



The Newsletter for Aston, Cote, Shifford and Chimney © Issue No 187 May / June 2022

## Aston Community Shop

Our Easter and Mother's Day ranges proved popular with customers and extra chocolate treats needed to be ordered to ensure we kept well stocked!

As the days lengthen and the weather improves it's great to have the shop still open every weekday in the afternoons, thanks to our great team of volunteers.

Filling all our shifts is quite a task some weeks, particularly during the holiday season. We are always pleased to welcome new people to join our fantastic team. No previous experience is necessary, full training and support will be provided.

We are very short of volunteers to cover 9.00 to 12.00 on Sundays, so if you are available to offer even one session a month we would be particularly grateful to welcome you to the team.

Other times are also available, on weekdays we organise cover in three or four shifts: 8.30 - 11.30, 11.30 - 2.00, and 2.00 - 4.00, and 4.00 - 6.30 on Thursdays and Fridays. On Saturdays we have two shifts. We would also like to be able to extend our opening until at least 6pm on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday when we have sufficient volunteers available.

So if you can spare just 2-3 hours a week or fortnight, we would love to hear from you!

There are a few welcome additions to our range of stock:

- The ice-cream freezer is fully stocked again with a variety of cold treats.
- Takeaway coffee is now available every day.
- There is an extended range of Greetings Cards for every occasion reasonably priced from £1.25. Together with wrap and gift bags, priced from £1.55. These can all be found in the post office area at the back of the shop.

Do let us know if there any specific products and brands you would like us to consider stocking; we will do our best to add these to our range.

Thank you to everyone for continuing to support our vital village shop.

*Sally Lee, Aston Community Shop*



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Articles may be emailed to [astonnewsletter@hotmail.com](mailto:astonnewsletter@hotmail.com) or delivered to Penny Black House, The Square.

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# Aston, Cote, Shifford and Chimney Parish Council

## Annual Report (FY) 2021/22 - Summary

Redacted for editorial reasons. The full report may be found on the Council website, [www.astonoxon.com](http://www.astonoxon.com)

**Our Parish Council** Despite actively promoting this year's local elections and much-increased public interest in council proceedings over the past 12 months, there were only five nominations for the required seven seats. Regrettably therefore, the election for the Parish Council on 5th May will be uncontested. The five councillors for 2022-26 will be Alex Chapman, Gill Ball, Russell La Forte, John Ordish and Paul Sparrowhawk. Notwithstanding this, the Council does have the power to co-opt suitable volunteers for the two vacant seats. Anybody wishing to nominate themselves are encouraged to do so as soon as possible, ideally before the first meeting of the new council on 19th May.

**Flooding and Drainage** Flooding is the major (and the most likely) risk throughout the Parish, and is the Council's foremost concern in all planning matters. The lack of capacity in Thames Water's ageing infrastructure is a long-standing issue that continues to attract the personal attention of our WODC and OCC councillors and local MP. For its part, the Parish Council has continued to engage directly with Thames Water, for example on potential measures to mitigate issues at St Joseph's Court as well as the Bampton Road and Bull Street pumping stations. At our behest, Thames Water have also undertaken specific examination of the impact of the Hawthorns and Marsh Furlong developments. No quick or easy solutions are likely, but the problems are at least now formally identified, quantified and feature in Thames Water's long-term maintenance programmes.

**Housing Development and Planning Issues** Whilst it is WODC that determines all planning matters, we are a statutory consultee on all planning applications in the Parish (18 in FY 21/22) and exercise a degree of influence accordingly. A recurring concern for the Council is the sustainability requirement for all development, noting the Conservation Area status of much of the Parish and stressing (especially) the already overloaded drainage and sewerage system.

**OCC Children's Home, Back Lane** Following continued liaison with the Council, the design and layout of the proposed OCC children's home on Back Lane was amended and scaled down. Nevertheless, WODC objected to OCC's subsequent planning application on the grounds of 'conflict with planning policy and harm to heritage assets', citing two previous refusals in the same area. A revised application with amended design details has now been submitted.

**North Farm** Public consultation culminated in a definitive third round that concluded on 18th Feb that sought the views of residents on the five illustrative options provided by OCC. With 15% of residents (20% of households) responding, the Parish Council formally responded to OCC in March on behalf of the local community. In sum, this stated that assuming the site's continued unviability as a farm, the project should proceed using the 'nine houses' option as a foundation for further refinement, negotiation and continued (binding) engagement between all three levels of local government and the local community. OCC still await the results of their pre-application process from WODC, expected at the end of March. For its part, the Parish

Council will further develop and better define the relevant community benefits of the project for consideration by the LPA. Planning refusal by the LPA will result at best in a de facto 'do nothing' situation - not acceptable to the community - and could at worst see OCC dispose of the site without planning permission, very likely to a developer for 'land banking' for future intensive development - the worst outcome of all for the Parish.

**Marsh Furlong** The Council was as alarmed and surprised as everybody else early this year by notification of an intended 40-house development behind Marsh Furlong and Foxwood - the same site that was refused planning permission (confirmed in a subsequent appeal to the Planning Inspectorate) for a similar development in 2018/19. We were implacably opposed then and remain even more so today after a 20% increase in housing stock already over the past 18-months. The ensuing, entirely predictable and dire impacts upon already overloaded local infrastructure mean that our village simply cannot sustain another development of this size. With WODC assuring us that housing targets in Aston have been met for at least the next five to six years and with the land in question not appearing in the Local Plan, common sense ought to prevail, but we will monitor the situation extremely closely. Touted as an ostensibly 'affordable housing' development, this is in our view merely a cynical attempt to circumvent the Local Plan. The timing of this speculative bid (along with a large number of others across West Oxfordshire) arises from a five yearly review of the Local Plan currently underway by WODC but in which we understand that no changes affecting the Parish are envisaged. We have been advised of a public consultation phase in this review later in the year and will keep residents appraised accordingly.

**Hawthorns Development** The Hawthorns development nears completion in the next couple of months, somewhat delayed. All houses are now sold and all but one occupied. Once final groundworks are complete, a two year maintenance phase will commence whereby Matthew Homes will retain maintenance and repair responsibility.

**Traffic Calming** The first Section 106 receipts enabled the implementation last year of Stage 1 of our traffic calming project. Stage 2 was completed this year with signage for more minor access roads. A Stage 3 project has been submitted to OCC Highways, including potential adjustments to speed limits and zones. We still await formal recommendations from OCC regarding traffic management in The Square.

**Finance** The Parish remains in good financial state, as confirmed by our external auditors. The Council continued to exercise financial prudence and operated comfortably within its agreed budget of £37, 805. Some £7,362 of Section 106 money from the two developments on Cote Road has been used to fund traffic calming. Total Section 106 receipts over the period 2020-28 will total £186, 000. Financial grants, donations and projects in the Parish totalled £4,146.

The Budget for Financial Year 2022/23 was agreed at the Council meeting in December 21st. For the fourth consecutive year, we were delighted once again to be able to make no increase to the Precept, which at £29, 715 keeps the Band D equivalent household at £49.74 (around 3.6p/month for each parish resident).

*Russell La Forte, Chairman Aston, Cote, Shifford and Chimney Parish Council*



**Annual  
General  
Meeting**

**7.30 pm on Wednesday,  
25th May at the  
Fellowship Centre**

**All Welcome**

**Aston and Cote P.C.**



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Aston, Cote Shifford and Chimney  
Parish Council

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[www.astonoxon-pc.gov.uk](http://www.astonoxon-pc.gov.uk)

## Editorial

**Platinum Jubilee Celebrations** Have you planned anything yet? We have included details of the Jubilee Fete in this edition.

**Recipe.** We would like to continue publishing a recipe column in Voices. Issue number 1, June 1991, contained a recipe. It was for elderflower Sorbet and was written by Arlene Moody. Arlene, who lived in Back Lane, ran a catering business based at Aston Works in Laundry Lane. Since then the column has been taken on by others including Rita Allen, Alison Jequier, Liz Harper, Holly Squires and Monica Read.

**Cruciverbalist Required.** Yes we still need a crossword setter! Our first bespoke crossword appeared in our first issue. Most of our quick crosswords were set by Peter Lovell. Having someone in the parish set our crossword is much more satisfying than downloading one from the net or pinching one from the paper!

**Housing Development.** The planning application for 40 houses behind Foxwood has now been submitted to West Oxford District Council ref. 22/00986/FUL . Chris Fryer spoke about the proposed planning at the Annual Parish Meeting and we have asked Chris to write something about his views which we include in this edition of Voices..

**Letters.** We are always keen to published letters that are concerned with parish matters. Recently we received a letter about traffic in The Square. Unfortunately the letter was not signed and had no address and therefore we are unable to publish it.

