ASTONS BONFIRE NIGHT

AT THE ASTONS RECREATION GROUND, ASTON TIRROLD

7th SATURDAY NOVEMBER

5-9PM

MASSIVE FIREWORKS DISPLAY AND BONFIRE

CHILDREN'S DISPLAY

BAR AND BBQ

PLEASE DONATE ON THE GATE

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

Fantastic **BBQ**, serving Olivier's venison burgers, beef burgers, hotdogs and vegan burgers/hotdogs.

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

Children's stall selling sweets, cakes, hot chocolate, 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. Please go to Sign Up Genius (or scan the QR code) to volunteer for bar/food or gate duty.

OR pledge your support by contacting

Bar shift – Susan 07973 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.

Wood collection will start from 9am on Saturday – leave wood donations by your gates. No painted or treated wood please.

ASTONS NEWS

November 2026 issue 628

WHAT'S ON IN NOVEMBER

BIN DAYS: Green & Brown: 12, 26 Grey: 5, 19

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	7
"	10.00-12.00	Post Office	"	7
"	10.00-12.00	Free Superfast Internet Access	"	7, 21
Fri	9.30-11.30am	Toddler Group (Term time only)	Centre for Reflection	
Monthly				
4th Sun	2pm-4pm	Astons Nature Recovery Group in Picks Field	Picks Field	36

Events in November

1	9am	All Saints' Day	All Saints' Upthorpe	33
1,7,8	10am-4pm	Poppy Appeal	Chequers carpark	15
7	5-9pm	Bonfire & Fireworks Night	Recreation Ground	cover
8	10.45am	Remembrance Day service (and URC after)	War Memorial	13, 33
15	9am	2nd Sunday before Advent	St. Michael's	33
17	10am-12noon	Astons Online	Village Hall	21
24	2pm	Vivien Biggs Funeral	St. Michael's Church	11
25-27	All day	Tree pruning: footpath closed between Baker St.	and Rectory Lane	7
25-28	7pm	A Christmas Carol	Blewbury St. Michael's,	32
28	**7-11pm**	**Cricket Club Quiz**	**Village Hall**	**11**

FORTHCOMING EVENTS P P

Dec 15th Table decoration & wreath making 7-9pm 18

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ARTICLES

Front	**BONFIRE NIGHT**
Reverse	**BONFIRE NIGHT WHAT'S ON AND HOW TO HELP, *PLEASE***
1	What's on at a glance
3	Articles, Copy deadline, Asylum welcome -bicycles sought
5	Advertisers' Index, Village defibrillators, Advertising rates
7	Editorial, Ukraine medivac delivery trip,
9	Astons Café
11	Vivien Biggs funeral, Astons Cricket Club Quiz Night
13	Remembrance Day service, Action Fraud: Courier scams
15	Poppy Appeal
16	Jennie's Children's Trust Fund Raising Dinner, Toddler group, U3A, BlewShed, Repair shops
17	Astons Pavilion
18	Astons Outdoors
19	Village Hall
20	Picks Field latest update, Thames Valley Police report
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22	Astons enews, Astons CIC, Astons Fb page
23	Astons Community Website update
24	Olly Glover MP, Village Golf
25, 26	Astons History Project
27	Speedwatch, Woolpack
28	Race Night results are in!
29-32	Parish Council Meeting minutes
32	Safari Supper: money raised for charity, A Christmas Carol play in Blewbury
33, 34	Church Services & news, Mothers' Union, Father Jason
35	URC, United Charities
36,37	Recommended tradesmen, South Moreton Pre School,
38	Baby sitting
39	Community services and police information
40	Village Representative Organisations & Village Information

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.**

DEADLINE for the December edition is November 19th

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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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***

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:

BONFIRE AND FIREWORKS on SATURDAY 7th NOVEMBER

The Astons' biggest and best event of the year (if you like bonfires and fireworks!) and main fund raiser for the upkeep of the Rec and everything on it.

Nearly 50 volunteers are needed every year to make the event work: -setting up the bar, cooking food, serving, bonfire building, fencing, fireworks, car park, donation collectors, and then putting it all back, so there are many tasks.

The tasks are not difficult, just a lot of them. We need ***your*** help urgently*;* even half an hour would help to spread the load.

If you are new to the village, do come along and find out what it's all about; if you've lived here a long time and enjoyed the shows over the years, but not been able to help before, then there is no better time break your duck. What's not to like, being part of a team that brings joy and fun to the party?

See the front two pages for details and how to sign up to help

Every little helps. What a great strap line. I'm surprised that nobody has used it before…….

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

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!

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 p15**

TEMPORARY FOOTPATH CLOSURE

The footpath between Baker Street and Rectory Lane will be closed for tree works on November 25-27th

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

Parish Council Grants

- The parish council's grant application process for this year is now open until December 31st.
- Community groups and organisations within the Aston's are invited to submit an application for funding.
- The Parish Council will be reviewing all applications in January.
- If your group would like to apply, please email your application to the parish clerk: Parishclerk@theastons.net

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Saturday	7.30 am - 17.00 pm

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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.
Your support is appreciated.

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

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VIVIEN BIGGS née RALSTON (1929 – 2026)

Sarah, Nancy & Rachel are sad to let you know that their beloved mother Vivien died on 8th October 2026, peacefully, following a short illness.

The funeral will be on Tuesday 24th November at 2.00 pm at St. Michael's Church, Aston Street, Aston Tirrold, Oxon. OX11 9DJ.

