Ashton Keynes & Leigh Newsletter

November 2026

Remembrance Sunday Service



Join us in honouring those who served -

Sunday 8 November

10:55 am at Holy Cross

Act of remembrance at the churchyard war memorial
10:55 a.m. on Wednesday 11 November

All Souls Bereavement Service - page 3

Dust off your dancing shoes - pages 11 & 38

Donations in Lieu of Christmas Cards - page 15

Fireworks event - page 25

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Dear Friends,

Upper Thames Churches
Overflowing with God's Love

I rarely think of November as the start of something, but this year I am doing just that.

I usually associate November with long winter evenings and a time of remembering, with All Souls and Remembrance happening, and starting to think about the approach of Advent - this year feels rather different as we move into the Vacancy and we have said our fond farewells to Reverend Debbie.

This is a time now to be thinking ahead to who might be our next vicar, and what sort of an incumbent we need to take us forward into the next stage of our church life.

Whoever they are, and whenever they come to us, is now in God's hands, and we must trust in His plans and His timing. I have a favourite verse from Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

This is the God in whom we put our trust, who will guide us forward into the time ahead and will prompt the vicar we need to come forward and apply to lead us in the years ahead. And waiting is not a passive occupation, we are not called to sit and twiddle our thumbs, we must continue to grow and move ahead in building God's Kingdom throughout the Upper Thames group of churches.

Right now, what we can do is to pray for guidance and to continue to work together in supporting each other as I'm sure we will. Some people embrace change gladly and others fear it, so we must trust God for the courage we all need to step boldly into this time of uncertainty and then into a new era in the life of our churches and our communities.

Suzi Tipper, Licensed Lay Minister
(with Upper Thames group of churches)



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Editorial

The leaves have started to turn their glorious shades of autumn before they fall, the squirrels are busy burying their nuts in the ground and the rains have finally arrived, it definitely feels like autumn is in full flow now. However, do not think about hibernating just yet because there's still plenty of groups to get involved with and events to attend within the village.

If you can't stop your feet moving to a lively beat then head on down to the barn dance or the Christmas charity gig both at the village hall (pages 11 & 38). Perhaps you'd prefer to sit back and listen to the AKs or Siren Sisters (page 32 & 17), take part in some market research (page 15) or attend one of the wonderful church services remembering those who gave up their lives for our freedom or just those that we love but can no longer hug.

As always there's something for everyone within the village.



Deadlines and Advertising

Editorial Team:	Claire Sims	07955 563571
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Advertising:	Claire Sims	07955 563571
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 **DEC/JAN** newsletter to **AKLnewsletter@gmail.com** or to Claire Sims, 18 Happy Land, Ashton Keynes **by 8pm on 16 NOVEMBER.**

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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Winter Warmers
Cotswold puddings are back in stock and they are delicious! They are made in Poulton, so it's good to support a local business. Choose from sticky toffee, sticky ginger or sticky chocolate.

You don't have to tell your friends or family that you didn't make it - we can keep a secret!



Ready Meals
Bistro Chef ready meals are also back in the freezer and these are perfect for an easy supper after a busy day at work or shopping. There's a good selection including lasagne, smoked haddock linguine, fish pie and basque chicken.



Christmas Is Coming
There are only 54 days until Christmas and mince pies are already on the shelf. Look out for other seasonal cakes, chocolates, selection boxes and more.

The Butcher's order form will also soon be available.

New In
Drivers range Pickled Eggs are mild and tangy with a creamy yolk and they are a good addition to a Christmas cheeseboard or buffet.

The Pickled Onions are sweet and crunchy and are ideal with cold meats, pork pies or sausage rolls.



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Wednesday 4 November 2026 – Roofman (15)

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

"Based on actual events, and terrible decisions"

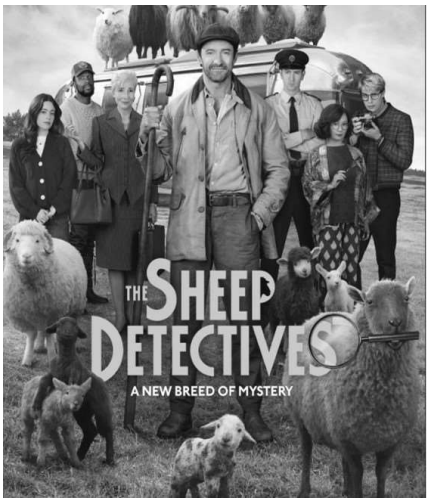


Based on an unbelievable true story, Roofman follows Jeffrey Manchester (Channing Tatum), an Army veteran and struggling father who turns to robbing McDonald's restaurants by cutting holes in their roofs, earning him the nickname: Roofman. After escaping prison, he secretly lives inside a Toys "R" Us 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*