**Sheep.** In the last edition we featured some sheep-related articles. Unfortunately photographs of sheep at Chimney Meadows did not receive the usual acknowledgment. Our apologies to Denis Kennedy- they were some great photographs.



Editors  
*Richard Haines and Andrew Long*

## WI News

For our March meeting we were given a talk from a local councillor Andrew Prosser about green issues and how we could all help the environment now and in the future. The talk was quite informative and he gave us various ideas about how we could all improve the way we went about trying to save the planet. The suggestions were to walk more use local transport to save on petrol. Recycle more products so as to save on one use plastics.

Then in April it was a visit from Susie Ashworth who demonstrated and talked about her creams, lotions and potions which she prepares herself in her local workshop. She bought loads of samples for us to try as well giving a piece of hand made soap. She explained that all her products were organic and she was able to source supplies of oils such as magnolia, lavender and jasmine to mix into her products. The smells were gorgeous and the creams were divine as you only needed a very small amount. These also help to relieve anxiety as well as stress..

For our next meeting as well as our annual Resolutions vote we have Shaun coming to talk about the history of afternoon teas. This should be interesting!

We are still hoping to restart our monthly walks so if there is anyone up to organising them please come forward. They are not strenuous and at the end we always manage to finish at a cafe for coffee and cake. It's always good to welcome new members so come along second Wednesday of the month.

*Lesley Brown*

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## Local Election Results

Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> May 2022

### WODC Election Result

Standlake, Aston and Stanton Harcourt

Sean Grace	Conservative	739
Charlie Maynard	Liberal Democrats	1019 <b>Elected</b>

Electorate 3683. Percent of Pole 47.98%

### Parish Council Election Result

Aston, Cote, Shifford and Chimney

Elected uncontested:

Gill Ball

Alexander Chapman

Russell La Forte

John Ordish

Paul Sparrowhawk

Source: WODC website

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## Platinum Jubby

A word of explanation about the mug...it came from China!

### My own thoughts on the Jubilee

I have always looked up to the Queen as a sort of 'Head Girl' and example to follow. When I was starting school she would have been in her mid-teens and was doing all the exciting things ( in my considered opinion) that I admired. She had a love of horses – so did I.

She was a Girl Guide – so was I.

During the war she joined up and learned how to strip down a jeep engine and get her hands dirty I always seemed to have my hands dirty and would have loved to learn how to strip down a jeep engine.

Strawberry jam sandwiches were one of her tea time favourites - and mine.

She married and gave birth to three sons and a daughter

I managed the three sons but not the daughter.

So far I was keeping up.

But where she left me far behind was in her ability to meet people (some very controversial) with courtesy and a smile, stand for hours through interminable speeches, march pasts, presentations and displays.

(I wonder if she ever had the urge, during a Knight of the Garter ceremony, to lop somebody's head off – or at least an ear!)

Now that loss of mobility is curtailing many of her activities let us hope she will be able to spend more time enjoying the rest and recreation, she has earned over the last seventy years and let the youngsters take the strain.

Thank you Ma'am for seventy glorious years of care and dedication.

Now is your time to put your feet up, go to the races and eat jam butties  
A VERY HAPPY PLATINUM JUBILEE!

Brenda Smith



## Nature Natters

The other day I looked out of the dining window and saw a pigeon on the lawn. Nothing special there you may say, but this pigeon had a sparrowhawk on top of it and the hawk was plucking the pigeon. Just then somebody walked past, and the hawk took off leaving the pigeon behind. Then the half-plucked pigeon took off.

The whole event brought back to me the time when I made a film about sparrowhawks, and it proved one of the most difficult programmes I made. The problem is that sparrowhawks are both very shy and totally brazen. You rarely see one and all you generally see is a bird disappearing behind a hedge. By contrast, a hunting sparrowhawk will pursue its prey recklessly, crashing through bushes or taking a blue tit off your bird-table before your very eyes.

Filming them on the nest incubating and feeding the chicks involved a lot of scaffolding, but from a tree-top hide it was quite straightforward. Filming the rest of their behaviour was deeply frustrating. Eventually we befriended a falconer and half of the film ended up being about him and his relationship with a totally neurotic creature. A sparrowhawk is probably the most difficult bird to train: it seems to be on a permanent adrenalin high and set for flight or fight. The first part of the training involves getting the bird to tolerate the falconer and not to fly off on sight. Then it must learn that the falconer is its source of food and when it sees the falconer that the glove is worth flying to. Getting the bird to return after it has flown free is the ultimate test and the moment of truth. Making wildlife films requires patience, but I can barely imagine the patience needed to train a bird of prey.

*James Gray*



## 1st Aston Brownies

Hello to all Brownie parents, thank you for your patience as we have had a little disruption due to illness within the unit recently.

However, Pat and I have been very busy organising the programme and working with the skills builders' badges. Also, we do encourage that Brownies use their Yellow Badge Book and look at working towards various interest badges at home, and then if they then bring their work in, we can check and sign it off. All being well we are looking at joining with some other units for days out and of course going to Camp at Jubilee Hall, more details will be posted out to everyone.

Finally, the unit is in a position to be able to accept new girls, for more details please get in touch with me on 07887974468 or [karenthegardener123@gmail.com](mailto:karenthegardener123@gmail.com)

Stay safe,

*Karen Stay. Unit Leader*



## Advertising in this Edition

### Building Services

Abbey Decorators  
Drew Warren  
S.J. Cooper  
Wayne Austin

### Food and Drink

Patrick Strainge butchers  
Aston Community Shop

### Garden Services

Arbocare Tree Surgery  
Cotswold Garden Designer  
Fruitful Branch  
Hoskins Horticulture  
Lawnsience

### Halls for hire

Aston Village Hall  
Fellowship Centre

### Health and well being

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GP Acupuncture  
Natural Therapy Hut  
Martin Drew chiropodist  
Reiki Therapy  
Roger Bradley Fitness  
Sandalwoods skin clinic

### Home Care

AJS Painting & Decorating  
Grimebusters carpet cleaners  
Carpet Options

### Pets

Cloud Ten cat hotel  
OXK9 Dog walking

### Services

Aston Repair Depot  
Catrin Russ Music Services  
Day & Nightcare Assistance  
Jequier Newitt insurance  
Le Jardin  
Nick Nurden – Motor Body Repairs  
Paul Lock Photography  
Peter Smith funeral directors  
Vicky's After School Club  
Firewood for sale

### Village organizations

Aston & Cote Badminton  
Aston & Cote Pre-School

### Local Authority

Aston and Cote P.C.  
W.O.D.C. Steve Good & Lysette Nicholls

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## Another 40 Houses in Aston?

Residents will be aware from the last edition of Voices of the proposed development of 40 so called 'Affordable Homes' homes by TERRA behind Foxwood. TERRA's planning application has now been submitted to West Oxford District Council ref. 22/00986/FUL and I encourage residents to object to this cynical and speculative attempt to circumvent the Local Plan and impose further unsustainable housing in our village. This can be done on the WODC website ([www.westoxon.gov.uk](http://www.westoxon.gov.uk)) View and comment on planning applications before 19th May 2022.

In 2020 there were 500 houses in Aston, in 2022 there are 615, an increase of 23% in the last two years without any commensurate increase or improvement in the local infrastructure and services. Aston has already done more than its fair share in meeting WODC housing targets and this includes affordable housing. The fact that they choose to call them 'Affordable Homes' is irrelevant, it is 40 more houses, 40 more families, more children for a school already full, at least 40 more cars and more sewage for an already overloaded system.

Terra's publicity machine swung into action last week issuing a press release printed in the Oxford Mail, Witney Gazette and Oxford Times. Their article is full of inaccuracies.

Terra claim to have held two public consultations. They have not. What they held were two presentations of their proposal. Public consultations on planning are events normally attended by Parish Council, (having been formally advised and invited which did not happen), the Local Authority—did they know? and an Enabler (who determines if there is a need for such a development) , none of whom were present, although some parish councillors got wind of the presentations and went along in their private capacity.

Terra claim there are 87 Households on the housing register who have "expressed a preference for accommodation within this Civil Parish". Who would not like to live in our beautiful village? Their words are carefully chosen for there are nothing like that number of local people registered and the Parish Council confirm this. Any affordable housing should be tailored to its community and reflect the needs and aspirations of the people living in that community. West Oxford District Council does have a list of people wanting such housing but it certainly does not contain 87 people from Aston. Terra claim the site is "unused pasture Land". This field has been farmed and produced crops for many years and is currently drilled and seeded for a maize crop.

Terra claims that the site is a low flood risk. Since the development of Marsh Furlong (is there a clue in the name?) several gardens of houses in Foxwood that adjoin the proposed site flood when we have heavy rain. What would be the consequences of a further 40 Houses, tarmac roads and concrete driveways to the flood risk? Aston and other nearby villages suffer the most appalling overload of the surface water and drainage system with dire and entirely predictable consequences including sewerage discharge onto public roads, an environmental and health hazard.

