

VOICES would like to wish its readers a very happy Christmas and New Year!



The Newsletter for Aston, Cote, Shifford and Chimney

© Issue 190 November/December 2022

Un-earthing Aston's History



With the help of Oxford Archaeology, we may soon uncover the secrets buried in the ground around Back Lane.

Construction of a new children's home will begin shortly on Back Lane. In November 2021 archaeologists excavated two trenches and produced an evaluation report: (<https://eprints.oxfordarchaeology.com/6230/>) During the past four or five weeks a team from Oxford Archaeology have been excavating the area that the new building and its car park will cover. Now, after carefully recording all their finds and discoveries and photographing every variation in the soil, the experts will draw their conclusions.



The village of Aston sits on a gravel terrace, unlike the clay areas surrounding it. So how much advantage has been taken of this over the centuries? The earliest maps of Aston show more development along Bull Street and High Street than around the triangle of land bordered by High Street, North Street and Back Lane. Has the green central area of the triangle ever been used for purposes other than grazing?

Around 30 History Group members, were guided over the site on Thursday 20th October, by Oxford Archaeology team member, Charlotte Bishop, who has produced an online diary describing many of their discoveries. <https://blog.oxfordarchaeology.com/aston/posts/>. We saw pottery from the twelfth to the fourteenth centuries: bones, a buckle, a silver King Edward I coin (Like the one found in my garden forty years ago!), a farmer's token and more, as well as the signs in the earth which indicate earthworks of various kinds. Charlotte suggested the area was heavily occupied in medieval times and had been later abandoned.

It was a pleasant afternoon, but, after heavy rain that morning, our boots carried away more than memories! Eventually a full report of the dig will be available. Charlotte will give a presentation to the Aston History Group at their meeting on Thursday 30th March, to which all are welcome.

Martin Bowley

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Treasurer: Ian Peat (670459) Advertising: Liz Harper (850346)



Voices Donation Appeal

We hope you have enjoyed your copy of 'Voices' over the last year.

Voices is distributed to over 600 households in Aston, Cote, Shifford and Chimney, bringing local news, views, and events to your door completely free of charge, six times a year.

Our fund-raising efforts, advertising revenue and grants help to cover the £5,000 a year it costs to print. We are grateful for a regular grant from the Parish Council but also rely on you, the reader, to donate when and if you can. The newsletter costs around £1 per copy to produce. All other costs are covered by volunteers.

We are hoping you will be able to make a contribution and have included an envelope which can be dropped into the Community Shop or Penny Black House.

If you prefer to donate via card, you can do this at the shop via their 'Voices' tab or by Bank Transfer:

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Happy reading and thank you for your support.

Ian Peat Voices Treasurer

Editorial

At the time of going to press the gas contractors are still working in Aston. There has been some disruption as we may have expected. Renewing the gas pipes is a major undertaking, but well worth it. For years pedestrians walking in the parish have noticed the smell of gas. The leaks have been repaired but the repairs were only a temporary solution. The pipe work in Aston was badly corroded and it needed to be replaced. The new yellow pipes, made of MDPE (medium density Polyethylene), are now being/have been installed. Reports we have received say the work has been carefully completed with courtesy and consideration!



We are sad to report the deaths of two people who have been closely associated with Voices. Max Potter, who lived in Back Lane, was instrumental in the change from "cut and paste" to digital production of our newsletter. Max was a great supporter of village causes and was always prepared to lend a hand. Bob Jones, who lived in Manor Close, wrote a regular column for Voices. His pieces were nostalgic, entertaining and informative. They reflected his love for the community which was borne out by the many village activities with which he was involved.

On a lighter note, we are looking for someone to write a regular cookery column for Voices. Please contact the editors if you would like to contribute.

Editors Andrew Long and Helen Wheaton

Thank You

We would like to say thank you to our friends and neighbours who attended our 40th anniversary and Beth's 70th birthday party on 8th October. £350 was raised for Cancer Research.

Also thank you for the many cards and gifts we received.
Many thanks

Regards Beth & Patrick. X

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What's in a name?

Manor Close and Woodbridge Close.

Manor Close, built in 1971, and Woodbridge Close, built in 1973, were constructed on land that had been part of Aston's Manor Farm estate. In the first part of the twentieth century, it had been farmed by Henry Woodbridge. Henry came from a family of farmers and in the nineteenth century the Woodbridge family had farmed land at Chimney and also at Claywell. Henry died at Aston in 1959 his wife Pat having died two years earlier. The farming side was taken over by Brian Stevens who lived at Bampton. In time, farming operations at the site ceased and the farm buildings were demolished. When two new developments were built in Bull Street on the Manor Farmland, it seemed appropriate that they were named Manor Close and Woodbridge Close.



Pat and Henry Woodbridge

Andrew Long

The Local Plan

So, what is it? Did you know you had one?

The Local Plan, which is decided by Local Government and approved by National Government, is designed to ensure that, in any area, only 'appropriate' development takes place. This covers not only housing but also industrial and commercial development and care of green space. Yes, you are consulted - though these consultations seldom find consensus. For example, Oxford City wants more houses but allegedly has nowhere to build them. It regards West OXFORDSHIRE, with all its green space, as the Promised land. Aston, having had at least two major housing developments added in recent years with no extra shops, no significant road improvements and a school bulging at the seams may take a different view. So may many other villages in the district. Formulating and adopting the next Local Plan will always leave a few districts happy and many not so.

Everything hinges on the existence of a Land Bank. If a Local Authority can show it has a five year supply of deliverable housing land, then it is able to determine its own planning applications. If it does not then many planning permissions will be decided on appeal removing control of development from local to national level.

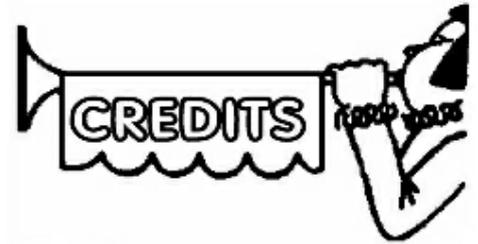
Currently WODC does not have a five year land bank. Planning permissions which were issued but never implemented mean the land bank has become depleted.

No one is ever content with their Local Plan however much public consultation has taken place. Developers brandish it as a weapon when they don't get the planning permission they want.

Conservationists use it to fiercely defend woodlands and open spaces. But in the end, it is always the mandarin in Whitehall (I prefer to think of him as the wizard behind the green curtain in the Wizard of OZ) who has the last word. This somehow takes the "Local" out of Local Plan.

Brenda Smith

Andrew Long – Chair and Editor (Content)
Helen Wheaton – Editor (Technical)
Ian Peat – Treasurer
Martin Bowley – Secretary and Lay Up
Paul Lock – Lay Up
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Skittles at St James'

A very unusual activity filled the nave of St James' church in September when, down the middle, straw bales formed a skittle alley. Along either side, pews, tables and chairs were arranged, and a bar was prepared via the hatch from the kitchen. As everyone arrived their names were chalked on the board where columns awaited their two scores.



Ash Carroll 2022 Champion

The two scores were combined, and everyone watched closely as the ten highest-scoring competitors rolled the balls again to find a champion. With seven skittles sent flying the winner was Ash Carroll. He received a trophy from the vicar, Janice Collier. The evening was a great success with a little over £500 raised for church funds. So it is with thanks to all involved for sorting food, beer, bales and skittles. We look forward to the next time.

Martin Bowley



Setting up the skittles

A very happy atmosphere was evident from the buzz of conversation and the occasional whoop of delight or groan as over forty keen entrants sent three balls hurtling towards the nine skittles at the belfry end. While everyone had one attempt and then a second try, later, a splendid ploughman's meal was served.

