

Ashton Keynes & Leigh Newsletter

October 2026



Photo credit : Kathryn Gray

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Dear Friends,

It feels rather strange to be writing for Dear Friends for the last time as Vicar. At the end of October, I retire from 34 years of ordained ministry, and leave here after five very happy years.

The church scene has changed since I began - when I was first ordained women couldn't be priests and now we have a female Archbishop of Canterbury! I have had the privilege of being the first woman to do a lot of things, but have also had to take the flak sometimes when people weren't used to some of the changes in the church.

As this chapter of my life draws to a close and I move on to pastures new, I wanted just to thank you all for your welcome and inclusion in your life. I have loved living and being among you. I think the communities I serve are remarkable in their kindness, community care for one another and outgoing spirit.

I have seen time and time again neighbours caring for neighbours, people concerned for others over and above what might be expected, and a sense of the community pulling together. In a world where kindness is often just under the surface, I have seen it made real in the kindness expressed in many, many ways.

So, thank you for being my last post! I will cherish the memories of my time among you. And may God bless you now and into the future with his abundant love and light.

My retirement/leaving service is in St Sampson's Church, 18 October at 3.30pm.

Revd Canon Debbie Dewes (Vicar)

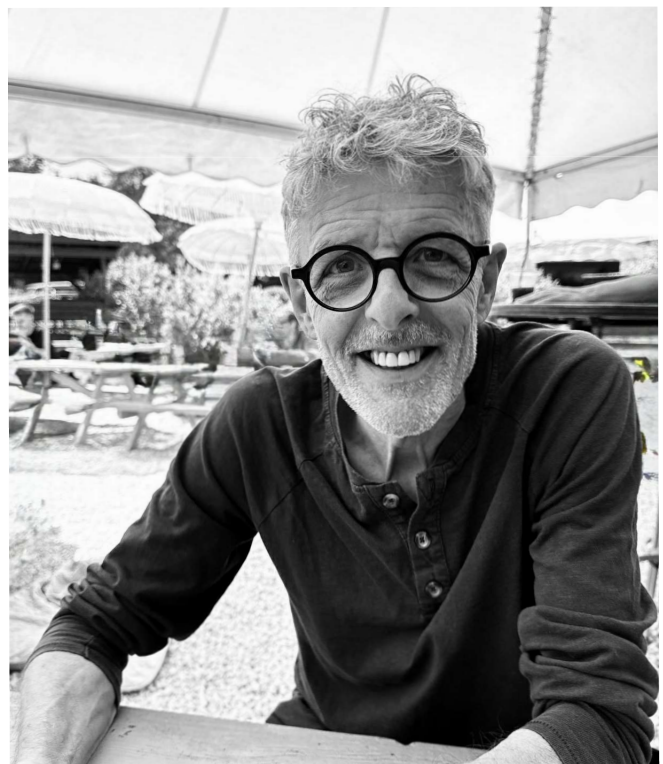
Celebration of Life

Mike Whitehead

The family would like to invite anyone who knew Mike to celebrate his life on
**Saturday 3 October, 11am at Ashton
Keynes Holy Cross Church and
afterwards at the AK School Hall.**

Dress code: a pop of colour.

Sarah, Char and Elly would like to thank everyone from our community for the meals, cards, kind words and stories that you have shared with us about Mike.



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Editorial



As I write this it's the Autumn Equinox - where the hours of daylight and darkness are of equal length. Thankfully it's been gloriously sunny during the daylight hours today.

Change is definitely in the air - the mornings are getting fresher, the trees are on the turn, about to display the full range of their glorious autumnal colours, and the nights are drawing in.

However there's still so much to do within the village and nearby. Stock up those cupboards ready for winter and support the shop (page 7), sit back, relax and let the film roll on as the Rural Cinema is back (page 9), have an autumn clear out of your unwanted

items and help the environment too (pages 15 & 22), be uplifted by the voices of the male voice choir the Magnificent AK's (page 11), make new friends by joining one of the village groups (pages 30 - 35), the Parish Council are still looking for volunteers (page 18) as are the 1st AK Scout group (pages 36-37). And if you just want someone else to make the dinner one night then join in with the tennis club's Safari Supper evening (page 34).

Looking ahead, there's even a few 'save the dates' for your December calendars. There really is something for everyone, you just need to get involved.

