

Ashton Keynes & Leigh Newsletter

September 2026



Village Choir turns 30 - page 16

Best Kept Village Competition - page 20

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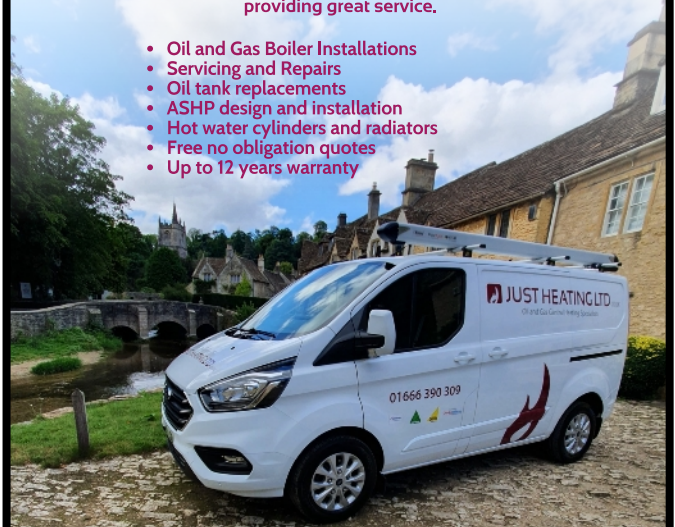
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Dear Friends,

Whether we welcome them or not, changes happen! Some are barely discernible, taken easily in our stride, whilst others have a profound impact. Changes in personal relationships, employment, finances, retirement, moving homes, starting a family, children leaving home, ageing, bereavement – all play their part in changing our lives, just as the seasons change throughout the year.

God's Word promises that seasons change. When change comes our way, it is helpful to remind ourselves that all seasons will pass. God is still with us and will carry us through. Life might change, but God and Jesus never will. Find peace in this promise. The writer of Hebrews states that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Because life is unpredictable, the Scriptures encourage us to trust God rather than lean on our own understanding, to help bring peace and direction through life's transitions and difficulties – particularly those unwelcome changes with which we must come to terms.

Our circumstances and people are always changing, but the Scriptures remind us that God never changes, offering a foundation of stability and faithfulness in turbulent times. Joshua 1:9 states 'Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.'

Remember, life will change, but God does not. He promises to walk with us into each new season. The change might not make sense to us, but God is working. Do not be frustrated by a lack of understanding. God is delighted when we express our trust in times when we do not understand what he is doing. The Apostle Paul wrote 'Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation present your requests to God.' We are to talk to God, pray to him, cast our cares on him. He will help us and fill us with the peace that surpasses understanding as we give him our worries.

Katy Bell

Licensed Lay Minister

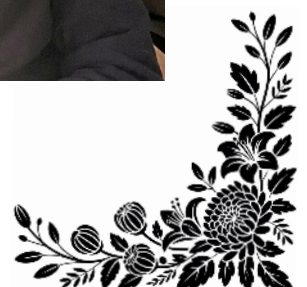


Celebration of Life

David Geoffrey Roberts
OBE.

The family warmly welcomes anyone who knew David and wants to celebrate his life to join them on:

Friday 4 September, 2.30pm
at Ashton Keynes Holy Cross Church.



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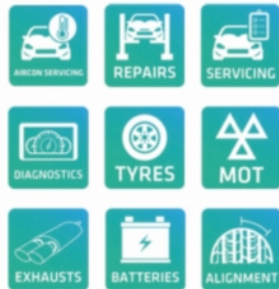


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Editorial



While the picture itself may not be the best, the front cover tells a great story: Ashton Keynes has won the Laurence Kitching Award. Well done to everyone involved and thanks to all those who spend time caring for the village, helping to keep it looking its best. The presentation takes place later this month – see page 20 for details.

And wasn't the eclipse earlier this month amazing? I was completely blown away by the whole experience. Sadly the next time this happens is 55 years away, so good job I got to enjoy this one!

September is always a time of transition, particularly for our young people. Starting school for the first time, moving up to secondary school, going to college, starting work or heading off to university – all exciting times, but big changes

too. Whatever your new beginning this September, our thoughts are with you.

As usual, there is plenty going on in and around the village. The village choir is celebrating being 30 years old (page 16), Leigh is hosting a Harvest Festival service followed by tea and cake (page 25), Holy Cross is running a Messy Church (page 23) and the WI are selling coach spaces to the RHS Malvern Show (page 31). If you have time do come to the PWSA coffee morning at the White Hart on Friday 4 September. The cakes are to die for and the cause is a tremendous one.

And finally please do think about helping our nonagenarian Group Scout Leader. David does a brilliant job but needs your help (see page 41).

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 **OCT** newsletter to **AKLnewsletter@gmail.com** or to Claire Sims, 18 Happy Land, Ashton Keynes by 8pm on **16 SEPTEMBER**.

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

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

New in

Langley Farm yogurts in three varieties are new in and you can choose from fat free natural yogurt, Greek style yogurt and Greek style with honey.

