30am
	Yoga	8.00pm - 9.00pm

Monthly

3 rd Wednesday	Parish Council	7.30pm
3 rd Tuesday	Tea & Tech (Astons Online)	10.00am – 12.00pm

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For more information: villagehall@theastons.net

All Village Hall booking enquiries
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<https://astonsvh.org.uk/>

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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

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Up to 50 seated and
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Children's Parties/Charity Events:	£40 (villager)	£60 (non-villager)

◆

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

astonspavilion@gmail.com



Jennie's Children's Trust Fundraising Dinner 2027

Come with your friends and enjoy a wonderful evening with fine food and wine, on **Saturday, 6th March 2027** at the Astons Village Hall. Put the date in your diary now, and gather a group of 8-10 guests before booking your table.

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

Payment will be due by the 6th February 2027 with all funds raised in support of Jennie's Children's Trust.

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

Matthew Barber, Police & Crime Commissioner Why early prison release matters beyond the headlines

Last month we heard the news that under the new Sentencing Act the killers of PC Andrew Harper would be eligible for early release next year. Andrew was killed in the line of duty just seven years ago. Along with many others I was hopeful when the story prompted the new Prime Minister to review the policy, but the news this month is that his killers will still be released as planned early in 2027.

There are some welcome changes to the Sentencing Act that will see rapists and child sex offenders remain in prison for longer. This is good news considering just a few months ago the Government rejected moves to do exactly that.

I am the first to accept there is a real problem with prison capacity, frankly more prisons need to be built, along with other changes to our courts, sentencing and more. Nevertheless the solution cannot be to let dangerous people back out on the streets.

The problem with the Sentencing Act goes far beyond the case of PC Andrew Harper, because it fails to look at the risk individual prisoners might pose, and instead is a blanket approach based on the type of offence.. Where previous early release schemes have been risk based, this new law means that whether someone has a violent past or is a persistent domestic abuser, they will still be released. Rehabilitation matters, but it takes time and punishment and public protection remain important reasons for keeping people in prison.

The current plan will put huge strain on the Probation Service and the police, who will be dealing with more criminals out in the community. The National Police Chief's Council has forecast an overall increase in crime of 6% as a result of the changes. These aren't just statistics, that means more victims of crime.

Andrew Harper's killers have shown no remorse for their awful crime. The potential early release of these two individuals has highlighted the failings in the Sentencing Act. It is important that some of the worst problems created by the Government's plans are fixed as a result of this case, but it would be a huge disservice to Andrew and his family if despite a change in the law two of his killers were released early.

This cannot be allowed to happen. I am working with colleagues in Parliament and with civil servants behind the scenes to try to get this position changed for when Parliament returns in September. The Thames Valley Police Federation have launched a petition at [Change.org/PCHarper](https://change.org/PCHarper). Matthew Barber

Its lovely to be back producing our article for the September Astons News after the summer break. So much has happened.....

We have all seen the local and global news reports relating to the destruction and damage resulting from the extreme heat. Green spaces and the wildlife that inhabit it are stressed and hanging on for a respite from the heat. As for us humans, the impact on farms, growers and associated businesses will no doubt necessitate increases in food prices, due to low yield of crops. The anticipated Thames Water hosepipe ban arrived. Hopefully by the time this article is being read we will have had some much-needed rain.

Well, the above was rather a sad summary, but it does highlight some things we can do to plan for future extreme heat waves and the increasing demand on water. Consider non-native trees and shrubs from warmer climates that can cope with prolonged heat periods. Having drought tolerant flowers and plants in sun exposed beds and borders or areas where the soil is noticeably light / free draining. Gravel gardens are becoming more popular and can look great. It helps if flowerpots are near to the house / tap, particularly when there is a hose pipe ban and watering cans are being used.

Introducing more shade by planting trees and shrubs really helps protect flowers and wildlife. There are many small trees for garden borders and small gardens. If you are thinking of doing this, consider installing a root watering pipe which is put into the ground around the roots of a tree or large shrub. Part of the pipe is laid at ground level to provide direct watering to the roots, encouraging them to grow down rather than up to the surface. Leaky hoses are also a good way of concentrating water to specific plants. It may be a suitable time to see if you can harvest water from roofs. Whether this is into a water butt or underground tanks (there are so many shape and size options available)

Finally, and by way of a segway let's talk MULCH

A reminder to contact us asap as 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.

How to get in touch, please contact :

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

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

Emma (emma.machin2018@gmail.com)

Astons Outdoors

Things get solved if you get involved

Dates for your Diary

Astons Pottery & Gardens visit Sunday 20th 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.