AKL Editorial Team

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

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

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

Thank you

Advertising

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

AKL Advertising prices per issue

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Eighth page £5

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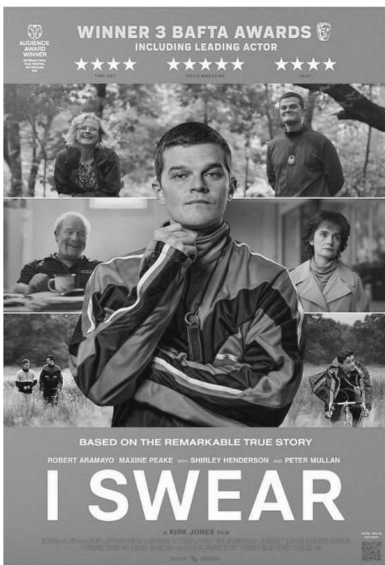
Rural Cinema

In the Village Hall

£5 – pay at the door

Doors and Bar 7pm – Film 7.30pm

Wednesday 7 October 2026 – I Swear (15)

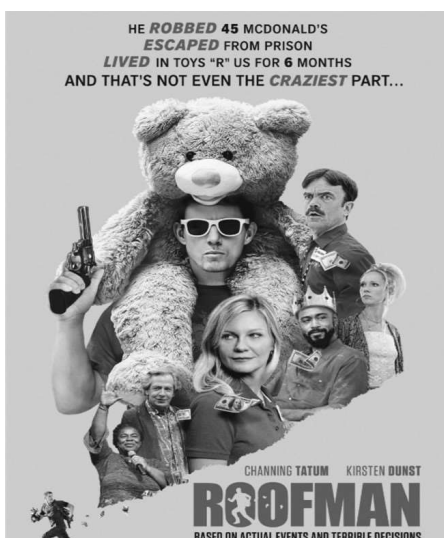


Starring Robert Aramayo, Maxine Peake, Somerled Campbell and many others

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*

Wednesday 4 November 2026 – Roofman (15)



Starring Channing Tatum, Kirsten Dunst, LaKeith Stanfield and many others

"Based on actual events, and terrible decisions"

Based on an unbelievable true story, Roofman follows Jeffrey Manchester (Channing Tatum), an Army veteran and struggling father who turns to robbing McDonald's restaurants by cutting holes in their roofs, earning him the nickname: Roofman.

After escaping prison, he secretly lives inside a Toys "R" Us for six months, surviving undetected while planning his next move. But when he falls for Leigh (Kirsten Dunst), a divorced mother drawn to his undeniable charm, his double life begins to unravel, setting off a compelling and suspenseful game of cat and mouse as his past closes in. *Paramount*

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**

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Email: adamroberts@acertreesurgeons.co.uk



THE MAGNIFICENT AK'S HOMECOMING!

The tension is beyond breaking, so the blokes from The Magnificent AK's consider the good folk of Ashton Keynes have waited long enough for our return to our spiritual home and to present a magnificent evening of song and manly harmony. Please mark your diaries and calendars for

SATURDAY 5 DECEMBER
at ASHTON KEYNES VILLAGE HALL

What a way to start the run up to Christmas. The blokes may be dressed in Santa red (*probably not*), be making mince pies (*maybe not*) and offering drinks from the bar (*definitely!*).

Further information will appear in future publications and will be published on our website **www.themagnificentaks.com** where you will be able to find all the info needed on the blokes to prepare you for the event.

The MAK's have spent the summer resting their voices ready for a strong run into the Autumn and Winter gig season. You could have, and maybe did, see them at Thornbury on the 19 September, which coincided with "Talk like a Pirate Day", which we whole heartedly supported.

Future opportunities to support us and see us in our magnificence will be;

Friday 9 October at Calne Music and Arts Festival

Saturday 21 November at Avening Village Hall

Saturday 5 December at Ashton Keynes Village Hall

Saturday 27 February at Wotton Under the Edge Arts festival

More dates to follow.....

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MP South Cotswolds

October marks the return of Parliament after Conference Recess, and September brought several things I want to share with residents in Ashton Keynes.

September is World Alzheimer's Month, and at Parliament Square on 8 September there was the Dementia UK national launch event. I want to share the reason why an event like this feels personal to me: in the run-up to it, I had been spending time with the Parkinson's support group in Cricklade, just down the road, hearing at first hand from people living with neurological conditions and from the carers who support them.

The work those groups do is remarkable, and the gap between what they need from health and social care services and what they currently receive is one I raise consistently with NHS commissioners and ministers.

Concerning the River Thames, September brought a significant parliamentary development. Following my contribution at Prime Minister's Questions in July on sewage dumping by water companies, I met the Defra minister responsible for sewage reporting to press for real-time, publicly available discharge data.

Ashton Keynes sits directly alongside the upper Thames at one of its earliest navigable stretches. What goes into this river here matters all the way downstream, and the communities that live alongside it

deserve to know exactly what is in the water. I will keep pressing until that transparency is legally required.

If you have any issues my team and I can help with, please reach out to me.

Warm wishes, Roz



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

Photo Credit - Stuart Madeley

Ashton Keynes Link Helpline 07512 233200

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

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2pm - 3.30pm Sun 18 October

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Jewellery, Watches, Stamps, Bank Notes, Coins (*any currency*)

Plastic pens all sorts, incl. marker type (*will be crushed and made into new writing equipment by the company Edding*)

Cosmetics (*NOT nail polish*), **Personal Care** *EMPTY* soft tubes of lotions. (*Rigid, shampoo type, plastic bottles can go in your blue recycling bin*)

Contact lenses (and their blister packaging), **Eyewear** (incl. sunglasses)

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

Dental (toothbrushes, empty toothpaste tubes, floss sticks, empty dental floss packaging)

Energy saving light bulbs, Household disposable gloves (*thin ones, not washing up type*)

Printer Cartridges and Water filter cartridges

No thanks:

No Medicinal Blister packs *you can take them to Cricklade Council office or to Boots or Superdrug in Stroud.*

No other small electricals *these can go to the Purton household recycling centre, Mopes Lane.*

No Razors *These can be recycled through the post. Order your free envelope to fill at home from the Gillette website.*

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

No Plant pots this time

THANK YOU!

