## PARISH NOTES



Mark Lord

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CAB Local office www.adviceguide.org.uk	01844 214827
Chinnor Village Centre	01844 353733
Church Tower, Aston Rowant: R Newton	01844 352926
Dial-a-ride (for people with mobility problems)	01869 327048
Highways Pothole Hotline	0845 3101111
Highways Street Light Hotline	0800 317802
Library-Chinnor	01844 351721
Oxon County Council www.oxfordshire.gov.uk	01865 792422
Pleck Wood: Les Martins	01844 353968
Police-Thame (Thames Valley)	101 or 999
Poor's Hillock Allotments: Lavinia Martins	01844 353968
Porch: S Thompson	01844 351334
Porch: J Rooksby	01844 352320
Post office-Chinnor	01844 351214
Schools:	
Aston Rowant C of E School	01844 351671
Icknield Community College Watlington	01491 612691
Lord Williams School Thame	01844 210510
Mill Lane School Chinnor	01844 352106
St Andrew's C of E, Chinnor	01844 351353
SODC Main Customer Services	01235 422422
SODC Refuse/Recycling	03000 610 610
SODC Planning	01235 422600
Reporting Fly-tipping	03000 610 610
SODC Environmental Department	01235 422403
Village Hall Hire/Bookings: Andrea Tinson	07391 139707

#### **LOCAL CHURCH CONTACTS**

#### Rector to the United Parish

Revd Maggie Thorne

The Rectory, Chinnor OX39 4DH

01844 354626

#### **Assistant Curate**

The Rev'd Dr. Jacky Barr

#### **Parish Administrator**

Louise Heathcote csarc@btinternet.com

Chinnor Church Office, OX39 4PG 01844 352472

#### **Associate Clergy:**

#### **Aston Rowant**

The Rev'd Des Foote 01844 355945 The Rev'd Dr. Brian Griffiths 01844 355953

Jo Whitfield 01844 355263

#### Crowell

The Rev'd Maggie Thorne 01844 354626 Jo Whitfield 01844 355263

#### Churchwardens

Aston Rowant: Jenny Flynn 01844 352345, Jeremy Wilcock 01844 761119
Crowell: Jeremy Peters 07711716614, Andy Warman 01844 351909
Retired Clergy Supporting Us in our Parish Serena Hutton 01844 354173

PCC Treasurer Michael DeVal12 Oakley Road, Chinnor OX39 4HB 07807 967452

For arrangements for Baptism, Confirmation & Marriage please contact the Parish Administrator (see above).

Methodist Services - Station Road, Chinnor

#### **LOCAL CHURCH SERVICES**

#### ASTON ROWANT CHURCH SERVICES

First Sunday of every month 10am Family Service 2nd, 3rd,4th Sundays 10am Holy Communion

Fifth Sundays see notice board in Church porch or village notice board

1st Tuesday of every month 8am Morning Prayers

#### **CROWELL CHURCH SERVICES**

1st Sunday of the month 6pm Evensong 2nd Sunday of the month 10am Eucharist 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month **Soul Space** at 5.30pm

**Listening Ear** –St Andrew's Church, Chinnor

every Wednesday 7.30-9.30pm



Aston Rowant Church by Louise Heathcote



Dear friends

Something that makes the churches in the United Parish so distinctive is their bells. Chinnor and Aston Rowant each have six tower bells; Sydenham has a carillion and Crowell has just the one, and all of them are used regularly prior to services and for special occasions such as weddings.

Over the centuries, our bells have spoken to the people of our villages with wordless voices. They have shouted in warning, wept in mourning and laughed in rejoicing; they have told the time and called the faithful to worship; they have brought their own special kind of music to the people of the villages. Although we can't escape the constant noise of 21st century living buzzing around our ears, even here at the foot of the Chiltern hills, our bells cannot be entirely silenced. Because they have such power to stir the human soul, they still find a place in the modern world, bringing old traditions with them and making new ones. We have perhaps grown used to the sound of bells as part of the general sound of our villages, but we also need to remember that the bells don't ring themselves.

