

# NORTH ASTON NEWS

OCTOBER 2011

No: 252



*In the News this month:*

**Flower & Produce Show - The Results!**  
**The Village Hall Ballot - More Results!**

*Plus: Bee Pages, Chewing the Cud, Church Matters, Wills & Councillor Calling*

# NORTH ASTON NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2011, No: 251

## Useful Contacts

### North Aston News

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### Sue Hatzigeorgiou, Treasurer

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### Franca Potts, Secretary

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### North Aston PCC

Clive Busby, Church Warden  
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Kildare Bourke-Borrowes, Churchwarden  
Telephone: (01869) 340200

Email: [k.bourkeborrowes@btinternet.com](mailto: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](mailto:info@north-aston.co.uk)

### North Aston Farms

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

### North Aston Organics

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### Nicholson Nurseries

Telephone: (01869) 340342  
Email: [office@nicholsons.gb.com](mailto: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](mailto: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 5th Oct. 10:30am-12:00pm. Old Bakery

### Village Hall Meeting

Weds 12th Oct. 7:30pm. Old Bakery

### Bee Group & NA Gardening Club

Wednesday 2nd November. 7:30pm,  
Coldharbour Farm



## CHAIRMAN Chewing the Cud

When I was a youngster, not so many years ago, the seasons seemed to have their own boundaries. I was listening to the long range weather forecast only to hear that we were going to have a warm end of September and a warmish start to October, but from then on it was going to go downhill with snow and severe frosts. It seems that we might end up in the future with just a summer and winter instead of the usual four seasons.

Last month proved to be an interesting month in the village, starting with the Flower & Produce Show on the first Saturday of the month, followed by the village barbecue in the evening. More about this in the Gardening Club notes. Comments were made that we should try to organise another event in the early part of the year as well as the annual fête and the flower & produce show.

We then held the village meeting later in the month. For those who missed it the minutes are printed here in the newsletter. We had the result of the ballot for the village hall and it was a resounding 'yes' vote in favour of building a village hall for North Aston. Even more encouraging is that there are a number of tradesmen in the village who have come forward volunteering their services. We also have other residents who have offered their help.

Marcus is going to organise a village hall meeting at the Bakery in October when we can discuss our strategy for the next stage, including raising the necessary funds etc. If you have an interest please come along to this meeting - many heads are better than few. There is a mountain to climb before we can open the doors on a new village hall.

Three months to go before I hand over the reins of the Village Meeting. I have thoroughly enjoyed the three years as Chairman and I must admit there have been times recently when I have thought that I might like to continue. The defining moment for me was when I became aware of the result for the village hall ballot. This will be a fantastic project.

I had hoped to have more information on the Emergency Plan for the village but will have it for next month's edition.

Chris Tuffrey

You can call me by telephone on 07903 339155, send me an email: [info@offac.co.uk](mailto:info@offac.co.uk), or just knock on the door at Gilmore's, The Green.



Mail to: [info@north-aston.co.uk](mailto:info@north-aston.co.uk)

## Artweeks 2012

Dear Editor,

Oxfordshire Artweeks will be celebrating its 30th Anniversary in May 2012. If any artists or craftspeople in your parish would like to take part, we are now taking exhibition entries for 2012 – with the closing dates being 2nd December 2011 for paper entries and 31st December 2011 for on-line entries.

Each May, Oxfordshire artists and craftspeople open their studios to the public for the county's most important arts festival. Nearly 500 free exhibitions showing work by over 1000 local artists.

For more details visit our website [www.artweeks.org](http://www.artweeks.org) or contact the Artweeks office: Oxfordshire Artweeks, PO Box 559, Abingdon Oxon OX14 9EF. Tel: 01865 865596.

The Artweeks office is open Monday/Wednesday/Friday 9.30am-2.30pm.

Many thanks, Jo Golding

*A few years ago North Aston took part in the annual Artweeks event by staging an impressive display of paintings, photographs and other crafted items in St Mary's. The exhibits demonstrated a remarkable depth of talent within the village, and was roundly applauded by everyone who visited the church. Would we be able to do this again?*

*If you would like to take part - or better still, would be prepared to co-ordinate the event - please contact us as soon as possible. Email: [info@north-aston.co.uk](mailto:info@north-aston.co.uk), or call 347356.*

## Coffee Morning Be-Trayed

Dear Editor,

The small melamine tray belonging to the Coffee Morning, which is usually left in the Old Bakery, has disappeared. It is marked on the back "The Bakery Coffee Morning", and was last seen (and used) in July. By the time of the August Coffee Morning, it had gone missing. If anyone has borrowed it or knows where it is, please could they be kind enough to return it. Thank you.

Ted Short



The lucky winners of the August Draw were:

First Prize (£10): F. Ljungstrom (#86)

Second Prize (£5): Val Short (#27)

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!**

## 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](mailto: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

## Visit the Mobile Library

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](http://www.libcat.oxfordshire.gov.uk). It's free.

## St Mary's Walk

As itemised within the Minutes from September's Village Meeting, the lane from the main entrance gates to the Hall, beside the notice board and down to the Church, is to be officially recognised as "St Mary's Walk".

During the postcode change of about ten years ago, when North Aston was changed from OX6 to OX25, all postal addresses within the village were re-set to a default of "Somerton Road". Obviously many houses are not actually on Somerton Road, and this has led to problems for visitors, especially those looking for a property listed as being "Somerton Road" but which can be, in some instances, a quarter of a mile or more away.

After several instances of vehicles from the Emergency Services being delayed or unable to find homes near the Church, it was decided that something needed to be done. Cherwell District Council has been very helpful, and Julie Shea from their Names & Numbers office has been out to visit the village, and has drawn up a new map that defines the exact extent of St Mary's Walk.

In due course, a new specific postcode will be issued, and a name sign erected. Eventually, satnavs will also be updated. The Village Meeting can advise TomTom and Garmin of the change, but some of the other manufacturers may take a little longer to update their data.

The process has been relatively swift and painless, and prompts the question, what of other houses in North Aston? Properties which traditionally used *The Green* as part of their address were also affected during the postcode change, and even homes near the Old Vicarage are technically assigned the Somerton Road address.

If you feel that *The Green* needs to be correctly recognised once more, please let us know.

## Walnuts

Just a warning to dog owners that green walnut shells, when wet, can be poisonous to dogs, as a result of the mould that rapidly starts to develop on them. Please be aware of the many shells and nuts that have dropped on the Green.

# Living Without Fear



Nobody should have to live in fear of crime and there is a simple, safe and effective way you can help to stop criminals ruining more lives by passing on information about crime anonymously to the Crimestoppers 24:7 hotline **0800 555 111** or at [www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org).

Crimestoppers really does work. More than 2100 local criminals have been arrested and charged in Thames Valley over the past 13 years. That means that 1 in 10 of the calls to Crimestoppers results in an arrest without one caller ever being identified.

