

The Newsletter for Aston, Cote, Shifford and Chimney

©

Issue 189

September/October 2022

A right Royal visit. Two local groups coin it in, on trip to Wales.

In August the History Group joined members of the WI, their friends and partners for a coach outing to the Royal Mint at Llantrissant in South Wales. After a dull, wet start in Aston we were pleased to see the sun shining as we reached our destination. We enjoyed a very nicely presented lunch, then we were split into two groups and guided through the visitor areas and informed about the history and the processes involved in coin manufacture.

Amazingly the Royal Mint not only produce coins for the UK but also provide a service to over 60 countries around the world. We watched as sparkling metal blanks cascaded into the hoppers that fed the presses which then struck coins at breath-taking speed. We also had the opportunity to strike our very own 'Winnie the Pooh' 50p coin.

Martin Bowley



In this edition we have an article about Aston resident Mark Foster. He is running in this year's London Marathon.

The Parish Council report includes a photograph of the new Parish Council line up. We are delighted that Alex Chapman (top left) and Robert Anstee (bottom left), have joined as Councillors. It's great to have some young people taking an interest in local issues.



September means 'Back to School'. One Aston resident had a trip to Hill End Education Centre and recalled his visit there as a child. There are a few memories of school days from Aston residents for you to enjoy.

The photography competition proved very popular. See the centre spread for the winning entry.

Editors Andrew Long and Helen Wheaton

Flamingo in the Window

The Community Shop celebrated its second birthday in August. The 'Summer Holiday' window display included a flamingo and assorted beach related inflatables. These were available to win and the lucky winners were Jacob and Willow from Foxwood.



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 or delivered to Penny Black House, The Square, Aston.
 Editor: Andrew Long (850271) Sub Editor: Helen Wheaton (684185)
 Advertising: Liz Harper (850346)

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Dear Editors,

Thank you to the Aston & Cote Women's Institute.

On the 12th of August 2022 we held a wake at the village hall for our beloved Steve Lawson from the Old Bakery, Aston.



Steve Lawson

Steve suffered an Abdominal Aneurysm of the Aorta in 2018. After a lifesaving operation he was left paralysed from the ribs down known as a T3. He spent nearly a year in three different hospitals, the last being three months of rehabilitation at Stoke Mandeville Spinal Unit, where he learnt how to live life in a wheelchair. For four years he did this with great success - being able to drive his adapted car, travel abroad, play his guitar at open mike nights and hold his beloved granddaughters.

Last Autumn he developed a very bad chest infection and was cared for by his family and a wonderful team of district nurses. In March, he returned to Stoke Mandeville to treat pressure sores and whilst there they discovered fluid in the lining of his heart. This could not be rectified, and he said he wanted to go home. He loved being back in his calm space, with a lovely view of the garden. Steve died peacefully on the 12 July 2022. The family, although distraught, are happy that he is now free.

A wonderful, love-filled service was held at North Oxfordshire Crematorium. Followed by a celebration of Steve's life at Aston & Cote Village Hall. The family would like to thank all those who so kindly made this difficult day so memorable.

The Women's Institute were so caring with the plans for the day. Their preparation of the hall and the excellent catering was received with many compliments. We would highly recommend these ladies.

Our florist was Anna Childs of Wysteria Cottage Flowers, Cote Road who was so lovely to work with, her knowledge of flowers and colours was exceptional

The family are raising funds for the Spinal Unit at Stoke Mandeville, should anyone like to make a donation.

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/steveolawson



Dear Editors,

I appealed in the last issue of Voices for additional volunteers to help with the 2022 Poppy Appeal house-to-house collections to be held later this year. Sadly, I have not had anyone come forward so far.

We desperately need volunteers to cover the new houses, including The Hawthorns and Marsh Furlong. Would you please give this matter serious consideration and kindly let me know if you would be able to help?

We have been able to make a considerable contribution to the Haig Fund in past years and hopefully the new neighbours in the village will help boost the collection this year.

Please respond. Many thanks.

Kind regards,
Robert Jones.
01993 851663.



Dear Editors,

The Great Brook Swan Family - look at us now!

In the July/Aug edition of Voices we wrote about the successful hatching of six cygnets which took place on 26th May. Three months later, here they are now (sadly now only five) by the bridge preening themselves and looking very healthy.



Swans – Three months on

Maureen and Ken Langford

1st Aston Brownies.

We are all extremely busy at the moment finishing off the programme for the new term, which includes a rota for parents who can spare the time to occasionally join us for some meetings during the term. The newsletter is near completion and will be hand delivered to all the brownies. As ever we encourage the brownies to use their yellow badge book and look at working towards various Interest Badges at home. On completion they then bring in their work. We can check and sign off their work, then order the badges.

We recently spent the day at the Cotswold Wildlife Park, where we all had a fantastic time, and the girls were incredibly knowledgeable, and I certainly learnt a lot about the animals. We were very lucky with the weather in that it was not one of those very, very hot days. We finished last term with an outside meeting where we had badge presentations followed by fun and games with the parachute.

The unit is in a position to be able to accept new girls. For more details please get in touch on 07887974468 or karenthegardener123@gmail.com

Stay safe.

Karen Stay.
Unit Leader.



Fun and games with the parachute

Advertising in this Edition

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Drew Warren
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Aston & Cote Badminton
Aston & Cote Pre-School

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Aston and Cote Day Centre Visit to Hill End Outdoor Education Centre



Visitors to Hill End Outdoor Centre

“You’re never too old to enjoy yourself” – this saying was really proved to be true by members and volunteers of the ‘Aston & Cote Day Centre’ when they went on “The Big Picnic” at the Hill End Outdoor Education Centre on a Wednesday in August. The party of thirty members and volunteers led by Karen Stay made the rafters ring with music and laughter. Hill End in fact brought back happy memories for many of the group as they had had school visits there in the past. Ninety-three-year-old George Gardener had especially fond memories of The Centre as he had completed his Boys Brigade Officers training there as far back as 1948.

A delicious picnic lunch was served, beautifully prepared by the team of volunteer cooks. Then came a film showing Hill End as it used to be in the 1930s, when it was used by inner-London children to give them a taste of the countryside. This was followed by some gentle seated exercise and then a musical singalong, not that a child of the 1930s would recognise it as such!

With all the singing and dancing and smiles on all the faces, it was clear that everyone had had a memorable and enjoyable day – thanks to the hard work of Karen and the volunteers.

Also, many thanks to Rebecca, Karen, David and the rest of the team at Hill End for such a warm welcome.

Christine Barber

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Weathervanes

The other day I bumped into Tony Belcher from Cote Road. He was driving his mobility scooter around the village taking photographs of local weathervanes. Together with his wife Cindy, they had clocked up 13 vanes, some of which were at Cote. Although partly functional, wind vanes are generally decorative. They are used as an architectural ornament and are usually attached to the highest point of a building. (The word vane comes from the Old English word fana meaning "flag"). As you might expect the most common motif they saw was the cockerel and a weathercock can be found on the spire of St. James church, some 92 feet above ground level.

Apart from cockerels, horses and ships are commonly used weathervane designs, although, witches and owls seem popular.

Included in this edition is a selection of some of Tony's parish weathervane photographs.