The two scores were combined, and everyone

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Parish News



The Passing of Bob Jones, Former Parish Councillor

It was with enormous regret that the Parish Council learned of the passing of Bob Jones on 12 October after a long illness that he bore with great fortitude. For many years, Bob was a stalwart of our community, including as a passionate parish councillor and as coordinator of the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, to name but two of his many activities. His selfless and invaluable service to our community will be sorely missed and the Parish Council would like to pass their heartfelt condolences to Bob's family and friends. We will remember him.

Traffic Calming On 13 October, OCC considered the Cote statutory consultation on reducing speed limits in the Parish (as well as Bampton) and agreed the proposals from the Parish Council. With clearance for the full package of proposals if we so wish, the Parish Council will now decide upon the precise extent of the measures to be implemented. In the meantime, we await details from OCC on the process and timeframe of implementation. We also (still) await OCC recommendations on traffic calming measures in The Square.

Queens Green Canopy Agreement having been reached with the Community Trust to plant a number of trees in the southwest corner of the Recreation Ground as part of the Platinum Jubilee 'Queen's Green Canopy' initiative, the trees have now been purchased and site clearance commenced, with planting to take place in November/December.

OCC Children's Home At the time of writing, the (fascinating) archaeological dig continues apace in Back Lane, ahead of main building work due to commence on 31 October, with completion due in August 2023. The Site Manager from Beard Construction, Kevin Carter, has now been appointed and will be available on site
Hawthorns Whilst groundworks continue at their Hawthorns site, Matthew Homes have submitted a retrospective planning application (22/02636/FUL) to retain the wooden fencing at the southern end of the site by Bull Street. We have objected vehemently. The fencing is ugly, incongruous and unnecessary, making a mockery of the designated Conservation Area within which it lies, as well as being (in our view) a blatant breach of planning conditions.

Terra As expected, revised plans were submitted by Terra for their proposed development behind Marsh Furlong. The adjustments focused upon a revised housing mix following earlier criticism by WODC affordable housing officers. A further period of public consultation ensued (now closed) and the Parish Council submitted a supplementary objection, accordingly, amplifying and updating our earlier very serious concerns. The WODC Lowlands Planning Committee are scheduled to determine the application at their 5 December meeting, where the Parish Council and Aston Action Group residents will be speaking in opposition to the proposal. At the very least, we shall be requesting that the Committee make a site visit to see the issues at first hand; this might require a decision deferment until their January meeting.

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 Parish Council

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Aston and Cote Community Trust

Here are some updates from the committee since the last issue of Voices. Firstly, a huge thank you to Sylvia Brown for organising another successful Folk Night. A full house was entertained by a local band from Bampton and then followed by the amazing Jez Lowe. Just over £800 was raised on the night. Talking money, we are looking for a new Treasurer. Previous experience would be helpful. If you or someone you know would be interested, then please contact me: landunstan5@gmail.com

The following item concerns updates to the grounds. It has been agreed to extend the car parking at the rear of the building. This includes erecting new fencing and putting down matting to protect the grass. These changes should allow parking for an additional 50+ vehicles. Having agreed on the specification for the 'Multiple Use Games Area' we are now awaiting costs to come in from the specialist suppliers invited to tender for the work. We have ordered metal feet to make repairs to the basket swing.

Finally, a massive thank you to the Parish Council for the purchase of 14 trees. These are to be planted in November in the right-hand corner of the grounds.

Don't forget to check out our website for news on forthcoming events.
astoncotevillagehall.org.uk
Ian Dunstan

Chairman of Aston and Cote Community Trust



W.I. News

We had planned for September to have Darren who was going to cook us some delicious nibbles to taste. However due to personal reasons was unable to come so at short notice we managed to get Martin Catt who came and talked about Natures Wild Harvest. This was about foraging and picking edible seeds, berries and nuts which can be found on our trees and in hedgerows. It was fascinating to discover how much there was out there which can be gathered free and then cooked, bottled and stored for eating later.

Then for October we were nearly back on target as we had planned at the same time as a talk from the Rev Ron Curtis, to have a harvest festival supper but due to several key members having covid it was decided to delay this until a later meeting. However, we were treated to a very interesting and fascinating talk about Ron and Claire's time working and living in Gibraltar. To support his talk, he bought numerous pictures to demonstrate and show where they lived and what life was like administering to the seamen who came from many different countries. It was also pleasing to some of the WI. Members that the seamen were willingly wearing the numerous knitted hats which had been made by them in the past.

Going forwards we are planning that our speaker for November will be Marcus Ferrar who will be talking about Freedom Fighters and for December there will be a Christmas themed evening.

As always new members always welcome 7.30 second Wednesday of every month in the village hall.

Lesley Brown

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Nature Natters - Biological control

I recently removed the insect netting from the cabbages to be greeted by a blizzard of whitefly. These little aphids specialise in greenhouse crops, but the hot summer let them enjoy my cabbages. The insect netting did a good job of keeping the butterflies out, but the tiny whitefly got in easily. The problem was that the enemies of the whitefly couldn't get in. These enemies are our familiar garden friends such as ladybirds and hoverflies which usually act as a biological control of aphids.

These days you can add another insect to the armoury of biological control of whitefly particularly for a greenhouse infestation and it is a tiny wasp called *Encarsia formosa*. You can buy them online and what arrives is a card with pupae the size of a pinhead on it. Hang it up in the greenhouse and the wasps hatch and set to work on the aphids. The female wasp injects an egg into every whitefly she comes across. The larva hatches, eats the whitefly from the inside, and eventually emerges from the husk of the aphid to carry on with its mission to rid the world of whitefly. This example of biological control involves boosting a native species and that is fine. But people have often tried introducing an alien species to control a pest, and this can bring disaster. The best (or worst) example of this is the cane toad that was introduced to Australia. It's a native of south America where it specialises in eating beetles particularly ones that are a pest in sugar cane fields. Unfortunately, the cane toads hadn't read the script and set about eating almost anything they came across. They are now a massive pest in Queensland and all efforts have so far failed to eradicate it.



Cane Toad

James Gray

Eating Out - Brotherton's Brasserie

We've passed Brotherton's many times whilst strolling through Woodstock, but only ever dined next door at La Galleria. For some reason, we didn't register it as Italian and never really checked it out, and I'd heard some good things.

On checking the menu, we found a few dishes we thought looked good so booked a table for a Tuesday night. Unlike quite a few local restaurants these days that close Mondays and Tuesdays, they are open seven days. We booked early dinner at 6pm and although there were only a couple of other tables occupied, every table was filled by 7pm, and they said they were all booked again for 8pm onwards.

I started with the Calamari Fritti Alla Romana that came with a salad; although a good portion with nice crispy batter, that fell off quite easily and maybe one or two were a tad underdone, but nevertheless was very good.

My wife had the Fillet of Sea Bream with Meuniere sauce (butter, parsley and lemon) as the main and although the first couple of mouthfuls had some bones, the rest was okay and she cleared the dish, saying it was very good. I had the Pork Fillet Valdostana with Mozzarella, Italian Ham and Fresh Asparagus, which is a dish I haven't had for over 30 years, since I worked in the City of London. It's usually a veal escalope in (flour & egg) breadcrumbs, but pork works just as well (as does quick cook turkey steaks from Sainsbury's if you want to try it at home). Both dishes came with seasonal vegetables comprising roast potato wedges, baby carrots and broccoli.

For dessert, the owner (Mevlan) talked us through the options with me deciding on Limoncello cheesecake, which was light and sharp, and my wife trying the highly recommended light sponge cake soaked in Limoncello and mimosa, cream and lemon curd topping, which lived up to the brag.

