

Ashton Keynes & Leigh Newsletter

July 2026



Photo credit: Scouts 1st Ashton Keynes - Beavers group

Results of CIL survey - page 13
Year 6 Leavers Cream Tea - 23
Help out with young people - page 38



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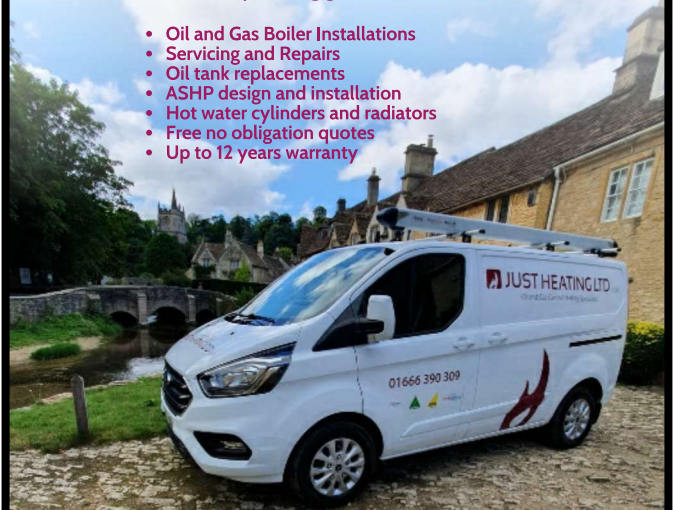
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Dear Friends,

It's high summer and schools will soon be 'out' for the holidays. Perhaps our thoughts are turning to packing our suitcase/rucksack and taking off for some R&R away?

I wonder if you are someone who travels light, or maybe someone who takes with you everything but the kitchen sink? I like the challenge of trying to live more simply (at least for a couple of weeks!) and remember fondly camping holidays with our young twins, where we would take no more than could fit in a tent.

And what of our spiritual baggage - those deeper thoughts, feelings, fears and joys; the things that give life meaning for us? Holidays might allow time and space where we can ponder and reflect as we rest. Are we carrying with us burdens that are too heavy, that we could maybe leave behind, or at least we could share the load?

Alternatively, perhaps we want to add something new to our spiritual suitcase, something to take with us into the future as our needs change?

Jesus said "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

So, whether you travel light, or prefer to be equipped for every eventuality, my prayer is that, wherever you go, you will find rest for your souls and your bodies. I wish you all safe travels this summer, and happy holidays!

Pauline Loveday
Licensed Lay Minister
Upper Thames Churches
Ashton Keynes, Cricklade, Latton and the Leigh

Neural Echoes: Everything We Love, We Lose

Local artist Stephanie Turley will present Neural Echoes: Everything We Love, We Lose, a new solo art exhibition opening at Ashton Keynes Village Hall on Saturday 4 July 2026.

Bringing together sculpture, casts and mixed media works, the exhibition explores memory, absence and the traces that remain after loss. Through impressions, negative spaces and material fragments, the work reflects on the objects, places and memories that continue to shape us long after someone is gone.



Created as the culmination of Stephanie's MA Fine Art studies, Neural Echoes transforms the village hall into a landscape of memory, inviting visitors to reflect on what remains when someone is no longer with us.

"Neural Echoes explores the traces people leave behind and how memory continues to exist through objects, spaces and the marks we carry with us. The work asks a simple question: what remains when someone is gone?"

Event Details
Saturday 4 July 2026, 6pm
Ashton Keynes Village Hall
Free Entry

Further information stephanieturley.com

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Editorial



For me, July invokes images of sunshine, long days, and the unmistakable energy of mid-summer motivation.

It's a perfect time for gathering with friends in the balmy evenings (the shop has all you need for your get-together's - page 7) or perhaps you'd like to join the Year 6 leavers celebrating the end of the first part of their school education with a cream tea (page 23).

Maybe your mid-summer motivation might inspire you to try out a new group (Probus, WI) or a new skill (craft club, camera club - see pages 36-37).

Perhaps now that we're half way through the year you might reflect and be motivated to give back to your community by becoming a volunteer - the Parish Council are looking for a new Councillor and the Scout group have several vacancies to fill (pages 19 and 38 respectively).

If nothing else, and you just want to admire a beautiful garden, whilst eating cake and donating to a good cause, then visit Pauline Loveday's garden which is open again this month and next (page 34).

Whatever you're motivated to do, stay cool!

Lou

Deadlines and Advertising

Editorial Team:	Claire Sims	01285 869479
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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 **AUG** newsletter to **AKLnewsletter@gmail.com** or to Claire Sims, 18 Happy Land, Ashton Keynes by 8pm on **16 July**.

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.

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Eighth page £5

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Steve's Been Busy!

Not many customers will notice a big difference but Steve has a new supplier for the majority of the products. The 'Jacks' label will disappear and the new branding will be 'Go Local'. Delivery will still be every Tuesday and Friday, and if anyone would like to help stock the shelves please contact Steve for details.

New In

Following on from our new supplier, Pukka Pies are now available in the chillier. There are several flavours including Chicken, Jerk Chicken and Steak.

