

NORTHEASTON NEWS

FEBRUARY 2012

No: 256



*Pictures from the Archives
Chewing the Cud, Church Matters, Letters & Announcements . . .*

NORTH ASTON NEWS

FEBRUARY 2012, No: 256

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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
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North Aston Farms

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North Aston Organics

Telephone: (01869) 347702
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Nicholson Nurseries

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

North Aston 100 Club

Norman West. Tel (01869) 340368

CDC Local Councillor

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

Thames Valley Police non-emergency

Telephone: 101

Out of Hours Doctor

Telephone: 08453 458 995

Upcoming Events

Coffee Morning

Weds 1st Feb. 10:30am-12:00pm. Old Bakery

North Aston Gardening Club

Wednesday 15th. 7:30pm. Gilmore's, The Green

Village Hall Forum

Tuesday 21st February. 7:30pm. Old Bakery

Apologies

again for the late arrival of this month's News



CHAIRMAN Chewing the Cud

As there were no volunteers to take over the post of Chairman I have agreed to fill the post for another twelve months. For those of you who did not attend the AGM, Franca has passed on the baton of Clerk to Marcus. She has been Clerk for the last three years. I think a massive vote of thanks to Franca for all the hard work she has put in over that time. Marcus has a hard act to follow.

The AGM was very well attended with a full agenda. Minutes for the AGM appear further on in this Newsletter.

I suppose the main talking point last month was the lack of phone and internet services to some homes in the village. The BT guys working at the exchange told me of an instance where 'road works' were set up in broad daylight on the Botley Road in Oxford and cabling stolen. Gone are the days when you could leave your back door open without the fear of having your property stolen.

On a more happy note the oil scheme is going from strength to strength. We had another three members join in January. We are also having residents from Middle Aston joining our group. I know there has been some concern that by using the oil-buying scheme we are taking trade away from our local suppliers. I have spoken to my oil contact at the ORCC and she told me that in the majority of cases even the smallest supplier is a member of a wholesale buying group which would enable them to compete with the larger distributors. We should also remember that by purchasing oil from our scheme many people on lower incomes can afford to buy a larger quantity of oil for the lower price thus heating their home for a longer period. I believe strongly in keeping trade local but I think this has to be one of the exceptions.

2012 looks like being a very busy year for us in the village, what with Jubilee Celebrations, the Village Fête and the Flower & Produce Show. We will also be looking to raise funds for the Village Hall project. I know Marcus is already planning a Quiz Night, and there are other events in the pipeline.

Marcus has made a mention later on in the Newsletter that Village SOS have their annual conference in Birmingham on the 27th February. We both found the last meeting we attended in London very interesting and useful. If anyone with an interest in the Village Hall project would like to go to the Birmingham meeting, can they let us know as soon as possible in order that we can book our places.

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.



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

Late Start this Month

Our apologies for the late appearance of the News this month. Not having access to email and the Internet for the last ten days of January made preparing for printing before the start of the month surprisingly difficult. Even a couple of days after service resumed we were still waiting for our regular contributors to get material across to us. It isn't until you lose something that you realise how much you'd been relying on it! We can only hope that BT will improve security at the Steeple Aston exchange (and elsewhere) in the hope of deterring thieves in future - although some sensible legislation and obligatory registration of all those trying to sell scrap metal might go further towards stopping this worrying trend.

Marcus

Summary Care Records

In April 2012 NHS Oxfordshire will be telling everyone in the county about *Summary Care Records* (electronic health records). These will be available for everyone in Oxfordshire from late Spring 2012 as part of the national scheme, and we need to raise awareness of the benefits this could bring to patient care - particularly in emergency situations or out-of-hours as well as informing the public of the decision every individual needs to make.

Anyone aged 15 ¾ yrs and over will have to decide whether they want a *Summary Care Record* in April 2012, and will receive a freepost mailing that enables them to opt-out of this if they prefer. There is obviously a lot more to it, and I am looking at ways we can raise awareness across Oxfordshire so that we can reach as many people as possible, to ensure they are aware of the change in health records.

I hope to be able to include a piece in the *North Aston News* shortly that will explain more about *Summary Care Records*, and highlight the big diary of events and places where we are raising awareness across the county.

Kind regards, Sian Knott



The lucky winners of the January Draw were:

First Prize (£25): North Aston Organics (#136)

Second Prize (£5): Archie Stay (#134)

If you think that's lucky, then perhaps you should be taking part! If you're not currently a member and would like to join the North Aston 100 Club later this year, please call Norman on 340368 to reserve your number.

