

Ashton Keynes & Leigh Newsletter

November 2025



Images: From top left, Tim Clark with MP Roz Savage and volunteer; Karen Shaw, her dog Gordy and MP Roz Savage; Jon and Jayne Hughes (see page 32)

Living Advent Calendar trail - page 18
Remembering those we love & see no longer - page 23
Keeping the River Thames clean - page 32



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Dear Friends,



Holy Cross,
ASHTON KEYNES

Overflowing with God's Love

November is a month for remembering – and for each occasion, there's a visual symbol to help provide focus.

Our All Souls' Bereavement service is a chance to remember with thankfulness those whom we have loved but see no more. We invite those present to light a candle – a reminder that in Jesus' light shines in dark times, giving hope and a way forward.

Then there's Bonfire Night, remembering Guy Fawkes' attempt to blow up Parliament, with fireworks and bonfires as our visual reminder.

On Remembrance Sunday, we pause to remember those who gave their lives in wars and conflicts for our freedom. Across the world, there will be services at war memorials and in churches, at which people like us will give thanks to God for their sacrifice, and will pray for those serving in our armed forces today. But remembering is more than thinking back about what happened — it's about honouring the courage of those who died, learning from their example and thinking about our future and in that, we hold on to hope.

The poppy is a well-known symbol of remembrance. Poking up through the soil in the fields of Flanders in WW1, the poppy has been, and still is, a symbol of hope. Even in the turmoil, sadness and horror of war, somehow a small bright flower came to life. Today, we need hope in our world more than ever.

The most significant act of remembering for Christians is our coming together to remember, in bread and wine, the death and resurrection of Jesus. In giving his life on the cross for the sake of others, Jesus shows us and offers us the self-giving love which is at the heart of God.

So, as we remember with candles, bonfires, poppies, or bread and wine, may we all take time to pause and reflect. And may remembering inspire us to live with gratitude, courage, peace and hope in God today and to play our small part in building a better world.

Rev'd Shirley Danby, Associate Vicar in Upper Thames



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Editorial

By the time you read this, the clocks will have gone back, the nights will have drawn in and we'll be on the count down to Christmas!

What's going on in the village:

- Come to the All Souls Bereavement Service and Candle Lighting 1-2 November (page 23) to remember those you love but no longer see. Do wrap up warmly as the church currently has limited temporary heating due to a boiler failure.
- Pop-up recycling is back on 2 November (page 30)
- Our wonderful Rural Cinema is showing LEE - a fabulous film (page 11) on 5 November - don't miss it!
- Our fantastic firework display, organised by FoAKS, is on 8 November at the Bradstone (page 20)

- Sit back and enjoy the music and songs at a Choralicious concert by the AK Village Choir on 29 November (page 27)
- Have a drink or two or visit Santa at our Christmas Tree Festival, held over the weekend 5 - 7 December (page 21 in Holy Cross Church). There's something for everyone
- Be part of the village's living advent calendar - it's going to be spectacular (pages 18 and 33)

And finally, please see page 29 on how to submit your season's greetings and donations to your chosen charity.

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 16th of the month.
Send to AKLnewsletter@gmail.com**

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

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 on 01666 860631 or email minetynewsletter@gmail.com

Advertising has changed

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

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

Your Shop Needs You

The village shop is the hub of AK, and where would we be without it?

The shelves are brimming with lots of convenience products, so there's no need to leave the village if you've run out of ketchup or forgotten to buy washing-up liquid!

Please do try to take a couple of products off your main supermarket list and buy them from the shop every week - eg eggs or biscuits. Our prices are very competitive.

The shop is open every day until 7pm. So pop in and take a look.

Eggs



Sherstons have been supplying our eggs for several years, but sadly, they have decided to retire. Our new free-range eggs are from Fenton Farm on the Devon / Somerset border.

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Christmas

I'm sure we are all thinking of Christmas by now, as there are only seven Fridays left until Santa comes down the chimney. Look out for Christmas order forms, chocolate stocking fillers, festive cards and lots more which will be arriving soon.

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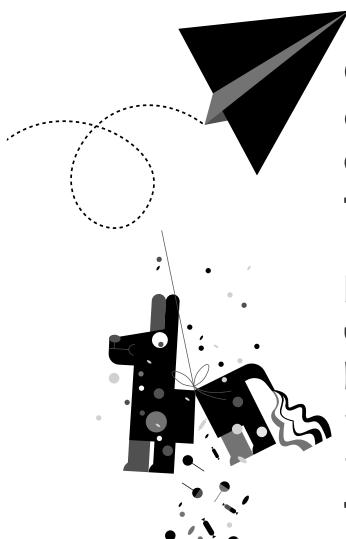
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Thursdays 1430-1630



Rural Cinema

First Wednesday of the Month

GP Surgery

weekly



Pre-School

Daily



We desperately seeking new and active committee members – you don't need to have a set role but if you have some skills that could be put to good use, arranging our 4 meetings a year and taking minutes, hall/facilities management, fundraising or organising and or helping with events then we'd love to hear from you! You will be well supported and welcomed as part of our small but perfectly formed team!

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Rural Cinema

In the Village Hall

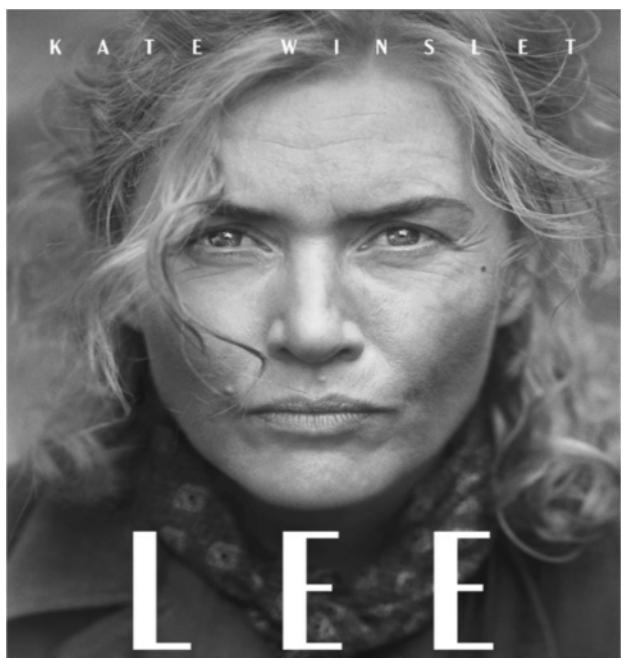


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Wednesday 5 November – LEE (15)

"When The World Was at War, Her Camera Captured the Truth"
Starring Kate Winslet, Andy Samberg, Alexander Skarsgård, Marion Cotillard and many others.