We also have 'Curry in a Naan' with 3 different fillings - Chicken Korma, Chicken Tikka and Butter Chicken. They are great for a quick lunch or a picnic.



It's World Cup Time

I expect many of you are following the World Cup. I'm sure we will all be rooting for our team of choice and watching the games with friends.

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Football's Coming Home!!



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

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Ashton Keynes Parish Council

CIL Working Group
Village Survey
May 2026

437
Respondents

The Parish Council expanded the CIL Working Group to ensure that it was representative of a wide breadth of village stakeholders.

The CIL Working Group carried out a village wide survey to understand everyone's views on the priorities for village investment.

Here are the CIL Working Group's recommendations to the Parish Council on next steps, subject to costings and consents.

Further information at:

<https://www.akpc.org.uk/index.php/parish-council-cil>

Our Village, Our Future — CIL Survey Recommendations

Bradstone Refurbishment

The survey showed Bradstone is our most underused facility — primarily because there is currently nothing to do there. Villagers strongly backed investment to make it a hub for community recreation which would generate sufficient revenue to sustain itself long-term.

› The CIL Working Group recommends that the Parish Council explores how best to renovate the Bradstone building and improve the wider site to fulfil the village's needs — including the options of a café, adding a veranda, a big screen for sports match viewing, adding table tennis, padel and pickle courts, cricket nets, a pump track/skatepark and pétanque. The CIL Working Group hopes that grant applications could boost funding.

Cycle Connectivity

Better cycle links were widely supported in the survey, but the CIL Working Group felt that tackling the full network in one go risked spreading volunteer and financial resources too thinly.

› The CIL Working Group recommends that the Parish Council explores improved cycle access around Bradstone as an achievable first step, while keeping broader cycle connectivity firmly on the agenda for future investment if there are volunteers available.

Village Hall

The survey endorsed that the Village Hall is a much-loved central asset and the CIL Working Group appreciates that its volunteers have worked tirelessly to maintain and improve it over many years. The CIL Working Group understands that two key current needs are to upgrade the audio system as well as to improve the Village Hall's car park.

› The CIL Working Group understands that the Parish Council is already exploring how to improve the Village Hall car park.
› The CIL Working Group recommends that the Parish Council liaises with the Village Hall Committee to understand how best to support its other key needs.

Footpaths & Road Safety

Better footpaths and improved road safety were among the most widely requested changes in the survey. The CIL Working Group noted that several of the concerns raised (e.g. broken stiles) were already being progressed by the Parish Council but worried that footpath and road safety improvements are subject to lengthy Highway approvals and there was a risk of spreading volunteer and financial resources too thinly.

› The CIL Working Group recommends that the Parish Council explores forming a dedicated Road Safety Working Group as well as exploring expanding its current Footpaths Working Group if there are volunteers available. See next box on this too

High Road & Lotts facilities

The survey showed wide support for improving the High Road and Lotts facilities. In particular, the building at the High Road and play equipment at the Lotts playground.

› The CIL Working Group understands that the Parish Council is already exploring High Road building upgrades, including the toilets, shelter and refreshment facilities, as well as better storage.
› The CIL Working Group understands that the Parish Council is in the process of ordering new play equipment for both the Lotts and the High Road playgrounds.
› The CIL Working Group recommends that the Parish Council also explores any easy win High Road car park improvements.

Holy Cross Church and the White Hart

The survey findings showed that Holy Cross Church and the White Hart pub are considered key village facilities. Some popular suggestions — including giving monies to the White Hart and funding which relates to religious activities of the Church — unfortunately fall outside what the Parish Council is allowed to fund. This is not a reflection of their value to the village.

› The CIL Working Group does however recommend that the Parish Council explores whether it can resurface the footpath to the Church.

Making improvements to our lovely village, relies entirely on the energy and action of volunteers. If you feel strongly about any of the survey outcomes, please consider volunteering to help make them a reality. To get involved or be added to the email distribution list for updates, please email clerk@akpc.org.uk

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Rural Cinema

In the Village Hall

There are no films planned over the summer



Ashton Keynes Village Choir celebrating 30 years!

One cold winter's night in February 1996, two men: Graham Loveday and Peter Hallam sat in the pub and hatched a plan to start a village choir. The rest, as they say, is history. The first meeting was in the School Hall and 12 people turned up. Within a few weeks, 53 people had joined. Within a year, the choir were off to perform in our twinning town, Grandchamp des Fontaines, in France.

Over the years we've had a wide variety of talented Musical Directors and delivered some amazing performances. These have included a complete Phantom of the Opera, extracts from Gilbert & Sullivan operettas and a Last Night of the Proms.

In the latter years, performing in the village hall, church, school and even under Ellisons' canopy during Covid, the Village Choir has raised money for lots of good causes. These include our local hospice, the school's new atrium, the church, the village hall's solar panels, Parkinsons UK, a children's cancer charity in Swindon and the Wiltshire Air Ambulance. Today we are 45-strong, including a smattering of original members, and going from strength to strength under the leadership of Nicky Akeroyd.