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

North Aston Gardening Club

There will be a Meeting for the Gardening Club on Wednesday 15th February at Gilmore The Green, starting at 7:30pm. Anyone wishing to join the Gardening Club is welcome to attend.

Artweeks 2013

At last month's Village Meeting it was proposed that North Aston should participate in the *Oxfordshire Artweeks* festival in 2013, as the village did once before, four years ago.

The dates for *Artweeks* in 2013 are pencilled in for May 18th-27th, but will be confirmed later this year by the organisers. That allows residents in North Aston a good year or more to prepare for the *Festival*, by completing new paintings, taking photographs, or making hand-crafted items that they might wish to exhibit.

It is proposed that North Aston should stage a series of events during the ten days, with some "permanent" and others "live", perhaps to include music as well as 'fine' art.

We shall post regular reminders over the coming months, but we'd like to encourage everyone in the community to take part. If you have a talent, share it. If you've always fancied the idea of being an artist, now's the time to prove to yourself that you are, and perhaps lay the foundations for a new hobby, or even a career!

If you'd like to take part - or even assist in preparing for the event - please contact us at the News. Email info@north-aston.co.uk, or drop in a note at Two School Cottages.

Marcus

Snow is Forecast!

After a relatively mild winter through December and January, February is forecast to turn decidedly chilly. Snow is forecast for the second week. If it turns out to be heavy, then the **North Aston Emergency Plan** may swing into operation. In such an event:

Please check on elderly neighbours, or those without easy access to transport and essential supplies.

Please be responsible for clearing the footpath outside your home, and the pavement if there is one. Dispose of excess snow wisely, and don't allow it to heap up and restrict access to paths and pavements.

If you own a 4x4 vehicle and would be prepared to help, please contact Chris Tuffrey:

Tel: **07903 339155** or email: info@offac.co.uk

Support 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. It's free.

Adverts

Cleaner/Helper Required

A cleaner or helper is needed in North Aston for a family and elderly disabled lady. 2 hours, twice weekly. Preferably Tuesdays & Fridays from 1.30pm till 3.30pm.

Please call 07740 404571 for further information.

Babysitting Service

Mature and responsible 16 year-old available for babysitting.

Please contact **Yvie** on 01869 340090

Help make the community safer today

If you have any information about a crime, call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or visit the website at

www.crimestoppers-uk.org

Need a Baby Sitter ?

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

Phone **Josh** on 01869 347356 anytime

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

Fish & Chips!

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

ORCC Trading Oil Scheme

We published fuller details in last month's *News*, but if you use oil for your domestic heating, this scheme could save you hundreds of pounds each year. If you would like further details, or would wish to join the North Aston 'Collective', please contact Chris Tuffrey, North Aston's liaison officer with ORCC. Call him on 07903 339155 or email: info@offac.co.uk. Some members have saved over £250 in the last 12 months, which suggests that saving the annual cost of membership (just £20) several times over during the same period is not an exaggeration.

NEXT VILLAGE MEETING

The next Village Meeting will take place on Thursday 19th April at 7.30pm in the Old Bakery.

A full agenda will be posted on the Village Noticeboard nearer the day. If you have any items you would like discussed, please email brief details to: info@north-aston.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 Veg Box Scheme - Fresh vegetables delivered to you door.

Email: northastonorganics@gmail.com

Tel: ((01869)) 347702

Village Hall

As a result of pressing matters in other departments over recent weeks, I have been unable to move forwards with several Village Hall-related tasks, but the decks are steadily clearing, and I hope to be able to push ahead now with some vital elements of the project. Chris and I had a "strategy meeting" in late January, and that has cleared away a few of the mental cobwebs, and we now have a better idea of what needs to be done next.

To that end, we have proposed a meeting of the Village Hall Forum for Tuesday 21st February. We hope to have news of further progress by then, including an update on the exciting challenge of raising funds. It looks very promising so far, but we mustn't jump the gun, and various important pieces to the planning jigsaw have yet to be set in place.

If you would like to be part of the Forum, please drop us a note via email (info@north-aston.co.uk) or through our letterboxes. The time and place has yet to be confirmed, but is likely to be 7:30pm in the Old Bakery. As with all Village Hall meetings, this is an open forum, and anyone from within the community is welcome to attend.

In the meantime, if anyone would like to join Chris and myself at the next Village SOS meeting on Monday 27th February 2012 at The Burlington Hotel in Birmingham, please let us know.