Lee, the directorial feature from award-winning Cinematographer Ellen Kuras, portrays a pivotal decade in the life of American war correspondent and photographer, Lee Miller (Kate Winslet).

Miller's singular talent and unbridled tenacity resulted in some of the 20th century's most indelible images of war, including an iconic photo of Miller herself, posing defiantly in Hitler's private bathtub. Miller had a profound understanding and empathy for women and the voiceless victims of war. Her images display both the fragility and ferocity of the human experience. Above all, the film shows how Miller lived her life at full-throttle in pursuit of truth, for which she paid a huge personal price, forcing her to confront a

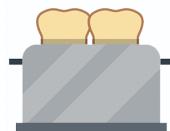
traumatic and deeply buried secret from her childhood.
Rottentomatoes

There is a lot to like about Lee. It's harrowing, beautiful, and absolutely essential. There are many movies where the audience stands up and leaves the very second the closing credits start. Sometimes people sit there, but from the general hubbub, you can tell they're just waiting for a credits scene. With Lee, there was silence, not of shock, not of exhaustion, but one of appreciation, almost reverence. Extract from a review by *Troubledproductions.com*

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Ashton Keynes Primary

Class R

Class R have been busy finding out about the magic of autumn. They have been on an autumnal walk around the village, where

they picked up a record number of conkers! They have loved creating leaf people and making kites to fly in the windy weather. Forest school was a hit, and the children loved

creating their own forest school wands using the array of autumn colours they could find outside.

Class 1

Class 1 have been demonstrating what fantastic writers they are both in their books and when sharing writing together using whiteboards. They are keen readers too, and we have been so impressed with the dedication to daily reading that has been shown.



In Science, we've learnt about our bodies with a particular focus on the senses. Blindfolds have been used when using our sense of taste, smell and hearing. We also wore them to experience what it might be like to be unable to see properly.

Class 2

Class 2 have had a 'Wild' start to the year. We have been exploring this text by Emily Hughes and carefully considering words to describe both character and setting, written

letters to some of the characters giving advice and then retold the story. This has highlighted that we have some fantastic storytellers amongst us. They have also been travelling all around the UK within geography, completing map work, labelling countries, capital cities and seas/oceans, investigating the flags and learning how there are similarities and differences between the four nations.



Class 3

Class 3 were joined by Ali Ball, an Egyptologist, who came into school to deliver a whole day of brilliant activities. The day started by looking at replicas of famous objects found in Egypt. They practised their code-breaking skills by looking at hieroglyphics and also reminded themselves of some of the most famous pharaohs. They even had a look at the process of mummification... by removing some of the (fake) organs and placing these in canopic jars. Our exciting day ended with the children making their own heart scarab beetles out of clay.



School



Class 4

Class 4 have had several enjoyable forest school sessions with Mr Jackson and Mrs Willis. They were learning how to start a fire



using steel. Mr Jackson made it look so easy! While there were lots of sparks, it took a lot of patience and perseverance to eventually light a pixie pillow. It was lovely to see how cooperatively the children worked and how helpful they were with each other.

The class has been enjoying reading Arthur and the Golden Rope and has created their own cartoon strips using some of the story events. Here are a couple of fantastic examples:



Class 5

Year 5 has started a brilliant new book called Brightstorm! In this story, the twins Arthur and Maudie live in a world with sky ships! We have used this book to create exciting diary accounts full of chatty language and description. We have even designed our own exploration maps based on the twins' adventures as part of a crew of a sky ship.

We loved our visit from Wiltshire Police, where we were taught all about keeping

ourselves safe online. We learnt that we should never publish identifying information about ourselves online, as well as talking about what ages people need to be to use different social media sites.

Class 6

On Monday, 6 October, Classes 5 and 6 were lucky enough to have visits from Wiltshire Police to talk about how they can all stay safe online. During the session, the children learnt about:

- Suitable technology for their age (including ages for different apps we use)
- How to keep safe when using the internet and what a good online profile should look like
- What cyberbullying is and the impacts of being hurtful to others online
- How to keep safe when out and about with friends and family

The children found the sessions really interesting and enjoyed listening to a catchy song which reinforced online safety rules. From the session, the key message was not to talk to strangers online and to keep your personal information to yourself and report anything to a trusted adult when appropriate. They also learnt about how they can use childnet.com to block strangers online. Finally, the children enjoyed asking questions at the end about online safety and cyberbullying.



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The Telephone Gallery

The exhibition in October commemorated WI Day, marking the 110th anniversary of the Women's Institute, which was founded on 16 September in Llanfairpwll on Anglesey. As the largest women's organisation in the UK, the WI was celebrated with a display featuring a birthday cake adorned with confetti and a candle, as well as green, white and purple knitted bunting, the colours of the suffrage movement and the WI.



The exhibition also provided information about the WI at a national level, along with details of upcoming local meetings, including a craft evening using recycled materials to create decorations for the WI Christmas Tree Festival tree, and a magic show held during Ashton Keynes WI's 105th birthday celebration in December.

Due to a last-minute cancellation, the exhibition after the WI display is still being planned, with a group of us getting together to make something fun. After the exhibition, the Telephone Gallery is fully booked until the New Year.

Living Advent Calendar Trail

In December, there'll be another Ashton Keynes Living Advent Calendar Trail with a different decorated window lit up for one evening at 4.30 pm, starting on 1 December and ending on 24 December, when all the houses taking part will turn their lights on again so that all 24 windows are lit up all over the village. The Telephone Gallery, of course, will be taking part with the knitted nativity scene as the special window.

If you'd like to take part, all you need to do is decorate a window that's easily visible from the road on the day allocated to you, turn on the lights on your allocated evening at 4.30 pm and turn them on again at 4.30pm on 24 December and if you want to, keep them lit up until the New Year. Maps will be available for everyone to follow. To take part, email thetelephonegallery@gmail.com. It's not a competition, just a chance to make the village look even more special in the run-up to Christmas.