On **Saturday 17 October** we're celebrating 30 years of singing with a **glamorous gala night** showcasing the very best of our repertoire. Please come along and join us at **7.30pm in the Village Hall**.



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Georgie Paris,
Chair,
Ashton
Keynes
Village Choir

Ashton Keynes Primary

I can't believe we're almost at the end of another year! The children have wowed us yet again with their amazing work ethic and their vast range of contributions to the school community.



Class R have been out for a day on their trip to Roves Farm. They had a fun-filled day; bottle feeding the lambs, creating dens in the woods, going on a tractor ride to meet the animals and even

holding 3-day-old piglets. As always, they were a pleasure to take out for the day and a great time was had by all.



In addition to this, Class R did their first class assembly to their parents and carers, and their peers. Everyone enjoyed it and the children spoke brilliantly throughout, treating us to some songs and dancing too – it was wonderful!

Class 1 have recently had an art day with Mrs Dyminski focusing on printing techniques. They used this method to create lighthouses because this ties in with their current class reading book; The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch.

Class 2 braved the elements and went off to the Cotswold Wildlife Park. They had a super time despite what the weather had in store for them!

The children loved looking around the park at the different animals and really enjoyed trying to spot the 'harder to find' animals such as the leopard. They had a lovely talk as part of their visit from one of the wildlife keepers during which the children were able to share their knowledge and understanding of animals, their adaptations and their habitats - it was so nice to see how much they had learnt in school.

The children loved the train ride too. They were all so well behaved and represented our school very well.

Class 3 started the term off with some art days with Mrs Dyminski. The children designed a mosaic piece based on themselves. They had to grout their final products which took real patience and care but the results were fantastic. The children also looked at Antoni Gaudi and created an information page on him.



School

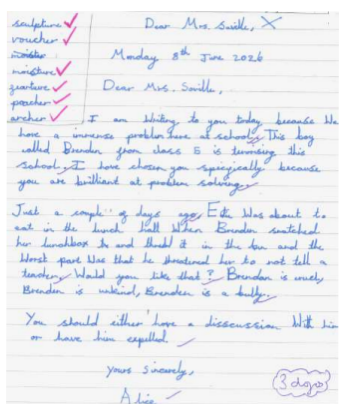
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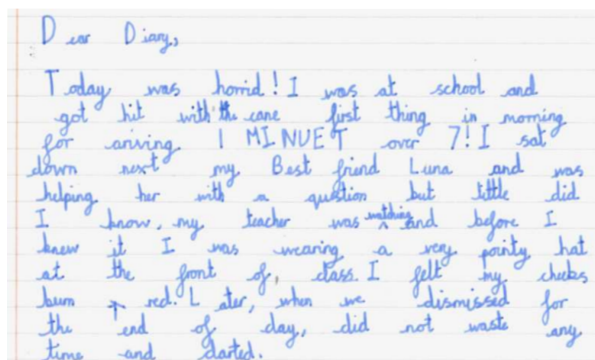


This term, **Class 4** began reading a new book *The Boy at the Back of the Class* by Onjali Q. Rauf. It has prompted some excellent and open discussions around refugees and what it might be like to have to attend a new school, especially if you don't speak the local language!

They have been using the book to look at the differences between formal and informal writing, having great fun making their sentences sound as 'posh' as possible. They've also seen some fantastic use of persuasive features, including flattery, the power of 3 and rhetorical questions to influence someone's decision about something.



They've also learnt about the Victorians in history, understanding what life would have been like for children at that time. They found that there were some similarities between then and now, but that the differences were enormous. The children were particularly interested in the types of punishments that were given at school - wearing the dunce's hat, 100s of lines and the cane.



Year 5 are extremely excited about their upcoming trip to Viney Hill. They will be staying away for two nights and taking part in a range of activities such as crate stacking, night walks and other team building activities. It's such a great opportunity for them to build their independence, friendships and to take part in new challenges.

Class 6 had a brilliant residential trip to London in the final week before half term - they represented themselves and our school brilliantly, and we are incredibly proud of them all.



The children loved taking part in white-water rafting and a particular highlight was getting to jump into the rapids and swim along them! Throughout the week, the children also experienced Shrek's

Adventure, The London Eye, The Paddington Bear Experience, St Paul's Cathedral and the London underground.

The week was brilliant fun and the children made great memories with their peers. Well done Class 6!



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AK Parish Council

Parish Council Vacancies

Following the co-option of Shaun Harrison at its June Meeting, the Parish Council currently has one vacancy left to fill. 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

The Parish Steward has returned to normal duties and visited Ashton Keynes on 18 June. The Steward has advised that due to a mechanical breakdown, verge cutting is a month behind and weed spraying is also behind schedule.

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.

For planning applications see page 41

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

The next Parish Council meetings will be held on 2 July and 3 September at 7.15pm in Bradstone Pavilion.

Agenda and minutes are available on the Parish Council website and the Village Hall notice board.



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Do you feel the need to 'share the care' and some of the responsibilities?

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Share a cup of tea.

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We believe here at Beavers we are the 4th emergency service, and we are on hand whenever the need arises.

We offer 24/7 call service. DBS checked staff who are fully compliant. Whether you need 4 or 40 hours we await your call.