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Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2026

I have recently become the local RBL Poppy Appeal Organiser and so I'd like to introduce myself and invite your support.

I am a former Army officer with nearly 25 years' service including operations in the former Yugoslavia (Bosnia, Croatia and Serbia), Cyprus, Kuwait, Iraq, Afghanistan and a few others along the way. My current work includes university lecturing as well as running a small business offering leadership and facilitation training to farming and landscape conservation organisations. I am also a college governor and active in various veterans' projects. I have been a member of the Royal British Legion since one of my soldiers encouraged me to join early in my career and, having recently moved to the village and heard that the previous organiser had retired, agreed to take on this role.

I know that there has previously been an active group of collectors in the village and some popular events to commemorate the fallen, which I would love to help continue, as well as potentially developing new ideas. I would therefore be very interested to hear from anyone who wishes to support in any way.

For 2026, I plan to provide boxes of poppies, and support or organise a central commemorative event. If sufficient volunteers come forward, I will be happy to organise a house-to-house collection next year.

If you would like to get involved in any way, please let me know using this short form:

<https://forms.office.com/e/rmMcWLZhy6>

(Either copy this URL into your computer browser or use a Smart phone to access it by opening the camera app and hovering over the QR code until a link appears, which you can then press on.) Thank you.

Ashton Keynes Poppy Appeal



Fiona Galbraith

New Date: Friday 4th December

Christmas Sparkle

Sparkling Christmas drinks party
at Holy Cross Church 6-9pm

AK Parish Council

Parish Council Vacancies

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.

You must be at least 18 years old and a British citizen, qualifying Commonwealth citizen, or citizen of the Republic of Ireland, and meet at least one of the following criteria:

- You are registered as a local government elector for Ashton Keynes Parish; or
- You have, during the past 12 months, occupied land or premises in the parish as owner or tenant; or
- Your principal or only place of work during the past 12 months has been in the parish; or
- You have lived in the parish (or within 4.8 km of it) for the past 12 months.

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

New Play Equipment

New Play Equipment has been installed at the High Road and The Lotts play areas.

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.

Planning:

Applications considered by Wiltshire Council for which there was 'Objection'

Lake 62, Cotswold Water Park - Outline planning application for the change of use of land for the siting of up to 38 holiday lodges, including creation of new vehicular access off Spine Road West, extension of existing shared footway and cycleway along the B4696 Spine Road East and associated landscape planting and infrastructure with all matters reserved except the means of access to the site.

Applications considered by Wiltshire Council for which there was 'No Objection'

7 Cove House Gardens – T1 Monterey Cypress – fell to ground level. T2 Goat Willow – Create a new pollard point at 3m and allow to regenerate.
Bridge House, Happy Land – Installation of air conditioning unit located at the rear of the property.

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

The next Parish Council meetings will be held on
Thursday 1 October and 12 November at 7.30pm in Bradstone Pavilion.
Agenda and minutes are available on the Parish Council website akpc.org.uk
and noticeboard

Applications determined by Wiltshire Council 'No Objection'

27 Park Place – T1 Crab Apple and Cherry – reduce crown by 25% back to previous points; T2 Cherry – reduce crown by 40% back to previous points; T3 Cockspur – reduce crown by up to 20% back to previous points.

Applications determined by Wiltshire Council 'Approved with Conditions'

Waters Edge, Derryfields – Remodelling of existing dwelling to incorporate two-storey side extensions, dormer windows, external alterations and associated works.

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.

A festive poster for a 'Living Advent Calendar Trail'. The background is a light cream color with decorative green pine branches and red berries in the top corners. A red snowflake is centered above the text. The main title 'LIVING ADVENT CALENDAR TRAIL!' is in large, bold, black capital letters. Below it, the text describes the event: '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'. At the bottom, it says 'To take part or for more information: thetelephonegallery@gmail.com' and 'PLEASE SIGN UP BY 10th NOVEMBER'. The bottom corners feature illustrations of wrapped Christmas gifts and small evergreen trees.