This will be a celebration of her life, and so please wear bright colours, if possible.

Parking will be available at the Village Hall and URC car parks.

Refreshments from 3.30pm at Abbey Thorn Cottage, Aston Street OX11 9DQ.

Family flowers only.

Donations to Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders), c/o Howard Chadwick Funeral Directors, 33 Benson Lane, Crowmarsh, Wallingford, Oxfordshire OX10 8ED via this link:
https://vivienbiggs.muchloved.com/

Please RSVP to sarahbiggs01@btinternet.com,
so that appropriate catering can be arranged

Vivien was a tour de force in the life of the Astons for many years. She moved in to Abbey Thorn Cottage with her husband David, on 2nd April 1993, on the day that their first grandchild was born, and promptly spent much of the afternoon with her new neighbours Penelope and George Curtis drinking champagne. I think that set the tone for her life in the village!

She loved the village, and threw herself into village life with boundless energy and application, being a parish councillor first, then Chair. She was a founder member of the Astons History Group, and produced its first publication about Sir John Leigh Hoskins, Rector of St. Michael's from 1846-1911. She was also a member of the Village Hall Committee for many years, and part of the Millennium Pavilion Working Group, which ultimately led to the building of the new pavilion.

There won't be another like her.

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WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

8TH NOVEMBER 2026

This year our combined churches Remembrance Service will take place on

Sunday 8th November.

We invite you to gather by our villages' war memorial from 10.45am with the service starting **10.50am.**

There will be a fly past from RAF Benson at approximately 10.57am

The church service will be at the United Reformed Church (URC) at 11.15 am.

Action Fraud: Could you spot a courier fraud scam?

Fraudsters are posing as police officers and may:

- claim that your personal details have been compromised,
- someone has been arrested using your information
- ask whether you hold cryptocurrency.

Remember: the police would *never* ask you to:

- Transfer money to a "safe account"
- Withdraw cash
- Buy or transfer cryptocurrency
- Share your PIN, password or banking security details

- If you receive a call like this, end the call and contact your bank using trusted contact details.
- If you've been targeted or fallen victim to fraud, report it to Action Fraud on **0300 123 2040** or online at **reportfraud.actionfraud.police.uk.**

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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

Cholsey Repair Café will take place at the Cholsey Pavilion on Saturday 21st November, 10.00 - 12.45. Skilled volunteers will be there to help with repairs to a wide range of portable domestic items. No charge is made but donations towards running costs are always appreciated. Refer to **www.cholseyrepaircafe.com** for latest information.

Blewbury Repair café. **Sunday 1st November, 2 to 4pm** in the Melland Room at Blewbury Clubhouse and in BlewShed. The last session before Christmas to sharpen summer season-blunted secateurs and repair electrical items. Refreshments available. Donations welcome to cover costs

BlewShed Meetings:

24th November. BlewShed's AGM, followed by Blewbury Bulletin's editor Neville, talking about 'The challenges of editing and producing the Blewbury Bulletin'. All welcome.

1st November Repair Café. Collaboration with Sustainable Blewbury continues with another session of sharpening summer season-blunted secateurs and repairing electrical items.

BlewShed opening times: Monday 2-4pm, Tuesday 1.30-4pm, Thursday 2.00-4pm, Friday 2-4pm and Saturday afternoons 1.30-4.00 pm. Everyone is welcome to club nights on the fourth Tuesday of the month, 7.30pm at BlewShed. Mike Wrottesley, BlewShed secretary. email: **secretaryblewshed@gmail.com**
Website:**https://blewshed.home.blog/news/**

U3A **November 17th** - Jennifer Cowling talks about extraordinary things we say. A light-hearted look at figures of speech. Phrases such as "a turn of the screw" "a turn up for the book" **didcot.u3asite.uk** *Meetings start at **2:30 pm on the Third Tuesday of every month** at the **Didcot Civic Hall**, new members warmly welcomed over tea and biscuits (first visit free-pre membership) along with a **Guest Speaker.***

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**

THE ASTONS' *Pavilion*

The Pavilion comprises a main entertaining area, fully equipped kitchen, toilets, disabled access, changing rooms, baby changing and showers. There is plenty of parking and hirers are able to use the outdoor space for games and bouncy castles.

Pavilion Hire Charges

Receptions/General Parties:	£60 (villager)	£100 (non-villager)
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

Astons Outdoors

Things get solved if you get involved

Villagers Christmas Post Box

Rather than you walk around delivering cards, Santa's helpers will deliver them for you. All you need to do is put the individual's name or family name and the house name on the card and pop it into the post box located in the reception area of the Chequers Garage. Santa's helpers time is free but, as per previous times, if you would like to make a donation, please pop it into the post box with your cards. The donations will go to a local charity. The last collection will be Monday 21st December.

Get creative

There are places left on the Wreath / Table Centre Piece workshop taking place at the Village Hall on Tuesday 15th December 7pm – 9pm. The cost is £30 per person and includes a glass of fizz and nibbles, along with all you need to make your decorations, but if you do want to bring some of your own, to personalise, please do so. Get in touch if you would like to secure a place.

