POPPY APPEAL 2026



We will NOT be carrying out house-to-house collections in Aston Tirrold and Aston Upthorpe this year.

Instead, please join us to pick up your poppies, pins, and remembrance items at:

📍 **Location:** The Chequers Car Park

📅 **Dates:** Saturday 31st October
Sunday 1st November
Saturday 7th November
Sunday 8th November

⏰ **Times:** 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

* Cash & Contactless payments welcome

Thank you for your continued support and remembrance.



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

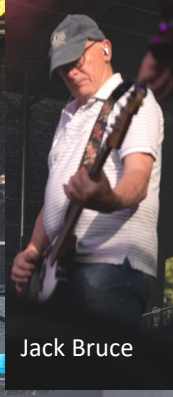
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Jack Bruce


The Mysteries


Eggs Benedict


A keen Fan


John Bonham


Megacool


Dave Machin reading from the very latest in autocues


Weekend Warriors


From The Ashes


Cheap Suits


Things


DJ Si


The Big Cheese





ASTONS NEWS

October 2026 issue 627

WHAT'S ON IN OCTOBER

BIN DAYS: Green & Brown: 1,15,29 Grey: 8,22

ARTICLES LIST Page 3, ADVERTISERS' INDEX Page 5

Weekly Events

Day	Time	Event	Location	Page
M to F	various	various classes	Village Hall	17
Tues	10-00-12.00	Astons Café	Village Hall	9
"	10.00-12.00	Post Office	"	9
"	10.00-12.00	Free Superfast Internet Access	"	9, 19
Fri	9.30-11.30am	Toddler Group (Term time only)	Centre for Reflection	12
Monthly				
4th Sun	2pm-4pm	Astons Nature Recovery Group in Picks Field	Picks Field	36

Events in October

3rd	2-8pm	Blewbury Beer Festival	Blewbury village hall	31
4th	9.00am	18th Sunday after Trinity	All Saints	29
6th	8pm	Peoples' Emergency Briefing Film	Blewbury Village Hall	7
7th	7.30pm	History meeting	Archive Room, Village Hall	-
17th	7.00pm	Race Night	Village Hall	11
18th	9.00 am	Luke the Evangelist	St. Michael's Church	29
20th	10-12	Astons online	Village Hall	19
25th	**2am**	**BRITISH SUMMER TIME ENDS. C LOCKS *FALL* *BACK* ONE HOUR**		-

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

		P			P
Nov 7	Bonfire & Fireworks Night	13	Dec 15th	Table decoration & wreath making	18
Nov 28	Cricket Club Quiz	25			

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ARTICLES

Front POPPY APPEAL

Obverse ASTONBURY 2026 PHOTOS

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7 Editorial, Ukraine medivac delivery trip, Peoples' Emergency Briefing Film, Free Electric blanket testing,

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13 Bonfire night: Volunteers needed to help all round!

14 Jennie's Children's Trust Fund Raising Dinner 2027

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17 Village Hall

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23, 24 Astons History Project

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29, 30 Church Services & news, Rector's Reflections, Mothers' Union

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35 Community services and police information

36 Village Representative Organisations & Village Information

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)

In an emergency in village or surrounding area:

1. Start CPR
2. Dial 999 for an ambulance and they will give a code to open the cabinet.
3. Continue CPR and ask someone to collect the defibrillator. The defibrillator will guide you through how to use it until paramedics arrive. To perform CPR and use the defibrillators, see

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CDJbJUEJu88n, ***Katharine Verrill***

DEADLINE for the NOVEMBER edition is OCTOBER 22ND

SEND SUBMISSIONS* TO: **editorastonsnews@gmail.com**

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

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

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

Jeremy Imbush 01235 851053 editorastonsnews@gmail.com

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Editorial:

BRITISH SUMMER TIME ENDS. A reminder that the clocks go back one hour at 2am on Sunday 25th October.

Halloween trick-or-treat etiquette.

For those who wish to accept **trick-or-treaters**, leave a light (usually inside a pumpkin-real or fake) at the end of your drive. Some villagers can feel intimidated by strangers knocking at their door when it's dark, so if you are a trick-or-treater, please do not knock on villagers' doors unless there is a light at the end of the drive.

Bonfire &Fireworks night

Coming up on 7th November, and help is *always* needed! ***See page 13***.

Private Fireworks

Remember to inform your neighbours if you are having fireworks; there are many pets (and humans) in the villages who are terrified of fireworks, and commercial animals in the fields to be considered too. Sound travels all over the village at night, so it is not just your immediate neighbours who may be affected. A neighbourly chat will do the job!

Light Pollution

Now that the days are shorter, please do not light up your gardens and houses. Apart from the light pollution itself, strong light confuses wildlife who's natural day/night cycle can be severely disrupted.

POPPY APPEAL

Don't forget to go to the Chequers and give generously. The money goes to help veterans and their families who have already given more than we can ever repay. 31st Oct-8th Nov. ***SEE COVER PAGE.***

Villagers' drive to help Ukraine

In November, Paul Knight and Tim Griggs will drive 1,318 miles across Europe in 3 days to deliver an Evacuation Vehicle to Ukraine, where it will be donated to save lives on the frontline.

