

NORTH ASTON NEWS

APRIL 2011

No: 246



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Useful Contacts

North Aston News

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North Aston PCC

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Telephone: (01869) 338434
Email: goosegirl@hotmail.co.uk
Kildare Bourke-Borrowes, Churchwarden
Telephone: (01869) 340200
Email: k.bourkeborrowes@btinternet.com

North Aston Gardening Club

Chris Tuffrey, Chairman. See above.

North Aston Pet Alert

Please notify of any Firework Parties
Deirdre Oakley: Tel (01869) 340646
Also email: info@north-aston.co.uk

North Aston Farms

Telephone: (01869) 347865 or 347888
Email: jemtaylor@mac.com

North Aston Organics

Telephone: (01869) 347702
Email: markstayorganic@yahoo.co.uk

Nicholson Nurseries

Telephone: (01869) 340342
Email: office@nicholsonsgb.com

North Aston 100 Club

Norman West. Tel (01869) 340368

CDC Local Councillor

James Macnamara, Lower Heyford
Telephone: (01869) 340109
Email: cllr.james.macnamara@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

Thames Valley Police

Telephone: 08458 505 505

Out of Hours Doctor

Telephone: 08453 458 995

Upcoming Events

Coffee Morning

6th April. 10:30am-12:00pm. Old Bakery

Crowns & Coronets

29th April, Friday, Duns Tew VH, 8:00pm
Tickets £10. See advert for details.

Music for an Occasion

9th April, Saturday, SA Parish Church, 8:00pm
Tickets £7. See advert for details.



CHAIRMAN Chewing the Cud

Spring is truly in the air. It's wonderful to see the nights starting to draw out after a bleak, horrible winter. With the clocks going forward last weekend all I want to do is spend every daylight hour outside pottering about.

In addition to the items already reported in the newsletter, I have again approached Oxfordshire County Council about assisting with the kerbing of the Green and got a flat refusal from them. No money in the kitty!! Although we had agreed to spend some of the village funds on having the work done, my own opinion is that we should perhaps keep this money and put it towards the Village Hall . . .

And now the Village Hall - We have had visits *from* and had visits *to* various people and places and have started to push the project forward. There is a lot of ground work to do, i.e., setting up a charity to build and run the hall, planning permission, ownership of land and searching for funding. However a tremendous amount of work has already been done to get things rolling. I know there are a few residents in the village who still doubt it will happen, and all I can say is - keep your eye on the newsletter. The village will be kept informed every step of the way. Every major decision regarding the Village Hall will be put to the village first.

We have a Village Hall meeting on the 6th April at Gilmore's The Green and all residents are invited to come, as we need as much help as possible.

The Village Meeting on the 14th April will also discuss the Village Hall. I would like to see as many residents as possible come to each meeting.

Finally: When children come and play on the Green, the last thing we want to have to do when we get them home is to wash the dog muck off them. Please clean up after your dog.. It's quite easy to do and if you do not have any waste bags Eileen has a stock. **As the saying goes "Bag it and Bin it".** So easy.

I hope you all have a Happy Easter

Chris Tuffrey

You can call me by telephone on 07903 339155, send me an email: info@offac.co.uk, or just knock on the door at The Green.

**Don't miss the Village Meeting
Thursday 14th April, 7:30pm, Old Bakery**



Mail to: info@north-aston.co.uk

Degrees of Distinction

Congratulations to Jan (Liberadzki) on gaining a Distinction in his Masters Degree in Sustainable Building Performance and Design.

Love from his family aka Eve, Stefan and Anna. x

A Question of Water

An email to the News concerning a strange taste in the water prompts us to address some broader topics about the water supply in the village.

The first contact we received said: Can you ask if anyone ever notices their tap water tasting funny . . . a chemical taste, particularly when it has sat in the kettle for a day? It comes and goes, so is not always noticeable, but we'd be interested to hear if anyone else has had the same experience. If this is something you've also observed, then please drop us a line. Similarly, have you noticed that the water pressure is higher these days? We've had reports of one household where the kitchen tap popped off the sink, and of another where the cold tap in the bathroom now squeals loudly if it's not turned off tightly. Having suffered with woefully low pressure for years, the increase isn't unwelcome, but it has revealed shortcomings in some of the village's plumbing!