Marcus Potts. (marcus@cmcgraphics.co.uk)



The Church MATTERS



The Church may be CLOSED

The conservation work on the Anne Monument is now well underway. Both effigies and the three side panels have been removed and stored ready for careful examination, cleaning and conservation. The three internal stone supports and associated rubble have been removed; they contained some artefacts which will be examined and hopefully dated.

The medieval base of profiled sill stones has been revealed, and one of these has been lifted to reveal only rubble earth beneath; construction of the new stone sill on top of this will now begin. A careful photographic record of every stage is being made.

The Conservators (Sue and Lawrence Kelland) are there much of the time. The Church is open, and they welcome your visit; if you go, please make your stay fairly short, because they have a job to do, of course.

However, for reasons of safety and security, the Church will sometimes be locked. This will go on until at least the end of February. The PCC very much dislikes the Church ever being closed in the daytime, and we much apologise. If you need to enter the Church and you are unable to return at a later time, please kindly call Clive, or failing him Kildare (numbers below), and we will arrange something for you.



Children's Church

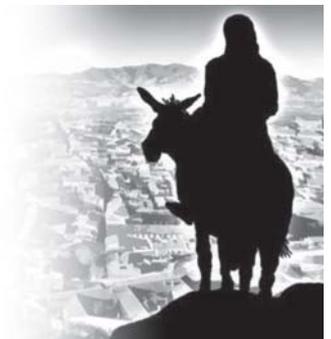


There is a Children's Church on Sunday 5th February at 9:45

It will be very nice to see all our children there, to join other children from the Benefice.

Lent & Easter

Lent begins this year on Wednesday 22nd February. Easter Day is Sunday 8th April.



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 or tel: 349 267

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

Keep 'em peeled

Various requests from Thames Valley Police and the Crimestoppers unit this month . . .

On the Prowl

Sightings are requested for a black BMW car, registration MF57 HDD. This vehicle has been seen in suspicious circumstances in and around the Banbury area, especially in rural locations.

If you happen to see the car, perhaps cruising through the village, please telephone the police with details of date, time, location, direction of travel, and description of occupants etc. Contact details below.

Cable Theft

I'm sure we're all aware of the cable theft that took place last month. Thames Valley Police is appealing for witnesses to several incidents of cable theft in North Oxfordshire in recent weeks, but ours is top of their list. At around 8pm on Thursday 19th January, the telephone exchange in South Side, **Steeple Aston**, was broken into, and thieves attempted to steal the main copper cabling that serves the telephone service to the Astons, Middle Barton and Duns Tew. It appears they may have been disturbed, as much of the cabling was left *in situ*, although the connections had been cut. In addition, trunking and other infrastructure had been damaged. Although not much was actually stolen, all the cabling still had to be replaced, and repairs carried out to the equipment within the exchange. As a result, the telephones of around half the local residents were inoperative for almost ten days.

In addition, at 5.15pm on Friday 20th January, police discovered that preparatory work had been carried out to steal cable from a telephone exchange in Banbury Road, **Tackley**, Kidlington. Then, between 6pm on Friday 20th and 7.50am on Saturday 21st, Shipton Quarry at **Bunkers Hill** (near Bletchington) was broken into, and electricity cables were stolen.

Det Insp Steve Duffy, said: "We are investigating these three incidents and we have made some good progress, but I cannot elaborate on that for operational reasons. We are aware that the theft at Steeple Aston caused a lot of disruption to the local community and that residents were without a phone service for some time. I am keen to hear from anyone who has any information about these incidents or anyone who saw vehicles or people acting suspiciously in these areas around the times that the break-ins took place."

Now that it works, pick up the phone . . .

If you think you can help with either of these appeals, or wish to report or discuss any other crime, suspected crime, or suspicious activity, then please contact Banbury CID via the Force Enquiry Centre on 101. Alternatively, if you do not want to speak to police, or leave your name, please call the Crimestoppers charity on 0800 555 111.

To find out more about Thames Valley Police in your area - please go to our website at www.thamesvalley.police.uk.



COFFEE MORNING

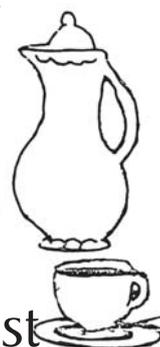
Come and join us for an informal get-together at the Bakery on the first Wednesday of each month. Tea, coffee and cakes will be served from 10:30am till 12:00 noon.