Reviewers say 'Roofman' delivers Channing Tatum's career-best performance in a charming, genre-blending film that successfully balances crime, comedy, and drama. Kirsten Dunst and the supporting cast earn strong praise for their emotional depth and nuanced portrayals of complex characters. An engaging, emotionally potent story about redemption and moral ambiguity. *IMDb (edited)*

Wednesday 2 December 2026 – The Sheep Detectives (PG)

Starring Hugh Jackman, Brett Goldstein, Patrick Stewart and many others.



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MP South Cotswolds

November arrives when the questions I am asked most often in this part of the constituency shift from the summer's concerns to winter ones; flooding, heating, road conditions and the resilience of local services when the weather turns.

October brought Flood Action Week, which I used as an opportunity to press for faster progress on flood resilience across the Upper Thames communities. Ashton Keynes knows better than most what sustained rainfall can mean for homes and gardens, and the investment commitments made for communities in this area need to translate into visible action before winter arrives in earnest. I have been pressing the Environment Agency for a clear timeline, and I will keep doing so. If you have been affected by flooding and have not yet been in touch with my office, please do so - the evidence residents share is exactly what strengthens the case I make to the agencies responsible.

After Flood Action Week, I held the annual Flood meeting, which gave communities from across the South Cotswolds a chance to come together, raise their concerns and learn more about what is currently being done to protect their communities. This year it was held in Crudwell on 23 October and it was brilliant to see so many residents from across the constituency there. Hearing from water company representatives and the council, as well as putting forward my own perspective on what can be done for communities, was incredibly worthwhile.

If you have a concern to raise, please do get in touch; my team and I always try to do all we can to help.

Warm wishes, Roz



Roz Savage
MP South Cotswolds
roz.savage.mp@parliament.uk
www.rozsavagemp.uk
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Ashton Keynes Link Helpline 07512 233200

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

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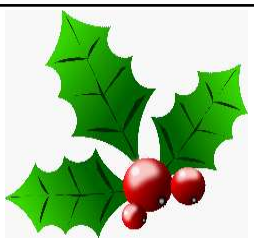
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Christmas Greetings to the Village 2026

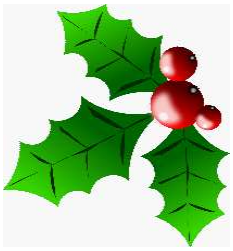


For many years, folk have sent both Christmas greetings to the village and supported that year's chosen charities through the newsletter. It's very simple to do and **now is the time to do it!** First, choose which charity you want to support and make your donation. It's very easy to give - all the charities are able to accept donations on-line. This year's charity choices are;

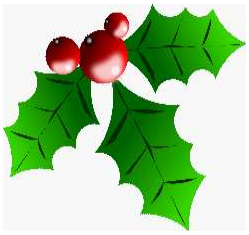
- ***The Stroke Association*** who provide lifelong support for stroke survivors and their families.
  Go to www.stroke.org.uk, click on "Donation" and follow the link
- ***Guide Dogs for the Blind*** are the world's largest assistance dog organisation.
  Go to www.guidedogs.org.uk, click on "Ways to give" and follow the link
- ***Cirencester Housing for Young People (CHYP)*** provide 24-hour accommodation and support for young homeless people to live independently.
  Go to cirencesterhousingforyoungpeople.com, click on "Get involved" then "Donate" (transfers to a JustGiving page)
- ***Cirencester Hospital League of Friends*** raise money for new equipment, facilities and extra comforts for staff and patients.
  Go to www.chlof.org, click on "JustGiving" in top right-hand corner of Home page and follow the link.

Please also think about Gift Aiding your donation if you're eligible - it makes a big difference!

Then, **let me know** as soon as you can but **by Monday 9 November at the very latest** how you want to appear in the list of greetings to the village which will be published in the December newsletter. Please also let me know - in strict confidence - how much you have donated, so I can confirm the grand totals raised in the newsletter early next year. I am Bridget Batchelor and my email address is **bridgetb@btinternet.com**. Please contact me if you have any queries, otherwise I look forward to hearing from you by Monday 9 November with your Christmas newsletter greeting and amount donated**.**



Thank you on behalf of all those who will benefit.





Daily Mail Good Health – Minety/Charlton PFAS drinking-water appeal.