**If you do have any information about a crime, call Crimestoppers anonymously or visit the website.**

**Help make your community safer today.**  
[www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org)



## Crimestoppers & Thefts

Thames Valley Crimestoppers is an independent charity that provides the public with an anonymous way to give information on crime.

Crimestoppers is not part of the police, and if you call **0800 555 111** your call will not be traced and you won't be asked for your name or address. Callers will always remain completely anonymous, so minimising the risk of any repercussions. In addition, any information that leads to an arrest and charge could qualify the caller for a cash reward of up to £1,000 - also paid out anonymously. At no point will the caller's identity be revealed.

Just recently there has been a spate of Quad Bikes, Motor Bikes and Scooters being stolen from the Cherwell area, and taken out of the area. One North Aston resident has been a victim. Please be extra careful if you own a bike of any description, ensure that it is locked and secured at all times, and do not leave it in open view. Also, please keep an eye out for any unusual activity, especially suspicious-looking people on noisy motor bikes!

If you have any information please telephone the police on **08458 505 505** for the attention of Banbury CID. As always, call 999 if you think it warrants immediate police attention.



## Can you spare a few hours a week to give a Carer a break?

The *Oxfordshire Volunteer Befriending Service* is looking for male and female volunteers to give Carers in this area a break, just by sitting with the person they care for. This would not involve any personal care, moving or handling, and any out-of-pocket and travelling expenses will be covered.

Caring for someone 24 hours every day can be a lonely, isolating and very disheartening experience. If you think you can spare the time, just once in a while, to offer a dedicated Carer the time off they need, please call Elaine Gilbert on 07801 482408, or email her on [elaine@ccnwoxon.org.uk](mailto:elaine@ccnwoxon.org.uk)



# The Church MATTERS



## Mark's initiatives

We all know that Mark (Rev Dr Mark Clavier) joined us in July. His title is *Priest-in-Charge*, but he acts in every respect as Benefice Rector. Most of us have seen him at the Fête and September's Village Meeting if not in church or at the barbecue for young people he gave, and we'll see him loads more. He seems to produce smiles and laughter all over the place.

What we didn't realise was how energetic he is. Lots and lots of new things are happening in the Benefice, and these are some of them:

**Children's Church.** These will become more regular, more inclusive and fun. Due to Harvest Festival, our first one will be Sunday November 6th at 9:30.

**Weekly pew sheet.** Come into church at any time, and you will find a summary of all the events that are taking place across the Benefice, the services, the people we are asked to pray for, etc. And yes, it changes every week.

**Prayer and baptism request cards.** Anyone can fill in one of these, and send or drop it in on him. There is also a supply of name cards giving his details.

A Benefice Brochure, describing our parishes, is in the process of being finalised.

**New standard Holy Communion book.** He has prepared a complete revision of our *Order of Service*, which both makes the service clearer to follow and adds numerous notes about the origins and meaning of everything that is said and done during the service. It has a gorgeous front cover in colour, and is a serious upgrade on our old ones.

**Weekly Bible Study** is now held every Monday from 1:30 to 2:30 at the Rectory at Steeple Aston, for those who want to look more deeply at what the most popular book on earth has to say to us.

**A pint with the Parson.** The first of these drink and chat evenings took place in September at the Gardiner Arms. There were two priests, no less, drinking merrily away, and we had a genuinely enjoyable evening. The next one is Wednesday October 12th, 7:30 at the White Lion, Steeple Aston.

**More services.** He will try to arrange that when we have no service here in North Aston in the morning then we will have one in the evening (Evensong, Compline, Taizé, etc).

**MORE.** He also has other things in mind. News soon.

## Things that have happened

**Ride+Stride 2011.** Thanks a lot to all those who made the effort to do this, especially the 5 teenagers. You enjoyed it didn't you?

**Village Fete.** A huge thank you to the Village Meeting for voting half of the Fête's record proceeds to the Church. It's a significant help.

**Remember our Harvest Festival and Thanksgiving. 6pm in the Church this Sunday (October 2nd)**

Any comments about the above are very welcome.

Please email Kildare: [k.bourkeborrowes@btinternet.com](mailto:k.bourkeborrowes@btinternet.com) or tel: 340 200

If you wish you can also email Clive: [casb@north-aston.com](mailto:casb@north-aston.com) or tel: 338 434 or our priest Mark Clavier: [mark.clavier@gmail.com](mailto: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**

## Announcements & Adverts

### Village Marquees & Generator

There are tables, chairs and a 4.0 kVA 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](mailto: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

Keep your garden looking its best! Weeding, planting, mowing the lawn and clearing up Autumn's first fall of leaves. 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

### 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](http://www.naenterprise.co.uk)

# 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 your door.

### New This Month:-

Halloween pumpkins at supermarket prices. Smaller culinary pumpkins grown for flavour. Also butternut squash, leeks, cavallo nero kale and lots more.

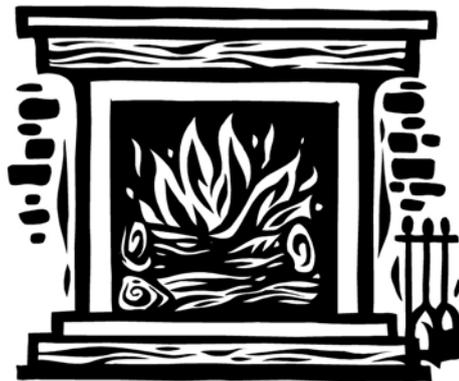
**Email:** [northastonorganics@gmail.com](mailto:northastonorganics@gmail.com)

**Tel:** ((01869)) 347702

# NICHOLSONS

*Celebrate the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness*

**New  
season  
fruit trees  
available  
now.**



**Stock up with  
seasoned logs  
ready for the  
snow in  
October**

Open weekdays 7.30am to 4.00pm

Saturdays March to May and September to December 9.00am to 12.00pm.

North Aston, Bicester, Oxfordshire. 01869 340342 [www.nicholsons.gb.com](http://www.nicholsons.gb.com)

# North Aston Gardening Club

Saturday 3rd September saw the first Flower and Produce Show to be staged in North Aston for years.

One of the comments made to me prior to the event was "you don't know what you are letting yourself in for". The initial thought was that we would have 20 exhibitors and around 100 entries. The final number of exhibitors exceeded 50 and entries were well over 260. Not bad for a small village like North Aston.

We had a few gremlins to start with, considering we had no experience of running an event such as this but after a slow start, we built up to speed. Apologies for any one who had to queue to enter their exhibits.

The club had decided to have a unique system of judging. Villagers would cast their own votes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd in each class other than the cakes and jams, where an independent judge was brought in. This was where we had a time problem. By working non stop, Marcus managed to get the votes counted and winners declared by about 8.00pm.

The barbecue in the evening proved another resounding success. Everybody enjoyed



themselves; an auction of left over exhibits bolstered the clubs funds, mostly due to the "£3.00 carrot."

We held a Gardening Club meeting a week after the show and it was agreed that we should do it all again next year. We have a full 12 months to plan it!!