Many years ago I responded to the cry of my then local parish for more bell ringers. Unfortunately my first attempt resulted in a broken finger, but I think such an accident is a rarity and bell ringing is something which brings people together rather than sends them to A&E! It clearly wasn't my vocation, but maybe it's yours? If you're interested, then have an informal chat with Malcolm Barker (Tower Captain, St. Andrew's) on 342917 or Robert Newton (Tower Captain, Sts. Peter and Paul, Aston Rowant) on 352926.

I'm tempted to quote Edgar Allan Poe's wonderful poem, 'The Bells', in order to elicit your response, but because it's rather long, I'll leave you to look it up if you're interested. Instead, here are a couple of short, anonymous ones. If you prefer the first, then bell ringing is NOT your vocation, but if you prefer the second, then perhaps the bells are calling you!

'Old Church Bells' Yank yank clank clank

'Short-cut to prayer' Listen to church bells while on your knees

Every blessing

Maggie

#### CHURCH DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

#### October

1st Harvest Festival, Aston Rowant Church, 10am

**Art & Soul**, 12-5pm, BVM Church, Crowell. Followed by **Harvest Evening Prayer**, 6pm

11th **Talk by The Revd Lady Denise Brown** – My life of Faith, 2pm in Church Hall, all very welcome. (MU)

8th, 15th **Pilgrim: A Course for the Christian Journey**, 4pm at The Rectory. This course comprises eight different aspects of our faith which each divide into six sessions. This is intended for any who wish to be confirmed, those who would like to do some gentle Bible study and for any who want to explore their faith a little more. Each session lasts for approximately 1.5 hours and includes refreshments.

#### November

12th, 19th, 26th Pilgrim: A Course for the Christian Journey

25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Market 10am – 12noon St. Andrew's Church.





#### Margaret Rosemary Simson (known to us all as Rosemary) 1920 – 2017



It is with sadness that on behalf of Rosemary's family I write to let you know of Rosemary's passing. She died peacefully in her sleep on 8th September.

About three years ago, Rosemary left Plowden Park and moved to a wonderful home which took great care of her, and meant she was able to be nearer to her family in Faringdon. She was an amazing lady who was a great friend and neighbour.

In accordance with her wishes, the family are having a private cremation. On Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October at 11.00am there will be a Service of Thanksgiving followed by the burial of her ashes at St. Peter & St. Paul Church, Aston Rowant.

Anyone wishing to do so are very welcome to join them. (There will be food and refreshments afterwards at the Lambert Hotel, so it would be helpful if you could let them know if you are joining them there by emailing rickyliz.cunningham@btinternet.com).

Instead of flowers, Rosemary requested that donations be made to the Leukaemia Research charity, now known as Bloodwise, The Blood Cancer Research Charity, and this can be done either at the Service or sent c/o Surman & Horwood Funeral Services, The Green, Crowell, Oxfordshire OX39 4RR.

#### **Mandy Brine**

3 Plowden Park, Aston Rowant

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11:45-12:15pm Lunch
Filled rolls coffee/tea/wine
12:15-1:00pm Second music programme

#### ADMISSION BY DONATION TO THE ORCHESTRA

\* SUPPORTED BY THE HILLWERKE TRUST \*

#### **PARISH COUNCIL & LOCAL CONTACTS**

#### Parish Website

www.astonrowant.org.uk Parish Clerk Tracy Lambourne clerk@astonrowant.org.uk 01844 353989 07971039612

#### **Parish Councillors:**

Chairman Peter Tinson	Kingston Blount	01844 352817
Vice Chair Peter Hetherington	Kingston Blount	01844 353296
Councillor Matthew Day	Kingston Blount	01844 351300
Councillor Lynn French	Aston Rowant	01844 350154
Councillor Steven Sowerby	Kingston Blount	01844 351392
Councillor Trelawney Hill	Aston Rowant	01844 353051

#### **District Councillors:**

Lynn Lloyd	01844 354313	lynn.lloyd@southoxon.gov.uk
Ian White	01844 352085	ian.white@southoxon.gov.uk