A closer look at the pasta options (and some plates coming out) gave us good vibes so it won't be long before we return.

Russ Avis



Brotherton's Brasserie

News from Aston & Cote CE Primary School

During the first week of October, Stevens class swapped their classroom in Oxfordshire for North Devon, where they took on adventurous challenges, day, and night, outdoors and in at Yenworthy Lodge. From the minute they arrived the children were expected to take responsibility for their belongings, their equipment, their rooms and of course, their actions. The class were subject to room and kit inspections and even made their own lunches and tidied, cleaned and vacuumed the centre every morning. Each day was filled with challenges, from the low ropes course and night hike on the first day, to surfing, orienteering (again at night and unsupervised) beachcombing, rock climbing, trekking up waterfalls and ziplining across gorges. A great time was had by all!

To celebrate National Poetry Day, we welcomed Juli Taylor into school to help us share our love of rhythm and rhyme! Juli worked with all the classes across the school to help us to love poetry and all its forms! We played some rhyming games, made Silly Sentences poems using alliteration and even listened to Juli read some of her own amazing poetry.

On Friday 14th October Evans Class had a very exciting day! Parents and carers were invited to come to school for a demonstration of Forest School. They played in the mud kitchen and created some delicious recipes. They made some cow tails and used these to help everyone to leap over the moon like in the rhyme Hey Diddle Diddle.



The program is evidence-based which means that the effectiveness of KiVa has been proven scientifically. KiVa offers a wide range of concrete tools and materials for schools to tackle bullying. Spencer and Fletcher classes explored Oxford Castle discovering the walls were 3m thick and built by Robert d'Oilly. They climbed up the to the top of the mound and could see for miles and miles. Inside the castle they ascended a narrow but incredibly high staircase to the top of the tower. The arrow slits at the top were in the shape of narrow crosses. They even got to see the moat from the tower. They learnt what life was like and how difficult it was for most people. If you were in prison you had to stand in a room with all the other prisoners, there was no room to sit or lie down. It was amazing to visit a real castle.

"I liked smelling all the smelly boxes." Toby

"It was fun feeling what was in the bag. The armour was so heavy!" Harriet

"I saw the moat when I looked out the tower." Henry

Fiona Taylor Head Teacher



Glanvill Class also had an amazing time in Forest School. They have learnt how to use a range of tools safely including whittling knives, bow saws and palm drills. They have also experimented with lighting fires, cooking on fires including making s'mores, pancakes and baked bananas and carefully and thoroughly putting fires out. In addition, they have learnt how to communicate, work as a team and persevere when things seem tricky when building dens, climbing trees and playing together.

We are now into our second year of teaching KiVa and we can't wait to continue to see the impact that our learning has upon the behaviour of our pupils. KiVa is an antibullying program that has been developed in the University of Turku, Finland, with funding from the Ministry of Education and Culture.



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1st Aston Brownies

We are well into the Autumn Term now and the Brownies are busy working towards their Communications Skills Builder Badge and also the Network Skills Builder Badge all together during the Monday meetings, but we also would 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, then order the badges in. We are very impressed at the work that has already been brought in, and it is clear that I will be ordering a lot of badges for our presentation evening at the end of the term!! The parent's rota is working well, and we are very grateful to all the parents that have come forward to assist on the parent's rota, we totally understand that some parents will not be able to help due to other commitments. If any adults would like to join Guiding and assist us in providing this facility for the girls, please get in touch and I can explain the training format that the Guiding Association provide. We are very excited about another trip out as we are all booked up for the special Girlguiding Screening of Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical at the Odeon Cinema in Oxford on Sunday, 11th, December. We are busy planning other trips for the girls which will happen from Spring next year. 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 Stay safe.

Karen Stay. Unit Leader

Garden Ramblings - Remembering the Queen

I think most people will recognise that the late Queen was a keen gardener and always enjoyed visits to Chelsea Flower Show as shown on our television screens over the years. It's not surprising therefore that during her 70-year reign she had many flowers and plants named in her honour. The first plant to be named after the Queen was not a rose as you



The Queen at Chelsea in 2019

would imagine but 'Elizabeth' a Clematis Montana which was introduced in 1953. It symbolises strength and charisma as it's a strong climber with pale pink flowers which are delicately scented.

Perhaps one of the most well known is the rose 'Queen Elizabeth' which was named in 1954 to recognise the Queen's ascension to the throne. This pink rose, often growing very tall, can still be found in many gardens today and was once described as indestructible. It's regarded as one of the world's most popular roses.

Other plants to follow included a beautiful loose salmon pink petalled Camellia Japonica 'Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II' which has glossy evergreen leaves and likes light and shade and is suitable for containers.



Clematis Montana

A Rhododendron also bears the Queen's name 'Queen Elizabeth II' and stunning, pale creamy yellow flowers are produced from this large, bushy shrub. Throughout her reign, including each Jubilee and special celebration there have been many more plants introduced to the public to honour the Queen.

Just earlier this year Harkness nurseries introduced the 'Queen Elizabeth II Rose.' It was launched to celebrate the Queen's 96th birthday and honoured the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and her 70 years of service. It was displayed at Chelsea and I'm sure the Queen was delighted to see it, at what turned out to be her final visit to the Show.

This Elizabethan age will be fondly remembered for many reasons but for gardeners there is no better way than to enjoy a beautiful flower for many years to come and have one's own thoughts and memories.

N.M.D.

Moth-ing at Aston

Since moving to the village in March 2022 I have been running a moth trap a couple of times a week in my garden off Back Lane. Why would I want to do this? Aren't moths brown and uninteresting? Not at all!

Moths are an integral part of the environment. Adults and their caterpillars are eaten by insects, spiders, amphibians, lizards, birds, bats and other mammals. Many species of moth have suffered serious population declines over the last fifty years, and this has had a knock-on effect on lots of other species. Moths are also important pollinators, so we need to look after them as much as we do bees.



Privet Hawk-Moth



Hummingbird Moth

there are moths on the wing during every month of the year. Moths vary greatly in size. The largest native species is the Privet Hawk-moth, with a wing span of around 100mm. The smallest, with a wingspan of only 8mm, is the Cocksfoot Moth. I recorded both of them in the garden. The rarest moth I recorded was the Pinion-spotted Pug, which only flies for two weeks during the year and seldom comes to light.

This year has been exceptional for immigrants from the continent. The day-flying Humming-bird Hawk-moth is one of these species; you may have seen one flitting from flower to flower, just like a Humming-bird.

As my moth trap is battery-powered, I can run it anywhere. I would be particularly interested in running it in a garden where there are Lime or Oak trees. You can contact me through the web site below.