Andrew Long

Aston Community Shop

Changes to Opening Hours

From the 1st of September there will be a change to the Thursday and Friday opening hours. We will no longer be open until 6.30pm, closing instead at 5pm. All other opening and closing times will remain the same and are listed on page 27. Very few customers were visiting the shop during the last hour or so on the two later evenings, and we felt it was more useful to focus our volunteer team's time on the hours most beneficial to customers. When there are sufficient volunteers, we would like to open until 5pm on the other three weekdays, in order to streamline our opening hours, and we will continue to keep our opening times under review.

August 29th was a milestone date for the shop; it was the second anniversary of our opening in 2020. So much has happened and



changed in those two years - it is heartening to know, after all the effort in those early months to get the shop up and running, it is now successfully operating and providing a useful service to the

community. This is thanks not just to the dedicated team of 40 volunteers, but all the many customers who regularly use the shop and Post Office. It certainly feels to me like we have the heart of the village back.

I mentioned in the last edition that our primary purpose is to provide good quality products at competitive prices and not make a profit other than to safeguard the shop's future. However, in the last financial year the shop did make a reasonable profit,



and we would like to make some donations to the community by supporting local projects. Local clubs, societies and other organisations are very welcome to contact us with donation requests (up to £250) to help fund a particular project. Please either email with a brief description of your bid or contact us at the shop.

As always, we are looking for new volunteers to join the shop team. If you are able to spare just two or three hours a week or month, we would be delighted to welcome you on board. No previous experience is necessary, and full training will be provided.

Thank you to everyone who supports our vital village shop.

*Sally Lee
Aston Community Shop*



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WI News

We were planning to go to the Batsford Arboretum back in July but due to the extreme heat it was decided that it would not be a good idea to be outside. Instead, we were treated to strawberries and cream with meringues to create your own Eton mess. We invited the newer members to tell us about their earlier lives and how and why they had come to the village and wanted to join our WI. It was a pleasant evening in the cool of the village hall.

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Although it was still very hot outside, we managed to have our meeting in August and this time our speaker was Kamran who is both an organiser and rider for the totally voluntary service – Blood Bikes. He started off by telling us about its origin which came about when a biking family back in 1962 wanted to get blood urgently to a hospital for a family member. The bikers work from 7.30 in the evening until 6.00am in the morning and could be asked to do several trips during the night. As well as the delivering of blood and platelets they also pick up baby milk for small and premature babies during the day. Mothers who have given birth can express their excess milk and freeze it ready for collection. The drivers use either BMW or Yamaha bikes which are slightly adapted for their use. They are currently working towards purchasing a new bike costing over £16000 so they are always fund raising and looking for donations. Kamran was extremely grateful for our WI donation as well as the generous amount we put in his collection box. We all enjoyed the talk and agree that it was an amazing voluntary service which we all hoped we and our family would never need.

For September we had planned a cooking demonstration by Darren - the husband of one of our members. As he is unable to come, we have had to find a speaker at short notice. The replacement speaker will be giving a talk about nature's harvest and will be bringing samples.

We have been fortunate to have had some new members recently. It is always nice to see new faces. We meet every second Wednesday of the month at 7.30 in the village hall.

Lesley Brown



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The WI Ladies helping with the celebration for Steve Lawson

Eating Out - Jacob's Inn, Wolvercote



Like many, we're trying to make up for lost time by dining out as often as we can, revisiting old haunts and trying new places, and at the top of our favourites is Jacob's Inn. We've never had anything other than great food and excellent service and this time was no different. Another draw is the cornucopia of weird and wonderful objects strewn about this historic and warmly welcoming building.

Their meat and game is from the Cotswolds and their fish from Brixham, with 'specials' sometimes changed twice daily. We had Sunday roast, my wife and daughters opting for their excellent nut roast and me the Cotswold leg of lamb, all accompanied by a nice selection of veg and a good yorkie, to which we added glazed cauliflower cheese and stuffing balls, on this occasion not vegetarian, which unfortunately meant I had to take one for the team and have them all. I have to say, the portions are very generous, none of this tiny works of art badged as 'fine dining', highlighted by an expanse of emptiness or displayed on a fossilised slab of wood from a Himalayan hermit's cave – just a plate of great food.

For dessert, my family have this thing about all getting something different so they can swap and try a bit of everything. In this case sticky toffee pudding and the crumble, whereas I prefer something lighter so chose the chocolate mousse with mint ice cream, rose petals and shortbread, with no intention of sharing beyond a spoonful to the missus.

The group on the adjacent table was French, and one of them felt the need to tell the waitress (at great length) that something wasn't right and 'doesn't work', although he insisted, he did not want the offered bill deduction but simply wanted to tell them what they did wrong. Now I didn't hear exactly what he was talking about, but they appeared to be having the roast, so that's like telling an Italian how to cook pasta. I'm not sure I'd have been as smiley and courteous as the waitress, but the excellent friendly service is another good reason we like the Jacob's so much, and why we don't begrudge the optional 12.5% service charge.

Always a pleasure at Jacob's Inn, so try it if you haven't already.

Russ Avis

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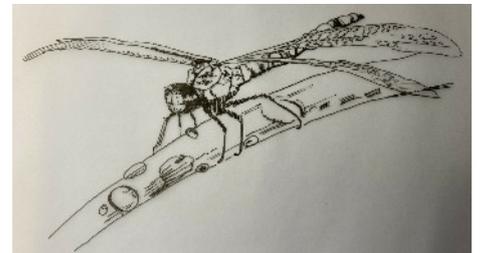
It's often said that when two English people meet, they start by talking about the weather and this year there's been plenty to talk about. We've had the highest recorded temperatures, and one of the longest periods without rain. It has had a big effect on our lives, but for the natural world the effects have been dramatic.

Some of these effects are obvious – look at the brown fields and the empty streams and ditches. But some of the effects are less visible. As the ground dries, the soil animals move down to where it's still damp. The worms are still there but they're too deep down for the blackbirds, robins or hedgehogs to reach, so they are having a very tough time. The RSPB recommends putting out mealworms and that helps, but what is almost more important is to put out water for the birds.

Although my lawn looks totally dead, I should remember that with the first decent bit of rain it will recover quickly. By contrast, a lot of trees have started to shed their leaves so that it looks as though autumn has come very early, and they probably won't put on new leaves till spring so for them the summer is over.

Amidst all this bad news, there are animals that have benefitted from the drought. Dragonflies thrive in dry weather and although they lay their eggs in ponds, they can travel quite a distance looking for a pond deep enough to still hold water. And I just heard that the Large Blue butterfly has had its most successful year since it was re-introduced and that is a combination of a dry summer and a reserve that has been managed to produce a very high species diversity. This is perhaps the lesson to learn from this summer's drought: species diversity lets nature handle extreme conditions.

James Gray



Garden Ramblings – The long, hot summer.

What a great summer it's been - or is that a matter of opinion? We started the summer full of plans and expectations. My garden was to be full of colour from beginning to end. Vegetables would be in continual supply, and I'd sit in a sunny spot and enjoy it in all its splendour.

Now as I sit writing this in the middle of August I'm looking out at a parched, straw coloured lawn and a garden struggling to survive. The colour that I had planned came and went in early June. The Mountain Ash, Pink Pagoda because it has lovely pink turning to white berries now has curls, crisp leaves and wrinkled berries. High hollyhocks wave their last few flowers while the rest of the stem has seeds heads. The hostas I fought so valiantly to keep from slugs are contorted paper leaves and, as I didn't win the battle against the slugs, they look like skeletal shapes. It's too hot to sit in the sun and I'm saving every drop of water used in the house to use on a few lucky plants as the hose pipe ban comes into force. Yes, it's been a great summer but a very hot one!

