

Ashton Keynes & Leigh Newsletter

June 2026



Photo image: Scouts and Millennium Green volunteers planting new trees (page x)

Annual subscription reminder - page 3

Holy Cross summer cream teas - page 23

Give tennis a go - page 40



Full Garden Design Services Now Available

Professional and reliable service for all your gardening needs

Dry Stone Walling
Patos and Decking
Hedge Cutting and Lawn Mowing
Fencing

For your free no obligation quotation
Contact John on 07970 527283 / 01793 771186



The
GEORGE
Veterinary Group

ROYAL WOOTTON BASSETT

01793 852458

MALMESBURY HOSPITAL

01666 823165

24 hour emergency service
delivered by OUR vets



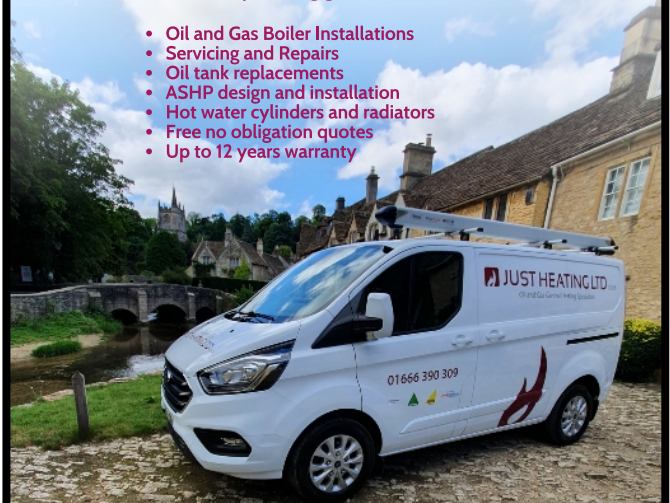
Check for available
appointments

JUST HEATING LTD

Your local Oil, Gas and Renewable Heating Specialists

We are proud to employ a fantastic team of Gas Safe
and OFTEC qualified engineers who are committed to
providing great service.

- Oil and Gas Boiler Installations
- Servicing and Repairs
- Oil tank replacements
- ASHP design and installation
- Hot water cylinders and radiators
- Free no obligation quotes
- Up to 12 years warranty



01249 309 309

info@justheatingltd.co.uk

www.justheatingltd.co.uk



Proud members of
Checkatrade.com
Where reputation matters

AARDVARK INSTALLATIONS

aardvarkinstallations.co.uk



Digital TV systems



CCTV



WiFi & Networking



Electrical



Maintenance

Gwilym Davies, Director

Tel: 01285 800 041

Email: aardvark@alpens.co.uk

Company No: 13530440

VAT No: 324 478 396

Dear Friends,



Some years ago when I was Chaplain to the Royal British Legion, I used to go to club night reasonably regularly and a member called Bob would always come and ask me what I wanted to drink – I would reply a half of grapefruit and lemonade please (I don't really do alcohol – I don't like it). Bob would ALWAYS bring me a pint. And when I asked why his reply was 'God never made a half of anything'.

So here we are halfway through the year and I wonder what feels unfinished, or still to do in this year? With what hopes and dreams did you start the year?

It may be that whatever it is you thought you might do is already done, and doesn't that feel good???! Ticked off on the list. Job done. It may be ongoing – I'm going to read more, scroll on my phone less, walk more, garden little and often, not eat so many... (You can fill in the blank!). In which case, at this

halfway point it might be good to have a look and see how that ongoing choice is going.

It may be, and this is just real life, that whatever it was you hoped to do, be or try, has simply slipped out of reach because of time constraints, health issues, finances or whatever. And now is the moment to look at that goal and maybe move the goalposts to something more possible.

Whatever it is, God never made a half of anything, so let us be sure, at this halfway point of the year, to love to the full. As Jesus said in John 10v10 "I came that you might have life and have it in abundance".

Abundant life no half measures.

Revd Canon Debbie Dewes
Vicar, Upper Thames Benefice
Ashton Keynes, Cricklade, Latton and the Leigh

Newsletter Subscriptions final reminder

The annual £10 subscription was due in April.

If you haven't paid yet, please pay **£10**, by Bank Transfer, if possible, to this account:

Account name: **Ashton Keynes PCC**
Sort Code: **40-17-25** Account no:
90116165
Reference: **first part of your address.**

Or, put **£10** (or a cheque to AKPCC) in an envelope, marked with your name & address, and take it to one of these addresses (or your deliverer):

1 Fouracre Close	17 Park Place
1 Gosditch	5 The Leaze
2 The Derry	14 Richmond Court
4 The Lotts	9 Ashfield
5 Rixon Gate	6 Milling Close
Three Willows, Gosditch	
Mill House, Church Walk	
Cocks House, Back Street	
10A High Road	
Rick Yard, High Road (near River House)	
Old School House, 14 Fore Street	
5 Malmesbury Rd, Leigh.	

Thank you!!

B GIBSON

*Carpenter & Joiner,
General Maintenance*



01285 643212

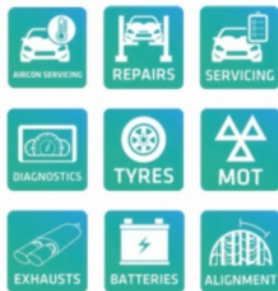


01285 861224



garage@ellisonscoaches.co.uk

The Garage, High Road, Ashton Keynes, SN6 6NX



TILLER GARDEN & LANDSCAPE SERVICES

TIM MORRIS

City & Guilds Qualified

Mobile: 07818 072273

Email: tim.morris822@hotmail.com

- Full seasonal garden maintenance
- Raised beds, wooden sleeper projects and gazebos
- Border renovations
- Garden planning and consultation



ABACS LIMITED
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Accounts, Tax
Business
Advisory and
Consultancy
Services

Call **01666 860963**



Personal service for individuals & business owners

With over 25 years experience in both practice and industry.

Call for a **FREE** confidential consultation

01666 860963

e: steve@abacs.co.uk

w: www.abacs.co.uk



La Pineda, Upper Minety, Malmesbury, Wiltshire SN16 9PR



Minety Based

Insured, Security Checked & Licensed
(LN/000021710)

Dog Walking, Pop in's, Day Care & Boarding

Also offer feeding & help with animals from
hamsters to horses

www.wearehappydogs.com
soph@wearehappydogs.com
07730 895777

Editorial



Well, I've had my say regarding the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) money, and now it's a case of waiting to see what decisions are made about how it will all be used. It will be interesting to see what comes forward.

In the meantime, the village certainly isn't standing still. There's plenty going on over the coming weeks: the school's summer fête (p.13), a visit to Pauline Loveday's beautiful garden—with tea and cake promised (p.25) and the Village Hall's big clear-out (p.11). There's also Messy Church, cream teas, Rutter's Requiem and the usual range of church services (pp.22–25), alongside all the regular clubs and groups—WI, Probus, Flower Club, Cinema Club, tennis and cricket clubs, Cubs and Scouts, and more (pp.36–41). Sing

and Tonic (p38) has got to be worth investigating!

If you're feeling energetic, why not give the new Thursday evening running club a try? They meet at 6.45pm and welcome everyone, from complete beginners to those who can somehow manage to run and talk at the same time.

A quick note that Rural Cinema will be taking a break over the summer—but no doubt it will be back before we know it.

And finally, a gentle reminder to renew your subscription to the newsletter. Payment couldn't be simpler (see p.3 for details), and your support really does make a difference in keeping it going.

Thanks Claire

Deadlines and Advertising

Editorial Team:	Claire Sims	01285 869479
	Sharon Gater	01285 860926
	Louise Mason	07737 638724
Advertising:	Claire Sims	01285 869479
Distribution:	Richard Vernon	01285 861692

Please phone Richard Vernon if you wish to contact your distributor.

Deadline for articles is 16 of the month.

Please submit your copy for publication in the **JULY** newsletter to **AKLnewsletter@gmail.com** or to Claire Sims, 18 Happy Land, Ashton Keynes by 8pm on **16 JUNE**.

When submitting articles to the newsletters please send in the original **MS Word or PowerPoint format** (not a pdf), as we do have to reformat a lot to squeeze everything in. It would also help if you used **Verdana font, size 11 with no underlining**.

If you wish your item to *also* appear in the Minety Newsletter please contact Mrs Brenda Sheppard by phone on 01666 860631 or email **minetynewsletter@gmail.com**

Thank you

Advertising

You'll need to purchase advertising space for Minety and AKL newsletters *separately* from now on.

AKL Advertising prices per issue

Half page £15
Quarter page £8
Eighth page £5

Do talk to us if you'd like a full page or an advertorial.

Please send the artwork and any enquiries for paid adverts to **AKLnewsad@gmail.com**

Deadline for advertising is 14 of the month

STYLING 5

Hello!

We hope that everyone has had a wonderful summer and managed to make the most of the gorgeous sunshine.

As many of you know we underwent a change of ownership back in July, and renamed the salon **STYLING 5**

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our clients for their continued support and to welcome the many new clients who have joined us.