The number is 01793 430007 we will answer any questions you may have.



The Telephone Gallery

Our Village in Spring Through Our Eyes was



the title of an exhibition created by the children at Ashton Keynes Preschool. The children chose their own subjects around the village to photograph and then decorated frames for their

pictures using pasta, stickers, feathers, buttons, glitter, and pompoms.

The exhibition was wonderfully colourful, and it was a joy to see the different things that had caught their attention whilst walking around the village.

At the June meeting, members of Ashton Keynes WI made tissue paper flowers—one to take home and one for the gallery display at the end of June called *Blooming Fantastic*.



I led the session and used the cinema screen to show a step-by-step video demonstration.

There are also plans for a mini printmaking workshop to create paper vases for displaying the flowers. I'm sure the finished exhibition will look blooming fantastic!

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



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.



Church matters

Services for July 2026

Date	Church	Time	Service
Sunday 5 July Trinity 5	St Sampson's, Cricklade	8am 10am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Morning Worship <i>with music group & children's activities</i> Evensong
	Holy Cross, Ashton Keynes	10am	Holy Communion
	St John the Baptist, Latton	10am	Morning Worship
Sunday 12 July Trinity 6	St Sampson's, Cricklade	10am	Upper Thames Worship Together Communion
Sunday 19 July Trinity 7	St Sampson's, Cricklade	8am 11.30am	Holy Communion, <i>followed by breakfast</i> Morning Worship <i>followed by a BBQ</i>
	Holy Cross, Ashton Keynes	10am	Informal 'around the table' Worship
	St John the Baptist, Latton	10am	Holy Communion
Sunday 26 July Trinity 8	Waterhay, Old Chancel	10am 6.30pm	Outdoor Communion* Outdoor Evening Service* (*back in St. Sampsons if wet)
	Holy Cross, Ashton Keynes	8.30am	Holy BCP Communion

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.

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

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



Year 6 children are excited to invite Ashton Keynes community (adults only) to Ashton Keynes school for a **cream tea party in the school hall**. Do come along on **Thursday 2 July 1.30pm – 2.45pm**.

The children will meet and greet you, offer



you scones with jam and cream (do let us know any dietary requirements when you arrive or let Rev'd Shirley know beforehand) and tell you about school and show you their work. Tea or coffee will be served too.

They'd love to hear about your school days, especially if you went to school in the village! The school choir will be singing to you as well. The lovely poster shows you how excited Year 6 are, so we do hope you will come. It's a school- Holy Cross church partnership event.

Open Air church at Waterhay Old Chancel Sunday 26 July

At the outdoor venue of Waterhay Old Chancel on Sunday 26 July come and join us as we worship together outside (hopefully in warm sunshine!) on this unique occasion. You can walk or drive up the little lane which is signposted 'Chancel' from Waterhay Lane. At **10am** we have Communion and at **6.30pm** an Evening Service and all ages are very welcome. There will be some chairs provided but you're welcome to bring a rug or your own chair if you prefer. If it rains the services will be inside Leigh All Saints Church in Swan Lane.

Holy Cross Summer Cream Teas

17 June was our first 2026 cream tea and everyone enjoyed scones, tea or coffee, chatting with friends, meeting Jo Winson our new curate, and singing a few favourite (and lively) hymns. Many thanks to the generosity of those who came, £75 has been donated to Malmesbury and North Wiltshire Foodbank (our local foodbank).



Our next cream teas are;

2 July at **Ashton Keynes school**, hosted by Mrs Sam Saville and the Year 6 children and supported by Holy Cross church 1.30 – 2.45pm . Following that they will be on **Wednesdays 29 July and 26 August** both at **2.30 – 4pm** in **Holy Cross church**.

Year 6 Leavers church service in Holy Cross church.

Our AK church – school partnership is hugely important to both Holy Cross church and Ashton Keynes Primary school, and, as part of that partnership, we're delighted to present a copy of a booklet called "It's Your Move" to every child in Year 6 to help them prepare for life at their secondary schools.

They go with God's blessing and as part of their Year 6 Leavers' service in Holy Cross church on **13 July**, the children will kneel and we will pray for them and ask for God's blessing, as they move to a new chapter in their 'book of life'.

Church matters cont'd

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

FUNERALS

Name	Date & Church
Michael George Chaplin	7 May, St. Sampson's and Cricklade Cemetery
Royston John Bennett	9 May, Holy Cross Service & Interment
Roger Ockwell	23 May, Holy Cross Service & Interment
Anne Joan Smith	27 May, St. Sampson's and Cricklade Cemetery

WEDDINGS

Name	Date & Church
Hannah Frances Lock Pullen and Nathan Raymond Cowley	30 May, St. Sampson's

BAPTISMS

Name	Date & Church
Harry Jude Brenchley	3 May St. Sampson's
Esmé Jane Smith	10 May, St. Sampson's

Contact details for the **Upper Thames Group of Churches** - 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)

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



Upper
Thames
Churches

Overflowing with God's Love



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plus
music celebrating the sea
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Wesley & Britten

St. Sampson's Church
Cricklade
SN6 6AT

Sunday
12th July 2026
7.00 pm

Image: Nathan Dumlao (Unsplash)

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At St Sampson's Church
Friday 17th July
7pm

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**on the
WINDOW**



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 the most 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@akvh.org.uk. We will send you more details and hope to arrange a get-together in the coming months.