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 February 1st



North Aston Village Meeting & AGM

Thursday 12th January 2012 ~ The Minutes

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

Clive Busby, Trudy Busby, John Harvey-Lee, Jeremy Taylor, Kildare Bourke-Borrowes, Jane Durnin, Peter Durnin, Linda Brown, Nick Bevan, Beverley Rees, Matthew Rees, Billy Rees, Tony Rees, Niel Nicholson, Eileen Gilmore, David Greenwood, Chris Hazle, Annie Savage, Lynn Quek, Beryl Greenwood, David Hanna, Jane McArdle.

Apologies: Tuck Hatzigeorgiou, Liz Nicholson, Stephen Rees, James Taylor.

Village Meeting

1. Welcome & Apologies

Chris Tuffrey welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

As there were no matters arising, the Minutes of the last Meeting, as published in the January issue of the *North Aston News*, were approved unanimously. Proposed by John Harvey Lee (JH-L), seconded by Niel Nicholson (NN).

3. Election of Officers

No nominations had been received for the posts of Chair or Treasurer. As a result, CT offered to remain in the position as Chairman for another 12 months. This was proposed by NN and seconded by Marcus Potts (MP). CT suggested that he would like to see someone put their name forward for taking over the position in 2013 in good time, so that they could work alongside him for a period before assuming the mantle, and thereby learn the ropes. This idea was proposed by NN and seconded by Linda Brown (LB).

Sue Hatzigeorgiou also offered to remain for a further year in the post of Treasurer. Proposed by Nick Bevan (NB) and seconded by Beryl Greenwood (BG).

Previously, Marcus Potts had been nominated for the post of Clerk. He agreed to take up that nomination, and was proposed by Franca Potts and seconded by NN. MP joined CT, SH and FP at the table.

4. Treasurer's Report

There had been no activity on the Village Meeting account since the last meeting in January.

SH clarified that the Village Meeting insurance includes coverage for the village marquee, which had been queried at the previous meeting. MP agreed to investigate the details of the policy with regard to the marquee, determine exactly what was covered (and what was not) and to see if a more comprehensive policy could be found. There was concern that the current policy did not cover the marquees for malicious damage, storm damage or theft, and it was felt that these were fundamental requirements for such a policy. This was proposed by NN, seconded by LB.

5. Setting Annual Village Precept

The North Aston precept had been set at £600 for the period 2011-2012. CT explained that this compared with figures of £13,000 for Duns Tew and around £21,000 for Steeple Aston. If the insurance premium was to rise, and taking into account possibly "contingencies", it was suggested that a more realistic figure needed to be set. Initially this was proposed, from the floor, to be nearer £1000.

There followed a discussion about previous precepts for North Aston, which has been set at £600 for a number of years.

Prior to that, the figure had been £800 until a few years ago, but under the current situation the precept only narrowly meets the village's expenses. Insurance takes the bulk of the precept, and leaves no margin to cover unexpected "contingencies". Kildare Bourke-Borrowes (KBB) thought the current precept was very modest. MP felt that the existing insurance cover might not be adequate, and if extended, the premium would most likely rise, and the precept needed to anticipate this. Jeremy Taylor felt that the fountain did not need to be insured, although others disagreed, especially after the expense that had been incurred during the restoration work carried out to celebrate the Millennium.

BG thought the precept covered the mowing of the Green, but since this was no longer charged for, was this expense still included in the precept? MP explained that the precept used to be higher, at £800, to cover this, but had been reduced to £600 when the mowing was brought "in house".

NN asked if it was possible to have some element of the cost of kerbing of the Green met through the Village Meeting account. There was a consensus that this was a good idea, and CT agreed to investigate. NN also suggested that perhaps we should be looking to build up a buffer within the account to cover unexpected costs.

Finally, CT invited suggestions as to a suitable revised figure for the precept. The current precept equates to around £8-£10 per household per year, as part of the Council Tax. KBB wondered if the Council might query an increase. However, MP thought that, since the figure was currently so very low, that seemed unlikely. Initial thoughts favoured a rise to £1500, but this was thought to be too steep a rise for a single year, and perhaps should be the aspiration for 2013. Instead, BG proposed doubling to £1200. This was seconded by EG. A vote was taken, with 13 in favour, 6 abstentions and no votes against. The motion was carried, and IT WAS AGREED that the 2012 precept would be set at £1200.

6. Insurance Policies – Marquee & Public Liability

The Meeting returned to a more detailed discussion of the question of insurance. SH explained that she had needed to contact the insurers following a report of minor damage to the village marquee. That revealed that the existing insurance policy only covers accidental damage, and this was felt to be inadequate, and perhaps it might be necessary to look at alternative policies that might offer better cover. The current insurance is through AEON, and includes an excess of £150. DG suggested, under the circumstances, that it might be better not insuring the marquee at all, but paying for damage etc as it occurs. MP pointed out that the likely replacement cost of the marquee, if it was stolen or damaged beyond repair, was in excess of £3000, and that the village had been lucky to obtain the current marquee for around half that figure, simply because we had chanced upon a local company

looking to sell at the time we were looking to buy. That good fortune might not happen again.