From all the staff at Styling 5

JOICO the joi of healthy hair

☎01285 869880
info@styling5.com
unit 5 The Laurels
Clarks Hay,
South Cerney
GL7 5UA

COMPUTER MAINTENANCE & REPAIRS

Backup advice & instruction
Broadband installations & wireless security
PC too slow and in need of attention?
Buying a new PC and need to transfer your files?
Operating systems upgraded/reloaded
Troubleshooting and support at reasonable rates
Internet assistance and networks installed
PC repairs/upgrades, onsite or offsite work

SAME DAY SERVICE OFTEN AVAILABLE

**For friendly, expert computer help, with
over 30 years' IT and PC experience,
contact Graham Broughton**

Ashton Keynes

Tel: 01285 861540

Mob: 07764 234959

Email: broughtongj@gmail.com

CENTRAL HEATING OR PLUMBING PROBLEMS?

WE'RE HERE
TO HELP YOU!



IND plumbing and heating

Servicing, Repairs and System Maintenance

Annual servicing helps to extend the life of your boiler & heating systems so avoiding inconvenient repairs. We're also fully qualified to work on Natural Gas, LPG & Oil Fired appliances.



01666 503 632 · info@indplumbingandheating.co.uk · www.indplumbingandheating.co.uk



ASHTON KEYNES COMMUNITY SHOP

The Village Hall Annexe, High Road, Ashton Keynes, Swindon, SN6 6NX

Telephone: 01285 861931, Email: info@ashtonkeynesshop.org.uk

You can find more information on our website ashtonkeynesshop.org.uk

Fentons Farm Mayonnaise

These jars of mayo come from the same supplier as the eggs, so it's made using their free range eggs and premium extra virgin rapeseed oil which delivers a delicious flavour with a light texture and amazing colour.

From juicy burgers to potato salad, roasted veggies to crispy wedges, sandwiches to rolla - these mayos makes every bite better

There are 3 flavours - Smoked Chilli, Garlic and Original - try them all!



If you would like to order bread on a regular basis, please talk to Steve or one of the team.



Shop Layout

Steve is constantly trying to enhance the shop and find space for new products. The confectionary stand recently had a make-over and is looking very smart.



Bread

The shop stocks a wide variety of loaves from Hobbs bakery, Dangerfields and Hovis. You will also find crumpets, Hot Cross buns, croissants and part baked baguettes as well as a good selection of bread rolls.

Pete's Bakery sourdough is proving extremely popular, and this is delivered fresh on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. There are a number of different sourdoughs to choose from including White Country and Seeded.

Opening Times

Monday – Saturday: 7.30am – 7pm
Sunday: 9am – 3pm

AIR2AIR LIMITED

Air Conditioning Services

We offer a first class installation and maintenance service with competitive pricing.

Air conditioning is a great and cheap way to cool and heat your home.

On Samsung and Toshiba Systems we offer 7years warranty.

2.5kw -from £995*

3.5kw -from £1095*

5kw -from £1295*

7kw -from £1595*

*Price will differentiate depending on brand, pipe length and extras.

Contact us for a free, no obligation quote

air2a@icloud.com

07555 352693



BEAUTY SOURCE & WELLBEING

AT THE BARN

Where your inner and outer beauty merge

Visit our websites for everything we have to offer including beauty and holistic treatments, workshops, retreat days, yoga, Pilates and much more.

Join our vibrant, diverse wellbeing community. We rent out treatment rooms and studio space.

A warm welcome awaits you.

Contact Rachel on:

0771 5043282

info@yourbeautysource.co.uk

The Barn, Blackthorn Centre,
Purton Road, Cricklade SN6 6HY

www.yourbeautysource.co.uk

www.wellbeingatthebarn.co.uk



Watermoor House

RESIDENTIAL CARE HOME



Dedicated care for older people in a homely environment

Call today to arrange a visit

01285 654864

Watermoor Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire GL7 1JR

www.watermoorhouse.org



Rural Cinema

In the Village Hall

There are no films planned over the summer

The People's Emergency Briefing on Climate and Nature

Hosted by the *Sustainable Planet* and *Science & Technology* groups of *Malmesbury & District u3a*.

Join us for a FREE screening of the People's Emergency Briefing – an eye-opening film that brings together nine leading UK scientists and experts to talk about the latest evidence and how it will affect us all in the UK.

Malmesbury Town Hall

26th June 2026: 2.30 pm & 7.30pm

The film has been created by **The National Emergency Briefing**, who are supported by organisations including the National Trust and CPRE. Admission by ticket only.

Scan the QR code for more
Info and tickets

Or visit:
[buytickets.at/
emergencybriefingmalmesbury](https://buytickets.at/emergencybriefingmalmesbury)



Details of other
screenings can be found at
www.nebriefing.org

Local MP, Roz Savage, is booked to attend the evening event. Over 15s welcome.



Domestic and Commercial Local Electrician

With 35 years' experience

All aspects of electrical contracting undertaken including:

EV Car chargers Storage batteries Office wiring

Rewires Inspection and test Heating controls

Smart Houses New builds

Contact Justin for a free quote:

bmelectrician@yahoo.co.uk 07901 564 932

Based in Ashton Keynes



FURNITURE

Reloved by Jo

FURNITURE FOR SALE

COMMISSIONS WELCOME

Give me your tired and
much-loved furniture...
and I will **transform it** with
care, creativity and **respect**

More than 10 years' experience

07717 535381 **jo@relovedbyjo.co.uk** **www.relovedbyjo.co.uk**



ACER TREE SURGEONS

ARBORICULTURAL ASSOCIATION APPROVED
CONTRACTOR

Acer Tree Surgeons Ltd are at the fore front of
the Arboricultural Industry, with a huge range
of skills and techniques, we are always able to
deliver exceptional service to our clients.



The team are all qualified, personable and willing to meet your tree related requirements.
With our expert knowledge, we will always be able to find solutions for your enquiries.

Services include:

- Tree Removals, Dismantles and Felling
- Crown Reductions, Re-Shaping and Pruning
- Hedge Cutting
- Management of Dangerous Trees
- Stump Grinding and Removal
- Free Quotations and Tree Health Check

Adam Roberts M. Arbor. A, FdSc Arb ND Arb Director
Tel: 01666 718078 / 07843 082634
Email: adamroberts@acertreesurgeons.co.uk

Ashton Keynes Village Hall

Park Place, Ashton Keynes, Wiltshire, SN6 6NT



Village Hall Big Clear Out



The Village Hall is a busy and much-loved space, used by many different groups and the number of items left here has gradually built up. To help keep the Hall tidy and enjoyable for everyone, we're planning a big clear-out. Our aim is to have everything organised and clutter-free by August.

If your group has items stored at the Hall that are still in use, please label them clearly with your group's name and the date.

One person from each group could contact Johanna via WhatsApp (07821 969774). This will ensure collaboration and that everything that needs to be kept (or disposed of) can be coordinated.

Please dispose of anything no longer needed!

Thank you so much for your help and cooperation—we really appreciate it and it will make a big difference for everyone who uses the Hall.



*With Thanks from The
Management
Committee*



KHAN ADAMSON

— CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT —

**Self Assessment, Income Tax, CGT, VAT, Accounts,
Bookkeeping, Payroll for Companies, Partnerships,
Sole Traders and Charities!**

Experienced Accountants with over 30 yrs experience of dealing with HMRC.

Initial consultancy free (up to half hour)

Call us on 07769 823261 or 01793 752886
sk@khanadamson.com

Website: www.khanadamson.co.uk

Chelworth Ind. Estate, Cricklade, Swindon, SN6 6HE

Carter Funeral Directors

4 The Lotts, Ashton Keynes

07873 339012 01285 862371

(day or night)

Burials & Cremations

Serving the Community since 1860

Cricklade School of Motoring KEITH WALKER

Established 1977 (over 2,000 passes) Dept of Transport approved
Holder of MSA Diploma in Defensive Driving
MIAM, MROSPA (Class 1 Gold) Member of DIA
Holder of Diploma in Driving Instruction
Holder of RoSPA Diploma in Advanced Instruction (Class 1 Gold)
Member of Motor Schools Association of Great Britain
Theory Course and Pass Plus Registered
Learner, Advanced, Motorway and Refresher Courses
Cricklade and surrounding areas

Tel: 01793 709883

cowley | electrical

www.cowley-electrical.com

**Do you find it difficult to get someone
to come and do a small job?**

- * Extra Lights * Additional Sockets * Rewires
 - * Smoke Alarms * New Fuse Boards
 - * Landlord & Homebuyer Inspections
 - Fault finding & Repairs**
-
- * Qualified Electrician * Six Year Guarantee
 - * Fully Insured * Reliable Service
 - * Free Quote * Tidy Work
 - * Reasonably Priced

Satisfaction Guaranteed

**I will assure you of a quick response and a
reasonably priced service**

**Call Neil – Your Local Electrician
on**



01666 723042



FOAKS
FRIENDS OF ASHTON KEYNES SCHOOL



summer FETE



ASHTON KEYNES PRIMARY SCHOOL

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE SCHOOL

**SATURDAY
27 JUNE**

**12 NOON
TIL 4PM**

**£3
ENTRY**
CHILDREN UNDER 12 GO FREE!

HIGHLIGHTS

AMAZING INFLATABLES - LIVE MUSIC - BAR & BBQ -
STALLS & GAMES - DOG SHOW - GREAT AK BAKE OFF
& MUCH MORE...