Paul Knight and his wife, Janie Barr-Knight, live on Thorpe Street. Paul is one of our celebrated bell ringers at St. Michael's, and Janie is a very active Parish Councillor. Janie has donated her beloved Freelander to be converted for use as an Evacuation Vehicle.

Paul and Tim need to raise £8,000 to fund, drive and deliver an Evacuation Vehicle. If you would like to support them, and also to learn more about the journey and its organisers, please follow this link:

https://donorbox.org/timandpaul

PEOPLE'S EMERGENCY BRIEFING Film

Blewbury Village Hall Tuesday 6th October 8 – 9.30 pm, Screening and discussion

The People's Emergency Briefing – an eye-opening film bringing together nine leading UK scientists and experts with the latest evidence on what's happening with climate and nature and why it matters, covering areas including extreme weather, food security, health and cost of living. The film is based on the National Emergency Briefing in Westminster (featured by ITV, Channel 4 and The Times). Offering an exploration of how the climate and nature crisis is affecting everyday life in Britain

https://www.sustainable-blewbury.org.uk/event-detailsregistration/peoples-emergency-briefing-a-film

For more information see www.nebriefing.org. You can also find out more and reserve your free place by emailing sarahabennie@gmail.com

Free Electric Blanket Testing

– If you use an electric blanket, you can get it checked to make sure it's safe on **5th October at Didcot Fire Station**. Or **Wantage 9th October**.

- Make an appointment by calling **01865 519800**.
- go online and book https://service.oxfordshire.gov.uk/blankettesting
- or emailing duty.officer@oxfordshire.gov.uk.
- On-site time slots available from 9am.
- Remember, places are limited, so don't miss out on this essential safety check!

Tea, biscuits and useful information are available during the testing, while you wait.

If you can't come to us, we want to make sure all blankets are tested, so we will arrange for a small number of collections to be made each day.

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Friday	8.30 am - 17.30 pm
Saturday	7.30 am - 17.00 pm

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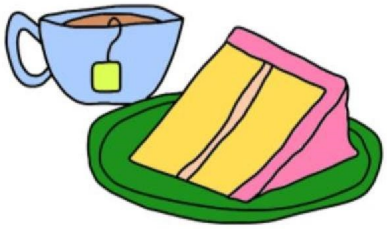
every Tuesday 10am-12noon



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New to the villages? Call in, say hello and find out all about us, what's going on and the history of your house/road – always a warm welcome!

Tea & Tech session Third Tuesday of the month
Need help with technology?
Astons Online provide face-to-face sessions for computer users on the third Tuesday of every month. Sessions will be by appointment:
email theastonsonline@gmail.com
or phone 07780 958249 to book yours



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

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

The Astons Café is a 'low maintenance' community effort, sponsored by the Village Hall Committee, which gives village individuals and groups an opportunity to meet and chat, sell or donate items for use or re-use, publicise their activities or fundraise, and village enterprises an outlet for their initiatives.
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Café contacts: Margaret Morant (850895), Louise Binder (851433)

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CONTACT AMANDA OR CHARLOTTE
ASTONSTODDLERSGROUP@GMAIL.COM

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Free entry, with suggested donation of **£10 per family** at the gate.

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Licensed **bar** serving draft real ale, cider, mulled wine, wine, soft drinks.

Children's stall selling sweets, soft drinks, luminous novelties, crisps.

Timings:

5pm – Gates open. Food, drinks and kids ready and raring (beat the crowds!)

5.45pm – Lighting of the Bonfire

6.15pm – Children's display (low noise, but great visual display)

7.30 approx – Main display

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

As always, the success of these village events lies in your hands. The more volunteers we get, the smoother the events run and the chirpier we are on the day! Please go to Sign Up Genius to volunteer for bar/food or gate duty. You can find the event by searching under the following email address amberleyjones@hotmail.com or message any one of the numbers below and we can send you the link.

OR pledge your support by contacting

Bar shift – Susan 07873 507174 or email susanpallett1@gmail.com

Food prep/service – Kate – 07834218310 or email kateholburn@gmail.com

Bonfire Building – Nick – 07794 670127 or email njbisaac@gmail.com

General volunteering/support – Amberley 07771 995906 amberleyjones@hotmail.com

ALL HANDS ON DECK AT 10AM ON SATURDAY MORNING TO HELP SET UP AND 10AM ON SUNDAY MORNING TO HELP CLEAR UP.

We would also love to hear from any local businesses who might like to make a donation to keep the event running, year on year.