I'm a journalist and regular writer for the Daily Mail's Good Health section. I'm investigating PFAS ("forever chemicals") in drinking water and am looking for a long-term resident of Minety, Charlton or the surrounding supply area who might be willing to take part in a laboratory blood test for the feature.

The Drinking Water Inspectorate has required extra treatment after PFAS was found in the local water supply. We would cover the cost of the blood test and arrange expert medical interpretation.

Anyone interested could contact me for a non-obligation chat at **willstoddartjournalist@gmail.com**

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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.

Best Kept Village Laurence Kitching Award
The Laurence Kitching Winner of Winners presentation took place on Sunday 20 September. A permanent staff has been installed on the High Road and a certificate has been displayed in the Village Hall.

The Parish Council would like to express its thanks to all who helped make this possible, those who attended the presentation and to Ashton Keynes WI for their catering and hospitality offering at the presentation.

The High Sheriff of Wiltshire sent a letter of thanks which included the following message: "Wishing everybody in Ashton Keynes the very best for the future, you remain a fine example to us all".

Local Highway and Footway Improvement Group Updates
Village gates have now been installed on the B4696. It is hoped that these will provide a visual indicator to motorists that they are entering a village and encourage them to drive accordingly.

Two bend-warning signs on Rixon Gate have been approved by LHFIG. Proposed locations and expected costs are due to be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting.

An update from the CIL Working Group
The CIL Working Group has been reviewing the village survey results and turning the top priorities into practical projects. We currently have 12 projects under review, each being assessed for its cost and potential benefit to the village.
These include improvements to the village hall car park, parish-owned buildings such as the High Road Pavilion, Village Hall and Bradstone, outdoor recreational spaces, and cycle paths. Once the larger projects are finalised and reviewed by the Parish Council, the working group will be ready to begin proposing allocation of CIL funds.

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

The next Parish Council meetings will be held on
Thursday 12 November and 3 December at 7.30pm in Bradstone Pavilion.
Agenda and minutes are available on the Parish Council website akpc.org.uk and noticeboard

Planning:

Applications considered for which there was 'Objection'

The Barn, 8A High Road – Internal alterations and modifications to general layout with new open porch roof and replacement of late 20th century UPVC windows.

Applications considered for which there was 'No Objection'

30 Kent End – Proposed erection of self-build dwelling.

Land Adjacent Guest Farm, Rixon Gate – Demolition of redundant farm buildings and construction of 4 no. dwellings.

Kings Drive – Listed building consent. Amendment roof covering finishes.

25 Park Place – Red Mulberry tree – reduce by 40%.

Rixon Farm, Rixon Gate – Variation of condition 2 of 14/03493/FUL to allow the resizing and relocation of the carports serving plots 3, 4 and 5, the relocation of the bats roosting space, and the amendment of the incorrectly shown footpath from the site entrance on the original application.

24 Kent End – 2 x Ash trees – remove limbs overhanging garden of 24 Kent End.

Applications for which there was 'No Comment'

34 Richmond Court – Silver Birch – reduce crown back to previous pruning points. Ash – repollard. Hazel – reduce to fence height.

Applications determined by Wiltshire Council 'No Objection'

7 Cove House Gardens – Monterey Cypress – fell to ground level. Goat Willow – create new pollard point at 3m and allow to regenerate.

Applications determined by Wiltshire Council 'Approved with Conditions'

4 Birch Glade, Park Place – Replacement of existing windows, doors and garage doors as well as enlargement of the existing window opening to form aluminium French doors with glazed side panels.

Bridge House, Happy Land – Installation of external air conditioning unit located at the rear of the property.



Church matters

Services for November 2026

Date	Church	Time	Service
Sunday 1 November All Saints Day	St Sampson's, Cricklade	**8am** **10am** **6.30pm**	Holy Communion Morning Worship *with music group & children's activities* All Souls' Bereavement Service with candle lighting - *Cricklade & Latton*
	Holy Cross, Ashton Keynes	**10am** **4pm**	Holy Communion All Souls' Bereavement Service with candle lighting - *AK & Leigh*
	St John the Baptist, Latton	**10am**	Morning Worship
Sunday 8 November Remembrance Sunday	St Sampson's, Cricklade	**11.15am**	Remembrance Service
	Holy Cross, Ashton Keynes	**10.55am**	Remembrance Service
	St John the Baptist, Latton	**10.55am**	Remembrance Service
Sunday 15 November 2nd before Advent	St Sampson's, Cricklade	**8am** **10am** **6.30pm**	Holy Communion BCP, *followed by breakfast* Morning Worship Evensong
	Holy Cross, Ashton Keynes	**10am**	'Around the table' Morning Worship
	St John the Baptist, Latton	**10am**	Holy Communion
Sunday 22 November Sunday before Advent /Christ the King	St Sampson's, Cricklade	**10am**	Holy Communion
	Holy Cross, Ashton Keynes	**8.30am**	Holy Communion BCP
	St John the Baptist, Latton	**10am**	Morning Worship
Sunday 29 November Advent Sunday	Malmesbury Abbey *North Wilts Deanery (includes all Upper Thames churches)*	**9.30am** **11am**	Family Focused NWMA Worship Together Holy Communion
	St Sampson's, Cricklade	**6pm**	Advent Iona Communion