BUY TICKETS ONLINE OR ON THE DAY

proudly sponsored by



Complete Coaching

Based in Minety, I am an experienced life coach dealing with:

- Stress and Anxiety
- Relationships
- Confidence
- Career Coaching

Coaching is a confidential space for powerful thinking. My clients tell me it is both refreshing and empowering. This is an opportunity for you to gain clarity, perspective and choice.

Sam Lister

07980 773 876 or samantha.lister@btinternet.com
www.sam-completecoaching.com

BERRY'S ROOFING LTD

Blunsdon, Swindon
Specialist in Cotswold stone tiling
(3rd generation)

No job too small ~ Free estimates

**Ring Gary on
07930 893195**

Email info@berrysroofing.co.uk
www.berrysroofing.co.uk

M J GARDNER & CO LTD

Plumbing & Heating Engineers

High Road, Ashton Keynes

For all your plumbing and heating requirements, including:

*Central Heating Installations
Boiler Servicing and Breakdowns
Aga Servicing and Breakdowns
Bathroom Installations
Underfloor Heating*

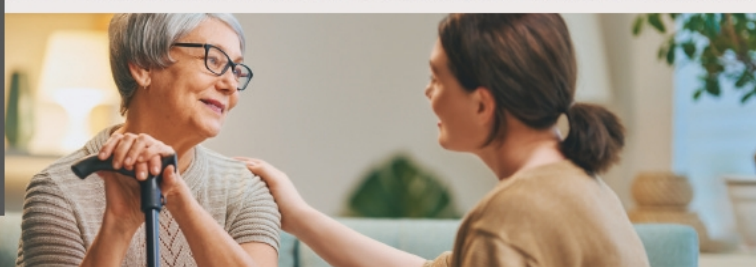
Local company established in 1990

GAS SAFE and OFTEC registered

telephone: 01285 861779
email: sgrdnr215@aol.com
website: www.mjgardner.co.uk

The Help Group

EXEMPLARY CARE
AND HOME STAFFING
SERVICES



Your help at
HOME

CALL OUR FRIENDLY
TEAM
01285 339050

WWW.THEHELPGROUP.CO.UK

OFFERING QUALITY ASSISTANCE IN YOUR HOME WITH A SELECTION OF SERVICES INCLUDING:

- LIVE-IN CARE
- HOURLY CARE, HOME HELP & COMPANIONSHIP
- PRIVATE CHEFS & MEAL PREPARATION
- HOUSEKEEPING & CLEANING SERVICES
- HOME 'DETOX'
- MOTHER'S HELP

New trees at the Millennium Green

Those observant amongst you have hopefully noticed all the new trees which have been planted up at the Millennium Green. We were lucky enough to be successful in being awarded 160 free trees by the Woodland Trust, a charity which promotes community involvement in planting trees.

We were ably assisted in the planting by Ashton Keynes scouts. We hope you enjoy watching them grow.

AK Millennium Green trustees



Ashton Keynes Link Helpline 07512 233200

Ashton Keynes Link Helpline is your local 'Good Neighbour' scheme.

We're here to help anyone in the area who needs assistance that they are not able to get from friends, relatives and neighbours.

Prescription collections, taking to hospital appointments or just having a chat - we are here to help you.

MARK BARTLETT

Local Painting, Decorating
and Handyman Service Ashton Keynes

No job to small
Please call Mark for a quote on

07722 185723

barts7000@yahoo.com



Personal Training

Pilates – small group /
private studio

Small Group Classes

Bootcamp – 7pm Thurs
High Road Park

HIIT Training - Wed 12pm
/ Friday 9am

Free Consultation

CONTACT: becbucklefitness@gmail.com
becbucklefitness.co.uk / 07852 948056

DAVID GILL

Minety Wiltshire

davidgill82@btinternet.com

07795621919


**BUILDING
STONWORK
LANDSCAPING
GROUNDWORKS**


srussell_112@yahoo.co.uk

Shaun Russell



Car light van motorcycle and scooter
collection/delivery/disposal service

07968 400326

ALWAYS WANTED

Cars vans motorcycles scooters
absolutely any age any condition
Barn shed or garage clearance service available

KINCH FUEL OILS LTD

Hornbury Hill, Minety

01666 860564 // 860575

**Suppliers of high-grade fuels for
industry and transport**



Authorised Distributor

 **Chimney
MechanicsLtd**

Chimney sweeping,
Pots, cowls & bird-guards,
Repointing & stack repairs,
Stoves, liners & fireplaces
Wood-burner installation
HETAS registered

01793 771782

PC Doctor Dan (Cricklade)

Tel: 01793 759192

Mob: 07890 377517

www.pcdoctor-dan.co.uk



**Home and Business
Computing Services**

20 years IT experience @ Intel Corporation

Ian Nickels Plastering

38 Years Experience

All aspects of plastering and rendering
Internal and external work

- Friendly, clean and reliable
- Tiling, coving work undertaken
- Insurance work

07790 273725



iannickels66@hotmail.com

Call Ian for a free, no obligation quote

Ben Stevens Decorating Services

Mobile: 07584 126881 Home: 01285 656316

Email: benstevens08@icloud.com



like us on Facebook, under Ben Stevens Decorating Services

Forest School

Class 2 have been busy learning all about amphibian life cycles in their Forest School session. While they were not able to pond dip as a class (as the newts still have eggs), the adults were able to find and catch both an adult and a baby newt without causing too much disruption. It was identified as a Great Crested Newt and the children were very excited to see it up close. They then spent some time in small groups quietly observing the pond and saw a huge number of newts popping their heads up for some air and to hunt for food. While this was going on, the rest of the children were sculpting the life cycle of a newt out of clay.



Class 4 have been fantastic nature detectives. They investigated the contents of owl pellets and matched the tiny bones to particular small mammals. Some children even managed to reconstruct the skeleton of a small mouse having painstakingly identified the parts.

A trip to Westonbirt Arboretum



Class 1 had a fantastic time at Westonbirt Arboretum where they took part in a workshop about 'Plants as Producers', learnt lots about trees, had a lovely lunch, an exciting journey on the coach

and had the play park all to themselves. The weather was fabulous and the children were brilliant and had so much fun. A big thank you to all the parent helpers who volunteered their time for our trip.

Spring time in Class R

Class R have thoroughly enjoyed learning about the life cycle of chickens. They watched six eggs hatch and loved taking care of them and watching them grow.



As part of our learning about different cultures, Class R took part in the Hindu festival of colour Holi. The children had great fun throwing paint at each other - a joyful celebration of Spring.

Drumba



KS2 took part in a Drumba session this half term, which combined drumming and dancing to music. The children had so much fun and definitely worked up a sweat.

Engineering workshop



Year 5 had an amazing morning being engineers with an exciting workshop linked to the Royal Air Tattoo. They had to design a plane that could pick up supplies from a mountain that had no landing strip.

Using bottles, cardboard, string and magnets they created a plane that could fly down a wire and pick up paper clips. However, it wasn't enough to just build the plane, you also had to budget for it making sure you didn't waste any materials.

Writing

Class 4 have written and published their own incredible Just So stories. These explain how a certain animal came to be, for example, how the rhino got its wrinkly skin. They then treated the children in Class R to a story time session where they shared their books and beautiful illustrations.

In English, Class 3 have been reading Leon



and The Place Between, and the children have used this as inspiration to create their own descriptive stories. The final results looked brilliant and it was lovely to read such imaginative writing.

AK Parish Council

Parish Council Vacancies

The Parish Council currently has two vacancies to fill by co-option. No previous experience is required, just a genuine interest in the community, a willingness to work as part of a team, and time to attend meetings and support council activities.

If you are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor please contact the Clerk for further information.

- You must be at least 18 years old and a British citizen, qualifying Commonwealth citizen, or citizen of the Republic of Ireland, and meet at least one of the following criteria:
- You are registered as a local government elector for Ashton Keynes Parish; or You have, during the past 12 months, occupied land or premises in the parish as owner or tenant; or
- Your principal or only place of work during the past 12 months has been in the parish; or
- You have lived in the parish (or within 4.8 km of it) for the past 12 months.

Parish Steward

Parish Stewards are due to return to normal duties from 1 June after spending the past six months on pothole duty in the county.

Please report any issues that can be dealt with by the Parish Steward, the type of works that can be reported to the Clerk are:

- Hand clearing and cutting of growth from drainage grips and drain gully covers.
- Hand clearing of blocked drainage gullies, grips, culverts, pipes and pits (unable to jet system).
- Clearing storm debris from the roads and footways.

- Pedestrian barriers preparation and painting.
- Cleaning and straightening of small road signs, street nameplates and bollards.
- Securing of existing small road signs, verge marker posts and supplied street name plates.
- Removal of limited graffiti from road signs, bollards and street nameplates.
- Hand cutting of grass and vegetation in visibility areas.
- Hand treatment of weeds.
- Hand clearance of encroaching growth and soils from footways.
- Repair of small potholes in roads and on footways.

Other issues can be reported directly to Wiltshire Council using Wiltshire Council's online reporting system
www.wiltshire.gov.uk/mywilts-online-reporting.