West Oxford District Council local plan does have a Rural Exception Site Policy, where land not designated as building land can be considered for planning, but planning permission is normally only granted on such sites where it has been demonstrated that such homes are needed and that the homes provided will be affordable and reserved for local people as a priority in perpetuity. No such need has been demonstrated. Only by migration of people outside of our village community who have expressed a preference to live in our community can any pretence of need be shown.

West Oxford District Council have objected to and refused recent planning applications that have threatened to extend the village. Grounds for objection have cited adverse urbanising effect and the loss of open land on the fringe of the village. Forty more houses proposed to be built on productive agricultural land on the boundary of our village clearly falls within the grounds for refusal. The village does not want this development, we have had enough and you are encouraged to urgently write your objections on the WODC website before 19th May 2022. If you read this after the 19 May, please write your objection anyway as the Parish Council are seeking an extension until 24 May.

*Chris Fryer*



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## Garden Ramblings

'The love of gardening is a seed once sown that never dies.' Gertrude Jekyll  
If you have planted seeds they may already be looking tall and healthy with some perhaps already planted out and gradually maturing in the garden or vegetable patch. If you have never planted seeds why not give it a go this year. It's not too late and the thrill of watching them germinate and produce those first green leaves is one of the highlights for gardeners. You don't need any special equipment – an old plastic food tray with holes pierced in the bottom and filled with compost. You can even buy a small bag from the supermarket to pop into your trolley these days. Go for easy varieties like sunflowers, marigolds or nasturtiums – something that will give you a sparkle of colour. Sprinkle onto your damp compost and cover with a little more compost. You can make a mini greenhouse by putting the tray into a clear plastic bag. Pop it onto a window sill and watch for those tiny green leaves to appear. When they are bigger you can put them into bigger pots. Don't forget to harden them off by putting them outside during the day but bring them in at night as this gets them ready to be planted out where you want them to grow.

Did you know we have an Aston & Cote Plants and Seeds Facebook page? It's a great way to get extra plants that others don't want, swap plants and get odds and ends of plants that people are digging up from their garden. All free and great if you are gardening on a budget.

Are you ready for the Chelsea chop – so named because it coincides with the Chelsea Flower Show?

If you are brave enough it involves chopping off the top third of many herbaceous plants just as it looks like they are going to flower! This does however delay the flowering by 4-6 weeks so can really extend the flowering season and also stops them getting very floppy. I do it to sedums very successfully and daisy type Chrysanthemums.

May in the garden is always busy but whatever you are doing don't forget to take time to stand back, take a breath and enjoy what's around you.

*N.M.D.*



*Le Jardin....  
Flowers for every occasion*



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## Reminiscences

Living in Zimbabwe in the late 1980s, we decided that the time was right for our youngest daughter, Joanna, to have her own bank account.

I took her along to a local branch and when I noticed that our teller's nameplate announced him as A. Dhodho, I bent down and whispered to Joanna, "I thought he was extinct!"

Sometime later, I took her along to make her first withdrawal and when the teller asked, "How would you like it?" Joanna answered, "In cash, please."

(Well, those gold bars are so heavy, aren't they?)

*John Troughear, Cote*

## Vegan Woes

In their quest for meat at a completely vegan lunch at County Hall, desperate councillors repaired to the hostelry next door – its name – THE SLUG AND LETTUCE ! Now that really IS a devotion to meat.

*Brenda Smith*

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## News from Aston & Cote CE Primary School



*Outside learning*



March began with a brilliant whole-school book week which was thoroughly enjoyed by children and staff alike. Each class used the book 'The Rhythm of the Rain' by Grahame Baker-Smith to inspire the children's imaginative writing as well as developing their understanding of the water cycle in a variety of creative ways.

In addition to their usual Maths lessons, the children also had the opportunity to participate in some exciting World Maths Day activities – it was lovely to see them taking their learning outside and solving a whole range of interesting puzzles. We were also delighted to take part in the Corinthian Partnership Story Writing Competition – we were extremely impressed with the children's work and are now eagerly waiting to find out if anyone has won one of the prizes.

During the final week of the Spring term, the children took part in our annual Easter Trail which was expertly led by the children in Year 6. Each class had the opportunity to learn about the key moments in Holy Week as they progressed around different stations in the school grounds. In amongst the excitement of Easter eggs and holidays, it was lovely to have this opportunity to reflect on what we can learn from the Easter story today.

The FACS disco was a great hit with everyone who attended. It was lovely to see the children having so much fun together after such a long period of COVID restrictions. We are very grateful to the FACS team and to all the parent volunteers who made it possible to put on such an event.

Our Easter Service was another highlight of the last week of term; this time the Year 5s had the chance to lead our worship, under the direction of Reverend Janice. Many of the children, staff and parents received Holy Communion or a blessing and everyone participated in the singing and prayers.

This was followed by the Easter Egg Hunt which was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone – thank you to FACS for supplying the delicious chocolate eggs that were enjoyed by everyone once they had found all the clues.

We are very excited to let you know that we have now had confirmation from OCC that they are planning to build a much-needed new classroom for the school. Although this won't happen until approximately September 2023, this is a very exciting development for the school and will enable us to expand much more comfortably than would otherwise have been the case. Plans are already in place to move to single age classes throughout the school from September 2022.

We will also be opening our new nursery class which will replace the current Pre-school class and will enable us to further enhance our early years provision for the children in the village and beyond.

From September 2022, we will have the capacity for more children in most year groups, so if you know of anyone who is looking for a good school in the local area, please point them in our direction!

*Fiona Taylor, Head teacher*

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# Sports News from News from Aston & Cote CE Primary School

## Cross Country

We had three teams qualify for the West Oxfordshire and City of Oxford Cross Country finals. This meant that our children would be racing against some of the very best runners in Oxfordshire. Our U9 girls had their race first and all showed great effort and determination over their 1500m run and as a team finished a very respectable 6th place overall. Our U9 boys saw Ethan finish best out of the Aston children, but a couple of children unfortunately suffered from some injuries which affected our overall team placement.

The U11 boys had a great run over a slightly further distance. The race was very competitive and our top four runners all finished within seconds of each other for an amazingly low score of 57 points. This was good enough to earn our team a bronze medal as we finished third overall, missing out on gold by just two points! Having finished third in the individual run at the Witney event, Abi qualified to run by herself in the U11 girls race. She had to race over 2000m against nearly 150 of the best runners in the area. Abi found herself in the leading pack of three children entering the last half of the race. The girls kept exchanging places towards the line. After the final bend Abi found herself in third place but dug deep for a last spurt of energy and managed to overtake one of the girls meters before the line for an amazing silver medal. Still being in year 5, Abi was running against mostly year 6s and is looking forward to going for gold next year.

## Tag Rugby

On a very windy afternoon we took several children to the Witney school tag rugby competition. The children had to do lots of running, dodging, and tagging in order to succeed.

We started off well in our group with two wins including getting a turnover with the last play of the match and scored to earn an 8-7 win. Unfortunately, we lost our next two games and finished fourth in our group. The children didn't let this put them off as we then played the fourth place team from the other group and won that game to end with a bit more success.

The children voted equally to give Ben and Beth their player of the tournaments for their constant running and tagging and their amazing try scoring.

Sam Hook



Tag Rugby team



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## ASTON & COTE BADMINTON CLUB

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Annual Membership:  
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Games Fees per (evening):  
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## Flying High



Some of our readers might recognise the face. This is Stuart Roberts a pilot in the Red Arrows the RAF display team. Stuart and his family lived in Saxel Close and Stuart went to Aston School.

Before joining the Red Arrows Stuart flew Typhoon aircraft in front line roles.

*Andrew Long*

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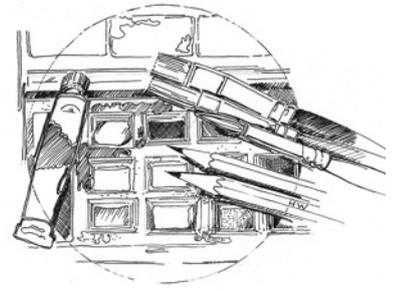
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## Oxfordshire Artweeks

There is still time to visit Oxfordshire Artweeks venues in our area. Festival Guides are in the shop or can be downloaded from [www.artweeks.org/festival/guide](http://www.artweeks.org/festival/guide).



Or view the entire variety of Artweeks 2022 from your armchair at [www.artweeks.org](http://www.artweeks.org).

Locally there are artists exhibiting in Bampton, Clanfield and Neville Crowson has his paintings on view in Cote 11am -6pm 21st -29th May

*Val Crowson*



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## What's been happening at the Red Lion

Since re-opening after the compulsory closures of the last two years things have been more than little unpredictable here at the Red Lion but we do hope now that some confidence will return and for people to feel safe coming out and socialising again.