All Souls' Bereavement weekend 31 Oct and 1 Nov - *Remembering those we love but see no longer.*

This year again, Holy Cross church will be open on Saturday 31 October from 1.45pm to 3pm for anyone who would like to come in and light a candle to remember a loved one.

The Sunday afternoon service on Sunday 1 November at 4pm in Holy Cross (and 6.30pm in St Sampson's) will be, as in previous years, a time to remember with thanks the lives of those who we've loved and who have loved us, and to seek comfort and hope in Jesus.



During the services there will be a time to light and bring forward a candle, as a symbol of the light and life Jesus offers both now and to come.

If you have loved ones who you'd like us to include please contact Revd Shirley or Suzi Tipper or our parishes administrator on admin@upperthames.org.uk or phone 01793 979304 and leave a message.

A BIG THANKYOU to the children and staff of both Ashton Keynes Pre-School and Ashton Keynes Primary School for coming to Holy Cross church for their harvest celebrations. And we say a big 'thankyou' to our school families for the many donations for our local Malmesbury & North Wilts Foodbank - the gifts you offer will be much appreciated by families who need help from the foodbank.

Remembrance Sunday Service on 8 November and Act of Remembrance on Wednesday 11 November

Remembrance Sunday services, to which everyone in the community is very welcome, will be held at both Holy Cross church Ashton Keynes and at Leigh All Saints church on Sunday 8 November. Both of which start at 10.55am.

Please do join us as we remember with thanks the sacrifice made by people from our villages and beyond, and we will pray for peace - prayers that are much needed today in our very troubled world.

On Wednesday 11 November at 10.55am in Holy Cross churchyard by the war memorial, there will be a short Act of Remembrance and everyone is welcome.

Church opening times for private prayer

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

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

Weekday Worship

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

Zoom Monday morning prayers – contact David Tarr

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

Upper Thames Churches
Overflowing with God's Love

From the registers of the Upper Thames Group of Churches

September 2026

FUNERALS

Name	Date & Church
David Geoffrey Roberts OBE	4 September, Holy Cross Ashton Keynes
Julia Mary Adams	28 September, Holy Cross Ashton Keynes

WEDDINGS

Name	Date & Church

BAPTISMS

Name	Date & Church
Phoebe Elizabeth Cleo Ellis *and* Evelyn Rose Florence Ellis	6 September, All Saints Leigh
Archibald Scot Mitchell West	27 September, All Saints Leigh

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

Website **https://www.upperthames.org.uk**

Vicar: *to be appointed*
vicar@upperthames.org.uk | 01793 752718 + answerphone

Associate Vicar: Revd Shirley Danby
revdshirleyd@gmail.com | **07980 548844**

Parishes Administrator: Jane Eyles
admin@upperthames.org.uk | 01793 979304

For weddings and baptisms, please check out our website **https://www.upperthames.org.uk/what-we-offer/** or contact Revd Shirley or Jane Eyles

Church matters cont'd

Have you ever wondered about coming to church? Would you like something a little more informal? Maybe you're not sure what will happen? Our Iona style "Around the Table" worship starts with coffee / tea and biscuits / cake at Holy Cross on the 3rd Sunday of the month (next one is on 15 November) often using words written by the Iona community and we explore together what the Bible says to us today. Everyone is welcome and if you're not used to coming to church that doesn't matter at all, we will guide you through it. If you would like to know more, do contact Revd Shirley on 07980 548844 or Pauline Loveday on 07983 265117.

On **Advent Sunday 29 November** we will join with all other churches in our North Wiltshire Deanery (i.e. churches in the Malmesbury area) for our Service together in Malmesbury Abbey, at which Revd Shirley will be presiding. Do contact Rev'd Shirley or Pete Tuck if you would like a lift to Malmesbury.



Advent Iona Communion 6pm at St Sampson's church Cricklade on Sunday 29 November. Everyone is welcome as we gather together with a more informal communion service celebrating our Advent theme of light coming into darkness. If anyone would like a lift, again please do contact Revd Shirley.

