

NORTH ASTON NEWS

AUGUST 2011

No: 250



In the News this month:

Up the Hill with Stirling Moss

The Bee Pages

North Aston Flower & Produce Show

Plus: Fête Photos, Chewing the Cud, Thanks, Traffic Monitor, Councillor Calling

NORTH ASTON NEWS

AUGUST 2011, No: 250

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North Aston News

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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: northastonorganics@gmail.com

Nicholson Nurseries

Telephone: (01869) 340342

Email: office@nicholsons.gb.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

Weds 3rd August. 10:30am-12:00pm. Old Bakery

North Aston Village Hall Ballot Deadline

Sunday 27th August, Gilmore's, The Green

North Aston GC Flower & Produce Show

Saturday 3es September, 2:00pm, The Green

Village Meeting

Thursday 15th September. 7:30pm, Old Bakery



CHAIRMAN Chewing the Cud

There is nothing much to report this month in relation to village matters. Sometimes being self-employed does have its disadvantages and that was the case last Saturday. I had to work away and I missed what has been described to me as a most outstanding and brilliant annual fête. Our guests from Japan certainly added colour to the event. They were made most welcome by the village and certainly dispelled any myths that some might have had about the manner in which they could have conducted themselves.

We always hear people boasting about showing off the "Very best in Britain" but, on this occasion, I think we can proudly say that as a village we showed that North Aston can rightly claim this title. I understand from Marcus that the group organisers have already asked if they can come back next year.

I have to keep pushing this point as there has been not been a mad rush of applicants for the vacancies for village officials. Please come forward in good time and let us know who you are, if you don't you know what the consequences are!!

Marcus has told me that there will be no newsletter in September as he is taking a very well earned rest so, keep your eye on the notice board as this is where any village matters normally posted here will be placed.

I hope you all have a happy holiday.

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 Gilmore's, The Green.

Next village meeting: September 15th, 7:30 pm, Old Bakery.

2011 North Aston Flower & Produce Show

Make a note in your diary for the first annual North Aston Gardening Club Flower & Produce Show. This event is open to everyone in the village, young and old alike. There are lots of categories to enter, from pot plants to jams & cakes - and plenty for the younger agegroups too.

It's not deadly serious, just a lot of fun, so dust off your geraniums, bake a cake or take some photos, and complete the entry form before 31st August.

**North Aston Village Green
Saturday September 3rd
Starting at 2:00pm**



Letters

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

Dear Editor,

I would like to offer my most sincere thanks to all those who helped run the 'games' at the fête, with such dedication, good humour and showmanship. Some trying their hands for the first time, and others already hardened buskers, but you all helped to make things go with a swing.

If you haven't tried it yourselves, leaping about and smiling solidly all afternoon can be very exhausting! I would also like to thank the unsung heroes of the fête, the young lads of the village who helped man some of the stands and who, when the time came to pack-up, descended like a pack of friendly locusts on all the boards and boxes that had to be loaded onto Clive's trailer (a big thank-you to him too) and ferried down the lane. It was all lifted, packed, lifted out again and stowed away with great good humour in no time at all. After a hard day's fêting it made all the difference. So, my thanks to you all.

John Harvey-Lee

A vast array of thanks and acknowledgements are due to all those who helped to make this year's North Aston Fête even more of a success than usual.

It would be wrong to pick out individuals - they know who they are - but special thanks to those who turned out in such force before and after the event to help with erecting and then dismantling the marquees, mowing the Green, marking out the boundaries and lugging tables and chairs. It was very encouraging to see so many eager and willing (?) helpers!



Thank you as well to the dozens who rallied round to man the stalls on Saturday. We had around 600 people at the Fête this year, including the now-famous 126 Japanese students with their dozen or so staff and teachers, and it was wonderfully busy. To those who had to find change for the umpteenth £50 note (for a 20p cake), well done! For the few who turned up at the last moment to man their stalls, and were so pleasantly surprised to find everything ready for them - arrive a bit earlier next time, please!