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

To take part or for more information:
thetelephonegallery@gmail.com

PLEASE SIGN UP BY 10th NOVEMBER

Church matters

Services for October 2026

Date	Church	Time	Service
Sunday 4 October Trinity 18	St Sampson's, Cricklade	8am 10am 6.30pm	Holy Communion BCP Morning Worship with <i>music group & children's activities</i> Evensong
	Holy Cross, Ashton Keynes	10am	Holy Communion
	St John the Baptist, Latton	10am	Morning Worship
Sunday 11 Oct Trinity 19	St Sampson's, Cricklade	10am	Upper Thames Worship Together Communion
	Holy Cross, Ashton Keynes	3.30pm	Messy Church
Sunday 18 Oct Trinity 20	St Sampson's, Cricklade	8am 3.30pm	Holy Communion, <i>followed by breakfast</i> A service of thanksgiving and farewell as Debbie retires
	Holy Cross, Ashton Keynes	10am	Informal 'around the table' Worship
	St John the Baptist, Latton	10am	Holy Communion
Sunday 27 Oct Trinity 21	St Sampson's, Cricklade	10am	Holy Communion
	Holy Cross, Ashton Keynes	8.30am	Holy BCP Communion
	St John the Baptist, Latton	10am	Morning Worship

Everyone's welcome

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

Church opening times for private prayer

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

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

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



Cream Tea - Thank You

A big 'thank you' to everyone who came and joined us for cream teas in Holy Cross church over the summer months. Not only for your enthusiasm and your lovely singing of favourite hymns but also for your amazing donations.

We have been able to send £370 to our local Foodbank (Malmesbury, Cricklade and North Wiltshire) on your behalf. There will be more cream teas in summer 2027!

Messy Church

Our next AK Messy Church will be **Sunday 11 October 3.30-4.30pm** in **Holy Cross** church. For all stages and ages, come and join us as we explore the story of the two builders through story, games and activities and song. See if you can be a "rock star"!



All Souls Bereavement Services 2026 Ashton Keynes and the Leigh - remembering those we love and see no longer.

Our annual All Souls Bereavement Service for Ashton Keynes and the Leigh, remembering those we love and see no longer, will take place on **Sunday 1 November in Holy Cross Church** starting at **4pm**. A quiet and reflective service, we will include the names

of those associated with Ashton Keynes and the Leigh who have died in the last year and whose services we have taken. Families involved will receive a letter of invitation from our ministers.

We know too, that people from the community also like to come and remember family members who have died: everyone is welcome as we seek God's comfort and hear the message of hope we have in Jesus. There will be a time during the service when we dim the lights and you can light a candle, as we remember those who have died.

If you are coming to the service and would like the name of your loved one included, please email or ring (leave a message) our administrator Jane Eyles at **admin@upperthames.org.uk** or phone **01793 979304** with the name(s) to include, or contact Rev'd Shirley.

In addition, anyone is welcome to pop in to **Holy Cross church** to remember loved ones by lighting a candle, during the afternoon of **Saturday 31 October** (either instead of, or as well as on the Sunday) and ministers will be there too **between 1.45pm and 3pm**.

For Cricklade and Latton there will be a similar service for All Souls at **6.30pm on 1 November in St Sampson's Church, Cricklade**.



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

August 2026

FUNERALS

Name	Date & Church
Beryl McKie	2 August, interment of ashes at the Old Chancel, Leigh
Roger and Valerie Threlfall	22 August, Interment of ashes Holy Cross, Ashton Keynes

WEDDINGS

Name	Date & Church
Chloe Georgia Parrott & Ben Ronald Anthony Hopper	14 August, St John the Baptist, Latton
Abbie May Ellison & Benjamin William James Pring	15 August, Holy Cross Ashton Keynes

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)

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**THE WHITE HART
ASHTON KEYNES**



Friday 18th September 6pm – 8pm
Friday 25th September 6pm – 8pm
Sunday 27th September 2pm – 6pm
Thursday 1st October 6pm – 8pm

Thank you! ♥



PWSA
Prader-Willi Syndrome Association UK
SAVING LIVES. CHANGING LIVES.



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Community Hospice

Together we make a difference ♥

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FASHION FINDS FOR A BRIGHTER TOMORROW ♥



PRELOVED
PEOPLE
HAPPIER
COMMUNITIES

SALE DATES ♥

**FRIDAY
2ND OCTOBER**



9AM – 8PM

**SATURDAY
3RD OCTOBER**



10AM – 8PM

**SUNDAY
4TH OCTOBER
MYSTERY BAG
(CLEARANCE)**



10AM – 12AM

Come along and
bag a bargain!



**THE WHITE HART
ASHTON KEYNES SN6 6NX**

CLOTHES, SHOES, ACCESSORIES, AND MORE!

Everyone welcome! ♥



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Minety Wiltshire

davidgill82@btinternet.com

07795621919


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The Telephone Gallery

It was wonderful to see the Telephone Gallery mentioned in the Best Kept Village report.

As one of only a few telephone kiosks used as galleries in the UK, it makes excellent use of the space. Many thanks to the Parish Council for approving its use as a gallery and renewing the agreement for another two years.



The display starting in mid-August running through to late September 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.

The exhibition proved popular, attracting Thames Path walkers as well as families who have recently moved to the area!



Please note that the photo is AI-generated.

Craft Club are helping me to create the next exhibition, a collaborative and very colourful artwork.