Langley Farm yogurt has a thick and creamy consistency and a naturally high protein content. It's made from all British milk with nothing artificial added. It's delicious!



Back to School

Need last minute stationery for the start of term? There's a great selection of pens, pencils, crayons, glue sticks etc to fill your child's pencil case. Also, if you run out of



things for your child's packed lunch you will find lots of suitable products including bread rolls, cheese slices, ham, mini drinks and healthy snack bars.

Warburtons Bread

The shop is now selling Warburtons loaves as well as crumpets.

We still have the sourdough but it has moved to the shelf directly opposite the entrance!



Gluten Free Bread

Many people request gluten free products and we now sell a range of gluten free Bake



at Home rolls and mini baguettes. These are great for cooking in an air fryer!

There is also a gluten free white loaf.

**Don't forget to use
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Sunday: 9am – 3pm



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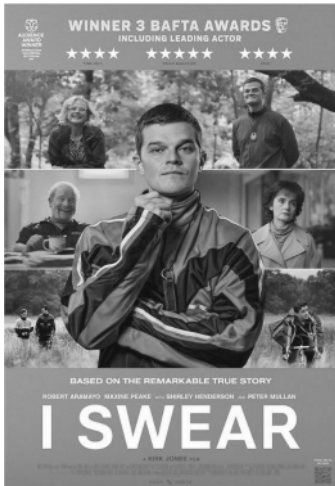
Wednesday 2 September 2026 – The Devil Wears Prada 2 (12)

Starring Meryl Streep, Emily Blunt, Stanley Tucci, Anne Hathaway, Kenneth Branagh and many others



Many critics praise this film for being a fun, nostalgic, and well-acted legacy sequel, and applaud the returning chemistry of Meryl Streep, Anne Hathaway, Emily Blunt, and Stanley Tucci. Meryl Streep's return as Miranda Priestley and Stanley Tucci's iconic turn as Nigel remain the major highlights of the film. The film successfully revisits the characters 20 years later. A 'smart integration of modern media dilemmas, exploring the decline of print publishing and the adaptation of classic fashion magazines to the digital era'. According to some critics, 'a fun-free mess that draws attention to the state of the world.' *The Cinema Team using several reviews.*

Wednesday 7 October 2026 – I Swear (15)



Starring Robert Aramayo, Maxine Peake, Somerled Campbell and many others

Reviewers say 'I Swear'; delivers an exceptional emotional experience anchored by Robert Aramayo's Oscar-worthy performance and brilliant supporting cast. The film masterfully balances hilarious comedy with profound emotional depth, creating moments where audiences laugh and cry simultaneously. Its thoughtful exploration of Tourette's syndrome educates while entertaining, raising awareness about neurodiversity with sharp, humane writing. Many consider it among the best films in years, praising its ability to be heartbreaking and heartwarming within the same scene, leaving lasting impact long after viewing. IMDB

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MP South Cotswolds

Late summer brought me back to Ashton Keynes for one of the more memorable mornings of my year.

I visited Whitefriars Sailing Club on the South Cerney lakes to spend time with Sailability, a charity that gives people with disabilities the chance to sail. I joined them

out on the water, which felt entirely natural for someone who has spent a considerable portion of her adult life at sea. What struck me most was not the sailing itself but the atmosphere around it: the patience of the volunteers, the confidence of the sailors, the straightforward pleasure of being on the water on a summer morning. Sailability does something simple and something profound at the same time - it opens up an experience that many people assume is beyond them, and it does so with warmth and without fuss. I came away glad to have seen it, and keen to support what they do.

I also want residents to know that my office has been engaged with the anaerobic digester planning application at Ashton Keynes, following it closely on behalf of local people who have raised concerns about it.

If you have a local concern to raise, please do get in touch. My casework team and I always do all that we can to help with any issues you may be facing.

Warm wishes, Roz

Roz Savage
MP South Cotswolds
roz.savage.mp@parliament.uk
01285 286160



Ashton Keynes Link Helpline 07512 233200

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

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Ashton Keynes

Now 30!

Ashton Keynes Village Choir is 30 years young this year.

To celebrate there'll be a special 'Now 30' concert in the Village Hall on 17 October featuring some of the choir's greatest hits.

Music will include numbers from Phantom of the Opera, The Sound of Music, LaLaLand, Joseph, Les Mis, Karl Jenkins' Agnus Dei, Rhythm of Life, Cross the Wide Missouri, Cantar and Panis Angelicus.

Plus we'll have a special contribution from popular local male voice group the After Eights.

Bar opens at 7pm and the concert begins at 7.30. Tickets are £10 from the village shop.