Currently we do not have a food offering. Whilst this was quite popular when we first re-opened the Omicron variant put an end to this with the footfall dwindling to a point where this was no longer a viable option for all concerned. We are hoping that this will change with the warmer weather coming and we are looking at options, so if there is anyone brave enough to take on the kitchen then please do get in touch.

Although times have been, and continue to be, uncertain we have had some fantastic social events recently including Halloween, Peaky Blinders and Eighties evenings. It's great to see a bit of normal life back in the pub again.

Richard Buss is still running the ever-popular quiz nights fortnightly on a Wednesday evening, next quiz date will be 18th May – why not get a team together and try your luck?

Open the Box is on a Tuesday - a chance to win a cash prize or a free drink.

Darts – is there anyone out there who would like to be part of our darts team? If so, then please let our bar staff know.



*Peaky Blinders evening*



*Entertainment at the Red Lion*

Quiz Dates:  
18th May 22  
1st June 22  
15th June 22  
29th June 22

Tarts & Vicars Party 14th May 22

Just a reminder of our current opening hours:

Tuesday to Thursday	6pm to 10pm
Friday	5pm to 11.30pm
Saturday	4pm to 11.30pm
Sunday	4pm to 9.00 pm

In closing we would just like to thank our amazing bar staff, Leah, Ian and Aoife for their continued support and loyalty in helping us to keep the village pub open as well as lively. We'd also like to thank the lovely Julie Thompson for all the live music entertainment.

Come on Aston this village pub needs its village!

That's a quick update for now, keep an eye out on Facebook or the blackboard outside for upcoming events - we look forward to seeing you soon!

*The Red Lion Team*

## Adopting Older Cats

We've always enjoyed having cats around our house. They are beautiful animals and each one has a unique personality.

As we live near a busy road, in recent years we have chosen to adopt older cats because they tend to wander less and are at less risk from traffic.

When our previous cat Max died after a happy and long life, a friend mentioned her neighbour had sadly passed away leaving behind a 16 year old cat named Thomas. We were immediately smitten by the delightful old boy and he lived with us for four years before passing away, aged 20 in January 2020.

Two years later we felt ready to fill the cat-shaped hole in our home. So we registered with the local Cat Protection League, and in March were offered two 15 year old siblings – Sooty and Kimba. They have settled in very quickly and are an absolute pleasure. Both are real characters and make us smile daily with their antics; despite their age they are nosey, playful, and enjoy pottering around our back garden.

It is a real honour to be able to provide a 'retirement home' for older cats. There are a few things to consider before adopting, and you need time and patience to help them settle. However there are also many advantages over younger cats – they are less likely to roam and catch prey, less destructive, their characters are fully-formed so you know whether they will fit with your lifestyle. They are less demanding than a kitten, and gentler with their claws, as well as the satisfaction of giving a home to a cat that might otherwise be overlooked.

Not everyone would want to take on such elderly cats as ours, but for us it has been a very rewarding experience.

*Sally & Steve Lee*

## Digging in Aston

It's that time of year when buds are bursting and we look for some fresh green vegetables. This year, with covid we trust is behind us, we have to focus on higher food prices, not forgetting the eco-side of air miles.

With that in mind, I set off down Cote Road to the allotments. My luck was in, as I met Jeffrey Wilkes, working on his patch. (a past-time for only 40 years!) Jeffrey enjoys his hobby, which has brought him fresh tasty fruit and vegetables. He was busy planting potatoes, ready in July.

The broad beans were planted in November, which gives them a good start. He is pictured by his asparagus patch, which were destined for his lunch that day. Next to him were strawberries and raspberries growing, ready in summer.

He spends approximately two to three hours for three days – not more than ten working on his allotment. Weekends are reserved for family. Not only tasty vegetables; the digging keeps him fit. Renting a plot costs him £22 a year and includes a tank with running water.

At the moment there is a waiting list, but there is another allotment site at Cote. I buy my flowers from there, so produce can be an income stream.

My only experience – very short lived, was that I waited for a plot (I was living in Gloucestershire) and when awarded one, I lazily failed to keep it up and was politely sacked – serves me right!

*Lizzie Wood*



*Sooty and Kimba*



*Jeffrey Wilkes on his allotment*

## What's in a name?

### Saxel Close

The origins of most of our street names speak for themselves such as North Street and Bampton Road. Others such as Ham Lane are less obvious. In the first edition of Voices, June 1991, we began a series entitled "What's in a Name." It was

written by Nigel Humphries, then a teacher at Aston School. We have decided to resurrect the column: There are many newcomers to the village who may not be aware of the history behind the street names and also the recent new building in the parish has meant that new road names have been needed.



*Nigel Humphries*

### Saxel Close

Nigel began the series with Saxel Close. Saxel Close was built in 1988 and was a response to a government initiative to increase housing stock in Southern England. Each parish in the West Oxfordshire area received a policy document telling us how each village and town should grow.

Building soon started and in due course the planning officer from West Oxfordshire District Council contacted our parish council asking for suggestions for a name for the new development. The first name the Parish Council suggested was Thomas Horde Close. Thomas Horde was Lord of the Manor in the Sixteenth Century, owner of Cote House and a benefactor to the village. It was turned down "for being too long and Horde Close on its own without the knowledge of Sir Thomas could have been misrepresented." At this time proposed gravel extraction in the parish was a serious cause for concern." There was uproar, meetings, petitions, letters written and Parish Council meetings with more members of the public than councillors..."

The District Councillor for our parish at the time was Roger Saxel from Standlake "who fought tirelessly on our behalf" Roger was a very sick man, unbeknown to the parish council, and he died while in office. At the next Parish Council meeting it was felt right and proper to name the new estate after Roger Saxel. WODC agreed and that is the story of Saxel Close.

*Andrew Long*

## Home Library Service

Would you like to borrow library books but are unable to visit the library for any reason? If you're finding it difficult to get to a library, the Home Library Service may be able to help.

The Home Library Service is run by Oxfordshire County Council and serves 770 customers across the county. With the help of volunteers, it looks after and delivers books and audio-visual items to those who struggle to physically visit a library due to their personal circumstances. The service is completely free of charge to customers, many of whom are elderly or housebound, and it can also be used on a short-term basis following illness or hospitalisation. Those with carer responsibilities are also welcome to apply.

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### How to register

To register for this service or for further information call your local library or telephone the Home Library Service on 01865 810259 or email [homelibraryservice@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:homelibraryservice@oxfordshire.gov.uk).

*Source: Kevin Salway, Library Support Services, OCC*



## Coffee for Ukraine

On Easter Saturday, a coffee morning was held at the Fellowship Centre to raise funds for emergency relief in Ukraine. The morning was sponsored by both St James' Church and the Aston and Cote Community Church with the aim of raising money for the christian charity Mission Without Borders.

The event was well attended, with approximately 70 people dropping in during the morning, and just over £1,000 was raised.

Stephen Young, the CEO of Mission Without Borders, gave a couple of short talks during the morning. Stephen, who is a resident of Brighthampton and member of the Community Church, described how the work of the charity has responded to the war over the recent weeks. The charity normally works with disadvantaged children in eastern European countries,



*Coffee Morning at the Fellowship Centre*



*Steven Young, CEO of Mission Without Borders*

Russian troops in the north of the country and observed the devastation that the conflict has left in that area.

Stephen was also able to talk with some of the volunteers at the border and observe the assistance that they are giving to the refugees. In one crossing on the Moldova border, a small kitchen, not much larger than the one in the Fellowship Centre, has been being used to cook for the refugees. They have been producing around a thousand meals a day and had cooked over 24,000 at the point Stephen visited.

At the time of writing, all 80 of the charity staff are still well and in the country, though some have sent their families abroad. They are supported by around 170 volunteers.

including Ukraine, but has responded to the crisis in supplying food both in Ukraine and to the refugees in surrounding countries. Stephen recently had the opportunity to visit Romania and Moldova and the border crossings with Ukraine in each of these countries.

The charity has sent around 15 lorries of emergency relief, including food and cooking oil, into Ukraine since the war started and is sending one to two lorries per week as funding allows. The food is delivered to local churches and community centres where it can be cooked and distributed. They have recently had opportunity to deliver to some of the areas evacuated by the



*Volunteers selling cakes*

Tragically, two of the volunteers were recently killed by snipers as they drove a truck with another emergency delivery in the east of the country.

Further details may be found on the Mission Without Borders website at [www.mwbuk.org](http://www.mwbuk.org).

*Tom England*




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## Eating Out

### Brasserie Blanc, Oxford

Our daughters treated us to Mother's Day lunch in Jericho after (as is often the case) a very pleasant five mile circular walk, this one in Port Meadow, starting at Godstow, following the Thames Path along the river and returning via the canal.