Aquatec

Has anyone else been contacted by a company called Aquatec, offering to test the quality of the water supply to their house? If they have, they may have wondered what it's all about, and are these people trustworthy.

According to their website, Aquatec claims to be one of the market leaders in the supply and installation of home water purification systems in the UK today. However, you won't be told this when their agent telephones. Instead, you will be invited to have your water tested, free of charge, and free of obligation, by one of their inspectors.

The caller will imply, although not in so many words, that you are being offered this service by an independent organisation seeking to establish scientific data on the quality of water in your area. You will be told, several times, that any visit places you under no obligation. If you agree to the inspection, you will receive several more calls confirming the appointment, and seeking to establish that you, and your partner, will both be able to be present.

When the representative from Aquatec calls, he (or she) will carry out a series of tests on the cold water supply in your kitchen. Using a few simple additives, they will demonstrate that the water here is "hard", that it can lead to the build-up of limescale in your domestic appliances, and that, over the years, this will cost many thousands of pounds in repairs, replacement equipment, soap and detergents.

It will sound plausible and very convincing - all assuming that you like to wash in slimy "soft" water, and that you believe

100 Club



The lucky winners of the March Draw for the North Aston 100 Club were:

First Prize (£10): M. Graham (#107)

Second Prize (£5): Mrs Walkerdene (#75)

Not a participant? Call Norman on 340368

that you'll need to replace your washing machine and hot water tank every few years. As the original caller suggests, there is no obligation, and while the attempt to sell is not overtly pushy or "hard" (like the water) it is fairly relentless. The visit can also last anything up to three hours!

The bottom line is money. Over a ten year period the Aquatec filtration system will rack up costs of about £4000, including regular maintenance. What will it "save" you? The salesman will try to tell you that your expenses, attributable to hard water, are £20,000 over a similar period, but you have to ask yourself if that is truly likely. How many hundredweight of washing powder, gallons of Fairy Liquid, bars of soap and new washing machines (at around £350 a pop) do you have to go through to incur a cost of £20,000?

The bottom line is, there are other systems available for a fraction of this price that will do the same job. Reverse osmosis systems, ion exchange water softeners, or a straightforward filtration system can all be incorporated into a household water supply for hundreds of pounds, not thousands. Look into the costs very carefully before you sign any of the paperwork.

We had our "visit" in early March. The salesman was pleasant enough and not overly pushy, but he left without a deal.

Marcus Potts

Bag it Bin it!



Fresh complaints have been received about dog fouling on the Green. One of the culprits has been observed in action and the pet's owner would appear to be a village resident.

- Please ensure your dog doesn't foul on or around the Green. Please remove (or move) any waste from within three feet of any of the designated public footpaths in the Parish. Dispose of dog waste responsibly, preferably in your green bin at home. Biodegradable dog waste bags are available free of charge from Cherwell District Council, or from Eileen & Chris at The Green.

Is it your dog? It's your village - be proud of it!

North Aston Gardening Club

The new North Aston Gardening Club is up and running, and members have already started to benefit from:

- Discounts of up to 50% from major seed and plant companies
- Discounts from local Garden & Plant Centres
- Seed and Plant "Swap Shops" - next one due 14 May!
- Talks, visits, social evenings, and much more

Next meeting is on May 3rd. If you are interested in joining this newly-formed group, please speak to Chris or call him on 07903 339155, or email info@offac.co.uk.



oxfordshirecarshare.com

Concerned about rising fuel prices? Looking for a way to lessen their impact on you? Well, we have the answer: Oxfordshire Car Share.

The scheme provides a free service for you to find others to share your journeys with, cutting your travel costs in half or by even more.

The scheme is available to anyone living, working or travelling in or through Oxfordshire. Registration is completely free, and there are no obligations involved in using the service. You can choose whom you wish to share with from the matches generated for you; how often you wish to share; whether you wish to be the driver or the passenger, or to alternate. It really is entirely up to you, and you don't even need to own a car to use the site – just register as a passenger.

Register today at www.oxfordshirecarshare.com

DUNS TEW BABY & TODDLER GROUP

Every Wednesday - 9:30-11:30am

The Group meets in Duns Tew Village Hall. Any parents and tots wanting to join please just drop in on the day or call Beth Leach (07817926366) or Helen McRae (01869 340029).