You can see more photos of moths at www.birdimages.net/moths

David Hastings

So far this year I have recorded 236 species of moth in the garden. This is less than 10% of the total number of British species, so there is a long way to go. Over 3500 individual moths were caught in the trap (and later released). These totals will probably increase, as

500 Club Winners

September 2022

No 394	£40.00	T. Chislett
No 471	£30.00	E. Cox
No 381	£20.00	B. Smith
No 75	£10.00	W. Jones
No 323	£10.00	M. Joynes
No 215	£5.00	D. Souch
No 468	£5.00	J. Greenstreet
No 359	£5.00	A. Smith

October 2022

No 155	£40.00	P. Langley
No 256	£30.00	M. Nash
No 133	£20.00	J. Hirons
No 428	£10.00	D & M Arundel
No 243	£10.00	A. Pullen
No 462	£5.00	J. Abbott
No 306	£5.00	C. Hardy
No 226	£5.00	S. Revell

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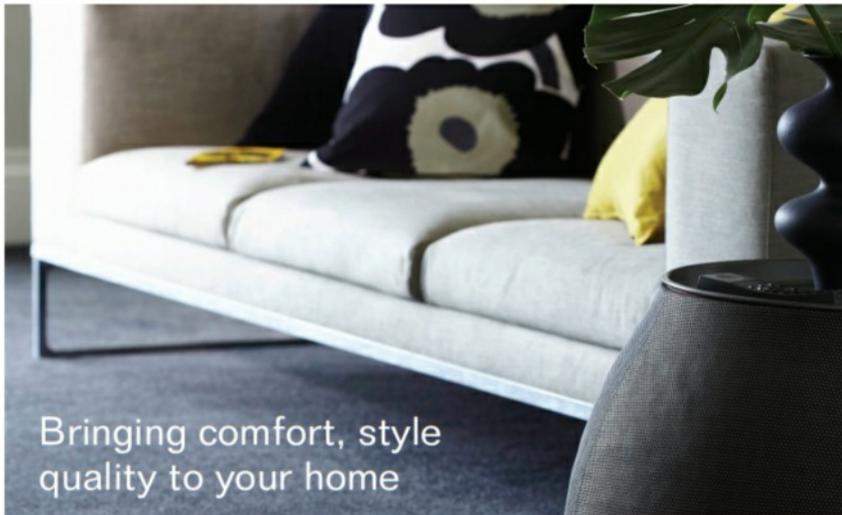
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The Fellowship Centre

I'm sure everyone knows the Fellowship Centre in Aston – it's hard to miss it with its central location right on the Cote Road! However, with so many people having moved into the village over the past few years, not everyone may be aware of its origin or what goes on in it on a weekly basis. So, I thought a brief introduction and outline might be of interest.

The Centre was built back in 1980 as the new base of activities for Cote Baptist Church. The historic chapel in Cote (still open to the public by appointment) is a wonderful historic building but was no longer suitable for a growing family church with a range of children's and youth activities. The Centre continues to be the home of Aston and Community Church, which is the contemporary expression of the old Baptist Church, and the church meets there every Sunday and for a range of midweek meetings.

The Centre also functions as a facility for the whole village to use, as does the Village Hall. There is a main hall (which can seat 150+ people) and various smaller rooms, one with a smart TV. At the time of writing, several regular activities take place, meeting the needs of different age groups and interests in the village. For example, Chillax is the church's monthly youth group, which regularly attracts around 20 enthusiastic children in school years 7-9. We're hopeful this might be extended to an extra fortnightly option of some sort in the new year.

This month a Toddler group is re-starting on Monday mornings and as highlighted in a separate article in Voices, the Centre will be open every Monday afternoon in the winter months as Warm Space for anyone to come along to for a few hours. The Centre also hosts the Day Centre (for our more senior residents) every Wednesday and the village Brownies every Monday evening. Add to that, the Aston Choir, the History Society and a variety of other regular bookings and you can see it is well used!

However, there are still plenty of slots in the week for 'one-off' bookings and the hall is a popular and convenient venue for children's parties on Saturdays or Sunday afternoons.

For all booking enquiries please contact Andrew Long (see separate advert in Voices for details).

Alastair Barnett

Pastor - Aston and Cote Community Church

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Coping with Cookies Computing for All

These days cookies seem to be everywhere. Unfortunately, we are not talking about the much-loved chocolate chip variety, but computer cookies. A cookie is a small chunk of data that the web page stores on your device. This might, for example, be the details of your shopping cart while you are assembling an order or some preferences on how you like the web site to look.

So far, so innocuous. However, as web sites are now increasingly being funded via advertising, you find that part of the web site is set aside for displaying adverts. What these advertisers started doing was storing cookies that recorded which web site you viewed the advert from and over time this enabled them to track your browser usage.

In 2009, the European Union mandated that consent be obtained before a cookie is stored on your device. While the intentions of this good, the actual implementation has been somewhat frustrating. Firstly, it appears that the majority of web sites are still not fully compliant with the directive even today. However, from the user's point of view, it has resulted in the annoying "Accept all cookies" popup being displayed on first going into the web site. The other options on this popup do allow you to increase your privacy by restricting the cookies stored to just the essential ones needed by the web site to function, but it is often time-consuming and frustrating to set up.

Fortunately, the browser manufacturers have started to act. Apple has already blocked these advertising cookies when using the Safari browser. Google has indicated that it will do the same in Chrome sometime in 2024. Until then it looks as if the annoying popups will stay part of life.

Happy browsing!

Tom England



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Aston Community Shop

Christmas is Coming

It seems only a moment ago we were in midst of this summer's heat wave selling cold drinks and ice creams, and now Autumn is here customers are starting to stock up on soups, pies, and hot chocolate drinks. October is ending and we have our eyes on the next big seasonal event. Christmas cards are now in stock, and we have extended the range this year with a choice of packs and individual cards from our new card supplier alongside charity cards from Traidcraft and small individual cards starting at 99p. There is also a small selection of wrapping paper, tags, advent calendars, and the ever-popular bags of chocolate coins. Keep an eye out for more Christmas treats and small gift ideas arriving over the next few weeks.

This year we started selling a small selection of frozen ready meals from Cook Shop, which have proved very popular, and we are now also stocking dishes from Completely Cotswolds, a new independent local supplier based in Witney. Delicious handmade



meals carefully made with fresh ingredients to a high standard, very useful when you don't have the time or inclination to cook from scratch but want to eat well.

Our deliveries from Patrick Strainge, the Bampton butchers, arrive in the shop on Mondays and Thursdays. Alongside the bacon and sausages, we also stock their tasty sausage rolls and pasties.

We are always pleased to welcome any new volunteers wishing to join the shop team.

You can choose to work for two-three hours a week or month; no previous experience is necessary, and full training will be provided.

It's a great way to meet people who live in the village and feel part of the local community.

Thank you to everyone who supports our village shop.

Sally Lee

Aston Community Shop

acs@astoncommunityshop.co.uk

Made in Aston 1900 - Seen in Shifford 2022!

As readers of the Parish History will know (copies still available in the Community Shop!), the Long family of Aston were renowned wheelwrights and wagon makers throughout the 19th and early 20th Centuries. A fine, original example of one of their most famous products - an iconic 'Oxfordshire Wagon' - was displayed at the recent FFF&B Ploughing Championships on 24th September at Shifford Manor Farm. Now owned by Gateridge Farm near Brackley, this wonderful example was built in 1900 by Ernest Long at the Aston wagon works next to Penny Black House on the Square, still the home of the Long family.

Russell La Forte



The Long Wagon

Mother & Toddler Group
Starting November 7th
9am – 11am
Baby Corner. Toddler Toys. Crafts. Songs and Games
£2.00 per family
Please come along and meet new friends

Shop Opening Hours

Monday – Wednesday	08:30 – 16:00
Thursday – Friday	08:30 – 17:00
Saturday	08:30 – 14:00
Sundays/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

The Ploughing Championship



It was a champion autumnal day for the Ploughing Championship which was held this year at Shifford Manor Farm.

We decided to drive there and at 11.30 joined a queue of cars moving slowly along the Shifford /Standlake Road. We finally reached the car park without too many problems: The event was well marshalled, and everything was well organised.

Shifford, normally a sleepy hamlet, was alive with activity. There were ploughmen with tractors painstakingly completing their allotted strips. Horses too were on display and it was a joy to see these majestic creatures turning their furrows. There was definitely a mixture of old and new, with horses, traction engines and steam ploughs juxtaposed with the latest farming technology.