Forthcoming Exhibitions

23 November to 8 December - *Christmas Tree Festival* - a display all about the Ashton Keynes Christmas Tree Festival

9 December to 6 January - *Nativity* - the popular knitted nativity scene is back!

If you'd like to put on an exhibition in 2026, do get in touch:
thetelephonegallery@gmail.com

Kathryn Gray
thetelephonegallery@gmail.com
Instagram @thetelephonegallery

Help create a

LIVING ADVENT CALENDAR TRAIL!

We'd like 24 homes and businesses to decorate and light up a window, garden or porch on a given night in December at 4.30pm and thereafter until 24th December -or until the New Year if you want to - so as to create a magical walking trail in Ashton Keynes

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STYLING 5

Hello!

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

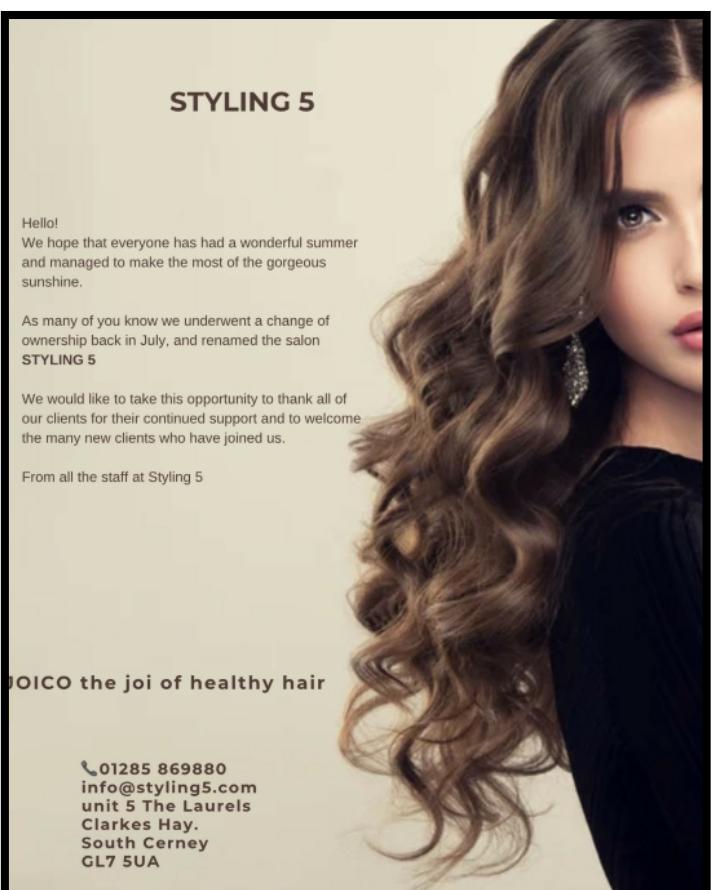
As many of you know we underwent a change of ownership back in July, and renamed the salon STYLING 5

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

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Moos on Thames

It's been a lively few weeks down on the farm, and the cows are certainly enjoying themselves! The recent spell of wet weather has done wonders for the grass – the fields are looking lush and green again, which has been a real boost for the herd. After a rather dry spell earlier in the summer, it's a relief to see the pastures bouncing back. We've also been busy reseeding some of the ground that was heavily grazed last year, so it's good to see those patches coming back to life, too. The girls are grazing happily, and the bulls have been out with them as well, doing their bit to ensure next year's calves are well on their way. It's always a satisfying sight to see them all together, content and settled.

The rain hasn't just helped the grazing; it's also given us a chance to take a late cut of silage. It's later than we'd hoped, but it should still make decent winter feed. That said, we'll still need to bring in some extra forage to see the herd through the colder months – supplies are tight everywhere this year, and it's a reminder of how unpredictable farming can be. Every season brings its own challenges, and we're always learning to adapt and make the best of what nature gives us.

On the brighter side, the **vending machine** has been busy! It's been fantastic to see so many familiar faces stopping by for milk and kefir. We've recently added something new to the range – **Ginger Kefir**. It's a little different from our usual flavours, with a lovely warming kick that's perfect for autumn. Early tasters have given it a big thumbs-up, and it's proving popular already. If you haven't tried it yet, do pop by and give it a go next time you're passing.

If you have any questions or want to get in touch, please email moosonthames@gmail.com.

Chris Freeth
Moos on Thames



ASHTON KEYNES.

FIREWORKS

display

SATURDAY 8TH NOVEMBER 2025

BRADSTONE PLAYING FIELD

SN6 6PH

LIVE MUSIC - FUN FAIR - BAR
KIDS SILENT DISCO - FOOD STANDS
ON SITE PARKING & MUCH MORE!

GATES: 4.30PM - FIREWORKS 6.30PM



GET YOUR TICKETS ONLINE BY SCANNING
THIS QR CODE, OR IN PERSON FROM
ASHTON KEYNES VILLAGE SHOP

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO ASHTON KEYNES SCHOOL



Ashton Keynes Christmas Tree Festival

5 - 7 December 2025

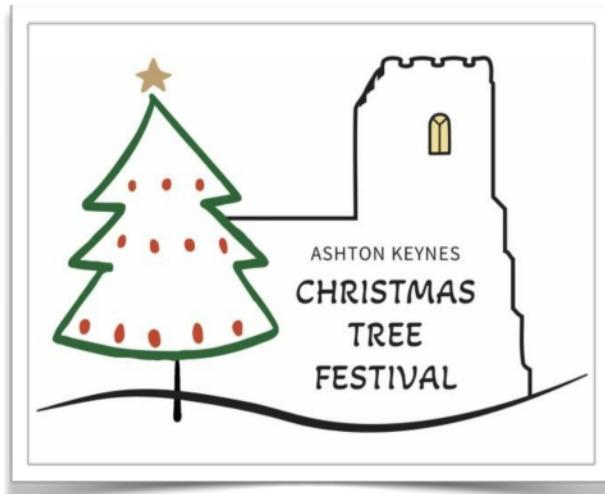
Programme of events



Friday 5 Dec
Sparkling Piano Bar
6.30 - 9.30pm
Live music
Welcome fizz
Bar, Raffle, Nibbles
Tickets £12 in advance
from AK village shop