Planning:

Applications considered for which there was 'No Objection'

The Old Vicarage, Church Walk: T10 Leyland Cypress & G14 Lawson Cypress - Remove; T16 Ash - Reduce in height to final height of 9-10m; T19 Ash - Reduce in height to 4m; T95 Hazel - Coppice; T63 Goat Willow - Remove; T76 Ash - Remove damaged branch & Crown Clean.

32 Richmond Court: Single storey lean-to extension to rear of property.

Dairy Farm, Ashton Road: Variation of condition 1 of PL/2023/07538 to retain the concrete batching plant for a further two years to 31 December 2028.

Dairy Farm, Ashton Road: Variation of condition 1 of PL/2023/07537 to retain the aggregate recycling facility for a further two years to 31 December 2028.

Dairy Farm, Ashton Road: Variation of condition 1 of 19/06811/WCM to extend mineral and inert cessation dates and

restoration requirements by two years.
Kent End Farm, Kent End: Demolish of Existing Garage for storage of Vehicles and Replace with a larger Garage for storage of Vehicles.

1 Richmond Court: T1 Magnolia - 35% Crown Reduction; T2 Horse Chestnut - Remove lower branching up to a height of 5m; T3 Maple - 30% Crown Reduction

Applications determined by Wiltshire Council 'No Objection'

1 The Derry: Beech – reduce crown back to 1ft below previous pruning points.

10 Four Acre Close: Field Maple and Cherry trees – crown raise to 4 metres above ground level. Remove branches encroaching on boundary.

10 The Lotts: Sorbus crown reduction up to 1.8 metres.

Applications determined by Wiltshire Council 'Approved with Conditions'

11 Kings Drive, Kingswater – Erection of timber orangery, canopy, gate and fences.

7 Dairy Farm, Gosditch: Erection of rear canopy, installation of ASHP, fenestration alterations and replacements, repoint exterior, internal alterations, alterations and addition of roof-mounted solar panels to detached garage, and landscaping operations.

Kent End Cottage: Reduce 26 Sycamores and 5 Lawsons back to previous pruning points.

Fiona Ryder - clerk@akpc.org.uk - 07394 856232

The next Parish Council meetings will be held on Thursday 4 June and Thursday 2 July 7.15pm in Bradstone Pavilion.

Agenda and minutes are available on the Parish Council website akpc.org.uk and noticeboard

WILTSHIRE CONNECT BUS SERVICE

The 93A bus service to Cirencester stopped running in March, and has been replaced by the Wiltshire Connect bus service. This is a bookable service which can take you to Cirencester, as well as many places in Wiltshire, including Wootton Bassett and Malmesbury. It can also take you to Kemble Station and a few places in Swindon, including Great Western Hospital and the Orbital Retail Park.

It operates six days a week (Monday to Saturday), and can pick you up from somewhere close to your home. You can book up to seven days in advance, and even on the day if vehicles are available. Each trip costs £2 or £3, but is free if you have a senior bus pass.

The best way to register and book a trip is to download their app onto your mobile phone. If you can't do this, you can call their friendly team on 01225 712900. Full details are available on their web-site - connectingwiltshire.co.uk. If you can't access this, please call the AK Link Helpline on 07512 233200 for help.



COTSWOLD

HEATING AND PLUMBING

— Local • Reliable • Professional —

Specialists in **oil-fired heating systems**, servicing, breakdowns and repairs.

- ✓ Oil boiler servicing & fault finding
- ✓ Heating & plumbing repairs
- ✓ Hot water issues solved
- ✓ Honest advice & tidy workmanship

Serving the local Cotswolds area with a friendly, personal service you can rely on.

07466 149260
 ✉ cotswoldheatingandplumbing@gmail.com

Fully insured • Prompt • Recommended locally
www.cotswoldheatingandplumbing.com



Is your home heating OIL or LPG?

Our expert engineers can ensure your system is in tip-top condition and working at maximum efficiency:

- Installation, servicing, maintenance and repairs
- Oil boilers and tanks, LPG boilers and appliances
- Experienced engineers, OFTEC and Gas Safe registered
- Friendly, professional and reliable service



SN HEATING & PLUMBING LTD

— domestic & commercial Gas Safe and OFTEC experts —

For all gas, oil or LPG heating service, upgrade or installation

☎ 01793 753 169 | 07711 938 094
 ✉ info@snheatingplumbing.co.uk
 🌐 www.snheatingplumbing.co.uk




THE HANDYMAN

Home maintenance & repair work. Small jobs, all skills.
 New home or flat set-up after move - a speciality

Carpentry – Shelves/cupboards – Furniture repairs/restoration
 Minor: Bricklaying – Plastering – Tiling – Flooring – Plumbing
 Pictures hung – Wall fittings installed – Kitchen appliances set up
 Lighting set up – Painting & Decorating – Most broken things fixed
 Pressure Washing - Fencing – Guttering – Slab & Gravel Work

Minety (01666) 861297
Retired military – fit and reliable



STEVE FLOYD PEST CONTROL

ERADICATION & PREVENTION

E: stevefloydpestcontrol@gmail.com T: 01285 643750
www.stevefloydpestcontrol.co.uk M: 07933 357373

Fully qualified (25 years experience)
 Fully Insured





BLISSFUL BITES BAKERY

 Blissful Bites Bakery

 [Blissful.Bites.Bakery.ig](https://www.instagram.com/Blissful.Bites.Bakery)

 BlissfulBitesBakery@mail.com

MP South Cotswolds

Worth Fighting For!

June is a glorious month in the Cotswold Lakes. Around Ashton Keynes, the streams and waterways come alive at this time of year; water meadows bursting with colour, dragonflies skimming the surface, the lakes catching the evening light through the trees. Places like this remind me why I care so deeply about protecting the natural world, and why, when I head up to Westminster, part of me always wishes I could stay here instead.

Water quality has been one of my priorities since before I was elected, and nowhere does it feel more personal than in a village shaped by water. The young Thames rises just a few miles from Ashton Keynes, so decisions about sewage discharges, ageing drainage systems and development pressures directly affect wildlife, tourism, local businesses and people's everyday lives. I've been taking those concerns directly to Thames Water, regulators and ministers, pushing for tougher enforcement, proper investment and real accountability instead of the endless cycle of excuses and delay.

Flood resilience is closely connected. The landscape that makes this area so beautiful can also leave communities vulnerable when waterways are neglected or infrastructure fails to keep pace with changing weather patterns. I've been pressing agencies and ministers to



move beyond warm words and commit to practical measures that will genuinely reduce risk on the ground, because communities like Ashton Keynes deserve to face the winter without fear.

My regular surgeries will continue across the constituency, and my team is always here to help with casework - flooding and water quality concerns, NHS issues, planning matters or anything else affecting your wellbeing. Please do get in touch.

Warm wishes, Roz

**Roz Savage,
MP South Cotswolds
roz.savage.mp@parliament.uk
01285 654 978**

Church matters

Services for June 2026

Date	Church	Time	Service
Sunday 7 June Trinity 1	St Sampson's, Cricklade	8am 10am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Morning Worship with music group & children's activities in Church Evensong
	Holy Cross, Ashton Keynes	10am	Holy Communion
	St John the Baptist, Latton	10am	Morning Worship
Sunday 14 June Trinity 2	St Sampson's, Cricklade	10am	Upper Thames Worship Together Communion
	Holy Cross, Ashton Keynes	3.30pm	Outdoor Messy Church with picnic
Sunday 21 June Trinity 3	St Sampson's, Cricklade	8am 10am 6.30pm	Holy Communion followed by breakfast Morning Worship Evensong
	Holy Cross, Ashton Keynes	10am 6pm	Informal Worship 'around the table' Evensong (contact David Tarr for venue)
	St John the Baptist, Latton	10am	Holy Communion
Sunday 28 June Trinity 4	St Sampson's, Cricklade	10am	Holy Communion
	Holy Cross, Ashton Keynes	8.30am	Holy Communion BCP
	St John the Baptist, Latton	10am	Morning Worship

Everyone's welcome

Do come and visit one of our services over the coming months, where you'll receive a warm welcome, overflowing with God's love. You're also very welcome to use the church during the week for private prayer and reflection. Our thanks go to all the wonderful volunteers who open and close the church, making it available for everyone to enjoy.

Church opening times for private prayer

St Sampson's, Cricklade: every day, 9.30am – 3.30pm

Holy Cross, Ashton Keynes: Wednesday through to Sunday incl. 10am - 4pm
Closed Monday and Tuesday.

St Sampson's, Cricklade
Holy Cross, Ashton Keynes
St John the Baptist, Latton
All Saints, the Leigh



Messy Church

Sunday 14 June, 3.30 – 4.30pm messy church goes wild. Come to our outdoor church and picnic in Holy Cross Churchyard AK. All ages & stages welcome. In church if wet.

Holy Cross Summer Cream Teas
Wednesday 17 June and Wednesday 29 July 2.30 – 4pm in Holy Cross church. Come and chat with your friends and finish with a few of your favourite hymns.



Community Cream Tea

Thursday 2 July Community Cream Tea in AK school hall in Gosditch 1.30 to 2.45pm. An AK school- Holy Cross church partnership event, with year 6 chatting, serving tea and singing and AK school choir singing too. More details next month.