The group is in search of donations of suitable new toys/books/games/baby bouncers etc. If you think you have something suitable, please call one of the numbers above. The group is really excited to be up and running again so please support them and spread the word.

Come along for a cuppa, play and chat. Drinks & snacks provided.

£1.50 per family

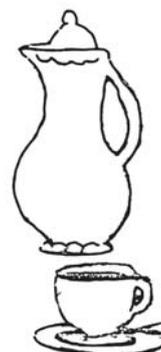


COFFEE MORNING

Come and join us for an informal get-together at the Bakery on the first Wednesday of each month. Tea, coffee and cakes will be served from 10:30am till 12:00 noon.

EVERYONE WELCOME!

If you would like transport, or a helping hand across the road, please ring Gwen Short (01295 810762) or Beryl Greenwood (340122) to arrange.



WE HOPE TO SEE YOU ON WEDNESDAY APRIL 6th

Village Hall

Now that we've had a big shove and got the wagon moving, things continue to happen.

Following on from our visit to Balscote last month, pictured here, we had a very helpful and informative meeting with Justin Bentley, the Director of Timberworks, the company that built the Hall at Balscote.



Constructed using timber from sustainable forests in the nether regions of north-eastern Europe, the wood used to create these buildings is very slow-growing. This means the grain is particularly dense, and the resulting timber is resilient, long-lasting and less prone to splitting and shrinkage than conventional softwoods.

Based upon designs drawn up here in the UK, specific to each project, the bulk of the construction work is actually completed in Eastern Europe. The new building is built in sections, rather like some child's over-sized construction set. The pieces are then shipped in to the UK, delivered to the site, and the building erected on a pre-prepared base. Assuming all goes to plan, the new Hall can be up and ready for final finishing in a matter of days. It's an extraordinarily efficient process, and (at the moment) remarkably cost-effective.

The advantage we have is that the design for the Balscote hall meets our own needs almost perfectly. In fact, subject to closer examination, there's a very good chance that we could actually use exactly the same plans, and build an identical Hall, even down to the placement of lights, plugs and plumbing. This would save us time and money, not only at the design stage, but also because Balscote has already gone through the planning quagmire of erecting a new hall within a conservation area administered by Cherwell DC. Hopefully, thanks to their efforts and experiences, many of the bridges have already been crossed.

Towards the end of last month (March) we had a meeting with a representative from Cherwell DC's Planning Department; Caroline Ford. A group from the VH Committee traipsed round the village, visiting Beesley's Close and the old Pavilion



site, to consider weighty topics such as vehicular access, proximity to the conservation area, size and footprint for the proposed building, sewerage, provision of "services", likely usage, pedestrian access, and many more. We hope to receive feedback and advice from Caroline in time for the next Village Meeting on 14th April.

It is vital that everyone in the village has the opportunity to become involved in these discussions. If you have ideas and opinions, please make sure you come along to the next Village Meeting and share them. We will also be publishing a short questionnaire in the next edition of the News to help update our information base on resident's hopes, aspirations and concerns for the Hall. Once again, we urge you to participate.

In the meantime, there is another VH Committee meeting scheduled for Wednesday May 6th at Gilmore's The Green. All welcome. If you want to know more, or would like to get involved, please email info@north-aston.co.uk. We need your support!

Marcus



Announcements & Adverts

Mobile Library

Like many services in our region, the Mobile Library is under threat as a result of funding cut-backs. It's another case of "use it or lose it". If you value the facility of having a library that actually visits the village, then pop across to the telephone box and say hello next time it calls.

**Every Second Thursday of the Month
09:40-09:55 by the Telephone Box**

Not a member? Enrol at the library in Deddington, or on-line at www.libcat.oxfordshire.gov.uk. It's free.

Need a Baby Sitter ?

Responsible baby sitting service available most evenings, including weekends.

Phone **Josh** on 01869 347356

(after 5:30 Mon-Fri or Sat & Sun anytime)

Gardening and Lawn Mowing

Get your garden looking its best this Spring! Clearing leaves, sorting out borders, and preparing for the new growing year. Can bring own equipment or use yours. Excellent rates.

Phone **Thomas** on 07522 342093 (Please note new number) or 01869 347918 after 4:30 Mon-Fri or Saturday & Sunday anytime.

BabySitting Service

Mature and responsible 14 year-old available for babysitting.