The Gardening Club have been invited down to Cold Harbour on the 2nd November for an Evening with the Bees. It is a 7.30pm start and will be a very interesting night.

The new seed catalogues should be arriving shortly and I will be sending them out to members as soon as they arrive.

Chris Tuffrey

## Traffic Speed Monitor - Summer

Over the course of the summer we've not been publishing the results from the Traffic Monitor, largely because the regular "operator" was away for most of August, and we also had some issues with the battery, which meant that we lost several weeks of results.

As a result, here's a quick catch-up on the bare facts for the last three months.

With the amount of missing data, it's not possible to calculate the full monthly totals for August, but June matched the typical figure we've come to expect of around 27,500, while July racked up one of the highest monthly number we've seen for ages, with almost 32,000. Maybe the start of the holidays brought out some extra Sunday drivers? More likely, we gained a few additional hundreds over the Cornbury weekend, when music lovers may have been heading through to Great Tew from the motorway.

Top speed for June was 60, in July this was 56, and then August clocked a mere 55 (although we did 'lose' a couple of weeks' worth of data, so there might have been a few quicker drivers passing through).

The accumulated figures were fairly typical. June's "over 40s" amounted to 262 (one-way), rising to 295 in July, and then topping 300 in August - and this last despite those missing records. That same month some 2760 were caught setting speeds that would have resulted in points on their licences, compared with 3000 in July, and 1878 in June.

The overall totals for those breaking the speed limit were; 4000 in June, 5022 in July, and 3350 in August. That figure for July looks high - and is - but it was also a busy month, and the percentage as a total of through traffic is still around 32%, so much in line with what we've come to expect.

Oh, and that Transit van with the trailer unit is still thundering through the village every morning at around 7:00am. Anyone caught its number yet?


**FLOWER & PRODUCE**  
**SHOW 2011**  
*Results*

**Section A: Vegetables & Fruit**

- 1 Oddest Shaped Vegetable**  
*Gold:* Geoff Rawnsley, *Silver:* Kyle Hite, *Bronze:* Bill Graham
- 2 4 Carrots**  
*Gold:* Bill Graham, *Silver:* Wendy Cox, *Bronze:* Norman West
- 3 4 Potatoes**  
*Gold:* Geoff Rawnsley, *Silver:* Bill Graham, *Bronze:* Bill Graham
- 4 3 Onions**  
*Gold:* Geoff Rawnsley, *Silver:* Norman West, *Bronze:* Geoff Rawnsley
- 5 3 Beetroot**  
*Gold:* Norman West, *Silver:* Trudy Busby, *Bronze:* Jane Beaufoy
- 6 Heaviest Marrow** *Gold:* Niel Nicholson
- 7 Longest Runner Bean\***  
*Gold:* Bill Graham (18.5") *Silver:* ? *Bronze:* ?
- 8 6 different vegetables in a shallow tray**  
*Gold:* Bill Graham, *Silver:* Norman West, *Bronze:* Beryl Greenwood
- 9 4 Tomatoes**  
*Gold:* Tony Rees, *Silver:* Bill Graham, *Bronze:* Jill Rawnsley
- 10 1 Cucumber**  
*Gold:* Bill Graham, *Silver:* Jill Rawnsley, *Bronze:* Jane Beaufoy
- 11 6 Plums**  
*Gold:* Eileen Gilmore, *Silver:* Jill Wansley, *Bronze:* Bill Graham
- 12 4 Eating Apples**  
*Gold:* Jane Durnin, *Silver:* David Hanna, *Bronze:* Jill Rawnsley
- 13 4 Cooking Apples**  
*Gold:* Tony Rees, *Silver:* Chris Hazle, *Bronze:* Jill Rawnsley

**Section B: Plants & Flowers**

- 14 Single Rose**  
*Gold:* Beryl Greenwood, *Silver:* Jean Greaham, *Bronze:* Jane Durnin
- 15 Three Chrysanthemums** *Gold:* Norman West
- 16 Plant in a Pot**  
*Gold:* Jill Rawnsley, *Silver:* Eileen Gilmore
- 17 Geranium in a Pot**  
*Gold:* Jean Greaham, *Silver:* Jill Rawnsley, *Bronze:* Eileen Gilmore
- 18 Flower arrangement in an Unusual Pot**  
*Gold:* Rita Rees, *Silver:* Wendy Cox, *Bronze:* Jill Rawnsley
- 19 Arrangement of Five Flowers Picked from your Garden**  
*Gold:* Jane Beaufoy, *Silver:* Mary Davidson, *Bronze:* Jill Rawnsley
- 20 Flowering House Plant**  
*Gold:* Jill Rawnsley, *Silver:* Joshua Potts
- 21 Cactus or Succulent in a Pot**  
*Gold:* Chris Hazle, *Silver:* Chris Hazle, *Bronze:* Chris Hazle
- 22 Herbs (4 different herbs in separate pots)** *No entries*

**Section C: Cookery**

\*The winners in these categories were displayed at the time of the Show. Sadly, in the heat of scoring everything else, an accurate record of the winners was not kept. If you can fill in any of the gaps (or you were a winner!) please let us know: info@north-aston.co.uk or 347356

- 23 Jar of Jam**  
*Gold:* ? *Silver:* Mary Davidson *Bronze:* ? *Highly Commended:* ?
- 24 Jar of Chutney**  
*Gold:* Jean Graham *Silver:* ? *Bronze:* Mary Davidson  
*Highly Commended:* ?
- 25 Jar of Pickle**  
*Gold:* Beverley Rees, *Silver:* Niel Nicholson *Bronze:* Jean Graham
- 26 Jar of Marmalade**  
*Gold:* ? *Silver:* Mary Davidson *Bronze:* ? *Highly Commended:* ?
- 27 Victoria Sponge**  
*Gold:* ? *Silver:* Jean Graham *Bronze:* Beverley Rees  
*Highly Commended:* ?
- 28 Fruit Cake**  
*Gold:* Jill Rawnsley *Silver:* Jean Graham *Bronze:* Liz Hite  
*Highly Commended:* Niel Nicholson

**29 Two Scones Plain/Fruit**

*Gold:* ? *Silver:* Niel Nicholson *Bronze:* Liz Hite  
*Highly Commended:* ?