#### **County Councillor**

Jeannette Matelot jeannette.matelot@oxfordshire.gov.uk

MP

John Howell 01491 612852 howelljm@parliament.uk

Police Community Support Office ThameHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

tel: 101

Village Hall Hire/Bookings

Andrea Tinson 07391 139707 bookings@kbvh.org

Play Area

Tracy Lambourne 01844 353989 clerk@astonrowant.org.uk

Aston Rowant Cricket Club Chairman

Paul Humphreys 07880 791022

#### **ASTON ROWANT PARISH COUNCIL NEWS**

Although the Parish Council did not meet over the summer, Councillors oversaw a number of activities during July and August. The resurfacing of the Moors Path between Kingston Blount and Aston Rowant was completed in August and has drawn a number of favourable comments from parishioners. We are grateful to Peter Hetherington for his sterling work in raising the funds for the improvements. The new surface will take a little while to bed down and further compacting work is scheduled as part of that bedding in process. The pathway is contained between running boards to both contain the surface material and prevent spillage from adjoining land which would cause the path to become muddy. This does mean that in places the footpath is necessarily slightly higher than the adjacent land; consequently smaller children may need more supervision over these sections.

Sunshine was in fairly short supply over the summer. However it is pleasing to report that the play area in Kingston Blount was well used during the school holidays. We are grateful to the volunteers who carry out regular inspections of the area to ensure that it continues to be safe. The Council has authorised work to carry out a number of minor repairs that were identified.

The Council has funded the design work and consultation on traffic calming measures on the B4009 in Kingston Blount. Matt Day gives further details on page 17 of this edition of the Notes.

Finally we are hoping for less disruption to waste collections as a new fleet of waste and recycling vehicles is deployed. The whole fleet will be in place by 2nd October and will be covered in eye-catching designs to encourage recycling. With the new fleet, there'll be a change to the way our waste is collected. At present, food waste and recycling (or rubbish) is collected in separate compartments within the same truck. When the full fleet is here, these collections will be by two separate vehicles – one for food waste, another for recycling or rubbish. This will not affect collection days or how you use your bins.

**Peter Tinson** 

Chairman ARPC

#### **ASTON ROWANT PARISH COUNCIL NOTES**

A meeting of the Parish Council was held on Wednesday 13th September in Kingston Blount Village Hall at 7.30pm. There was no meeting in August.

At the time of writing, the next meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday 11th October in Kingston Blount Village Hall.

#### PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

P17/S2497/FUL Replacement dwelling and detached garage at Queens Gate Bungalow, Butts Way, Aston Rowant SHOULD BE REFUSED P17/S2719/O Land at Paddock House, 22 Church Lane, Aston Rowant SHOULD BE REFUSED

#### PLANNING DECISIONS OF SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL:

**P17/S1941/HH** Single storey front and first floor extensions at 5 Aston Park, Aston Rowant. *GRANTED*.

**P17/S2004/HH** Single storey and first floor extension & alterations at Chiltern Cottage, The Green, Kingston Blount. *GRANTED*.

**P17/S2119/HH** Tiled lean-to extension at Field House, Chinnor Road, Aston Rowant. *GRANTED*.

#### PLANNING DECISIONS MADE SINCE THE LAST MEETING: None

Please note that all Planning Applications for the Parish can be found on the Parish Council Website: <a href="http://www.astonrowant.org.uk/Planning">http://www.astonrowant.org.uk/Planning</a>

All past minutes of Aston Rowant Parish Council (Including the Annual Parish Meeting) can be found under: <a href="http://www.astonrowant.org.uk/meetings.html">http://www.astonrowant.org.uk/meetings.html</a>

Occasional updates concerning the Parish are added to the Kingston Blount / Aston Rowant (KBAR) Facebook page. To join, login to Facebook <a href="www.facebook.com">www.facebook.com</a>, search for 'KBAR' and ask to join the group.

#### **Tracy Lambourne**

Clerk to Aston Rowant Parish Council

#### **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Following a short summer break, the Steering Group has reconvened to review the responses to the public consultation on Green Spaces and potential housing sites. Over the same period, SODC has moved its Local Plan process forward, with a view to going to public consultation in October, then to independent examination and, hopefully, adoption next year. This will provide a firmer base from which the Neighbourhood Plan can emerge.