Thanks to Peach Pubs for another show-stopping £200 first prize for the Raffle, but thank you also to those many villagers who offered other prizes and donated so generously to the Tombola, White Elephant and Bookstall. Without your kindness, none of this would be possible.

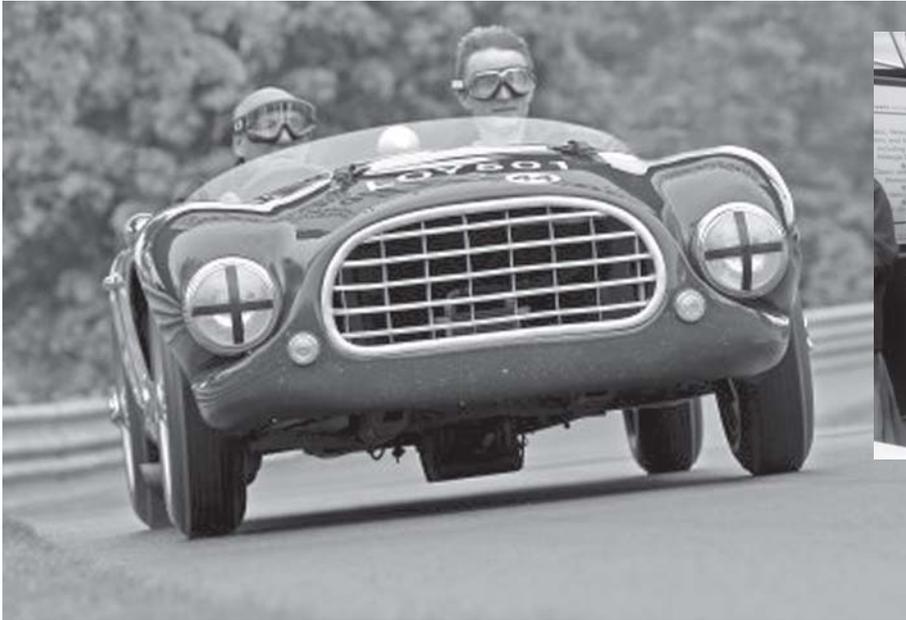


Last, but by no means least, thank you to Nicholsons for printing posters & programmes, and for storing the marquees (and lending their own) and, of course, to John Harvey-Lee for his marvellous games. Simply magical.



As if the Fête was not enough, a raft of familiar faces returned on Sunday for another well-attended Big Lunch. We were blessed by the new vicar - welcome Father Mark - and stunning sunshine. It could not have been better. Thank you again to those who turned out in the early hours to set up the tables, make posies, serve the welcome drinks, and prepare such a delicious array of puddings.





An ordinary day in May with an extra ordinary man

On Thursday June 9th 2011, after taking part in qualifying for a support race at Le Mans, motor racing legend Sir Stirling Moss announced his official retirement from competitive motorsport. Just a few days previously, facing a steep hill and surrounded by glorious Gloucestershire countryside, James Greenwood not only met the man, but shared an experience that may never be repeated. It is a memory James will treasure.

9.30am and on a small piece of Prescott paddock tarmac I caught my first glimpse of Sir Stirling Moss, not ten feet away – I felt rather excited.

Although I had only made it onto the reserve list, I parked my Lancia in Moss Alley. My choices were to wait to see if I got a run with Stirling driving my Integrale or plump for a passenger ride with the great man driving one of his former racing cars up the hill. To me it was a no brainer (sorry Lancia!)

Sir Stirling started by opening the hill in Philip Porter's E Type 9600 HP – cue camera and more excitement.

The morning progressed and the clouds gathered. I eagerly awaited the morning break for autographs as I had raided my model collection and thumbed through Silverstone photos from 20 years ago bringing two models and three photographs.

When I finally met my hero, the chat was effortless and Stirling proceeded to show me the model-maker's errors on his Mille Miglia winning Mercedes – what a gent.



With a picnic in the rain despatched, my 3pm deadline approached. I admired the MG Tojerio and strapped myself into the passenger seat, whilst discussing its finer points with its present custodian. Fired up and oil warming, a plank of wood providing the handbrake, I was passed my "chocks away" goggles, and waited for my driver.