Around the Table

'Around the Table' on **3rd Sunday morning at 10am.**

I've been asked a couple of times, what 'around the table' is about so I thought I'd try to explain a little further. We start with



chatting over coffee or tea and biscuits or cake, as we sit around tables in the church so you might call it 'café style'. One of our clergy or lay ministers leads words of praise and prayers which come from the Celtic tradition and shares a thought for the day on a Bible passage, after which there's a chance to talk through what the passage means to us and our daily lives. We include prayers for the world and local community and we sing a couple of songs too. Do come and join us, you'd be most welcome or get in touch to find out more. Revd Shirley
revdshirleyd@gmail.com or 07980 548844.

Weekday Worship

Thursday morning prayers in St Sampson's: 8.30am for coffee & catch up, prayers from 8.45 and finish by 9.30am. *Everyone is welcome.*

Zoom Monday morning prayers – contact David Tarr
Contact Jane our Parishes' Administrator for further details –
admin@upperthames.org.uk

Church matters cont'd

From the registers of the Upper Thames Group of Churches April 2026

FUNERALS

Name	Date & Church
Joan Stubbs	9 April, St Sampson's

WEDDINGS

Name	Date & Church
None	

BAPTISMS

Name	Date & Church
None	

Contact details for the **Upper Thames Benefice** - Cricklade St Sampson's, Latton St John the Baptist, Ashton Keynes Holy Cross and the Leigh All Saints

Vicar: Revd Canon Debbie Dewes (email to vicar@upperthames.org.uk
Tel: 01793 752718 + answerphone)

Associate Vicar: Revd Shirley Danby (email to revdshirleyd@gmail.com
Tel: 07980 548844)

Parishes Administrator: Jane Eyles (email admin@upperthames.org.uk)
Website <https://www.upperthames.org.uk>/Tel: **01793 979304**)

For weddings and baptisms please check out our website
<https://www.upperthames.org.uk/what-we-offer/> or contact
Canon Debbie, Revd Shirley or Jane (Parish Administrator)

OPEN GARDEN

in aid of Holy Cross Church
Harberts Cottage, Back Street, Ashton Keynes SN6 6PD



Sunday 7 June 2026 2-5pm
Sunday 5 July 2026 2-5pm
Sunday 2 August 2026 2-5pm

Do come and relax in my garden with a cup of tea and a piece of cake! Plenty of space to sit or enjoy a quiet wander.

Refreshments served all afternoon.

Beautiful choral music with instrumental accompaniment in the atmospheric setting of
St Sampson's Church

Rutter's Requiem Plus Fauré's Cantique de Jean Racine

Directed by Mark Lee, Director of Music at Bristol Cathedral

27th June 2026 at 5pm
St Sampson's Church, Cricklade

Tickets available on the door or by scanning the QR code

£12 (to include a glass of wine/soft drink)



Avebury Vocal
ENSEMBLE

Conductor: Peter Tims
Organist: Simon Dinsdale

Summer at Sea

Stanford Songs of the Sea
plus
music celebrating the sea
and anniversaries of
Wesley & Britten

Sunday
12th July 2026
7.00 pm

St. Sampson's Church
Cricklade
SN6 6AT

Image: Nathan Dumais (Unsplash) www.aveburyvocal.org



Tickets £12
on the door
& online
under 18s free

The Telephone Gallery



After the fun exhibitions by the Beavers, Cubs, and Scouts, I had intended to show some prints from a make-a-print-a-day for a month challenge. However, I only managed three days, so I chose instead to exhibit some of the baskets I made while studying for a City & Guilds Basketry course at City Lit in London. Each module over the two years was led by a different expert tutor, and putting the display together brought back fond memories of that time and the fun we shared. Basketry is often seen as therapeutic, but in my experience it also involves plenty of frustration and, occasionally, a trip to A&E.

A Million Acts of Hope, a UK-wide event celebrating community, kindness, and connection, was the second exhibition in May. Despite what the news or social media suggest, the UK is not a divided nation as millions in the UK regularly support each other through everyday acts like helping neighbours, picking up litter, or coaching a football team. This event showcased the positive impact people have on one another, and the display reflected the ways in which individuals help each other in the community.

Local people were invited to share their own acts of kindness or those of others. These were then displayed in the windows on two sides of the Telephone Gallery. Class 5 coloured the word HOPE, which was put in the smaller side windows and also turned into bunting. I also cut out the letters HOPE and used bubble wrap to print them in different colours. Decorations from the AK Festival were reused to good effect and the fairy lights made it look magical at night. Here are a few of the acts of kindness displayed:

- *My husband helps our neighbours with jobs they can no longer manage.*
- *Just wanted to say thank you to all villagers that have been involved in organising or are members of the AK Village groups from Toddler group, Play group, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Football club, Tennis club, Badminton Club, Choir, Parish Council, Playing Fields Assoc., PTA, WI, Reading Group, and Craft Club to name but a few! This all contributes to Ashton Keynes being a lovely vibrant community. Thank you!*
- *The Village Shop is a lifeline.*
- *Mrs Saville is a truly exceptional headteacher. Many thanks to her and all the staff at the school for giving all the children such a great start to their education and giving them all a love of learning.*

- *I knit hats for the homeless and premature baby hats for the baby unit at Great Western Hospital.*
- *I really appreciate the fun and friendship I enjoy with my WI friends.*



To help create pathways for bees and butterflies, Class 5 decorated envelopes with flower drawings and I then filled them with

pollinator-friendly seeds. These free "Seeds of Hope" packets were then given out on Friday afternoon to anyone who wanted one.

Our local MP Roz Savage visited the exhibition and met representatives from several village groups. She spent time reading the displays, praised the exhibition, and spoke about the importance of showing how connected communities are. She enjoyed chatting with everyone, loved the "Seeds of Hope" idea, and took a packet home to sow. The exhibition was also featured in the local newspaper.

Forthcoming exhibitions

26 June – *Blooming Fantastic* – Ashton Keynes WI

Please do get in touch if you'd like to have an exhibition in the Telephone Gallery or to use it as a space to promote a forthcoming event in a creative way. There's good availability from the end of July.

Kathryn Gray

thetelephonegallery@gmail.com
Instagram @thetelephonegallery
www.thetelephonegallery.blogspot.com



CIRENCESTER

REPAIR CAFE

We can try to mend toys, clothes, small electricals, household items and bikes



**9th May, 13th June, 11th July, 8th August,
12th September, 10am – 1:30pm**

**CIRENCESTER BAPTIST CHURCH,
CHESTERTON LANE, CIRENCESTER,
GL7 1YE**

**0752 667 6822 or facebook.com/cirenrepaircafe for
further information**



REPAIR CAFE



Caring for our world

Satish Kumar - Walking for Peace

Peace-pilgrim, life-long activist and former monk, Satish Kumar has been inspiring global change for over 50 years.

Satish grew up in India in the late 1930's and as a boy, left his mother to become a Jain monk, choosing a life without shoes, without money, just walking, begging for food and seeing the sacred in every moment of life.

Later in his 20's when the Cold War was at its height, he returned to the world feeling he wanted to do more for the peace movement. He was inspired by Bertrand Russell (the then 89 year old British philosopher and pacifist) who had been arrested at an anti-nuclear demonstration. This prompted Satish's peace pilgrimage in 1962.



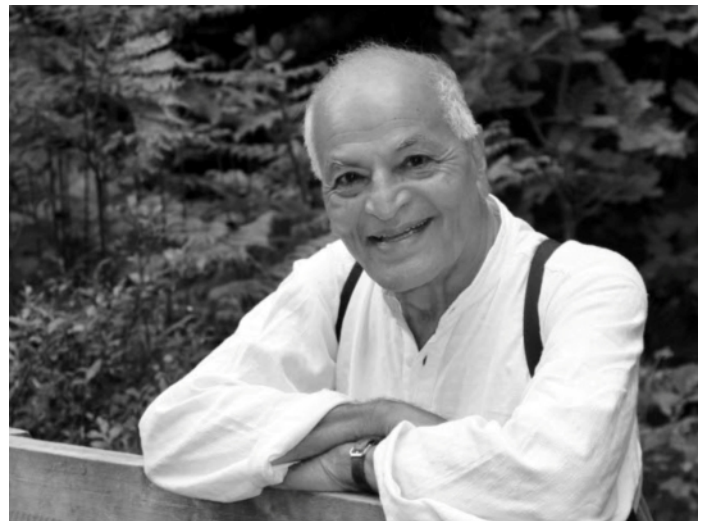
Satish and his peace activist friend, EP Menon, set out to walk from Delhi to the four nuclear capitals – Moscow, Paris, London, Washington DC – to spread a message of non-violence. A journey of around 8,000 miles and two and half years. He had no money and depended entirely on the kindness and hospitality of strangers. It was an adventure during which he was thrown into jail in France and faced a loaded gun in America. Satish delivered a humble packet of 'peace tea' to leaders in the hope that they may pause for a cuppa if they ever got the impulse to press the nuclear button.

In a recent interview, Satish reflected, "If I'd had money, the journey wouldn't have been

so rich, when you have no money, you have to be creative, polite, accepting. It was a great way of learning humility and experiencing human generosity."