Please contact **Yvie** on 01869 340090

ORCC Trading Oil Scheme

Full details of this money-saving scheme for purchasing domestic heating oil were included in the January edition of the News. Basically, if you use oil for your domestic heating, then this scheme could save you hundreds of pounds every year. If you would like further details, or to join the scheme, please contact Chris Tuffrey, North Aston's liaison officer with ORCC. Call him on 07903 339155 or email: info@offac.co.uk. There is an annual membership fee of £20, but you could save many times this amount over the same period.

Fish & Chips!

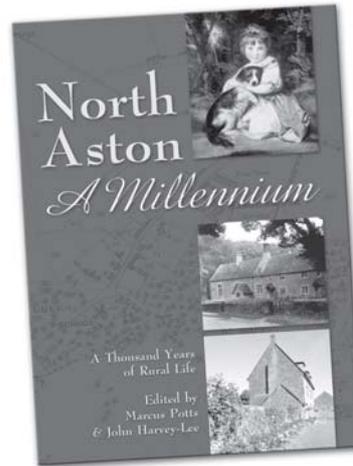
**Every Thursday afternoon from 5:00pm
until approx 5:45pm, by the telephone box**

Computer Problems Solved

Look no further for a reliable computer repair and maintenance service. We'll remove viruses, fix hardware failures, boost the performance of your PC, or tackle a broad range of tasks.

Phone 07522 342093 or visit the website at

www.naenterprise.co.uk



NEW TO
NORTH
ASTON?

~~£25~~
£15

Copies of *North Aston ~ A Millennium* are available to residents of the village for the reduced price of just £15.

Chronicling the history of the village from the time of the Roman invasion to the year 2000, this unique book is packed with previously unpublished photographs, maps and illustrations, as well as detailed historical information, personal accounts and anecdotes.

192 pages. ISBN 978-1-902863-18-4

Call in at Two School Cottages or phone 347356

Village Marquees & Generator

There are trestle tables, chairs and a hefty 4.0 kVA diesel-powered generator available for hire as well as three marquees - two traditional and one tubular-framed plastic. If you would like to book any of these items, or for further information, please contact Marcus (347356) or email info@north-aston-co.uk.

NEXT VILLAGE MEETING

The next Village Meeting will take place on Thursday 14th April 2011 at 7.30pm in the Old Bakery.

Items for consideration include:

The Village Fête and Big Lunch
Progress on the Village Hall
Dog Fouling (again!!)

A full agenda will be posted on the Village Noticeboard nearer the time. If you have any items you would like included, please email your request to info@north-aston.co.uk.

If you're "on-line" and have your own email address, and would like to be informed of happenings in the Village, Neighbourhood Watch updates etc, please contact:

info@north-aston.co.uk

Use this address to submit items for the NA News.



The Church MATTERS



Our new Priest - the Rev Dr Mark Clavier

Mark has been chosen, has accepted, and will be with us in June.

He joins us from Durham, where he has quite recently completed his PhD in Theology, and where he is Associate Priest in a group of former mining villages.

He is an American with dual UK-USA nationality; his father is a Yorkshireman. He is married to Diane, and they have an 11-year-old son Paul.

Further details about Mark in the June News.

Our March Family Workshop was huge

Talk about full. No less than 21 children and various parents crammed into the Old Bakehouse, and took part in a whole lot of really messy Easter preparations. Icing the Simnel cake, kneading bread dough, making hot cross buns, planting potatoes in pots, beating nuts, etc. They even got to go out to visit two newborn lambs in the field.



A huge thank you to Dorothy for organising and leading this, and to Mary Healy and others for their contributions.

Our Children's Vision of God's World

They made it, it's wonderful and its up in the Church. (In glorious colour.)

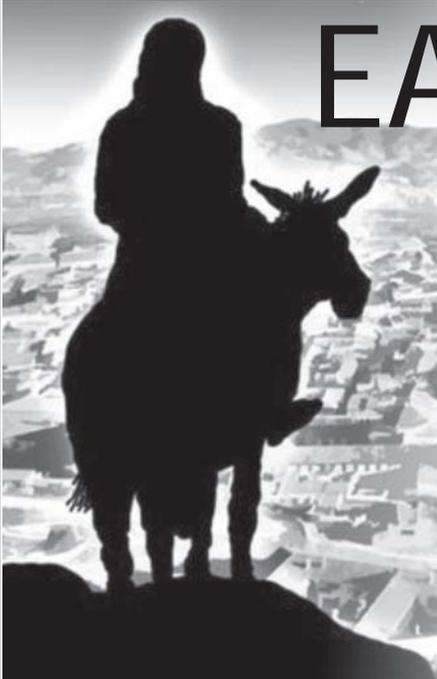
Any comments about the above are very welcome.