Saturday 6 Dec
General Admission
2 - 6pm

Stalls, Refreshments, Raffle
4pm Family Fun with a visit
from Father Christmas
Admission £3/£5 on the door
Under 16's free



Sunday 7 Dec
General Admission
2 - 4pm
Stalls, Refreshments, Raffle
3.30pm Come and Sing Carols
Admission £3/£5 on the door
Under 16's free

Church matters

Services for November 2025

Date	Church	Time	Service
Sunday 2 Nov 4 th before Advent or All Saints	St Sampson's, Cricklade	8am 10am 6.30pm	Holy Communion BCP Morning Worship with music group and children's activities All Souls Bereavement Service with candle lighting
	Holy Cross, Ashton Keynes	10am 4pm	Holy Communion All Souls Bereavement Service with candle lighting
	St John the Baptist, Latton	10am	Morning Worship
Sunday 9 Nov Remembrance Sunday	St Sampson's, Cricklade	11.15am	Remembrance Sunday Service
	Holy Cross, Ashton Keynes	10.55am	Remembrance Sunday Service
	All Saints, Leigh	10.55am	Remembrance Sunday Service
Sunday 16 Nov 2 nd before Advent	St Sampson's, Cricklade	8am 10am 6.30pm	Holy Communion BCP plus breakfast Morning Worship, St Sampson's School Hall Evensong
	Holy Cross, Ashton Keynes	10am 3.30pm 4pm	Informal Morning Worship Messy Church at Ashton Keynes School Evensong (ring David Tarr* for venue)
	St John the Baptist, Latton	10am	Holy Communion
Sunday 23 Nov Christ the King	St Sampson's, Cricklade	10am	Holy Communion, St Sampson's School
	Holy Cross, Ashton Keynes	8.30am	Holy Communion BCP
	St John the Baptist, Latton	10am	Morning Worship
Sunday 30 Nov Advent Sunday	Malmesbury Abbey	10.30am	North Wilts Deanery Holy Communion (includes all Upper Thames Churches)
	Holy Cross	4pm	Christingle Celebration with Ashton Keynes School choir

All Souls for Ashton Keynes and the Leigh

Remembering those we love and see no longer.

Weekend of Saturday 1 November and Sunday 2 November

Anyone is welcome to pop into Holy Cross church during the afternoon of Saturday 1 November and remember loved ones by lighting a candle. Rev'd Shirley and Suzi Tipper will be there to welcome you between 1.45pm and 3pm.



As we have for many years, we will hold our annual All Souls Bereavement Service for Ashton Keynes and the Leigh, remembering those we love and see no longer, on Sunday 2 November in Holy Cross Church starting at 4pm.

Anyone who would like to come is very welcome, and families involved will have received a letter of invitation from us. There will be a time during the service for lighting a candle as we remember those who have died.

We know that many people from the community like to come and remember family members, so if you are coming to the service and would like the name of your loved one included, please contact our administrator Jane Eyles at admin@upperthames.org.uk or phone 01793 979304 or contact Rev'd Shirley or Suzi Tipper, with the name(s) you would like us to include.

For Cricklade and Latton there will be a similar service for All Souls at 6.30pm on 2 November in St Sampson's Church, Cricklade.

Remembrance Sunday 9 November and Act of Remembrance Tuesday

11 November

Everyone is welcome to join us as we honour and remember those who paid the ultimate price and sacrificed their lives in two world wars and sadly also in many conflicts since. Our Ashton Keynes service starts at 10.55am in Holy Cross Church and also at 10.55am at All Saints Church in the Leigh. And in our very troubled world we will include prayers for peace, sadly much needed today.

On **Tuesday 11 November** starting at 10.55 am in Holy Cross churchyard by the war memorial, we will hold a short **Act of Remembrance** and everyone is welcome.

AK Messy Church on Sunday 16 November in the school hall of



Ashton Keynes Primary School in Gosditch. Exploring PEACE, everyone of all ages is very welcome to join us as we sing, chat, pray and do activities and crafts

(both messy and not so messy such as biscuits to decorate).

Sunday 30 November Christingle Celebration

Come and join us for our annual **Christingle Celebration with our wonderful Ashton Keynes school choir** (and their singing is beautiful) at 4pm on Sunday 30 November in Holy Cross church. Children

will take part, and each child will make their own Christingle to take home as we remember that at the heart of Christmas is Jesus who came to be the light of the world. Donations (doesn't matter how small) are welcome to support The Children's Society.



Church matters cont'd

From the registers of the Upper Thames Group of Churches September 2025

FUNERALS

Name	Date & Church
Thomas (Tom) Frederick Fletcher	11 September, Holy Cross & North Wilts, Crematorium
Jacqueline Ann Hickman	23 September, St Sampson's & Cricklade cemetery
Michael Douglas Iveson	26 September, Kingsdown Crematorium
Philip Denman Akeroyd	27 September, interment of ashes Holy Cross
Roberta Nellie Webb	30 September, service of thanksgiving & interment of ashes, All Saints

WEDDINGS

Name	Date & Church
Katie Anne Pointer & Connor Daryl Collier	5 September, St John the Baptist

BAPTISMS

Name	Date & Church
Arabella Sherwood Kent	7 September, St Sampson's

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>)

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)

Dedication of a gift for Holy Cross, in memory of Shirley Massey, Sunday 2 November at 10am

Many of you will remember Shirley Massey, who lived in Ashton Keynes all her life and who over many years, gave faithful service to Holy Cross church as church warden and PCC member. She also sang in the choir, organised the choir and arranged flowers.

On Sunday 2 November at 10am we will dedicate a beautiful silver container (known as a ciborium), which will be used to hold the wafers, used at our services of holy communion, and which Shirley's family have given in her memory. We do hope that many of you who knew Shirley will come and join us on this lovely occasion.



Wrap up for Christmas

When you're coming to our services over the next few months and Christmas, please wrap up in something warm. Our oil boiler has failed. While we do have some heating, wearing something warm will make the services more comfortable.

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 at 9 am - contact David Tarr on **01285 861425**.

Contact Jane our Parishes' Administrator for further details –
admin@upperthames.org.uk

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.