What to do in the garden

- **Keep feeding** the birds and wash the feeders regularly to minimise diseases spreading
- **Rambling roses** flower on the long whippy shoots produced last year. After the birds have taken any rose hips, cut out all the stems that have flowered. Attach these to the support as horizontally as possible to encourage blooms that cover the plant rather than towering out of sight
- **Lightly prune Japanese Maple**, lightly to retain its shape. Pruning should be done before Christmas as they come into growth early in the new year and would bleed sap if pruned too late
- **Oriental Hellebore,** if you haven't had chance to cut the leaves back to ground level do it now so you get a clear view of the flowers. The flowers may be emerging soon so be careful not to cut them by mistake.
- **Native hedges** contain useful food sources for wildlife so try and wait until the new year and then a looser, wilder look than a formal hedge
- **Plant Tulips**, to ensure colourful displays. If you are ready to plant tulips, imagine a time when a single bulb was more valuable than gold
- November marks the start of the bare-root season, which means you can order roses for planting as bare-roots during the winter
- **Order bare root fruit** Autumn and winter is the time to plant bare-root fruit trees and bushes, the easiest and quickest way to successfully add new fruit to your garden
- **Sow Broad Beans** Sow broad beans in autumn and look forward to an earlier crop than those sown in spring, usually in May. These hardy stalwarts are one of the easiest crops
- **Protect tender herbs** Tender herbs such as lemon verbena or scented-leaf pelargoniums need protection from winter's coldest weather, in a greenhouse or conservatory
- **Hardwood cuttings of currants** Hardwood cuttings are one of the easiest ways to propagate woody plants, if you have shrubs in your garden that you'd like to make a few more of them
- **Protect hedgehogs on Bonfire Night** If you're burning woody garden waste this November, be sure to keep garden wildlife safe

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

Aston Tirrold & Aston Upthorpe Village Hall

- Attractive galleried hall with sprung wooden floor
- Wedding receptions, family celebrations children's parties, village events
- Private functions, commercial use, club sessions
- Separate air-conditioned meeting room/ office space (Library Room)
- PA system, Wi-Fi and Broadband
- Well fitted kitchen, upgraded washrooms
- Stage and changing rooms
- Furniture & equipment hire
- **Parking for non-hall use by arrangement please, bookings take priority**

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

Picks Field update: Astons Wasp or Spider?

If you've been walking through Pick's Field this summer, you may have noticed a rather striking spider sitting in the grass. Even with its bold yellow, black and white markings, the wasp spider *(Argiope bruennichi)* is easy to overlook.

Source: Anna Dillon

Wasp spiders are large orb-web spiders, and the females are particularly distinctive. They build their webs low among grasses and other vegetation, often with a conspicuous zig-zag band of white silk running through the centre. The spider sits head-down in the middle of the web, waiting for insects to become caught.

The species was once largely confined to the south coast of Britain, but has spread considerably northwards in recent decades. Its expanding range is thought to have been helped by warmer temperatures, and it is now found across much of England and Wales. Finding wasp spiders at Pick's Field is an encouraging sign of the variety of habitats the field provides. They favour areas of relatively tall, rough grassland where there is enough vegetation to support their webs, but where the vegetation is not so dense that the webs become difficult to construct. Maintaining a mosaic of different grassland heights and structures can therefore benefit this and many other invertebrates.

The wasp spider is also a good reminder that some of the wildlife at Pick's Field can be surprisingly easy to overlook. Invertebrates make up a huge proportion of the site's biodiversity, and recording them during our BioBlitz has helped us to build a much better picture of what is living here.

Thank you to everyone who came out to our last session where we continued scything and clearing the privet. Now that autumn is here, we are looking forward to welcoming you all back for our work parties in the field every 4th Sunday of the month from 14:00 – 16:00. If you'd like to join in then please register at www.pfr.tidyhq.com, contact an Astons 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

TVP CCTV Hub for Oxfordshire. Spiking sniffer dogs.

The new countywide CCTV control room in Abingdon Police Station bring together public space CCTV from across Oxfordshire into one enhanced control room as part of my Thames Valley CCTV Partnership.

In addition to a more effective system, we can expect closer links with frontline officers and police control rooms to help prevent crime, catch and convict criminals and ultimately increase people's feelings of safety in our public places.

Eight CCTV Operators and one Supervisor will be employed, monitoring cameras across the whole of Oxfordshire from one location, increasing opportunities to react to live incidents and stop crime as it is taking place. Technological advances will also see CCTV integration with existing police systems to help support investigations, enable officers to access footage remotely, and share high-definition images across the force area more easily.

Thames Valley Police have launched a pioneering new police dog capability designed to help identify criminals carrying spiking drugs. The team of 6 dogs; Maverick, Puma, Dusty, AJ, Reggie and Major, have been specially trained to detect drugs commonly linked to spiking offences, including substances that are often carried in small quantities or in liquid form.

This pioneering new capability demonstrates Thames Valley Police's commitment to tackling violence against women and girls, harmful offences within the night-time economy, and builds upon the force's other work in the night-time economy including Project Vigilant.

While incidents of spiking in Thames Valley remain low, prevention tactics such as these help to stop harm before it occurs; ensuring fewer people become victims of crime. The dogs will support proactive police operations across both force areas, helping to identify, disrupt and pursue offenders.
Matthew Barber

If you're unsure

about landline digital switchover, passwords, improved NHS app …

join us in

Aston Upthorpe Village Hall (OX11 9EQ)
On Tuesday 17 November 10:00 - 12:00
Digital helpers will be there to give you support and advice

Book your 30 minute appointment by email theastonsonline@gmail.com or telephone 07780958249

Website: www.astonsonline.uk

Astons Online CIC supports people who want to be digitally confident on the Internet, with smartphone apps or online services like health and banking.

