

Issue
No.130



Aston le Walls and Appletree Newsletter

June/July
2026



“Summer afternoon - summer afternoon; to me those have always been the two most beautiful words in the English language”. **Henry James**

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Having spent a week in Scotland it was quite surprising to watch the temperature climb as I drove South into the Bank Holiday heatwave. Setting off in 10 degrees Celsius I was not prepared for 31 C and more on arriving home.

My discomfort was compounded when the first message came through from Anglian Water alerting us of a supply problem, as the heat built through Tuesday so the water pressure continued to fall, eventually stopping altogether at 10pm. Why am I telling you all something you already know? Well, the water stoppage has highlighted a few things I thought worth sharing so that we can all be better prepared for the next time, because those of you who have lived in Aston for a while will know only too well this is not an isolated incident.

Firstly, if you have set up an online account with Anglian Water you can register a mobile number to which they will automatically send updates when a supply problem occurs near us. You can also check the status of a supply problem at anglianwater.co.uk/check. Secondly, having spent several hours on a WhatsApp chat with an advisor from AW we had a delivery of bottled water, albeit several hours after the water came back on. It may be prudent to store some of this in the event of a repeat outage. The chat was vague as to the trigger for bottled water being distributed, both 12 hours and 24 hours were mentioned as criteria and the website does not offer a figure either. Suffice to say an emergency store of bottled water is a good idea for those of us without cold water tanks. And finally, thinking of our more vulnerable residents who may not have the means of getting out and buying some bottled water there is a priority register on Anglian's website, they aim to keep those on the register updated on the status of the supply and provide bottled water sooner. If you know someone who would benefit from being on the register you can point them to the page on the website, or you can register them on their behalf. Alternatively you can call 03457 919 155 to speak to an adviser. Priority registers are not exclusive to water companies, certainly electricity and phone providers offer a similar service and a quick search for “priority” on their websites will usually take you straight to the information required. So, in summary, whilst it is annoying for the water to have been off on the hottest day of the year so far, it has highlighted what we can do as individuals to help us cope with future supply problems, whether it's water, electricity or broadband.

In other news, you may have seen the results of the HS2 reset which were published last week - they confirmed what most of us already know, and have known for some time. The line is over budget, behind schedule and will be speed restricted when it finally enters service. I spoke with the EKFB engagement team who confirmed that the tunnels are being given top priority because they lie on the section of track earmarked for testing the rolling stock. End of civil construction is predicted to be late 2028 when the project will be handed over to the rail contractors. Appletree Lane will be reopened next summer although the Public Rights of Way (footpaths and bridleways) will be the last to be reinstated once land handback along the line has been completed.

We spoke at length about the road subsidence in Wardington, there is an underground culvert which has collapsed leading to the road sinking, Oxfordshire Highways have repaired it more than once but due to the

importance of the road it is not possible to close it for a more permanent repair and so the problem returns. It's very frustrating that HS2 can't seem to accept that upwards of 300 trucks a day travelling fully laden up the A361 from Banbury railhead to the tunnel site are putting additional pressure on the road surface. For more information on the reset go to the FAQ section of the HS2 website hs2.org.uk

Matt Hawkins - Chair, Aston le Walls Parish Council

VILLAGE HALL – CHAIR REPORT

The **Opening Event** for the new Village Hall will be 6.00 - 8.00 p.m. on **Friday 19th June**, so please put this date in your diary and come and join us. There will be free drinks and nibbles to toast this fabulous new community venue. We will be discussing the full range of events and activities we plan to run over the next year, and looking for new ideas, so please let us know what you would like to see happening at your Village Hall.



We are looking for new people to join our **Management Committee**. We are a team of 7 or 8 people who meet monthly, generally on a Thursday, at 6.00 p.m. We manage all aspects of the Hall, planning and delivering the events and activities. We also have a group of 'Friends of the Village Hall' who attend some meetings and offer valuable support. Many hands make light work! Each Committee member takes the lead on one or more events or activities, with full support from the others. If you are interested, please call me on 07501 484913 to have a chat, or speak to any other Committee member.