Wreath Making Workshop Tuesday 15th December (This will be an evening event), at Astons Village Hall.

Weather permitting, here are a few things to do in September

- Plant spring-flowering bulbs now, such as daffodils, crocus and hyacinths, for glorious colour next year
- Continue to feed and deadhead hanging basket and container annuals — they will often keep going until the first frosts
- Keep deadheading annuals and perennials to extend their performance
- Deadhead your penstemons, dahlias, and roses to keep flowers coming
- Prune any late-summer flowering shrubs, such as the rock rose (*Helianthemum*)
- Prune climbing roses and rambling roses once they've finished flowering (unless they are repeat-flowering varieties, in which case leave them until later in the year)
- Keep camellias and rhododendrons well-watered at this time of year to ensure that next year's buds develop well



The little things matter

We can all make a difference and help wildlife by doing the smallest things such as a dish of water in a shaded spot and yes bird feed (not seeds but fat balls) It's difficult to get a spade in the ground imagine how hard it is for a bird to find a worm!

Also save yourself some work by just tidying the front of garden borders and beds so that fallen leaves, rose petals etc are left to decompose (increasing the soil biology) at the back. In doing this you will also be providing a shelter etc for bugs and wildlife.

How to get in touch, please contact :

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

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

While Parliament was sitting in July, I met with Jane Hanna OBE of Wantage based SUDEP Action following my Adjournment Debate on Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy (SUDEP). Together, we secured a commitment from the Minister to hold a ministerial roundtable when Parliament returns after the summer recess.

In the Chamber I highlighted the importance of embedding climate resilience across all areas of government decision-making, helping to deliver long-term solutions that better protect communities. This was a key issue raised during visits to Uffington Primary School and St Aureus Secondary School, where students spoke about the effect increasingly hot school buildings are having on their education.

I met with Ofwat to discuss residents' concerns about the proposed SESRO reservoir and Thames Water's consultation. I also challenged the government over proposed cuts to the Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC), which are likely to affect Harwell Campus, home to the UK's largest concentration of space and science organisations. In addition, I raised the reduction in Post Office services in Didcot with the Business and Trade Minister and joined the new All-Party Parliamentary Group for Chalk Streams, as it is vital we cherish our very own Letcombe Brook.

With Parliament now in summer recess, I have been spending as much time as possible with people and organisations across the constituency. I recently met with the Horticultural Trade Association and Tony, the store manager of Chilton Garden Centre, to discuss support for local garden centres and the importance of maintaining green spaces. During a visit to the Mill Brook Restoration Group in Wallingford, I learned more about the causes of local water pollution and the dedicated work volunteers are doing to restore this precious chalk stream. While significant challenges remain in securing upgrades to the Wantage Sewage Treatment Works to reduce sewage spills, it was encouraging to meet local students at the first Sustainable Wantage Schools Climate Conference and hear their passion for protecting the environment.

Community celebrations have also been a highlight of the summer. It was wonderful to attend both the first-ever Didcot Pride event and the Didcot Festival of Cultures, which showcased the diversity and strength of our local community.

As always, if there is anything I can help with, please contact my team at olly.glover.mp@parliament.uk or leave a voicemail on **0207 219 7657**.

Olly Glover, Member of Parliament for Didcot and Wantage Constituency



AUTUMN brings CHANGES but UCAB can help

After the long summer holiday, a new school term starts – or some children are starting school for the first time. This can be a difficult time for families, with extra costs for uniform, school trips and lunch money. At United Charities, we can help parents with these additional costs if money is a bit tight.

We can also support people of all ages living in the Astons, Blewbury and Upton, who may be struggling financially. 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 (next door to the Post Office in Blewbury). 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

THE ASTONS HISTORY PROJECT

"only connect"

A KIND DONATION:

Someone very kindly popped an envelope through my letterbox last month with two photos in it - one was of the front of Croft House, viewed from Thorpe Street, and the other was of a group of ladies with tethered goats. On the back (see below) was the name Miss Morton Daniel and a Miss Tomkin (other lady unknown), and saying it was taken in an orchard in The Croft in the 1940s or 50s.

I sent the image to our international researcher - Judy Barradell-Smith, in a very smokey Canada - and she found the following in the 1939 Register (a population survey taken by the Government in anticipation of necessary wartime regulations). Below the photos is a recent history of the Croft by Judy.

