

NORTH ASTON NEWS

AUGUST 2012

No: 262



*Upcoming Events:
The Annual North Aston Flower & Produce Show!*

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AUGUST 2012, No: 262

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North Aston News

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North Aston Gardening Club

Chris Tuffrey, Chairman. See above.

North Aston Pet Alert

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

North Aston Farms

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

North Aston Organics

Telephone: (01869) 347702
Email: northastonorganics@gmail.com

Nicholson Nurseries

Telephone: (01869) 340342
Email: office@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

Wednesday 1st August. 10:00 am, Old Bakery

Gardening Club Meeting

Wednesday 22 August. 7:30pm, Nether Cottage

Village Meeting

Thursday August 30th. 7:30 pm, Old Bakery

Flower & Produce Show

Saturday 1st Sept. 2:00pm, Nether Cottage

Village Hall Forum

Monday September 10th. 7:30 pm, Old Bakery



CHAIRMAN Chewing the Cud

What a Coup!! - Martin Clunes opening our fete. He certainly pulled in a large attendance, so a big thank you to Kevin Cash for arranging it.

So much has already been said and reported about the day that there is only one more important thing I would like to add and that is; how heart warming it was to see the way the village pulled together for this event. I think we can be very proud of our community and what we have all achieved.

We are not able to give an exact number of visitors, although I know the estimated figure ranges from 1000 to 1800. Perhaps if we plump for a figure in the middle it would be somewhere nearer the mark. The car park on the green soon filled up and we have to thank Neil and Liz Nicholson for opening up the nursery as an overflow to cater for the excess vehicles, and also to Nigel and Miranda Doggett for the use of their field. The main road through the village was kept clear for health and safety reasons.

With so many people involved in the preparation for the Fête it would take me forever and a day to mention them all. However, two people made sure that the grass and trees on the green looked in as near pristine condition as possible, so a big thankyou to Clive and Trudy for making sure that the grass was cut and the trees pruned back.

Now to the money. Another record-breaking year and, I am told, double the previous record. Some of the village fête money has always been donated to the church and I know that some ideas have already been mooted as to how this should be done. The decision will be made at the August Village Meeting, so anyone with specific thoughts should make sure they come to this meeting and air them.

That's all for now. I would just like to wish those who are off on holiday a safe and enjoyable time.

Chris

Tel: 07903 339155, email: info@offac.co.uk, or knock on the door!

IMPORTANT NOTE: The Village Meeting, originally pencilled in for July 26th, was postponed due to clashing dates. The next Meeting will now be on Thursday 30th August.



The lucky winners
of the June Draw were:

First Prize (£25): C Walkerdene (#37)

Second Prize (£5): Mrs Walters (#82)

100 Club

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, now's the time to do it. Please call Norman on 340368 to reserve your number.



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



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

Japanese Students

Can I say many thanks for such a wonderful Saturday at North Aston Fête. I can speak on behalf the students here and say that they had a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon. They also had the chance to show off their beautiful Japanese clothing - and even I was impressed by how much time and effort they had put into all the activities. I'll make sure to pass on the Facebook address so that they can all have a chance to tell their friends and family back in Japan.

It was such a success that we're hoping you'll allow us to repeat the activities next year. Until then, however, I know that the students will hold fond memories of a quintessential and enjoyable village Fête, and all the teachers look forward to sharing that time with them!

Kind regards,
Andi Reed

Course Director - Tudor Hall / Select English

Village Fête

We have had some tremendous feedback about this year's Fête, and a number of people have already emailed through their thanks, their praise, and their comments and observations. We've also had some modest coverage in the local papers, and much more on-line, and all of it excellent.

We have a Village Meeting scheduled for Thursday 30th August, and that will be our first opportunity to discuss the Fête and go through the de-briefing process. While the event is still fairly fresh in your mind, now would be the best time to jot down your thoughts on paper - think of what worked well and what didn't, where we could make improvements for next year, or simply whether or not you enjoyed the occasion and why. This may help to jog your memory in four weeks' time when we come to discuss it again.

It would be impossible to mention the Fête and not include a note of thanks to all those countless people who made such a huge effort to ensure that the occasion was such a success. We are particularly grateful to the usual hard core of volunteers who turn up time and again to help set-up events like the Fête and then (equally importantly) dismantle and tidy-up afterwards. Weeks of planning went into preparing for this year's extravaganza, and I'm sure that those who turned up at midday on Saturday and found everything ready and waiting for them must have been very grateful for the time and effort put in by these few stalwarts. So, a particular thankyou to them - and they know who they are!