Sir Stirling manoeuvred his way into the cockpit and started asking me where all the controls were and what they all did, what had they done to the pedals and where was first! He donned his trademark driving gloves and Oakley goggles and we drove off past a wall of cameras and flash bulbs.

"So where is the hand brake?" I reply that it doesn't have one so he should just gun it, but Stirling manages to stall the car and we embarrassingly start rolling backwards. I point out the starter; we fire up and find the loud pedal. The marshal tells Stirling that the hill is all his and we are off, into second and Sir Stirling Moss is driving me.

We ascend the damp track with my arm stuck outside clutching my video camera, play button depressed – One minute and 39 seconds of pure nirvana. All my questions melted away and what we actually talked about on the way back down I can't remember, but I feel we may have exceeded the limit on our return journey.



Totally buzzing and on now wet tarmac I took my Lancia for its extra runs and managed to slide it around *Ettore's Bend* and the *Pardon Hairpin* to a round of applause from several spectators (so my wife tells me). The day was amazing, and the man was amazing. Whilst discussing our rides and drives, one enthusiast commented that if Sir Stirling were a telephone directory, he would strap him into his car and push him up the hill!

My memories, pictures and video will stay with me forever and all I can finally say is thank you Geoff for giving me and the other 25 drivers a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity – truly amazing.

North Aston Gardening Club

Monday 25th July saw another meeting of the Gardening Club. First, I must apologise for the noise, as it was an open air meeting and it is difficult to keep gardeners quiet when talking of matters of the grape and soil.

The agenda was largely taken up with the Flower & Produce Show, and these are the main points:

1. To be held on Saturday 3rd September 2011 at 2.00pm onwards.
2. Venue: The Green North Aston
3. **It is open to all residents from the Parish of North Aston. Please come and join in!**
4. A Schedule and Entry Form will be included with this newsletter, and additional entry forms are available from Gilmore, The Green or by the green letter box if no one is at home.
5. Completed entry forms and fee to be left at Gilmore, The Green North Aston by 8.00pm on 31st August 2011. Entries themselves to be delivered to the Green between 09:00 and 11:00 am on Saturday 3rd September.
6. Judging is by ballot of visitors (we do like our ballots!), excluding entries with an asterisk and the whole of section C, which will be judged by suitably qualified visiting adjudicators.
7. There will be teas, refreshments and a raffle.
8. Unless you indicate that you wished to keep your entry, all entries will be auctioned at the end of the show.
9. There will be a Plant Sale in aid of club funds.
10. In the evening we will be holding a village barbecue and would ask that you bring your own food and drink. There will be barbecues lit and ready to go.

There will be a Gardening Club Newsletter in the middle of August giving updates for the Flower & Produce Show.

Hope to see you all at the Show, as this is a village event.

Chris Tuffrey

PS. Gardening Club members - I have just had a reply from Marshall's, and they are offering 30% discount off their products. I have sent for copies of their catalogue. For further information, you can call Chris on 07903 339155, or email info@offac.co.uk.

2011 North Aston Flower & Produce Show

Schedule of Categories

Section A: Vegetables & Fruit

Section rules: ALL exhibited vegetables and fruit must be home-grown and where appropriate displayed on plain white paper plates.*

- | | | |
|----------------------------|----|--|
| 1. Oddest Shaped Vegetable | 8 | 6 different vegetables in a shallow tray |
| 2. 4 Carrots | | |
| 3. 4 Potatoes | 9 | 4 Tomatoes |
| 4. 3 Onions | 10 | 1 Cucumber |
| 5. 3 Beetroot | 11 | 6 Plums |
| 6. Heaviest Marrow* | 12 | 4 Eating Apples |
| 7. Longest Runner Bean* | 13 | 4 Cooking Apples |

Section B: Plants & Flowers

Section Rules: All plants, flowers and herbs must be own-grown. Exhibitors to provide their own container. All exhibited pot plants must have been in the exhibitor's possession for at least 3 months

14. 1 Single Rose
15. 3 Chrysanthemums
16. Plant in a pot
17. Geranium in a pot
18. Flower arrangement in an unusual pot
19. Arrangement of 5 flowers picked from your garden
20. 1 flowering house plant
21. 1 cactus or succulent in a pot
22. Herbs (4 different herbs each displayed in a separate pot)

Section C: Cookery

Section rules: All jams, marmalade, chutneys etc must have been made by the exhibitor since September 2010. They must be displayed in 1lb (360 – 400g) jar with a screw top.