As now proposed, the SODC policy for housing in small villages looks for the provision of 500+ new dwellings across the district. Those villages with a Neighbourhood Plan will be expected to make provision for a 5% increase above the number of dwellings recorded in 2011. Those without a Plan can expect to have an increase of up to 10% forced upon them, on the basis that their location will be developer-led. The need for a Neighbourhood Plan remains pressing if we are to exercise control over the when, where, how many and what type factors in the new dwellings.

The consultation in June threw up over thirty possible housing sites, some with very few promoters and others with a greater degree of support. Our next task will be to work with SODC to make sure that each potential site is fairly and properly assessed, in accordance with NP rules. Then we will be putting a short list back to the community for a more formal consultation, bearing in mind that, under the above policy, our commitment may only be to 17-20 dwellings, including conversions, infill plots and new-builds.

On the Green Spaces front, the task is somewhat easier, in that many important spaces are self-evident, with unanimous support, and because there are readily-available NP rules by which we must abide. Public Open Space and spaces available to and used by the public (village greens, playing fields, playgrounds, cultivated allotments, etc.) will be Category 1 spaces. Less accessible but strategically important spaces (the gaps between villages, uncultivated allotments, spaces of historic significance) would be Category 2. Category 3 would include spaces of visual significance to which the public has no access (paddocks, farmland within the settlements, etc.). Our next step will be to agree these categories with SODC, ahead of public consultation early next year.

As with the housing sites, any such allocations have to be rigorously assessed, so it is a lot more than just a Strictly Come Dancing popular vote.

Following my polite rant in the last Parish Notes about the lack of bodies on the Steering Group, I'm pleased to say that there has been some welcome interest in our activities and some new faces at our meetings. All are still welcome – we meet on the second Tuesday of the month in Kingston Blount Village Hall – so, 7.30 on 10 October, 14 November and, maybe 12 December.

#### Mark Thackeray

#### FLOWERS AT FIVEWAYS

Mike Eaton has sent in these photographs of the wildflowers flourishing at Fiveways in Aston Rowant.



#### Viper's-bugloss

Viper's-bugloss or *Echium vul*gare is mainly found on sandy and chalk soils. It is a hairy plant with dense spikes of bright blue, funnel-shaped flowers. It is in bloom from May to September. It provides food for a range of insects including Buff-tailed and Red-tailed Bumblebees, Large Skipper and Painted Lady Butterflies, Honey Bees and Red Mason Bees.

#### **Toadflax**

The orange and yellow flowers of common Toadflax or *Linaria vulgaris* appear in June and can be seen well into November. They look like the flowers of snapdragons and are often densely packed. They give the plant its other common name of Butter and Eggs.



#### **Fox and Cubs**

The Fox and Cubs wildflower (*Pilosella aurantiaca*) is a bright orange wild flower that most people will know by sight but few will know by this name, though they might recognise the name orange hawkweed. It plays a vital role in attracting pollinating insects. It flowers from June to September.



#### TRAFFIC CALMING

The feedback we received from residents was in preference for a chicane at the entrance to the village rather than speed bumps, and we have been pursuing this option. For the past six months I have been working with the highways engineers at Oxfordshire County Council to produce the detailed plans needed, and now these plans are finally completed.

The concept we asked them to adopt is for a chicane made up of two build outs at the entrance to the village that will encourage drivers to slow down even if there is no oncoming traffic. It is recognised that some drivers speed up when approaching a single build out but they can't if there is a double. OCC have accepted this design and their engineers have confirmed it is technically possible and as such have produced the detailed plans.

The next stage is for the residents, the Parish Council and other statutory bodies, such as the Police and ambulance services to be consulted on the plans.

The consultation documents can found on the OCC website and should be published in the next week or so.

https://consultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consult.ti

The Parish Council will also have copies of the plans, which can be viewed at our next meeting, or by contacting the Clerk or myself (contact details are on page 12).

#### **Matthew Day**

Aston Rowant Parish Council

#### **NEWCOMERS TO THE VILLAGE**

You may have noticed Chiltern Cottage on The Green has reappeared out of the trees. Laura and Rob Purse have bought the house and have been working hard on both the house and garden to give it some much needed attention. They won't move in until the house is completed as Laura is expecting a baby any moment now. They are looking forward to meeting more people in the village once they have moved in.