Thanks also to the many villagers who turned out on the day to support the Fête. Even now, the final total has not been declared, but it looks likely that we shall have raised well over £4000, even after expenses. For a community of just 160 people, that's an impressive total and something we should all be justifiably proud of. Roll on next year!

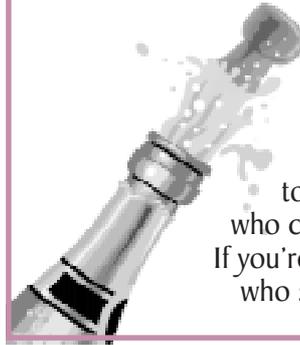
Marcus

Announcements

This Month's Birthdays

Thea Bourke-Borrowes

Freya Stay



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

Please
keep the
Pavements
Clear



Lost & Found at the Fête

A number of items went missing at the Fête:

Football - one of the footballs purchased for John's new "Little Goalie" game for children went missing, perhaps just before the evening barbecue. It is a very distinctive "Union Jack" football, and if anyone has seen it, or knows where it is, he'd be pleased to have it back!

Keys to the Bakery were loaned out on the Sunday morning during clearing-up but were not returned. There are two standard mortise lock keys on the ring, with a blue plastic fob bearing the script "Bakehouse". Please return them to Chris (Gilmore's, The Green), or Marcus (Two School Cottages). Thank you

Watch. A Swiss army wristwatch with a black leather strap was lost on the Green during the Fête by a visitor from Bloxham. If you happen to find it, the owner would be very grateful for its safe return. Please give the watch to Chris or Marcus for forwarding to the owner.

Facebook

Log on to Facebook and find the North Aston Village page! You'll find photos from the Fête and from around the Village, an archive of historic views from centuries past, and news about happenings here in North Aston. You don't need to be registered with Facebook to explore the page - but if you are, please "Like" our page, so that we can help to spread the word about what a wonderful place this is. <http://www.facebook.com/NorthAston>

NEXT VILLAGE MEETING

The next Village Meeting will be on Thursday 30th August. If you have items you'd like added to the agenda, please email brief details to info@north-aston.co.uk.

Rita Rosaline Rees (nee Hornsby)

26th September 1933 – 14th June 2012

Memories of Rita, Mother & Friend

Our Mother

A beautiful, kind, and generous soul, much younger than her given years. A loving wife, Mother, Mother-in-Law, Grandmother, Great Grandmother & Friend whose love is truly irreplaceable.

Our Mother was a provider of comfort and love that filled our home with warmth and happiness, delicious cooked meals and fresh baked cakes.

A hardworking mother who took great joy in planning the annual caravan holiday to the seaside, carefully saving an extra packet of biscuits or tinned goods for weeks before so that on departure day a huge hamper of food would be crammed into the boot of the car, (Much of it kept secret from Dad) and on arrival she would carefully unpack and make an anonymous caravan a little home from home, cooking and cleaning preparing picnics and only finally relaxing when we reached the beach.

Our Mother was the one person who could recite from memory everyone's birthday and anniversary and would always remind us when one was approaching.

Our Mother wrote in her diary daily, documenting family and village life over many years; happy and sad events, the arrival of babies and the passing of old friends and family. A collection of cards and newspaper cuttings accompany a trunk full of diaries.

Our mother had her own vocabulary which never ceased to entertain us, substituting Rock Finder for Rottweiler or Nearly cats for Meerkats and Little Darlings for Starlings amongst a few.

Our Mother loved all the latest fashions and colours, and could spend hours choosing a new outfit, but was also so thrifty that she never parted with any old clothes amassing a huge collection and consigning Dad's few to one small rack. Luckily he considered a couple of work outfits and one for best good enough!

Our mother was petite in stature but a huge influence and presence in our lives, she was the glue that bound us all together. She leaves us with a lifetime of cherished memories.

Our Friend

She played a big part in village life after moving here from Bloxham when she married Bill. She participated in the local groups, helping to clean the church, decorating it with flowers, helping to arrange and prepare for Harvest Suppers, Children's Christmas Parties and many other village events and celebrations.

She was a member of the North Aston Young Wives group, raising money for the elderly residents' Christmas parcels up to when she was almost 70.

Rita was a carer in nature and thoroughly enjoyed her work looking after and cleaning for numerous village families – all whilst bringing up a family of four very lively children.