Astons Online CIC events and support are free of charge and open to everyone.

Astons Online CIC is available for Zoom, Facetime, WhatsApp or telephone one-to-one sessions on Tuesday mornings between 10:00 and 12:00.

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 200 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 emails are not sent to highlight individual events unless the editorial team agrees that there are special circumstances
- eNews email requests received within 36 hours of an event 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 sign up by emailing enews@theastons.net if you wish to receive eNews emails and are not on the circulation list already.

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

Olly Glover MP

My focus has been on ongoing issues with Thames Water and the structure of our water industry. I spoke in a debate on the public ownership of the water sector, after 866 constituents signed a petition calling for a referendum on this. I have also recently written to Thames Water's Head of Engagement, Land and Consents, urging her to share the feedback they have received from the public about the SESRO - or White Horse - reservoir. Public trust in Thames Water is so low.

I have continued engaging with local businesses and community groups, such as Tokamak Energy in Milton Park, who showed me their work on advanced fusion devices, and St Andrew's Church in East Hagbourne, who welcomed me for a Climate Q and A panel event.

I was honoured to lay a wreath at the Wilding and Andrew Service on September 13th: an important date in Wallingford's calendar, in memory of the RAF Servicemen who gave their lives, ensuring their damaged aircraft during World War 2 crashed away from residential areas. I was also honoured to attend the BBC Make a Difference Awards in Oxford, celebrating The Earth Trust winning an award.

I visited Oxford Manor Care Home, during a community evening showcasing their work and facilities. Wigod Way Family Centre in Wallingford showed me the amazing support they provide to families, and I joined children and the Headteacher from Cholsey Primary School for an inspection of walking routes to their school. I have also had a productive meeting with Whittington Crescent residents, to discuss issues residents have been facing with the company managing their new estate.

Many of you will be aware of new proposals for a large Solar Farm impacting the constituency, and I will be meeting with the Cearn Solar Farm proposers to understand their plans and raise community concerns with the developers directly.

I have welcomed a recent central government decision regarding special educational needs funding, where it has been confirmed that £121.8 million will be received by Oxfordshire County Council to cover the funding gap for vitally important services.

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.**

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
- 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

THE ASTONS HISTORY PROJECT

"only connect"

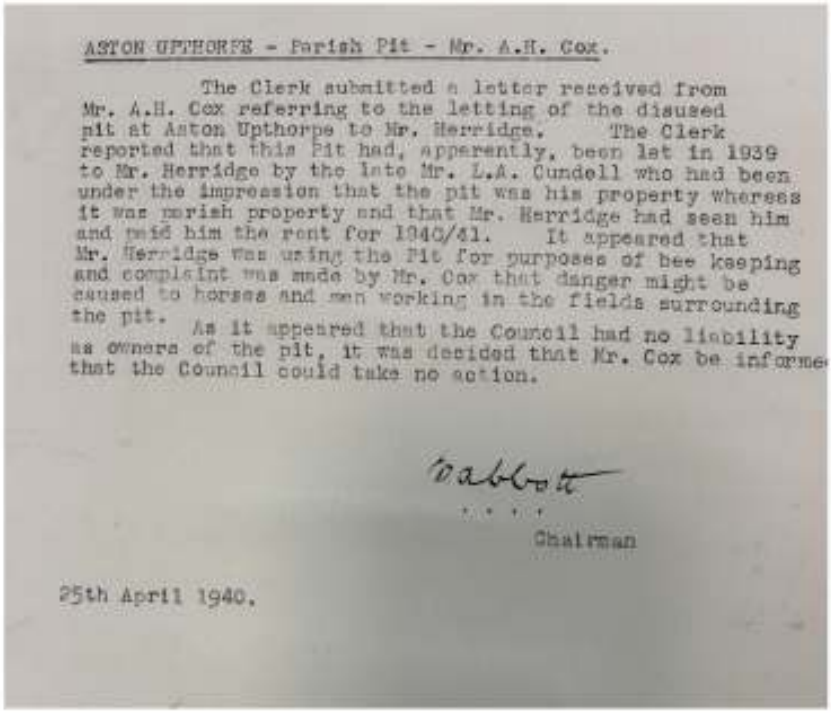
I thought I'd write a load of rubbish this month. Correction – I thought I'd write about rubbish this month.

Below is an entry from Aston Tirrold Parish Council from April 1926 regarding inappropriate practices at the village waste pit. The chalk pit on the Downs above the village doubled up as the community rubbish dump. Chalk was dug out and replaced with rubbish. Sorted.

'Complaint had been received from Aston Upthorpe Parish Meeting that the Village Scavenger (their capitals) wasn't emptying tins etc into the pit but by the side of the pit, and that paper and light items (not intended for the pit) were also being left there and were being blown about in the wind. Aston Tirrold Parish Council agreed to put a notice next to the pit saying no paper or light items to be deposited there'.

There seems to be a continuing problem with waste management - in November 1928 the following is reported: *The irregularity of collecting House Refuse (which should be done on every first Monday of the month) was considered, and as Sharpe* (village refuse collector) *has formerly been warned of this fault the Council on the proposal of Mr. Baker, being seconded by Mr. Savegar, that they would consult the Parish Meeting of Aston Upthorpe and, that authority having been decided, to write to the Clerk of the Wallingford Rural District Council concerning the said irregularity.*

The use of the pit had ceased by the 1940s - see below - but waste collection at a village level continued well into the 20th century, see an article from 1965 on the next page.