Mary E MORTON-DANIEL. Croft House, Moreton Road, Aston Tirrold (born 4 September 1876) with live in servants numbered 5 including, Miss Emma TOMPKINS (born 8 Sept 1880) on the Register as "Paid Domestic Duties" – so this is the Miss TOMKINS (name variant to TOMPKINS from 1939 register) mentioned on the photo. The other female servants who might be the other lady in the picture could be Elizabeth TEALE or Aida KEEN. Both were on the Register as paid domestic servants.



A short history of The Croft:

We are lucky to have two good maps from the enclosure period in the Astons (1808 to 1817) during which all village land ownership was surveyed and recorded.

The 1808 map gives us a wonderful picture of the village lands before enclosure, with pasture, fields and tracks, all with their names at that time, including significant tracks ... The area of land down the south side of The Croft is just shown as one large field marked as The Croft (field names are given but not the names of owners).

A later map dated 1817 shows us the post enclosure situation, where all the old feudal strip fields had been eradicated (these were lands owned or leased by villagers with rights to graze animals, collect wood and glean from the Aston's Common land and Aston Fields). The 1817 map now shows us the names of the new land-owners.

The Aston Tirrold Enclosure Act of 1817 removed all common lands, and the use thereof, from ordinary village families, and all those lands disappeared into private ownership.

The biggest "land theft" in UK history! JBS. 2021.

Last year we also discovered some information about the east side of the Croft from conveyancing documents lent to us for scanning by Steve and Margaret Morant and Naomi Symonds (nos. 1 and 5 The Croft) - many thanks to them. (*Do you have such documents for your house?*)

September 29th 1919: Conveyance.

Major Morris sold a strip of land in Croft Road - 500 feet in length and 175 feet in depth - to the Wallingford Rural District Council (WRDC) for £110. The sale map shows no houses on that side of the road, just barns (one of them now Langdons) and Croft Corner.

In 1906 Major Morris had bought vast tracts of land from the Slade family of Thorpe Farm, and established an equestrian estate that survives in part as Upthorpe Stud.

September 30th 1954: Conveyance. In this the WRDC sells no.5 The Croft to a Mr GE Blake for £735. It refers to the house having been completed in 1st March 1929.

During our researches for the 2014 WW1 Exhibition we found that WRDC had surveyed all local villages for future housing needs after the war *"with a view to ascertain if there is any want of new houses within their area so that a scheme may be prepared for providing necessary houses to prevent delay after the war"* (Aston Upthorpe Parish Council minutes August 1917). This was part of the central government's policy of providing improved housing for rural families,

The parish council responded that there would be such a need for extra housing for agricultural workers, and accordingly in the post WW1 decades new housing was built on that side of The Croft.

The west side however remained as orchard land until 1967 when it passed into the ownership of a village family, who gradually built new houses which were snapped up by the new generation of incoming families during the 1970s and 80s.

The photos below shows (left) a Morris wagon, now on display at the Weald & Downland Museum in Sussex, and (right) the partial development of the east side, circa 1930.



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 VILLAGE GOLF

There has been an Astons golf day for over 40 years, but now that we are well into the 21st century, it's time to look at a more inclusive mixed tournament for men and women.

This piece is really to give an outline of ideas, to gauge interest across the Astons, and indeed, welcome any suggestions for a new format.

The aim is for the competition to be competitive, but friendly and sociable, at the same time. Expressing an interest does not mean any commitment!

This is a first suggestion by the Astons Golf Steering Group is:

- ◆ An autumn/winter round-robin competition, perhaps in singles or pairs (precise details depending on the level of interest), followed by a 'golf day and dinner' next Spring/Summer. For example, there might be four individuals (or 4 pairs) playing each other in a 'division', so there would be three games each. The winner(s) would play against the winners of a second division, for a winner's trophy, and the second place play for a plate. Third and fourth play for the (coveted!) wooden spoon. This is merely a starter for ten: any radical departures from this suggestion are more than welcome
- ◆ The steering group will meet again towards end of September at a date TBC, to agree next steps, once the level of interest is known.
- ◆ An 'official' club handicap is not required, just one that you would normally play to. If you are interested, or have any suggestions, please send me a whatsapp message, phone, text message or email. **Jeremy Imbush- 07946632869- email jri1000@aol.com**

Please spread the word to anyone within the village who you think might be interested. Jeremy

Retired Village Gentlemen's Lunch

On a searingly hot day in August (*when wasn't there one?-Ed*), 24 of the great and good of the Astons' retired gentlemen, assembled in the grounds of Locke Towers for the annual BBQ, hosted by that Burgher amongst



Burghers, Mr. Gregson Locke. There being a lack of ladies or horses to frighten, it was decided that we would repair Mr. Locke's Olympic swimming pool aunaturelle, where we would be served on floating tables and thus keep cool, refreshed and replete all at the same time. 24 septuagenarian Panama hats bobbing about on the water is not a sight for the faint hearted to



embrace easily...