**30 Fruit Pie**

*Gold Jointly:* Trudy Busby & Beverley Rees  
*Silver:* Franca Potts, *Bronze:* Beryl Greenwood

**31 Men's only cake**

*Gold:* Matthew Rees, *Silver:* David Hazle, *Bronze:* Niel Nicholson  
*Highly Commended:* Tony Rees

**Section D: Photography, Arts & Crafts**

**32 Photograph of Village Life relevant to North Aston**

*Gold:* Linda Brown, *Norman West with Strawberries*  
*Silver:* Niel Nicholson, *Clive Busby with Seed Harrow*  
*Bronze:* John Harvey-Lee, *Welly Wanging at the Fete*

**33 Photograph of Wildlife or Flower**

*Gold:* Stephen Rees, *Roe Deer in Woodland*  
*Silver:* David Hazle, *Family of Swans*  
*Bronze:* Stephen Rees, *Head of a Hare in Profile*

**34 Photograph of North Aston in the Snow**

*Gold:* Angie Hanna, *The Lane in Snow*  
*Silver:* Chris Hazle, *Icicles*  
*Bronze:* Chris Hazle, *Oak Tree shrouded in Snow*

**35 Something made from Wood**

*Gold:* John Harvey-Lee, *Love Spoon*  
*Silver:* Daniel Durnin, *Cabinet*  
*Bronze:* Stephen Rees, *Staghorn Walking Cane*

**36 Something made from Wool**

*Gold:* Mary Davidson, *Cushion*  
*Silver:* Beryl Greenwood, *Knitted Woolen Socks*  
*Bronze:* Beryl Greenwood, *Knitted Woolen Waistcoat*

**37 A Limerick; "There was an old Farmer from North Aston . . . . ."**

*Gold:* Eileen Gilmore  
*There was an old farmer from North Aston,*  
*whose tractor was too small to fit his arse on.*  
*So he bought one from Fritwell,*  
*and that seemed to fit well*  
*and now he can smile when he's passed one!!*

*Silver:* Marcus Potts

*There was an old farmer from North Aston*  
*Who walked from Aynho to Clifton*  
*Half way 'tween the two*  
*He needed the loo*

*And never got past the Great Western!*

*Bronze:* Angie Hanna

*There was an old farmer from North Aston*  
*Whose bullocks were the main attraction!*  
*Small boys would poke them*  
*Young girls would stroke them*  
*And wait for the farmer's reaction*

**Section E: For Children up to 8 years**

- 38 A painting of North Aston**  
*Gold:* Jemima McArdle, *Silver:* Tommy McArdle
- 39 A creature made from vegetables**  
*Gold:* Kyle Hite, *Silver:* Jemima McArdle
- 40 Four Cup Cakes** *Gold:* Kyle Hite
- 41 A Miniature Garden on a Plate**  
*Gold:* Chl e DePlace, *Silver:* Tommy McArdle

**Section F: For Children 8 years but under 15 years**

- 42** Photograph taken of North Aston on your mobile phone: *No entries*
- 43** A Model you have Made: *Gold:* Clara Nicholson
- 44** A person made from vegetables: *No entries*
- 45** 4 Cup Cakes: *No entries*
- 46** A Drawing or Painting of the Village: *No entries*

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Welcome back to

## **B E E PAGES**

a new monthly forum

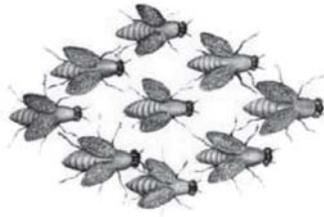
hosted by Miche & Kildare

Please email contributions to Miche

by the middle of the month

[michefabrelewin@mac.com](mailto: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
- **closer to nature beekeeping**

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**“For the last 800 years Britain has been known as the *Isle of Honey*.”**

Quoted in *Bee Lovely Save the Bees* booklet by Peter Kindersley & Sam Roddick

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**Miche writes:** A group of us visited Worton Organic Garden, Cassington in September. David Blake, visionary and experimental gardener, gave us an inspiring tour of the smallholding. He is a guardian beekeeper of over 30 years. Within this little oasis of biodiversity, we encountered a flourish of flowers, an abundance of vegetable plots - the perfect setting for two octagonal beehives built to a Steiner design and suited to the natural habitat of the honeybee. Gilles, our French Wwoofer\* was asking questions throughout about these hives which are for protection and pollination purposes rather than for harvesting honey. Gilles, intrigued and a little confused by no honey being harvested, for David or the shop, asked, ‘what is ze honey for?’ An interesting question to follow.

Bees make honey for many purposes. Honey is the food, the beebread for the larva, the medicine, the stores, as well as being energy source needed to create waxcomb which is home to colony, the brood, raises the queen, and holds the honey stores. Honey is an essential substance to the life and health of the colony. Sadly, though, because of its nutritious and medicinal value we have become honey thieves and our greed for this miracle substance is contributing to the decline in bee colonies. Bee-keeping has become a form of intensive farming and this is having a detrimental impact on the highly efficient, tuned natural life cycle of the honeybee superorganism. Frame hives with premarked comb foundations are designed to boost honey production for ourselves, and then leaving the bees without enough honey for the winter, we substitute their healthful, complete food with our denatured white sugar. So let us enjoy small, and seasonal harvest of this precious elixir become modest & recover Britain as the *Isle of Honey* for the future.

\* A ‘Willing worker on organic farm’.

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### **Next event:**

The **HONEYBEE GROUP** will meet on Wednesday 2 November 2011 with the North Aston Gardening Club at Coldharbour Farmhouse at 7.30pm for film, mead & conversations. RSVP to Miche.

**Kildare writes:** Josh Healey, Ella and I got really enthusiastic about the Steiner bee-home that Miche writes about, and we’re going back to Worton to have a closer look and assess the feasibility of making some to have in the village. One of the nice features is that they have little inspection windows down the side, so you can see what’s going on – great for the kids in all of us. More news about that soon.

It’s clear that bees need true biodiversity in order to thrive and remain strong and healthy; the loss of this in most ‘advanced’ countries has taken a severe toll on their health. Beekeeping is at least 4 or 5,000 years old, and during all that period small-scale mixed farming, crop rotations, inefficiencies and above all lack of chemical herbicides ensured a huge diversity of plants and habitats across the land. Since WW2 flower-rich meadows have been ploughed wholesale for arable or two-species improved grassland, fuelled by fertilisers. We have lost about 90% of wild habitats and about 97% of meadowland since the 1930s. This means, ironically, that cities are now more bee-friendly places than most open countryside. Buckingham Palace, for example, has four beehives with about 200,000 bees. They enjoy about 350 species of wildflower, to say nothing of the approximately 600 varieties of cultivated plants there. Where would we find that kind of diversity round here? And yes, the Queen does have her honey at breakfast – ‘Very nice’!

One of our companions on the visit was Charles Flower, a leading advocate of restoring natural habitats on farms (he’s done it on his own one near Marlborough). From his family’s little business you can buy a whole variety of wild-flower seed mixes, and in plugs or pots for direct planting. Perhaps you’d like to have a go, as every little helps: [www.charlesflower-wildflowers.co.uk](http://www.charlesflower-wildflowers.co.uk).

*David Blake showing us the Steiner based bee hive at Worton Organic Garden’*



# Have you made a Will?

## No? There's NO CHARGE in November

This is a difficult subject for some of us, and we often put it off and don't want to think about it. However, it must be said that without a Will your loved ones could face a lot of trouble, work and expense after your death. Without a Will, a court could decide how to distribute your goods and who should look after your young children.