We went for the very reasonable two course Sunday Roast for £22.50. Four chose the interesting beetroot and smoked cheese vegetarian parcel (looked a little like a croissant), Cherrywood smoked cheese, orange zest, beetroot and truffled artichoke pesto, which by all accounts was excellent, whilst I had a proper roast of rare beef, nice and pink.

Roast is served with cauliflower cheese, roast seasonal vegetables (carrots, parsnips, beetroot and onions) and winter kale with the added bonus of bottomless roast potatoes, Yorkshires & gravy.

The portions were generous and every part of the dish was cooked to perfection, although we did of course take advantage of the bottomless excellent fluffy roasties and yorkies, and they also threw in another pile of assorted veg so we certainly got our money's worth.



For desserts, we had the poached pear 'Pain Perdu' - brioche French toast, poached pears, lime and ginger butterscotch sauce, salted caramel milk toffee and vanilla ice cream; chocolate orange mousse cup - chocolate mousse & crumble, orange crèmeux; sticky toffee pudding, cocoa, almond and citrus crisp, crème fraîche and crunchy nougatine. The desserts were scrumptious and rich and just the right size, given the over-indulgence on the roasties and yorkies. Having previously had the pistachio soufflé, my daughter also recommends it highly, but said there wasn't enough crumble on the baked apple and Calvados crumble.

The service was excellent and as a nice touch for the occasion, they gave my wife a Mother's Day gift bag with a miniature gin, tonic and some Elizabeth Arden skin cream. We don't dine in Oxford very often, mostly if we're on a theatre or shopping trip, and usually at Cote Brasserie, but this was our second French restaurant in Jericho (the other being Pierre Victoire). I'm not normally a great fan of French cuisine, but this was an excellent meal.

*Russ Avis*

## Stormy Skies

Thanks to Simon Hill for sending in this photo of stormy clouds illuminating the tree line in the fields around Aston, taken whilst on a dog walk.



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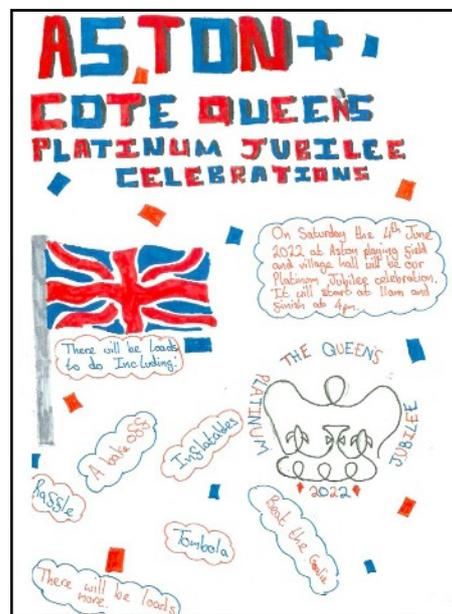
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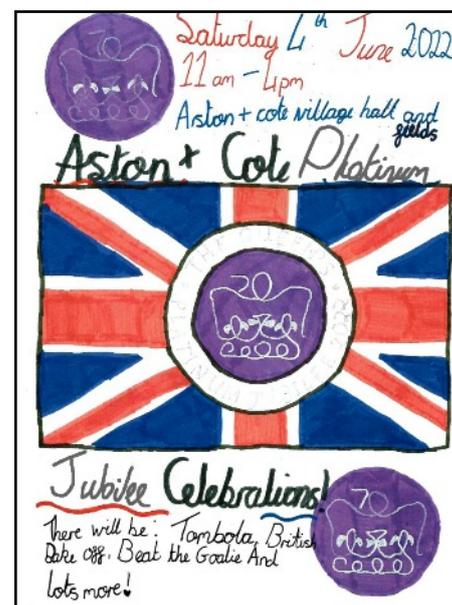


## Platinum Jubilee Fete 2022

**Saturday June 4th - 11.00am - 4.00pm**

Things are hotting up for the Queens Jubilee Fete at the Community Hall and Playing Field.

The children of Aston & Cote Primary School have been busy designing the promotional posters and we were so impressed with the high standard of entries that we have chosen four designs. Congratulations to the winners who will be Princes and Princesses on the day, along with our chosen King and Queen, to open the Fete.



**Win a £5 Jubilee Commemorative Coin!**

**We have a flyby from the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight Lancaster - so keep your eyes on the skies.**

Raffle Tickets will be for sale on the day and the raffle will be drawn in the evening at the Family Disco. Prizes include tickets for Crocodiles of the World, Cotswold Wildlife Park, meals out and many more.

We have a tombola, inflatables, a cash bar, guess the weight of the cake, 'Bake Off' Competition, maypole dancing from the school children, splat the rat and games!

**Family Disco tickets for the evening from 7pm, available from Emma Hunter at 41 Marsh Furlong or text 07849016388 £5 each (On sale from Monday May 9th - numbers are limited)**

Please come along and support us. Don't forget we are looking for the Best Dressed House/Street and will be creating some royal themed street name changes around the village. We look forward to celebrating this momentous occasion with you.

*Emma Hunter Jubilee Fete Committee Chair*

Cote Road Bunting Project. Lots of lovely ladies in the village have given their time to help make bunting to decorate Cote Road for the Jubilee celebrations. Residents along Cote Road have been generous with their donations towards fabric costs - thank you. If you would like to guess how many metres it will take to adorn the street, please make your guess by dropping a note in to 14 Marsh Furlong, with your name and address and guess (in metres) or leave a message on the answerphone (684185) Please have a go before May 29th .....The closest guess will win a £5.00 commemorative jubilee coin. Good Luck!

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## Aston and Cote Day Centre

Well, what a very busy last seven weeks we have had at the Day Centre since our re-opening after our covid closure back in December.

Looking through the diary back to our launch day on November 24th, Cllr Levy, Cllr Nicholls and Fran Hook very kindly came to officially open us up. We then had three weeks of meeting and greeting new faces to the day centre before we had to close on the 15th December due to covid.

We went on to deliver 120 two course meals to the members' homes and produced a colourful newsletter, along with weekly phone calls, in a period of 12 weeks. Then seven weeks ago we re-opened with various covid precautions in place to make the day as low a risk as we could possibly manage. These precautions are currently still in place and are being reviewed weekly.

I have to say these last seven weeks we have had new folk coming to the day centre and the members numbers have been increasing every week, which is great. We have lots of exciting things coming up in May, June and July, and as a day centre we are always open to members suggestions as to what they want to see and do, and if we can make that happen then we will.

We have recently introduced a membership card, which when produced will allow the member a discount. This scheme is in its early stages as I am busy talking with various local organisations to see if they would like to support us with this. To kick off, the fantastic Aston Shop which has recently had an all singing dancing hot drinks machine installed has told us that we can have a hot drink for 50p if we produce our Day Centre Membership Card, which is very kind of them. Just as soon as I have got other organisations on board with this scheme, I will let everyone know who it is and what the discount is.

If anyone knows of someone that they feel might benefit from the centre please do contact me to discuss further. Likewise, if you would like to come for the first time to see what we are all about please contact myself so that I can explain more about the day and the temporary covid precautions that we have put in place. Founder: Karen on 01993851506. Mobile: 07887974468. E-mail: [target.meuk@gmail.com](mailto:target.meuk@gmail.com)

We also have a very informative Website and Facebook page, and I can appreciate that possibly this might not be easily accessed for the majority but maybe a family member might like to access it for more information. The links are below. Website: <https://www.astonandcotedaycentre.co.uk/> Facebook page: Aston & Cote Day Centre

Finally, if you or anyone you know would like to join our fantastic team of volunteers for the day or even just a couple of hours, please do get in touch with me, and I can explain more.

*Stay safe, Karen Stay: Founder, Aston & Cote Day Centre.*




**Exciting New Community Project working with the over 65's in the local community.**

*Can you spare a few hours Wednesdays mornings/ afternoons to assist us in providing a safe fun day for the seniors to come to in Aston Village.*

**For more details ring Karen 07887974468.**

## Aston History Group

A medical problem at the last minute left us without a speaker for our March meeting but in April our AGM went smoothly with twenty eight people present. This was followed by readings from 'Memories', a hand written autobiography by Archie Johnson. A specially shortened version of 'Memories' was ably read in eight parts by Gill Long, Shirley Warren, Leila England and Russell LaForte.



Archie's parents William, who worked as a carpenter for Mr Long, and Maggie, who had attended Aston Training School, were married at Aston church in 1905. Jane Clarke, principal of the training school was a witness. Archie married Maisie Brunson, also at Aston church, on 30<sup>th</sup> May 1932. Having grown up here in Aston, Archie had a number of jobs including time in the army in India but he particularly enjoyed his time as a musician and entertainer and his story held everyone's attention with much local interest.