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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 www.jennieschildrenstrust.org

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Receptions/General Parties:	£60 (villager)	£100 (non-villager)
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To arrange a viewing, and/or booking, contact Liz Pattison via email:

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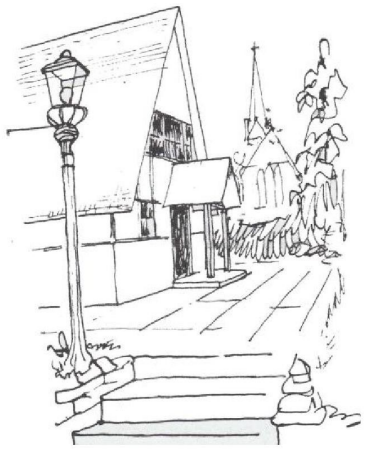
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Weekly		
Monday	**Yoga**	12.30pm – 1.30pm
	Yoga	8.00pm – 9.00pm
Tuesday	**Astons Café**	10.00am – 12.00pm
	Post Office	10.00am – 12.00pm
Thursday	**Pilates**	8.30am – 11.30am
	Line Dancing	6.15pm – 7.30pm
	Yoga	8.00pm - 9.00pm

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

Friends of the Village Hall

For more information: villagehall@theastons.net

All Village Hall booking enquiries
astons.vhbooking@gmail.com

https://astonsvh.org.uk/

Registered CIO 1216788 Premises Licence 9794

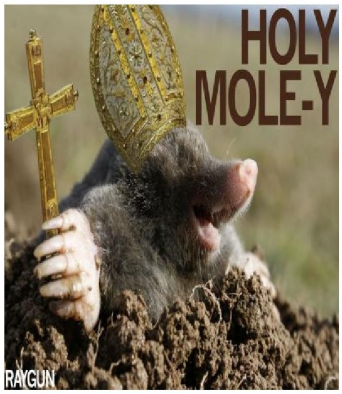
Astons Outdoors

Things get solved if you get involved



Have you noticed ….

Moles and voles are making an appearance. The infamous mounds that they leave behind may be an eyesore to some but having them in your garden actually has a number of benefits . By digging through the soil, mixing layers and creating tunnels, they engage in what is known as bioturbation. This helps aerate the soil and allows it to absorb more oxygen and water (if it rains!!)



It also seems the time of year that squirrels are really busy!! Be mindful when planting bulbs as some may get moved elsewhere in your garden 😊

The last planned event for 2026 :
We will be hosting a Table Centrepiece & Wreath making workshop at the Village Hall on Tuesday 15th December 7pm – 9pm. The cost is £30 per person with a complimentary glass of fizz and nibbles. All you need to bring is a pair of wire cutters, if you have them! There are 30 spaces. Get in touch if you would like to secure a place.



Tip for planting bulbs: A rule of thumb when planting bulbs is that they should be planted 3 times as deep as the height of the bulb

In October, the garden has started to take on its autumn colours, and the weather can be full of surprises. One moment it's warm and golden — an Indian summer — and the next, a sharp frost arrives without warning, so it's easy to be caught out. Fortunately, there's still plenty of colour in the garden, from Dahlias and Nerines to vibrant autumn shrubs.

October is a good time to:

- Collect seeds from your perennials and hardy annuals
- Collect and get rid of any infected leaves. When tidying leaves, leave some in your borders so they can be pulled into the ground, which helps improve the soil structure. Perhaps tidy the front of borders and leave the back to nature. Bag up leaves for leaf mould
- Unless they start to collapse or turn mushy after being hit by frosts, leave cutting back perennials to ground level until later in the winter as they are a useful source of food and habitat for wildlife
- Cut Buddleia and bush roses to roughly half their height. Don't worry about being very exact the aim is to protect roots from being damaged by wind rocking. A proper prune can then be done next spring
- Plant spring bulbs throughout October and November
- Divide and replant perennials in October while the soil is still warm
- Protect tender plants before the first frost
- Sow winter crops such as garlic, onions and hardy salad

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

Tech support café for computer users

Aston Upthorpe Village Hall

Tuesday 20 October 10 – 12



Free & friendly 1-2-1 support & advice

Register by email theastonsonline@gmail.com
or by phone 07780958249
Website **www.astonsonline.uk**

Information & advice on digital switchover

Thursday 22 October
10:00 – 12:00

Didcot Library
197 Broadway
Didcot OX118RU



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,.



Astons community website

Our village communications, Astons News, Astons eNews, Facebook group, community website and gigabit broadband support our vibrant community, which is quick to react, well-informed and organised.

Astons Community website runs on a reliable platform provided by Web Boutiques; the software is easy for users to edit. The website fulfils the Parish Council's statutory duty to publish as well as being a library of community information, particularly Astons history. However, events, news and pages are updated irregularly which makes the website seem out-of-touch with what is going on. The website would improve with some fresh support.

Two years ago, the village was similarly asked for help making Astons eNews more dependable. Anne, Charlotte, Rachel and Steve volunteered to join Anna, Bruno and Jeremy. The seven editors rotate in pairs for a month at a time giving the village a more consistent service. Web Boutiques also helped by providing a webmail facility that all seven of the editors can share.

The Astons Communications Team would love to hear how to improve the website with extra support. Please contact the Astons Communications Team with any questions or to discuss how you might be able to help.

webmaster@theastons.net editorastonsnews@gmail.com

Update from Olly Glover MP

I have raised the importance of adequate central government funding for our local councils so that they can provide the essential social services we rely on. I have also spoken about safety concerns relating to new technology advancements such as Meta's Smart Glasses, as well as the regulation of retirement property management companies.