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 23. Jar of Jam | 28. Fruit Cake |
| 24. Jar of Chutney | 29. 2 Scones Plain/Fruit |
| 25. Jar of Pickle | 30. Fruit Pie |
| 26. Jar of Marmalade | 31. Men's only cake |
| 27. Victoria Sponge | |

Section D: Photography, Arts & Crafts

Section rules: Photographs must be unmounted and not larger than 18cm x 13cm

32. Photograph of village life relevant to North Aston
33. Photograph of wildlife or flower
34. Photograph of North Aston in the Snow
35. Something made from Wood
36. Something made from Wool
37. A limerick starting
"There was an old man from North Aston"

Section E: For Children up to 8 years

Rules for Sections E and F: All entries must be wholly the work of the children themselves, and to have been created by the exhibitor since September 2010.

38. A painting of North Aston
39. A creature made from vegetables
40. 4 Cup Cakes
41. A miniature Garden on a Plate

Section F: For Children 8 years but under 15 years

42. Photograph taken of North Aston on your mobile phone
43. A model you have made
44. A person made from vegetables
45. 4 Cup Cakes
46. A drawing or painting of the village.

*Paper plates or bowls will be supplied by the organisers. Children may also enter all other sections. Judging will be by ballot.

Entry fees: 30p adult per exhibit, 20p per exhibit for children.

Entry Forms and full rules are available now.



The Church MATTERS



Village Praise. Sunday 25th September 2011, 9:30 am

Dear Friends, please come and join in this service where we sing all your favourite hymns. Bring the family too if you can so we have lots of voices. For this Village Praise service we would like you the Friends to choose the hymns, so please call Clive (334 434), Beryl (340 122) or Kildare (340 200) with your choice of a hymn, any hymn, that you'd like to hear sung. Thank you. There will be refreshments afterwards.

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: casb@north-aston.com or tel: 338 434 or our priest Mark Clavier: mark.clavier@gmail.com

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

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 August 6th



Sewerage

During the last fortnight or so, all households in the village will have been in receipt of a complex looking legal document announcing that, from 1st October this year, the responsibilities relating to ownership of sewers will be changing.

Do not be concerned. This change has no bearing at all on any home owner or resident in North Aston. The village does not enjoy the benefits of mains sewerage but, like tens of millions of other similar households in the country, the government has made it an obligation on water companies to distribute the leaflet to each and every one of them. At a time of funding cutbacks, it makes perfect sense, doesn't it?

For those who are connected to mains sewerage, the change in "ownership" will mean less to worry about, but could result in an increase in annual charges. This may happen because the water companies will look to cover the cost of the additional responsibilities. Those on private systems and septic tanks, including households here in North Aston, will need to be wary that similar increases are not imposed upon them, so keep an eye on your utility bill.



100 Club

The lucky winners of the July Draw were:

First Prize (£25): Sue Hatz (#113)

Second Prize (£5): Joyce Morley (#10)

Many thanks to all of you who renewed your membership so promptly. Subscriptions are now closed for this year.

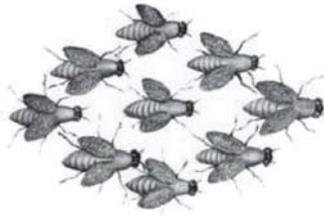
If you are not currently a member and would like to join the North Aston 100 Club next year, please call Norman on 340368 to reserve your number.

You've got to be in it to win it!