If you've just moved to the village please send me an email at sarahparishnotes@gmail.com so I can include an introduction in the next issue.









#### JACK HUDSON'S BORNEO TRIP





Dear Readers of the Parish Notes

Thank you very much for all the help you have all given to me in my efforts to raise enough money to my trip in Borneo.

The trip was absolutely amazing and a true life experience that I will never forget. From climbing the tallest mountain in south East Asia to escaping the grasp of angry Orang-utans, I enjoyed every part of the trip even after five days of altitude sickness. I ate rice and noodles for breakfast, lunch and dinner for three weeks and as you can imagine have avoided them since my return to the UK. As well as climbing to 4,095 m in two days we also built a path in the Sun Bear sanctuary, spent the night in the jungle and in a bamboo long house, drank freshly squeezed pineapple juice, had some rather dodgy bus rides, ate some strange chicken hearts and snorkelled in the coral triangle with best friend Nemo.

There are some people that I would like to give an extra thank you to and they are:

The Aston Rowant school house trust that were very kind with their donations. Nigel Williams for all your continuing support.

Jo and Tim Gent and all the other kind villagers that had small jobs for me to do that helped me raise my £3400.

However like Bear Grylls the adventuring doesn't stop there and I plan on travelling to Australia and Asia with two of my closet friends for a year of a lifetime after my A levels. So I will still be available for small jobs and any babysitting to raise money for this trip.

Thank you very much

#### from Jack Hudson

mobile 07714136911 — Text me please as I may be in school.

#### NOTICEBOARD

#### What's going on in Kingston Blount, Aston Rowant & nearby



#### Advertising in the Parish Notes

The Parish Notes are published every two months and delivered to every household in the area. Please contact Julian Knight if you are interested in advertising. jknight652@aol.com

1/4 page—£10 or six for £40 1/2 page—£15 or six for £60, Full page—£30 or six for £120

#### Watlington Gardening Club

Watlington Gardening Club's October meeting will be on the 4<sup>th</sup> October. The talk will be by John Negus (the well known broadcaster) on 'Wisley through the Seasons'. November's meeting will be on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November. This talk will be by Victoria Longue from Whitehall Farmhouse Plants, on 'Extending the season in your garden without replacing all your plants.' On 6<sup>th</sup> December the Club has its very popular Christmas Social. The meetings are held in Watlington Town Hall at 7.45pm, with coffee, tea and biscuits afterwards. Everyone is welcome and guests pay £2.50.

#### For Sale

Olive Crossley has a small round gate leg table with fold out leaves for sale. It would be useful for Christmas as it's quite small and folds up against the wall. She is asking £15.00. You can contact her on 01844 351296.

#### **Cantilena Winds Lunctime Concerts**

By the time you read this we will have enjoyed the first concert by CANTILENA WINDS - our very own village wind orchestra. Our second and third concerts are in rehearsal -so please come and support. 10.30- 1.00PM (lunch available) KB Village Hall. Friday November 17th and Friday December 15th. (see p.11)

#### Christmas Fair for Watlington Hospital.

The annual Charity Christmas Fair for Watlington Hospital is bigger and better this year and moving from Benson Parish Hall to the Oxfordshire Golf Club, Ryecote Lane, Milton Common. Held on Thursday November 16th, 9.30am – 3.00pm, it will have a wide variety of local stallholders selling fabulous gifts including (among other things) designer clothing; cashmere knitwear; wonderfully luxurious lambskin coats and jackets; unique presents for men; specialist delicatessen products and food hampers; home-made Christmas cakes; stunning glass and chinaware.

#### **JO GENT'S CHANNEL SWIM**



#### Thank You for Your Support!

Thank you so much to everyone in the parish who supported the English Channel swim I took part in with my colleagues from St Mark's hospital.

We were successful and crossed the channel in 12 hours and 45 minutes.

It was an amazing day blessed with wonderful weather and fantastic team work. We were very lucky!