**It takes too long.** Not really – just a few hours of preparation, where you list your assets and liabilities, think about what you want to leave to whom, and then a trip to a solicitor.

**Do I really need a solicitor?** Yes you do! Even though your Will may be simple, the law is complicated, and a mistake can invalidate it, leaving a court to decide what to do.

**Solicitors are expensive.** Not really, for a simple Will, and in November they can be **FREE**. Under Will Aid ([www.willaid.org.uk](http://www.willaid.org.uk)) some solicitors will prepare your Will for no charge, though you are asked to make a voluntary donation to Will Aid and this money is distributed to a group of nine Charities (including Age UK, the Red Cross, Christian Aid, NSPCC, Save the Children). The three nearest participating solicitors to us are:

### **Brethertons LLP**

Strathmore House, Waterperry Court, Middleton Road, Banbury, OX16 4QD. Telephone: 01295 661440.

Contact: Mrs. Sophie Wales

### **Hancocks**

The Old Vicarage, 24 Horsefair, Banbury, OX16 0YA.

Telephone: 01295 253211.

Contact: Mrs. Toni Peppard

### **Denis Wynn & Co**

6a Market Place, Chipping Norton, OX7 5NA.

Telephone: 01608 643036. Contact: Mr. Denis Wynn

So, it will cost you, but less than a normal solicitor's fee.

Book an appointment as soon as possible, as they get very busy doing this work.

**Gifts to Charities in Wills are good.** This is a chance for some of us to 'catch up' – to give in our Will some money to a Charity that we couldn't afford to in our lives. Gifts like this are efficient as they are tax-free – they are removed from the value of your estate before calculating inheritance tax.

Furthermore, since March 2011, if you leave 10% or more of the value of your estate to Charities, then inheritance tax is reduced from 40% down to 36% - but do take advice so you get this right.

**Please think about St Mary's, North Aston!** The work and life of our Church must continue long after we have gone. A gift in your Will can make a huge difference; it can help assure continuity of Christian life in our village in the future, or allow the Rector and PCC to achieve something that they otherwise couldn't afford.

**After you have made your Will.** Keep it somewhere safe, and make sure your executors and loved ones know where it is. Review it every 5 years or so – things may have changed; if you need to change it, your solicitor won't normally charge much. If you have any additional instructions, it's best to keep those with the Will. You may also like to make a list of useful information – where things like bank accounts, any savings or investments, insurance policies, spare keys, etc are kept.

### **Further Information**

If you would like further information about making your Will, please contact Kildare at The Lower House:

**Telephone: 340 200**

**Email: [k.bourkeborrowes@btinternet.com](mailto:k.bourkeborrowes@btinternet.com).**

# COFFEE MORNING

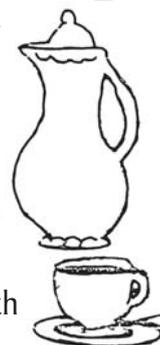
Come and join us for an informal get-together at the Bakery on the first Wednesday of each month. Tea, coffee and cakes will be served from 10:30am till 12:00 noon.

## 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 October 5<sup>th</sup>



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# North Aston Village Meeting

Thursday 15th September 2011

## MINUTES

Present: Chris Tuffrey (*Chair*), Franca Potts (*Clerk*), Sue Hatzigeorgiou (*Treasurer*)

Present: Eileen Gilmore, Clive Busby, Trudy Busby, Marcus Potts, John Harvey-Lee, James Taylor, Beryl Greenwood, David Greenwood, Lynn Quek, Jane McArdle, Sandra Reeves, Linda Brown, Mark Stay, Kildare Bourke-Borrowes, David Hanna, Jeremy Taylor, Niel Nicholson, David Hanna, Beverley Rees, Matthew Rees, Jeremy Taylor, Chris Hazle, Mark Clavier.

Apologies: Jenny Martin, Tuck Hatzigeorgiou, Sarah Bourke-Borrowes, Vicky Taylor.

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## Village Meeting

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### 1. Welcome & Apologies

Chris Tuffrey welcomed everyone to the meeting. Everyone wished Jeremy Taylor a very happy Birthday.

### 2. Minutes of the last meeting

The Minutes of the last Meeting, as published in the July issue of the *North Aston News*, were approved unanimously. Proposed by John Harvey Lee (JH-L), seconded by Marcus Potts (MP).

### 3. Treasurer's Report

Copies of the Treasurer's Report were available for those present to review, and Sue Hatzigeorgiou explained the report. The balance of the Village Meeting Account stands at £1,128.74 with £300 to come from the second tranche of the 2011 Precept.

SH proposed that the Current and Deposit accounts should be merged, as there were no benefits (under present financial conditions) in their remaining separate. Marcus Potts proposed the motion which was seconded by Beryl Greenwood.

### 4. Nomination of Officers

Chris Tuffrey told the Meeting that this would be the last-but-one meeting before the AGM, and if there were no nominations for Officers, the meeting would face the possibility of being disbanded, and North Aston could become amalgamated with one of the neighbouring Parish Councils, such as Steeple Aston or Duns Tew.

Franca Potts nominated Marcus Potts as her possible replacement as Clerk.

CT asked that if there are any other nominations, he should be notified, and that a further discussion would take place during the December Meeting.

### 5. Annual Audit

SH reported that North Aston has been randomly chosen to complete a questionnaire relating to the Annual Audit, and this revealed that the village should have completed a Risk Assessment by April this year. North Aston's accounts may be subject to a qualified audit which, if undertaken, will incur a fee of £30.

The Risk Assessment should be included on the Agenda for the January AGM.

### 6. Asset Register

SH explained that an Asset Register was necessary as it relates to the insurance premiums currently being paid by the Village. Assets must be set at a certain time and an

Asset Register drawn up. The Village has few assets, but these include the fountain, two bus shelters and the speed monitor.

The fountain is valued at £4,000

The bus shelter is valued at £1,200

The speed monitor is valued at £3,100

The Village insurance policy is currently arranged through Aon UK, Local Councils Insurance.

### 7. Any Other Business

**St Mary's Walk.** Beryl Greenwood explained to the Meeting that the Emergency Services, delivery drivers and visitors to the village have been encountering difficulties in locating some of the properties near to the Church, since they are designated as being on Somerton Road. She said that the lane from Gate Cottage down to the Church had been known as St Mary's Walk, and during the 1990s this had been the recognised address by the Post Office and Cherwell District Council.

However, following the change in the postcode for North Aston, the name had been 'lost'. BG had spoken to Cherwell District Council and had been told that St Mary's Walk was no longer registered but if was to be reinstated, the request should come from the Village Meeting. BG asked whether the Meeting would be willing to write to CDC requesting that St Mary's Walk to be reinstated.

David Greenwood remarked that he thought these properties had become associated with Somerton Road after the last postcode change. MP also thought that properties on the opposite side of the Green were also now designated as being on "Somerton Road", rather than "The Green", as previously. Kildare Bourke-Borrowes asked where St Mary's Walk should start and finish. A brief discussion followed as to what the limits might be, and whether it should extend beyond the Church and past Upper House. It was generally agreed that it should cover this additional length, but perhaps not to go so far as to include the driveway to the Lodge.