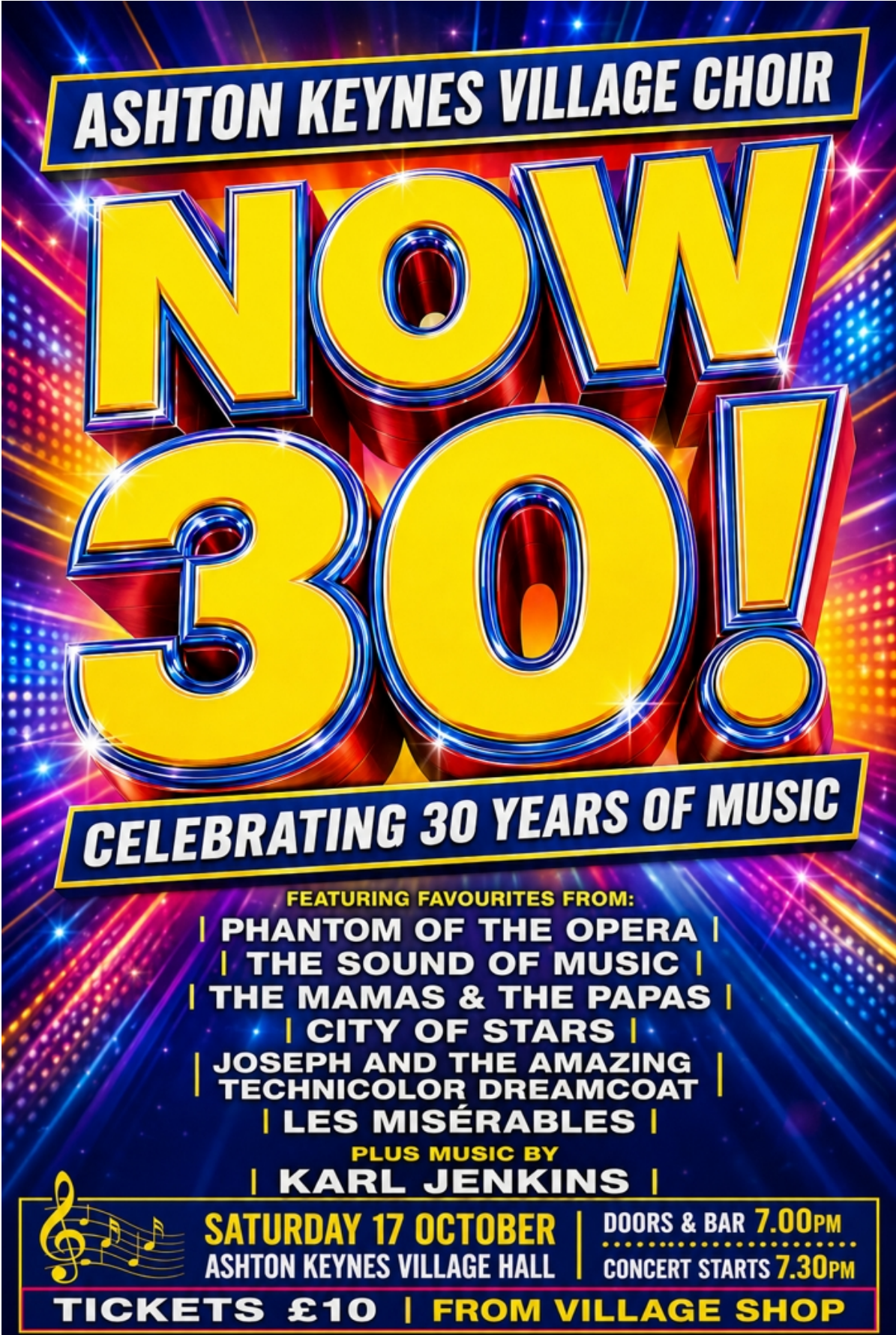
Be there for a great and historic night out!



Did you know?

Singing in a choir may be good for your well-being. Research has found that group singing can improve mood, reduce anxiety and strengthen feelings of social connection. Reviews of the evidence also suggest benefits for quality of life and mental well-being, as well as benefits for our posture and breathing!

Village Choir



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Leigh Parish Council

Never Giving up

Trying to keep us all safe by reducing speed limits on our roads

Over the last two years the Parish Council have been trying to get the speed limits on all roads reduced.

The process started in October 2024 with a request to the local Highways area to investigate our request.

Our aim was to reduce speed limits to 30mph throughout Swan Lane and the narrow road to Waterhay.

We asked Highways to reduce the 60mph stretches on both the B4040 and B4696 to 50mph. The bends on the B4696 near to Swan Lane to 40mph. The 50mph stretch on

the B4040 to 40mph and the 40mph stretch on the B4040 to 30mph.

At the end of July we received the report from Highways which rejected all our requests and said that average speeds and the accident rate were well below government guidelines.

We are all disappointed by this and had hoped they may have listened.

I have personally been involved constantly pursuing the council on this very important issue and will continue to monitor everything.

Having been on the frontline of dealing with accidents in the past this is something I hold close to my heart.

I will never give up on this issue.

Roger Baker

Save The Date

Christmas Sparkle

Sparkling Christmas drinks party at Holy Cross Church

Friday 11th December
6-9pm

AK Parish Council

Parish Council Resignation and Vacancies

Following the recent resignation of Andy Ellis, the Parish Council would like to sincerely thank him for everything he contributed during his time as a councillor, particularly his involvement with the Playing Fields. His efforts helped bring about many valuable improvements, and his contribution to the Council will be greatly missed. The Parish Council currently has two Councillor vacancies 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.