Farewell to our retiring vicar Canon Debbie Dewes and what next?
Holy Cross church would like to pay tribute to Canon Debbie for all that she has done for us and with us in our Upper Thames Group of Parishes. With 34 years of ordained ministry behind her, we celebrated with her at the Service of Thanksgiving for Debbie's retirement and prayed for God's blessing on this next chapter in her book of life.

The process for finding the next vicar for our Upper Thames churches has begun but, in the meantime, the church wardens along with Revd Shirley and our lay ministers Suzi, Pauline and Pete will ensure that our ministry and mission and serving the needs of our communities of Ashton Keynes and Leigh, as well as Cricklade and Latton, will be ongoing.



AK Primary School

As we head towards October half term, we reflect on what has been a super start to this academic year.

Welcome Class R



We have been delighted to welcome our new Reception class, who have settled wonderfully into the busy life of our school. We are incredibly proud of how our youngest children, some of whom have only recently turned four, have embraced new routines and experiences with such confidence, enthusiasm and joy.

Our Year 6 pupils have been exceptional role models, showing great care and kindness as buddies to the Reception children. To celebrate this special partnership, we held a lovely welcome service in church, formally welcoming our Reception pupils into our school and church family. Year 6 created a special star for each of their buddies, and both classes came together to sing and dance to the song *Stars*.

Rocksteady

This year we are delighted to introduce Rocksteady Music School to AK. Rocksteady is the UK's leading provider of in-school, band-led rock and pop music lessons for primary-school-aged children. Many of the children from Year 1 to Year 6 are learning to play an instrument (electric guitar, bass, drums, keyboard, or vocals) during weekly band sessions with the amazing musician Chris. The progress since September has been incredible and the children are buzzing with enthusiasm. We look forward to each band's first performance next term.



Harvest Festival

Our whole school community came together to celebrate Harvest Festival at church in a joyful and meaningful service. Led by Rev. Shirley, supported by members of the 'Open the Book' team and representatives from our Worship Council, the celebration gave us the opportunity to reflect on the importance of gratitude, generosity and helping others. We were overwhelmed by the kindness shown by our families, with many children bringing donations of food and household essentials. These contributions were gratefully received and later delivered to our local foodbank, helping to support members of the wider community. We are incredibly proud of the compassion and generosity demonstrated by our children.

ASHTON KEYNES
Church of England VC Primary School
SHINE BRIGHT ★ REACH FOR THE STARS

A visit to school from Kev F Sutherland - Graphic artist, caricaturist, and comic strip creator

We were delighted to welcome Kev back to school for another inspiring and creative day. He captivated the children with a fantastic whole-school assembly before leading engaging workshops with Classes 5 and 6. Inspired by Kev's enthusiasm and expertise, the children created their own comic strips and were thrilled to take home a personalised caricature.



Working together with each class, Kev also designed these unique comic book covers, bringing the children's ideas to life. It was a truly memorable day, filled with creativity, laughter and inspiration.

New Fire pit for Forest School



We are delighted with our newly built fire pit, a wonderful addition to our Forest School provision. Funded through a generous grant, the fire pit has been designed to be accessible to all and can also be enjoyed by the community groups that make use of our school grounds.

We look forward to making the most of this exciting new resource, developing valuable outdoor and life skills, creating lasting memories, and of course, toasting the occasional marshmallow around the fire!

Fireworks Event - 7 November

Remember, remember the seventh of November! Please save the date for our Fireworks extravaganza. This is our biggest fundraiser and it promises to be a fantastic evening of fabulous fireworks, food and entertainment. We hope to see many of you there.





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sk@khanadamson.com

Website: www.khanadamson.co.uk

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Running group - 6.45 pm Thursdays

Private studio - Ashton Keynes

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

The Telephone Gallery

Make Time for Creativity was the exhibition in the Telephone Gallery during October.



As described in the Craft Club article this month, it was created during September's Craft Club held in Ashton Keynes Village Hall. While others knitted, crocheted, and sewed, ten of us created a collaborative artwork.

Inspired by some beautiful seasonal flowers, we followed a series of fun drawing exercises, like drawing with our non-dominant hand, then added watercolours and oil pastels after our refreshment break. We enjoyed the social and mindful process before leaving the finished piece to dry in the sun.

Taking time to be creative can support our wellbeing by helping us relax, focus, and enjoy making something. Creative activities also bring people together, encouraging conversation, shared ideas, and a sense of community.