After the children had grown Rita and Bill enjoyed many coach holidays with their friends Joyce and Peter and Eileen and Norman, travelling to Ireland, Scotland, the Lake District amongst a few.

Rita's love for musicals and shows took her to see many of the most popular, regularly visiting the Apollo Theatre in Oxford with her friend Joyce and other theatres whilst holidaying with her daughter Valerie. In later times when her mobility failed she continued to enjoy the musicals with her collection of DVD's and listening to the music on her CD player.

We consider ourselves most fortunate to have known her, both as a Mother and a Friend

Read by Beverley Rees

She Is Gone

You can shed tears that she is gone

Or you can smile because she has lived

You can close your eyes and pray that she will come back

Or you can open your eyes and see all that she has left

Your heart can be empty because you can't see her

Or you can be full of the love that you shared

You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday

Or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday

You can remember her and only that she is gone

Or you can cherish her memory and let it live on

You can cry and close your mind, be empty and turn your back

Or you can do what she would want: smile, open your eyes, love and go on.

Written by David Harkins

Read by Louise Rees

Thankyou

We would like to convey our grateful thanks to all of our friends and neighbours for their kindness and support during Mum's illness and following her death.

Special thanks to her friends who helped with the funeral arrangements and flowers, especially to Joyce, Kathleen and Linda who helped us to fill the church so beautifully with flowers and to Eileen, Norman, Tracey and Richard for their support throughout.

We would like to thank Father Mark Clavier for his kindness and support at the most difficult times and for delivering such a beautiful service that was truly an honour to Mum.

And finally we would like to acknowledge and thank the Doctors and Nurses at Deddington for their continuous help and support and who over the past two years made it possible for Mum to stay at home.

*With best wishes,
The Rees family*

North Aston Gardening Club

The second annual North Aston Flower & Produce Show will take place on Saturday 1st September, which leaves less than a month now to prepare your entries and give those vegetables a last 'feed'.

The Show will be much as it was last year, with a few refinements.

1. The Show will be held on Saturday 1st September 2012 at 2.00pm onwards.
2. Venue: The Green North Aston
3. **It is open to all residents from the Parish of North Aston. Please come and join in!**
4. A Schedule (*right*) and Entry Form are included with this newsletter, and additional forms are available from Gilmore, The Green.
5. Completed entry forms and fee to be left at Gilmore, The Green North Aston by 6.00pm on Wednesday 29th August 2012. Entries themselves to be delivered to the Green between 09:00 and 12:00 am on Saturday 1st September.
6. Judging for most categories is by ballot of visitors, excluding entries with an asterisk and the whole of section C, which will be judged by suitably qualified visiting adjudicators.
7. There will be teas, refreshments and a raffle.
8. Unless you indicate that you wished to keep your entry, all entries will be auctioned at the end of the show.
9. There will be a Plant Sale in aid of club funds.
10. In the evening we will be holding a village barbecue and would ask that you bring your own food and drink. There will be barbecues lit and ready to go.

If you have been taking part in the Sunflower growing competition, using seeds distributed with the April issue of the News, don't forget to bring your towering plants to the marquee on Saturday morning. Likewise, if you have been growing your tub of potatoes, bring that along for judging on the day. Hope to see you all at the Show!

For further information, you can call Chris on 07903 339155, or email info@offac.co.uk.



**NEW
MEMBERS
WELCOME!**

2012 North Aston Flower & Produce Show

Section A: Vegetables & Fruit

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

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Oddest Shaped Vegetable | 8 Six different vegetables in a tray |
| 2 Four Carrots | 9 Four Tomatoes |
| 3 Four Potatoes | 10 One Cucumber |
| 4 Three Onions | 11 Six Plums |
| 5 Three Beetroot | 12 Four Eating Apples |
| 6 Heaviest Marrow* | 13 Four Cooking Apples |
| 7 Longest Runner Bean* | 14 Potato in a Tub* (no entry fee) |

Section B: Plants & Flowers

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

- 15 One Single Rose
- 16 Three Chrysanthemums
- 17 Plant in a pot
- 18 Geranium in a pot
- 19 Flower arrangement in an unusual pot
- 20 Arrangement of 5 flowers picked from your garden
- 21 One flowering house plant
- 22 One cactus or succulent in a pot
- 23 Tallest Sunflower Competition* (no entry fee)

Section C: Cookery*

Section rules: All jams, marmalade, chutneys etc must have been made by the exhibitor since September 2011. They must be displayed in 1lb (360 – 400g) jar with a screw top.