Welcome back to
B E E PAGES

a new monthly forum
hosted by Miche & Kildare

Please email contributions to Miche
by the middle of the month
michefabrelewin@mac.com
call 0773404 9407



B E E PAGES

HONEYBEE GROUP is an informal gathering of villagers from North Aston. Our dedication is to learn more about the lifecycle & sustainable habitat of the honeybee to discover how North Aston village can offer:

sanctuary from chemicals
landscapes with bee-kind blossom
natural beekeeping hives

‘A bee hive is a society ... these are incredibly balanced, lovely, evolved little nations.’ Bill McKibben

Miche writes: Since last month there has been a buzz of bee activity in the parish. Phil Chandler, author of **‘The Barefoot Beekeeper’** came to visit. Phil is dedicated to ‘a sustainable beekeeping system based on simple principles’ & has co-created a network to support bees. See www.friendsofthebees & www.biobees.com.

Phil joined us for a tour of North Aston village – farm fields & meadows, the dairy, vegetable growing plots, village gardens & woodland edges – followed by a farmhouse lunch with others interested in bees. This fruitful encounter helped us understand that North Aston is well on its way with bee-friendly habitats & Phil suggested how to move forward in restoring bee populations - learning more about bees; planting more bee friendly habitats; & following sustainable trends in bee-keeping with hives which support the natural cycle of bees. He will be returning to North Aston in October.



We invited Tim & Alison Sneezum from Dorn Valley, Wooton, to the Village Fête. They brought a demonstration national hive, a box filled with natural honeycomb, their honey & wax candles. Here is Tim with Kyle showing him naturally formed honeycomb.

HONEYBEE GROUP gathered at Farmhouse Studio, Coldharbour Farm for BEE movies, mead & conversation. We showed high-lights from **Vanishing of the Bees** & short films on different styles of hives. We also sketched a proposal for a BEEParish plan for North Aston & explored ways of moving it forward.

Kildare writes: **Varroa mites** are the most obvious destructive threat to every bee colony. Arriving from Asia, probably via mainland Europe, in the 1990s, they’re now everywhere. Their entire life cycle is inside the colony or hive; they lay their eggs on the larvae, then emerge as adults, attach themselves to a bee, & slowly suck its haemolymph or ‘blood’, spreading deadly RNA viruses & killing the bee. It’s like having something the size of a melon on your body, sucking blood. Eradicating this mite has proved impossible; chemicals have been tried, but the mites become immune, and anyway the chemicals are quite toxic and likely get into the honey and poison bees and humans. Healthy, ‘natural’, unstressed colonies can often live with them, and there are non-toxic remedies.

This brings me to the inspirational **Phil Chandler**, who Miche has written about. **‘The Barefoot Beekeeper’** could easily become THE manual for anyone in North Aston who wants to help our endangered honey-bees by taking up beekeeping on a small scale. Everything he does seems to be more natural and gentle than most ‘normal’ standard practice. For example, for Varroa he treats the bees in his hives with icing sugar; the bees shake themselves & lick each other, and in doing so dislodge a lot of the mites; they may also take a nip at them. To do this properly, he has devised a small battery powered blower which treats the whole hive in seconds without even taking the lid off, by blowing the sugar in a cloud up from the bottom.

Next event:

On Saturday 6 August, Flora, Kildare & Miche will be going to the **Natural Beekeeping Conference** at The Fold, Worcester. Join us at the next **HONEYBEE GROUP** for a report back. TBC

Village Hall

As those of you who attended the Village Fête will know, the final survey is now under way. A fair number took advantage of the occasion to complete their ballot papers, and the rest have until August 27th to take part.

There is an understanding that nothing can be done, or ever will be done, until the financial implications of the project are clearly understood. So, the questions being asked now have nothing to do with whether or not we can afford the Hall, or who will clean the toilets if it gets built. The purpose of this census is simply to establish a fundamental understanding of residents' views to the very basic idea of having a Village Hall. In other words, do we want one or not, and where should it be.

For or Against?