Ashton Keynes

Emergency Contact Hub

The Village Hall has been listed as an emergency contact hub through Wiltshire and Swindon Prepared.

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

An Emergency Contact Hub is your communities place to go and help one another in an emergency. They are fitted around whatever your community wants them to be, but primarily they are designed so that community members can help themselves but also have a link to the emergency services in your local area.

Further Information can be found at:
<https://wiltshireandswindonprepared.org.uk/prepare/sub-section/emergency-contact-hubs>

Flood Preparedness – Gel Sacs Availability

The Parish Council has a limited number of Gel Sacs available for use during flooding emergencies.

Please note: There is no 24-hour access to the Gel Sacs, so we cannot guarantee they will be available at the exact time they are needed.

It is the responsibility of individual homeowners to ensure they are adequately prepared in the event of a flood.

Planning

Applications considered for which there was, 'No Objection'

10 Back Street: Erection of first floor side extension and new front canopy & garden shed.

12 Happy Land: Ash tree – pollard to 4 metres in height (dieback present). Apple – 30% crown reduction.

8 The Leaze: Silver Birch tree – fell.

33 Richmond Court: Lawson – fell. Silver Birch – prune off all new growth back to previous pruning points.

Braden Cottage, Kent End: Horse Chestnut tree -fell.

Applications determined by Wiltshire Council 'No Objection'

28 Richmond Court: Plum tree – fell.

The Laurels, Back Street: Ash tree – 30% crown reduction. Birch – 30% crown reduction. Whitebeam - 30% crown reduction.

The Keepings, Back Street: Ash tree – re-pollard to previous points.

West Barn, North End: Silver Birch – fell or reduce height by up to ½. Goat Willow – prune back to previous height of 2 metres.

Applications determined by Wiltshire Council 'Approved with Conditions'

Rixon Farm, Rixon Gate: Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) of planning permission 14/03493/FUL to enable design amendments to the dwellings within plots 4 and 5.

**Fiona Ryder, clerk@akpc.org.uk
7394 856232**

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on 20 November in Ashton Keynes Primary School Hall

Further details will be published on our website www.akpc.org.uk and notice board

Parish Council

Parish Steward

Please report any issues that can be dealt with by the Parish Steward to the Clerk, like:

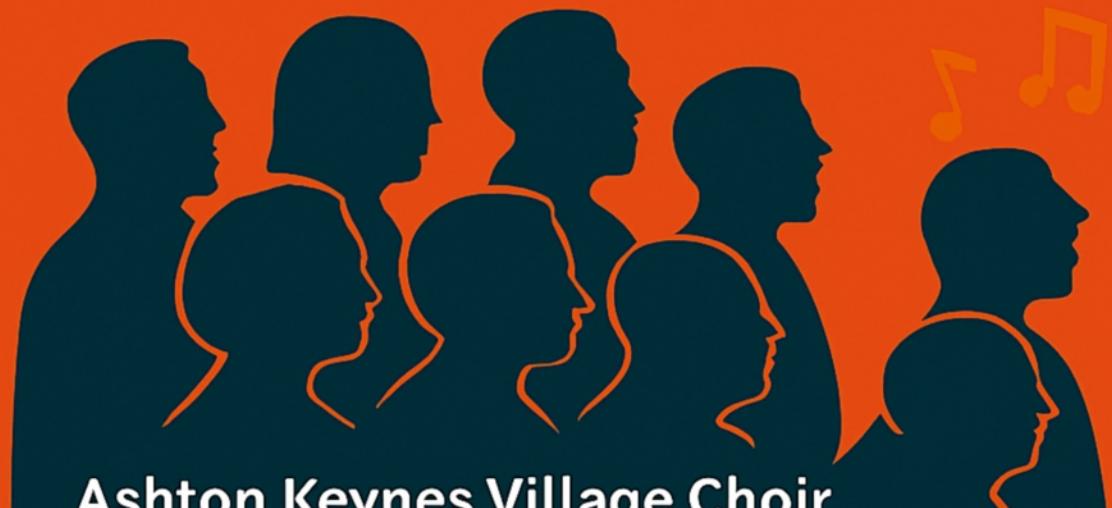
- Hand clearing of blocked drainage gullies, grips, etc. Cutting of growth from drainage grips and gully covers
- Clearing storm debris from roads/footways.
- Pedestrian barriers prep and painting.
- Cleaning and straightening of small road signs, street nameplates and bollards.
- Securing of existing small road signs, verge marker posts and 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 -roads/footways.

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

CHORALICIOUS

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 29TH
VILLAGE HALL DOORS OPEN 7PM



Ashton Keynes Village Choir
Raffle for Wiltshire Air Ambulance
Tickets £10 from Village Shop



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- MOTHER'S HELP



Donating in lieu of cards

For many years villagers have donated money to charity in lieu of sending Christmas cards within the village. Your Christmas greeting will be published in the December newsletter.

If you wish to be included, please email me at dafbat@aol.com with the charity/charities you wish to support and the names to be published in the Christmas greeting (sorry but no messages please).

The deadline is **FRIDAY 7 NOVEMBER**

I would be grateful if you could let me know the amount you wish to donate to your chosen charity (in confidence of course) so that I can publish the total amount of donations made in the 2026 newsletter.

If possible PLEASE make your donation to your chosen charity online.

A reminder to Gift Aid your donation

If you are a UK tax payer please remember to tick the Gift Aid box - it makes a huge difference! If you want to pay by cheque you can collect a Gift Aid form from the village shop.

The organisations to choose for your donations this year are below.

Pancreatic Cancer

Through research, Pancreatic Cancer UK work harder and smarter to find more life-saving breakthroughs, and through expert support from dedicated nurses, they are there for people affected by this disease.

To donate, please visit Pancreatic Cancer UK, and you will see DONATE at the top of the page.

The Oak & Furrows Wildlife Rescue Centre

This wildlife rescue centre cares for and treats injured and sick animals from Wiltshire and the Cotswolds. It is the only independent branch of the RSPSA , relying on donations from supporters to pay for vets bills, specialist food and equipment etc.

To donate online, please visit the Oak & Furrows website.

Cirencester Hospital League of Friends

Providing support for a much valued local service.