Of course, some plants have enjoyed and thrived in the heat when others have struggled. Perhaps as climate change takes hold and we have higher temperatures and water shortages, we need to seriously consider which plants to have in our garden to help them thrive in future years.

But as gardeners we are an optimistic bunch – we'll have rain again; the grass will green up and there's always another season to look forward to with its autumnal colours and cooler days! The garden bulb catalogues will be dropping onto the door mat so next year's plans are forming already. My garden's bound to be brilliant then ...Isn't it?

N.M.D.

Thames Water and Macavity the Mystery Cat

The Bible tells us that “The Lord Giveth and the Lord taketh away”
This could apply to Thames Water, but in reverse order: A Hosepipe ban rations water but sewage is not always taken away - at least not far enough.

TS Elliot wrote a poem entitled “Macavity the Mystery cat”.
The poem was about a cat who miraculously disappeared whenever he had caused trouble.
I dedicate this poem to Thames Water with Macavity in mind



Thames Water

*Thames Water is a company which brings fresh water to us
And takes away our sewage (sometimes dumping in the Windrush)*

When flooding comes and leaks occur, it leaves us in despair

For when we have a problem Thames Water is not there.

When water leaks cause hosepipe bans and villages run dry

And Kingsgate's plea for bottled water clearly went awry

At times like this we turn to our providers in despair

But when we reach the scene of crime Thames Water is not there.

In winter when the floods arrive and sewage comes to meet us

Thames Water (so we fondly thought) will not let floods defeat us

But crumbling pipework, failing plants and New Builds everywhere

Investment needed urgently ...Thames water is not there

We need new pipes to stop the leaks whilst sewage plants deliver

Treated water safe enough to put back in the river.

Money for these “luxuries” must come out of thin air

For when a crisis has been reached ...Guess who isn't there!

I am sure this won't be the last we hear about TW but I wonder if we shall ever see any action?

Brenda Smith



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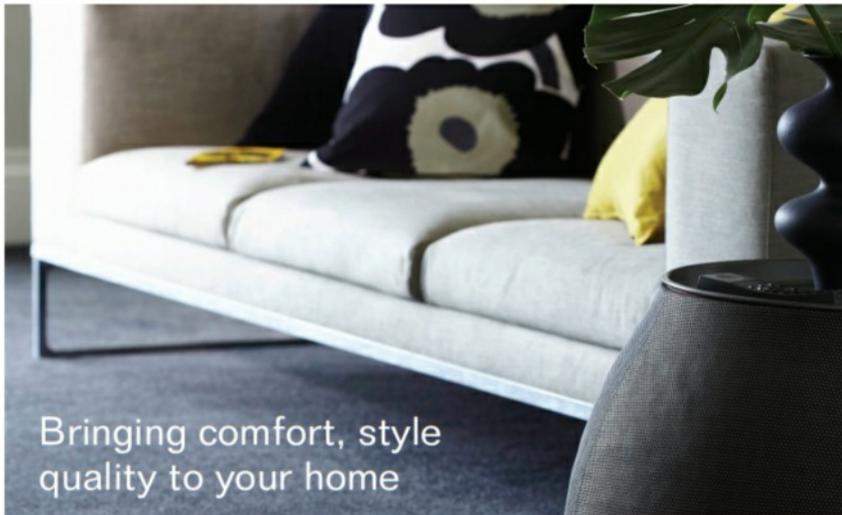
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Grammar School

In 1635 Robert Veysey of Chimney gave money to endow a free school at Bampton. Veysey's building, known as the Old Grammar School, now houses the Bampton Library, the Bampton Community Archive and the newly refurbished Lewington Room. The building is looked after by the Bampton Exhibition Foundation. There are trustees appointed to run the BEF and the trustees nominated for Aston are Gill Ball and Andrew Long.

In addition to its care for the building the BEF provides financial support to young people (under the age of 25) residing in the Ancient Parish of Bampton, Aston, Lew and Weald. The financial help is for young people who would like to participate in any academic or sporting course or activity of educational value which would otherwise be beyond their means. Aston youngsters have benefitted from such help in the past although no applications have been recently received.

Anyone who feels they qualify (or knows of someone who may do so) should contact the Bursary Administrator, Marion Dowding, Bay Tree Cottage, Rosemary Lane, Bampton, OX18 2NF.

Information about bursaries can also be provided by Gill Ball 850131 or Andrew Long 850271.

Andrew Long

Jubilee Fete 2022

Thank you to all who supported the Jubilee Fete in June. The total raised was £2,749.00

£500 has been forwarded to each of the following groups: Young Minds, The Day Care Centre, Chillax and Aston & Cote School.



Volunteers

Thank you for the response to our appeal for additional distributors. We were delighted with the offers of help and will allocate the slots accordingly.

We are keen to make some fabric delivery bags and would be grateful for any curtain material or duvet covers, that you may have surplus to requirements, that we can recycle into delivery bags.

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Parish News



Parish Council Parish Councillors 2022

*Back L-R: Ben Lings, Alex Chapman, Rob Anstee, Paul Sparrowhawk
Front L-R: Elaine Anstee (Clerk), Russell La Forte (Chair), Gill Ball, John Ordish*

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New (ish) Council – New Logo We are delighted to have adopted an official logo for the Parish Council, as displayed above. The eye-catching design was the brainchild of talented resident and professional graphic designer, David Wheaton to whom we are most grateful.

Traffic Calming Progress continues, albeit at a glacial pace. Mandatory public consultation by OCC Highways concluded on 19th August and we await the outcome. The final decision on what is implemented will be the Parish Council's, but we have been deliberately ambitious (adjustments to speed limits for example) in our proposals to maximise our options (and reduce consultation costs).

Queens Green Canopy Agreement has been reached with the Community Trust to plant a number of trees in the Recreation Ground to mark Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee – part of the national 'Queens Green Canopy' initiative. Planting is hoped to take place in November/December.

North Farm OCC have at long last received a response, albeit informal, to their request for pre-application advice from WODC. Their '9 Houses' option, supported by the community, was not viewed favourably, as WODC would have preferred an affordable housing element. However, OCC's proposed new 'direction of travel' of five houses plus a sixth comprising four sheltered housing units represents in our view a marked improvement on the original proposal and we have therefore agreed that this should proceed as a foundation for further

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The new defibrillator in Chimney

refinement and consultation. OCC are re-engaging with WODC accordingly.

OCC Children's Home With planning permission granted (following improvements to the original design), work on the new children's home on Back Lane is scheduled to commence this October, with completion due in August 2023. Our focus has been on the proposed traffic management plan to minimise disruption to Back Lane residents and avoid congestion both on the Lane and in The Square. Precise details are being finalised (and will then be publicised widely) but in sum, access for large vehicles will be from the north (via Ducklington) and not pass through The Square. All such movements will be pre-notified and at off-peak times (0930 to 1500).

Hawthorns Ongoing issues with groundworks have delayed significantly the handover of the site. A whole host of concerns over the 'POW stockade' at the southern end of the site have been referred to WODC enforcement officers for action with Matthew Homes.