Franca Potts offered to write to CDC as Clerk to the Meeting.

**Kerbing.** Jeremy Taylor remarked that a number of kerb stones had been dislodged and Chris Tuffrey told him he had spoken to the Council regarding this.

**Planning.** David Greenwood told the Meeting that Clive Busby had been having difficulty in obtaining Planning Permission for his proposed new house (to be sited just north of 21 The Green, towards the Old Vicarage) and urged the meeting to support CB's application.

CT commented that detailed planning had not yet been

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applied for and support could only be given if a planning application has been rejected.

CB said he was attempting to get James Macnamara to support his application.

Niel Nicholson suggested that the Meeting should only comment on planning applications if they affect the village as a whole. Also, if and when planning is applied for and rejected, the Village can then respond. It was suggested that the Village Meeting could not get involved until such time as the Council had issued a planning reference, and if CB could not at this stage submit a full planning application, then perhaps outline planning might be sought. Even if this was rejected outright, the process would have entered official channels, and the Meeting could then react.

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## Village Fund

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Those attending, and apologies for absence, as above.

### 1. Welcome & Apologies

Chris Tuffrey welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### 2. Minutes of the last meeting

The Minutes of the last Meeting, as published in the July issue of the *North Aston News*, were approved unanimously. Proposed by John Harvey Lee (JH-L), seconded by Marcus Potts (MP).

### 3. Treasurer's Report

SH reported that there was a healthy balance in the account and that she proposed merging the Current and Deposit accounts as before. This was proposed by Marcus Potts and seconded by Beryl Greenwood.

#### 4a. Village Fête

CT reported that the Village Fête had been a very good day and thanked Marcus Potts, John Harvey-Lee and everyone else who helped to make it such a success.

MP explained that the Fête had been discussed at the Village Hall Meeting held on 27th July, when the event was still fresh in everyone's minds. Notes had been taken on ideas and suggestions for improvements, and observations on those elements that had worked well, and the Meeting agreed that there was little to be gained by starting another discussion. £1.945 was raised and IT WAS AGREED to donate 50% to the Church. Proposed by John Harvey-Lee and seconded by Niel Nicholson. KB-B thanked the Meeting for the donation on behalf of the Church.

#### 4b. Flower & Produce Show

CT told the Meeting that the Flower & Produce Show had also been a very good day, and how impressed he had been by the way so many people had taken part, and also by the numbers who attended on the day. He thanked MP for all his hard work with the scoring. There were over 50 entrants and more than 250 exhibits. MP confirmed that the full results would be published in the *News*.

### 5. Harvest Supper

Niel and Liz Nicholson have kindly offered the use of their new barn for the Harvest Supper this year, to be held on Saturday October 1st. NN requested that people do not take their cars unless absolutely necessary. He also said that access to the Barn would be via the doorway at the back of their garage. There was a discussion as to whether the evening should be a 'Bring & Share' or go back to then old system of

having a number of cooks prepare a main course, and puddings brought to share.

Mark Stay revealed that he had already been in discussion with a number of cooks in the village, and that it was hoped that a meal could be prepared. He offered to co-ordinate the main course to be cooked collectively.

Puddings will be brought to share and it was suggested that the food should all come from within the village if possible.

IT WAS AGREED that the Village would pay for the meat and that no charge would be made for the supper.

MP offered to take bookings and prepare a flyer to advertise the evening. A collection bucket will be put out on the evening for donations.

### 6. Update on Village Plan

CT told the Meeting that a representative from ORCC was at the Fête and had collected suggestions and comments from members of the Village. He read out some of the comments. However, with so many other matters arising, he felt that it might be best if the matter of the Village Plan was held over until January and a meeting will be called in the New Year.

### 7. Emergency Plan

CT had received some correspondence from OCC about the need for communities like North Aston to establish an "Emergency Plan". The main concern related to the need for advanced planning to help during periods of extreme weather. MP suggested that there should be a list of volunteers to check on pensioners, clean paths etc. and that those with 4 x 4s volunteer to be on call if the roads are badly affected.

CB said he was willing to collect prescriptions from the surgery, but residents would need to contact the surgery to give permission. CT said he would publish more information in the *News*.

### 8. Salt Boxes and Gritting

CT reported that the Council will not grit the Village this winter, but if a Village Plan is submitted we will be entitled to 1 ton bag of gritting salt. The Council will also fill salt bins, but they must be on the public highway and of the correct construction. CT suggested that the Village could invest in salt bins, but that these would have to be placed alongside the road and on public land.

David Greenwood said that he didn't think salt worked particularly well, especially at the extremely low temperatures we experienced last winter, and that it damaged roads.

MP thought that the salt should only be used on footpaths.

James Taylor suggested a salt bin could be located at Park Farm, but others felt this would not be close to the areas where it would be most needed.

Eileen Gilmore said that salt was of little benefit on snow, but could be used on bad corners etc.

It was AGREED that the village would accept the donation of the 1 ton of gritting salt, and that this would, in the first instance, be sited near North Aston Organics, behind the Bakery. MS agreed to this. However, there was little support for actually purchasing additional salt bins.

### 9. Public Footpaths

CT told the Meeting that a complaint had been made to CDC about the overgrown state of the footpath alongside The Park, linking St Mary's Walk with the woodland to the south of the Nursery. The Rights of Way Officer had been to inspect it.

He read an email from Sarah Aldous to the Meeting which suggested that the gates at either end of the path would need

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to be removed in order to facilitate mowing of the path. However, the gates are still in place and the path has been mown, and it is hoped that this situation can be allowed to continue. Because some residents, particularly dog owners, value the presence of the gates, it was considered that the village might have had a lucky escape in this instance, but if anyone does have concerns over the state of footpaths in the future, they are urged to contact the landowner direct.

#### **10. Carols on the Green**

Carols were held last Christmas in Beesley's Close; the field beyond the Green, and this had not been a popular move. It was noted that attendance last Christmas had been well down on previous years, and it was thought that this was probably the result of people not seeing the bonfire in preparation, and therefore assuming that the event had been cancelled.

It was suggested that the Carols on the Green return to the Green, but move to the children's play area for this year, even though it was accepted that the grass might suffer. CB told the Meeting that the grass has recovered in the past, when the bonfire was beside the gate, and it was felt that the more open site might be of benefit. Jeremy Taylor and CB will be consulted on this.

Marcus Potts has offered to compile some new carol sheets.

#### **11. Christmas Plans**

MP asked whether there might be a Children's Christmas Party this year, and felt that announcing the possibility now might encourage a parent to step forward and volunteer to organise one. Beryl Greenwood also wished to add the question of the traditional village gift to the OAPs to the next agenda, and both would be subjects for discussion at the December Village Meeting.