To donate online please visit Cirencester Hospital League of Friends JustGiving page or make your cheque payable to Cirencester Hospital League of Friends and drop it round to me at May Cottage, Park Place.

Cirencester Churn Project

This Community hub works to reduce isolation and improve the wellbeing of local people. It especially helps those who are at a time of crisis or experiencing poverty or mental health challenges.

For more information please visit their website.

Please visit The Churn Project website and look for Show Your Support to make a donation online.

Any problems please call me on 01285 861541 or 07740770912 or email me at dafbat@aol.com.

Many thanks
Daphne Neale

Caring for our world

Pop-Up Recycling

Sunday 2 November

12.00 - 1.30pm

Ellisons Garage Forecourt

ASHTON
GREEN
PROJECT



We will be collecting the following items...

Mobile Phones and chargers (wipe info and remove SIMs) **Sat Navs, MP3 players, Watches, Cameras, iPods, iPads and other tablets, Jewellery** (of any kind) **Stamps, Bank Notes, Coins**, (any currency) **Plastic pens** - all sorts inc marker type

Cosmetics (NOT nail polish) **Personal Care** *EMPTY* tubes of lotions

Contact lenses (and their blister packaging)

Eyewear (inc sunglasses)

Bras (will go to 'Against Breast Cancer' raising money to fund research and refreshed and sent on to developing countries)

Oral hygiene products (toothbrushes, packaging, toothpaste tubes, electric toothbrush heads, floss packaging)

Energy saving light bulbs, Printer Cartridges, Water filters, Household disposable gloves (thin ones, not washing up type)

Plastic flower pots.

PLEASE NOTE

No Batteries. Put them in a clear plastic bag on top of your blue recycling bin

No Medicinal Blister packs you can take a couple of handfuls to Superdrug in Stroud. (They can't cope with large quantities.)

Ashton Green Project is a friendly group of villagers striving to make AK as sustainable as possible. Contact Alison Beadle alisonbeadle@aol.com

The teacher and the cup

As we approach a very busy time of year, with our energy being pulled in lots of different directions, I'd like to share this lovely Buddhist teaching...

A Buddhist monk sets out the following scenario to a group of keen students.

Imagine you are walking along the street holding a cup of coffee when someone comes along and bumps into you, making you spill your coffee.

The teacher asks, "Why did you spill the coffee?"

A student replies, "Because someone has bumped into me, of course"

The teacher says, "Wrong answer, that's not why you spilt the coffee. You spilt the coffee because there was coffee in your cup. Had

there been tea in your cup, you would have spilt tea. Had there been water in your cup, you would have spilt water. Whatever is inside your cup is what will spill out. Therefore, when life comes along and shakes you, whatever is inside YOU will spill out."

The teacher continued, "We must ask ourselves, what am I carrying in my cup? What would spill over? Would it be anger and irritation, or would it be kindness and compassion? We can choose what we fill our cup with."

The teacher concluded the lesson by saying, "Each and every day, you should pause and think to yourself, what am I carrying in my cup today, and what would spill out from me, if life bumped into me today?"

Gilly Riddington We Are Nature

Source: Many versions of this exist in Buddhist texts.



Caring for our world cont'd

River Thames Litter Pick and Water Test; South Cotswold - September 2025

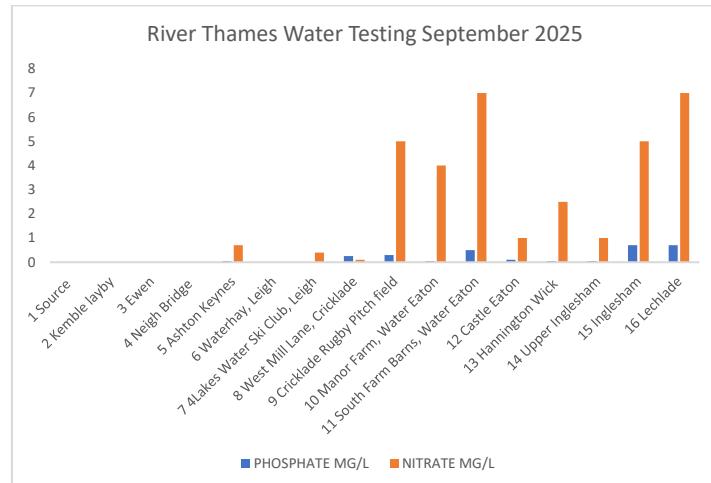
Volunteers, including Karen Shaw, Tim Clark, Jon and Jayne Hughes from Ashton Keynes (see pictures on front cover), litter picked the Thames Path from the Source to Lechlade and tested the River Thames water for phosphates and nitrates along its course. Still dry from its Source to Neigh Bridge, Spine Road West, this section could not be tested.

Many bags of litter – mostly plastic, cans and glass bottles were cleared, which otherwise may have stayed in the environment for decades. Greenpeace advised that our world leaders failed again to reach an agreement at the recent UN Global Plastics Treaty talks. So once again, limits on plastic production - the most important step to ending plastic pollution - were blocked.

Our intrepid volunteers braved thunderstorms and torrential rain, electrified fences, large herds of cattle, footpaths covered in slurry, slid down banks and paddled to mid-stream to collect litter and take the water tests.

The test results showed that; whilst the upper Thames to Waterhay, Leigh SN14, were mostly free from the pollution of phosphates and nitrates, levels from then on really increased; exceeding levels calculated by the Environment Agency for ecologically healthy rivers in the UK. For phosphates, the maximum concentration is accepted to be 0.1 mg/L, for nitrates, 1.0 mg/L.

The Environment Agency estimates that agriculture is responsible for 50-60% of nitrate entering waterways and 20% of the total phosphates, but the majority of phosphate pollution (around 80%) comes from urban wastewater; sewage effluent contributes about 25-30% of nitrates nationally.



Earthwatch Europe gave the following feedback for the tests at Water Eaton: Phosphates: 0.02-0.05 (mg/L) and Nitrates: 2-5 (mg/L). Feedback: Your dataset indicates that this waterbody has a poor ecological status. The River Ray flows into the Thames at Water Eaton and has reportedly had several instances of sewage dumped into it from west Swindon.

And the results for the tests carried out at Lechlade by our South Cotswold MP Dr Roz Savage MBE were shocking at 0.7 mg/L for phosphates and 7 mg/L for nitrates – very poor ecological status!