Terra We understand that the unwelcome and aptly-named 'Terra' application behind Marsh Furlong will be adjusted and resubmitted, following serious reservations from WODC, including the proposed mix of affordable housing. When this occurs, there will be further opportunities for public consultation

(please do take the opportunity) and the Parish Council will adjust its formal objection accordingly in light of any application changes. When the WODC Lowlands Planning Committee meets to decide the application later this year, both we and the Marsh Furlong Residents Association will be represented and hope to speak.

Anti-Social Behaviour Regrettably, there have been several incidents of antisocial behaviour in the Parish over recent months, the culprits of much of which are well known. The advice from Thames Valley Police is to report all such incidences promptly and in detail, in order for evidence to be gathered. Reports should be made by dialling 101 or (probably better for audit trail purposes, in the Council's view) via their website at <https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/contact/af/contact-us/>

And finally If you have any questions or comments for your Parish Council and you are unable to raise it directly with a councillor, please forward them to the Parish Clerk by email on clerk@astonoxon-pc.gov.uk or by post c/o 16 Foxwood, Aston, Oxfordshire, OX18 2DZ.

Russell La Forte
Chairman Aston, Cote, Shifford and Chimney

The Hottest Day 2022

As I write this article late in August, we still haven't experienced any appreciable rainfall. Wednesday, 24th August 2022 was designated by Thames Water as the first day of a hosepipe ban. Monday, 19th July was the hottest day of the year – in fact the BBC reports the hottest for 500 years! News bulletins recorded the highest temperature of 40°C – Aston recorded 39°C. That day, the 'coolest' place was Aston Community Shop – wonderful air conditioning!

Questioning Astonites on how they dealt with the heat, showed most people retreated into their homes with drawn curtains. Sitting in my garden it felt like a 'fan oven'. Dog-walkers set out very early that day and used water to cool their canines. Well, on that day, just when we needed a cool drink, a shower and a wet flannel, a water main burst and most of us were without water from 7am until 9 pm!

How did Aston people cope? They rallied round; the shop sold out of water – one customer needed water to heat his baby's bottle. He went to Aldi, Carterton, snapped up some bottles and brought back others to share out. Andy Ball, at the garage was given bottles and then bought some to give to older residents. Thames Water set up a distribution centre for bottled water and more acts of kindness occurred when neighbours collected them and shared them out. A lorry load of water was dropped off at the village hall but unfortunately with little communication to the villagers.

Under the Thames Water Agreement, the water supply must be re-connected within 12 hours. This they failed to do, which means that customers are entitled to a payment of £30 under the Customer Guarantee Scheme (CGS). This would be credited to the customer account and should appear on the next statement. It should happen automatically within 30 days, but the customer



Ben Pentland, a local builder, and his team made several trips

should make application within three months if Thames Water doesn't do it automatically. I am still awaiting payment. Should we have a 'brown lawn' competition, I might win!

Lizzie Wood

Photography Competition 2022



Jenny Harris



Alistair Barnett



Winner – *Kirsty Jackson*

It sums up summer for me – what could be better than enjoying yourself on a hot day with an ice cream. I really love the candid way the photo is framed with the young person off to one side, and with them seemingly unaware that the photo is being taken. A great image.



Caron Glenn



Celia O'Brien



Gem Govier

We were delighted to receive more than 30 photographs on the theme of 'Summer'

Thank you to those who entered and congratulations to Kirsty Jackson who wins the £20 First Prize.

The entries were judged by Paul, a Voices team member, who is a semi professional photographer.



Second – *Nick Hoskins*

No English summer is complete without Strawberries. I love the rich bold colours in this and the fact that the subject completely fills the image. Well done



Sue Malin

Third – *Joshua Hines*

Well done for capturing this fleeting moment perfectly – beautiful colours, a really strong bold image. I love it.



Pete Saunders



Steve Jones



Catherine Long

What's in a name?

The Paddocks

The photograph from 2000 shows a new development in Bull Street. Finding a name for the new development was not hard. The houses were built on the site of a small holding which was known as The Paddocks. The small holding had been farmed by Bernard Smith.



This photograph, taken from Smith's Close, shows some of the Paddock's farm buildings with The Paddock's farmhouse top left. It also shows the pickup which had been owned by Bernard Smith.

Smith's Close

Smith's Close was named after Bernard Smith. So who was Bernard Smith? Quite a character: He was a member of the Smith family of Aston, some of whom were bakers. Bernard was a small holder and the cows he owned were sometimes grazed in fields in Cote Road, one being The Cricket Field!

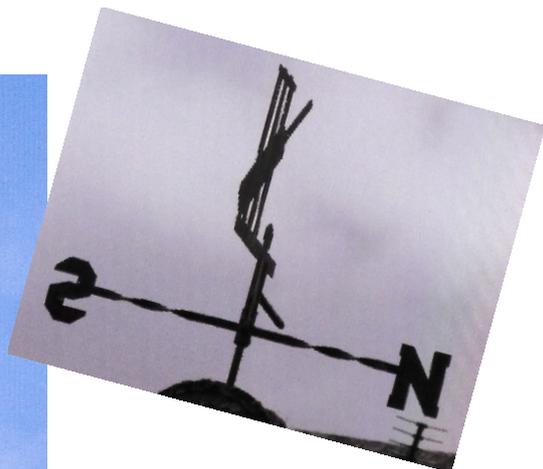
Apart from farming the Paddocks he was our parish clerk from 1948 until 1964 and his reports, handwritten, can be seen in the Council's minute book. His spelling however was not without the occasional mistake - no spell checks then.

He was something of an innovator and was always prepared to try something new. In fact, he owned one of the first television sets in the village!



Coronation day sees members of the Smith family standing at the gates to the Paddocks

Andrew Long



Visit to Cotswold Lavender

In July I visited Cotswold Lavender near Broadway. I have always wanted to visit but usually miss the season. So, this year plans were made early, with a friend, to visit their fields and visitor centre in mid-July, when we hoped the lavender would be in full bloom.

The entrance fee of £7 gave us access to walk around two very large fields of lavender together with meadows of wild flowers and a woodland trail.

It was a stunning sight of plants in an array of different colours; various shades of blues and mauves, as well as pinks and white



with green, silver or grey foliage. All beautifully pruned and shaped which we learned was carried out by machine when the flowers are harvested.

Cotswold Lavender is a family run farm, which originally started growing lavender in 1999 with just a few hundred plants but has now grown into almost 70 acres of lavender

which is turned into oils and a product range.

We had arranged our trip on what was to be one of the hottest days of the year.

Fortunately, as it was so high up in the Cotswolds there was a pleasant breeze to keep us from getting too hot although the sun was still quite fierce. So after walking the fields we rested a while with a drink from the wooden cabin shop on site.

Certainly well worth the visit but you do need to be quick to see it in all its glory from June to August. There is no need to book, but I would advise going earlier in the day as it was becoming busy by the time we left at 1pm. There is enough to see for a morning or afternoon so it could be combined with a visit to other places in the area, such as Broadway Tower, Snowhill Manor or the Cotswold Distillery. We finished our trip with lunch and a walk around Broadway.