This is a wonderful activity to enjoy with friends, where each person takes home a piece of the artwork to frame afterwards. If you'd like to get a group of friends together and create something amazing together, contact me **kathryngray28@yahoo.co.uk.**

At the time of writing, the exhibition planned for after this has been cancelled, so linked to the theme of creativity in the community, I'll be using the space to promote some local art/craft workshops taking place in November and December, e.g. a parent and child 3D star making on 21 November at the White Hart. Contact me for more details.

Please do get in touch if you'd like to have an exhibition in the Telephone Gallery or to use it as a space to promote a forthcoming event in a creative way.

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

Living Advent Calendar Trail

Would you like to take part in Ashton Keynes' third Living Advent Calendar Trail? We are looking for households with a window or windows visible from the road to decorate and light up at around 4.30pm between 1 December and 24 December. Let's make the trail bigger and brighter this year and bring some festive magical cheer to the village! Please sign up by emailing **thetelephonegallery@gmail.com before 10 November** so that a list of the houses can be published in the December newsletter.

CIRENCESTER REPAIR CAFÉ

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

Drinkable Rivers



In 2005, a Dutch university lecturer, Li An Phoa, canoed the full length of the Rupert river in Canada. All along the way, she could drink water straight from the river. Three years later, Li An came back and found she could not drink from the Rupert river anymore because it was polluted as a result of dams and mining. Fish died, people got ill - the delicately balanced ecosystem had been destroyed. Li An realised that a drinkable river is an indicator of healthy living. Indeed, when we can drink from our rivers, it means that a whole ecosystem is healthy and in balance. From the water, river banks and river bed to the insects, wildlife, birds, butterflies and humans - everything is thriving.

Li An suggests we use drinkable rivers as a guiding principle for our societies, as opposed to GDP. And she asks this simple question; "Does this behaviour/ action/ policy or innovation contribute to drinkable rivers?"

Li An set about creating DrinkableRivers.Org a grassroots project spreading the drinkability of rivers as a different way to measure a truly healthy and thriving society. Teaching us all to respect and love our rivers which we can all do through our daily actions. We go back to Li An's question; Is what I'm eating, drinking, washing with, cleaning with, wearing, buying and/or travelling in contributing to a drinkable river, or not? Every small step in the right direction is significant.

Rivers support all life on earth, they are our lifeblood. We cannot live without water, indeed we are made up of 70% water. All living beings are part of a watershed around rivers and here, in Ashton Keynes, we are part of the immense Thames watershed, linking us with our watershed family all the way to the east and right out to the sea.

In 2023 Li An and her partner Maarten walked the length of the Thames starting at the source near Kemble. A few of us met them at the source, sang some songs and shared a picnic before we set off to accompany them on their first leg. Since then, they have walked over 20,000 km along 10 rivers around the world.

I had a Zoom catch up with Li An a few days ago; she remains an absolute bundle of energy and everywhere she goes she sweeps people up in the simple vision that rivers can return to being drinkable. Through her 'Drinkable Rivers' initiative, she inspires people to get involved, inviting communities to walk with her, carry out citizen science testing the river water in their area, and to spend time *with* and advocate *for* their local river.

A drinkable river is achievable with a combination of small individual actions, policy interventions and system changes from industry.



It won't surprise you to learn that our MP Roz Savage is fighting for a cleaner river Thames. She has spoken in debates, written to ministers and hosted a screening of the documentary 'Dirty Business'. Through Roz, the Thames has a voice in parliament.

Take the first step today by pledging to simply thank the water every time you turn on the tap. Aren't we lucky for this gift right into our homes?

Health matters

Purton and Green Gable Surgery

For the patients in Purton, Cricklade and surrounding communities

200 Club

Thank you to everyone who has already completed their payment for the new year of the 200 Club which began in September.

Please don't worry if you have not joined yet as 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 have been notified. The numbers were drawn by our Care Co-ordinator, Teresa Philpott and are:
First prize of £100 to winning number 136
Second prize of £15 to number 16
Many congratulations!

Tabletop /Book donations

At this point we have sufficient donations of books, so if you have any please donate them to the other worthy local causes.

However, we do need good quality items that might make the perfect Christmas gift for someone. Should you have anything for the table please hand it to reception at either surgery. Again, funds raised through these donations provide all the 'extras' needed. We thank you for your contributions.

Harvest Tombola / Flu Clinic

Our thanks go to everyone who made the Harvest Tombola that was held alongside the Saturday 'flu clinic' in October such a success. Special applause to Sylvia and Colin Freemantle for organising and hosting it. The total amount raised will be announced in the next newsletter. All proceeds will go towards items requested by the medical staff.