BG mentioned that possible damage due to bad weather has been an issue in the past, and that any fresh policy considerations should include cover for this.

Annie Savage (AS) thought perhaps the marquee was currently under-insured. DG suggested it should be insured against capital value, but the cost of repairing small damage should be covered from Village expenses. MP will take on the task of examining the insurance policy (as newly appointed Clerk) and check on alternative policies before renewal the date. AS recommended that we examine exclusions under the policy. The Traffic Monitor is also covered by the current insurance policy.

7. Asset Register

SH explained that the Village did not have an Asset Register, but she has now compiled one, including all fixed assets of the Village. Copies of this updated register are available for examination from SH, upon request.

8. Neighbourhood Planning & the Localism Bill

CT stated that he had an appointment with the Council to discuss the Bill in February. He outlined to the Meeting what the Localism Bill covers, and then enlarged upon this to explain the concept of a Neighbourhood Plan. This is a published document that states, in largely general terms, how residents wish to see the development of their community. This may include itemising potential projects and developments that the residents do not wish to see (such as street lighting) as well as any that they might welcome (such as the Village Hall). Although not always necessarily binding (if they conflict with government or local council policies, for example) the publication of a Plan can be a valuable tool in guiding planners and helping the community in achieving local aims and aspirations.

MP asked whether we would have more say in local matters if North Aston became a Parish Council, which is understood to be CDC's intention. CT assured the Meeting that we do already "have a say", but that a Plan would strengthen our hand. He pointed out that previous housing development proposals earmarked for North Aston had been successfully removed.

CT said he would obtain more copies of an explanatory booklet that could be made available to anyone who might be interested in helping with the establishment of a Neighbourhood Plan. He said he felt that North Aston needs such a Plan but he would like to see someone else take on the responsibility for preparing it. MP said that the Plan would need to cover what the Village does not want to see, in terms of development, as well as what it does want.

SH suggested that not formulating a Neighbourhood Plan might leave North Aston open to having development ideas imposed upon us by the Council, and the Plan would help to protect the community.

MP pointed out that a housing development in Beesley's Close and a similar sizeable development on The Park had been proposed previously, and both had been successfully taken off the CDC list. If North Aston had had a Plan in place before then, such proposals might never have been included. He also suggested that it might be possible to safeguard the future of the Green, and protect it against any future development, by including a reference to it in a Neighbourhood Plan.

Jeremy Taylor felt that the Meeting could not define what was or was not wanted in the next decade.

With reference to Clive's hopes for building a new house in North Aston, CT thought that the Council would have to listen to the will of the Village under the Localism Bill.

MP suggested that any Neighbourhood Plan would not need to be a large document, but an outline description of what the Village hoped to see for the future.

Jane McArdle asked what kind of things might be included in the Plan. CT cited the Village Hall and sites for new build projects, like Clive's house.

KBB said, since CB is currently being prevented from building his house, how would the Localism Bill mesh in with the plans of the local Council? MP explained that the Bill received Royal Assent in November, thereby becoming an Act, but it was not yet clear how smaller communities such as ours might be able to exploit the new powers. CT admitted that perhaps the Meeting needed to find out more about the implications of the Bill. SH asked if James Macnamara might be able to advise us. CT said he would be meeting with the Council in February and would bring more information to the next Meeting.

CB said he had been told that, despite Localism Bill, the Council will still have the final say.

CT asked if it was time for a review of the village Conservation Area? It was agreed that perhaps this was necessary.

In conclusion, CT asked the Meeting if they wanted to go ahead with a Neighbourhood Plan, and this was AGREED. The Meeting was then asked if anyone would be willing to help prepare such a Plan for the Village, and while no hands were shown, there was hope that someone might step forward. *(If you would be interested in being involved, please let CT know.)*

8. Any Other Business

JT said that Council workmen had visited the village to replace some of the **granite setts** bordering the footpath beside the Somerton Road, but had only done half the job. Three areas have been done, but others remain loose. CT said he would ask for the remainder to be done.