Sally Lee



Keeping it safe Computing for Grandmas

If you've been involved in computers at all, you will know it has always been recommended that you take regular backups. It is so easy to accidentally delete something vital from your computer or phone. I have memories of painstakingly copying files to floppy disk and more recently to CD-ROM. It's a pain to do and not easy to find the relevant files when you need them!

Another use of backups is to transfer information between computers. Many years ago I was upgrading my wife's computer and I thought I had saved her documents and copied them to the new computer. All seemed fine until one day she asked me where all her documents had gone! It turned out that I had only copied the top-level files and had missed copying the ones in her folders. I wasn't very popular...

Fortunately, it is now easier than ever to ensure you do regular backups. Apple or Google accounts come with some dedicated (or 'cloud') storage that they maintain for you on the internet (iCloud for Apple, Google Drive for Android). You can set up your phone to automatically save your photos and it's generally easy to save other files as well. This has the advantage that photos or documents created on your phone are automatically also available on your tablet or laptop.

I would also recommend setting up the automatic phone backup. This takes a copy of the contents of your phone overnight (you need to leave it switched on) and makes setting up a new phone very easy. I've used it many times when upgrading my phone, but it is obviously vital if you need to replace your phone if

something happens to the original.

So, what happens when you run out of space on your backups? Both Apple and Google have options to increase the amount of storage that start at around a pound a month. Alternatively, other storage providers (for example DropBox) exist and can offer additional storage.

Let's keep the things that matter to us safe!

If you have a subject that you would like us to cover in a future edition then please contact the editors.

Tom England



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Aston Youth FC



The club has come a long way since its founding in 2015. We now have nine sides ranging from U7's to U15's playing in a variety of leagues across Oxfordshire. Our 'mini dribblers' section for children for ages four-six will be continuing in September. Back in June we enjoyed our biggest ever presentation with over 100 children in attendance - see photo.

The majority of our teams are unfortunately at maximum capacity. We are always looking for more coaches to help us facilitate more sessions for the children in the local area. If you are interested in helping in and around the club, please contact info@astonyouthfc.org

The club wouldn't be able to function without sponsorship. A massive thank you to the Chequers Inn Brize Norton and Letting It company in Clanfield for sponsorship of the new U9's kit.

PD Hook have once again agreed to sponsor the new U7's and the club for the forthcoming season, thank you! This allows us to buy the children new equipment each season.

Fixtures across the whole club (Mens and Youth) will be posted on 'What's on in Aston and Cote' weekly - so please pop down and show your support across the weekend!

Nick Angus

New Chair of Community Trust

As the new chairman of the Community Trust, I would like to thank the previous chair, Carolyn, for all her hard work and dedication to the Trust in the past. I am looking forward to progressing the exciting projects anticipated to improve and encourage community activities within the hall and on the recreational field. One of those projects is the installation of a MUGA (multi use games area). I can report that we are engaged with a professional for advice on size / surface type /site/ positioning etc., in order to produce a specification for contractors' quotes. We hope to produce a spec which will allow for football, tennis, basketball and netball as a minimum. I will endeavour to keep the community updated as progress is made. As the village hall and recreational field needs constant financing to keep things up together and improving, I would always encourage the community and beyond to use the facilities and support the trust whenever possible.

Ian Dunstan
Chairman of Aston and Cote Community Trust



Aston Netwalking

Just over a year ago I found myself spending more and more time working from home. I started to realise how this was affecting me. I realised how much I needed to have a break in my day – to break the desk work and to get away from doing the washing and emptying the dishwasher! This is what led me to set up Aston Netwalking. The benefits of being outdoors are widely known. Spending long periods of time hunched over your desk can make you grumpy! Getting outside with Aston Netwalking can allow you to realise these benefits: It gives opportunity for exercise - improving your level of mobility and helping to maintain your posture. It reduces anxiety - getting your dose of Vitamin D can keep your spirits up and improve your mood. It increases creativity - walking increases your oxygen intake, aids stress management, providing a level-headed approach to a problem. It helps towards your daily 10,000 step target - less likely to be achieved if you are at your desk for eight hours. Getting away from the screen - helps to prevent eye strain and helps to combat headaches. It is social - meeting up with other people to chat can combat stress and improve your happiness levels. It'll give your brain a bit of time to mull over work in the background so that when you do return to the desk, you'll have a fresh perspective on the problem.



Aston Netwalking takes place every month, normally on the third Thursday meeting outside the Village Hall.



My focus when creating this group was to offer the time and space to others who wanted to have a break in their day. Others often share how much they get from a local walk with other likeminded people. In a time when I was new to the village, it has allowed me to meet some lovely people and I want to take this opportunity to thank them for that and hope that Aston Netwalking will continue to support others when they need it.

If you want to find out more or have a chat with me, do get in touch on 07971 447367 or find the next dates on the Aston Facebook page.

Kathryn Jackson

Thank You

We would like to say a big thank you to the Fete committee for giving £500 towards Chillax activities. This will be a great boost to the group.

Chillax is a youth club run by Aston and Cote Community Church for secondary pupils in Year 7 to Year 9 (current Years 10 and 11 are welcome to continue to come this year). We meet once a month in the Fellowship Centre from 7.30pm to 9pm. There are games, crafts, a talky bit to reflect on life, and the opportunity to chat and "chillax". Cost £1. Our first session will have happened on Friday 16th September, future dates are as follows: 14th October, 18th November, 13th January. Hopefully after the brief appearance of the "Monster Bunny" event, Monster Turkey will be back this December - watch this space!

Please contact us if you would like more information

Al, Dale, Abi, Kathy & Steve



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Aston History Group

Julie Ann Godson was the speaker for our July meeting. In her well-illustrated talk Julie told us how so many of the key events surrounding the Norman invasion of Anglo-Saxon England in 1066 took place in modern Oxfordshire. The story starts with the birth of Edward (the Confessor) at Islip in 1004, the son of Ethelred and Emma of Normandy. It ends with William (the Conqueror)'s arrival in Wallingford to be met by a peace delegation. That was mid-November 1066, and he was crowned William I in London, on Christmas Day.



In August we joined with WI members for an excellent coach outing to the Royal Mint. See the front cover for further information.

Next meetings:

September 29th:

The impact of the First World War on Oxford's women's lives
 A Talk by Katherine Bradley

October 27th:

Apples! The Myth and Mystery of England's Favourite Fruit
 A Talk by Tim Healey

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

Martin Bowley



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“Sing like no one is listening, dance like no one is watching...”



Are you looking for something different to do which will get you involved in village life?



How about joining our singing group?

We are a friendly, relaxed group of ladies who simply enjoy meeting up and singing. We work on a variety of songs, mostly popular in style but with occasional forays into more folky or classical genres. Although we don't do that many performances, we have previously been involved in the Village Christmas Concert and have held our own informal concerts for friends and family from time to time.

Apart from the fun and the there are many recognised physically to singing. There are have musical notation available read it to become involved.



opportunity to make new friends benefits both mentally and no auditions and although we it's not necessary to be able to

We meet on Thursday evenings (7.30 - 9.00) in the Fellowship Centre (except the last Thursday of the month). You would be really welcomed - come along and give it a try and hopefully you'll be persuaded to join us - we always look forward to gaining new members.



Look out on the village Facebook page for when we will be starting up again or contact Kirsty Jackson 01993 850622.



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 Charlie.maynard@westoxon.gov.uk
 Cllr Lysette Nicholls
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The Palindromes – not backwards in coming forwards ...