Please email Kildare: k.bourkeborrowes@btinternet.com or tel: 340 200

If you wish you can also email Clive: goosegirl@hotmail.co.uk or tel: 338 434

Any other member of the PCC will also be very happy to talk, and they are: Bill Adams, Richard Bailey, Nick Bevan, Beryl Greenwood, Jenny Martin, Ted Short, Jeremy Taylor and Norman West.

It's your Church



EASTER SERVICES

for North Aston 2011

Passion Sunday April 10th
 9:30 am Holy Communion in the Church

Palm Sunday April 17th
 9:15 am on the Green: 9:30 at the Church
 Procession to the Church, and narration from
 St Mark's Gospel, with parts for everyone.

Good Friday April 22nd
 2:00 pm at Steeple Aston Church
 Devotional Service

Easter Day. Sunday April 24th
 9:00 am in the Church
 Family Communion

Everyone is
very welcome

Steeple Aston Choral Society

Presents

Music for an Occasion

Church of St Peter and St Paul, Steeple Aston
Saturday April 9th, 8:00 pm

Conducted by

Denis Long

Including works by

Handel

William Boyce

Malcolm Williamson

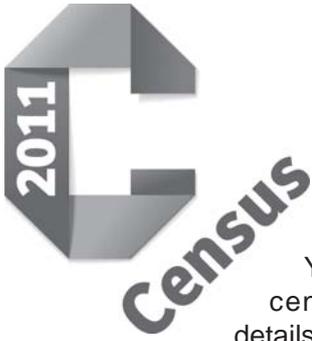
and

Derek Hopwood

Special Guest Performance by Violinist

Roger Coull

Tickets £7 on the Church door, Accompanied children under 12 free
Complimentary reception of drinks and canapés will be served at 7:30pm



Last weekend most of us completed our 2011 Census returns. The results of those forms will be stowed away, accessible only to the privileged few, for a hundred years. Then, unless the "100 Year Rule" governing the census data is amended, the details will be made available to our grandchildren (or our grandchildren's grandchildren!) to study in 2111 and beyond.

With the exception of 1941, there has been a national census in the UK every ten years since 1801. Unfortunately, the 1931 data was lost in a fire, but all the rest can offer a valuable insight into the way our forebears lived. To those who have access to such things today, it is possible to explore the census returns between 1841 and 1911 on-line, through sites such as ancestry.com, or the National Archives website. Some records are free to view but most require a subscription.

Not only can you explore the records in search of distant relatives, but you can also explore the returns for a particular region or parish. The census records for North Aston make interesting reading, and it is possible to go back through the years and still find names that will be familiar to many North Aston residents to this day.

For example, the 1841 census includes entries for the for family names like Bolton, Busby (not directly related to Clive, but with links to later generations that many here will remember), Lardner, Lewis, Mobbs, Rose, and Whitehead.

These families, together with others bearing surnames like Bradshaw, French, Lardner, Needle, Perkins and Westen, could probably trace their heritage here in North Aston back to the Middle Ages. It is perhaps significant that none of those names will feature in the census this year - not directly anyway, although one or two in the village can still claim them as maiden or parental names. However, despite their absence in 2011, their memory lingers on, and even an incomer like me (only 26 years in the village) recognises most of them, and can add forenames to several, thanks to the memories shared with some of our more longer-established residents. They all feature in *North Aston ~ A Millennium*, of course, where there are many tales of the parts they played in village life in ages past.

Interestingly, in 1841, there were some 400 residents listed within the parish of North Aston. By 1911, sixty years later, (and one hundred years ago this year) the number stood at just 221, such had been the effect of the Industrial Revolution and the change in agricultural practices. The 1911 list includes nearly all the families featured in 1841, to which can be added surnames like Beesley, Cato, Dore, Short, Taylor, West and Wyatt.

The only drawback to the older census returns is that the address of each household is very vague, and apart from the principal dwellings, it is not easy to determine who lived where. Fortunately we do have the particulars to the 1907 sale of the estate, which numbers every property and gives names of all the tenants - details that are also included in "The Book".