It was questioned whether or not the December Village Meeting would be a more social affair, as it has been in the past. It was agreed that drinks and refreshments would follow.

#### **12. Result of Village Hall Ballot**

Marcus Potts reported the outcome of the August ballot, and result sheets were handed out to everyone present. He said he hoped that this would be the last ballot that would address the basic question of whether or not the people of North Aston wanted a Village Hall and that, once again, the result had demonstrated overwhelming support for the idea.

Everyone listed on the Electoral Register had been eligible to take part. This amounted to 146 residents, of which 127 had submitted completed ballot papers. Of the remaining 19, 8 had left the Village and 11 had, for reasons unknown, decided not to take part. 15 chose to remain anonymous.

This meant that 87% of those eligible to do so had participated, and 85% of those had expressed their support for the project. The vote was also in favour of Beesley's Close as the preferred site, although it seemed likely that the introduction of the Allotment Field as an alternative had "split" the Beesley's vote, as it was not as overwhelming as it had been in 2007.

MP compared the results those of the 2007 survey and was re-assured by the results of the latest ballot. However, he said he was disappointed that there were still those who felt they needed to oppose the project at this early stage. He said he could appreciate why someone might not want to use a Village Hall themselves, or who might think it served no purpose for them as individuals, but on the basis of a simple 'yes' or 'no' to the general concept of a Village Hall, he found it hard to understand how, or why, anyone could possibly

oppose the idea. To do so was simply to attempt to deny others the benefits that a Hall might bring.

MP said that the next steps will be to form a Village Hall Committee, draw up a Business Plan (Nicholas Kneale has offered to do this) and to prove viability of the project. That would be followed by research into sourcing the necessary funding and support for the project.

CT told the Meeting that the Committee would set up a charity, which would take 4-6 months and, since North Aston does not have a Parish Council, the Trustees in the first instance would have to be the Charity Commission.

MP said that there should be a broad spectrum of the community involved and 8-10 people should be on the Committee, giving regular feedback to the residents of the Village.

CT told the Meeting that there was already some funding available. He had been in discussion with the Lottery Fund to source a possible £50,000, and further £50,000 might also be available from Viridor.

MP told the Meeting there had been many offers of help arising from the ballot, including several craftsmen in the village who had offered their services.

KB-B asked if Planning Permission would be granted. MP responded that Beesley's Close was the Council's preferred site. There will be open meetings and regular feedback, but everyone at the Meeting was urged to volunteer if they wanted to help and not wait to be asked.

KB-B commented that he thought officers of the Village Meeting should not serve on the Village Hall Committee.

The date for the next Village Hall Meeting will be published in the Newsletter and a vote of thanks was proposed to MP and CT for all the work they had done.

#### **13. Any Other Business**

There was no further business. The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

## **This Month's Birthdays**

Tom Baimbridge

Daniel Durnin

Olivia Durnin

Jimmy Rees

and congratulations to  
**Marcus & Franca**  
on their Wedding Anniversary!

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.



# Village Hall

The papers from the Village Hall ballot, staged in July and August, were counted during the Gardening Club meeting in early September, and then published at the Village Meeting on September 15th.

All those included on the North Aston Electoral Register (aged 18 or above) were eligible to vote in the ballot. In addition, those new to the village since the publication of the most recent updated edition (January 2011) and of voting age were also invited to participate.

## General Data

A total of 146 residents were entitled to vote.

A total of 127 ballot papers were received.

Of the 19 who did not take part, 8 have recently moved away from the village.

11 people, for reasons unknown, did not submit a ballot.

87% of the eligible population took part in the ballot.

15 of the 127 ballot papers were submitted anonymously.

## Part 1

The ballot asked; *If the funds could be raised, would you be:*

In favour of the building of a Village Hall: **94**

Opposed to the building of a Village Hall: **17**

There were 16 abstentions (those not expressing a preference either way), although most of those abstaining from Part 1 did express their preferences in Part 2. (In addition, two more residents came forward after the cut-off date and added their support, making a total of 96 in favour of a Village Hall out of 129 votes received. However, having missed the deadline, these responses are not included in the final calculations.)

## Part 2

The ballot asked; *If approved, which of the three sites would you prefer as the location for the Village Hall?*

Choice:	1st	2nd	3rd	No pref*
Allotment	30	18	65	13
Beesley's	45	2	68	11
Pavilion	33	17	57	18

\*These figure includes those that abstained from Part 2 only (expressed no preference for site, but did support or oppose the principle), those that abstained from both Parts 1 and 2, and those that only abstained from Part 1.

## Conclusion

It can be concluded from these figures that there is considerable support for the general principle of a Village Hall for North Aston. 85% of those who expressed a preference support the project.

The selection of a location also has a "winner", although the margin is less emphatic.

If a "First Past the Post" plurality electoral system is employed, Beesley's Close wins by 45 votes to 33 for the Old Pavilion, and 30 to the Allotment Field.

If the "Alternative Vote" preferential system is used, then the Allotment site came third in the first round and is excluded. The votes of those 30 people who gave the Allotment site as their first choice are then redistributed, based upon their stated preferences for the other two sites as Second Choice locations.

A second round of voting creates the following results:

	Beesley's	Pavilion
Round 1. Given as 1st Choice	45	33
Round 2. Given as 2nd Choice	2	9
<b>Total:</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>42</b>

Once again, Beesley's Close wins, but by a reduced majority. As a general trend, those that gave the Old Pavilion as their primary choice did not express second or third preferences. In addition, of those opposed to the Hall, all but one gave the Pavilion as their preferred or only choice. This may account for the low number of second-choices awarded to Beesley's Close, whereas those who gave this as their first site almost without exception also gave second and third choices. Proof, perhaps, that the AV system has its drawbacks!

A third system awards points: 3 points for a first choice, 2 points for second, 1 point for third, and 0 (zero) points where no preference was expressed. However, as mentioned above, it should be noted that not everyone gave ranked votes, and some marked only their single preferred site. However, using this system, the following totals can be deduced:

Beesley's Close	207	points
Allotment Field	193	points
Old Pavilion	192	points

Beesley's Close is again the most popular site, with the Allotment Field narrowly beating the Old Pavilion to second.

It would be possible to extrapolate a whole raft of further conclusions from the results, including the observation that the inclusion of the Allotment Field as an alternative site does appear to have "split" the vote for Beesley's Close, and had the choice been a straight two-horser between Beesley's and the Pavilion, then the result might have been more emphatic. However, as it stands, the demands of those who insisted on another ballot have been met in an open and democratic way and the Village Hall project can now move forwards once again.

## What Happens Next?

The next stage is to complete the Business Plan. Nicholas Kneale has generously offered to assist with this, for which we are very grateful. Having a comprehensive and credible Business Plan is vital to moving the project forwards. As was stated on the Ballot Paper, the Plan needs to demonstrate the long-term viability of the Village Hall. If it cannot do this, then the project cannot be sustained. This is also why the considerations of the Ballot did not extend to the day-to-day running of the Hall. This will also be addressed by the Plan.