A big thank you to Lizzie Barnes-Moss, and Pat Benton, who have decided to step down from the Committee, after many years of volunteering, contributing and achieving so much for the village.

A big welcome to Diane Wincot, Christine Tyler and Ester Smith who have joined the Committee.

We are planning a **Pub and Music night on Friday 10th July**. This is following the success of last year's event which was enjoyed by so many people. There will be a bar, live music and supper. More details will follow but please put it in your diary.

The Scarecrow Trail will be on the weekend of **25th and 26th July**, so why not start thinking now about yours?

There will be a **Jumble Sale on 8th August**, so why not sort out anything you would like to donate?

Other dates for your diary are the annual **Produce Show on 5th September**, the **Harvest Supper on 10th October**, and the **Craft Fair on 28th November**.

We expect the new Village Hall website to be up and running by the beginning of July.

We are also planning to start a morning session of **short mat bowls** from September and are looking for people interested in running it.

Thank you for your continued support and a big thank you to all the members of our Village Hall Friends Group for their hard work fundraising and managing the building process.

Chris Wilson (07501 484913)
Chair, Aston le Walls Village Hall

VILLAGE HALL EVENTS

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GRAND OPENING

Friday 19th June 6-8pm
Free drinks & nibbles

PUB & LIVE MUSIC NIGHT

Friday 10th July

SCARECROW WEEKEND

25th & 26th July

JUMBLE SALE

8th August

PRODUCE SHOW

Saturday 5th September

Anyone wishing to help with these events, or put on other events, should contact Chris Wilson on 07501484913 to offer your support.

Village Coffee Mornings



It is the intention that once the hall is open again the monthly village coffee mornings will return and continue. These are a great social time for coffee/tea & biscuits and chat and are very popular. Held on the 3rd Thursday of each month usually, from 10.30-12.

Scarecrow Weekend 25th & 26th July



The annual scarecrow trail will be taking place on Saturday 25th and 26th July. Villagers are encouraged to make a scarecrow and display it at the front of their property. Those walking around the village can see the scarecrows and guess who or what it is and complete an answer sheet which is available from the village hall. Funds are raised by the entry fee for an answer sheet and Trevor will be doing his cream teas in the village hall. This year there will be a prize for the first and second best scarecrows which will be scored by completed answer sheets. It would be great for as many villagers as possible to make a scarecrow and if you are going to be away that weekend, help to display any scarecrows will be available. Straw will be available if needed, look out for further scarecrow news.

Contact: Esther Smith 07857 676689



A jumble sale will be taking place in the village hall on Saturday 8th August. We are still looking for donations of pre-loved clothes so please think of us if you are having a clear out. Happy to collect any donations. Esther 07857 676689

VILLAGE HALL EVENTS continued

The last monthly village **coffee morning** before returning to the village hall will be at Butler House on Main Street on **Thursday 18th June 10.30-12**



St Leonard's Church

Cream Tea, Stalls and Silent Auction*

Saturday 12th September 3-5pm

Instead of a church fete this year there will be a cream tea event in the village hall with some of the favourite fete stalls (including a cake and artisan bread stall, and the famous bottle tombola!). This is also the Silent Auction event. So hold the date and come for a free cream tea, put in a bid in the Silent Auction, visit the stalls and enjoy an afternoon tea with fellow villagers.

*in aid of St Leonard's Church, Main Street

THE FOOD BANK / COMMUNITY LARDER

(Scrivens Hill, Woodford Halse NN11 3SU) **Note:** please place any donations in the boxes at Comfrey Cottage, Aston, from where they are collected and taken to the hub.



Here is a message from Karen at the Community Larder:

Summer Food Bank Appeal

As we head into the summer holidays, we know this can be an especially difficult time for many families, with children at home and food costs rising. We're asking for any donations to help keep our food bank shelves stocked over the summer weeks. Every item donated really does make a difference.