In October, I am thinking of organising some creative activities linked to the Big Draw Festival which takes place this month. The theme this year is *Make a Mark*.

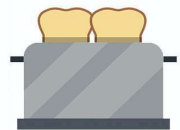
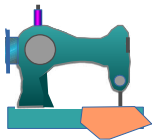
Keep an eye out for more details, as well as some mosaic workshops and some festive workshops in November.

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

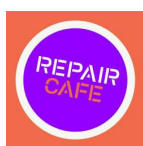
We can try to mend toys, clothes, small electricals, household items and bikes



10th Oct, 14th Nov, 12th Dec, 9th Jan 2027, 13th Feb, 13th March 10am – 1 pm (last item 12 pm)

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

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



REPAIR CAFE



Caring for our world

Mud Mud Glorious Mud



Earth, mud, dirt. There are fewer studies into the contents of the earth under our feet than any other scientific field. Perhaps that's because we can't see it. Soil is definitely the

unsung hero in the campaign to tackle the climate crisis, as it sequesters millions of tons of carbon from the atmosphere and, in doing so, supports ALL life on earth.

Right beneath our feet is a teeming network of life. Soil is made up of a vibrant, thriving population of bacteria, microorganisms and fungi. Mycelium (the subterranean fungal network) generates all the humus soils across the landmasses of earth. It is a giant underground network, linking many different species.

The brilliant book 'Entangled Life' by Merlin Sheldrake is enthralling and completely mind blowing. Sheldrake, is a magical writer and this book is a window into a spellbinding underground world. It's a life changing read which I thoroughly recommend!

Here are a few interesting facts about this invisible world. Fungi were the first organisms to come to land 1.3 billion years ago. Plants followed several hundred million years later. Mycelium produces acids and enzymes that break down rock and turn it into soil. Before the fungi emerged out of the water and onto the rock, there was not a single teaspoon of soil on the whole planet.

Mycelium is sentient and knows you are there. When you walk across the landscape, it leaps up in the aftermath of your footprints to grab any debris to digest as food.

Mycelium is nature's internet and is the communication network that trees use to share information with one another (you'll have to read the book for more about how they do that).

During the first 3 decades of the 20th century, the number of farms in the (already fairly arid) great plains region of North America increased threefold! Farmers began using new mechanised ploughing which over time, deprived the soil of its nutrients.

Throughout the 1930's the area suffered extreme droughts and the loss of topsoil, which had turned to dust and was whipped away in violent storms. These storms became known as the dust bowl. In 1937, the 32nd President of the USA, Franklin D Roosevelt, wrote to all State Governors, in his letter he made the case for effective soil management, including the powerful phrase: "The nation that destroys its soil destroys itself." Might I suggest that the current administration might want to think on that...

Soil health is fundamental not only as a carbon sink, but also for climate adaptation. "Living soils are fundamental to agriculture," says Praveena Sridhar, Chief Science and Policy Officer of the Save Soil movement. "Soils support you when you go through climate shocks. Healthy, living soils can absorb flood waters, and in drought they hold water like sponges. The crops are not successful because of the inputs (chemical fertilisers) you put on top – the security soil provides, lies below the surface."

Gilly Riddington
We are all nature

Sources: Paul Stamets TED Talk 'Six ways Mushrooms Can Save The World'. Entangled Life - Merlin Sheldrake. Commonwealth Human Ecology Council. www.earth.org www.consciousplanet.org

Health matters

Purton and Green Gable Surgery

For the patients in Purton, Cricklade and surrounding communities

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 (mickiehall2020@gmail.com) if you are unsure.

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 Healthcare Assistant Myra Hetherington are:
First prize of £100 to Jacqui Lay (number 191)
Second prize of £15 to Miriam Saunders (number 159)
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 / Flu Clinic Saturday 3 October

There will be the wonderful chance to win a prize (and donate to the Surgery fundraising) while attending the flu clinic on 3 October.

Sylvia will be running the Harvest Tombola from the driveway of her house opposite Purton Surgery. Please drop in and support us!

If you have any unopened and in date food items to donate to the tombola you can drop them into either surgery receptions or directly to Sylvia. Many thanks.

Full details of those who are eligible for the flu vaccine can be found on the NHS website.

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 tickets will be available from the receptions from w/b 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.

Repeat prescription slips may still be requested from the pharmacy when collecting your prescriptions. These may not automatically be given so please ask if you would rather continue to do this. Alternatively, you can order your repeats online. Again, full information is available on the NHS website.
Thank you.

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.

Dr de SILVA

From 4 August 2026, Dr de Silva will be taking a period of leave and will be away from the practice until further notice.

We would like to reassure all our patients that we have a full complement of clinical and administrative staff in place, and the practice will continue to provide the same high standard of care and service throughout this period. Our team remains available to support your healthcare needs, and appointments will continue to be provided as normal.

We appreciate your understanding and thank you for your continued patience and support. We look forward to welcoming Dr de Silva back to the practice in due course.