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MP South Cotswolds

July in Ashton Keynes

This time of year in Ashton Keynes always makes me feel lucky to call this corner of the world my constituency. Recently, I visited Ashton Keynes Church of England Primary School to deliver my "Meet Your MP" presentation to the pupils. I always look forward to school visits; the questions children ask are often the sharpest ones, and talking about my life before Parliament, from rowing solo across three oceans to the green benches of the House of Commons, never fails to spark a reaction. It was a pleasure to spend time with the staff and pupils there.

That same afternoon, Ashton Keynes was the finish point for Leg 1 of the River Thames Relay, a relay run by the Drinkable Rivers campaign to draw attention to the health of the Thames from its source to the sea. Earlier in the day I had been at Thames Head, just up the road, to say a few words at the start of the event alongside Dame Fiona Reynolds, the High Sheriff of Gloucestershire. The Thames rises in South Cotswolds, so I feel a particular responsibility to champion its health. Seeing the relay set off and knowing it would finish here in Ashton Keynes felt like a fitting connection between this village and the bigger story of the river it sits beside.



I also had the pleasure of visiting the Telephone Gallery, Kathryn Gray's remarkable community art space in the village's converted red phone box, to see the "A Million Acts of Hope" exhibition, featuring acts of everyday kindness contributed by local residents. If you have a local concern to raise, please do get in touch.

Roz Savage,
MP South Cotswolds
roz.savage.mp@parliament.uk
01285 300555

The Outreach Post Office

Every Tuesday and Thursday, Ashton Keynes Village Hall

Tuesday morning: 9.30am - 12.30pm

Thursday afternoon: 2.30pm - 4.30pm



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

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**

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further information**



REPAIR CAFE



Caring for our world

A new Charter of Rights for The River Wye



It is widely known that rivers in Ecuador, Canada and New Zealand have been granted legal personhood in recent years and this year, The River Wye became the first UK river to gain similar status and recognition. A major new charter recognising the Rights of the River Wye was launched at a public ceremony on Sunday 24 May 2026 on the riverbank in Hay-on-Wye. Hundreds attended the event, marking a significant moment in the growing Rights of Nature movement across the UK.

Believed to be the first full catchment River Charter in the UK and the first Rights of River framework for a Welsh river, the Charter has been developed collaboratively across the catchment and endorsed by councils and institutions including Herefordshire, Powys and the Forest of Dean, alongside Bannau Brycheiniog National Park and the Wye Valley National Landscape. Monmouthshire County Council is expected to confirm their support in the near future.

The Charter recognises the River Wye as a living ecosystem with intrinsic rights including the right to flow and freedom from pollution. Supporters describe it as a development of national significance in the recognition of the rights of rivers and ecosystems.

The author Robert Macfarlane commented “Change is rising from the riverbank upwards, and change from below is almost always the most durable kind of change. What especially impresses me is the catchment-wide nature of this initiative. Having four councils and two landscape-scale organisations behind it, is testimony to the alliance-building power of the river rights vision.”

Paul Powlesland, Barrister & founder of lawyers for Nature, says “Now of course, comes the hard work of making those rights a reality. But given the hundreds of active river guardians & increasing public pressure to protect & restore the river, if it can be done on any river, it will be done on the Wye.”

The charter document itself, is in beautiful Welsh and English calligraphy by artist Mollie Meager and decorated with illustrations by Tamsin Abbott. The words themselves are at once profound and beautiful. Take a look at it on the ‘Save The Wye’ website. The words of the charter are these here.

The Rights of the River Wye

- The right to flow and perform natural function
- The right to biodiversity
- The right to be free
- The right to be supported by a healthy catchment
- The right to regenerate
- The right to representation

AKJCC



Allstars, Dynamos & Junior Hard Ball Program

Starting Friday 8th MAY 2026, the AKJCC 8-week programs

Please use the barcode below for your selected program to register

Ashton Keynes Cricket Club
Friday 8th May 6PM
Class R – Yr 3
Bradstone Sports Ground SN6 6QW



Ashton Keynes Cricket Club
Friday 8th May 6PM
Yr4 – Yr 6
Bradstone Sports Ground SN6 6QW



For the U13 Junior Hardball Training:
To register your interest for this, please email:
AKCC-Junior@outlook.com