Residents can say whether they support the idea of a Village Hall, or they don't. Anyone on the current Electoral Register can vote, and just as in a political election, your views can be private - as long as your name is ticked off the list before your Ballot Paper goes into the sealed box. It is important that the fact you have voted is noted on the list, so please tell one of the VHC Officers.

Where should the Hall be?

Which of the three possible sites do you favour? These are, in alphabetical order; the Allotment Field, Beesley's Close and the old Pavilion site.

As part of the display erected at the Fête, aerial photographs showing the three sites were produced, together with a straightforward list of the benefits and shortcomings of each site. If you didn't have chance to

see that exhibition, then the boards are now on display in the Old Bakery, and can be viewed at any time when the Bakery is open - which is most days, during North Aston Organics' office hours. The boards will remain there until the end of the month.

The display also includes some sample photos of the different styles of building we might be able to construct. As is explained within the text, the suitability and practicality of the alternative designs varies between the three sites.

It is important that everyone answers this second part of the survey, even those who oppose the idea of a Village Hall. This is so that all views, voices and opinions can be taken into account should the majority of residents vote in favour.

If (and it remains an "if" until after the ballot is counted) the majority vote *is* supportive of the general concept of a Village Hall, then the time consuming process of producing a Business Plan will be resumed. This will run alongside an investigation into the financial implications of building and operating the Hall, and the sourcing of funds. Much of the latter has already been done, but on the insistence of those who have demanded this additional survey, everything must not only be done openly and correctly, but *seen* to be done too.

If you have not yet collected or been given a Ballot Paper, additional copies are available from Chris Tuffrey at Gilmore, The Green. Please ensure that your name is crossed off the list after you post your Ballot Paper .

The ballot closes on 27th August, and the results will be published on the Village Noticeboard and discussed at the next Village Meeting on September 15th.

Traffic Speed Monitor - June

At the end of July the monitor was turned back to face west, so the data for June will be the last for a while that wholly records the material for traffic heading up from Somerton. July's results will be mixed.

The total for through traffic in June saw the highest monthly total for west-bound traffic, at around 34,000 (based on 16,981 one-way). This rather upsets the previous assumption that we had more east-bound traffic, and renders the earlier differences "insignificant".

Also, we recorded the highest through speed for a car heading west, at 60 mph, clocked on Thursday 30th June at 22:24, although this again supports the theory that our fastest through-traffic occurs late at night. To achieve 60 along the Green means a significant speed up the hill as well, and a wildly irresponsible driver.

Talking of which, has anyone else noticed the Transit van with large trailer that thunders through the village every morning, just before seven? We have yet to get photographic evidence, but he has been spotted consistently exceeding 45 miles an hour. If anyone

manages to note his number - or better still, take a photograph, email us here at info@north-aston.co.uk.

Going back to through-traffic, an analysis of daily numbers reveals that we see over 1200 vehicles a day passing through North Aston, Monday to Friday. That typically drops to around 900 on a Saturday, and nearer 800 on a Sunday.

Although only one driver managed sixty, nine more managed 50 or over, and 25 exceeded 45 mph (much down on April and May), but 262 topped 40 mph (an increase on previous months). A total of 1878 vehicles would have earned points on their licence. An overall total (one way) of 4100 exceeded the 30 mph limit. All these figures are one-way, so we can assume roughly double this for each-way traffic.

The batteries in the monitor are losing their efficiency, after less than a year, and need to be changed every week. It's a nuisance, but the value of the monitor - which definitely makes some people slow down - seems to make this a small sacrifice to make. That said, would anyone else like to take on the job of "Traffic Monitor Monitor"?

Please form an orderly queue

Announcements & Adverts

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.

Need a Baby Sitter ?

Responsible baby sitting service available most evenings, including weekends. Also dog walking.

Phone **Josh** on 01869 347356 anytime

Gardening and Lawn Mowing

Is all that mowing, weeding and garden maintenance getting the better of you? Let us get your garden into shape. We can bring own equipment or use yours. Excellent rates.