Ghyslaine, Greg's son-in-law and chef, with the excellent attention of his two sons, delivered a wondrous repast of minted lamb burgers, chicken kebabs, Merguez & English sausages, beef burgers and pulled BBQ pork, all served with new potatoes and a cornucopia of vegetables and salads.



A cheese course of educational autour-France regional cheeses followed, washed down with some excellent port, was a marvellous conclusion to a superb spread. (Personally disappointed about the lack of the world's best cheese, Red Leicester, again, though) Maybe next year.....



The day was a most convivial one, and an opportunity for those in the village U4A to get together and solve the world's problems in an afternoon, one more time. Greg was, as ever, a great organiser and host, balancing the practicalities of need versus desire, economy versus spendthrift, temperance versus over-exuberance. Well-chosen wines and beers- with some fine Rose added to the roster- completed an exceptional day. JRI

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



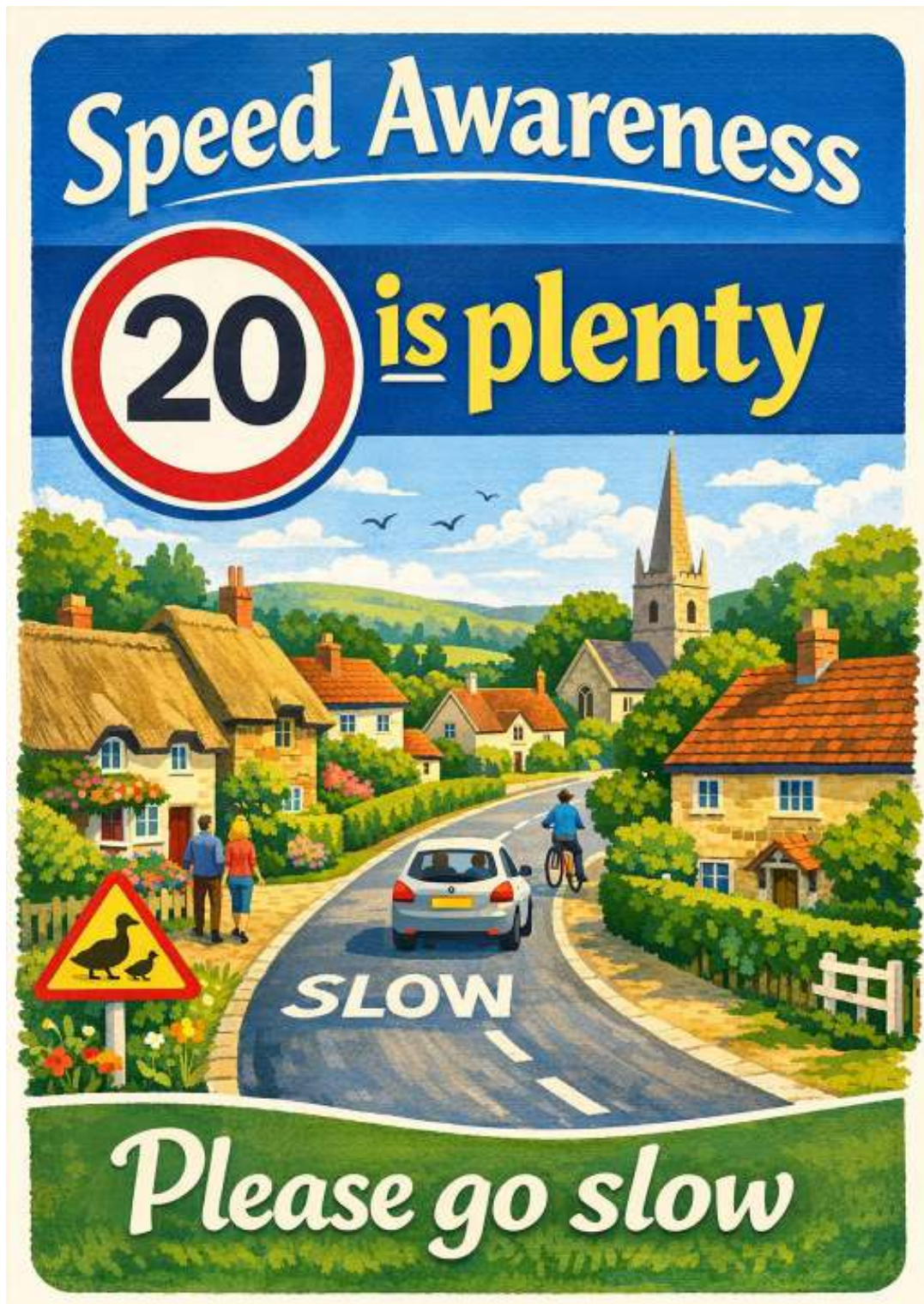
The Woolpack



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 Business

Parish Council Extraordinary Meeting 3rd August 2026 was held face to face in the village hall.

Planning

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 3 August 2026, the Parish Council considered the revised drawings for application P26/S0835/O and the commentary submitted by JPPC on behalf of the BM Cook 1965 Settlement for Ham Paddock, Aston Tirrold.

Thirteen members of the public attended this meeting in addition to the Councillors.

- The Parish Council **does not support** this application.
- It asks that all previous responses be reviewed, as the revised submission does not materially alter the concerns raised in the Council's responses of April and June 2026.
- The proposal is regarded as a speculative, in-principle development that could change over time if permission were granted.

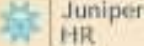
The Parish Council therefore asks that the Planning Inspector's report for **appeal APP/Q3115/W/19/3234547**, relating to application **P18/S41240/O** on land immediately adjacent to this site, be reviewed and taken into account when determining this application.

The Parish Council has also provided SODC details of the advice sought by it from Bluestone Planning in April 2026.

- Since 2017, the villages of Aston Tirrold and Aston Upthorpe have approved 24 applications for either new dwellings or the conversion of barns for residential use. Of these, 22 have already been built.
- This should be considered when making a decision on any future speculative application for new housing within the Parish.
- The settlement hierarchy classifies Aston Tirrold as below Level 4.
- This classification should be considered when assessing whether the proposed development is sustainable or appropriate in principle.