We shall also start the process of establishing a Charity to administer the Village Hall. This will be needed to oversee the Hall's future finances and also to enable us to apply for certain grants and funding options, some of which require beneficiaries to have charitable status.

In the meantime, we need to establish a Committee to help manage the Village Hall project as it develops. We have already had some volunteers, but we need around 8 or 10 people in total who will be prepared to meet regularly, discuss the options, make decisions, and steer the Village Hall through the various planning, funding and construction stages. We need a representative cross-section of the community, and that could mean you! If you'd like to be involved, please get in touch. Email [info@north-aston.co.uk](mailto:info@north-aston.co.uk) or call 347356.

**Next Meeting - Wednesday 12th October, 7:30pm, Bakery**

# Councillor Calling



## Bicester Developments

Plans have received the final green light with Ministerial approval for the Compulsory Purchase Order needed to acquire the complicated jigsaw of interests behind Sheep Street. You won't see major works immediately so as to give shops a clear run at Christmas before disruption starts. After that, it's up to us to make the effort to support our local traders through the works, so the services we need are there at the end of the process.

The new High Street, Sainsbury's and cinema are just the first phase: Cherwell will then build a Civic Building on what is now the Franklin's Yard car park to accommodate a local presence for the District and County Councils, and also the Town Council, if they want, possibly a much expanded county library and an hotel to provide income to pay for the development (and provide a boost to local trade and employment). The awakening interest of hoteliers in our market town gives a completely unbiased endorsement of our plans.

## Cheaper Parking

Revised parking charges have jumped through the legal hoops and been agreed, so you should find it cheaper from mid-November – in time for Christmas shopping – but do, please, check the notices on the new timings so as not to get caught out.

## Dial-a-Ride

Bus services have been scrutinised to come up with a consistent and equitable approach in place of each District in the County doing something different, while we were paying a huge amount per journey. It now looks like we'll have a county-wide "base line" scheme, which Cherwell can top up to fill in any gaps. Similarly, advice services and other volunteer-run schemes are being looked at to get the most out of them for what we put in.

## Solar Energy

Power generation is not what you usually think of your council doing. But we've approved six major schemes – one on each of the leisure centres, one at our offices and another at the vehicle depot – for photovoltaic panels to generate free electricity and benefit from the "feed-in tariff" subsidy. This is estimated to save 200 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> a year but, in hard cash, a 9% return on investment should justify the scheme to every council tax payer.

That vehicle depot, meanwhile, was judged "top performing and high quality" for vehicle maintenance. While this should, of course, reassure tax payers, it's bad news if you are looking to squeeze big savings out

of it! So a recent study only found £20k per year from smarter purchasing (in consortium with other councils) and extending the working life of our heavy vehicles – but at least it shows there was no waste to eliminate in the first place.

## Slow Growing

Recycling rates fell below target, which seemed disappointing until I heard the explanation: that the exceptionally dry spring reduced the amount of (recyclable) garden waste, lowering the percentage without, of course, affecting what matters, the tonnage sent to landfill – relief!

## Caught in the Act

Fly tipping puts the lie to those in the national Press predicting disaster from fortnightly rubbish collections. Incidents, which fell 30% two years ago and another 5% last year, are on track to drop another 5% this year. Robustly pursuing offenders in the courts clearly helps and, following presentations to magistrates on the cost of clearing up illegally dumped rubbish, awards of compensation have been rising so the polluter pays rather than the tax payer.

Satisfaction with fortnightly collections of garden and food waste showed directly how wrong the Press have got this, actually rising from a very respectable 75% to 80% in 2011.

## Back to Money

Realising savings from joining up with South Northants is moving at a cracking pace on several fronts. Interviews are reaching a crescendo for the top two layers of management, who will be shared by the two councils. Meanwhile, services which can readily be spread across both areas are starting to amalgamate and, in parallel, shared purchasing and common computer systems are steadily yielding savings. All of which takes the pressure off services which matter to residents and reinforces our aim to freeze the rate of Council Tax for yet another year, despite the massive reductions in our grant.

## Planning

A new threat arises, with the ill-judged proposals to give developers *carte blanche* to build anywhere to stimulate economic growth. Our current powers to prevent ugly sprawl and to coordinate housing with jobs and facilities are weak enough – but, if these ideas aren't reversed, I might as well hand over my seat on the Planning Committee to the builders. If you are too busy to protest about nothing else, please make your feelings heard on this one!

Locally, though, you might also feel that, with a third hard winter forecast, the ludicrous proposal to give each Parish Clerk a one ton bag of salt and to leave them to fill their own parish's grit bins is also such a recipe for chaos as to generate a bit of protest too.

So, a lot going on and some gritty issues (if you'll forgive the pun) to get stuck in to!

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# CHURCH SERVICES

## PARISH WORSHIP IN OCTOBER 2011

STEEPLE ASTON

NORTH ASTON

TACKLEY

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### Sunday 2nd - Trinity XV

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11.00 am  
Holy Communion  
& Baptism  
**Fr Mark Clavier**

6.00 pm  
Harvest Evensong  
**Fr Mark Clavier**

11.00 am  
Holy Communion  
& Children's Church  
**The Rev'd Geoff Hunter**

6.00 pm  
Evensong  
**Fr Robin Gibbons**

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### Sunday 9th - Trinity XVI

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11.00 am  
Holy Communion  
& Children's Church  
**Fr Mark Clavier**

9.30 am  
Family Communion  
**Fr Mark Clavier**

6.00 pm  
Harvest Evensong  
**Fr Mark Clavier**  
& **Fr Robin Gibbons**

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### Sunday 16th - Trinity XVII

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11.00 am  
Holy Communion  
& Children's Church  
**Fr Mark Clavier**

9.30 am  
Holy Communion  
**Fr Mark Clavier**

9.30 am  
Holy Communion  
**The Rev'd Geoff Hunter**

6.00 pm  
Evensong  
**Fr Robin Gibbons**  
& **Fr Mark Clavier**

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### Sunday 23rd - Trinity XVIII

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11.00 am  
Holy Communion  
**Fr Mark Clavier**

9.30am  
Mattins

9.30 am  
Holy Communion  
**Fr Mark Clavier**

6.00 pm  
Holy Communion  
**Fr Mark Clavier**

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### Sunday 30th - All Saints

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10.30 am  
United Benefice Service

6.00 pm  
Evensong  
**Fr Robin Gibbons**

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### Other Events this Month

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Bible Study each Monday afternoon at the Rector from 1.30-2.30 pm.

'A Pint with the Parson' on the 12th at the *White Lion* at 7.30.

Morning Prayer is said on Mondays at 9.15 am in North Aston, Tuesdays at 9.15 am in Steeple Aston & at 9.15 am in Tackley

Wednesday 5th North Aston 10.30 am to noon Coffee in the Old Bakehouse

Wednesday 19th Steeple Aston 10.30 am to noon Coffee & Chat at *The White Lion*

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