Away from the ploughing, the arena hosted a variety of the usual favourites such as a falconry display and the tractor parade. There were no long waits between events, the P.A. was clear and there were plenty of bales for those watching to sit on. Refreshments were close at hand.

There were lots of tempting things to buy and you couldn't go wrong for a hat! There was a long continuous line of trade stalls which were open-fronted, but under canvas, attractively displaying a variety of mainly country related goods. There were also combine harvesters on show for anyone with £250,000 to spare!

To get the full picture you could have a tour of the site in a charabanc which was towed by a tractor. The journey was bumpy but took in the full scope of what was on offer including the far-flung hedge laying.

It was a good day with something for everyone.

Andrew Long

Please see additional article by Russ Le Forte regarding the 'Long' Wagon



Big Quiz Returns

On Saturday 19 November, there is an opportunity to join churches, families and groups around the land to unite for an epic evening of poverty-beating, community-building fun. A local session of Tearfund's Big Quiz Night is being hosted at the Fellowship Centre starting at 7:30pm.

Now in its fifth year, the quiz night has raised an amazing £826,000 to help end extreme poverty.

Last year, in the return of the event following Covid, 11 teams competed in the local event and raised over £350.

“Tearfund is a Christian charity with over 50 years of experience in international development. We believe that ... an end to extreme poverty is possible.

We work directly, and/or alongside local partners and churches, in underserved communities in more than 50 countries to tackle complex poverty in three main ways:

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We respond quickly to disasters and conflicts, supporting those in greatest need throughout the recovery process.
- **Community development**
We partner with local churches and organisations, mobilising resources and empowering communities to lift themselves out of poverty.
- **Advocacy and influencing**
We help individuals and churches speak out on issues of poverty and injustice, and we challenge unjust policies and practices at a local, national and global level.” (*From tearfund.org website*)

There will be a half time break when soft drinks and snacks will be available for purchase. If you would like to bring your own alcohol then please feel free to do so!

A minimum donation of £8 for a team of four is requested and entry forms are available from The Aston Community Shop, The Barnetts at 60 Cote Road and The Longs at Penny Black House in the Square.

Tom England

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Aston and Cote Day Centre



The Aston & Cote Day Centre continues to thrive and offer warm friendship to its twenty plus members. Each week we have an average of eighteen members present, all glad to see one another and ready to take part in the activities on offer. Wednesday 12th October was made very special by a visit from Heather Shute and her ambassador dog, Edward. They represent the Medical Detection Dogs Charity. Edward is a Japanese Spitz and, together with Heather, they have been volunteering and representing the charity for several years. Edward gave us a little demonstration of what the fully trained dogs can do, which includes being able to sniff out sugar from people with diabetes, Addison's disease, and Pott's syndrome. The Bio detection dogs are trained to detect even the tiniest smells associated with diseases like cancer, Parkinson's, COVID-19 and bacterial infections. Fully trained Medical Alert Assistance Dogs live with their handlers and can detect a range of conditions from the onset of epilepsy seizures to the presence of nuts in the vicinity- an attribute essential to those with nut allergies. Up until now they have been quicker than electric monitors.

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Guests enjoying meeting the detection dog, Edward

We still have a few places available at the centre, so if you are over 65 and would like to come and see for yourself you would be most welcome. Likewise, if you know of someone that would enjoy this very social safe place to come to on a Wednesday do get in touch with Karen.(details below).

The day centre is a not for profit Community Interest Company (CIC) and as such it is important to reach

out into the community and provide these facilities once a week to the over 65's. We have support weekly ongoing from the Aston Community Shop, who just like the day centre is set up as a CIC. We have support from the Aston Repair Depot and various other local businesses, along with the fantastic group of volunteers that we have who give up their time to come and assist on Wednesdays. We are always looking for more volunteers to assist, it can be for just a couple of hours, a morning, an afternoon, or all day, we are very flexible - again please contact Karen on 07887974468 or email: target.meukmail.com for more details.

Christine Barber & Karen Stay

Smashie & Nicey

return for the
Aston School Music Quiz
Friday 3rd Feb 2023
7.30pm
Max of 4 per team
Licensed bar, raffle, snacks, heads & tails
Please register your team name at the school office
or email: rob@aston14.plus.com

Aston History Group

Technical problems with her laptop prevented Katherine Bradley, our speaker for September, from giving her talk as she intended. However, working from her notes Katherine described how Oxford became a city of hospitals and troops during WWI. The well-researched talk compared, with much detail, women's lives before and after the war and gave much emphasis to the part played by suffrage and anti-suffrage organisations in sorting out social issues during the 1914/18 period. The change in women's employment from domestic service to industrial production including munitions and the constant fear of losing their husbands, brothers and sons featured strongly.

On 20th October about thirty history group members paid a visit to the site in Back Lane where a children's home will be built. The area is being explored by a team of archaeologists from Oxford Archaeology. Charlotte Bishop, a member of the team, showed us the many items found - see the report for more information.

There was an autumnal theme to our October meeting when Tim Healey's talk was "Apples! The Myth and Mystery of England's Favourite Fruit."

Next meeting: November 24th - 'Local Place Names' A hands-on session.

The group normally meets on the last Thursday of the month at 7.30pm in The Fellowship Centre in Cote Road Visitors welcome.

Martin Bowley
01993 8504440



Aston Astronomy – Earthshine, conjunctions and meteors

The only object in the solar system that produces its own light is the Sun. All the other bodies we can see - planets, their moons, comets - shine with reflected sunlight. However, at certain times of each lunar month, the sunlight reflected by the Earth's atmosphere can shine on the Moon: a phenomenon called 'earthshine'. Look for this just before sunrise at around 7 am on Sunday 20th November. The Moon will be a thin crescent, but the rest of its surface will be weakly illuminated by earthshine. On the 27th, after the dusk at around 5 pm, the Moon will be a thin waxing crescent, with the earthshine area sometimes described as 'the old Moon in the young Moon's arms'. In December, look before sunrise at around 7.15 on the 19th and after dusk at around 5.15 pm on the 26th.

In December, there are some notable conjunctions, when the Moon appears to come close to planets or bright stars. On Tuesday 6th December at 6.27 pm the nearly full Moon comes close to the Pleiades, a cluster of stars. There are seven relatively bright stars and the Pleiades are also known as the Seven Sisters. On 6th December, the star cluster is 3.5 degrees (or seven Moon diameters) from the Moon. In the early hours of 8th December, Mars is at opposition - on the opposite side of the Earth to the Sun - so offering its best and brightest appearance of the year. Later that morning, there is a conjunction between the Moon and Mars. These appear to be so close that the Moon briefly hides Mars, which disappears behind the Moon at 5 am, reappearing an hour later.

In the twilight of Thursday 29th December, Jupiter is just edging away from conjunction with the crescent Moon. At 4.45 pm they are separated by 3.6 degrees or seven Moon diameters.

Thursday 14th December has the maximum of the Geminids meteor shower. Maximum meteor rate is predicted for 1 pm, so in daylight. The better time to look will be from 10 pm onwards, while the Moon has yet to rise or is low in the sky. The meteors will appear to come from the constellation Gemini, about 45 degrees up in the eastern sky, but it is better to look at areas of dark sky to either side. Geminid meteors are often bright and slow with noticeable trails. Generally white, they can sometimes appear red, green or blue.

Chris Holt



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Sprouts – Love them or loath them?

This is a tasty way to present the much-maligned sprout, or baby cabbage as we called them as children.

How do you encourage young people to try new flavours or foods? We called broccoli 'trees' when our son was growing up. Luckily, he always did like fruit and vegetables but shied away from dairy products, even at a very young age. He became a vegetarian at university and quickly embraced veganism.