ASTON UPTHORPE - Parish Pit - Mr. A.H. Cox.

The Clerk submitted a letter received from Mr. A.H. Cox referring to the letting of the disused pit at Aston Upthorpe to Mr. Herridge. The Clerk reported that this Pit had, apparently, been let in 1939 to Mr. Herridge by the late Mr. L.A. Cundell who had been under the impression that the pit was his property whereas it was parish property and that Mr. Herridge had seen him and paid him the rent for 1940/41. It appeared that Mr. Herridge was using the Pit for purposes of bee keeping and complaint was made by Mr. Cox that danger might be caused to horses and men working in the fields surrounding the pit.

As it appeared that the Council had no liability as owners of the pit, it was decided that Mr. Cox be informe that the Council could take no action.

Chairman

25th April 1940.

Mr. E. A. Blake at work outside the new village hall.

16 JAN 1965

26 years sweeping up village rubbish

FOR 26 years Mr. Ernest Albert Blake has helped to keep the two villages of Aston Upthorpe and Aston Tirrold clean — and the only change in his working implements has been a new hand-pushed dustcart which replaced a wheelbarrow.

Now 61, Mr. Blake lives in a council house in The Close, Aston Tirrold.

When he started work he was responsible for Aston Tirrold only. For 22s. a week he went round the village collecting rubbish in his wheelbarrow and depositing it in a pre-determined spot. From here it was collected by a horse-drawn vehicle.

In those early years two men were responsible for the villages and for some time Mr. Blake and Mr. Bert Cook worked together.

Then four years ago Mr. Cook died "and since then I have been working alone in both villages," said Mr. Blake. His weekly wage now, before deductions, amounts to £9.

Besides the switch to a dust cart from a wheelbarrow, Mr. Blake has seen another change in the villages.

"At one time people used to invite me into their homes for a cup of tea and a chat," he said. "Now . . .

He also finds the present generation not so discriminate with their litter as people used to be.

16 JAN 1965

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

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

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

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

Astons Community Speedwatch

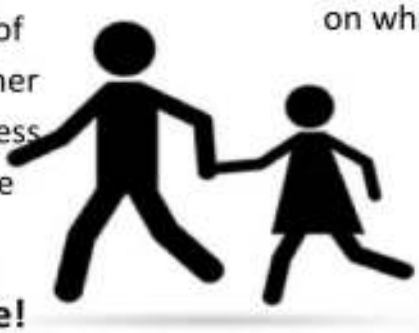
"A national initiative where proactive members of local communities join, with the support and supervision of their local police, to record details of speeding vehicles using approved detection devices in their local community"

More volunteers always welcome

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

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 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.



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

Volunteers needed please!

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

A huge thank you
to everyone who supported
the Village Hall Race Night
either as a guest or
behind the scenes.

The fine racing traditions
of the village were
on full show and in excess
of £2000 was raised
towards the windows fund.

ASTON TIRROLD AND ASTON UPTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 21ST OCTOBER 2026

26-27/033 Apologies for absence: Peter Butcher (PB), Johnny Hope-Smith OCC (JHS),

26-27/034 Present

Jane Imbush Chair (JI), Simon Young Vice-Chair (SY), Mary Severin (MS), Jane Knight (JBK), Tom Mooney (TM), Neil Carter (NC), Joanna Hart (JH), Sarah Munro (SM), Anne-Marie Simpson SODC (AMS), Crispin Topping SODC (CT),

Members of the public -10

26-27/035 Declaration of any relevant interest: Nothing to declare.

26-27/036 Minutes: Minutes from the meeting 17th September 2026 were agreed by all and signed by the Chair.

26-27/037: Public questions, comments, or representations

26-27/038: SODC and OCC Reports to the Parish Council

SODC: Report received. See link for SODC report

OCC: Report received. See link for OCC report

26-27/039 Guy to present to the Parish Council the Wildfire Report.

The Chair welcomed Anna Dilon, who presented a report highlighting the increasing challenges posed by wildfires and crop fires within the community. Members noted that the summer had been characterised by drought conditions and exceptionally high temperatures, contributing to an increased wildfire risk. The report included information on recent crop fires within the parish and outlined measures being adopted by councils in other areas to raise awareness and improve preparedness.

Members considered what role the Parish Council could play in educating residents and supporting local wildfire prevention measures. Suggestions included incorporating wildfire guidance into the Village Emergency Plan and exploring the provision of equipment such as fire beaters. However, it was acknowledged that the Parish Council was not best placed to respond directly to such incidents without appropriate training and expertise.

Members agreed that further information should be gathered from relevant organisations and neighbouring councils before any specific actions were taken. It was noted that seasonal wildfire warning posters displayed on kissing gates had been effective and could continue to be used during periods of higher risk.

26-27/040 Planning

To consider the following planning permissions:

P26/S4059/FUL – For development work at the following location:

Oakridge Farm Moreton Road Aston Tirrold Didcot OX11 9AW

Reference was made to previous planning applications for residential and agricultural development on the site that had been refused. In response, the applicant advised that the current proposal related to agricultural land use and was considered to accord with relevant planning legislation.