Being a teenager during the 1960's in Britain was great for a music-lover, which I was.

One of my favourites of the lesser-known bands was The Palindromes.

The band was made up of Hannah, Eve, Otto, Bob and Pip.

I really enjoyed their first tune, 'If I had a hifi' which shot to number one.

(Hifi was short for High Fidelity, which was a system of music enhancement which was designed to bring an extra quality to recordings, producing a smooth and seductive style)

Even though I quite liked the band's second record, 'Mr Owl ate my metal worm', it didn't really catch on. They then tried a parody on Bob Marley's 'No woman, no cry', entitled 'No melon, no lemon' and another of his, 'Yo, Banana Boy'. Staying on the food theme, the band wrote 'A nut for a jar of tuna' but their short-lived popularity seemed to be on the wane.

After trying 'Was it a car or a cat I saw?' and 'Eva, can I see bees in a cave?' both mild hits, the group wondered if they might do better in the States. After Pip's then famous cry of "Are we not drawn onward, we few, drawn onward to a new era?" they emigrated to, I believe, Wassamassaw, in South Carolina, or it could have been Okonoko, West Virginia, I'm not sure. Or was it Kinikinik, Colorado? Sorry, my memory is failing me.

Anyway, once settled, the band's popularity picked up and they had hits with 'So many dynamos', 'No 'x' in Nixon', 'Never odd or even', and the ever-popular 'Niagara, O, roar again'.

The Palindromes even had a number one hit in Japan, of all unlikely place, with 'A Toyota. Race fast, safe car. A Toyota' This prompted a tour of Japan, with the climax in Okasako, Tokyo.

Eventually, Pip and Eve tied the knot and moved to Oktahatko, Florida. Hannah, Otto and Bob formed a trio and moved to Kakanak, Alaska and the Palindromes broke up.

Short but sweet and good while it lasted, I reckon.

John Troughear

Crossing the Road

Crossing the road in The Square is not always easy. Crossing from the Red Lion to the Community Shop can be tricky. Parked cars restrict visibility and cars going too fast are another obvious problem. It is not all just hypothetical. In July a pedestrian was knocked down just outside the shop.

There probably aren't any obvious solutions to the problems of crossing the road. If there were our Parish Council and Highways would have considered them. However, a possible 20 mph speed limit through the village has its attractions. Individuals crossing roads have more time to see and be aware of oncoming traffic. In the unlikely event of a pedestrian being hit by a car, the injuries sustained would be far less severe than by a vehicle travelling at 30 + mph.

The 20-mph speed limit has its down sides and enforcement is a factor. However, it may be like seat belts. In 1983 the wearing of seat belts became compulsory and not to everyone's delight. However, in time, people accepted seat belts, the wearing of which brought down the number of fatalities and serious injuries from traffic accidents.

The 20-mph speed limit may be inconvenient and strange to start with, but it may prove worthwhile.

Editors



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News from Aston & Cote CE Primary School

It was wonderful to be able to celebrate the end of the school year in the usual way with parents attending our Sports Day and family picnic, the KS2 play and our Year 6 leavers' Service. For the last two years, we have been unable to have parents in school or numbers have been severely restricted, so it was lovely to welcome everyone back.

Sports Day was a great success. Spurred on by the roars of the crowd, the children tried their best in every race, often showing great resilience when things went wrong – eggs falling off spoons, finding it almost impossible to stand upright in a sack, struggling to get into the same rhythm with a partner in the three-legged race! I was incredibly proud of the children in Year 6 who were integral in getting the correct children to the starting line for each race and organizing the equipment. After all that hard work and effort, it was lovely for the children to be able to relax with family and staff for the picnic afterwards – by this stage, the sun was well and truly out, so the shady spots of the field were much sought after.

Later in the week, we completed our sporting theme with an activities morning. The children completed a variety of sporting challenges in mixed age house groups. As always, we were so impressed with the way in which the older pupils in each group supported and encouraged the younger children. A huge thanks must go to Mrs Chadwick and Mr Hook for organizing these events which showcase all the skills the children have developed over the course of the previous year. Once the scores from both

Aston and Cote School - Sports Report

It's already been a hugely successful year here at Aston and Cote Primary. Our year 4's finished second in the Witney schools' tennis competition and third in the West Oxfordshire round. Both of our quad kids' athletics teams progressed out of the Witney schools' round with the year 4's winning their competition and the year 6's coming second in theirs. At the West Oxfordshire round the year 4's finished in a well-deserved fourth place with Bella being the second-best girl at the competition and Dillon the best boy.

The year 6's were able to go one better than in the Witney round and ended up coming first overall. Eliza stood out for the team as she was the best girl at the event. This meant we qualified for the County finals against the best schools in the county. The children ran, jumped and threw to their best abilities and finished in seventh place overall, with Eliza finishing third in the girls.

In the Witney schools' netball league the children won their group games 3-0, 5-2, 13-0. This meant a mini tournament to decide the winner of the league. Our first game was against West Witney. Going into the final five minutes the scores were even, but after some calm shooting from Eliza, Aston pulled through 5-2 winners. The final game was against Tower Hill. Once again, the scores were even going into the last five minutes. Izzy and Eliza once again came through with the goals after some great defending from Isla to win 7-5 and become champions for the

the races and the activities had been added up, the winning house was Phoenix, so well done to all of them and well done to everyone for participating and giving their all.

The KS2 play is another highlight of the school year and this year's performance did not disappoint. After weeks of rehearsals in school, the children were ready to showcase their talents on the stage at The Shed at Cokethorpe School. 'Darwin Rocks' is based on the life story of Charles Darwin and his theory of evolution. The audience was treated to sensational singing, awesome acting and some amazing actions thrown in for good measure. Several of the Year 6s also sang solos; their confidence, poise and courage made me incredibly proud. Our Leavers' Service on the last day of term was a fantastic celebration of all the talents that the Year 6s have grown both inside and outside school over the last seven years. They have been a truly exceptional group and will be greatly missed next year but we know that they are now ready for the move to secondary school, armed with all the skills they need to be successful learners and responsible citizens.

We were delighted to receive donations from the village shop for £250 and from the Fete Committee for £500. The money is greatly appreciated and will be used to enhance the learning experiences of the children in school, including some new books for all the classes – these will be enjoyed by our many book worms!

Fiona Taylor – Head Teacher

first time for the school. Aston went cricket mad in the summer term. Our year 5's went to play a festival at Cokethorpe. After finishing third in very challenging group



Cricket Champions

in the year 6 boys' competition they

finished well with a

convincing win over Madley to finish fifth. The year 6 girls fared better in their competition, going through the group undefeated. After a dominant win in the semi-finals the girls faced Madley. In a tight game the girls lost by only four runs, but still qualified for the county finals.

In the finals the girls were undefeated in the group games. Waiting for us in the semi-final were the familiar faces of Madley. This time the girls were more confident in their abilities and Aston won 65-45. The girls were very excited for the final and once again they kept their cool to play some great cricket running away with an 83-27 win and becoming county champions.

It has been a successful year and I'd like to give a big thank you to the parents who have helped with transport throughout the year.

Mr Hook

September is 'Back to School'

Whether you enjoyed school or not, you will have memories of the time and the activities.