Items especially needed:

Cereal

Tinned meat & fish

Tinned fruit & vegetables

Pasta & rice

Pasta sauces

Toiletries & hygiene products

Long-life milk & juice

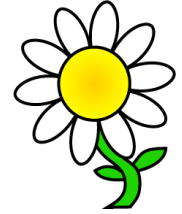
Biscuits & snacks for children

Free From products including gluten free foods

If you're able to help, no matter how small, we would be incredibly grateful. Thank you for continuing to support our communities and helping local families through the summer holidays. Community Larder Staff

OUR VILLAGE 'DAISY BANK' POCKET PARK

a lovely place to visit, access near the Blacksmith's Lane turn on Welsh Road



The park is now mown every 10 to 14 days. Trimming of new growth carried out where necessary. At the May meeting we did the final preparations for the annual park inspection. We trimmed the cow parsley on the entrance path and the paths to both bridges. The path and steps of the bridges were swept. Trimming to the bases of the swing, seating and trees. All furniture, nature signs and pond signs were cleaned. We also carried out a litter pick within the park. The meadows are now flourishing and starting to look beautiful. The new mown area by the lower seating area is coming along well. Unfortunately, the pond has dried up, but the area around it, is still very green. The area that was left by British Rail Heritage contractors looking very poor and muddy has finally started to grow green and wild again. The Team will be working in this area in the coming months. Please do walk down to the park and sit to watch and enjoy nature at its best.

Charles Lees

We always welcome new volunteers to join the team. If you are interested in lending a hand and contributing to the upkeep of the park and can spare an hour on a Sunday morning, we would love to have you on board (chat and refreshments included!)

For further information contact Charles Lees 07971 141 956



New feature! Welcome to new residents!

Here in Aston le Walls we pride ourselves in being a friendly and inclusive village...we added this feature to the newsletter in the last edition - to say hello and welcome to any new residents. So in the future, if appropriate, **please let the editor know the names of any new folk** that have become your neighbours so that we may give them an official Aston welcome here! A belated welcome to Adam, Gabby and baby Leo; Lloyd and Jane; Christina; Jean and John; Helen and Richard; John and Gina; and Christine. If anyone has been overlooked - please let Ali know!!!

ST. LEONARD'S Church (Main Street)

Rev Clare Glover revclare@icloud.com

The 5 churches of the Benefice are:

Aston le Walls - St Leonard
Boddington - St John the Baptist
Byfield - Holy Cross
Eydon - St Nicholas
Woodford Halse - St Mary the Virgin



Anyone is welcome to any church for any service!

Fiveways Benefice services for June and July 2026

June

7 th	9.30am	Boddington	Holy Communion
	10am	Eydon	BCP Morning Prayer
	10 am	Woodford	Café Church
	11am	Byfield	Holy Communion
14 th	9.30am	Eydon	Holy Communion
	10am	Boddington	Morning Prayer
	11am	Aston le Walls	Common Worship Communion
	11am	Byfield	Café Church
21 st	9.30	Aston le Walls	BCP Communion
	10am	Eydon	Family Service
	11am	Woodford	Holy Communion
	6pm	Boddington	Evening Prayer
28 th	9.30	Byfield	BCP Communion
	11am	Aston le Walls	Holy Communion

July

5 th	9.30	Boddington	Holy Communion
	10am	Eydon	BCP Morning Prayer
	10am	Woodford	Café Church
	11am	Byfield	Holy Communion
12 th	9.30	Eydon	Holy Communion
	10am	Boddington	Morning Prayer
	11am	Aston le Walls	Common Worship Communion
	11am	Byfield	Café Church
19 th	9.30am	Aston le Walls	BCP Communion
	10am	Eydon	Family Service
	11am	Woodford	Holy Communion
	6pm	Byfield	Songs of Praise
26 th	9.30am	Eydon	BCP Communion
	11am	Boddington	Holy Communion

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART AND OUR LADY (MAIN ST)

Parish Priest: Fr Michael Chima

Frmichael.chima@northamptondiocese.org Phone: (Daventry) 01604 796405

For service times please see <http://www.st-augustinedaventry.org/>

Fr Michael Chima will say Mass in Aston **every Sunday at 12.30 pm.**

Coffee mornings in The Presbytery will be held on the first Sunday of every month (apart from April) from 11.30-12.15.