CT said he had contacted CDC regarding the position of the 30 mph **speed limit signs** on the edge of the village. He hoped it might be possible to reposition them beyond the entrance to the old Pavilion field on the Duns Tew Road. he had received a reply from Anthony Kirkwood, who noted CT's concerns. A request for an extension to the 30mph limit has been added to a list being compiled for further investigation, but the Council has a small budget for such works and it was felt unlikely that anything would be done, under the present financial circumstances.

JT noted that a new milestone has been erected on the main road. Where had it come from? CT said there had been a piece in the Banbury Guardian recently, and suggested that the stone had been in store but had been restored and now reinstated.

Village Fund

Those attending and apologies for absence as above.

1. Welcome & Apologies

Chris Tuffrey welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Minutes of the last Meeting

Those present were asked if the Minutes of the last Meeting, as published in the January issue of the *North Aston News*, could be approved as a fair and accurate representation of the Meeting. JT asked that one amendment be noted.

With reference to the possible felling of the sycamore tree on the Green, JT said that it was not definitely the case that the tree would have to be felled, and there was still a possibility that it could be saved.

That clarification duly noted, the minutes were approved unanimously; proposed by John Harvey Lee (JH-L), seconded by Nick Bevan (NB).

3. Election of Officers

As before

4. Treasurer's Report

SH explained the detail of the Village Fund accounts. NN pointed out that the expenses for the 100 Club only narrowly fell short of the income, and queried whether it was worth continuing. However, SH explained that, in error, the necessary Licence fee had not been paid for three years, and the current account included provision to bring this fully up-to-date. With that clarified, it was agreed that the 100 Club was still a useful fundraiser.

As agreed at the last Meeting, a cheque has been sent to Ardley Against the Incinerator to help towards meeting legal costs.

The Treasurers Report was approved; proposed by NN and seconded by JH-L

5. Review of Christmas Events

CT apologised to the Meeting, and to JMCA, for the late notification of the suggestion that she might be able to help in organising a **Children's Christmas Party**. As a result, it had not taken place. However, JMCA volunteered to organise a Christmas Party in 2012, and she is also happy to manage the traditional **Easter Egg Hunt**.

It was agreed that **Carols on the Green** had been a great success. Jane Durnin thanked CB for moving the bonfire, and thanks were also expressed to Niel for the loan of the nursery's small marquee, and to Bryan Palmer for allowing access to electricity for the lighting.

MP thanked everyone who donated. BG suggested it had been a great turnout, and thanked MP for preparing a new carol and song sheet. She then suggested that, next Christmas, she would appreciate it if the traditional carols were kept for the first half of the service and that the Christmas songs could then be added to the repertoire for the second half. NN said he had mixed them up this time with the intention of keeping "everyone happy and interested" throughout, but in recognition of the fact that the *Carols on the Green* is primarily a Church event, it was agreed that they would be separated next Christmas.

MP wished to thank Mark Stay and all his singers for another successful North Aston Wassail. The afternoon's trek around the parish had raised £450, and that a further £50 (out of a total of £103) had been added to this by the collection made during *Carols on the Green*.

The balance went to the Church, and was added to the collection taken at the Carol Service. A record amount of money will go to POLLY as a result.

NN wanted to thank Father Mark for his poem!

MP had been asked to say thank you for the gifts distributed

to the senior members of the community before Christmas, and also to thank LB for arranging it.

6. Jubilee Celebrations 2012

Ideas and suggestions were invited for ways in which to celebrate the **Queen's Jubilee** in 2012. These will largely be centred on the weekends at the end of May and beginning of June.

CT had investigated the national proposals for the siting of Beacons to mark the event, but the associated Health & Safety regulations are horrendous! Instead, a simple **bonfire** was proposed, and this was agreed. The date will be publicised in due course.

It has been suggested that the annual **Big Lunch** will be moved to June 3 this year, to coincide with the tradition of street parties to celebrate Royal events of this type. It was agreed that the **North Aston Big Lunch** would also be moved to this date.

NN said that he wondered whether it would be possible to make the event an after-lunch "do", starting with **afternoon tea** on the Green, then moving on into an evening **barbecue**. BG asked if it would be possible to organise some **musical entertainment** for the evening as well. FP offered to organise the food for the day, and CT said he would look into music.

CB said that he had been told that there were plans for **church bells** to be rung throughout country on the morning of 5 June, at 8:00am. It was thought that the timing of this was a little insensitive, and perhaps North Aston might give that one a miss.

KBB said that the PCC has discussed unveiling the **restored Anne Tomb** on Tuesday 5th, with a celebration in the church afterwards, including drinks and refreshments, and perhaps followed by a concert. More details would follow.