Members expressed concern regarding the current condition of the site and considered that any approval should be subject to conditions requiring the removal of items not directly associated with the agricultural use. Specific reference was made to a caravan currently being used as a welfare unit, together with stored materials, rubble and panes of glass present on the site. The applicant indicated that the site would be tidied and unnecessary materials removed.

Concern was also expressed regarding the size of the proposed barn relative to the scale of the enterprise. The applicant advised that the building had been designed with future expansion of the business in mind.

Members discussed the proposed installation of solar panels and noted concerns regarding the potential impact of additional lighting on nearby residents and local wildlife. The applicant stated that mitigation measures, including screening or blinds where appropriate, could be implemented if required. It was also questioned by a member of the PC if the solar panels alone were sufficient to generate enough electricity to support the working of the barn e.g. the incubation of eggs.

Continued on next page

Parish Council meeting minutes continued from previous page

The applicant advised that a shipping container currently on site would remain until the barn had been established, after which its continued presence would be reviewed. It was the view of the PC that this should be removed as soon as the barn, if approved, was completed or what was the purpose for the machinery store within the new barn

Clarification was sought regarding the proposed extension of the existing hardcore track. Members noted that the application referred to an existing track, although some Members questioned whether a formal track was currently present. The applicant stated that the track already existed beneath the grassed surface.
In response to questions regarding poultry processing, the applicant confirmed that any slaughtering of birds would take place off-site. It was explained that the enterprise would initially focus on egg-laying hens, with the possibility of expanding into meat production at a later date.

Following extensive discussion, Members concluded that insufficient information had been provided to enable the Parish Council to support the application at this stage. Concerns remained regarding the long-term scale of the enterprise, future development potential, the management of chicken litter and manure, the expertise of the applicant in relation to the management and welfare of chickens and the overall impact of the proposal on the character of the area. Members recognised the applicant's intention to introduce hedging and screening but considered that greater detail was required to fully assess the proposal and its future implications.
During public participation, a representative of the applicant asked whether Members had any preferred alternative use for the land. Members responded that their concerns related to the lack of information regarding the site's future development potential and the scale of agricultural activity that the land could reasonably support.

A resident also queried whether an Environmental Impact Assessment should have been undertaken. The applicant advised that his planning consultant had not indicated that such an assessment was required.

Resolved: That the Parish Council object to the application on the grounds that insufficient information (including the number of mobile chicken huts for 500 chickens) had been provided to allow an informed assessment of the proposal, particularly in relation to future expansion, site management, operational arrangements and the long-term impact on the surrounding area.

When considering the proposal the PC asks the planning officer to consider making a recommendation on the formalising the barn for agricultural use only. In addition the planning officer recommendation should include a date by which after completion the barn the site is cleared of all materials not essential to the delivery of a chicken farm.

When considering the proposal the PC asks the planning officer to consider making a recommendation on the formalising the barn as for agricultural use only. In addition the planning officer recommendation should include a date by which after completion the barn the site is cleared of all materials not essential to the delivery of a chicken farm.

Voting: 6 in favour of objection, 1 against, and abstention

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.

Members noted that a neighbour had expressed concerns regarding the application and its potential impact on both the surrounding area and the amenity use of his property.
In considering the proposal, Members acknowledged that similar applications had previously been approved within the village and recognised that amendments had been made to the scheme in response to comments received during the planning process. Members considered that the revisions demonstrated a willingness by the applicant to address concerns and improve the proposal.

Resolved: That the Parish Council support the application, recognising the amendments made by the applicant and noting that comparable developments have previously been approved within the village. While acknowledging the concerns raised by neighbouring resident, Members considered that the changes made to the proposal represented a positive response to those concerns.

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

P26/S4233/HH - For development work at the following location: **4 The Croft Aston Tirrold Didcot OX11 9DL**
The application is for: Proposed erection of a single storey side/rear extension, front porch and changes to fenestration including demolition of existing side/front lean-to.

The applicant outlined proposals to extend the side room of the property to create a larger kitchen-dining area. Members noted that the extension would not be visible from the road and that the applicant had consulted neighbouring residents, who had raised no objections. It was further noted that similar extensions had previously been undertaken on neighbouring properties.
The proposed rear extension would incorporate French doors and glazed elements designed to maximise natural light within the property. Members considered the relationship with neighbouring dwellings and noted that the property to the rear was situated at a sufficient distance to avoid any significant loss of light or adverse impact on residential amenity.
Members considered the proposal to be well designed, in keeping with the character of the existing property and surrounding area, and felt that it would represent an attractive improvement to the dwelling.

Resolved: That the Parish Council support the application, as the proposed extensions are considered to be in keeping with the property and surrounding area, would not be unduly prominent from the street scene, and are not expected to have an adverse imp3act on neighbouring properties.