Overhanging Vegetation

A polite request for residents now that we head into Autumn, to check any trees, hedges, or plants that may be overhanging pavements, footpaths, highways or neighbouring properties. Overgrown vegetation can make it difficult for wheelchair users, pedestrians, and pushchairs to pass safely, and can sometimes block visibility for drivers and cyclists.

If you notice any plants or branches extending beyond your boundary, we would be grateful if you could trim them back to keep our community safe, tidy, and welcoming for everyone.

Laurence Kitching Competition

As winners of last years Best Kept Village Award, Large Village Category, Ashton Keynes was entered into the Laurence Kitching Competition this year.

"I am delighted to inform you that Ashton Keynes has won the Large Village category in the 2026 Laurence Kitching Competition (Winners of Winners from 2024 and 2025). This is a fantastic achievement and reflects the considerable effort, pride and community spirit shown throughout the village". Danny Austin MBE, Project Lead, Best Kept Village.

A presentation will take place on 20 September, further details to follow.

Anaerobic Digester Application

At a meeting of Wiltshire Councils Strategic Planning Committee held on 14 July, the application for an anaerobic digestion facility at Land West of Ashton Road was refused.

Planning:

Applications determined by Wiltshire Council 'No Objection'

Eindhoven, High Road – Thuja – fell.

The Barn, Back Street – Bay tree – fell.

Applications determined by Wiltshire Council 'Approved with Conditions'

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

Rixon Farm, Rixon Gate - Vary Condition 2 (Plans) of 14/03493/FUL - Full Planning Permission for the Demolition of Existing Agricultural Buildings and Erect 2 Dwellings with Parking and associated Landscaping. Conversion of Barn to Form Single Dwelling. Change of Use of Ground Floor Barn and Extension to Form Single Dwelling including Existing First Floor Residential Use (Pursuant to 05/02731/FUL) Erection of Garage for Farmhouse.

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

The next Parish Council meetings will be held on
Thursday 3 September and 1 October at 7.15pm in Bradstone Pavilion.
Agenda and minutes are available on the Parish Council website akpc.org.uk
and noticeboard

Applications determined by Wiltshire Council 'Approved with Conditions'

Horton House, Gosditch - Two-storey rear extension, front porch and bay window, external alterations, installation of Air Source Heat Pump, erection of detached outbuilding, alterations to access, and associated works.

10 Imperial Drive – Loft conversion with rooflights to the rear of the property.

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.



Ashton Keynes Pre-School need your unwanted clothes and shoes to turn into cash! Our next collection is booked for:



Monday 20 October before 9am

Church matters

Services for September 2026

If the newsletter gets to you in time there is a Worship Together Communion at St John the Baptist, Latton on Sunday 30 August (Trinity 13). Everyone is very welcome.

Date	Church	Time	Service
Sunday 6 Sept Trinity 14	St Sampson's, Cricklade	8am 10am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Morning Worship with music group & children's activities Evensong
	Holy Cross, Ashton Keynes	10am	Holy Communion for Creationtide
	St John the Baptist Church, Latton	10am	Morning Worship
Sunday 13 Sept Trinity 15	St Sampson's, Cricklade	10am	Upper Thames Worship Together Communion
Sunday 20 Sept Trinity 16	St Sampson's, Cricklade	8.30am 11.30am 6.30pm	Holy Communion followed by breakfast Harvest Morning Worship (followed by harvest lunch) Evensong
	Holy Cross, Ashton Keynes	11.30am 3.30pm 6pm	Harvest Morning Worship (followed by lunch) Messy Church Harvest Evening service
	St John the Baptist, Latton	10am	Holy Communion
Sunday 27 Sept Trinity 17	St Sampson's, Cricklade	10am	Holy Communion
	Holy Cross, Ashton Keynes	8.30am	BCP Holy Communion
	St John the Baptist, Latton	10am	Morning Worship
	Leigh All Saints	5pm	Harvest Worship (followed by tea and cake)

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



Creationtide

Creationtide is celebrated in the church between 1 September and 4 October and will be the theme for much of our September worship. Do join us, particularly at our Communion for Creationtide on Sunday 7 September, our Messy Church (20 Sept) and harvest (20 Sept).



September Harvest Festivals

Holy Cross Church invites everyone and all ages, to join us for our Harvest Celebration with Communion on Sunday 20 September at 11.30am (note later time). We'll continue to celebrate after the service with a simple shared harvest lunch together in the church (bread, cheese, tomatoes). Everyone is welcome as we celebrate God's amazing generosity at this time of year.

We will thank God for the harvest and for all who help to provide our food. And we welcome donations of food (tins or packets) or money to help support our local Food bank Malmesbury and North Wilts Foodbank

as our way of sharing what we have with those who don't have enough.

Leigh Harvest celebration

Leigh Harvest Celebration will be on Sunday 27 September at 5pm in Leigh church (All Saints). Come and join us for a short celebration in church as we say thankyou to God for 'all good gifts around us' followed by harvest tea and cake. Donations (tins, packets or money) are very welcome to support our local Malmesbury Cricklade and North Wilts Foodbank which provide food for families and people in crisis.