### Next meetings:

**May 26<sup>th</sup>** – A talk by Bill King

**June 30<sup>th</sup>** – A boat rip on The Thames – Provisional

The group meets on the last Thursday of the month, 7.30 at The Fellowship Centre in Cote Road, Visitors are always welcome for a small charge.

*Martin Bowley*

*01993 8504440*

*aston.historygroup@hotmail.co.uk*

## Aston Parish Community Minibus (APCM)

### Going, Going, GONE!!

The Minibus project developed from an original idea put forward by George and Liz Wiltshire early in 1996.

It supported a need in the local community to provide transport for villagers with weekly shopping trips to Witney and monthly trips to Swindon.

It was also available for hire by local groups and individuals. There was a diverse range of hirers: Bampton Ladies, Aston Primary School, Oxford Rugby Supporters Club, Bampton Morris Men, and many more. It also supported a Three Peaks Challenge.

Unfortunately, over recent years the demand for the Minibus has decreased dramatically, and has relied upon grants and donations from the Aston Parish Council, the Bampton Welfare Trust, and others to continue operating.

After careful and considered discussions, and extensive advertising, it was decided that without a regular income stream, the Minibus is no longer financially viable. Therefore, the Aston Parish Community Minibus committee has, regrettably, made the decision to retire the Minibus.

The APCM committee would like to thank all past customers and hirers for supporting the Minibus over the years.

We would also like to thank all our volunteer drivers without whom the Minibus project would not have been possible.

Note

With the demise of the APCM, if there is a need to hire a minibus, we would recommend contacting: [buckland-oxfordshire.co.uk](http://buckland-oxfordshire.co.uk)

*Tony Harris*



*The minibus*

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## The Titanic Exhibition

To mark one hundred and ten years since the sinking of the Titanic an exhibition was put on in Canada Water, London, which was in a part of the capital I am not familiar with.

In order to get there we made our way on a very cold April morning by car train and tube.

On entering (for those that were organised they had bought ear plugs for their phones tuned in to their WiFi but I hadn't) we were given a small device with a head set.

We then entered the exhibition and with the help of your phone you were able to hear dialogue and information about all the pictures as well as details about the exhibits in the cabinets nearby. These contained letters and loads of salvaged personal memorabilia about the passengers as well as the crew. There were stories about famous as well as regular passengers and why they were able to travel on its maiden voyage. You were able to walk at you own pace and if you wanted to miss something or return to a picture you were able to by moving the dial on.

There were plenty of benches so if you wanted to sit down take in the enormity of the size of the ship, or listen to the stories about the passengers and crew, you could.

There were amazing pictures of the state rooms and communal rooms for first and second class passengers as well as pictures of the compact conditions for third class and crew. The ship was very luxurious and opulent for its time as nothing had been spared in its creation.

The logistics of the amount of food and laundry that had to be put on board to cater for everyone would have been enormous as there were no modern refrigeration or washing machines.

At the end of the exhibition there was an huge iceberg about the size of a small car and you were invited to touch it to see how long you could have managed to stay in the sea when the ship went down. I only managed a few seconds.

Finally at the end there were several large notice boards which listed all the names and ages of those that had drowned. It was sad to see that there were whole families from different countries. When it came to the list of the crew I was surprised to see how young they were, only teenagers.

We all came away quite sad and very moved that such a catastrophe had happened to such a magnificent ship.

*Lesley Brown*

## Aston FC

For our first team what a season it has been. Yes it can be easy to look at it on paper and see we haven't won any silverware but what we have won is confidence, belief and foundations to build and a challenge towards achieving that next season.

We had a semi-final defeat, only by a lick of paint as Ben Hardcastle struck the crossbar from 35 yards, in the John Fathers Junior Shield, a competition where we defeated many a team in higher divisions than ourselves.

Couple this with a quarter final appearance in the Watts Junior cup and a guaranteed third place finish in Division 2 we are just an inch away from something quite special. For our reserve side they have grown as a team as the season progressed. Whilst they may not be fighting for the league and cup trophies they are very much a tough team to crack.

This came to light when they faced Freeland Reserves, a team who if they won would have sealed promotion. In comparison we sat in 6th place, on paper there was only one winner.

But the hard work and determination of our lions, cheered on by Witney Royals who themselves would be promoted if Freeland lost, meant there was only one outcome.

A 3-1 win, showing that on our day we can go toe to toe with the big hitters in Division 4.

The season finished for our reserve side with a seventh place finish and 28 points from 20 games, a good starting block to build on next year.

Our first team had one game remaining, scheduled for 6:30pm on Tuesday 10th May at Cote Road, although this may change so please follow the Aston Instagram page where we'll post the details as and when we receive them.

*Jordan Saverton*



## Witney Rail Project

### April 2022 update

Witney Oxford Transport Group is a cross-party, voluntary organisation seeking to develop fast, reliable, sustainable transport solutions along the A40 corridor. Our primary focus is on restoring the rail link between Oxford, Eynsham, Witney and Carterton. This rail line would revolutionise travel in West Oxfordshire, with Oxford reachable from Carterton in 22 minutes, from Witney in 16 and from Eynsham in just 9.

We have been very focussed on sourcing the funding for a feasibility study, so we all have hard data to review. To achieve this, we proposed a route; won support for the study from many parties including RAF Brize Norton, Oxford

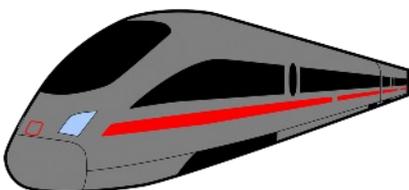


University, GWR, Carterton and Witney Town Councils and Eynsham Parish Council; and commissioned two projects. The outcomes of these projects gave the County Council sufficient comfort to fund the feasibility study in the 2021/22 financial year. We hope the feasibility study will be kicked off quickly and that the results of the feasibility study will be available in the late summer.

We believe that the rail line would bring many benefits. Economically, it would encourage highly skilled employers to locate here, delivering high paying jobs. Environmentally, it would materially reduce West Oxfordshire's greenhouse gas emissions, roughly a third of which are generated from road transport. Socially, well, I don't need to tell anyone reading this of the frustrations and unreliability of the A40.

For further information on the project, please see [www.witneyoxfordtransport.org.uk](http://www.witneyoxfordtransport.org.uk) and the Google Earth presentation which is accessible via the homepage. I'm available via [cmaynard@witneyoxfordtransport.org.uk](mailto:cmaynard@witneyoxfordtransport.org.uk) and 07487 708 681.

*Charlie Maynard, Chair, Witney Oxford Transport Group*



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# Finding Needles in Haystacks

## Computing for Grandmas

In the last article we looked at how to get connected to the Internet. This is all well and good, but not very useful without the ability to be able to search for what you are looking for.

## Search engines

The most famous is Google and to access it you type “google” into your browser (remember this is called “Edge”, “Safari” or “Chrome”). Another popular one, and the default on Windows machines, is Bing, though I am not convinced that it is as good as Google. Incidentally, the origin of the “Google” name is a misspelling of the mathematical term “googol” which is a number consisting of a 1 followed by 100 zeroes.

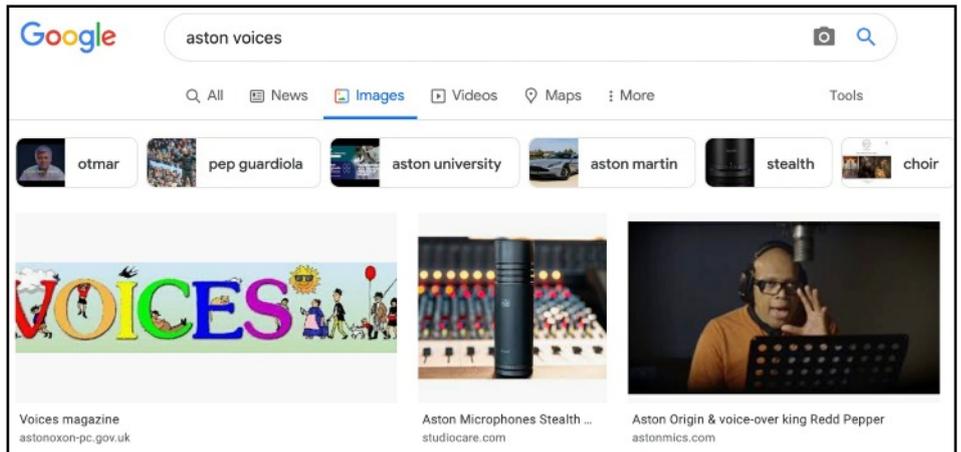
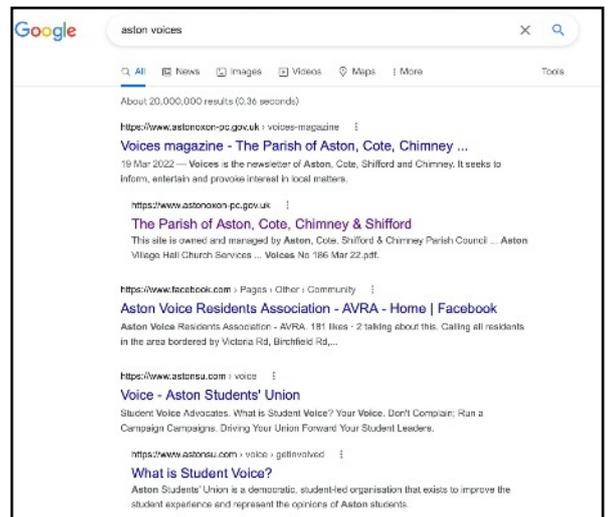


Image search results

In order to use the search engine, you simply type your question into the search box and press the “enter” key. You can miss out the common words we normally use to phrase a question (like “what” and “the”) and just type in the main nouns if you like.