Phone **Thomas** on 07522 342093 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

If you use oil for your domestic heating, this scheme could save you hundreds of pounds each year. If you would like further details, please contact Chris Tuffrey, North Aston's liaison officer with ORCC. Call him on 07903 339155 or email: info@offac.co.uk. You could save the cost of the annual membership fee of £20 many times during the same period.

Fish & Chips!

Every Thursday afternoon from 5:00pm until approx 5:30pm, by the telephone box

Mobile Library

Here's a case of "use it or lose it". If you value the facility of having a library that actually visits the village, then pop across 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.

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

This Month's Birthdays

Thea Bourke-Borrowes

Freya Stay



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, please let us know.

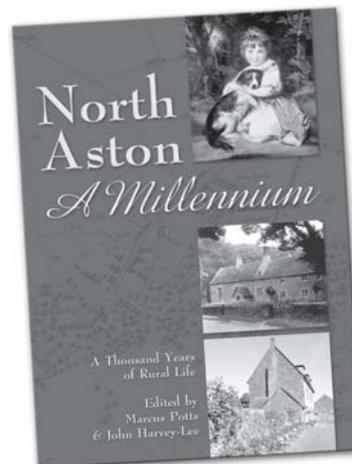
**Please
keep the
Pavements
Clear**



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

info@north-aston.co.uk

Use this address to submit items for the NA News.



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

NICHOLSONS

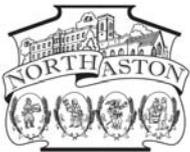
We wish you a happy holiday
whether you are at home or
abroad.

Nicholson Nurseries will be fully
restocked and ready to fulfil all
your planting needs from the
beginning of September.
We look forward to seeing you
then.



Open weekdays 7.30am –4.00pm

North Aston, Bicester, Oxfordshire. 01869 340342 www.nicholsons.gb.com



JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN NORTH ASTON

The North Aston Village Meeting is seeking nominations and volunteers for the following posts in the village:

Chairman of the Village Meeting

This post will become vacant at the AGM in January. This post **MUST** be filled if North Aston is not to become amalgamated with one of the neighbouring villages - either Duns Tew or Steeple Aston. For further information about the responsibilities and duties associated with this position, please speak with Chris. Tel: **07903 339155**.

Clerk to the Village Meeting

This post will become vacant at the AGM in January. This post **MUST** be filled if North Aston is to remain independent. For further information about the responsibilities and duties associated with this position, please speak with Franca. Tel: **01869 347356**

Editor to the North Aston News

This post is vacant as of now. Anyone willing to take on the editing and production of the *News* is invited to speak with Marcus. Tel: **01869 347356**

Traffic Monitor

This post remains vacant. Anyone willing to take on the task of replacing the battery (weekly) and downloading the data (monthly) and interpreting the results is invited to speak with Marcus. Tel: **01869 347356**

Other positions are also likely to become vacant in the coming weeks, for which additional volunteers will be required. Being "too busy" is not an excuse.

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.

New This Month:-

Tasty cherry tomatoes, peppers, aubergines,
cucumbers and basil.

Email: northastonorganics@gmail.com

Tel: ((01869)) 347702

Councillor Calling



This month, it mostly seems to be about money – charges and savings – plus a few stories about health and the environment: an odd combination, perhaps...

Parking

Parking charges went under the microscope of the Scrutiny committee, following negative reaction to increases in a variety of areas. They recommended that:

- Evening charges should be removed, but the daytime period extended to 7pm, after which parking will be free
- Blue Badge holders should park free in disabled bays, though not in other areas
- Bicester charges will be reduced by 10p per hour during the town centre redevelopment to offset the disruption caused by all the work.
- Grace periods of 10 minutes should be allowed both to find change for tickets and to allow for holdups after expiry
- Discounts of 50% will be given for prompt payment of parking fines

These recommendations will shortly come to the Executive, who don't usually quibble with Scrutiny recommendations, but will then take three months or so of legal work to implement. Because of the time delay and the complexity, I strongly recommend, therefore, keeping an eagle eye on the car park noticeboards so as not to either act too soon and risk a fine or miss out when they do come in.