Ashton Keynes Tennis Tournament

AK OPEN '26

SUNDAY 12TH JULY

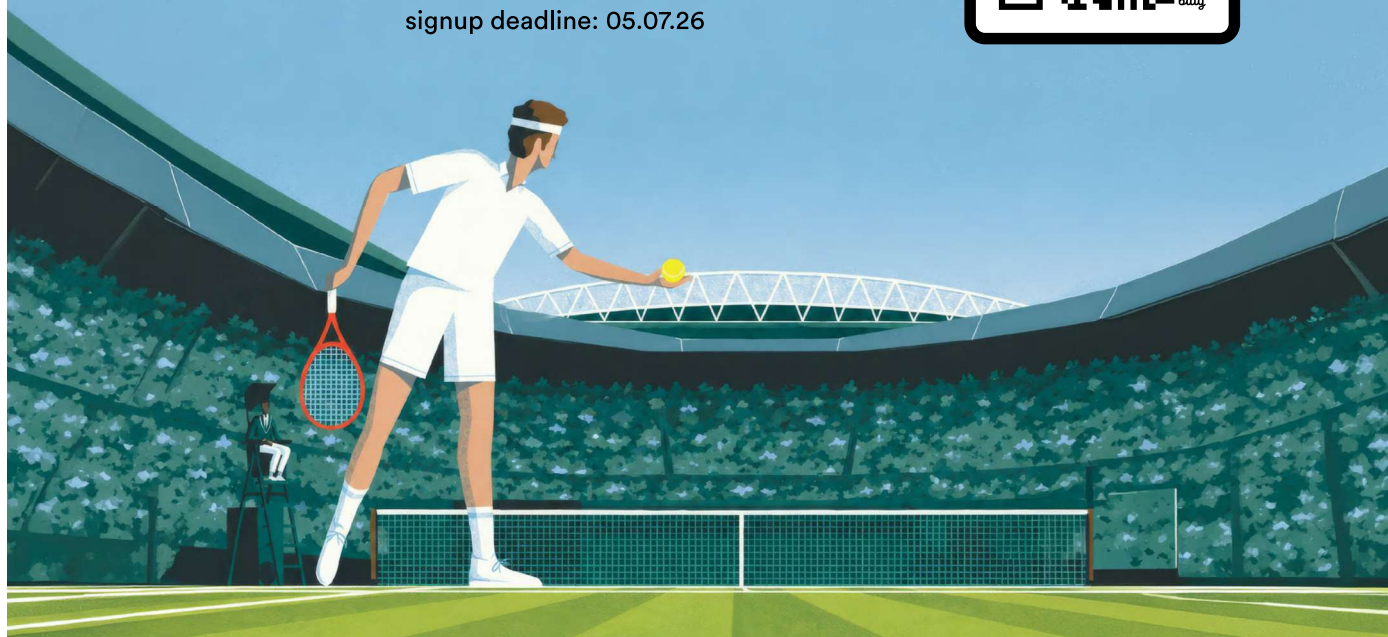
OPEN TO MEMBERS & NON-MEMBERS

A day of tennis for all abilities, open to the whole village.
Play or watch the tournament, catch the Wimbledon men's final
screened courtside. Bar and BBQ on site.

REGISTER TO PLAY

registration website: bit.ly/akopen2026

signup deadline: 05.07.26



Health matters

Purton and Green Gable Surgery

Purton Surgery Patient Group (PSPG)

For the patients in Purton, Cricklade and surrounding communities

News about the Patient 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. The group helps with fundraising, information evenings and is a link between patients and the surgery staff. We would love to welcome you to it!

200 Club

New members to the 200 Club are always very welcome. 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 June winners have been notified. Many congratulations to them!

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.



OPEN GARDEN

in aid of Holy Cross Church

Harberts Cottage, Back Street, Ashton Keynes SN6 6PD



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.

Thank you to all who came to my Open Garden in June - we raised just over £100 for Holy Cross Church. It would be lovely to see even more people in July and August!

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 continues to be a considerable number of patients who do not attend their appointment or cancel too late for the appointment to be reallocated.

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!

May 2026 Friends and Family survey results

We had 165 responses in May. The answers to our question "Overall how was your experience of our service?" broke down as:

- 130 said our service was very good
- 26 said it was good
- 5 said neither good nor poor
- 0 said didn't know
- 2 said it was poor
- 2 said it was very poor



Cricklade Surgery

Tel: 01793 750645

Club news

Craft Club



Craft Club is a friendly monthly get-together on Wednesday or Friday afternoons, where you can relax, get creative, and enjoy some lovely company. Your first session is completely free, and after that it's just £4 or £5, plus a £1 donation to the local food bank. Everyone brings their own project, and there are optional activities too at no extra cost. There's always tea, coffee, and sometimes even cake to enjoy while you craft. Thanks to everyone who has come along, we've already raised well over £100 for the food bank!

In May, we made mini coiled mats with raffia, and they were such fun to create. They all turned out beautifully, and it was wonderful to see how different they all looked.

July's Craft Club will be on Wednesday 22 July from 2pm to 4pm in the Village Hall. We'd love to see you there! You're very welcome to pop in on the day, or if you'd like to know more, you can email me at **kathryngray28@yahoo.co.uk** or drop a note round to 16 Gosditch.