Flu jabs

We are now sending invites to those who are eligible for the flu vaccine. We are holding our Flu clinics in October. If you are eligible, you will receive a letter or text from the surgery to book your flu jab.

Repeat Prescriptions

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

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

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

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

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

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

Online Registrations

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

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

Cancellation of Appointments

Please make every effort to attend all appointments as we are unable to offer those cancelled too late to other patients. If you do need to cancel an appointment, please give at least 24 hours' notice.



Cricklade Surgery

Tel: 01793 750645

Club news

Ashton Keynes Women's Institute

We have had some fascinating speakers at our WI meetings, but I think that this September's was amongst the best. Nicola Nash is a member of the Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre Commemorations Team, otherwise known as the War Detectives. They are based in Gloucester and deal with casualties from both World Wars and the Korean War.

We were amazed to discover that along the Western Front bodies are still being unearthed by agricultural workers, utility workers or construction workers at a rate of about one a week. Identification of the bodies is attempted by searching for clues at the site, such as trinkets or badges, or by attempting via DNA to identify relatives who may know of a history of a lost forebear. Once all investigations have been concluded a moving burial service with full military honours is arranged with descendants, if possible, and members of the Investigation Team.

Jean Maggs, Ashton Keynes WI

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. New members are always welcome.

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. We have a very varied program, for example next month on Wednesday 14 of October we will be reliving the 50's and 60's with a Beetle Drive!

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.

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

- **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 and everyone who's taken up this offer agrees it's the best afternoon out.

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.

- **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

We are an active and friendly club ideal for anyone who loves beautiful flowers, foliage and artistry. Our members come from all over North Wiltshire and into Gloucestershire. At our AGM in September we launched our new programme for 2027 which will include floral demonstrations, workshops for all levels of experience, talks, visits and a special event to celebrate our Emerald Anniversary. For the remainder of 2026, we are already planning ahead for Christmas!

On the evening of **21 October** we are holding a workshop at Crudwell Village Hall with Brinkworth Willow, where we will learn to construct wreaths which can be decorated subsequently with seasonal flowers, foliage and decorations. Useful for autumn but also great for the festive season.



Next month we are holding our main event of the year, an open meeting with Nick Grounds at Malmesbury Town Hall, on Wednesday **18 November at 7.30pm**. Nick is a National Demonstrator with a day job as a professional horticultural auctioneer, known for his theatrical, humorous and engaging flower arranging events, it promises to be a fun evening and all are welcome. Tickets are now available (£20 for members, £25 for visitors) and include delicious canapes and a glass of bubbly. For more information or to purchase tickets, email nwvflowerclub@gmail.com, call **07817 242888**, or visit our website northwiltshirevillagesflowerclub.co.uk

Later next month we will be holding a Christmas wreath making event in Malmesbury on Saturday **28 November**. This will be open to anyone who would like to learn a new skill, especially non-members. More details next month, but if you'd like more information before then please check our website above or our Facebook page – North Wiltshire Villages Flower Club.

Our final event of 2026 will be a Christmas lunch on **16 December** providing an opportunity to relax, look back on an interesting year and enjoy each other's company.

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.

Donations in Lieu of Christmas Cards

Bridget Bachelor has kindly offered to help continue this worthwhile fundraising event. The 4 charities we will be supporting this year are;

- * The Stroke Association
- * CHYPS
- * Guide Dogs for the Blind
- * Cirencester Hospital League of Friends

Please look out for details and deadlines in the November Newsletter
Best wishes, **Bridget & Daphne**

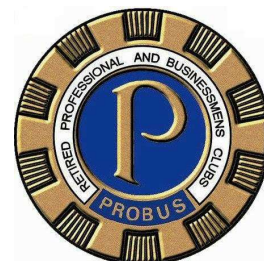


Club news continued

Cricklade and District Probus Club

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

1 October	The Jacobite Rebellions
15 October	The Engineering of the Pyramids
29 October	John Churchill - 1st Duke of Marlborough



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 £150 for the food bank!



As well as swapping craft materials and ideas, craft club members have also come along with eggs and plants to give away.



August's Craft Club was great fun, with some of us making mosaic hearts.

October's Craft Club will be on **Friday 23 October from 2pm to 4pm in the Village Hall**. We'll be having cake to celebrate our 3rd birthday and we'll also be deciding which charity to support.

We'd love to see you there! Feel free to drop in on the day or email me at kathryngray28@yahoo.co.uk or leave a note at 16 Gosditch if you'd like more information.

We're hoping that Roz Savage MP will come along one afternoon as she's a keen crocheter, when she has any free time.