Marcus

The image shows two pages of a 1911 Census summary sheet for North Aston. The left page is numbered 2 and the right page is numbered 3. Both pages contain detailed tables with columns for address, name of occupier, kind of building, and population statistics. The tables are organized into sections for different parts of the parish, such as 'North Aston (entire)', 'North Aston, S. Manx (entire)', and 'Woodstock (part of)'. The tables include columns for 'No. of Sub-dwelling', 'Address', 'Kind of Building', 'Name of Occupier', 'Dwellings or Tenements', 'Population', and 'Per. cent.'. The right page includes a total population of 24 and a total of 1385789.

One of the summary sheets for North Aston from the 1911 Census Return

This Month's Birthdays



Tracy Boss

Peter Durnin

David Greenwood

Beryl Greenwood

Kath Hazell

Mary Hoare

Olivia Kneale

Franca Potts

Susannah Taylor

Norman West

Many Happy Returns to all the North Aston residents who celebrate birthdays this month. If you're not listed, or know someone who should be, let us know.

NORTH ASTON ORGANICS



Vegetable Stall

Open Mon - Sat from 9.00am in the car park behind the Old Bakery



- Wide variety of fresh seasonal organic veg at affordable prices
 - Minimal packaging
 - Zero food miles
 - Supporting the local economy
 - Too busy? Why not try our veggie box scheme
- Fresh veg delivered to you door.

Tel: (01869) 347702

NORTH ASTON ORGANICS

VOUCHER



Redeemable at the North Aston Organics
Vegetable Stall or with the Box Scheme

Valid until 30th April 2010

One voucher per
North Aston
household

£2.50

Traffic Speed Monitor - February



Even allowing for the lack of those two days at the end of the month, February was a little quieter than usual, and the monitor only recorded just over 26,000 vehicles for the month. We normally download stats for nearer 30,000, except when it snows!

Sadly, fewer vehicles did not mean slower speeds. The fastest speed recorded for February was 63 mph, set at 19:17 on the evening of Friday 18th, although that was pushed close by another doing 62, on the 16th at 21:41. However, there does not appear to be any obvious correlation between time of day and speed. We seem just as likely to get someone driving through the village at over 50 mph in the middle of the day as we do at two in the morning. Evidently, some people simply don't care.

February saw 21 cars going over 50, 92 over 45, and 375 clocking 40 or more. Remember these are only one-way recordings, and vehicles passing in the opposite direction are not recorded, so the totals could be twice this or more. Nearly 3000 vehicles passed through at a speed that would have resulted in points on their licence, had they been spotted by a police unit, while an overall total of 5550 drivers exceeded 30 mph.

Kerbing the Green

The project to install stone setts along the edge of the Green is currently on hold - again - while we await an update on the situation from the contractors who were working on the new driveway to the Hall. Similarly, the repairs to the Middle Aston Lane are also "pending".



Parking on the Pavement

Last month's message from the Council, passed on through these pages, evidently fell on deaf ears, so here's a reminder that parking with two (or more) wheels on the pavement will soon be a statutory offence. Drivers caught flouting the law could be liable for an on-the-spot fine of £70. Completely blocking the pavement, as illustrated below, really isn't necessary.



Community Policing Awards

We've had no notifications from TVP about issues relating to the Neighbourhood Watch this month, but we have had a request for information.

Have you had any dealings with the police during the last twelve months? Not as a suspect, of course, but perhaps as a victim, or simply a chance meeting with a police officer on the beat? If so, were you impressed? Have you seen evidence likely to lead to the presentation of an award?



It's that time of the year again, and Thames Valley Police is asking for nominations in various categories, including Community Officer of the Year, Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) of the Year, Special Constable of the Year, Student Officer of the Year and Volunteer of the Year.

If you would like to nominate anyone, log on to www.thamesvalley.police.uk and complete the form. In the meantime, if you do see a crime being committed, use these numbers . . .



If you have any information or concerns you can contact Crimestoppers (anonymously) on **0800 555 111** or Thames Valley Police on **08458 505 505** to report incidents.

CROWNS & CORONETS

A Celebration of the Wedding of

HRH Prince William &
Catherine Middleton

Friday 29th April 2011

Duns Tew will be celebrating the Royal Wedding in April with a children's party (4pm-6pm) followed by an evening dinner and dance (from 8pm until midnight).