High levels of these nutrients trigger excessive plant and algal growth, leading to high levels of bacteria. This lowers oxygen in the water, killing plants and animals. Our volunteers care about the health of the River Thames and hope that this event has raised awareness of the pollution it is suffering from. They and others have made an effort to clean it and the Thames Path of litter in the South Cotswolds.

MP South Cotswolds

Looking ahead together

As autumn settles over the South Cotswolds, there's a sense of rhythm and renewal. Fields are being turned, fires are lit, and communities are gathering for harvest suppers, bonfire nights, and Christmas fairs. It's a season that reminds us how connected we are to the land and to one another.

My first year as your MP has been full of purpose. I've travelled across our constituency, meeting farmers, business owners, councillors, and volunteers who work tirelessly to keep their communities thriving. Their insights have shaped my priorities – supporting local food and farming, improving access to healthcare, strengthening flood resilience, and ensuring transport and digital links reach every village. I'm championing these issues in Westminster to make sure rural voices are heard.

Through our Stronger South Cotswolds initiative, we've celebrated the people who bring so much life to our area. Our Local Legends project shines a light on those who lead village halls, restore wildlife habitats, or run cafés tackling loneliness. Their dedication keeps our communities strong.

Looking ahead, I'm inspired by local energy projects helping to cut bills and emissions,

and by the partnerships restoring rivers, hedgerows, and meadows. These practical, place-based efforts show what's possible when we work together.

As winter draws in, I'll continue listening – at coffee mornings, meetings, and high streets – to hear what matters most to you. Thank you for your support and for the warm welcome everywhere I go. Together, we're building a stronger, more connected South Cotswolds.

Warm wishes, **Roz**
Roz Savage MP, South Cotswolds
Email: roz.savage.mp@parliament.uk |
Call: 01285 300555



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.



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Health matters

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>

Carers and Young Carers

Do you look after someone who is ill, frail, disabled or mentally ill? If so, you are a Carer. We are interested in identifying Carers, especially those people who may be caring without help or support. Do you know anyone, or are you, under the age of 18 caring for any of the above? We support Young Carers. Please contact Reception to register as a Young Carer.

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. In September that figure was 29. 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

We encountered two amazing people at the October meeting. The foremost one was Edith Cavell. I would guess that we all knew her name, but until the meeting many of us knew little of her extraordinary and tragic life. The other was Peter Petrie who, after he had delivered a flawless and fascinating forty-minute talk, told us that he is ninety-two!

Peter was born and raised in Norfolk, as was Edith Cavell. His fascination with her was increased because he trained in London as a doctor and she, after a spell as a governess, trained as a nurse and worked in London.

In 1905, she moved to a newly established hospital in Brussels with a brief to use the skills she had acquired in London to reduce infection rates.

After war broke out in 1914, she became involved in helping escaped Allies and deserting Germans who were trying to cross to the safety of Holland. Sadly, she was betrayed and was executed by firing squad in October 1915. The outrage at this act of brutality spread worldwide and was said to double the number of volunteers for active service in the UK.

After the talk we had a short business meeting. Unfortunately there has been insufficient uptake for the trip to the Christmas Lights at Blenheim Palace. There will be an alternative outing at some stage, possibly in the spring. With October being the month of harvest festivals, we collected items for Malmesbury Food Bank.

On 12 November we will have a Craft Evening, making Christmas Decorations.



We will make some for our tree at the Christmas Tree Festival and others for our own use.

We meet at The Village Hall at 7.30pm on the second Wednesday of the month. We are always delighted to welcome new members.

Coming up in the next few months:

12 November - Christmas Upcycling Craft Evening - Make upcycled decorations to take home and make one for the WI tree at the Ashton Keynes Christmas Tree Festival

10 December - Christmas / 105th Anniversary party with a special magic show – yes, a magic show!-, buffet, Secret Santa, and a glass of fizz or two!

www.facebook.com/AshtonKeynesWI
[Instagram @ashtonkeyneswi1920](https://www.instagram.com/ashtonkeyneswi1920/)

Jean Maggs, Ashton Keynes WI
Ashtonkeynessec@wiltshirewi.org.uk

Craft Club

Craft Club celebrated its second birthday in October with cake, craft, and lots of chatting. There were over 20 of us there, and it was lovely to welcome new members and to spend a pleasant afternoon together.



with all our handcrafted decorations.

Everyone is very welcome to come to Craft Club. It's a very friendly group. The first session is free in 2025 and thereafter is £4 or £5 with a £1 donation to the local food bank. Tea and coffee are always provided.



We made more decorations for our tree at the Ashton Keynes Christmas Tree Festival. This time, some of us decorated clay circles and sewed a star design on them. We do hope you'll come and see our tree in Holy Cross Church

Craft Club is from 2pm to 4pm in the Village Hall on the following dates: Wednesday 19 November and Friday 12 December.

For the upcoming Christmas Tree Festival, I'm excited to share that I'll be making personalised air-dry clay Christmas jumper decorations as part of the Christmas Tree Festival fundraising efforts. Each



one is carefully designed and finished with shimmering iridescent red paint, cheerful white patterns, and your chosen name printed across the front. The decorations measure about 10 cm (4 inches) wide with a plain black back and hang beautifully from a rustic twine cord.

They're available for just £5 each, and you can pick your prepaid jumper/s up at the Made in Ashton Keynes stall during the festival. To place an order, please email me at kathryngrey28@yahoo.co.uk by Saturday 8 November. Thank you!

Kathryn Gray

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 Helpline**, if you'd like a lift.

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

Club news continued



**Adventure 2025 is in full swing.
ACT NOW as your children are
missing the chance to join in our
adventures.**

Your young people could be missing opportunities to join our villages' Scout Group and join the fun and excitement by getting involved in our activities. If you have missed the first half of this term why not come to one of our sections starting up in November and join in the programmes then.

Don't delay, just contact our GSL David now to join the 1st Ashton Keynes Scout Group.

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

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

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

Boys or Girls just come and join us in the School Hall to try our Scouting activities!
Our Group has vacancies in Cubs and Scouts.



Group update

Since July we've been working hard to get a new leadership team to run our Beaver colony. While we have new leaders we still need more adults to help them. If you'd like to volunteer please contact David Tarr on GSL@1AK.uk. You'll be given all the needed support and guidance.