I see reports already of complaints that these changes are not enough, but the scrutineers had to bear in mind affordability and balancing the books and went as far as they could. The objectors have the luxury of not having to choose who will pay extra or what service to cut.

Working in Tandem

Joint working with South Northants Council seems to be growing organically alongside the formal recruitment of joint senior management. In all sorts of areas, such as building control, public protection, legal, communications and so on, vacancies arising in one council are being covered across both, bringing savings in addition to those envisaged in the business plan. This leads to all sorts of personnel loose ends needing to be tied up, but brings a steady trickle of unexpected savings which will prevent us having to look for cuts in areas that affect residents.

In Review

Value for Money reviews have a similar impact as, in a never-ending process, they examine each part of the council to see what it could do better or cheaper. The latest ones include economic development, public protection and vehicle maintenance – none of them high-profile or glamorous areas where a little bit of streamlining here and a saving there all chips in to an easier budget next year.

Bicester Hospital

The process of renewing Bicester Hospital took another step forward with the Strategic Health Authority considering an outline business plan and placing the official advertisement that the law requires in the European official journal, calling for developers to register their interest by completing Pre-Qualification Questionnaires. There's a long way to go, but it's a start.

Bicester Eco Town

... on the other hand, met a hitch when the planning application for its first 400 homes was deferred by the planning committee. The County Council was strongly objecting that the £4m they require for schools, roads and other infrastructure was not forthcoming, while our councillors felt that it was not "green" enough for an exemplar site.

Ardley Incinerator

Unfortunately though, the new incinerator at Ardley has got the green light after its judicial review was refused. Judicial reviews are notoriously difficult as they focus simply on the decision process and not the decision itself. So the judgement was solely on whether the Secretary of State (ie the planning inspector) was entitled to make a decision, not on whether it was the right one. So now we are saddled with the wrong answer in the wrong place, for a generation, with all the consequences in traffic and pollution that it will engender.

Sorry to end on such a gloomy note: have a good summer!

James Macnamara

Tel: 01869 340109

cllr.james.macnamara@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

NEXT VILLAGE MEETING

The next Village Meeting will take place on Thursday 15th September 2011 at 7.30pm in the Old Bakery.

Items for consideration include:

- Update on the Village Plan for North Aston
- Preparation for Harvest Supper
- Result on Village Hall Ballot
- Initial thoughts on Christmas events

A full agenda will be posted on the Village Noticeboard. If you have any items you would like discussed, please email brief details to: info@north-aston.co.uk.



CHURCH SERVICES

PARISH WORSHIP IN AUGUST 2011

STEEPLE ASTON

NORTH ASTON

TACKLEY

Sunday 7th - Trinity III

No service

No service

10.30am
United Benefice
Holy Communion
Fr Mark Clavier
6pm
Evensong
Fr Robin Gibbons
Fr Mark Clavier

Sunday 14th - Trinity VII

10.30am
United Benefice
Holy Communion
Fr Mark Clavier

No service

No service

6.00 pm
Evensong
Fr Robin Gibbons
Fr Mark Clavier

Sunday 21st - Trinity IX

No service

10.30am
United Benefice
Holy Communion
Fr Mark Clavier

No service

6.00 pm
Evensong
Fr Robin Gibbons
Fr Mark Clavier

Sunday 28th - Trinity X

No service

No service

10.30am
United Benefice
Holy Communion
Fr Mark Clavier

6pm
Holy Communion
Fr Mark Clavier

Other Events this Month

A short service of Morning Prayer is said on most **Mondays** at 9.15 am in **North Aston**

A short service of Morning Prayer is said on most **Tuesdays** at 9.15 am in **Steeple Aston**

A short service of Morning Prayer is said on **Wednesdays** at 9.15 am in **Tackley**

Wednesday 3rd **North Aston** 10.30am to noon Coffee in the Old Bakehouse

Wednesday 17th **Steeple Aston** 10.30am to noon Coffee & Chat at The White Lion