Residents of North Aston have been specifically invited, but numbers are limited. Tickets are £10 per head, to cover the cost of a generous Hog Roast dinner and music from the Oxford Jazz Agency band. Bar prices (draught Hook Norton) will be also be generously subsidised.

A children's Art Competition on the subject of "Kings & Queens" will precede the event, while the theme on the evening will be Crowns & Coronets.

Tickets on first-come, first served basis. Ticket permits entrance to the event and will be exchanged for dinner.

To reserve your place, email pfsfin2@aol.com
or Telephone 01869 340269

DEDDINGTON LIBRARY

1921-2011

DON'T R.I.P. THE

**HEART OUT OF OUR
COMMUNITY**

**THE LIBRARY NEEDS
YOUR SUPPORT**

TELL OCC COUNCILLOR
JUDITH HEATHCOAT
WHAT LOSING THE LIBRARY
MEANS TO YOU!

judith.heathcoat@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Join the Save Deddington Library Facebook group

details at
www.deddington.org.uk

N I C H O L S O N S

Food shortages? Grow your own with Nicholsons.



Vegetable seeds

From February our shop will be stocking a selection of seed potatoes and vegetable seeds for the first time.

Fruit

Our fruit trees produce blossom and fruit for many years. Please come and see the wide variety of fruit trees we have and speak to our friendly, professional, and helpful staff for advice on variety and pollination etc.

Prices on Fruit Trees are reduced from £30 to £26.50

Garden Tools

Nicholsons now stock a wide range of heavy-duty garden tools and we will be selling much of our old stock at discounted prices, so come in and grab yourself a bargain, before it's all gone!

The Park, North Aston, Bicester, Oxfordshire.

01869 340 342

Open weekdays 7.30 -4.00 & Saturdays in March, April & May 9.00-12.00.

www.nicholsons.gb.com

Councillor Calling



Demographics

Starting where I left off last month, the decision on housing numbers to be planned for in the Local Development Framework up to 2026 came back to the Executive and we approved the total of 12,751 recommended by the demographers, but with the important caveat that this was coupled with a population increase estimated at only 15,200.

This makes a crucial difference, as it not only protects our countryside from unjustified sprawl of the wrong sort of housing but also skews what will be built to suit those who will actually need it, our increasing populations of older and younger households, where they need it, with access to amenities and jobs. Hopefully, it will also remove the pressure on villages to accept unacceptably large numbers of new houses.

Snow Trouble

Scarcely have the first signs of Spring begun to show, than we've given a thorough going-over to our performance in the snow, so as to do better next time.

There is no dramatic stuff (most of that's down to the County Council, who are responsible for ploughing and gritting the roads) but working on improving access to prevent lost collections, revised shift patterns for collection catch up and priorities for car park and town centre clearance, in partnership with OCC, should make more efficient use of our resources and faster backlog clearance. I worry, though, that acting as if winter was over for this year is tempting fate...

What a Waste

I understand that the County Council has launched a consultation on their proposal to close household waste facilities, including the one at Ardley tip, which has caused a lot of concern locally. To influence the final decision, the more people and bodies that write in response, the better – details will be on their website.

H2S

The proposed High Speed rail link just cuts into Cherwell for four miles, but in that distance will impact four villages directly. However, Bicester and all of us nearby may be hit by the indirect effects if it hurts Chiltern Railways by taking away passengers from the Midlands. So we have joined with many other councils along the route to oppose it, albeit making a far smaller contribution than some of those more seriously affected. Cherwell has a track record of supporting local communities – asylum

centre, incinerator, wind farm – albeit not always successfully, which I have to remind myself when the money is being spent at the far end of the District and not on us!

In the Money

Eco Bicester celebrates another success with the award of some £6.5million in housing grants – a sum which dwarfs the amounts given to the rest of the county, showing that the government is backing this to the hilt.

As we would have had to build the same number of houses anyway, to be able to do it in a sustainable, eco-friendly manner and get pots of extra cash to improve Bicester's infrastructure and now for more affordable housing is a real win.

Election Pressures

Please bear with the operators if you get put "on hold" for too long over the next month or so. What with council tax bills, the census, the referendum and elections, Cherwell is sending out some 250,000 letters (most of them required by law, so we can't take short cuts) and therefore receiving a proportionate amount of queries back. We are preparing where possible, for instance by staggering the delivery and adjusting staffing, but you can imagine the huge volume of calls.