During a Westminster Hall debate on global biodiversity loss, I called for a nationwide broadcast of the People's Emergency Briefing, a film focused on enhancing public awareness of the climate crisis and environmental risks.
I've enjoyed attending BunkFest in Wallingford, Boundary Park's 10th anniversary celebration in Didcot, and a visit to the new Tap Social venue at Milton Park. I also visited businesses such as LTi Metaltech and Crown Packaging, who both create highly skilled jobs for local people while boosting our local economy.

I met with Andrew from Amwell Springs Brewery, in Cholsey, who produces excellent craft beer in the village.
Over a lunch at the Plum Pudding, Milton Parish Council and I discussed pedestrian access and cycle routes to/ from Milton Heights, particularly the bridge at the Milton Interchange.

Working with the Mill Brook Restoration Group, we have continued our campaign to restore Mill Brook, including hosting a site visit with key organisations including Thames Water, the Environment Agency and Oxfordshire County Council. This was a major step towards recognising their respective responsibilities and securing a commitment to work together on addressing the issue.

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, MP for the Didcot and Wantage Constituency

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 October 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

Blewbury Repair café. Sunday 1st November, 2 to 4pm in the Melland Room at Blewbury Clubhouse and in BlewShed. This will be your last chance before Christmas. Refreshments available. Donations welcome to cover costs.

THE ASTONS HISTORY PROJECT

"only connect"

A VILLAGE HALL CELEBRATION:

On the next page is the hall's history 'banner' we created to celebrate the installation of the hall's new floor, replacing the original 1953 floor.
We have also written a detailed history of the hall, which you can find on the village website's 'Introduction to Astons History' page. We took the decision earlier this year to put all our publications on the website (as pdfs) so as to maximise access to them.
We are a non membership group (like Astons Outdoors) so anyone interested in village history can come along to our meetings.
Our next meeting is on Wednesday October 7th (start time 7.30) in the village hall's Whitwell Page Archive Room (accessed via the Library Room). See photo below.

Do come along if you'd like to see what we've gathered over the years. As it says on the front of our catalogue, "We've got a lot of stuff!"

Below, celebrating our 2019 archive refurbishment project, and its renaming in honour of Stephen Whitwell and Mike Page, village historians both. To the left is Judy Barradell-Smith, Mike Page's daughter - who became our Honorary President when she and Mike moved to Canada that same year.



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.

Aston Tirrold and Aston Upthorpe Village Hall

'One good thing for the villages came out of the second world war - a national scheme to encourage the building of village halls, with help from the government. Winston Churchill was quoted as saying that the vigorous revival of healthy village life was the main aim of his domestic policy.

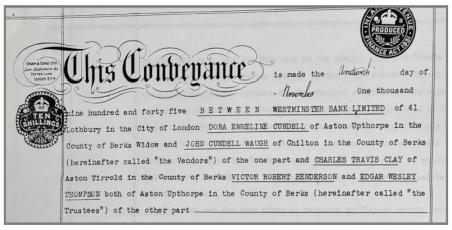
The Rev. E.W. Thompson - a retired Methodist minister who lived in Upthorpe and was a man of great energy - formed a committee and persuaded most of the residents to back him. Half crowns, shillings and sixpences were collected weekly . . .

*The hall itself was a Nissen hut leased for £13 a year * and opened in 1949. A gross of cups and saucers, plates and glasses cost £21.4s.6d. from Selfridges; a Mrs Lightfoot was appointed caretaker at 2/6d an hour, and a Mr. Clements was informed he could hire the hall on Wednesdays to show "non-inflammable films" (a reference to their physical condition, not their subject matter). Stephen Whitwell's history "A Portrait of the Astons. 1984.*



* from the National Council for Social Services (NCSS) - the relevant Government Department - there were, as you can imagine, a lot of Nissen huts available at the end of the war.

The project was in fact initiated by the Astons Womens Institute who, having been inspired by a talk on 'Reconstruction after the war,' had passed a Resolution asking the Aston Tirrold and Upthorpe Parish Councils to call a Village Meeting to discuss and to vote on a proposal to build a village hall for the Astons. (Upthorpe and Tirrold councils did not meet jointly until 1989).

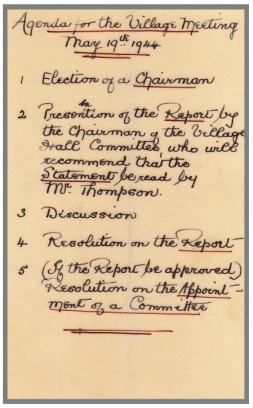


This Conveyance is made the [illegible] day of November One thousand nine hundred and forty five BETWEEN WESTMINSTER BANK LIMITED of 41 Lothbury in the City of London DORA EMOELINE CUNDELL of Aston Upthorpe in the County of Berks Widow and JOHN CUNDELL WAUGH of Chilton in the County of Berks (hereinafter called "the Vendors") of the one part and CHARLES TRAVIS CLAY of Aston Tirrold in the County of Berks VICTOR ROBERT HENDERSON and EDGAR WESLEY THOMPSON both of Aston Upthorpe in the County of Berks (hereinafter called "the Trustees") of the other part