26-27/041 ARC
Approve Minute's from October's meeting. -**Approved**
PC to approve cost of updating Emergency lighting at the Pavilion: £1,005.64 (inc VAT) and whilst the work is being carried out to replace the 9 lights in the main room at an additional cost of £761.10. ARC has regularly used Connect Installations to maintain the electrics at the Pavilion, including to do the recent safety checks, and they have provided a reliable service, so proposes to use again rather than seek multiple quotes. – PC resolved to pay using CIL funds.
PC to review and approve the Risk Assessment for Bonfire Night. -**Approved**
PC to approve for Rustic Management to replace fence panels and posts at top of recreation ground at a cost of ~£400.
-**Approved**
PC to approve maintenance to the clock at a cost of £173 -**Approved**
PC to note that it is likely to be necessary to replace the main gate in 2027. -**Approved**
PC to note that the 5-year electrical test and annual PAT test has been completed. -**Approved**
PC to review the initial outline proposal on the new relationship between the PC and ARC (see attached) and provide any comments. - **Approve**d
Preapprove up to £2,000 to prepay for drinks for bonfire night. -**Approved**

26-27/042 Finance
Payments below approved

Simplicity Payroll Service	£26.40
Clerk Salary including back pay	£375.80
HMRC PAYE Liability	£17.00
Clerk Expenses – Printer Ink	£21.79

Approve September's Financial Statement -**Approved**

26-27/043 CLP Groups

a) **Roads and traffic** – Members noted the latest road casualty data for Oxfordshire and were pleased to report that the county continues to maintain one of the best road safety records in the country.

Members also noted that two excellent road safety posters had been submitted by local residents as part of the community engagement initiative and expressed their appreciation for the high standard of the entries and the support shown by villagers for road safety awareness. It was agreed that they should receive book vouchers each to the value of £20

b) **Housing and Development** – Members noted an update regarding the Ham Paddock application. It was reported that the application has not progressed further at this stage as it is currently an outline application. The planning authority is experiencing a backlog of full planning applications, which has impacted the progression of outline applications through the planning process.

Continued on next page

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C) **Environment group** –Members noted that newts are likely to be present in the area around the corner of The Croft and that this may need to be taken into account as the proposals progress.

A question was raised regarding ownership of the tree located behind the War Memorial. It was agreed that enquiries should be made to establish ownership and any associated maintenance responsibilities.

26-27/044 To approve the adoption of the following polices as per the Internal Auditors recommendations: IT. **Deferred to next month**.

26-27/046 To Discuss progress with the Internal Auditors Recommendations.
The PC are continuing to work through the recommendations from the internal auditor. This year's report will follow the same steps as last year and a plan will be put forward in the coming months and has made considerable progress with relationship between ARC and the PC.
Formal terms of reference for the changes to ARC will be needed and it was agreed we would consult OALC once a draft had been prepared. The Chair of the PC will discuss with the clerk any additional responsibilities that may result with relation to finance arrangements and compliance and report back to the next meeting

26-27/047 Items for next agenda
Date of the next meeting is at 7:30 pm on Wednesday 18th November 2026 which will be held in the Village Hall.
The meeting closed at: 21:00

26-27/048 Review Monthly Calendar tasks
Following meetings will be on the third Wednesday of the month except for December when it will be the second Wednesday due to the closeness to Christmas: **Wednesday 9th December 2026**

Safari Supper

A big thank you to everyone who attended our annual village event. It was so much fun and was capped off with the wonderful Dessert party at Emma and Dave's. Thank you to them both for being such wonderful hosts.

It was great to meet some village newbies and some villagers who have been living here for some time but decided to get involved for the first time.

Thank you so much to everyone who hosted and welcomed everyone into their homes. Thank you too to everyone who provided some beautiful desserts. We really couldn't do it without your contribution.

We are very proud to announce that the event made a wonderful profit of £1,181. 50% was given to the Didcot Food Bank in the form of an enormous supermarket spending spree. The other 50% goes to ARC.

Didcot Food Bank are so grateful for our annual support and our contribution goes a long way to helping families in need. We hope to see you all again next year. All the best, Susan, Laura and Amberley.

Top work team; it takes an inordinate amount of organising, so very well done!-Ed.

A Christmas Carol

by Charles Dickens. Adapted by Myf Laugharne. Directed by Jo Laugharne. Designed by Loraine Fergusson

St Michael's Church, Blewbury, 25-28 November, 2026

Box Office opens at 9am on 30 October @ www.blewburyplayers.co.uk Adult £15 Child £8 Recommended age 7+

Myf Laugharne's adaptation stays wonderfully true to Dickens' original novella, with a few twists along the way. Along with ghostly characters and dramatic events we will have a band enhancing the action with traditional carols.
St Michael's is a wonderful performance space which will be true, and even add, to the atmosphere which Dickens originally created. [75 minutes long]

Churn Church News and Services November 2026

	CREATIONTIDE	Prayer Focus
+Sunday 1st November	**ALL SAINTS' DAY** 9.00am Parish Eucharist: All Saints' Aston Upthorpe	Our worship, musicians, organists & choirs
+Sunday 8th November	**REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY** **10.45am** Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial followed by Remembrance Day Service at the URC	Churchwardens, fabric & churchyards
+Sunday 15th November	**SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT** 9.00am Parish Eucharist: St Michael's Aston Tirrold	Clergy & all who preach or lead

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

Churn Benefice All Souls' Service: 1st November 3pm, St Michael's Blewbury
All are very welcome at our annual service of commemoration, which this year will be held at St Michael's Blewbury. The service includes the lighting of candles and reading out of names of loved ones we have lost. Anyone who would like to have a loved one remembered at this service is welcome to send names to Elaine in the Benefice Office.

Occasional offices in the Astons

Recent baptism

18th October: Edward Sebastian Husbands, at St Michael's Aston Tirrold
May God's blessing of peace and joy be with him and protect him all of his days

Upcoming funeral

The funeral for the late Vivien Biggs, aged 96, will be held at 2pm on 24th November at St Michael's Aston Tirrold

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

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**

Continued on next page

Church news from previous page

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**

Free organ recital
St Andrew's Hagbourne – 1st November 5pm

As our next recital will be in the week leading up to Remembrance Sunday, Father Jason will play a specially composed Organ Requiem dedicated to the Berkshire Yeomanry and the Royal Berkshire Regiment, both of which have strong local connections. All welcome to this free organ recital!