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.

PURTON SURGERY
Patient Participation Group

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

Since 4 August 2026, Dr de Silva has been 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.

Repeat Prescriptions

If you need a repeat prescription, you may request your medication by signing up for online access and ordering through this system. Alternatively, 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 login 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


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ASHTON KEYNES OWN HILARIOUS SINGING MACHINE
Tickets
Umm.
Nearly Christmas innit?
7-11 pm
ASHTON KEYNES
VILLAGE HALL
SAT 5th DECEMBER


Start the Christmas season in style with
your friends and neighbours
Friday 4th December
6pm - 9pm
Christmas
Sparkle Evening
Seasonal drinks, piano bar, raffle and silent auction
Holy Cross Church, Ashton Keynes, SN6 6QR
Tickets £12 includes welcome glass of fizz and nibbles,
available in AK Village Shop

Club news

Ashton Keynes Women's Institute

A huge thank you to everyone who attended our WI meeting on Wednesday 14 October, it was a fast-paced evening of dice rolling, laughter and frantic Beetle drawing. The room was filled with energy as we competed to roll that crucial number 6 to start our Beetle. Congratulations to our overall champion who got the highest score. It was a great revival of the game and a very sociable evening which also included cheese, wine and nibbles which all added to the evening's enjoyment.

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.

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:

- **11 November** – Christmas Craft evening

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

Ashton Keynes

SENIORS TABLE TENNIS CLUB

(for AK residents aged 50 and over)

Absolutely just for fun - ALL abilities welcome!

2-5pm every Monday (*or come for as long as you like*) in the Village Hall



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

Interested?

Please contact Diana Wain (organiser) on dw24813@gmail.com or telephone 07522 983300

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.

- **The King's Speech**
  5 Nov – 2.30pm Matinee – Ashton Keynes, South Cerney, Siddington

It's a fantastic production, making its debut at the Barn before going on a nationwide tour. It tells the story of Bertie, the Duke of York, who unexpectedly becomes George VI. Shy and struggling with a severe stammer, Bertie faces the daunting challenge of delivering a historic radio address as Britain stands on the brink of the Second World War. With the monarchy and the nation's morale at stake, he turns to Lionel Logue, an unconventional Australian speech therapist, for help. As they work together, their sessions grow into a deep friendship, combining humour, warmth and high stakes as Bertie learns to find his voice and fulfil his duty.

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

Autumn is a very busy time of year for the Flower Club. It began with our AGM in September which incorporated an excellent and very enthusiastic talk by Jennifer Susan from Halliesphere. We also launched our new programme for 2027 which includes several floral art demonstrations, workshops for all experience levels, talks, outings and our Emerald Anniversary celebration. More details can be found on our website.



In October there was a last-minute change of plan, so we held a workshop making pavé designs (dense, flat, shallow arrangements best viewed from above), which was a new skill for many.

Our main event of the year is an open meeting with Nick Grounds, a National Demonstrator at Malmesbury Town Hall, on **Wednesday 18 November at 7.30pm**. Nick is also a professional horticultural auctioneer, known for his theatrical, humorous and engaging flower arranging events. ***All are welcome*** to what should be an excellent evening. Tickets are now on sale (£20 for members, £25 for visitors) and include delicious canapés 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**.

After that, on **Saturday 28 November** we are holding a Christmas Wreath Making Workshop at the Riverside Community Centre in Malmesbury from 2pm to 4.30pm. This will be open to anyone who would like to learn a new skill, especially non-members, for a cost of £40 including tea and mince pies. If you'd like more information or to book, please check our website above or our Facebook page – North Wiltshire Villages Flower Club. *Places are limited so book soon!*

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.

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. 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.

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 website - **connectingwiltshire.co.uk**.

Cricklade and District Probus Club

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

12 November **The History of England's Last Battle; Sedgemoor and the Monmouth Rebellion**
26 November **The Wilts and Berks Canal**

Meetings normally take place fortnightly on a Thursday, meeting at 10am for a 10.20am 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, with a £1 charity donation. 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.

October's Craft Club (which will have taken place after the newsletter deadline) was the club's third anniversary, during which we'll have chosen our new charity to support as well as eaten some celebratory cake. We raised £174 for the local Food Bank and filled up the Food Bank box in the Village Shop with £142's worth of goods. I'll shop some more once it's been emptied.