Although today's world is very different, Satish's campaigning continues – if he were in his 20s now, he says, he'd walk for climate justice. "This climate crisis is very dangerous and time is very short. Therefore, we have to work on people's awareness."

I was lucky enough to meet Satish at an event in Frome a while back and he is an absolute ray of sunshine and a total force of nature, as much now as I imagine he was in his 20's!



He has written several books including one about this walk - Pilgrimage for Peace, described as an adventure story that shows how a journey with love and compassion can bring people together in hope and help them understand one another.

A humble action like walking can have a huge impact.

Gilly Riddington
We Are Nature

MOORE ALLEN
& INNOCENT

VALUATION DAYS

Tuesday 9th June: The Cirencester Saleroom, GL7 5RJ

Friday 3rd July: Moore Allen & Innocent, Lechlade, GL7 3AJ

10am - 2pm

No appointment necessary.



Enquiries: 01285 646050 / fineart@mooreallen.co.uk



EMERGENCY Contact Hub

In a disaster/emergency widespread damage to utilities, buildings, trees, and roads is likely to cause issues across the county. The emergency services will be dealing with the most urgent incidents, so our local community will be an immediate source of support and help.

An Emergency Contact Hub is your community's place to go and help one another in an emergency. They are organised around whatever your community wants them to be, but primarily they are designed so that community members can help themselves but also have a linkage into the emergency services and other responding agencies in your local area.

What's the Purpose?

In an emergency the responding agencies will be heavily stretched, where they must prioritise urgent calls. Many of the minor issues can actually be resolved by the community themselves, often with just a little organisation or information required. The Emergency Contact Hub is designed to build on and enhance what is already in place in the community. It is not designed, nor does it intend to remove, any levels of responsibility that already exist that support our society.

The fundamental purpose of the Emergency Contact Hubs is that the community can come together to help one another but also enables the emergency responders and community groups to feed information to one another. For example:

- Police Community Support Officer's (PCSOs) can visit the site with important updates and can then take back any urgent issues and feed them up the chain.
- Warmth and welfare can be provided within the hub to anyone that needs it.
- Food and water can be dropped off at the site for residents/community in need.
- Activities to help in the incident can be coordinated at the hub.
- Community can come together with people in a similar position to themselves.

How is the Hub run?

In general, the hub is run by the community for the community. It uses the community venues themselves and is predominantly staffed by community volunteers. It's essentially a place for the community to come and help each other. Each hub will have an emergency pack which will give some suggestions on roles to help the hub operate effectively e.g., supervisor and welfare, these do not need to be adhered to and can be altered to whatever suits the group or situation. There is also no requirement to predefine people to the roles, the system works so that you can open up and get started from there.

Examples

Widescale Power Outage forecasted to be for a long period
Flooding Event
Major disruption caused by a crash

The Emergency Contact Hub for Ashton Keynes is based at the Village Hall. This does not mean the Village Hall management team will run the Hub; it is simply the designated location, and where the information will be maintained. Ideally, a separate team of volunteers will operate the Hub. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact us at ech@ashtonkeynes.org.uk. We will send you more details and hope to arrange a get-together in the coming months.

Health matters

Purton and Green Gable Surgery

For the patients in Purton, Cricklade and surrounding communities

News about the group

Are you be interested in finding out about the work of your surgery? Would you like to be a part of its support? There is currently an exciting opportunity to join the PSPG committee so if you are interested, we have information packs available from reception at both surgeries. We will also be at the Purton Community Day on 13 June to discuss what being a member involves face to face! We look forward to meeting you.

200 Club

New members to the 200 Club are always very welcome. It's never too late to join! It costs just £15 a year, paid by standing order. Every month, we award two prizes—one of £100 and another of £15. All proceeds go toward buying equipment for the surgeries that the NHS does not supply. Please enquire at reception if you wish to join.

Our lucky May winners are:

- First Prize of £100 Andrew & Val Knowler (no. 54)
- Second Prize of £15 Christine Rawlings (no. 71)

The draw was made by our Care Co-ordinator Teresa Philpot. Congratulations!

Future Information evenings

Our information evening in April about looking after your kidneys was well attended and expertly led by Mel and Carly from the GW Hospital. If you have an idea of a topic that you would like future evenings to cover, there is a suggestion box in Purton Surgery, and you can leave a message at Green Gable reception too. We would like to arrange suitable events that appeal to you and will

endeavour to find the relevant speakers if possible.

Tabletop /Book donations

Please hand in any good quality books and items for sale at the surgeries. Again, funds raised through these donations provide all the 'extras' needed. Thank you for your donations to both!

As always, your support is much appreciated. Thank you!



PURTON SURGERY
Patient Participation Group

AK Village Choir - 30th Anniversary

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday 17 October 2026

Celebrate our amazing achievement of performing and entertaining you all for the past 30 years.

The choir will be revisiting songs and music from over the years. Joining us will be guest singers and musicians.

Let's make it a night to remember

Ashton Keynes Branch Surgery

01793 750645 www.crickladesurgery.nhs.uk

We are open on Wednesdays from 10.30am to 1pm at the Village Hall.

You can collect your medication anytime between 10.30am and 1pm any Wednesday and also request medication and make appointments. When ordering repeat medication, it will be ready to collect from Ashton Keynes the following Wednesday, if it is due to be issued. More urgent requests can be processed and collected from Cricklade Surgery.

Repeat Prescriptions

If you need a repeat prescription, you may either request your medication by signing up for online access and ordering through this system. You can also post, or deliver your repeat prescription request to the surgery at least five working days before you intend to collect your medication.

Please note our online ordering system links directly with our clinical system, making it simpler for you and easier for us. If you don't have your log in details to access the new system, please ask at reception. Please ensure you have some form of identification with you when you collect your details.

All dispensing patients can use the automated system where patients can pick up their prescription and re-order medication for the following month at the same time, which reduces the number of visits to the surgery and ensures medication is ready for collection at the appropriate time.

Repeat prescriptions where possible should not be ordered over the telephone.

If you would like to order your prescriptions via email, please use the following address - **bswicb.cricklade@nhs.net**

If you would like to speak to a member of the Dispensary, please call 01793 750645 and select Option 1.

Online Registrations

Our surgery can now offer online registration for new patients wishing to register. They can either visit our website and click on new patients' tab or use the address below to start the registration process.

<https://gp-registration.nhs.uk/J83609>

Cancellation of Appointments

Over the last few months, there has been a considerable increase in cancelled appointments at short notice. Please make every effort to attend all appointments as we are unable to offer those to other patients. If you do need to cancel an appointment, please give 24 hours' notice.

Patient Participation Group

As a surgery we appreciate any feedback, and we ask for this in so many ways. One way is in form of a group! If you were to be a part of this, you would receive this newsletter along with a small questionnaire a couple of times a year. We would like to hear from our patients in and around Cricklade. Please call Reception to sign up today!

April 2026 Friends and Family survey results

We had 221 responses in April. The answer to our question "Overall how was your experience of our service?" broke down as:

- 179 said our service was very good
- 26 said it was good
- 7 said neither good nor poor
- 1 said didn't know
- 5 said it was poor
- 3 said it was very poor



Cricklade Surgery

Tel: 01793 750645

Club news

Ashton Keynes Women's Institute

We have had a busy WI month. On Saturday 9 May some members and guests visited the SS Great Britain in Bristol docks, having been inspired by a speaker earlier in the WI year. We had a very instructive tour, our guide was generous with his time. The distinction between the accommodation of the first class passengers and the third class (steerage) was stark. As well as enjoying the ship we were impressed by the atmosphere of the waterfront and everyone took advantage of the cafes.

Our meeting on Wednesday 13 May was well attended. It is a requirement of the WI that we hold a yearly AGM which we duly did. We had reports from Finance Officer, Tamla and Secretary, Sheila. We aim to have a fun talk or activity after the AGM and this year didn't fail. Nasim Desai, a long time resident of Oaksey, spoke about 'How to wear a Sari and Indian Traditions'. She had laid out in front of us a display of most beautiful sari's in many colours and variously decorated but first she told us about her idyllic childhood in Zanzibar her forebears having migrated there several generations before. Leaving Zanzibar she became an aircraft plotter with the RAF and met her husband who was a pilot and was a Muslim! This caused some consternation among Nasim's Hindu family and his Muslim one particularly with regards to the wedding. The difficulties were overcome. They brought up two sons in Oaksey. Nasim must have dazzled at the mess balls in Wroughton in her lovely saris.

Nasim then described the various foldings and tuckings necessary to wear a sari and changed (in the cloakroom) into a magnificent red one. Red is the traditional colour for weddings, it symbolises love, prosperity and fertility.



Our next meeting is on the 10 June and will be a Summer Art and Craft evening. An outing to the Malvern Autumn Show at the end of September is being considered. There will be news of this in the near future. Jean Maggs Ashton Keynes WI

Join Us

We meet every second Wednesday at 7:30 pm in the Ashton Keynes Village Hall. After the planned activities, there's time to enjoy refreshments and then catch up on WI news. Women 18 and over can come along for two free taster sessions. With almost 50 members and over a century of history, Ashton Keynes WI keeps growing and staying active in the community.