At a Joint Meeting on 14th November 1943 it was agreed that the Clerk should canvas village thoughts on the idea prior to a more detailed discussion, and on March 31st 1944 the Joint Councils voted to set up a Exploratory Joint Committee that could fully investigate all the implications of such a project, after which another Village Vote would be taken. Their Report was presented to a Joint Council Meeting on 19th May 1944, an amazingly quick turn around. It was truly comprehensive, and was a clarion call to the village. The report ended:

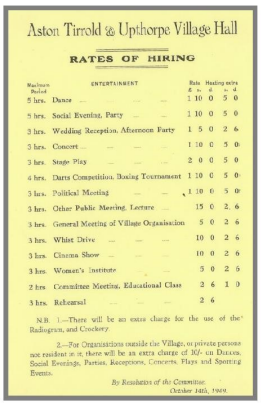
We owe an incalculable debt to the boys who have fought or are fighting the battle for our liberties. We shall owe a much greater debt to them before this war is over. Some of these will come to us no more. We know we will be creating a worthy Memorial ... Thus our village hall will be Of ALL, By ALL and For ALL.





Agenda for the Village Meeting
May 19th 1944

1 Election of a Chairman
2 Presention of the Report by the Chairman of the Village Hall Committee, who will recommend that the Statement be read by Mr. Thompson.
3 Discussion
4 Resolution on the Report
5 (If the Report be approved) Resolution on the Appointment of a Committee



Aston Tirrold & Upthorpe Village Hall

RATES OF HIRING

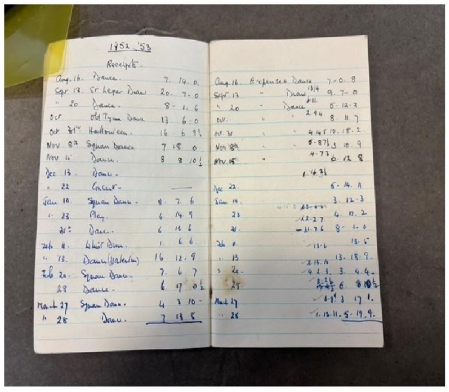
Maximum Period	ENTERTAINMENT	Rate	Heating extra
		£ s. d.	s. d.
5 hrs.	Dance	1 10 0	5 0
5 hrs.	Social Evening, Party	1 10 0	5 0
3 hrs.	Wedding Reception, Afternoon Party	1 5 0	2 6
3 hrs.	Concert	1 10 0	5 0
3 hrs.	Stage Play	2 0 0	5 0
4 hrs.	Darts Competition, Boxing Tournament	1 10 0	5 0
3 hrs.	Political Meeting	1 10 0	5 0
3 hrs.	Other Public Meeting, Lecture	15 0	2 6
3 hrs.	General Meeting of Village Organisation	5 0	2 6
3 hrs.	Whist Drive	10 0	2 6
3 hrs.	Cinema Show	10 0	2 6
3 hrs.	Women's Institute	5 0	2 6
2 hrs.	Committee Meeting, Educational Class	2 6	1 0
3 hrs.	Rehearsal	2 6	

N.B. 1.—There will be an extra charge for the use of the Radiogram, and Crockery

2.—For Organisations outside the Village, or private persons not resident in it, there will be an extra charge of 10/- on Dances, Social Evenings, Parties, Receptions, Concerts, Plays and Sporting Events.

By Resolution of the Committee.
October 14th, 1949.

Unfortunately building costs increased greatly after the war and by 1953 it was realised that the planned 'Permanent Hall' was no longer achievable. The Nissen hall was bought from the NCSS for £400 and a programme of improvements put in place, including a fine teak parquet floor.



1952-53
Receipts

But luck was with the Astons - one of the hall committee members, Paulise Lugg, who was a seriously wealthy lady (and founder of the Stockwells Players theatrical troupe) decided to cover the construction costs of a new hall. It was designed in an attractive vaulted Arts and Crafts style, and featured a stage, gallery and useful 'offices' that have held a variety of roles over the years - over and above their use as theatrical changing rooms.

A Millennium Project added a furniture store room, an accessible toilet and ramp, and a replacement shingle roof. The project was funded by the National Lottery, SODC's Community Fund, both parish councils, and many individual donors. Robin Sewell, a long-time Aston Upthorpe resident and an original Stockwell Player, re-opened the hall in September 2001.







The hall has gone from strength to strength, and continues to serve the Astons community well. Its attractive design and flexible accommodation means that it draws hirers from around the county and beyond, and for a wide variety of uses - it was once used as rehearsal space by an Edinburgh Fringe bound local comedian.

Previously managed under the original 1949 trust deed, in 2026 the hall became a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, and was registered by the Charity Commission on 9th February 2026.

This banner, sponsored by the Astons History Project (who have also published a more detailed history of the hall) marks the 2026 replacement of the original 1953 floor, following an extremely well run fundraising campaign by the hall committee.

Of ALL, By ALL and For ALL.



VILLAGE BOULES DAY

The Village Boules Day took place on Sunday 13th September. A great turnout again with 17 teams of two competing this year. Lovely to also have plenty of spectators throughout the day.