Kathryn Gray

Ashton Keynes Tennis Club

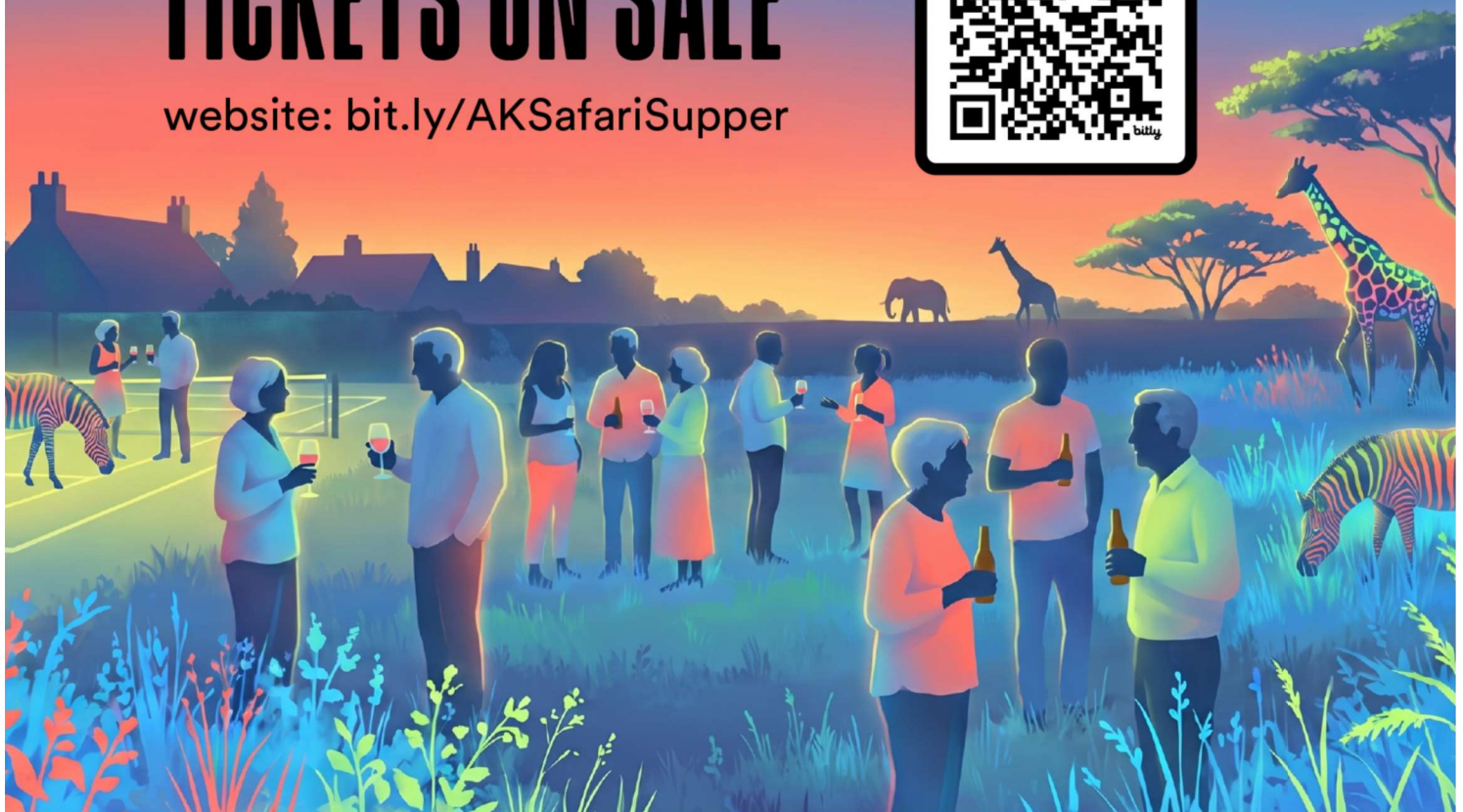
SAFARI SUPPER

SAT 17TH OCTOBER

A progressive dinner around the village. Starter at one house, main at another, then everyone comes together for dessert and a party.
£35 a head, including a welcome drink. Bar at every stop.

TICKETS ON SALE

website: bit.ly/AKSafariSupper



Club news continued

Cricklade Camera Club



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

If so, why not come along to Cricklade Camera Club. Visitors and new members will receive a warm welcome - you don't even need a camera. ***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 6 October at 7:30pm in the Town Hall Annexe**, Suzie Kirkby is coming to give her talk "Out and About" a mixture of images and some audio visuals

On **Tuesday 20 October at 7:30pm in the Town Hall Committee room** is a workshop entitled "Camera to Print". Everything you need to know to create high quality prints of your images.

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*



Adventure 2026 is in full swing
ACT NOW as your children are missing the chance to join in on 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 last term why not come to one of our sections in October.

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

**Beaver Colony on Tuesdays at 5.30pm (6 to 8 years old)
Cub Pack on Thursdays at 6pm (8 to 10 years old)
Scouts Troop on Friday at 6.45pm (11 to 14 years old)**

Boys or Girls just come and join us in the School Hall. There are vacancies in Cubs and Scouts so just come along and try our Scouting activities!

Group Update

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.

Leadership help is coming from our Leadership team to provide guidance to support new Volunteers.

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.

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

Volunteers Needed – Help Our Village Scouts Thrive!