Mothers' Union

For many years our charity has joined forces with others to support the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence. This runs from the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women on November 25th, to December 10th, International Human Rights Day. Special meetings and prayer events are held during this 16-day period, but MU works alongside communities to help end domestic abuse and gender-based violence and to support those affected by it, 365 days of the year. MU is very much aware that men as well as women can be victims of domestic abuse. Some branches in the Oxford Diocese give practical support to Women's Refuges.
Particular to Mothers' Union is the **RISE UP** campaign:
R – RESPOND appropriately to disclosures
I – INFORM; become more knowledgeable
S – SUPPORT those who have experienced abuse
E – EMPOWER; become strengthened to act where possible
U – UNITE with the Holy Spirit and
P – PRAY
We encourage and welcome you to join us for a half hour prayer service during the 16 Days, on **Saturday 5th December at 10am in Blewbury Church**. This issue touches many lives and is often hidden.
Our monthly Holy Communion service followed by refreshments at Upton church will be on Thursday 19th November 10am at St. Mary's Church, Upton. All are very welcome. Join us and Join in.
Revd Louise Butler 07837 009730, leader, Churn MU branch

"A wholesome and strengthening influence"

As you read these words, you may well be wondering to yourself: where do these words come from? Who wrote them? To what do they refer?
The words come from King George VI, and they appear at the front of the bible given to all who were serving in the Armed Forces during the early years of the 2nd World War.
I have a copy of one of these bibles, given to a certain John Hudson on 8th November 1940. I don't know if John survived the war, but his bible did, and I have it in front of me as I write these words. The bible issued by the King contains only the books of the New Testament – this kept the book small and easily portable.
The King's message in full reads as follows: "To all serving in my forces by sea, or land, or in the air, and indeed, to all my people engaged in the defence of the Realm. I commend the reading of this book. For centuries the bible has been a wholesome and strengthening influence in our national life, and it behoves us in these momentous days to turn with renewed faith to this Divine source of comfort and inspiration." These words are dated 15th September 1939 – right at the very beginning of the war.
Many have found the bible to be indeed a source of "comfort and inspiration". It is a book for everyone – and not just a book for people who happen to believe in God. Everyone can benefit from engaging with it, just as everyone can benefit from experiencing a bit of Shakespeare. But, like Shakespeare, it can be a challenging text. If you are interested in exploring the bible further, I recommend having a look at the excellent resources provided by the Bible Society (www.biblesociety.org.uk) . I would also recommend coming along to one of our church services, especially the 6pm service every Sunday at St Andrew's Hagbourne, where there is usually plenty of opportunity to discuss (and debate!) passages from the bible in more detail.
The bible is indeed a "wholesome and strengthening influence" – but only if we are prepared to engage with it, and bring an open and inquiring mind. *Father Jason*

ASTON TIRROLD UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
& CENTRE FOR REFLECTION

Spring Lane, Aston Tirrold OX11 9EJ

Minister: Rev Glyn Millington

NOVEMBER SERVICES AND EVENTS

Sunday 1st Nov 11am	Holy Communion led by Rev Cara Heafey
Sunday 8th Nov 10.45am	Act of Remembrance at the Village Memorial followed by ecumenical Morning Worship led by Rev Philip Mader-Grayson and Father Jason
Sunday 15th Nov 11am	Morning Worship led by Rev Glyn Millington
Sunday 22nd Nov 11am	Morning Worship led by the Worship Group
Sunday 29th Nov 11am	**Online only** Morning Worship led by Rev Lynda Spokes

This month at the Centre:

Saturday 7th Nov 10am–3pm. Work day. Our monthly get together to care for our buildings and outdoor spaces. All are welcome to drop by and say hello, or join in.

Saturday 28th Nov – Quiet Garden Day. Would you like a day, or even just a few hours off-grid? Quiet Garden Days are held 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 at the Centre:

- 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
- Questioning Faith Matters, around the second Thursday of the month, 7.30-9.30pm. An open discussion forum for people of all faiths and none.

The service on 29th Nov is online (at https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86459261390).
All other church services this month are hybrid (in person and online, at the above URL throughout the month) and are followed by coffee in the Centre. For further information contact Julian Gallop at **julian.gallop@gmail.com**. Everyone is welcome in person, or online.
Our aim is to be an accessible, inclusive church

United Charities
of the Ancient Parish of Blewbury

DO YOU NEED A HELPING HAND THIS CHRISTMAS?

The festive season can be a joyful time of year, but it can also be an anxious time of year if your family is struggling financially. At United Charities, we can help individuals and families with additional costs at Christmas if money is a bit tight, particularly if you are already stretched paying the bills.

We offer support to people of all ages living in the Astons, Blewbury and Upton by providing a one off payment which can 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.

There is a short application form to complete which can be picked up from the porch of All Saints Church, or requested by email to **unitedcharities@outlook.com**. 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

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)

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 (19)

07599 209177
Available weeknights and weekends.

Lives in Aston Tirrold

Olivia McCarthy (22)

07544 109 504
Available during university holidays

Lives in Aston Tirrold

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