Cricklade and District Probus Club

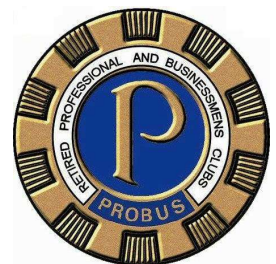
We are looking forward to our forthcoming group meetings when the following talk will take place:

9 July - William Marshall - 'Power behind five Kings'

23 July - Wrecks and Relics - Purton's Mulberry blueprint

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. Alternatively, just turn up on the day and you will be made welcome. For further information visit our new website at **<https://probus.org.uk/cricklade/>**



Ashton Keynes Women's Institute

The June meeting kicked off with a few words from Justin Stooke, the founder and Chairman of the Trustees of The Kelly Foundation. The coffee mornings are supporting the Kelly Foundation this year. It is a mental health charity based in Swindon offering support to all adults with mental health issues. The support ranges from counselling with fully trained counsellors to a good meal or just a cup of tea.



We were particularly delighted to have Bev Sharples with us again after a difficult and prolonged period in hospital. We all also enjoyed making tissue paper flowers under the expert guidance of Kathryn Gray. She provided sheets of brightly coloured tissue paper in various sizes and gave written and spoken instructions on the creation of our flowers. Some really lovely ones were made which will be on show in the Telephone Gallery in July.

Ashton Keynes WI normally meets on the second Wednesday of every month at 7.30pm in Ashton Keynes Village Hall. After the main activity, there is time to enjoy refreshments and catch up on WI news. Women aged 18 and over who are interested in joining are very welcome to come along and give us a try.

The next meeting, however, will be in a garden and we will receive instruction on Bollywood Dancing! There will be Pimms, and members will be asked to arrive with a pudding or other sweet treat.

With nearly 50 members and more than 100 years of history, Ashton Keynes WI continues to grow and play an active part in the community. Alongside our monthly meetings, we also enjoy a monthly book club, regular pub nights, and plans for SUP (Stand Up Paddleboarding) and kayaking in the warmer months. Following our successful trip to the SS Great Britain, we are now organising a visit to the Malvern Show on Saturday 26 September. More details will follow, and there may be a few spare coach seats available for non-members. If you have never been before, it is a fantastic day out, with crafts, food, gardens, talks, a funfair, animals, displays, shopping, and much more.

Here is what is coming up over the next few months:

- 8 July** Summer Garden Party. Enjoy Bollywood dancing with The Sahara Sisters, along with the usual summer buffet and Pimms flowing freely.
- 9 Sept** The Work of the MOD War Detectives, with Nicola Nash. Learn about the team's work identifying the remains of British personnel found on historic battlefields. Nicola has often spoken about this work on television and radio.
- 14 Oct** Beetle Drive, a lively and sociable evening with a touch of friendly competition.

Facebook: www.facebook.com/AshtonKeynesWI
Instagram: @ashtonkeyneswi1920

Club news cont'd

To support our sections we need volunteers for the Trustees Board.

Our greatest needs are for a **Chairman, an Administer and a Secretary**. You will be fully supported by the Committee members and is essential these roles are filled if our Scout Group is to continue to develop and flourish, and to reduce the load on our GSL as he recovers from illness. We meet only 4 or 5 times per year to help guide and administer the group, and give help to our section Leaders as needed.

Remember this is our village Scout Group and we need your support to thrive and grow to meet our children's needs

We need your help now so that we can go on running the existing sections and group and give consideration to new sections like the 4 to 6yr old Squirrel Dray, however. without extra help this cannot happen. You will have the full support of the whole Leadership team as well as District leaders. You will need to love working with the exciting young minds.

You could be a parent, or a person who is enthusiastic and has the well being of young people at heart; age is no barrier and training will be given. The enthusiasms of the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts will be reward enough. Just call me and offer to help.

Become a Volunteer today - don't wait, act now!

Contact David Tarr BEM (our GSL) on GSL@1AK.uk or 01285 861425



Adventure 2026 is in full swing.

We have a Successful and expanding Cub Pack and Beaver Colony and Scout Troop requiring Team Members to support our exciting programme - become a volunteer today!

GSL@1AK.uk or phone on 01285 861425

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

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!**

Beavers

1st AK Beavers have had a fun-packed summer term so far as we work towards earning more badges...

We had a great time celebrating David Attenborough's 100th birthday by heading outside to explore the wonderful nature in our school grounds. We looked at a variety of bird nest images before using natural materials to build our own nests. We then tested the nests durability by placing a supermarket bought egg in them and dropping them from a height – it turns out our Beavers are very successful nest builders!

Our awesome Young Leaders led a session based on the book: 'Hedgehog finds her voice' - which was written to demonstrate that it is important to speak out about bad experiences and not to give up if we don't feel heard/or feel dismissed - we then created art and crafts linked to this important story.

We've also done some work on completing our health and fitness badge, learning about healthy eating choices, making fruit kebabs and promoting healthy eating with poster making.

More recently we've been working towards stage 1 of the navigation badge, learning about how to read a map to navigate the playground/field, we also drew our own maps and worked in groups to create map challenges for each other!

Finally, as part of our Sports badges, we held an athletics-themed session where children took part in discus and javelin (nerf vortex) throwing, jumping, relay races on an obstacle course and the classic egg and spoon race!

Cubs

Our Cubs have been building giant catapults, going for hikes, running about playing tag with each other, playing human battleships, learning knots, running about capturing flags, learning to create camp gadgets and more running about outside.