MP said that he felt that the Jubilee celebrations needed to have some lasting legacy, and proposed the establishment of a **Heritage Orchard** in the village. This could include a range of traditional fruits, such as cherry, apple, pear, quince, damson, greengage and medlar, that would not only provide fruit, but also spring blossom. It was agreed that he would liaise with JT regarding a possible site for the orchard, but MP's initial hopes were that some part of Beesley's Close might be suitable, and that the Orchard could become an integral element in developing the field for the Village Hall.

JT also felt it would be appropriate to plant some new trees on the Green, as replacements for some that have been lost in recent years.

It was felt that the Gardening Club could be involved in planting and maintenance.

7. Arts Festival 2012

CT was keen that North Aston hosted an arts event in 2012, but the deadline for involvement in the county-wide **Artweeks** festival had been missed. However, he had spoken to NN and Liz Nicholson about a possible "*Art in the Garden*" project, perhaps in May, with elements staged at Nicholsons and also in the Church. He thought it would be possible to exhibit photographs, crafts and paintings, as well as involve local authors and their books. Thea Gilmore and Nigel had organised a similar festival in Nantwich this year, and would be happy to advise us.

BG felt that it might be too much to arrange something for this year, but perhaps we could do something in 2013? KBB agreed that we would need more time to organise such an event. MP also thought it would be best to remain part of

Artweeks, and make use of the wider publicity to attract more visitors. An event in 2013 would also give residents more time to prepare exhibits. It was agreed that we would look to submitting an entry to *Artweeks* 2013.

8. Update on St Mary's Walk

The Clerk had been advised by Julie Shea at CDC that the sign had been made and delivered to the depot. It was hoped that we would have a visit from a representative of the Council shortly in order to discuss the exact siting of the sign. (*The sign was subsequently erected without consultation, on the edge of the Green, beside the entrance gates to the Walk.*)

9. Any Other Business

CB noted that four **trestle tables** are missing from the Bakehouse. Has anyone borrowed them or does anyone know where they are? It was felt that it has become necessary to maintain a record of who has borrowed items from the Village, and when. DG suggested numbering the tables so that it would be easier to keep track of them. MP agreed to maintain the record in future.

Peter Durnin asked if it might be possible to bring back the **mole catcher**. The play area on the Green had been free of moles hills for several years, following the last visit, but they have now returned. It was agreed that the mole catcher would be asked to return.

CT spoke about the success of the ORCC **oil-buying scheme**. He said that 250 free memberships were currently available, worth £20 each, under the *Warm Homes, Healthy People* initiative for vulnerable people. If anyone thinks they are eligible, please contact CT.

CT said that the average cost for heating-oil these days was around 68p per litre, but that those buying through the scheme

usually paid 54p or less. However, JT worried that this was unfair competition for local suppliers, who cannot easily compete with the prices. BG said that Ackerman & Niece run a similar scheme with Duns Tew, and if people group together to make up a bulk delivery of a full tanker, they offer a favourable price. However, CT said he remained very much in favour of the scheme, particularly at a time when oil prices were rising and purses were tight, but he would look into JT's concern.

MP asked the Meeting's permission to organise **Quiz Night**. This was approved, and he said he was looking at a date, perhaps in March, and this would be confirmed in the *News*. NN said it would be possible to use the new barn at Nicholson's.

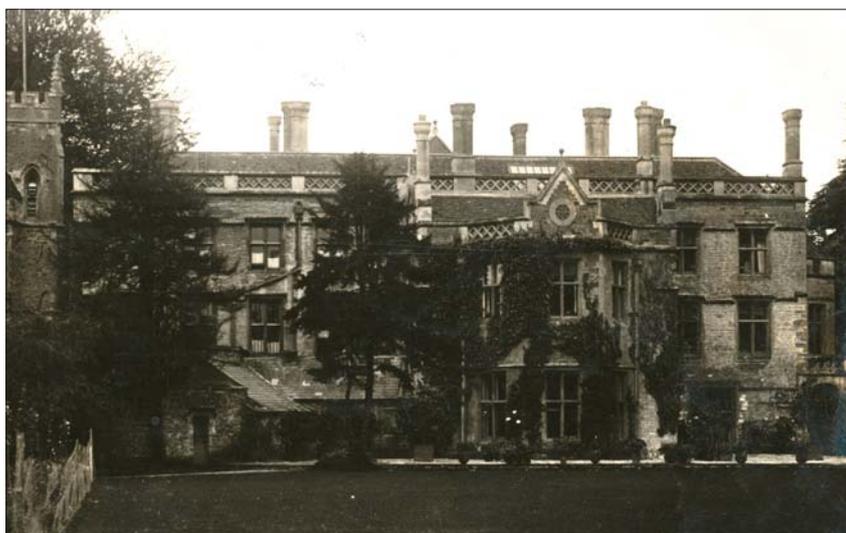
NN announced that he and MP had arranged for the **Mikron Theatre Company** to put on a performance of their 2012 production, *Losing the Plot*, at the Nicholson's Barn on July 26th. Full details would be in the *News*, but this would be a rare opportunity to see live theatre in the village, although ticket numbers would be limited.