Messy Church

Messy Church Sunday 20 September 3.30pm – 4.30pm in Holy Cross church and outside in the churchyard (weather permitting) as we explore God's Creation and Harvest.

With activities and crafts, with a Bible story, songs and prayers, there's something for everyone at all ages and stages. Ideal for children and families of all shapes and sizes and plenty of time to chat and explore faith together.



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 July 2026

FUNERALS

Name	Date & Church
Terence McCafferty	1 July, North Wilts Crematorium
Joan Stubbs	2 July, Interment of ashes in Cricklade cemetery
Roderick John Kellaway	14 July, St Sampson's and interment in Cricklade cemetery

WEDDINGS

Name	Date & Church
Emma Jayne Garlick & David William Scorrer	11 July, St Sampson's
Anita Jeanne Druce & Russell Blackaller	18 July, Holy Cross
Zoe Victoria Ellis & Moreton Ferris Cullimore	25 July, Holy Cross

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)

The background of the poster is decorated with various watercolor illustrations of autumn-themed items. At the top left, there are purple and orange leaves on a branch. To the right of that is a large, light-colored pumpkin. On the left side, there are green leaves on a branch. On the right side, there is a large orange pumpkin and a branch with small red berries. At the bottom left is a large green pumpkin, and at the bottom right is a large yellow pumpkin. The text is arranged in the center of the page, with the church name at the top, the event title in the middle, and the date and time in a box below it. The bottom section contains a welcome message and a note about donations.

All Saints Church, Leigh

HARVEST

Festival

SUNDAY 27TH
SEPTEMBER, 5PM

*With tea and cake to
follow the service*

**Donations to the local
Foodbank would be
welcome!**

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.

PWSA

Charity Coffee Morning

Please come along to the
White Hart pub
Ashton Keynes
on Friday 4 September
08:30am to 12 noon

Prader-Willi Syndrome association does not receive any government funding so relies on family and friends of people born with PWS to raise money for research and support



The Telephone Gallery

At the June meeting, Ashton Keynes WI members made tissue paper flowers, creating one to take home and one for the Telephone Gallery's end-of-June display, *Blooming Fantastic*. The flowers were strung together



and suspended in the centre of the kiosk, with fairy lights adding a magical effect at night. The exhibition remained in place until mid-August, when it was finally cool enough to take down during the day, as temperatures inside the kiosk can be ten degrees higher than outside. The flowers faded in the strong sunlight, but they still looked lovely nevertheless.

The second exhibition in August was *Stamp Crazy*, a bright and busy collection of little images playing with line, colour, shape and



pattern. I had been inspired by the many stamp-punch ideas popping up on Pinterest and Instagram, and once I started, I found it more than slightly addictive! Using images cut from magazines, junk mail, food packaging and offcuts from some of my own prints, I punched and assembled more than 300 tiny stamp-shaped pieces. These were



then glued onto coloured tissue paper to create a lively patchwork of mini artworks over all the panes in the kiosk. It was a lovely way to reuse everyday scraps and turn them into something cheerful and colourful. I am thinking of organising some creative activities linked to the Big Draw Festival in October. The theme this year is *Make a Mark*. Keep an eye out for more details.

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.

Kathryn Gray
thetelephonegallery@gmail.com
www.thetelephonegallery.blogspot.com
Instagram: @thetelephonegallery

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

Tile Whipping

Tile Whipping or 'Tegelwippen' in Dutch, is the practice of removing paving tiles and slabs in towns and cities and replacing both slabs and the sand beneath with healthy soil and vibrant greenery.

As the name might suggest, the practice began in the Netherlands and is becoming popular throughout the country.



One of the Dutch founders of the initiative, Remco Moen Marcar, came up with the 'playful' idea during Covid. "People were sitting at home ... and of course there were no football championships to get excited about," he says. "So we thought, let's host a competition between Rotterdam and Amsterdam. One of those cities always wants to be the best when it comes to soccer, so let's use this as an incentive for people who live in those cities to clear the tiles out of their garden." The idea took off big time, and the competition grew into a national, annual, event. In some communities, local lorries called 'tile taxis' come to take the tiles away, free of charge and in others, participants receive plants or seed bombs as a reward.

The competition runs each year from 21st

March to 31st October and the community that has removed the most tiles receives the coveted Golden Tile Award.

Dutch neighbourhoods are also creating what they call, facade gardens, green strips between streets and homes that absorb rainwater, reduce flooding and create cooler outdoor spaces.

But this isn't just about competition of course, it's about inspiring communities to transform their surroundings. This quirky initiative demonstrates that small local actions can create massive environmental change. Since it began six years ago, householders have lifted over 14 million tiles! Equating to an area the size of 200 football pitches. Imagine that, all that paving replaced with trees, gardens and vegetable patches. All soaking up CO₂, rainwater run-off and providing oxygen - all for free.

I looked for similar schemes here in the UK and read that Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust has teamed up with Stroud District Council which is offering free removal of up to 2m² of tiles from eligible properties during September and October. So, it would seem the idea is catching on.