Some of the Cubs have been preparing for the next step in their Scouting journey, moving up to the Scout Troop. It hardly seems like any time since they joined us, and we wish them the very best and we know we'll see them around.

It has been a great season and we look forward to beginning again in September.

Scouts

After a few wet evenings at the start of June the weather picked up and gave us some glorious evenings at our base at Ashton Keynes Primary School.

The Scout Troop have been obsessed with the World Cup, much like World Scouting and our international events such as the yearly Jamboree On The Air and Jamboree On The Internet.

The World Scout Jamboree will next take place in Poland in 2027 and, despite the competitive aspect, we respect international collaboration required to make the event happen.

Group Update

Thanks to the Millennium Committee, the Cubs and Scouts spent a Sunday morning assisting planting trees in the Millennium Green which was enjoyed by all.

We're now having a break for the summer but look forward to starting Scouting again in September.

Club news cont'd

Team tennis for Ashton Keynes Tennis Club

The Ashton Keynes Tennis Club has four tennis teams playing in the 2026 Swindon summer league which has now begun. We have two men's teams (play Mondays), one ladies (play Tuesdays) and one mixed team (play Thursdays). Home matches start at 6.15pm and Away matches sometimes leave the village as early as 5.30pm.

If you can play tennis and would like to play for the village then we would love to hear from you. You will not need to play every match!

Ladies - pblackburn@yahoo.co.uk Mens - dominic.ventham@gmail.com

Mixed - jayne@jhconsultants.org or pjprior@btinternet.com

Come and join us. **Hazel Blackburn**

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.

Over the summer there will be a series of outings, please feel free to come along. We usually meet at Cricklade Town Hall and share lifts. Keep an eye on the website for details.

Why not take part in the **Cricklade Photo Competition** it's open to everyone. There are three categories: 10 and under, under 16, and adults. You don't need any special equipment or knowledge, just have a go.

All the details are on the website **<https://crickladecameraclub.org>**

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

North Wiltshire Villages Flower Club

Hi again this is Cathy Carroll from North Wiltshire Flower Club and I'm here to tell you about our fantastic club. We meet at Crudwell Village Hall SN16 9HS every third Wednesday of the month at 7pm for 7.30pm start and there is plenty of parking space. Remember your first visit is free and we have free cake and coffee/tea at the end.

On 1 July we have our trip to David Austin Roses in Shropshire. On the morning of 8 August we have a wonderful pedestal workshop being run by Coral Gardiner and our annual AGM is on 16 September.

See you there at all of the above. Or contact us
nwvflowerclub@gmail.com or phone us on **07866887851** Cathy Carroll
www.facebook.com/northwiltshirevillagesflowerclub



AK Parish Council cont'

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 Considered 'Comment'

Rixon Farm, Rixon Gate – Reposition full height glazing from inside face of circular stone columns to outside face of circular stone columns.

Applications Considered 'No Objection'

Kirkland, Cox's Hill - Cherry trees – fell.
Winters Folly, High Road – Silver Birch tree – fell to ground level and remove all arisings.
8 Cove House Gardens – Cypress – fell.

Application determined by Wiltshire Council 'Approved'

3 Rixon Gate – Proposed Garden Studio.

Applications determined by Wiltshire Council 'No Objection'

Kirkland, Cox's Hill - Fell Cherry trees.

1 Richmond Court – Magnolia – crown reduction. Horse Chestnut – remove lower branching up to a height of 5m. Maple – 30% crown reduction.

The Old Vicarage, Church Walk – Leyland Cypress & Lawson Cypress – Remove. Ash tree – reduce in height to 9-10m. Ash tree – reduce in height to 4m. Hazel – coppice. Goat Willow – remove. Ash tree – remove damaged branch and crown clean.

Applications determined by Wiltshire Council 'Approved with Conditions'

The Derry – Approval of reserved matters pursuant to PL/2024/07069 (Access, Appearance, Landscaping, Layout and Scale).

1 The Derry – Conversion of stable block to Granny Annexe and widening of entrance gates.

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



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 Village Hall bookings@akvh.org.uk

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

Cricklade Foodbank 01666 826982

info@malmsburydistrict.foodbank.org.uk

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 Dave Sheppard 01285 860158

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 Joanna Tipping

johannatip@outlook.com

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

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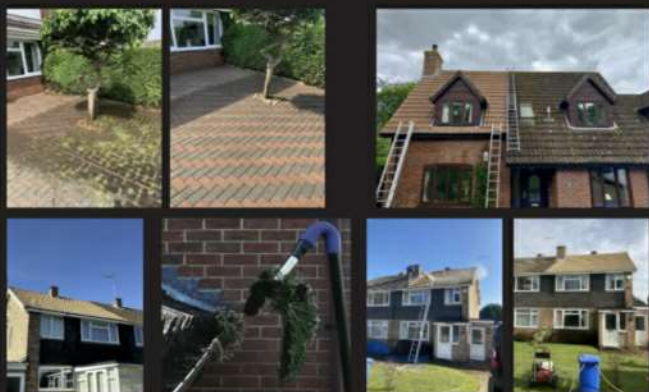


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