It was a fabulous day, if a little soggy at times. Following two closely fought semi-finals, the final was between Ollie and Clare Wigg and Rachel and Harry Marffy.

Great play from both pairs with Ollie and Clare emerging the victors.



Huge thanks to Guy for getting the pitches in top condition and organising and running the 'round robin' tournament.

Thanks to Guy and Mike Wigg for refereeing where required, and to Louise and everyone else who helped on the day.

Congratulations to the winners!

Astons Community Speedwatch

"A national initiative where proactive members of local communities join, with the support and supervision of their local police, to record details of speeding vehicles using approved detection devices in their local community"

More volunteers always welcome



Our Speedwatch activity is about raising awareness of the dangers of driving fast in a residential area with no pavements, narrow roads, children, older people, walkers and dog-walkers.

We are a small band of volunteers who give an hour of our time when we can to gather statistics and to raise awareness with those driving at excessive speeds.

Volunteers needed please!



Speeding is a real problem in our villages. If ***we*** make every effort to drive within the 20mph speed limit it should encourage others to do the same and slow down those following us.

We would appreciate your feedback on what we are doing (in confidence) and are happy to answer any questions you may have.

Please help us if you can.
Contact: 07887 567261
bob_picken@hotmail.com

The Woolpack

The Woolpack meets every Tuesday at the Astons Café in the village hall from 10am to 12 noon. We hope to see you there and we'd love to see all types of crafts represented, so if sewing is your thing or you're bonkers about beading, come on in! Margaret Morant 07899 748209

ASTON TIRROLD AND ASTON UPTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

.Parish Council Meeting 17th September 2026 was held face to face in the village hall.

Planning

P26/S2603/LB– For development work at the following location: Stockwells Cottage Thorpe Street Aston Upthorpe OX11 9EG

The application is for: Patent glazing above the staircase. Bathroom conservations Velux in lieu of PV panel Link and utility wing roof standing seam zinc in lieu of lead. New garden wall with pedestrian gate within the site.
The applicant was not represented at the meeting.
The Parish Council is **unable to support** the application given that it is their understanding that a householder application is needed for this to be considered in full.
In addition, the Parish Council could see no detail on the application before them relating to the internal height of the Velux window and recommend that the bottom of the window be at least 1.8 from floor level to mitigate any overlooking of neighbours property

P26/S3117/HH - For development work at the following location: Dairy Cottage Aston Street Aston Tirrold Didcot OX11 9DJ
The application is for: Alterations to existing dwelling and the addition of a garage block.
The PC is **unable to support** this application and await additional information on the garage element of the application.
The applicant and neighbour were present at the Parish Council meeting.
Two members of the Parish Council undertook as site visit at the request of the neighbours in Manor Farm House.
There was considerable discussion by both parties relating to the proposed location, mass and possible use of the garage which would appear to be disproportionate given the size of the plot. The applicant is aware of the views of their neighbours and have asked their architect to resubmit plans for the garage to remove all elements of glazing from the southern roof elevation to avoid overlooking into the neighbour's property and enclose the stairwell.
The proposals have been submitted to SODC planning for consideration, but at the time of the meeting, the PC was unsighted of these new proposals.
The internal arrangements for the main house were not in question (with the exception of the loss of roof hips which is a characteristic of downland village properties).

Change of property name
To note change of property name from Astons Farm to Oakridge Farm. **Noted**

Roads and traffic
Councillor Knight has been contacted about the effectiveness of the 20mph speed limits within the village. The worst area is travelling east on Hagbourne Road toward the village. It was suggested that rumble strips may work and would avoid hard street calming measures that require street lighting. Flood training is available but as the venue is in Kidlington, it was unlikely a councillor will attend

Environment group
Councillor Carter has had a further walk round the village with OCC. The damage to the verge by the REC needs attention before the winter and it was agreed that the PC would approve the use of hardcore and material to address the issue in the short term.

ARC
There was discussion on process and preferred options for the future management arrangements for ARC. This is to be an evolutionary process with ARC taking on an advisory role reporting to the PC. Planning of payments and access to banking will change to be more structured than currently and more responsive when needed. It will also need to reflect the financial regulations and standing orders that are being updated.
Continued on next page

Parish Council meeting continued

ARC: A third councillor will be required to join ARC. The Terms of Reference will need to be strengthened but this will be easier as the processes become clearer. All Parish Councillors supported this approach and thanked Councillors Hart and Munro for their support.

Grant applications

Grant applications are now open. Please can all applications be emailed to the Clerk by the end of October so they can be discussed in November's meeting. The Clerks email address is parishclerk@theastons.net

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 21st October 2026 and will be held in the library room at the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Waste crime knows no boundaries

We have seen the huge impact of large scale waste crime here on our doorstep with the massive illegal dump near Kidlington which has cost the Environment Agency millions of pounds to clear up. More arrests have already been made in this case and the investigation into others continues.

Each year across the country there are over a million incidents of fly-tipping and many of these have serious consequences for victims. Often landowners, large and small, are left with the clean up costs and the problem of disposing of someone else's waste.

In Oxfordshire the problem has only been exacerbated by the changes made to our local tips. The County Council's new policy for our local household waste recycling centres is making it harder for many residents to legitimately get rid of their waste, and that can play into the hand of organised criminals.