Thanks go to everyone who attended our recent AGM of the Scout Council. This is made up of parents, volunteers and all leaders.

Beavers

We will restart our Beaver meetings on Tuesday 4 November at 6pm, and we have spaces for a few new members too. However, in order to strengthen the Colony we must have more Helpers to work alongside our new leaders if we're to continue meeting weekly.

Cubs

Our Cubs is a vibrant young Pack and the nights drawing-in have not dampened that vibrancy. Our Sixers - Arabella, Harry and Maddie are quickly learning leadership skills to help the new starters with our ceremonies, activities and games. This term we have been working on the Emergency Aid Activity Badge. We are looking forward to some great activities organised by Swindon North District - a night hike in Stanton Park and a bowling competition in Swindon.

Scouts

The Scout Troop recently took part in a worldwide Scouting event - the Jamboree on the Internet where alongside a lot of fun activities online, they were able to converse with Scouts from all over the world. The Scouts are preparing for Parliament Week in November with activities related to democracy and the Houses of Parliament. And of course we still like to enjoy the outdoors where possible - with a night hike planned for November.

Become a Volunteer helper or Trustee

We have a successful and expanding Cub Pack and Beaver Colony requiring team members to support our exciting programme

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. Without extra help this cannot happen.

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. Just call me and offer to help.

Become a volunteer today, don't wait, act now

David Tarr BEM our GSL on GSL@1AK.uk 01285 861425

Club news continued

Ashton Keynes

SENIORS TABLE TENNIS CLUB

(for AK residents aged 50 and over)

Absolutely just for fun! All abilities welcome!

2-5pm every Monday (come for as long as you like).

ASHTON KEYNES VILLAGE HALL



*****2 FREE TRIAL SESSIONS*****

Interested?

Please contact Diana Wain (organiser) on:-

dw24813@gmail.com Telephone: 07522 983300

North Wiltshire Villages Flower Club

Hi, Cathy Carroll speaking. I want to tell you about our Open Evening on 19 November. It begins with bubbly and canapes, and there will be stalls and a chocolate tombola as well as a raffle for the arrangements. Just the thing to get you ready for Xmas. The demonstrator is Katherine Kear, and she has called the evening 'Myths, Mincet and Merriment'. It should be a really good time. It's being held at Malmesbury Town Hall and the doors open at 6.30 for a 7.30pm start. Tickets are £20 for non-members.

We are also holding a wreath-making event on 29 November from 2-4.30pm. We are holding it at The Riverside in Malmesbury. Just in time to decorate your door or table for Xmas. We will provide the wreath-making materials, just bring some foliage. If you want to book, then please email either nwvflowerclub@gmail.com or northwiltshirevillagesflowerclub.co.uk. It



will cost £35.00 for non-members and £27 for members. We did something similar before and it was really good fun. We will finish with tea/coffee and mince pies.

At our regular meetings on the third Wednesday of the month, we have plenty of parking space and free tea/coffee and cake at the end of the meeting. We meet at Crudwell village hall (SN16 9HB) at 7 for 7.30pm start, and your first visit as a non member is free. We are people who love flowers, and although some are florists, many are not. So please don't be afraid to come along. You will be welcome.

Finally, we are having our Christmas lunch on 17 December at 12.30 for 1pm at Luckington at the Royal Ship. We would love you to join us.

www.facebook.com/northwiltshirevillagesflowerclub

Cathy Carroll - 07703299277

Cricklade and District Probus Club

We are looking forward to our forthcoming group meetings when the following talks will take place.

- 13 November - 'The Battle of Waterloo'
- 27 November - 'Abolition of the Slave Trade'

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**. Contact Martin if you'd like to attend (which is free for the first few visits) you'll 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/>

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 Phil Moran

01285 861745

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 Cobley 01285 861444

Craft Club Kathryn Gray 01285 869341,

kathryngrey28@yahoo.co.uk

Cricket Mark Brooks (sec) 01285 862401

Dig Deeper Revd Shirley Danby 01793 751463

Football Junior Phil Moran 07880 715715

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 Doug Yarrow 01285

861427 dougyarrow@msn.com

Minety Squash Club Tim 01666 860368

tim@lagondahire.co.uk

Mothers Union Margaret Godfrey 01666 860536

Neighbourhood Watch paul.eastham@totalise.co.uk

Orchestra www.cirencesterphil.co.uk

Parish Council (AK) Fiona Ryder 07394 856232., clerk@akpc.org.uk, www.akpc.org.uk.

Parish Council (Leigh) Mandy Thomas 01285 860488

Parochial Church Council Andrew Sims (Sec) 07500 884188

Pre-school 01285 869433, www.ashtonkeynespreschool.co.uk,

communications@ashtonkeynespreschool.co.uk secretary@ashtonkeynespreschool.co.uk

fundraising@ashtonkeynespreschool.co.uk

Reading Group c.conlon@icloud.com

Rural Cinema Dave Sheppard dave@akvh.org.uk

Short Mat Bowls ddsak78@gmail.com

Siren Sisters Val Skehan 01285 860069, www.sirensisters.org.uk

Tai Chi (Down Ampney) Tim Price

01793 752852, tim@cotswoldwu.co.uk, www.cotswoldwu.co.uk

The Telephone Gallery, Kathryn Gray, 01285 869341, thetelephonegallery@gmail.com

www.thetelephonegallery.blogspot.com

Tennis Annie Dyson ashtonkeynestennis@gmail.com

The Magnificent AKs Stuart Harris stuart.harris1965@gmail.com

Twinning Association

ashtonkeynestwinning@gmail.com

Village Emergency Telephone System (VETS)

01793 250211

Walking Group Liz Chick 01285 861317

lizzie_chick@yahoo.com

Whitefriars Sailing Club Patrick Green, 01285 861670, info@whitefriars.org

Women's Book Group Liz Chick 01285 861317

lizzie_chick@yahoo.com

Women's Institute Sheila Ward 07920179287

Ashtonkeynessec@wiltshirewi.org.uk

& Sarah Owenson 07811267888

sarah.owenson@googlemail.com

www.facebook.com/AshtonKeynesWI

Writers www.newbreweryarts.org.uk



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