On top of that is organising up to three tiers of polling – the AV referendum everywhere, one third of District Councils seats and Parish Councils as well in some areas. In this ward, Luke Annaly is standing down at the end of his term, having sadly moved away from Fritwell, and Mike Kerford-Byrnes will be trying to take his place – at least he has the advantage of a memorable name you can't miss!

James Macnamara

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Proposals for Waste

As James mentions, the County Council has invited comment regarding the proposals to rationalise the provision of waste and recycling facilities in our area. If you value the facility at Ardley, and have concerns over the likely impact of its closure - perhaps combined with the fact that the nearest alternative depots will then be Banbury or Kidlington - please view the details on-line at: <https://myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk>.

It is also possible to respond directly to the proposal by completing an on-line questionnaire. It only takes a few minutes, but we would appeal to you to do so. The closure of Ardley tip in September 2013 will leave the villages in our area exposed to an almost inevitable increase in fly tipping, particularly of larger items, such as old furniture, bedding, and bags of garden waste. This will be exacerbated by the fact that the new facility in Banbury will not be completed until November 2014 (although Kidlington should be operational from April 2012). However, you'll have to be quick, as the period for submissions closes on April 4th.



CHURCH SERVICES

APRIL 2011

STEEPLE ASTON

NORTH ASTON

TACKLEY

Mothing Sunday 3rd

11.00 am
Mothing Sunday Family Service
Rev'd Geoff Hunter
Mothers will get a gift of flowers
Please Join Us for Coffee

9.30 am
Family Service
Mr Nick Bevan
&
Mrs Dorothy Willatt

10.30 am
Joint service with Methodists
Rev'd Jonathan Todd
6.00 pm Evensong
Fr Robin Gibbons

Passion Sunday 10th

11.00 am
Holy Communion
Children's Church
& Prayers for Healing
Rev'd Graeme Richardson
Chaplain & Fellow, Brasenose College
Coffee served after the service

9.30 am
Holy Communion
Rev'd Graeme Richardson
Chaplain & Fellow, Brasenose College

9.30 am
Holy Communion
Rev'd Canon Roland Meredith
6.00 pm Evensong
Fr Robin Gibbons

Palm Sunday 17th

11.00 am
Family Holy Communion
Procession of Palms from
the Village Hall
Rev'd Mervyn Puleston
Do join us for Coffee afterwards

9.15 am
Processional from the Green
Service in Church 9.30 am
Rev'd Mervyn Puleston

10.30 am
Processional with Methodists
Rev'd Jonathan Todd
6.00 pm Evensong
Fr Robin Gibbons

Maundy Thursday 21st

7.00 pm
A time of quiet reflection
A simple soup & bread supper
7.30 pm
Holy Communion & Stripping of Altar
Rev'd Stephen Pix

No Service

7.30 pm
Joint service with Methodists
In the Methodist Church

Good Friday 22nd

2.00 pm
United Benefice
Devotional Service
Rev'd Mervyn Puleston

No Service

No Service

Easter Sunday 24th

11.00 am
Family Communion
Rev'd Mervyn Puleston
Easter Egg Hunt for the children
& do please join us for coffee.

9.00 am
Family Communion
Rev'd Mervyn Puleston

10.30 am
Holy Communion
Rev'd Stephen Pix

Other Events this Month

Preparation for Mothing Sunday Saturday 2nd, 2.00 – 4.00 Fathers and Children, Steeple Church
A short service of Morning Prayer is said on most Tuesdays at 9.30 am in Steeple Aston
A short service of Morning Prayer is said on Wednesdays at 9.00 am in Tackley
A Compline service will be held in Steeple Aston Church on 18, 19 and 20th April at 8.00 pm
A Compline service will be held in Tackley Church on 18, 19 and 20th April at 8.00 pm
A Compline service will be held in North Aston on Tuesday 19th April at 8.00 pm
Wednesday 6th North Aston 10.30am to noon - Coffee in the Old Bakehouse
Saturday 16th Steeple Church Children, 2.00 – 4.00 practice the procession of palms.
Wednesday 20th Steeple Aston 10.30am to noon - Coffee & Chat at The White Lion