- The land identified in the application is not within the built limits of the village and cannot be classed as either a brownfield development or infill.
- The land is classed as agricultural and the applicant seeks to dismiss this without due consideration of the agricultural land value.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Thursday 17th September 2026 and will be held in the library room at the Village Hall at 7.30pm.



Autumn Gift Fair

In aid of Newbury RDA

Kindly sponsored by

Thursday 1st October 2026
9.30am - 4.00pm
Manor Barn, Yattendon
RG18 0UR

Fabulous selection of stalls including food, clothing, homewares & much more!
Coffee, tea & cake served all day

Tickets only £5 (children go free)

Click here for tickets 

Free parking available opposite Yattendon church

Churn Church News and Services September 2026

	CREATIONTIDE	Prayer Focus
+Sunday 6th September	14TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY 9.00am All Saints' Aston Upthorpe: Parish Eucharist	Children, our village schools and Sunday club
+Sunday 20th September	16TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY 9.00am St Michael's Aston Tirrold: Parish Eucharist and Harvest Festival	Sidesmen, those who help with hospitality & catering. Flower arrangers

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.

Creationtide, also known as the Season of Creation, is a period in the church calendar dedicated to celebrating God as the Creator and Sustainer of all life. In the Church of England, it runs from September 1st to October 4th. The Church of England celebrates Creationtide and during this time we...

- ⇒ Focus on God as Creator: It's a time to acknowledge and give thanks for God's creation and to reflect on the relationship between God, humanity, and the natural world.
- ⇒ Focus on our environmental responsibility: It's an opportunity to consider the impact of human actions on the environment and to renew commitments to caring for the planet. Many churches incorporate Creationtide into their Harvest celebrations, giving thanks for the food and resources provided by God's creation.
- ⇒ Focus on a deepening connection with our faith: It encourages churches and individuals to connect their faith with environmental concerns, prompting reflection and action.

The culmination of Creationtide will be a Q&A on Climate on Sunday afternoon 11th October at St Andrew's Hagbourne. Our MP, Olly Glover, will be on our panel. We are very happy that the Climate Q&A is will be preceded a few days earlier by the showing of The People's Emergency Briefing, hosted by Sustainable Blewbury in Blewbury Village Hall on Tuesday 6th October. More details to follow in next month's magazine

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>

Organ recitals at St Andrew's Hagbourne – Every first Sunday of the month at 5pm

Our next FREE organ recital will be on **Sunday 6th September 2026 at 5pm**. We look forward to seeing you again!