In total we raised over £32,000 for the St Mark's foundation, and every penny will go towards research and treatment for bowel disease. Your kind support helped to make the challenge so successful and for me personally it meant a huge amount.

Thankyou!

Jo

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### NOTES FROM THE ALLOTMENT Plans for next year

Learn from your mistakes! Whether they be down to misjudgements/bad luck/poor weather or whatever the excuse!

I'd like to start this issue's Notes by saying congratulations to my fellow allotmenteers on another excellent season and some wonderful crops. Well done! It is a real joy to walk through the field this month and see the results of so much careful cultivation and inventiveness. It has been an excellent year for allotments because, although we may not have had the best of weather, we have had plenty of rain and there has been little need for watering.

For me, however, it has been doubly frustrating. The first half of the summer was slow and many plants were held back by a lack of warmth, while the second half appeared to have been excellent for growing, with plenty of rain to make my lawn go crazy and the weeds on my plot thrive! I say 'appeared' because all this growth took place while we were away on holiday.

Friends tell me repeatedly that long holidays and well cultivated plots are incompatible...but I refuse to give up either one! So... Here's the plan. I am going to try every trick in the book to hurry on my early season plants and hold back my late season ones:

- 1. I am going to try to germinate my seeds in the airing cupboard even earlier.
- 2. I will make a heated cold frame to keep the seedlings going. I had one in Twickenham but forgot to bring it!
- 3. I will buy some nice cloches to keep the young plants nice and warm on cold May nights.

That's my plan for the first half of the growing season next year, and it should bring cropping forward by two weeks. Then in the second half while we are enjoying long, lazy Italian lunches, I need to do something to hold back the weed growth so I will:

- 1. Hoe through the plot just before we leave.
- Weed kill the edges of the plot to control troublesome weeds that overgrow the ground.
- 3. Water well just before we go, if needed and then mulch the plants with grass cuttings from my lawn and leave whilst on hols!

It's that sort of planning and optimism that keeps me gardening and dreaming! (A great book and a good present for birthdays is — *RHS Half Hour Allotment: Extraordinary crops from every day efforts* by Lia Leendertz)

**Dick Ewen** 

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#### LIFE AS A GIRL IN KINGSTON BLOUNT

Hello, my name is Eliza (I know I write this every time but I have no other ideas on how to start this...) And this is an update on what's happening and what's not, basically.

So, school has officially started and I'm now a Year 8. Not much has changed except I sit one seat further to the back of the bus, I have to wait longer in a queue to get lunch and I have one more embarrassing school photo to try and hide behind the cupboard in our living room.

I'm doing Inkotber in October—you make a drawing in ink every day. Hopefully I'll be able to finish all 31 this year.

Me and my friends went back to Aston Rowant school the other day, as we had an inset day, and it was so weird seeing everyone again. For once in my life I felt so much taller than everyone and actually quite jealous that they get to have seconds of apple crumble for lunch and get one piece of homework a week. I could remember when I was five and got stuck on top of the monkey bars and Mrs Lawson had to get me down by lifting me onto a table. Or when we did a talent show in year three and we danced totally out of tune to a really old song that we thought was cool in flowy black dresses. It was funny to think I'd never be going back with my purple backpack and red tights and my tin, mouse lunchbox.

Anyway, nostalgia aside, I better go finish my geography homework and revise for my French test.

See you soon

Eliza:)

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## A LETTER FROM THE HEADTEACHER Welcome back to school!

I hope everyone had a lovely Summer. Our new children who have started in Early Years look very smart in their new uniforms and are settling well into school life. I am very proud to say that we have a full cohort in Hedgehog class again this year. We have an exciting year ahead of us with the launch of the second year of our new creative curriculum. The children are already engaged in their new topics through exciting 'hands on' topic launches.

We are also working towards a Primary Science Quality Mark this year. This will allow us to show-case our amazing science teaching and learning. The Primary Science Quality Mark is an award scheme to enable us to work with primary schools across the UK to evaluate, strengthen and celebrate our science provision. Our 'Forest Fridays' are now up and running! We are developing our outdoor learning by taking part in 'Forest school' activities every Friday. We are so lucky to have such wonderful school grounds to do this. These activities offers ALL learners regular opportunities to achieve and develop confidence and self-esteem through hands-on activities in woodland or natural environment.