This recipe will cover all the bases...green, tasty and vegan. Enjoy

Sprouts with Almonds

500g quartered sprouts
 4 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
 30g whole blanched almonds
 2 garlic cloves
 60g dried cranberries
 50 ml balsamic vinegar
 1 tablespoon brown sugar

Method:

Bring a large pan of salted water to the boil. Add the sprouts and cook for 3 minutes. Drain and plunge into iced water. Drain and leave. (This can be done in advance) Heat 2 tablespoons of oil in a frying pan. Add almonds and fry until just golden. Drain and leave to one side.

Add the remaining 2 tablespoons of oil to the pan. Gently fry the garlic for 3 mins, stir in cranberries, vinegar and sugar.

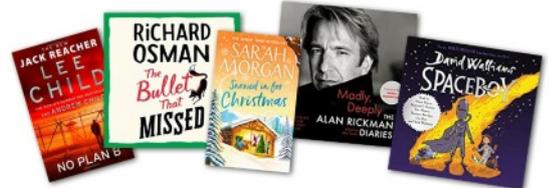
Cook for 30 seconds. Add sprouts, increase the heat until hot right through, add the almonds and serve.

Helen Wheaton



Christmas Books 2022

Christmas is once again around the corner with the opportunity to give some lovely books for everyone as presents. Starting with fiction, fans of Lee Child will be delighted as the new "Jack Reacher", 27 in the series, is No Plan B. Apparently Lee Child is so popular that it is said that one of his novels featuring Jack Reacher is sold somewhere in the world every nine seconds. If you prefer something lighter, Snowed in For Christmas by the Sunday times bestselling author Sarah Morgan is filled with lots of family drama and festive spirit.



The ever-popular Richard Osman has just published his third novel in The Thursday Murder Club Mystery series, The Bullet That Missed. Cat Lady is the latest funny, brilliant and bold title from Dawn O'Porter being both heart-warming and heart-breaking.

For non-fiction fans, Jamie Oliver has another offering in his collection – One features simple one-pan wonders. If biographies are more your thing, then Madly Deeply by the very much missed Alan Rickman features his diaries and is mesmerising, witty and debonair, caustic and fretful. Another autobiography recommendation is by Bono. It is a brilliant, very funny, very revealing autobiography- through- music entitled Surrender.

There are many lovely books for children as presents. Julia Donaldson has produced one of everyone's favourites The Gruffalo as a Festive Super Sticker book. Virtually Christmas by the ever-popular Davis Baddiel is a hilarious new novel about an alternative Christmas. Equally popular is David Walliams and his latest is Spaceboy who is a mysterious figure in a shiny silver spacesuit and speaks in a spooky voice. Lastly, Greg the Sausage Roll by Mark and Roxanne Hoyle is on a mission to make this year the best Christmas ever taking him all the way to the North Pole! Happy Christmas.

Stephanie Blakey

The Sphinx

I was intrigued by a book entitled 'The Sphinx' by Hugo Vickers when I found it was about Gladys Deacon, an extraordinarily famous beauty in her day, who married the 9th Duke of Marlborough, after his divorce from Consuelo Vanderbilt.

Gladys had successfully been air brushed into total obscurity by the Marlboroughs after her marriage to the duke had failed in 1933. Apparently, her dogs were spoiling the carpets and the duke disliked being threatened with a revolver! Although financially supported by them she spent her last years in a geriatric ward in a mental institution in Northampton and had to be encouraged by a young Hugo Vickers to tell her story.

It is well worth a read, a balance of sympathy and wit, which reveals a bizarre life, and eventually ruined appearance. Gladys had had wax injections above her nose to obtain a more Grecian profile, which eventually melted into lumps round her chin.



Possibly the first cosmetic surgery to go wrong. She was an American heiress who dreamt of being a duchess and then found life at the Palace cold and not as she had dreamt. Gladys had the most beautiful blue eyes which are immortalised in the portico of Blenheim Palace, along with the dukes' brown eyes. Look up just before you enter the palace you will be surprised. The two sphinxes with Gladys' modelled head sit either side of the steps leading down into the lower water terrace.

Gina Salmon

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Thank You



Huge thanks to everyone in Aston and beyond who attended the Action for Children Quiz. You'll be pleased to hear the event raised an absolutely brilliant £739!

Special thanks go to Steve Malin for his brilliant technical expertise Helen and David Wheaton for the loan of a screen and projector.

Thanks also to Caroline Lambert,

Sarah Ann, Berian Thomas, Popp Hoskins, Kyle and Joshua for their help at the bar. We also got some fabulous prizes from Charlotte Hoskins and Alex Williams! And of course thank you to everyone for coming and having a brilliant evening. You were awesome!

Vivienne and Simon Hoskins



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Aston Christmas Swap Shop

As finances are tight for many this year, we thought it would be nice that at least all our local children received something new for Christmas, so this is what we have planned...

For those of you that remember Noel Edmonds Swap Shop on TV in the 1980s, we will be holding our very own village Swap Shop.

It will be on **Sunday 4 December from 4-6pm at The Fellowship Centre in the village.**

The aim is to get as many pre-loved (but decent and complete) toys and games for others to swap to ensure children have a new (ish) gift for Christmas.

If you'd like to join in, please bring a toy or game on the day and you will receive a raffle ticket which will then entitle you to choose another toy/gift.

Those hosting this will have the final say as to toys being accepted so, please do make sure any games are fully complete and toys are in working order and look reasonable.

As it's Christmas we would also like to open it up to kid's winter coats, Christmas jumpers and even adult evening wear for anyone wanting to attend a party and who needs something new to wear.

We will also be donating a Christmas Wrapping Service whilst you wait and a cup of tea/coffee will be available for a small charge.

For anyone that can't make this event, we will of course also be welcoming donations of the above items, and these can be dropped beforehand – please contact Kathryn on 07971 447367 to make arrangements.

We are not asking for any entry fee on the day, however, there will be a donation bucket for any loose change you may want to donate to cover the hall hire fee.

We do hope you'll support this event, and we'd like to say thank you in advance for those that do.