News from the Churn Benefice

Two baptisms and a wedding:

Congratulations to the Barwick and le Conte families on the baptism of Persephone Jane Barwick at All Saints' Aston Upthorpe on 22nd August.

Congratulations also to the Marffy and Davies families on the baptism of Jowan Guy Marffy at St Michael's Aston Tirrold on 5th September.

May God's blessing of peace and joy be with these children and protect them all of their days

Our warmest wishes go to Daniel Sefton and Grace Freeland who are getting married on 18th September at St Michael's Aston Tirrold.

We pray for God's blessing on them as they continue to build their lives together

Ride + Stride For Churches

is the single largest source of income for many Historic Churches Trusts enabling them to make Grants to places of Christian worship. Taking place on the 2nd Saturday of September the funds raised can be split between the nominated Trust and the participants chosen church

As ever Ride+Stride is a wonderful way to enjoy getting out and about safely as well as raising much-needed funds to support Grant applications from churches and chapels across the country. Please see

<https://ohct.org.uk/ride-and-stride/> if you would like to take part on the day and/or contact the churchwardens if you can provide practical help.

Our Choices Matter

I wonder if you have ever thought about what it is that makes a human being a human being? What is it that distinguishes a human being from a robot or a computer? What is lost when we replace a human being with a piece of clever AI?

Some philosophers and theologians would argue that the distinctive thing about a human being is that human beings have the ability to think. However, with the rise of ever-more intelligent computers, it seems hard to maintain the position that human beings have the monopoly on thought. Others have suggested that human beings are unique because only human beings have a "soul" – but this is also problematic, because there is no universally definition of what a "soul" is, if indeed such a thing actually exists at all. Others have suggested that human beings are unique because they have the ability to reflect, and that only human beings are "conscious" and "self-aware"; again, this is disputed, and some would argue that other organisms have the ability to reflect on themselves and their environment.

At this point, you may be thinking to yourself: what about feelings? Are humans unique because only humans have feelings? Again, this claim would be disputed. Many other life forms demonstrate responses which might be considered to be "emotional".

But there is a further aspect to being human, which I think has often been downplayed. Human beings aren't simply machines which think. We are also ethical beings, capable of making conscious choices: choosing what seems to be good, and rejecting what seems to be bad. At a philosophical level, it is possible to debate the extent to which the choices human beings make are genuinely free choices, or whether they have been pre-determined in some sort of way. But at the end of the day, human beings make choices, and these are influenced or directed by an ethical code. Our society as a whole is the result of the sum of the choices we all make together, and the choices which have been made in previous generations.

Having experienced such an unusually hot and dry spell of weather over recent weeks, I'm sure many if not all of us will be thinking hard about the choices we make about the way we live our lives and care for the environment. Man-made climate change is a painful reality, but each one of us still has the ability to make choices which show we care for our world. We can still make a difference, if we act decisively and if we act now.

There are lots of ways we can explore further what this might mean for us in our own lives, but you might well find two upcoming events both interesting and helpful. Both take place at St Andrew's Hagbourne: the first is a talk about "The environmental costs of AI", at 6pm on Sunday 13th September; and the second is a Climate Q & A at 5pm on Sunday 11th October. There is no charge for either event, and you would be most welcome.

Father Jason

ASTON TIRROLD UNITED REFORMED CHURCH & CENTRE FOR REFLECTION

Spring Lane, Aston Tirrold OX11 9EJ

Minister: Rev Glyn Millington

SEPTEMBER SERVICES

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

Sunday 6th Sept 11am	Holy Communion led by Rev Pauline Main
Sunday 13th Sept 11am	Morning Worship led by Becky Fisher
Sunday 20th Sept 11am	Morning Worship led by Rev Glyn Millington (minister for Aston Tirrold, Henley and Caversham cluster of URCs)
Sunday 27th Sept 11am	Online only Morning Worship led by Joanna Tulloch

This month at the Centre:

4th Sept – Astons Toddlers resumes. See below and separate ad.

19th Sept – Quiet Garden Day. Would you like a day, or even just a few hours off-grid? Quiet Garden Days are four times a year, with morning and afternoon sessions comprising a brief introduction to a topic and an hour or so to walk, think, be mindful or just doodle, with time to chat over packed lunches or in small groups. Time: 10am-4pm. Further information: atquietgardendays@gmail.com

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

The service on **27th Sept** is online, all other church services this month are hybrid (in person and online) and are followed by coffee in the Centre. For a Zoom invitation to church services contact Julian Gallop at julian.gallop@gmail.com. Everyone is welcome in person, or online. Our aim is to be an accessible, inclusive church.