Come and have a look at what we offer. We are open for guided tours and personalised meetings for new and existing parents. We feel that by offering bespoke and open visits to our school we can personalise each tour to reflect our nurturing ethos that comes with being a small village school. If you are currently looking for places for your children to start school in 2018 and for all other year groups, then please contact the School Office and I would be only too pleased to welcome you to our lovely school.

#### **Mrs Eve Roberts**

Head Teacher – Aston Rowant Primary School visit www. aston-rowant.oxon.sch.uk for more information

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#### WILL NASH'S CANADIAN ADVENTURE



Will Nash from Aston Rowant has been 'exploring the Canadian Wilderness one day at a time,' fundraising for Macmillan Cancer Support and the RNLI in memory of his father, Jonathan Nash. He blogs about his trip on his website WillNashAdventures.com where there are links there to donate to both causes. Below is an excerpt (edited slightly to fit).

September 3, 2017

#### Castle and the Bears

Leaving the ranch I realised how late I had left it to get to Castle Mountain, where I had arranged to meet Anne and Greg for Huckleberry festival - the berry picking festival. With the large mountains to my West I lost about an hour of daytime and was quite quickly plunged into darkness en route, leaving me to squint into the dense forest all around me for anything that might be lurking nearby. This was my first headlong trajectory into the Rocky Mountains and with that came the

knowledge that this area was home to an animal I had thus far not had to worry about - the grizzly bear.

Whilst there are plenty of black bears across Canada, particularly along the stretch of Northern Ontario I had battled through a month ago, grizzly bears posed a whole new threat: they were far larger than a black bear, were known to charge humans, could tear open car doors with their knife-like claws, were famously protective of their young, and were known to stick around for



hours after mauling humans to make sure you weren't just playing dead. In other words, encounters were best kept to a minimum.

And so, when my searching squints into the darkness yielded a large black silhouette in the ditch beside the road, my pulse quickened. It was only in wary



passing with this animal that I realised it was actually a cow. Several such encounters occurred on my way to Castle, none of which was any less pulse-quickening than the last; the growing darkness exacerbating my imaginings. I would liken the feeling of being alone in the dark here with the feeling of swimming in open water. There is a constant internal battle to keep the thought of being stalked out of one's mind, and half-hearted promises to one's-self are repeated that probability is on your side — an attack is improbable. But not impossible. The thought creeps back in.



Nevertheless, I made it to Castle Mountain and to Greg and Anne's lodge without having been mauled. The next morning, I was invited out fly fishing with Greg (left) and Dale (right,) who were both far more seasoned fishermen than myself. Note the three cans of bear spray. Perhaps not such irrational thoughts after all - a fisherman had been killed by a grizzly a few years ago where we were heading. I gave it a go, but as ever, I couldn't catch a thing. The next day we were out relatively early for the main

event - Huckleberry Fest. None of us were really too bothered about picking any berries, particularly as this year it had been so dry that very few were the swollen luscious type good for eating, but used the occasion to jump on the chairlift and go for a hike by Haig Lake on the BC-Alberta border. We were approaching the lake when a family hurried past is in the other direction, saying 'There's a grizzly bear by the lake, we're getting out of here!' looks of worry written in the eyes of the children who grasped their parents' hands.

After some discussion we decided to try and catch a glimpse further up the path. What an awesome sight! A wild grizzly bear swimming in a lake, splashing itself and diving down to cool itself off in the heat of the summer sun. We decided we ought to move when the bear swam over to our side of the lake and began to get out. But rather than go back the way we came we decided to loop round through the bush and rejoin our original route on the other side of the valley, hopefully without bumping into our wet friend. When we were walking back down towards the resort, we heard the ominous sound of a whistle being frantically blown not far ahead of us, and the shout of 'Bear!' myself and Anne, who were leading the group suddenly spotted another Grizzly much much closer than the last, digging a hole about 200 yards ahead of us. It was pulling out huge chunks of rock and earth from the path that we were supposed to be following.