At September's Craft Club we created an amazing artwork that was later displayed in the Telephone Gallery. While others focused on knitting, crocheting, and sewing, ten of us collaborated to create it. With some lovely bunches of flowers from Page Green Flowers in Cricklade placed in the centre of the table, we worked through various drawing exercises, moving around so no one claimed ownership of a single section. Once the sheet was filled with drawings, we paused for tea or coffee—and some Rocky Road—before removing the flowers and adding colour with watercolours, using different brush sizes, and with oil pastels too. We moved around the table again and let the finished creation dry in the sun.

November's Craft Club will be on **Wednesday 18 November from 2pm to 4pm in the Village Hall**. 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.

Ashton Keynes Village Hall

Sat 12th Dec

From 7pm

The Christmas Charity Gig!

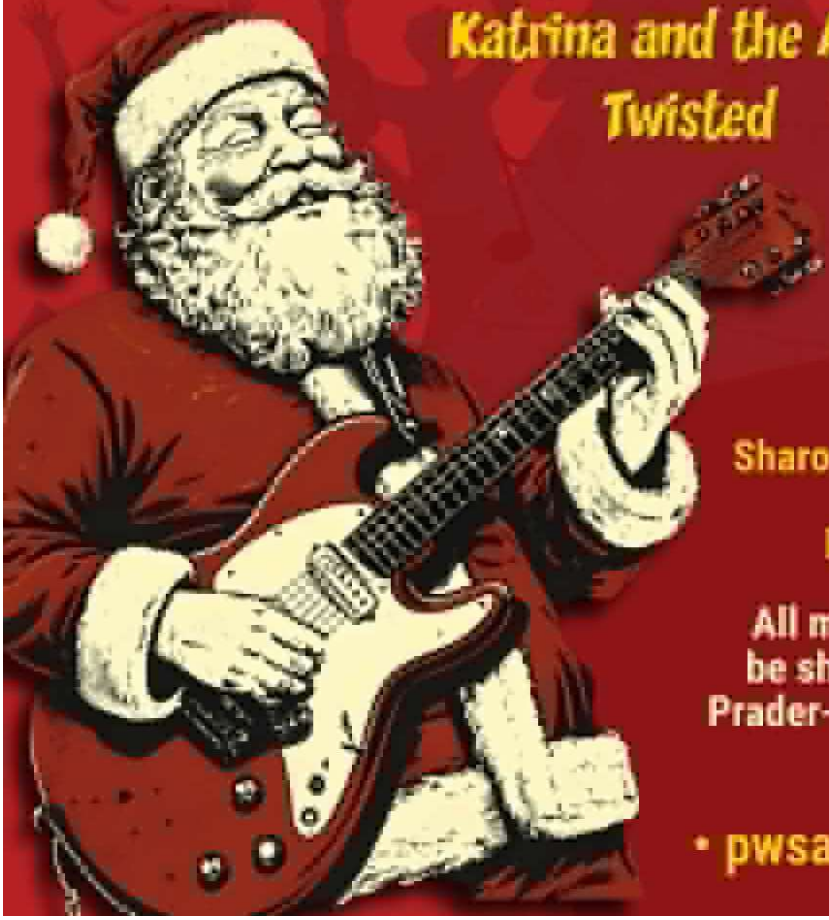
RAFFLE

LIVE MUSIC

Jemma Prew

Katrina and the Aged Twisted

LICENSED BAR



Free glass of bubbly

Tickets £10

Tickets available from
Sharon McCaffertty: 07974 370217
or Hannah Padley:
hannah@fndfriends.com

All money raised at the event will be shared between both charities:
Prader-Willi Syndrome Association UK
& FND Friends UK

• pwsa.co.uk • fndfriends.com

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 3 November at 7:30pm in the Cricklade Town Hall Annexe**, it is the first round of the club's annual league competition. Members will have entered up to two digital images and two printed images; they will be scored by an external judge on the night. Even if you haven't entered any images come along, it's a great way to learn what makes a great photograph.

On **Tuesday 17 November at 7.30pm in the Town Hall Committee room** is a workshop entitled "Post Processing". Learn how to make a photograph an interpretation of what you saw, rather than simply what the camera captured.

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

Club news continued

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 village's 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 online), 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 Drey (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

Raise funds for St Sampson's Refurbishment Appeal when you shop online

Shopping online this festive period?

Raise ***free*** donations for the St Sampson's Church's refurbishment appeal when you shop at over 6,000 stores online using **Give as you Live Online**!

Just visit **https://www.giveasyoulive.com/join/st-sampsons-church** for more information.

It's easy to do and generates extra donations to us at no cost to you.

Thank you for your support.



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.
P*lease 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 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 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
ParishCouncil (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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