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

The board meets 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**

Club news continued

Section Reports

Beavers

We have not met yet but are expecting to restart after the Open Meeting which took place in September.

Cubs

Our Cub Pack are off to a great start to the 2025 Autumn Term with new Cubs: a whole load of investitures and a term full of exciting, instructive, challenging, thought-provoking adventurous activities are ahead of us.

We have kicked the term off looking at Emergency Aid, with the new Cubs going for stage 1 and the older Cubs, lending a hand to the younger ones whilst completing stage 2.

Each week we are trying at least one activity based on this term's theme: Teamwork. This will lead up to some exciting activities we have planned for November's Parliament Week national activity.

We are also focusing on the Global Issues Activity Badge which is especially pertinent after the Summer's heatwaves and disasters such as the flash flood on Nepal/Tibet. The badge covers themes such as charity, waste, disaster survival and the globalised production of goods such as clothes.

Of course, we also dedicate time at each meeting to being outdoors, exercise and outdoor skills.

Scouts

Our Scouts have adapted quickly to the shorter days and we have modified our

activities to suit both outdoor games and activities to learn new skills. Like the Cubs, the Scouts have been looking at Emergency Aid (stages 3 and 4 for Scouts). We are also focusing on bringing in our other interests from outside Scouting, hobbies and sports mainly, into our meetings which always brings a lot of variety and never fails to surprise.

In addition we are taking part in a District-wide badge design competition, getting familiar with new equipment such as Trangia lightweight camping stoves, and Vango Tempest 200 tents which have been donated to the group, and continuing with the Meteorologist Activity Badge.

The Meteorologist Activity Badge involves recognising cloud types, understanding various atmospheric measurements (temperature, pressure, humidity, etc), understanding weather systems and keeping records for three months - important knowledge for the climate extremes which are becoming more frequent.

We are looking forward the third weekend in October where Scouts the world over take part in the Jamboree on the Air/Internet. A chance for Scouts from all across the world to communicate via Ham Radio or the Internet.

In the past we have made contact with Scouts from all the continents of the world and had fascinating conversations learning that whilst some things maybe a little different in other lands, our shared values really unite our worldwide movement.



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 Cobley 01285 861444

Craft Club Kathryn Gray 01285 869341,

kathryngray28@yahoo.co.uk

Cricket Mark Brooks (sec) 01285 862401

Dig Deeper Revd Shirley Danby 01793 751463

Football Junior Dave Affleck 07989 547898

Friends of Holy Cross Alison Beadle 01285 861411

Holy Cross Church Canon Debbie 01793 752718

Revd Shirley 07980 548844 Admin 01793 979304,

admin@upperthames.org.uk

Holy Cross Flowers

Jiu Jitsu Club (Cirencester) James Slaughter,

Keep Fit Tim Bird 07794 614962, 01285 656986

TimothyGBird@aol.com

Messy Church Shirley Danby 01793 751463

Millennium Green Trustees Ashley Seymour

ashleyseymour@aol.com 07759 552677

Minety Squash Club Tim 01666 860368

tim@lagondahire.co.uk

Mothers Union Margaret Godfrey 01666 860536

Neighbourhood Watch paul.eastham@totalise.co.uk

Orchestra www.cirencesterphil.co.uk

Parish Council (AK) Fiona Ryder 07394 856232.,

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

Parish Council (Leigh) Mandy Thomas

01285 860488

Parochial Church Council Andrew Sims (Sec)

07500 884188

Pre-school 01285 869433,

www.ashtonkeynespreschool.co.uk,

communications@ashtonkeynespreschool.co.uk

secretary@ashtonkeynespreschool.co.uk

fundraising@ashtonkeynespreschool.co.uk

Reading Group c.conlon@icloud.com

Rural Cinema Dave Sheppard dave@akvh.org.uk

Short Mat Bowls ddsak78@gmail.com

Siren Sisters Val Skehan 01285 860069,

www.sirensisters.org.uk

Tai Chi (Down Ampney) Tim Price

01793 752852, tim@cotswoldwu.co.uk,

www.cotswoldwu.co.uk

The Telephone Gallery, Kathryn Gray, 01285

869341, thetelephonegallery@gmail.com

www.thetelephonegallery.blogspot.com

Tennis Annie Dyson ashtonkeynestennis@gmail.com

The Magnificent AKs Stuart Harris

stuart.harris1965@gmail.com

Twinning Association

ashtonkeynestwinning@gmail.com

Village Emergency Telephone System (VETS)

01793 250211

Walking Group Liz Chick 01285 861317

lizzie_chick@yahoo.com

Whitefriars Sailing Club Patrick Green, 01285

861670, info@whitefriars.org

Women's Book Group Liz Chick 01285 861317

lizzie_chick@yahoo.com

Women's Institute Sheila Ward 07920179287

Ashtonkeynessec@wiltshirewi.org.uk

& Sarah Owenson 07811267888

sarah.owenson@googlemail.com

www.facebook.com/AshtonKeynesWI

Writers www.newbreweryarts.org.uk



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