Finally it got what it had been searching for and began to walk off down the hill and into the trees. Warily, we recommenced our walk along the path, the mood very much fearful and alert. At one stage, we decided to consolidate our group (safety in numbers, right?) when suddenly those that were trailing behind shouted 'The bear's coming right towards you!' In an instant, we all abandoned the much talked-of ad-

vice to stay calm and don't run, and begun sprinting up the hill, all the while casting panicked looks over our shoulders to see in which direction it was coming from. Thankfully, it didn't get us, in fact, it probably had no interest in us at all. But that didn't make the encounter any less exhilarating. In over ten years of hiking in the Canadian Rockies, Greg and Anne had only ever seen one bear, and on my second hike I had seen two.



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#### TESSA WYATT'S COUNTRY DIARY

A selection from September's Facebook posts

#### 9 September

Lovely big blackberries in our hedge. Blackberry and apple pie here we come! Just got to wait for our apples to ripen a bit more. Think I'll pick these little dears and freeze them or the mice will get them!

#### 10 September

Autumn bounty. My crab apple tree is so laden this year the branches are quite bowed and the fruit has never been

#### 12 September

such a rich red.

Apple crumble anyone? I love autumn!

#### 15 September

Bright yellow hawkweed everywhere and the last of the wild rocket still flowering in my wild patch in the garden. The hogweed turns a blush pink just before it dies back, so much prettier than its normal drab white. The last of the roses are trying to bloom but it's s too cold, so they ate staying stubbornly in bud. Let's hope they don't become sodden in the rain.

#### ...also 15 September

Wow. →



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#### **STARboddlers**

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#### **KINDERGYM**

www.kindergym.co.uk Thame and Chinnor on Monday and Tuesdays mornings

#### **TIDDLYPEEPS**

www.tiddlypeeps-chinnor.co.uk Playgroup on Friday mornings 9.30am – 11.30am Just turn up, £1.50 per family

#### **CHILDREN'S SUNDAY CLUB**

The 1st & 3rd Sundays of each month at St. Andrew's Church Hall, Chinnor (Behind the Village Centre)

#### SYDENHAM COFFEE MORNING

Thursday 12th October Coffee Morning 10.00am – 12noon, at Sydenham Old School Room. All welcome

Please email sarahparishnotes@gmail.com with any new information regarding events, groups or ideas for fun things to do with small children.





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#### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

#### **OCTOBER**

1st	Harvest Festival Service & Cream Teas (p. 8)
	Art & Soul BVM Church followed by Harvest Eve Prayer (p.8)
4th	Watlington Gardening Club (p.20)
9th	Rosemary Simson's Service (p.9)
10th	Neighbourhood Plan Meeting (p.15)
11th	Parish Council Meeting KBVH (p.14)
25th	Christmas Market St Andrew's Church (p.8)

#### **NOVEMBER**

1st	Watlington Gardening Club (p.20)
12th	Sydenham Coffee Morning (p.35)
14th	Neighbourhood Plan Mtg (p.5)
16th	Christmas Fair, Oxfordshire Golf Club (p.20)
17th	Cantilina Winds Concert (p.11)

#### **DECEMBER**

MONDAYS

6th	Watlington Gardening Club Social (p.20)
15th	Cantilina Winds Concert (p.11)

#### **REGULAR DATES**

Yoga 7.00pm KB Village Hall

Kindergym morning Thame Zumba 6.30pm KB Village Hall	Smurf-fit 9.30am, Watlington StarBoddlers 11.00am St. Andrew's Church
TUESDAYS Kindergym morning Chinnor Bell Ringing 7.30pm Aston Rowant	FRIDAYS Tiddlypeeps 9.30am Chinnor Senior Circuits 10.00am Watlington
	SATURDAYS (1st & 3rd of month)

**THURSDAYS** 

WEDNESDAYS

Kettlebell Abs 6.00pm KB Village Hall

SATURDAYS (1st & 3rd of month)
Soul Space 5.30pm Crowell Church

SUNDAYS (1st of month)
Aston Rowant Church Family
Friendly service 10.00am

COPY FOR THE DEC/JAN ISSUE IS DUE ON 15TH NOVEMBER Please send by email to sarahparishnotes@gmail.com