Here are a few pieces from Aston residents:

Victor Hughes of Bull Street recalls war time boarding at Prices Grammar School nr Portsmouth (1939-1945) One of six children, my younger brother and I boarded together with approx. 30 others. An air raid alert one night sent us, along with Matron and staff, to our raid shelters about 100 yards away. When we returned, after the 'All Clear', we found that a land mine had dropped just outside the School House and a large piece of road and shrapnel had gone through the roof, part of which had gone through Matrons bed! We also discovered that one of the boarders, had slept right through the whole thing.

During the war we were in the Army Cadets and went to camp at Aldershot. King George VI came to inspect the cadets and spoke to the chap next to me. The King was very heavily made up and died only six months later from lung cancer.

One resident who started Aston School in 1950 and the Headmistress lived in the school house next to the school. She remembers the day the whole school 45-50 children - just two classes - went to the Palace cinema in Witney, to see the film showing Edmund Hillary's ascent of Everest, in 1953 - the coronation year. Another memory was of the great iron heater in the classroom, fed with coke - and it was still freezing cold!

Trish Bignell, also of Bull Street reported that she started school in 1936. In the Old Trafford area of Manchester - no pre-school - straight in! Walked nearly a mile (on my own) and back home again for



Quad Kids Teams

lunch - no ferrying by car. I remember so well the smell of the different fruits as I passed the Duerr's Jam factory.

My first teacher was a lovely lady called Miss Marchant. 'There wasn't anything scary about school for me.'

From 1939 all the male teachers had gone to fight in the war. I remember doing homework on the kitchen table - more home learning - Lockdown teaching?

I was evacuated to Derbyshire aged eight, to a kind couple who lived in a little country cottage.

In 1952 - I remember going to school on a public bus - more than five miles - aged five. We had very formal lessons and had to sit at traditional double wooden desks all facing the Blackboard.

I particularly loved nature walks.

Jenny Mills of Southlands writes:

My gymslip - standard school uniform - was too long and my new school shoes squeaked but my parents knew that the end of the year, the gymslip would be too short, and the shoes would be replaced by sandals.

It was an exciting return to school because we knew that very soon; we would have to move to 'Rising Brook Junior School', which had been requisitioned by the Royal Navy for the duration of the war. I have since wondered how a school; 130 miles inland would be any use to the Royal Navy, but it must have been as we had RN Wrens billeted with us.

The 'new' school was lovely; it smelt of paint instead of plimsolls and plasticine and had all new desks and chairs. I don't remember a great deal about the classes or staff except our form teacher was a crack hand at the chalk missile! He was strict but fair and an expert at encouraging us to learn. We also had a new teacher who was French, and she actually taught us to think in French as well as speak it.

At 84 I can still ... a bit ... J'ai penser en Francais !



Netball Champions

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.**

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Alphabet Quiz



Q1



Q2



Q3

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

1. What is the name of this cartoon dog?
2. What is the name of this car which appeared in "The Love Bug"?
3. Andy Capp lived in which Durham town?
4. Which Oxfordshire village was well known for its cherry orchards?
5. From which language do we get the word ukulele?
6. The Bronte sisters lived at the parsonage in which Yorkshire town?
7. At what English cricket ground would you find the Kirkstall Lane End?
8. Who is the famous naval hero in CS Forester's books?
9. Long and Church are the first names of which neighbouring Oxfordshire villages?
10. Which twining, scented, woodland plant has the Latin name Lonicera periclymenum?
11. The name of a Sir Walter Scott novel gave its name to which Scottish football club?
12. Which brothers were said to have led the Angles, Saxons and Jutes in their invasion of Britain in the 5th Century?
13. What is the name of the game played by children, who throw a stone onto a set of joined squares drawn on the ground and jump on one leg and then on two?
14. In Greek myth, which Trojan prince was the son of King Priam & Queen Hecuba?
15. Which comet will next appear in 2061?
16. Shaun Ryder was the lead singer of which Salford rock band?
17. Which country house near Newbury was used for filming Downton Abbey?
18. Which village lies four miles North East of Aston?
19. Which flower's name is derived from the Greek for water vessel?
20. What was the name of the many headed water snake in Greek mythology?

Answers on page 26

Compiled by Andrew Long



We offer before and after school care at Aston & Cote Primary School. Where we have lots of fun activities in a safe and nurturing environment.

Monday - Friday
Breakfast Club - from 8am
After School Club - 3.10 - 6.10pm

For more information call Vicky on 01993 851883 or 0788 7711 454 or email vickyhickman1@gmail.com

Visit our website
www.vickysafterschoolclub.co.uk



Fellowship Centre

If you would like to hire The Fellowship Centre contact Andrew Long 01993850271 or ag.long@virgin.net



Out and About

I was fortunate to be invited to join a group going to the Milestone Museum near Basingstoke. It took just over the hour to get there from Aston. There was plenty of parking spaces and it was free.

Once inside the museum we wandered along the cobbled streets, passing vintage vehicles and stopping occasionally to look at the numerous exhibits of old machinery and tools and to watch some of the demonstrations. There were numerous settings of how life was in the Victorian times as well as pre and post war. There was a cabinet displaying the type of toys and games that we would have played with in the 50s and 60. After a while we decided it was time for a sit down some refreshments. We opted for a hot chocolate and slice of cake - it was delicious. However, we could have had a proper meal such as fish and chips.

On site there was an old-fashioned pub selling selection of beers and spirits, but unfortunately the prices were not at the old rates! Like any other museum there was a gift shop, and this was stacked with lots of interesting items.

I can recommend Milestone Museum - an enjoyable visit for all ages.

Lesley Brown

500 Club Winners

July 2022 Draw

No.	Prize	Winner
No 338	£40	J. Abbott
No 312	£30	R. Brown
No 346	£20	F. Farmer
No 331	£10	D. Baughan
No 324	£10	R. Salway
No 268	£5	K. Dickinson
No 83	£5	P. Garner
No 389	£5	V. Hoskins

August 2022 Draw

No.	Prize	Winner
No 428	£40	D. & M. Arundel
No 41	£30	C. Simmonds
No 40	£20	A. & Y. Carroll
No 116	£10	M. Dunstan
No 293	£10	V. Faulkner
No 414	£5	K. & A. Astley
No 112	£5	M. Spearman
No 358	£5	T. Lett

If you would like the chance to be a 500 Club winner please contact us on:

500ClubAston@gmail.com

or the Facebook page at

<https://www.facebook.com/AstonCote>

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What's On

*Welcome to your
Aston Community cafe
Our first day of opening is
Friday 30th September 2022
9am*



*Then every Friday 9am-11am
(TERM TIME ONLY)
St James Church.*

Pop in Everyone is welcome.
Play area available for children.
Cash and card payments welcome

'ACTS take to the stage'

Who killed the secret agent?

A James Bond Spoof
written by Chris Martin

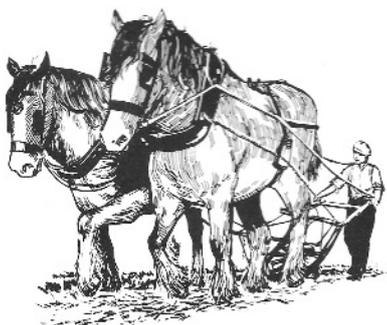
**ACTS Presents an
evening of murder
and mystery**

Aston Village Hall

Saturday 3rd Dec, evening
performance with supper
Sunday 4th Dec, afternoon
performance with tea

Bar • Quiz • Raffle • Prizes

The Ploughing Match



The Fairford, Faringdon, Filkins and
Burford Ploughing Championship
and Country Show is on **Saturday
24 September 2022** at Shifford
Manor Farm. It should be a good
day!