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Head Teacher: Mrs Laura Concannon

head@stmarys-pri.northants-ecl.gov.uk

01295 660258

Head Teacher's update:

We have had a successful year to date, with our preschool currently at full capacity and the school being full in most year groups.

Additionally, our Pastoral Support has recently been graded as Outstanding by the Section 48 team, reflecting our commitment to the well-being of our students.

Under the leadership of Mr Causebrook, our sports provision is going from strength to strength, and we are optimistic about achieving the Platinum school mark in 2027. To reach this goal, we must successfully achieve Gold for three consecutive years.

A couple of events from this term:

Education News from the Catholic Diocese of Northampton



It was wonderful to see the children of St Mary's Catholic Primary School come together at the end of their May procession to crown the Statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Moments like this reflect the strong faith life of the school and the reverence and joy with which the children honour Mary through prayer and celebration. May processions are a cherished tradition at St Mary's, celebrating the Blessed Virgin Mary's special place in our faith while also reflecting the beauty of spring - a season that symbolises renewal and new life. In Scripture, Mary declares, "All generations shall call me blessed" (Luke 1:48), words that continue to inspire

devotion and love for her among the faithful.

St Marys Coronation Cup Wednesday 20th May 2026

We first ran the Coronation Cup the year King Charles was crowned. The children in Key Stage 2 (ages 7-11) are split into countries England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland and this year a new addition: Italy. The children played using the rules to 'Touch Rugby'. The tournament consisted of two pitches and two referees. The winning team is awarded medals and the coronation cup trophy. We celebrate the Coronation Cup every May.

2023 winners England; 2024 winners Wales; 2025 winners England ;2026 winners Ireland

NEWS FROM WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Libraries in West Northamptonshire are helping to bridge the digital divide in local communities by gifting free SIM cards to residents who are unable to access the internet.

Working in partnership with the [Good Things Foundation](#) and its National Databank initiative, Council-run libraries including Brackley, Brixworth, Daventry, Deanshanger, Duston, Hunsbury, Northamptonshire Central, Weston Favell and Towcester are providing Vodafone, O2 and Three SIM cards to people experiencing digital poverty. The scheme is designed to support residents who are struggling to stay connected due to financial or access barriers.

Residents aged 18 or over from low-income households may be eligible if they:

- Have no or limited access to the internet at home
- Have no or limited access to the internet when away from home
- Are unable to afford their existing monthly contract or data top-up

Library staff will guide residents through a simple sign-up process and register them on the National Databank platform. No formal evidence is required, making it easy for those in need to access support.

Once activated, the SIM cards enable users to get online and access essential services, including West Northamptonshire Council's (WNC) digital offer, e-books, e-audiobooks and a wide range of online library resources.

Cllr James Petter, Cabinet Member for Local Economy, Culture and Leisure at WNC, said: "Access to the internet is no longer a luxury - it's an essential part of everyday life. This initiative helps ensure that residents who are facing financial challenges are not left behind and can stay connected to the services, opportunities and support they need. Our libraries play a vital role in supporting digital inclusion and we're proud to work with partners to make this happen."

The SIM cards have been donated by major network providers including Vodafone, Virgin Media, O2 and Three. Depending on the provider, SIMs include data, calls and texts for a limited period ranging from one month to up to a year. or a one-off data allowance. The scheme is designed as a temporary stepping stone to help residents regain digital independence. Residents who think they may benefit from the scheme are encouraged to [visit their local council library](#) and speak to a member of staff.

Contact West Northamptonshire Council Communications Team

communications@westnorthants.gov.uk or call the council on 0300 126 7000

If you would prefer to receive your newsletter by email, please email ali.hawkins05@gmail.com with your name and home address. Thank you.

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