Typing in “Aston Voices” gives a list of web sites that you can look at (as shown in the picture). Text in blue shows links that you can click on to get to the web page you are interested in. In our case, the link of interest is the first one on the list, which takes you to the Aston Voices magazine on the parish council website.



Google search results for “Aston Voices”

Please note that the actual list will be slightly different for each person as it remembers your previous searches and attempts to present the results that are more meaningful to you. I’m aware that we aren’t the only place called “Aston” and there are examples further down the list of less relevant choices!

Google also gives you the ability to narrow the range of your search by looking at just news articles or images, for example, by selecting the relevant link on the main results page. In my case, selecting the images brings up one of the banners of the Voices magazine.

We’ll probably be using this search more in future articles.

Unfortunately Voices is unable to answer technical support questions. However, if you have a subject that you would like us to cover in a future edition then please contact the editors.

Tom England

## Aston Under Elevens Cup Winners

On the 3rd April Aston under elevens made the short journey over to North Leigh FC (Eynsham Park) for their league cup final. The game was played on a stadium pitch which was a great experience for all involved.

The stage was set and the sun was out, both teams walked out onto the pitch with the champions league theme tune playing.

Aston attacked down the slope in the first half but didn't manage to use this to their advantage and went into half time 0-0. The highlight was a goalmouth scramble that Aston managed to clear the ball off the line twice in quick succession.



*The Aston U11's squad*

Aston made a bright start to the second half and attacking up the slope seemed to help them, they were creating lots of chances and 15 mins into the second half Aston made the breakthrough. A great pass on the half turn from our striker played the ball out to the Aston winger who carried the ball into the box and fired past the keeper into the bottom corner, 1-0 Aston. A lions' roar from the Aston faithful rang around Eynsham Park.

Following the goal it was all Bloxham. They used the slope to their advantage and it was the Aston keeper who made some fantastic saves to keep the score at 1-0.

Aston soaked up the waves of Bloxham attacks and with three minutes left on the clock Aston countered from a goal kick, the ball found its way to the Aston winger who fired home to make it 2-0. Another fantastic finish!

Aston saw the last few minutes of the game out and it finished 2-0

A fantastic game of football to watch, played in the right spirits and every single one of the Aston players contributed to the win.

An absolutely fantastic achievement for all involved. Aaron and Adrian the team's coaches rotated every single player throughout the game so they all played an equal amount of time. This is something you would never see in a cup final, so a massive well done to all 14 children involved!

Well done all!!

*Nick Angus*

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## Community Trust

### Live music returns to Aston & Cote Village Hall

On Saturday 9th April, we enjoyed the return of Folk Night to Aston & Cote, with fabulous performances from Craig McLearnie, Brock & Vixen, and at the last-minute, Toots and Fraser. Unfortunately, Three Pressed Men were unable to make it due to COVID-19 – we hope to see them next time. Many thanks to all the performers, including our very own Sylvia Brown who at the end took to the stage with the musicians for a moving rendition of the 1969 classic Will Ye Go Lassie Go. More than 70 folk fans joined us, and the event raised over £500 for the upkeep of the village hall. Look out for the further dates coming soon.

Easter Bingo also returned on Friday 1st April. This great evening raised a further ~£400 for the hall. Many thanks to the volunteers who made both events possible.



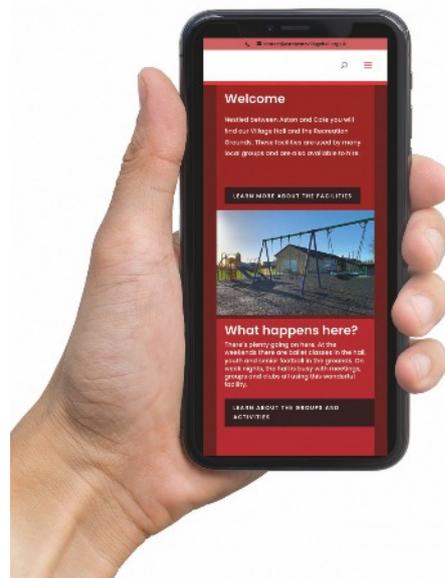
*Sylvia with musicians behind*

Next up on 3rd June 22: Jubilee Bingo  
Get the Jubilee weekend started, with Jubilee Bingo at the village hall. Doors open at 7:00pm for a 7:30pm start on Friday 3rd June. Children are welcome. We hope to see you there!

### New village hall website

Aston & Cote Community Trust has been working on a new, mobile friendly, website for the village hall and recreation grounds. It will share news of the activities and events on at the hall, provide hiring information, and explain how to get involved with the Trust. By the time that you are reading this in Voices, the website should be live. Many thanks to local volunteer David Wheaton for creative and web design skills and for driving this project forward.

*Paul Farrow on behalf of Aston & Cote Community Trust*



*The new mobile friendly website*

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# Alphabet Quiz

A simple twenty question quiz, but all the answers begin with the letter F.



- Who is this cartoon character?
- Who is this famous cricketer?
- What is the name of this Oxfordshire building?
- What is the capital of Sierra Leone?
- Craven Cottage is the ground of which Championship football club?
- Which film character said "Life is like a box of chocolates"?
- Which band was named after an Austrian archduke?
- Which female saint is said to have fled to Bampton to find sanctuary?
- Ming the Merciless is an enemy of which cartoon character?
- Which gothic novel, published in 1818, is subtitled "The Modern Prometheus"?
- Where locally would you find the pub and restaurant "The Five Alls"?
- Former "Nirvana" drummer Dave Grohl was the lead singer of which band?
- Which high jumping technique was named after a famous high jumper?
- Which dance step is most commonly found in the Viennese waltz?
- What is a single game of snooker called?
- What is the name of the uncle in the Aadams family TV series?
- What is the name given to a drink served with ice or frozen to a slushy consistency?
- What is the technical name for the thigh bone?
- What name is given to a long, narrow inlet of the sea between cliffs, typically seen in Norway?
- Elsa and Olaf are characters in which Disney Film?

Compiled by Andrew Long

## 500 Club Winners

### March 2022 Draw

No. 158	40	H. Blackey
No. 93	30	P. Farrow
No. 399	20	H. Petal
No. 122	10	I. Dunstan
No. 11	10	C. Huxley
No. 434	5	I. & D. Gorman
No. 251	5	P. Woodbridge
No. 293	5	V. Faulkner

### April 2022 Draw

No. 276	40	R. & J. Attewell
No. 329	30	J. Eastland-Jones
No. 192	20	V. Fallows
No. 83	10	P. Garner
No. 231	10	G. Salmon
No. 361	5	K. Glaister
No. 419	5	B. & C. Long
No. 54	5	R. & A. Crossley

Want to have the chance to be a 500 club winner? Please contact us on [500ClubAston@gmail.com](mailto:500ClubAston@gmail.com) or the Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/AstonCote>

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## Recipe

### Queen of Puddings

This dish was reportedly renamed by the chef when Queen Victoria sampled and enjoyed it on a trip to Manchester.

My job, once I was old enough to cook, was to make the pudding for Sunday lunch. This was a definite favourite. I don't remember adding lemon but it's a nice touch and a good use for leftover bread.

#### Ingredients:

- 300 ml whole milk
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla essence
- 100 gms Caster Sugar
- 3 Eggs - separated
- 100g Breadcrumbs
- Zest and juice of a lemon
- 2 tablespoons jam

#### Method:

Heat the oven to 160 / Gas Mk 2

Lightly butter an ovenproof dish

In a saucepan gently heat the milk, egg yolks and vanilla essence with most of the sugar - save 2 tablespoons for the meringue. When it reaches almost boiling point take off the heat and stir in the breadcrumbs, lemon zest and juice.

Pour into ovenproof dish and bake for 15 mins.