ST. JAMES CHURCH OF ENGLAND, ASTON

Join us for St James' first-ever

CHURCH AISLE SKITTLES CHAMPIONSHIP

Friday 23 September at 7pm

The evening will consist of team rounds
and a chance to be crowned champions

BAR

Tickets £10 each (under 10s £5)
INCLUDES ALL GAMES & PLOUGHMAN'S SUPPER
Available from Aston Community Shop

Jigantics



Folk Concert

26th November, Village Hall
7pm for 7.30.

Tickets Aston Repair Depot

or Sylvia Brown

12, Cote Road

01993850553

Coming soon



Jez Lowe

Folk Concert on 24th September
at Aston Village Hall
7pm for 7.30pm

Jez Lowe with supporting acts
Montmorency and
Bampton Folk Club.

Tickets £12 from Aston Repair Depot
or Sylvia Brown.
12 Cote Road 01993850553

The last time Jez played at Aston it
was a sell out,
so get your tickets early!

Sylvia Brown

Answers to the Alphabet Quiz

1. Huckleberry Hound.
2. Herbie.
3. Hartlepool.
4. Harwell.
5. Hawaiian.
6. Howarth.
7. Headingly.
8. Horatio Hornblower.
9. Hanborough.
10. Honeysuckle.
11. Heart of Midlothian.
12. Hengist and Horsa.
13. Hopscotch.
14. Hector.
15. Halley's Comet.
16. Happy Mondays.
17. Highclere Castle.
18. Hardwick.
19. Hydrangea.
20. Hydra.

Diary

September

Friday 23rd
Skittles Evening
7.00pm
St James Church

Saturday 24th
Folk concert
Jez Lowe
7.30 Village Hall

Thursday 29th
History Group
"The Impact of WWI
on Oxford's Women's Lives"
Katherine Bailey
7.30 Fellowship Centre

Friday 30th
"Aston Community Cafe"
9 am- 11.00 am
St James Church

October

Tuesday 4th
Informal Art Group
2.30
Fellowship Centre

Thursday 6th
Parish Council
7.30 Village Hall

Friday 7th
"Aston Community Cafe"
9 am- 11.00 am
St James Church

Wednesday 12th
WI
7.30 Village Hall

Thursday 27th
History Group
"Apples! The Myth and Mystery of
England's Favourite Fruit"
Tim Healey
7.30 Fellowship Centre

November

Thursday 3rd
Parish Council
7.30 Village Hall

Wednesday 9th
W.I.
7.30 Village Hall

Church Services

Aston and Cote Community Church at the Fellowship Centre

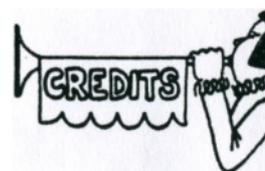
After a summer of family services, we resume our usual pattern of Sunday morning meetings in the autumn. We hope all our services are family friendly and welcoming to people of all ages, backgrounds and beliefs. Services last about 75 minutes and are followed by tea/coffee and a chance to chat.

Our talks are based on two short series this autumn. Firstly, what it means to have faith and how that affects how we live our daily lives in challenging times ('Walking in Faith'); and secondly, how we model Christian values and lifestyle in today's culture ('Beautiful Resistance'). Please contact Alastair Barnett on accc@rootsanddrivers.uk for more details, or go to our website at <https://astoncotecc.org.uk/>

Date	Time	Service
18-Sep	10.00am	Worship, talk, and Sunday School (with Communion)
25-Sep	10.00am	Worship, talk, and Sunday School
2-Oct	10.00am	Worship, talk, and Sunday School
9-Oct	10.00am	Worship, talk, and Sunday School
16-Oct	10.00am	Family Service (with Communion)
23-Oct	10.00am	Worship, talk, and Sunday School
30-Oct	10.00am	Worship, talk, and Sunday School
06-Nov	10:30am in Oxford	No meeting in Aston (Celebration service)
13-Nov	10.00am	Worship, talk, and Sunday School (with Communion)
20-Nov	10.00am	All-age Family Service

Andrew Long – Chair and Editor (Content)
Helen Wheaton – Editor (Technical)
Martin Bowley – Secretary and Lay Up
Paul Lock – Lay Up
Tom England – Lay Up
Liz Harper – Advertising and Distribution
Lizzie Wood
Brenda Smith

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Unit 15, Glenmore Business Centre, Range Rd, Witney OX29 0AA
Thanks also to the distribution team and
Aston, Cote, Shifford and Chimney Parish Council for their grant



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

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

Shop Opening Hours:

Mon – Wed 08:30 – 16:00

Thu and Fri 08:30 – 17:00

Saturday 08:30 – 14:00

Sunday and Bank Holidays
09:00 – 12:00

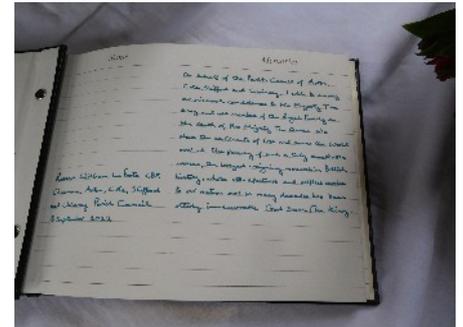
Post Office Opening Hours:

Monday 09:30 – 12:30

Wednesday 09:30 – 12:30

Friday 09:30 – 12:30

Queen Elizabeth II



Our parish recorded the passing of the Queen with a book of condolence which was placed in St James Church. There were many written comments reflecting the appreciation felt by parishioners for the years of devoted service given by her majesty.

Running for a reason

Hello all, I'm Marc and have lived in Aston for over five years. I'm reaching out to share my story with you and ask for your support as I run this year's awesome London Marathon for the British Heart Foundation!

My reason for raising money for charity...

It seems so crazy that just coming up to seventeen years have passed since I last spent time with my little sis. After a nice evening spent at our family home, my sister Jo and her nine-month baby, Katie, went home alone, prepping things for the next day before going to bed with a quick call to mum and a text as normal. Little did I know that that night would be our last night together. Unfortunately, Jo never woke from her sleep as she passed with what is referred to as SADS, Sudden Adult Death Syndrome, with no known problems at the age of just twenty-one.

Over the last seven years I've completed many different challenges: half marathons, a 10k trail run, a 100 mile bike ride, Snowdon Triple Challenge, even a silly (but serious) fitness video on YouTube and in 2021 the David Coggins 4 x 4 x 48 challenge (which was insane) and now training for the 2022 London Marathon!

I have raised and given a combined total of over £7,000 to charities so far and with your help I will smash through the £10,000 barrier - raising more awareness as I go. If we can save a family from the pain that, like so many, we have felt, then it will be worth the effort.

Please follow me and donate. The links are below and on my Instagram page

[marcs_marathon_journey](#)

[justgiving.com/fundraising/marc-foster83](#)

Thank you for taking the time to read this and your kind donations. Stay safe

Marc Foster



Marc Foster



Jo and Katie