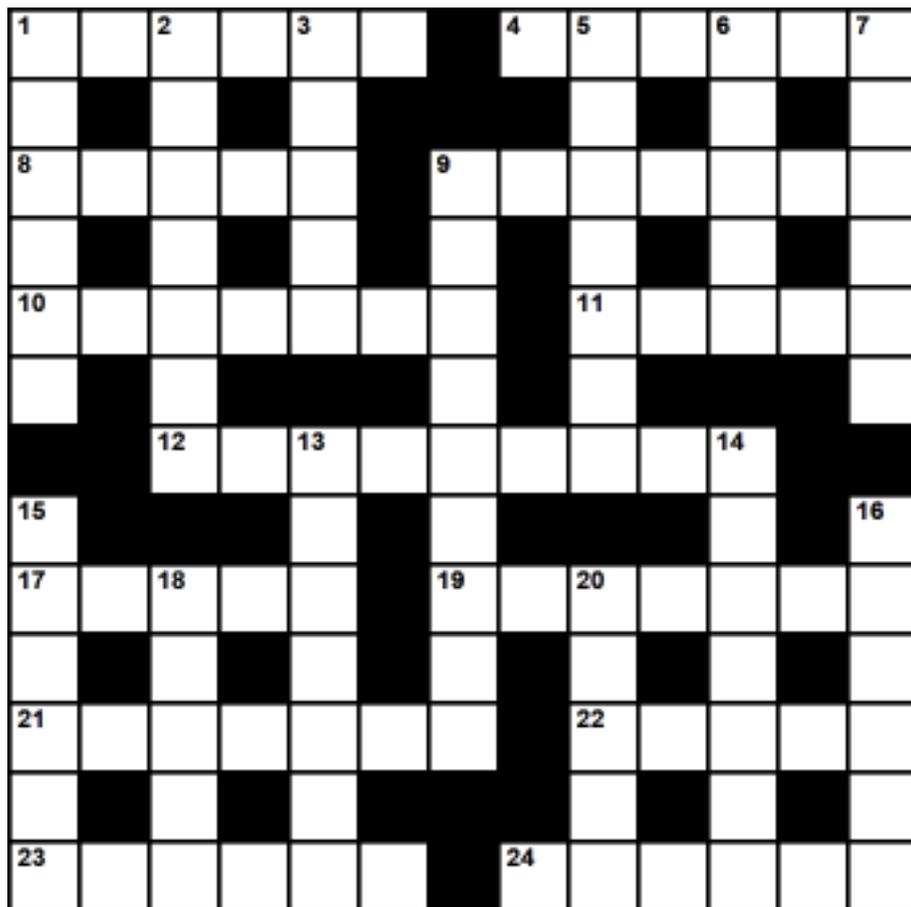
Kathryn Jackson

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Quick Crossword



Across

- 1 Short pants (6)
- 4 Bulb (6)
- 8 Hitch a lift (5)
- 9 Refuse (7)
- 10 Threatening (7)
- 11 Astir (5)
- 12 Outside Buckingham Palace (9)
- 17 A caper (5)
- 19 Contain (7)
- 21 On account of (7)
- 22 Protective garment (5)
- 23 Appointments (6)
- 24 Fanatic (6)

Down

- 1 Base behind (6)
- 2 Habituating (7)
- 3 Building board (5)
- 5 Take back (7)
- 6 Twilled cotton (5)
- 7 Close fitting tube (6)
- 9 Computer part (4,5)
- 13 Narrative (7)
- 14 Indifferent (7)
- 15 Chess move (6)
- 16 Groundnut (6)
- 18 Sleazy (5)
- 20 Stop (5)

A Warm Space this Winter

What is a 'Warm Space'?

With the rising cost of living and soaring energy prices, we all know that this winter is going to be hard for many people. One initiative to try to help a little has been the setting up of 'Warm Spaces' in towns and villages across the nation – as the name suggests, these are simply places where people can come for a while that will be warm, welcoming and may enable them to keep the heating costs of their own homes down for a few hours at least.

A Warm Space in Aston

With this in mind, the Community Church is planning to open the Fellowship Centre for a half day a week, every week throughout the winter months. This will be on a Monday afternoon, between 1.30pm and 5.30pm. The main hall and the smaller, cosy lounge will be open, free of charge, to anyone who would like to come along. The rooms will be warm; tea, coffee, squash, and biscuits will be available throughout the afternoon.

A few toys and games will be put out, but please bring your own entertainment too!

So, if you want to save your heating bill for a few hours and come along to a friendly space for old, young, families and singles alike, you'd all be very welcome. And if you know of someone you think might be interested, please spread the word.

The Warm Space will open on Monday 21st November from 1.30pm-5.30pm

and run through approximately to mid-late February.

We look forward to seeing you!

Alastair Barnett

Pastor - Aston and Cote Community Church

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Thank You

I would like to thank everyone who donated to the Besom food collection this harvest-time.

We had a tremendous amount of food given especially through the school.

West Oxfordshire is often seen as a wealthy area but there is a huge number of households where the recent gas price increases

and other rising costs have pushed them into debt. The demand for food parcels is increasing year by year. So far this year Besom food team have delivered over 350 food parcels in the Witney area, so the donated food has really boosted their stock!



People can still donate through the food box in the Aston Community shop. More information about Besom can be found on their website: Besom in Witney (witneybesom.org)

Roger Crossley

Sandalwoods

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Win a Beautiful Quilted Throw

This lovely, hand-made quilt has been re-gifted to the Aston & Cote W.I. to raffle.

It is in 'as new' condition despite being over 20 years old. It measures 210cm x 190cm and has a pretty pink floral print on the reverse with a navy-blue background and green edging.

£1.00 raffle ticket and it could be yours

Tickets available from the Community Shop

Winning ticket will be drawn on January 11th

Proceeds will go to the Aston & Cote W.I. chosen charity for 2023



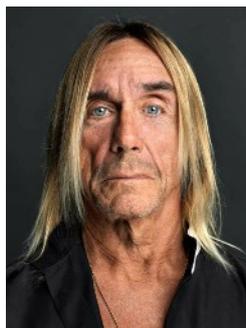
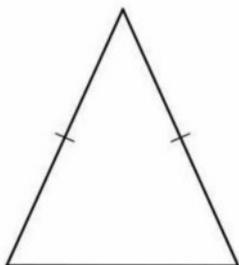
Fellowship Centre



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

Alphabet Quiz

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



1. What is the name of this bird, sacred to the Egyptians?
2. What is the name of this triangle?
3. Who is this pop star?
4. The first line of the novel "Moby Dick" is "Call me" what?
5. Springfield is the capital of which U.S. state?
6. What is the name of the ancient track way that runs from Norfolk to Wiltshire?
7. Who is the villain in Shakespeare's Othello?
8. What name was given to the Arsenal team of the 2003/2004 season?
9. Basra is the capital of which country?
10. Which rock band shares its name with an instrument of torture?
11. What is the alternative name for the River Thames particularly from its source until it reaches

Dorchester?

12. Which Walter Scott novel took its name from a Buckinghamshire Village?
13. The Galilean satellites, the four largest [moons of Jupiter](#) are, [Europa](#), [Ganymede](#), [Callisto](#) and ..?
14. What do Columbia, Cornell, Harvard, Princeton, and Yale have in common?
15. Who, in Greek mythology, flew too close to the Sun?
16. What is the most northern city in Scotland?
17. What is the name of this city's football team?
18. Tony Stark is the alter-ego of which Super Hero?
19. Which country is named in the NATO phonetic alphabet?
20. What is the chemical symbol for iodine?

Compiled by Andrew Long

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Aston's Christmas Swap Shop

BRING A PRE-LOVED TOY/GAME IN GOOD CONDITION THAT IS NOT USED ANYMORE AND SWAP IT FOR ANOTHER ONE

WHEN Sunday 4 December 4-6pm
WHERE The Fellowship Centre, Aston

We'll wrap your gifts whilst you wait!

FULL DETAILS ON ASTON & COTE FACEBOOK PAGE



Crossword Solution

B	R	I	E	F	S		C	R	O	C	U	S			
O		N		I			E		H		H				
T	H	U	M	B		D	E	C	L	I	N	E			
T		R		R		I		L		N		A			
O	M	I	N	O	U	S		A	F	O	O	T			
M		N				K		I				H			
						G	U	A	R	D	S	M	A	N	
G						C		R			E		P		
A	N	T	I	C			I	N	C	L	U	D	E		
M		A		O		V		E		T		A			
B	E	C	A	U	S	E		A	P	R	O	N			
I		K		N				S		A		U			
T	R	Y	S	T	S			Z	E	A	L	O	T		

St James
Christmas Trail
 Christmas around Aston

Using the **what3words** app
 (Free to download)

Clues from the shop
 17th December 2022 -
 3rd January 2023
 £1.00 per set of clues

ACTS Presents an evening of murder and mystery

Who killed the secret agent?