Thames Valley Police regularly work with local authorities and with the Environment Agency on joint operations to tackle waste criminals. They operate across borders, and so must the enforcement. Thames Valley Police's Rural Crime Taskforce frequently operates in London and neighbouring counties to identify and apprehend those responsible for fly-tipping, rural crime and other offending locally across Oxfordshire.

In the coming months I hope to be able to announce a pilot project across Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire that will allow victims to claim support to deal with some of the costs of the clear up.
This will help victims financially as well as helping to protect our local environment. The intention of the scheme is to increase reporting of fly-tipping incidents and increase the chance of catching those responsible.
Matthew Barber, PCC

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION PAUSED On 7th September the Government announced that it will review the decision made in July (and reported in last month's Bulletin) on local government reorganisation (LGR), to ensure that the reorganisation is robust and aligns with its new priorities.

As a result, the timeline for Oxfordshire and West Berkshire will likely be moved back a year. This is yet to be confirmed. The government has restated its commitment to devolution – the transfer of powers and funding from national to local government – and has said LGR is a fundamental part of achieving this. As a result, preparatory work across Oxfordshire and West Berkshire will continue while the review takes place.

A Christmas Carol at St Michael's Church, Blewbury, 25-28 November, 2026

by Charles Dickens, adapted by Myf Laugharne. Directed by Jo Laugharne and designed by Loraine Fergusson
Online Box Office opens on 30 October. Adult £15 Child £8

www.blewburyplayers.co.uk

Looking for volunteers

Anybody who would like to shadow or learn non-performance roles during A Christmas Carol, or our Summer 2027 production at Orchard Dene, get in touch **blewburyplayers@gmail.com.** Learn more about technical, front of house, stage management, costume, etc., by working alongside more experienced volunteers. We are particularly interested in people interested in shadowing the Director's Assistant role, light or sound.

Churn Church News and Services October 2026

	CREATIONTIDE	Prayer Focus
Sunday 4th October	**18TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY** 9.00am All Saints' Aston Upthorpe: Parish Eucharist	Outreach & Parish magazines
Sunday 18th October	**LUKE THE EVANGELIST** **SCIENCE SUNDAY** 9.00am St Michael's Aston Tirrold: Parish Eucharist	Those recently baptism & baptism visitors

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 **tirrolduptthorpechurch@gmail.com** if you wish to find out information locally.

Benefice News

As promised during the previous heatwave, we will have a **Climate Q&A at St Andrew's Hagbourne**.
We are pleased to confirm that this will take place **Sunday afternoon 11th October 4-6pm**. The proposed programme will include an exhibition of local Sustainability groups and a "LOAF" tea (Local, Organic, Animal-friendly and Fairtrade) at 4pm, followed by a Q&A panel with MP Olly Glover at 5pm.

You are also warmly invited to the showing of **People's Emergency Briefing Film, Tuesday 6th October, 8pm, Blewbury Village Hall**.
The People's Emergency Briefing – an eye-opening film bringing together nine leading UK scientists and experts with the latest evidence on what's happening with climate and nature and why it matters, covering areas including extreme weather, food security, health and cost of living. The film is based on the National Emergency Briefing in Westminster (featured by ITV, Channel 4 and The Times). Offering an exploration of how the climate and nature crisis is affecting everyday life in Britain. https://www.nebriefing.org/the-film

Spreading the light this Halloween! We are joining churches across the world, spreading the light this Halloween.

St Andrew's Light Trail, Saturday 31st October, 5.30-7pm
Some churches host "light parties" or in our case, a "light trail" at Halloween as a positive, faith-based alternative to traditional spooky celebrations, offering a way to **celebrate Jesus as the "Light of the world"**. Everyone welcome to come and look at out our light trail. There will be goodie bags and refreshments too!

CHRISTMAS SERVICES
All services will be held at St Michael's because of loss of pews due to unsafe flooring.
Carol service: 20th December at 4pm
Crib service: 24th December at 3pm
Christmas mass: 24th December at 10pm
Christmas day service at 10.30am

Occasional offices in the Benefice
Recent baptisms
5th September: Jowan Guy Marffy, at St Michael's Aston Tirrold
26th September: Max Harry Richard Rogers and Isabella Calazans Rogers,
at St Michael's Aston Tirrold
May God's blessing of peace and joy be with them and protect them all of their days *continued on next page*

Church news continued **Recent weddings**
12th September: Matthew Addison and Airish Suarez, at St Andrew's Hagbourne
18th September: Daniel Sefton and Grace Freeland, at St Michael's Aston Tirrold
We pray for God's blessing on them as they continue to build their lives together

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 4th October at 5pm.
Charles Kingston will play music written by English Organists. We look forward to seeing you again!