A Little Bit Of Bread And No Cheese

If you've been walking through Pick's Field this summer, you may have heard a familiar phrase drifting from the hedgerows: "a little bit of bread and no cheese." It isn't someone having an unusual picnic – it's the traditional way of remembering the distinctive song of the Yellowhammer (*Emberiza citrinella*), one of Britain's most recognisable farmland birds.

We've been lucky enough to have Yellowhammers using Pick's Field this year, and earlier in the summer we even had reason to think that one may have been nesting there.

Yellowhammers are now a Red-listed bird of conservation concern, having declined by 61% since 1967, so while we can't confirm breeding from our observations alone, seeing and hearing them here is an encouraging sign that the habitat is providing both the nesting habitat (thick hedgerows with wide margins or ditches) and food (plenty of insects and spiders for the chicks and seeds or cereal grain for the adults) the species needs.



We've also been fortunate to see Corn Buntings (*Emberiza calandra*) in the surrounding area. Like Yellowhammers, they are another Red-listed farmland species, and seeing both species in and around Pick's Field is an encouraging reminder that even relatively small areas can contribute to a much bigger network of wildlife-friendly habitat.

Thank you to our volunteers and experts who helped record as many different species as possible during this year's BioBlitz. The records are still being processed, so we'll save the results for a future edition of Aston's News. It was fantastic to see so many people getting involved, and we hope everyone had fun doing so!

While this is all such positive news, we do have one important reminder. We have recently experienced our fifth heatwave, accompanied by exceptional drought conditions and record numbers of wildfires. Due to this long period of dry and hot weather, grass and vegetation at Pick's Field are already dried out and highly flammable. Please follow the Government's alert and avoid **ALL OUTDOOR FIRES and NAKED FLAMES**. Everyone has put so much work into creating and protecting habitat at Pick's Field, so it is particularly important that we all do what we can to prevent accidental fires from causing damage to the site and its wildlife.

Every 4th Sunday of the month we have a working party in the field from 14:00 – 16:00. If you'd like to join in then please register at www.pfr.tidyhq.com, contact an Aston's Nature Recovery Group committee member (listed below), or just turn up!

Anna Dillon - dillon.anna@gmail.com ; Chloe Cooper - cooperchloe959@gmail.com ; Nick Isaac - njbisaac@gmail.com ; Bob Picken – bob_picken@hotmail.com ; Serian Sumner - seirian.sumner@gmail.com ; Jolyon Tidmarsh - oxtid2@hotmail.com

VILLAGE HALL REPLACEMENT FLOOR AND RE-DECORATION

A huge thank you to everyone who supported our village hall fundraising appeal — whether by individual donations, offering or buying a Promise to our Auction of Promises, or joining us for the fantastic fundraising dinner kindly donated by The Chequers.

Thanks to your generosity, the National Lottery Awards for All and Bernard Sunley Foundation grants, the new floor has now been laid and the main hall and stage have been redecorated. We're delighted to say that the hall is now open again! Come and see it all on 31st August, 2-4pm for tea and cakes.

Village Hall Management Committee

U3A

September 15th - a talk by popular photographer David Bailey- His talk is entitled 'Wild Homes' and it is expected to be very well received as his previous presentations have been.

See [Didcot.u3a site.uk](http://Didcot.u3a.site.uk)

Wild Oxfordshire: Farmer clusters

Wild Oxfordshire is a charity seeking to create a more natural, resilient, and biodiverse Oxfordshire.

Farmer clusters

Many of us probably don't think about our local farmers on a regular basis, but they are the heart of our rural landscape, growing food, managing road hedgerows, as well as playing a vital role in supporting wildlife across the countryside. Agricultural land accounts for 71% of land nationally and 74% in Oxfordshire. And so, inevitably, the way farmland is managed will have a huge impact on the biodiversity that land can support, for better or worse.

Today, farmers and land managers play a vital role in maintaining, restoring and creating important habitats. Farmers are now joining forces in the form of farmer clusters (also known as farmer-led groups) to care for the landscape, creating space for wildlife and healthier soils, wetlands, and habitats.

These groups aim to facilitate collaborations between farmers and landowners to deliver landscape-scale conservation projects. They also act as support systems and social networks by giving guidance and advice and enabling the sharing of experiences and knowledge. Vitally, farmer clusters are designed to be farmer-led, meaning that members play a key role in the decision-making and direction of the cluster as well as giving them a sense of ownership.