A James Bond spoof written by Chris Martin

Aston Village Hall, Cote Road, Aston, OX18 2DH
Saturday 3rd December 7.00pm
 Tickets are £8.00 each or £15 including fish & chip supper (served approx 8.30pm)
 Bar available plus a Quiz and Raffle

Sunday 4th December 2.30pm
 Tickets are £10 including a cream tea

Tickets available from: Aston Garage 8am to 5pm Monday to Friday (Tickets with food must be purchased by 5pm Friday 25th Nov)

Jigantics



Folk Concert

26th November, Village Hall
 7.pm for 7.30.

Tickets Aston Repair Depot

or Sylvia Brown

12, Cote Road

01993850553

Diary

November

Saturday 19th

Tearfund Big Quiz Night

7.30 Fellowship Centre

Monday 21st

Toddler Group

9am -11am

Fellowship Centre

Monday 21st

'Warm Space'

1.30pm-5.30pm

Fellowship Centre

Thursday 24th

History Group

"Local Place Names"

A hands-on session

7.30 Fellowship Centre

Friday 25th

Aston Community Cafe

9 am - 11.00 am

St James Church

Saturday 26th

Folk Concert

'Jigantics'

7.30 Village Hall

Monday 28th

Toddler Group

9am-11am

'Warm Space'

1.30-5.30pm

Fellowship Hall

December

Thursday 1st

Parish Council

7.30 Village Hall

Friday 2nd

Christmas Fair and

Aston Community Cafe

7pm

St James Church and

Fellowship Hall

Saturday 3rd

ACTS Murder Mystery

7pm Village Hall

Sunday 4th December

ACTS Murder Mystery

2.30pm Village Hall

Christmas Swap Shop

4-6pm

Fellowship Centre

Tuesday 13th

Informal Art Group

Christmas Wreath Making

2.30 Fellowship Centre

Wednesday 14th

WI

Christmas Theme Evening

7.30 Village Hall

Friday 16th

Christmas Concert

7.00 St James

January 2023

Thursday 5th

Parish Council

7.30 Village Hall

Answers to the Alphabet Quiz

1. Ibis.. 2. Isosceles 3. Iggy Pop.4
Ishmael.. 5 Illinois.. 6. Icknield Way. 7.
Iago. 8. Invincibles . 9. Iraq. 10. Iron
Maiden. **11.** Isis 12. Ivanhoe. 13.Io. 14.
Ivy League universities in the USA. 15.
Icarus. 16. Inverness. 17. Inverness
Caledonian Thistle. 18. Iron Man. 19.
India. 20. I

Where in the Parish answer

55 Bull St in Aston.



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

Christmas concert at St. James 7.00

16th December (tickets)

Carol Service at St. Marys Shifford

6.00 18th December

Carol Service at St. James' 24th

December 6.00

Holy Communion at St. James' 25th

December 9.30

Christingle at St. James' 22 January
9.30

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

As we approach the Christmas season,
we continue our Sunday morning
services, with talks based on how we
model Christian values and lifestyle in
today's culture ('Beautiful Resistance').

We are also looking forward to hosting
the annual Tearfund Big Quiz Night on
November 19th, which is always fun,
and we hope to raise a lot of money for
Tearfund's important humanitarian work.

And don't miss our Family Carol Service
on Sunday 18 December – this year at
11.00am (to avoid a clash with the World
Cup Final in the afternoon!)
All visitors welcome!

Please contact Alastair Barnett on
acc@rootsanddrivers.uk for more details,
or go to our website at
<https://astoncotecc.org.uk/>

Date	
23-Oct	10.00am Worship, talk, and Sunday School
30-Oct	10.00am Worship, talk, and Sunday School
06-Nov	No meeting in Aston (10.30am Celebration service in Oxford)
13-Nov	10.00am Worship, talk, and Sunday School (with Communion)
20-Nov	10.00am All-age Family Service
27-Nov	10.00am Worship, talk, and Sunday School
04-Dec	10.00am Worship, talk, and Sunday School
11-Dec	10.00am Worship, talk, and Sunday School (with Communion)
18-Dec	11.00am Family Carol Service
25-Dec	9.30am Joint family service and communion at St James Church

Ride and Stride 2022

Ride and Stride is a national activity where any enthusiastic participant is sponsored by friends or family to clock up travel between as many churches as possible.

Now open to not only bike or foot but, horse electric buggy, electric scooter or even car? It invites people to explore the countryside from Cornwall to Northumberland and is the biggest source of income for restoration. To keep a friendly check on progress, personnel are stationed at many of the churches and can validate the rider's visit, signing their sponsor sheet.

My duty shift was on Saturday, 10th September 2022 (first weekend following the death of the Queen). I was hoping to see Bishop Gavin (in full regalia!) but I was happy to see vicar Janice Collier (in a car checking on Condolence books).

Then cycling in was our own Aston clergyman, the Reverend Ron Curtis. Dressed in serious cycling gear, he was on his trusty 30-year-old bike which looked in good order (sporting a tan partly from our hot summer and in part from ministering in Gibraltar and Portugal).

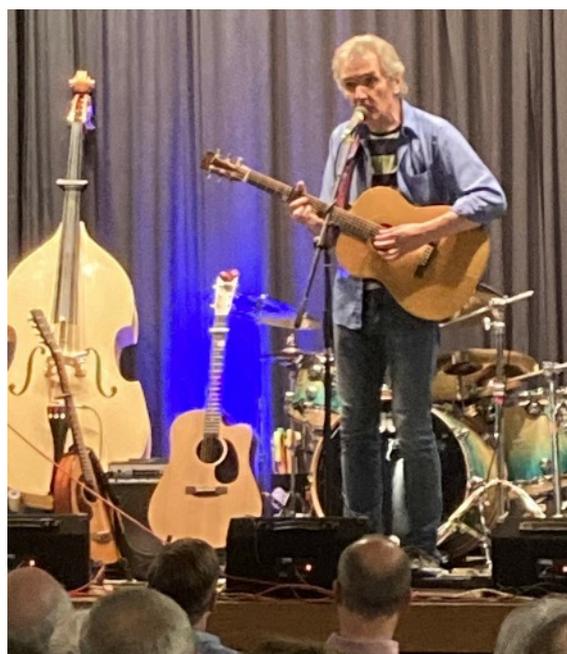
Ron signed the booking-in sheet and declared that he had visited 20 churches – some with toilet facilities. Refreshments can be provided. Most entrants fit in a pit-stop for a quick bite and drink.

He was the only biker on my shift. He hurried home for a quick shower and then returned, with his wife Claire to St James' Church to man the desk. Catching up with him later; he had started at 8:30 am that day. He was not looking tired and was pleased to have raised over £302. Half of his sponsorship is donated to the Oxfordshire Historic Churches and half to his charity of choice – Cancer Research. It made me feel tired thinking about his achievement.

Lizzie Wood



Ron Curtis taking part in Ride and Stride 2022



Jez Lowe on stage

Where in the parish?

Where would you find this stone wall in Aston?



Folk Night at the Village Hall

Jez Lowe returned to Aston in September for an enjoyable evening. The audience were first treated to a set from the band Montmorency from Bampton. They play regularly at the Morris Clown if you want to hear them in future.

Jez has produced various albums over the 40 years he has been in the business and now has ventured into writing novels. He has been involved with Radio 2 Folk Shows, BBC The Radio Ballads and was nominated for the BBC Folk Award in 2015. His County Durham upbringing influenced his background roots and storytelling North-East folk style. Songs of shipyards long gone, mining and hardship, mixed with modern issues. The song written about 'lockdown' was particularly amusing. The evening was very well attended, and the proceeds will go towards upkeep of the hall.



Jez with Montmorency

Sylvia has another evening planned for November 26th. This time it's 'The Jigantics' coming along to entertain us. Buy your tickets in advance from the Aston Repair Depot or Sylvia Brown, 12 Cote Road (850553).