One of the Dutch participants reflected "You're a happier person when you live in green surroundings, so every slab you lift is 900 square centimetres of potential happiness. You're also healthier and it's something tangible we can do in our own back yards to help mitigate the effects of climate change. Every paving stone gone is a win for the ground and for biodiversity."

Hear Hear to that.

Gilly Riddington
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/ Friday 9am

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CONTACT: becbucklefitness@gmail.com

becbucklefitness.co.uk / 07852 948056

Pete Neale Trophy

On Friday 7 August, 12 players teed off at Bassett Down golf club all aiming to win the Pete Neale Trophy 2026.

The players only have three clubs to play with so they have to choose wisely!

Congratulations go to Brian Kimberley (on the right in the picture) who was this year's winner.

Brian was presented the trophy by Graham Mathews (left in the picture), who won last year.

The event raised £120 for the Brain Tumour Charity.

Thanks go to Ian Woods for organising the competitions and I would like to thank all the participants for taking part and donating to this charity which is so close to my heart.

If you'd like to know more about this worthwhile cause, or feel moved to donate, please go online to <https://www.thebraintumourcharity.org/>

Daphne



RHS Malvern Autumn Show

Saturday 26th September

£15 per person - coach only

Email ashtonkeynessec@wiltshirewi.org.uk

NB Buy your entrance ticket online or on the gate



theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

ASHTON KEYNES WI

Health matters

Purton and Green Gable Surgery

For the patients in Purton, Cricklade and surrounding communities

News about the group

We have been incredibly fortunate to welcome several new members to the PSPG Committee following our local advertisements and 'away days'. They will join the existing members to take the group forward in future months and we look forward to working alongside them and receiving new ideas! So welcome to Pat Hughes, Tracey Coombs and Susan Giles. I am sure many of you will know one, if not several, of them already. They all live locally and have been patients of Purton and Green Gable Surgery for many years.

200 Club

It's that time of year when the annual renewal for the 200 Club comes around. The new year begins in September. If you already pay by Standing Order your renewal will automatically go through. Thank you! Please contact Mickie Hall if you are unsure (mickiehall2020@gmail.com).

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 surplus goes toward buying equipment for the surgeries that the NHS does not supply. Please enquire at either surgery reception if you wish to join.

Our latest lucky winners, drawn by receptionist Suzanne are:

First prize of £100 to Katherine Gill (no 198)
Second prize of £15 to Clive Heard (no 39)
Many congratulations!

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! #

Harvest Tombola

Sylvia Freemantle has once again kindly offered to support us in raising funds for items needed at the surgeries. We will be holding a Harvest Tombola on 3 October to coincide with the Autumn 'flu vaccination 'clinic date. Details to follow but if you have any in date, sealed food items that you wish to donate for the event please drop these off at Sylvia's house (opposite Purton Surgery) or at either surgery receptions.

Easter Raffle

Thank you to all the surgery staff (especially Dee) for their magnificent efforts in raising £632 from the Easter Raffle- and to you for buying the tickets!

Autumn Information Evening

Our lovely Dr Wallis will be leading an evening on Wednesday 21 October at 7.30pm. Her topic is Women's Health. Tickets are free but limited to 40. If you would like to join us these tickets will be available from the receptions from Monday 28 September. Please bring the ticket with you on the evening.

A quick reminder

Patients can view their blood test results on their NHS app. Appointments for blood tests and nurse appointments for things such as injections/vaccinations/ suture removal etc can be booked up to 6 weeks in advance.

Only GP appointments are available to book from Thursdays for the following week.

As always, your support is much appreciated.



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 one.

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 number of patients that 'did not attend' their appointment or cancelled 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!

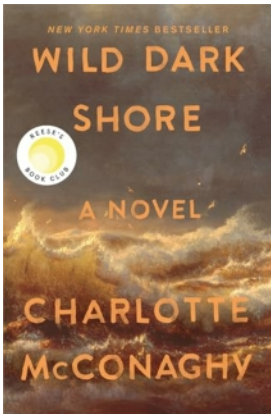


Cricklade Surgery

Tel: 01793 750645

Club news

Ashton Keynes Women's Institute



Ashton Keynes WI does not hold a meeting in August, but there is still plenty going on. Alongside the weekly coffee morning, regular pub nights and trips out, we now have a monthly Book Club, held on Saturdays at Jennie's Kitchen. Members choose the books, and each meeting is a relaxed hour of conversation about the book and much more, over tea or coffee. Our current read is *Wild Dark Shore* by Charlotte McConaghly, an atmospheric eco-thriller set on remote hearwater Island near Antarctica. The story follows a family guarding a global seed vault as they face rising seas, isolation, hidden grief and the arrival of a mysterious woman washed ashore during a storm. It should give us plenty to discuss, from family secrets and survival to climate change, trust and what we choose to protect.

Beyond our regular meetings, WI membership opens up many other opportunities, including campaigns, Wiltshire WI activities, free online courses and a wide range of Facebook groups — all for less than £5 a month.