The Clumps and Ridgeway Farmer Clusters

At Wild Oxfordshire, we are proud to facilitate two Farmer Clusters: The Clumps Farmer Cluster, a group of 14 farms located around the Wittenham Clumps, covering just over 5,000 hectares, and the Ridgeway Farmer Cluster with a membership of 15 farms. Wild Oxfordshire is supporting these clusters to deliver workshops and events that meet the specific needs of local farmers. These workshops have covered a broad range of topics from soil health, biodiversity net gain, and hedgerow management, to understanding changes in government grants and farm diversification.

The clusters are also delivering on-the-ground projects, including the Ridgeway Dew Pond Project, restoring dew ponds on the Chalk Downland, and a public engagement project where members of the Clumps Farmer Cluster have installed signs to help walkers understand what they can do to look after the countryside.

Both clusters are collaborating with neighbouring clusters to further their impact, whether through shared training events or the Chalkland Revival Project, in which the Ridgeway Farmer Cluster is one of five clusters working together to support farmland birds and manage deer populations across the North Wessex Downs.

In addition, we are pleased to share that we have been awarded funding from the Rothschild Foundation, which will support long-term development and project delivery as well as empowering our members to continue to do their bit for nature in Oxfordshire.

How you can help

A farmer yourself? For more information on Farmer Clusters and how you could get involved, visit farmerclusters.com for advice and funding information.

But you don't have to be a farmer to support wildlife in farmland. Here are a few ways you can support the countryside and your local farmers:

- ◆ Follow the countryside code - leave gates and property as you find them, follow local signs, and keep to marked paths unless wider access is available.
- ◆ Protect the environment - take your litter home, always bag up dog poo, do not light fires, and only have BBQs where signs allow them. Always keep dogs in sight and on leads around livestock and during the bird breeding season.
- ◆ Enjoy the outdoors - visit your local farm shop, learn more about farming and share your knowledge with others, and submit any wildlife sightings to Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre.
- ◆ Support your local farmers: buy local food where possible at farm shops and local markets.

www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk

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. Jamie has just done a wonderful job of redecorating my kitchen which involved a great deal of woodwork, all very thoroughly done"	Mike Hill 851149 (2024) Rosemary Ryder 07974 074243 (2026)
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 Checktrade.	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 ajleconte1@gmail.com (2025)
House Cleaning Gabriella 07845 782906	Gabriella has worked for several villagers and currently has space for another client. I can thoroughly vouch for her as hard working, with attention to detail and honest..	Lizzie Thornton-Allan 851732 (2023)
House cleaning Magda 07805375872	Magda has worked for several villagers over the years and has been cleaning our house since we moved to the village in 2022. I look forward to her visit every week where she leaves our house looking spotless. She is very hard working, reliable and I wholeheartedly recommend her services.	Lucy Cantwell 6 Lower Ham Yard Lucycantwell@gmail.com

Recommended Tradespersons Continued

Cleaners continued

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)
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Plumbing and Heating Engineers

Adam AAD Plumbing Services, 0776 3221 257 www.aadplumbing.co.uk aadplumbing@gmail.com	Adam is a tidy fast worker with excellent results at a reasonable charge. He offers free estimates with no call out charge and covers anything from a simple leak to a complete bathroom installation, including associated electrics and tiling. A very experienced expert who has done many jobs for me over the last few years. Adam came replace the thermostat in our immersion heater. Excellent service!	Penelope Curtis 01235 850794 (2023)
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)

The Blewbury Players 50th Anniversary Shows

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.

Cholsey Repair Café

will be back on **Saturday 19th September** at the **Cholsey Pavilion**, between 10.00 and 12.45. This follows the regular formula of **third** Saturday of **odd-numbered** months. Volunteers will be there to help you attempt repairs to a wide range of household items, bikes, gardening equipment and electrical goods (white goods excepted). No charge is made but if you care to make a donation, it helps to cover operating expenses. You can see more at www.cholseyrepaircafe.com or email repaircafe@cholsey.com. Also look out for other repair cafés in our district.

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) astons.vhbooking@gmail.com

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)	
Laura Cubiss (IT)	
Maggie Freund (Café & PO)	

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:	
	dillon.anna@gmail.com
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, 14.44, 16.19, 18.54
Sunday: no service
Stops at N & S Moreton only. Runs Anticlockwise only