Mothers' Union. Our branch meets monthly for a Holy Communion service followed by refreshments. This service will be on **Thursday 15th October, 10am at St. Mary's Church, Upton**. All are very welcome. Join us and Join in. Help us to do these things. *Revd Louise Butler 07837 009730, leader, Churn MU branch*

Marie Curie-A Remarkable Woman

For many years, there has been a tradition in the Church to hold a special celebration of the work of the medical profession on or about 18th October. Why this date? Because it's the feast day of St Luke, and by tradition St Luke, who lived back in the 1st century AD, was a physician by profession. He was also the author of two of the most influential books ever written: the Gospel of St. Luke and the Acts of the Apostles. Down the centuries, many Christians have been actively involved in providing medical care to the wider community, and this tradition continues to this day.

This coming St Luke's Day, I will be celebrating the life and work of Marie Curie, the first woman to win a Nobel Prize in Science. Marie was born in Poland in 1867, and moved to Paris in 1891. She entered the Sorbonne, where she read physics and mathematics. In due course, she met and married another scientist, Pierre Curie, and they worked together a team pursing their scientific researches. In 1903, Marie and Pierre were awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics jointly with Henri Becquerel. Tragically, Pierre was killed in an accident in 1906. But Marie continued her research, and she was awarded a second Nobel Prize in 1911. Her research led to the use of radiation and x-ray machines in a medical context, initially in the 1st World War, and it has saved countless lives ever since. Next time you are in a hospital and see a sign saying "Radiology", do think of Marie and offer a prayer of thanks. Where would we be without X-rays and their like?

If you are interested in learning more about Marie Curie and her research, do come to along on Sunday 18th October to any of the following services: 10.30am at St Michael's Blewbury; 4pm at All Saints North Moreton; and 6pm at St Andrew's Hagbourne. You will be most welcome.

Marie Curie was a remarkable woman and a remarkable scientist. Science is one of God's greatest gifts to humankind, and there is no conflict between good science and good religion (there can a conflict between bad science and bad religion, but that is another story!). Let me finish with two thought-provoking quotes from Marie herself: "You cannot hope to build a better world without improving the individuals. To that end each of us must work for [our] own improvement, and at the same time share a general responsibility for all humanity, our particular duty being to aid those to whom we think we can be most useful" ; and "Nothing in life is to be feared; it is only to be understood".

Do come along on 18th October, and help us celebrate not only Marie Curie, but also the life and work of countless other scientists who have contributed so much to the well-being of their fellow men and women.
Praise be to God for scientists! - *Father Jason*

ASTON TIRROLD UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
& CENTRE FOR REFLECTION

Spring Lane, Aston Tirrold OX11 9EJ

Minister: Rev Glyn Millington

OCTOBER SERVICES AND EVENTS

Sunday 4th Oct 11am	Holy Communion led by Rev Philip Mader-Grayson
Sunday 11th Oct 11am	Harvest Festival led by Rev Dr Richard Bittleston
Sunday 18th Oct 11am	Morning Worship led by Elizabeth Wood
Sunday 25th Oct 11am	**Online only** Morning Worship led by Alan Yates

This month at the Centre:

Friday 9th Oct 2pm–5pm. Work afternoon. An autumn tidy up of the Quiet Garden and paths, all are very welcome to drop by and say hello, or join in.

We're working to complete the refurb of the kitchen...watch this space...

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 25th Oct 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.

The Blewbury Beer Festival. Village Hall, 3rd October 2 pm to 8 pm. Live music, good food and a relaxed village atmosphere, all in support of local good causes. Entrance is £5 (under 18s free), and beer tokens are £2 per half pint. We'll have a large range of locally sourced beers, as well as wine and a gin bar, including more local products. You can find out more details at **https://www.blewbury-beer-festival.co.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 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 Gabriella 07845 782906	Gabriela has worked for several villagers and currently has space for another client. I can thoroughly vouch for her as hard working, with attention to detail and honest..	Lizzie Thornton-Allan 851732 (2023)
House cleaning Magda 07805375872	Magda has worked for several villagers over the years and has been cleaning our house since we moved to the village in 2022. I look forward to her visit every week where she leaves our house looking spotless. She is very hard working, reliable and I wholeheartedly recommend her services.	Lucy Cantwell 6 Lower Ham Yard **Lucyecant-well@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)
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)

NORTH MORETON BOOK SALE

Saturday 31st October in North Moreton Church, from 10am until 3pm. All proceeds going to support the village hall and church. Tea, coffee and home-made cakes will be available. Free entry and car parking. Donations of spare books are always welcome. Email northmoretonbooksale@gmail.com or call 01235 818900 or 07908314771 if you have any books to give, and the organisers will happily collect them. Katy Taylor

Wayfinding signs Visitors to Didcot may have noticed new wayfinding signs across the town. They aim to help people find their way around more easily, encourage sustainable travel and strengthen connections between neighbourhoods, facilities and open spaces. The project, run by the Didcot Garden Town team, has been funded by money from the government, and contributions from developers. .

UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE [U3A]

meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at 2pm at Didcot Civic Hall. Visitors are welcome to come to one meeting as a taster before joining. On 20th October we have Sing with Mandy who offers a brief history of folk music (but beware - you will be invited to sing along!). For details email membership@didcotu3a.org or visit https://didcot.u3asite.uk/

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

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.cornexchange.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
Andew 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, 1444, 16.19, 18.54
Sunday: no service
Stops at N & S Moreton only. Runs Anticlockwise only