About Ashton Keynes WI:

Ashton Keynes WI meets on the second Wednesday 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.

With now over 50 members and more than 105 years of history, Ashton Keynes WI continues to grow and play an active part in the community.

In August, a group of local residents went to the Barn Theatre and everyone agreed it was the best afternoon out in a long time.

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

- **9 September** – 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 October** – Beetle Drive, a lively and sociable evening with a touch of friendly competition
- **11 November** – Christmas Craft evening

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/AshtonKeynesWI

Instagram @ashtonkeyneswi1920





If you, or someone you care about, would love to enjoy a trip to the Barn Theatre in Cirencester but find getting there difficult, the Barn Bus can help.

This free service is for older residents in Ashton Keynes who may struggle to get there due to limited rural transport, mobility issues, or because a partner or usual driver is no longer able to drive. The Barn Bus provides accessible group transport, with free theatre tickets included, giving older

residents a safe, enjoyable, stress-free afternoon at our local theatre.

Supported by Ellison's Coaches, the Barn Bus is about more than getting from one place to another. It offers a friendly outing, good company, and something special to look forward to.

In August, a group of local residents went to the Barn Theatre and everyone agreed it was the best afternoon out in a long time.

For anyone who has missed the chance to get out, meet others, and enjoy world class live theatre, the Barn Bus offers a warm welcome and an easy way back.

- **YES, Prime Minister**

24 Sept – 2.30pm Matinee – Ashton Keynes, South Cerney, Siddington

- **King's Speech**

5 Nov – 2.30pm Matinee – Ashton Keynes, South Cerney, Siddington

How to book your place on the Barn Bus – Call Richard Jones on 07530 465 695 or email richard.jones@barntheatre.org.uk

NB: While all costs are included, any donations towards keeping this invaluable service running would be very gratefully received.

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



North Wiltshire Villages Flower Club

What a summer it has been! We normally crave dry sunny weather at this time of year but in future we may be careful what we wish for. It certainly has been a challenge keeping our garden flowers and foliage fresh and thriving, and ourselves too. Even more so for farmers, growers and wildlife.

That said, the roses and companion planting at the David Austin Rose Gardens in Shropshire, looked superb when we visited in July. It was an excellent day out by coach. As well as several gardens to explore, we had a guide who explained and demonstrated the lengthy process behind the scenes to breed a new rose variety. Time also to enjoy the cafe, garden centre and gift shop.

In August we held a Saturday workshop led by Coral Gardiner, National Demonstrator, in which we improved our skills in making pedestal arrangements, large and small. There was a great atmosphere, some excellent refreshments, everyone learnt something new and took home a stunning centrepiece.

Coming up soon is our (short) AGM on 16 September, followed by a talk and demonstration by Jennie from Halliesphere, using environmentally friendly flower holders. At this meeting we will publish our varied new programme for 2027 which includes talks, workshops, and demonstrations, mostly held on the third Wednesday of the month, 7pm for 7.30pm, at Crudwell Village Hall.

On 21 October we are holding a wreath making workshop with tuition by Brinkworth Willow. Also save the date for this year's main annual event, an Open Meeting at Malmesbury Town Hall on Wednesday 18 November with National Demonstrator Nick Grounds, visitors welcome (tickets £25 including canapes and fizz).

For more information, please visit our Facebook page – **North Wiltshire Villages Flower Club**, our website northwiltshirevillagesflowerclub.co.uk 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:

3 September Bernard of Clairveux

17 September 9/11- The day that changed America

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/>



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!

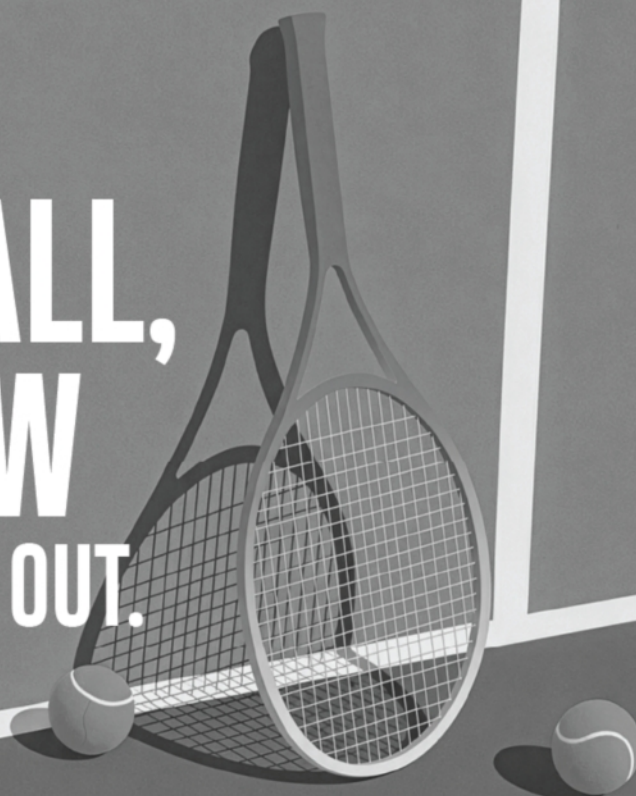
July's Craft Club was great fun, with several of us making the most of the sunshine to create cyanotype prints. Cyanotype is an early photographic process that produces striking blue and white images: the coated paper develops in sunlight and is then rinsed in water to reveal the finished print.