As well as our monthly meetings, we have a monthly book club, a regular pub night, and have plans to go SUP/kayaking in the warmer weather. After the success of trip to the SS Great Britain, we're now planning a trip to the Malvern Show on Saturday 26 September. Look out for more information

about that as there may well be a few spare seats on the coach for non-members. If you haven't been, it's a great day out with crafts, food, gardens, talks, a fun fair, animals, displays, plenty of shopping activities, and much more.

Here's what's coming up in the next few months...

10 June - Summer Art and Craft Evening

8 July - Summer garden party - Enjoy some Bollywood dancing with The Sahara Sisters, as well as the usual summer buffet and Pimms

9 September - The Work of the MOD War Detectives with Nicola Nash. Hear about the work of the team who identify remains of British personnel found in historical battlegrounds. Nicola has often been on television and radio talking about the work of the team.

Contact
ashtonkeynessec@wiltshire.org.uk for more information.

Facebook:
www.facebook/AshtonKeynesWI
Instagram: @ashtonkeyneswi1920

The Outreach Post Office

Every Tuesday and Thursday, Ashton Keynes Village Hall

Tuesday morning: 9.30am - 12.30pm

Thursday afternoon: 2.30pm - 4.30pm



Dates for JUNE

As the post master is moving premises at his main site in Shrivenham, our out-reach Post Office will **NOT** be operating between the **5 June and 22 June**.

This means the post office will run as usual on 2 and 4 June but will be closed on 9, 11, 16 and 18 June. The post office will re-open on 23 June.

We're sorry for any inconvenience.

Telephone **07512 233200**, the **AK Link Helpline**, if you'd like a lift.

Teas, coffees and cakes served on Tuesdays by the WI: 10am - 12noon



North Wiltshire Villages Flower Club

The signs of spring are everywhere at the moment and it's the perfect time to enjoy flowers at their best, something we at the Flower Club try to do all year round. We have had some excellent meetings recently including a South African themed demonstration by Arnaud Metairie, an Area Demonstrator who used many beautiful and unusual flowers and artefacts. This was followed by a workshop using in-house expertise at which members and visitors produced some stunning spring floral arrangements in baskets. It is encouraging that several new members have joined the Club this year and actively participated in this enjoyable and creative evening. Please visit our website, northwiltshirevillagesflowerclub.co.uk for full details of these events and photographs of the arrangements made.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 17 June when Fleur White, an Area Demonstrator from Somerset, will make 'Musical Memories'. As usual this meeting is on the third Wednesday of the month, 7pm for 7.30pm, at Crudwell Village Hall, SN16 9HB, where there is ample free parking, excellent refreshments and a welcoming atmosphere (free for first time visitors). There are some exceptions to this, as on 1 July we have a Summer Outing by coach to the David Austin Rose Gardens in Shropshire (£25 for members, £33 for visitors - places may be available, please contact us for details). Then on Saturday 8 August from 9.30am until 1pm, Coral Gardiner, a National Demonstrator, will share her skills in making pedestal arrangements at a workshop in Crudwell suitable for all levels of expertise.

Our full programme for 2026 incorporates interesting and varied events throughout the year, including demonstrations, workshops, talks and outings. Save the date for our main annual event, an Open Meeting at Malmesbury Town Hall on Wednesday 18 November with National Demonstrator Nick Grounds.

For more information about us please visit our Facebook page – North Wiltshire Villages Flower Club, our website (as above) or contact us by email - nwvflowerclub@gmail.com. We hope to see you soon.

Club news continued

Cricklade and District Probus Club

We are looking forward to our forthcoming group meetings when the following talk will take place:



11 June - From Slave Trade to Parliament

25 June- UN Peacekeepers - 'Not Fit for Purpose'

Meetings normally take place fortnightly on a Thursday, meeting at 10am for a 10.20 start at the White Hart Hotel in Cricklade. Ours is a friendly group who enjoy keeping our minds active and socialising over a drink in the bar after the meetings. We are actively seeking to expand our numbers and look forward to welcoming new members (ladies or gents) to the Club.

For further information about our club please contact the Honorary Secretary, **Martin Chambers on 01793 751223**. If you contact Martin and advise you would like to attend, which is free for the first few visits, you will be allocated a dedicated host who will introduce you to our members. For further information visit our new website at <https://probus.org.uk/cricklade/>

Craft Club



Craft Club meets monthly on Wednesday or Friday afternoons. Newcomers attend their first session free; afterwards, it's £4 or £5 plus a £1 donation to the local food bank. Members bring their own projects to, but optional activities are available at no extra cost. Tea, coffee, and occasional cake are provided. So far, we've raised over £100 for the food bank.

In April, we made wire alliums/cow parsley flowers using wire and beads. They were fun to make and all looked lovely.

Our local MP Roz Savage is planning on coming to Craft Club one Friday afternoon. In what little free time she has, she enjoys macrame and crocheting.

June's Craft Club is on Friday 26 June from 2pm to 4pm in the Village Hall. If you'd like to come along, pop in on the day or email me **kathryngray28@yahoo.co.uk** for more information or drop a note round to 16 Gosditch.



Kathryn Gray

“Sing & Tonic”

***A harmonious musical evening
at The Holy Cross Church***



We are delighted to be organising an Ashton Keynes Festival fundraising event, with all proceeds going to the Holy Cross Church, Ashton Keynes.

Come along and enjoy an evening of musical entertainment; songs performed by an all-female group, the Siren Sisters, accompanied by pianist, Richard Sutcliffe.

Doors Open at 7.00pm (starts 7.30pm) Friday June 26th, 2026, at the Holy Cross Church, Ashton Keynes, SN6 6QR.

A bar will be available, serving alcohol and soft drinks throughout the evening.

Tickets £5.00 per person.

Tickets can be purchased online at www.ashtonkeynesfestival.net
Or at the Ashton Keynes Village Hall every Tuesday morning between 10am and 12.00 noon. Or ask any member of the Siren Sisters

www.ashtonkeynesfestival.net

Club news continued



Adventure 2026 is in full swing.

Our Beavers, Cubs and Scouts are having great fun with their new activities, as you can see in the sectional reports. Don't let your child miss out on all the fun and excitement of our village Scout Group. Contact our Group Scout Leader (GSL) now to sign your child up.

GSL@1AK.uk or phone on 01285 861425

If you are **6 to 8 years old** our **Beaver** colony meets on Tuesdays at 5.30pm

If you are **8 to 10½ years old** our **Cub** Pack meets on Thursdays at 6pm

If you are **10½ to 14 years old** our **Scout** Troop meets on Fridays at 6.45pm

Boys or Girls just come and join us in the School Hall Our Group has vacancies in all sections just come along and try our Scouting activities!



Volunteers Needed – Help Our Village Scouts Thrive!

Our Scout Group urgently needs volunteers to join the Trustees Board — especially a Chairman, Administrator and Secretary.

We meet just 4–5 times a year, helping guide the group and support our section leaders. Without your help, we cannot continue to grow — or introduce exciting new sections like Squirrel Dray (ages 4–6).

This is your village Scout Group. With your support, we can keep Beavers, Cubs and Scouts thriving for our children.

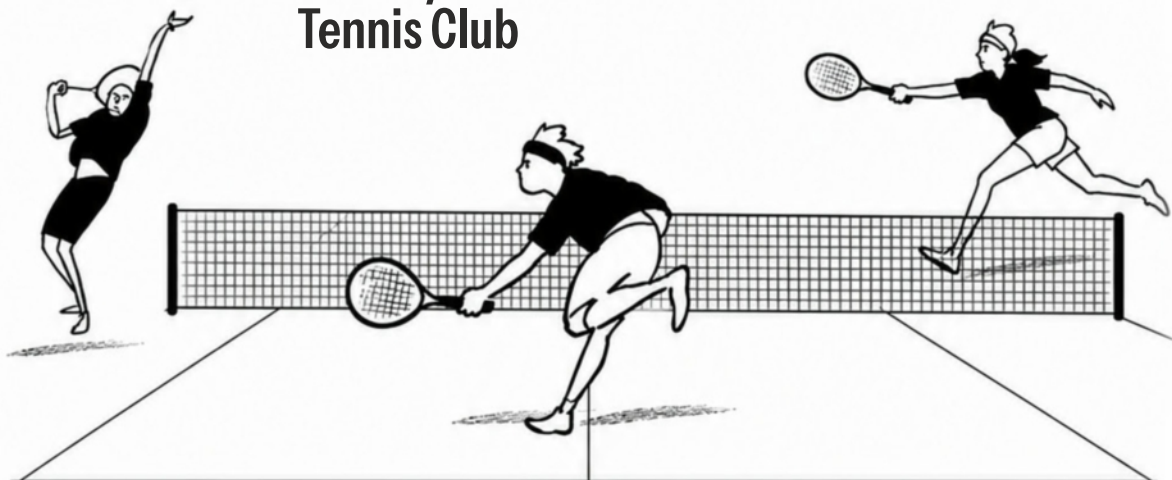
No experience needed and age is no barrier — just enthusiasm and a passion for supporting young people. Full training and support provided.

Step forward today — we need you!