JT said he had spoken with **Green Tomato Energy**, and they would be happy to give a presentation at the next Village Meeting.

MP said that the next Village Hall Forum date would be announced in the forthcoming edition of the *News*. CT mentioned that the next Village SOS meeting would be coming up in February, and that he would give details in the Newsletter. He hoped others might be interested in attending, and that up to 7 people could be accommodated.

The Meeting closed with the setting of a date for the next Meeting:

Date of next meeting - 19 April 2012 at 7.30pm



From the Archives

Images and other odds and ends keep trickling in to help establish the village archives. This month we are indebted to Mark Hichens and Chloe Woodhead for the three images of the old cottages that once stood on the site now occupied by Folly Field House. The first two show each side of Valley Cottage, which was demolished to make way for the new house. The third shot is of Justice's Cottage, some of which survives within the frame of the current building. The barn that sat between the two became King's Wednesday. The photo on the left is a rare view of the back of The Hall before the demolition of the Victorian wing and flattening of the roof. Stones from the wing were used to construct the 'new' garages.

Announcements

Have you seen this cat?

This very handsome ginger tom went missing around Christmas time. There have been a couple of sightings since, but if you have seen him recently, please call Jane on 07803 204165. He is very much missed!



Village Marquees & Generator

There are tables, chairs and a generator available for hire as well as traditional canvas-topped marquees. If you would like to book any of these items, or for further information, please call 347356 or email info@north-aston-co.uk.

This Month's BIRTHDAYS

Nick Bevan

Nicholas Kneale

Jocelyn Parsons

Dick Taylor



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.

Bag it Bin it!



NICHOLSONS

Food shortages? Grow your own with Nicholsons.



Vegetable seeds

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

Fruit

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

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

Garden Tools

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

The Park, North Aston, Bicester, Oxfordshire.

01869 340 342

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

www.nicholsons.gb.com



CHURCH SERVICES

PARISH WORSHIP IN FEBRUARY 2012

STEEPLE ASTON

NORTH ASTON

TACKLEY

Sunday 5th - Third Sunday before Lent

11.00 am
Holy Communion
Fr Mark Clavier

8.00 am
1662 Holy Communion
Fr Mark Clavier

9.30 am
Holy Communion
Fr Mark Clavier

Snowdrop Sunday
Tea & cakes from 2-4 pm

9.45 am
Children's Church

6.00 pm Evensong
Fr Robin Gibbons
Fr Mark Clavier

Sunday 12th - Second Sunday before Lent

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

9.30 am
Holy Communion
Fr Mark Clavier

9.30 am
Holy Communion
Rev'd Canon Edward Bailey

6.00 pm
Evensong
Fr Robin Gibbons

Sunday 19th - The Sunday before Lent

6.00 pm
Evensong
Rev'd Geoffrey Hunter

11.00 am
United Benefice Communion
Rev'd Mervyn Puleston

6.00 pm
Evensong
Fr Robin Gibbons

22nd February - Ash Wednesday

7.00 pm
Imposition of Ashes
& Holy Communion
Fr Mark Clavier

No Service

7.00 pm
Imposition of Ashes
& Holy Communion
Rev'd Geoffrey Hunter

Sunday 26th - First Sunday in Lent

11.00 am
Holy Communion
Rev'd Mervyn Puleston

9.30 am
Mattins
Mr Richard Bailey

11.00 am
Holy Communion
Fr Mark Clavier

6.00 pm
Prayer Book Communion
Fr Mark Clavier

Families are welcome to **all** services.

Father Mark provides a children's sermon for children 4+ during the service.

Other Events this Month

Bible Study at the Rectory every Monday 1.30-2.30 pm

Morning Prayer: **Mondays** 9.15 am, North Aston; **Tuesdays** 9.30 am, Steeple Aston; **Wednesdays** 9.15 am, Tackley

1662 Holy Communion: **Thursdays** at 12.00 noon in Steeple Aston church

1st February – 10.30-12 pm Coffee Morning at the Old Bakehouse in North Aston