The next Craft Club will be on Wednesday 23 September 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.



Kathryn Gray

TENNIS, PICKLEBALL, AND A FEW GOOD EVENINGS OUT.



SOCIAL TENNIS

Open to all, including non-members for a limited window.



COACHING

All levels. Sessions with LTA-qualified coach Lauren Prince.



LEAGUE TEAMS

Men's, women's and mixed leagues, always looking for new talent.



PICKLEBALL?

Interested? We're looking at evening sessions.



SOCIAL EVENTS

On and off court, with more planned for the year ahead.



CLUB INVESTMENT

Court resurfacing & plans for facility upgrades on the way.



**WANT TO PLAY,
TRY SOMETHING NEW,
OR JUST HEAR ABOUT
WHAT'S HAPPENING?**



ashtonkeynestennis@gmail.com



[https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/
AshtonKeynesTennisClub](https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/AshtonKeynesTennisClub)

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. 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 our website <https://crickladecameraclub.org/program/>

On **Tuesday 1 September at 7:30pm in the Town Hall Annexe**, we will have the chance to see all the images that were entered into the Annual Competition in June, plus members images from the summer project, their interpretation of the title 'Hidden Stories'.

On **Tuesday 15 September at 7:30pm** there will be a **Zoom meeting** when Andy Phillips will give a talk 'The Inner Landscape' - his take on the genre of still life using manipulated natural light.

For more information contact: clubsecretary@crickladecameraclub.org

Line Dance Classes - Taster Course

**Weds 16 Sept 2026, Ashton Keynes Village Hall
from 7pm – 8pm, for seven weeks**

No experience needed, suitable for the absolute beginner!

£6 cash at the door

For more info please call Jane on 07789 624152



*Please note, line dancing only runs on the following dates: -
Sept: 16, 23, 30 Oct: 21 & 28 Nov: 18 & 25*



The new programme starts September

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 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

Our Beavers, Cubs and Scouts are having great fun with their new activities, as you can see in the sectional reports, So join our villages Scout Group to enjoy the fun and excitement by getting involved in our activities.

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!

Group Update

The very successful and exciting first half of 2026 has closed, and all sections take a brief holiday during which our Leadership team will be planning for the restart in September.

Our thanks go to Ben Jarvis for everything he has done as he now steps away from the Beavers. He'll be greatly missed and we wish him well for the future. Thank you Ben.

We now need someone to replace Ben to guarantee restarting Beavers, as it is a Scout Policy requirement that we have a minimum of three adults at every meeting to make sure our children are safe. We also need adult helpers for the other sections too - Cubs and Scouts. Please contact our GSL if you can help.

Adult helpers will enable me and the other leaders to complete formalities like essential learning (done on line), and DBS clearance. Having more helpers will mean our Leaders can restart the new term with confidence.

All sections will restart (we hope) in the first week of September and are open for new members. While there are places available in Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, they are filling up

fast. Cub places especially are nearly full so do hurry and phone the GSL now if you want to guarantee a place for Cubs or any other section.

We have vacancies in our Group Administration as Trustees or volunteers (who look after or help in the Sections). One of these roles may just be the opportunity you are looking for to help young people.

We will be holding the 2026 AGM of the Scout Council, which is the whole membership of our group parents, leaders helpers and supporters, in the School Hall on 10 September at 7.30 pm. Items for the Agenda to GSL please.

For details of how to join contact David Tarr on GSL@1AK.uk or phone on 01285861425

AGM

**1st Ashton Keynes Scout
Council AGM**

**10 September 2026, 7.30pm
at AK School Hall**

Club news continued

Section Reports

Beavers

It's been a busy and exciting few weeks at our Beaver colony!

We've invested lots of Beavers into the colony and have been getting stuck into our Designer Badge. We started by designing something we wanted to make from cardboard, before working together in teams to bring our ideas to life. There were some fantastic creations and plenty of teamwork along the way!

We also enjoyed some lovely summer evenings outdoors, making fairy gardens and getting creative in the sunshine. We even managed to sit in the shade and enjoy the warm summer weather!

Cubs

Our Cub Pack re-started this month with a packed programme of fun, skill-building activities. We were all really excited about the eclipse in August and want to complete the Space Activity Badge in the first part of this Autumn term.

Scouts

We will be starting the term by squeezing as much as we can out of the evenings before it gets dark. Our Scout Troop loves the outdoors and the successive heat waves this summer have turned our minds to global and local issues that are affecting us and we are looking at several related Activity Badges for this term.



Volunteers Needed – Help Our Village Scouts Thrive!

Our Scout Group urgently needs volunteers to join the Trustees Board to support our sections and to help our leader.

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

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 Copley 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

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Writers www.newbreweryarts.org.uk



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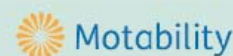
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