Remove to allow to cool slightly.

Increase the oven temperature to 190/Gas Mk 5.

Warm the jam to soften. Spread over the set base.

Whisk the egg whites to stiff peaks, adding the sugar a little at a time.

Spoon the meringue onto the jam layer and

return to the oven for 10 - 15 mins, until golden.

Serve with cream.

*Helen Wheaton*



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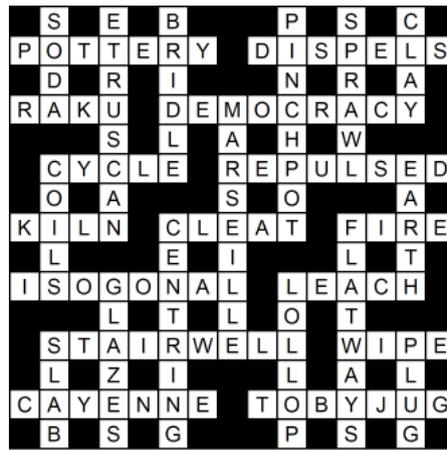
Andrew Long - Chair & Editor (Content);  
Richard Haines – Treasurer & Editor (Technical);  
Martin Bowley - Secretary & Lay up;  
Paul Lock - Lay up;  
Tom England - Lay up;  
Liz Harper - Advertising;  
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## Crossword Solution



The diary details were correct at the time of going to press. Please contact individual organizations for more details.

## Diary

### May

#### Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup>

Voices AGM  
7.30 Fellowship Centre

#### Thursday 26<sup>th</sup>

History Group  
"The Poppy"  
Bill King  
7.30 Fellowship Centre

### June

#### Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup>

Quiz night  
Red Lion

#### Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup>

Parish Council  
7.30 Village Hall

#### Friday 3<sup>rd</sup>

Jubilee Bingo  
Village Hall

#### Saturday 4<sup>th</sup>

Village Fete  
from 11 am

#### Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup>

WI

#### Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup>

Quiz night  
Red Lion

#### Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup>

Quiz night  
Red Lion

#### Thursday 30<sup>th</sup>

History Group  
Boat Trip along the Thames

### July

#### Thursday 7<sup>th</sup>

Parish Council  
7.30 Village Hall

#### Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup>

WI

## Answers to the Alphabet Quiz

1. Fred Flintstone. 2. Freddie Flintoft. 3. Faringdon Folly. 4. Freetown 5. Fulham  
6. Forest Gump 7. Franz Ferdinand. 8. Saint Frideswide. 9. Flash Gordon. 10. Frankenstein 11. Filkins. 12. Foo Fighters. 13. The Fosbury Flop. 14. The fleckle. 15. A frame. 16. Uncle Fester 17. A frappe. 18. Femur 19. Fjord. 20. Frozen

## Where in the Parish

### Answer

The tree is blocking the ford at Duxford.

## Church Services

### St. James, Aston

Service pattern

#### First Sunday

9.30am St James, Aston, Holy Communion

#### Second Sunday

9.15am St Mary's, Shifford, Holy Communion

9.30am St James, Aston Family Service

#### Third Sunday

9.30am St James, Aston Holy Communion

6.00pm St Mary's, Shifford

Evensong\*\*

#### Fourth Sunday

9.30am St James, Aston Family Service

\*\*April to September - The Evensongs at St Mary's,

Do also check for notices of any changes and updates, on the church noticeboard, WhatsApp, The St James Facebook and other social media. These services are regularly live streamed via Facebook

### Aston and Cote Community Church at the Fellowship Centre

Each week there are special activities for children, unless it is a family service, when everyone stays in the main meeting for the whole time and we aim to make the worship and talk accessible to all ages.

Date	
15-May	10.00am Worship, a talk, and Sunday School
22-May	10.00am Worship, a talk, and Sunday School
29-May	10.00am Worship, a talk, and Sunday School
05-Jun	10.00am Family Service
12-Jun	10.00am Worship, a talk, and Sunday School
19-Jun	10.00am Worship, a talk, and Sunday School
26-Jun	10.00am Worship, a talk, and Sunday School
03-Jul	10.30am Regional Celebration in Witney
10-Jul	10.00am Worship, a talk, and Sunday School
17-Jul	10.00am Worship, a talk, and Sunday School

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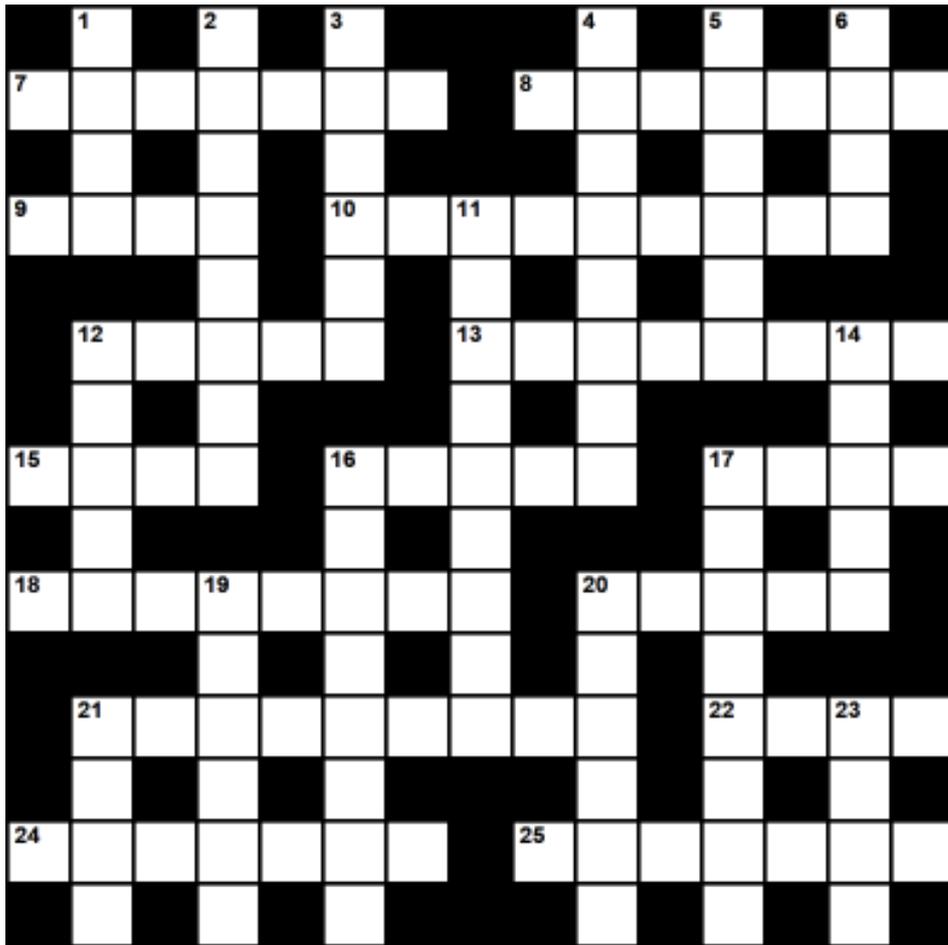
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# Cryptic Crossword

By Caroline Gray



## Across

- 7 Confused poet has attempt to make chinaware (7)  
 8 Scatters LSD pies (7)  
 9 Japanese firing gripped by anorak user (4)  
 10 Nothing replaces Charlie in mad march about style of government (9)  
 12 Ring bike (5)  
 13 Preludes shattered and driven back (8)  
 15 Oven left in family (4)  
 16 Hot learner swapped in fraud on boat (5)  
 17 Fine anger in flames (4)  
 18 Go on sail around equal angles (8)  
 20 Left everyone and drain away (5)  
 21 Tiler's law builds descending steps (9)  
 22 Question echos exercise to make clean (4)  
 24 Sailor's girl mixed up with drugs is peppery (7)  
 25 Manly beer mug punches dog before prison (4,3)

## Down

- 1 Two notes recipe for fizzy drink (4)  
 2 Ancient Italian state played havoc with centaurs (8)  
 3 Express anger and restrain horse (6)  
 4 A notch pip fashioned a simple bowl (8)

- 5 Spread out the Society for Physical Research on a pointed tool (6)  
 6 Cassius earth (4)  
 11 Port where the French lie up under planet (9)  
 12 Cold fuels can be mortal (5)  
 14 Burrow of dirt (5)  
 16 Placing in the middle of money arena (8)  
 17 Positioned on side in flat wayside (8)  
 19 Stares about fifty glassy surfaces (6)  
 20 Little and Large in a coil bound along (6)  
 21 Slice of cake not quite balls up (4)



## Where in the Parish?

The legacy from storms earlier in the year and fallen trees in the watercourses around the parish continues. This photo of a stranded tree was taken over the Easter weekend. Can you identify where in the parish it is?



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