Contact David Tarr BEM (Group Scout Leader), GSL@1AK.uk, 01285 861425

Come have a hit.

Ashton Keynes Tennis Club



Ashton Keynes Tennis Club runs three courts on High Road, with coached sessions, league teams and social events.

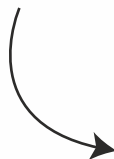
Ever thought about picking up tennis? Or maybe getting back into it?

Our social tennis sessions are open to everyone, members and non-members. No booking, no experience needed.

Join the group, turn up, have a hit, and see how you feel. No pressure, no commitment.

Want to find out more?

Scan below to stay in the loop with social sessions, coaching, pickleball, events and everything else coming up at the club this year.



ashtonkeynestennis@gmail.com

Club news continued

Cricklade Camera Club



Are you interested in photography, or do you just want to take better photographs?

If so, why not come along to Cricklade Camera Club. Visitors and new members will receive a warm welcome - you don't even need a camera. Everyone is welcome. **Come and try us out, your first evening is FREE.** To help you

improve your photography you will have the option to work with a mentor on a one-to-one basis. To see all our activities take a look at the programme page of our website <https://crickladecameraclub.org/program/>

On **Tuesday 2 June at 7:00pm** in the Cricklade Town Hall Annexe, is the Club's Annual Competition. Members will have entered digital and printed images in a variety of genres, and they will be assessed by an external judge on the night. Even if you haven't entered any images come along, it's a great way to learn what makes a great photograph.

Look out for posters advertising the Cricklade Photo Competition this summer – open to all ages.

For more details see the website <https://crickladecameraclub.org>

Over the summer there will be several opportunities to meet up and go on photography days out. Check the website to find out more.

For more information contact: **clubsecretary@crickladecameraclub.org**



Local artist Ruth Britton's greeting cards are still being sold in the village shop, and they can now be found at the back of the shop by the freezer.

*5 Designs from original oil paintings suitable for every occasion all left blank for your own message. She also has original paintings and prints on show in the **White Hart**.*

Website: ruthbrittonartworks.co.uk
or Tel: **01285 860481** to view more of her paintings and caricatures in her studio.

Paintings, Caricatures, and Pet portraits Commissions undertaken



Local numbers

Here are some of the **local groups, organisations and clubs** available to us.
Please also see the village website www.ashtonkeynes.org.uk where you will find further information.
Please let us know if you would like your group to be listed or you find an error.

Village Emergency Telephone System 01793 250211

For use when you need the defibrillator after ringing for an ambulance

AK Link Helpline 07512 233200

AK Website Steering Group via village website

Alpha Courses Pete Tuck 01285 861466

Anglers Ryan Peare

secretary@ashtonkeynesanglingclub.co.uk

Ashton Keynes All Stars Golf Geoff Chick

geoffchick00@aol.com

Ashton Keynes Charities Richard Smith 861461

Ashton Keynes Cricket Club

www.pitchero.com/clubs/ashtonkeynescricketclub

Ashton Keynes Musical Festival

Ashton Keynes C of E Primary School

01285 861436

Ashton Keynes Village Choir Howard Foster,

07502307490, www.akvillagechoir.co.uk,

ashtonkeyneschoir@gmail.com

Ashton Keynes Seniors Table Tennis Club

Diana Wain dw24813@gmail.com

Baby and Toddler Group Jemma Craven

jemmalcraven@gmail.com

Badminton Club Karen Carter

01285 862371 akbc@live.co.uk

Big Brunch Band jackie@davidmitchell.co.uk

Bradstone Pavilion Bookings bookings@akpc.org.uk

Bridge Gordon Coble 01285 861444

Craft Club Kathryn Gray 01285 869341,

kathryngray28@yahoo.co.uk

Cricket Mark Brooks (sec) 01285 862401

Dig Deeper Revd Shirley Danby 01793 751463

Football Junior Dave Affleck 07989 547898

Friends of Holy Cross Alison Beadle 01285 861411

Holy Cross Church Canon Debbie 01793 752718

Revd Shirley 07980 548844 Admin 01793 979304,

admin@upperthames.org.uk

Holy Cross Flowers

Jiu Jitsu Club (Cirencester) James Slaughter,

Keep Fit Tim Bird 07794 614962, 01285 656986

TimothyGBird@aol.com

Messy Church Shirley Danby 01793 751463

Millennium Green Trustees Ashley Seymour

ashleyseymour@aol.com 07759 552677

Minety Squash Club Tim 01666 860368

tim@lagondahire.co.uk

Mothers Union Margaret Godfrey 01666 860536

Neighbourhood Watch paul.eastham@totalise.co.uk

Orchestra www.cirencesterphil.co.uk

Parish Council (AK) Fiona Ryder 07394 856232.,

clerk@akpc.org.uk, www.akpc.org.uk.

Parish Council (Leigh) Mandy Thomas

01285 860488

Parochial Church Council Andrew Sims (Sec)

07500 884188

Pre-school 01285 869433,

www.ashtonkeynespreschool.co.uk,

communications@ashtonkeynespreschool.co.uk

secretary@ashtonkeynespreschool.co.uk

fundraising@ashtonkeynespreschool.co.uk

Reading Group c.conlon@icloud.com

Rural Cinema Dave Sheppard dave@akvh.org.uk

Short Mat Bowls ddsak78@gmail.com

Siren Sisters Val Skehan 01285 860069,

www.sirensisters.org.uk

Tai Chi (Down Ampney) Tim Price

01793 752852, tim@cotswoldwu.co.uk,

www.cotswoldwu.co.uk

The Telephone Gallery, Kathryn Gray, 01285

869341, thetelephonegallery@gmail.com

www.thetelephonegallery.blogspot.com

Tennis Annie Dyson ashtonkeynestennis@gmail.com

The Magnificent AKs Stuart Harris

stuart.harris1965@gmail.com

Twinning Association

ashtonkeynestwinning@gmail.com

Village Emergency Telephone System (VETS)

01793 250211

Walking Group Liz Chick 01285 861317

lizzie_chick@yahoo.com

Whitefriars Sailing Club Patrick Green, 01285

861670, info@whitefriars.org

Women's Book Group Liz Chick 01285 861317

lizzie_chick@yahoo.com

Women's Institute Sheila Ward 07920179287

Ashtonkeynessec@wiltshirewi.org.uk

& Sarah Owenson 07811267888

sarah.owenson@googlemail.com

www.facebook.com/AshtonKeynesWI

Writers www.newbreweryarts.org.uk



Samson Sweep

WWW.SAMSONSWEEP.COM

Chimney Sweeping Services including:

Manual Sweeping / End of Tenancy Sweeps / Stove Rope Replacement
Rotary Sweeping / Chimney Cowl Fitting / Birds Nest Removal
CCTV Inspections / Log Burner and Multifuel Stove Servicing
Smoke Checks / Fire Brick and Stove Glass Replacement



Fully insured, Sweep Certificates issued

Book Now: 07867582878



G DAVIES EXTERNAL CLEANING



Drone viewpoint assessments

Gutter unblocking & cleaning

Roof clean & moss removal

Walls, patios, driveways & conservatories

Fully insured

Call or Message: 07842 977337

Email: cleaning@alpens.co.uk

Business owned & operated by Gwilym Davies only.

Bespoke Joinery of Fitted
and Freestanding Furniture



07515903476

www.ben-vivian.co.uk

Wardrobes - Underneath Stairs
Alcoves - Tables - Benches

Your Local Heating and Drainage Experts

- New Boiler Installations
- Central Heating Installation
- Boiler Servicing & Repairs
- General Plumbing
- Gas, LPG and Oil Qualified
- High Pressure Drain Jetting
- CCTV Drain Inspections
- Drain Repairs
- Drain Unblocking & Cleaning
- 24/7 Emergency Drain Services

www.centraheat.co.uk
01793 878 636

www.centradrains.co.uk
01793 878 636

CentraHeat
Heating, Plumbing and Renewable Energy

CentraDrains
Emergencies, Repair and CCTV Surveying

DISCOVER YOUR HIDDEN BEAUTY

Nestled away in a quiet and idyllic village location of Upper Minety.

Fully insured & registered, Medical professional led clinic
- Medical Aesthetics, Beauty and Holistic Therapies.

Beauty Enhancement, Treatments and Massage.

- Medi-facials, Waxing & Nails
- Skin tag, Pigmentation & Blemish Removal
- Skin-boosting, Anti-wrinkle & Vitamin B12 Injections
- Weight loss Treatment

And much more! Find out here:

Visit: www.manoraesthetics.co.uk
Email: info@manoraesthetics.co.uk
Tel. 07427 504334

 Follow us on Facebook
 & Instagram

Photo by Drew Dizzy Graham on unsplash.

Optimum Mobility

Genuine advice and best value from the local specialist



 **Motability**

- Wheelchairs, manual & powered
- Scooters and portable scooters
- Powered rise/recline armchairs
- Household, bathing & walking aids
- High quality products
- Large display in country showroom
- Private test area
- Disabled facilities, easy parking
- Part exchange, new & reconditioned

Assessment and tuition at home

The Old Dairy, Pinkney Park, Sherston,
Malmesbury

01666 840060

www.optimummobility.co.uk

Thanks to Busy Fingers for printing this issue