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| 24 Jar of Jam | 29 Fruit Cake |
| 25 Jar of Chutney | 30 Two Scones, Plain or Fruit |
| 26 Jar of Pickle | 31 Fruit Pie |
| 27 Jar of Marmalade | 32 Men's only cake |
| 28 Victoria Sponge (3 eggs, any jam or lemon curd, castor sugar on top) | |

Section D: Photography, Arts & Crafts

Section rules: Photographs must be unmounted and must not be larger than 18cm x 13cm. All entries must have been made or taken since September 2011.

- 33 A photograph of village life in North Aston
- 34 A photograph of a Local Landscape
- 35 A photograph on the theme of "Reflections"
- 36 Something made from Wood
- 37 Something made from Wool
- 38 A limerick starting
"There was a/an from this village,"

Section E: For Children up to 8 years

Rules for Sections E and F: All entries must be wholly the work of the children themselves, and to have been created by the exhibitor since September 2011.

- 39 A collection of Wild Flowers & Grasses in a Vase
- 40 A creature made from vegetables
- 41 Four Cup Cakes*
- 42 A miniature Garden on a Plate

Section F: For Children 8 years but under 15 years

- 43 A photograph of North Aston
- 44 A model you have made
- 45 A person made from vegetables
- 46 Four Home-Baked Biscuits*
- 47 A drawing or painting of the village.

Paper plates will be supplied by the organisers. Children may also enter all other sections. Except for Cookery and any category marked with an asterisk, all judging will be by public ballot.

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

Entry Forms and full rules accompany this issue of the News.

Crimes of Note

Instances of oil thefts are beginning to rise again. Please be vigilant wherever possible and report any suspicious activity. One unfortunate household in Duns Tew had its tank emptied twice in a week.

Neighbourhood Priorities

Metal Thefts have been lower of late, and Thames valley Police has been actively stopping scrap metal commercial vehicles to ensure that operators hold the correct Council licences and are operating legally. However, if you have sightings of any scrap metal vehicles acting suspiciously, could you please report it to us on the non emergency number 101.

The left hand panel from a six-part alabaster reredos was stolen in March from a church in Oxfordshire. It is very distinctive, and has probably been "stolen to order", but if you see anything that might match this item please report it to the police and also contact the DAC office at the Diocese of Oxford on 01865 208229.

Rural crime is a worry to all, but the Cherwell area is one of the safest places to live and work. Cherwell Local Police Area (LPA) has the lowest recorded crime and one of the highest detection rates within Thames Valley Police area. We cannot maintain this without your help, so please report anything suspicious by calling 101, however minor you think it is! For more information on crime where you live, click on www.police.uk and enter your postcode.

The Beer Festival season is upon us, so please think before you drink and drive – a taxi is a small price to pay to stay safe! A man from Bucknell has been charged with drink driving



offences after being stopped on Bainton Road, Bucknell.

Contact us

If you want any advice or would like to contact the neighbourhood team you can call us on the new police non emergency number of 101. If your call is a genuine emergency then dial 999.

If you have information about crime or Anti Social Behaviour in your area but you do not want to speak to the police, please call the Crimestoppers charity on 0800 555111.

To view information on your neighbourhood team you can visit the force website at: www.thamesvalley.police.uk

We can also be followed on Twitter on [@tvp_bicester](https://twitter.com/tvp_bicester). We will tweet messages to help prevent crime, make appeals or issue warnings and we urge people to follow us on the Twitter service as we can tell you instantaneously about incidents in and around Bicester.

NICHOLSONS

The Tree, Hedging & Screening Specialists

Nicholsons has been one of the leading suppliers of trees and hedging to the horticultural industry for many years.

Now that we are growing more hedging ourselves and performing some significant contract growing for another leading hedging company, we feel it is time to concentrate more on our core products - Trees, Hedging and Screening. We will therefore be rationalising our product range.

We will continue to supply gardeners, professionals and the trade with hedging, trees and screening plants, but will not be able to offer the whole range of garden plants in the future.

So **no Herbaceous** and **no Roses, no Small Shrubs** and **no Climbers** – just some larger specimens and frames.

We will stock plants that are grown in pots of 8 litre and upward!

We will continue to offer excellent advice, delivery and the Supply and Plant Service that is proving so popular. We will also continue to offer the Garden Consultancy Service that we launched earlier this year and which has been received so well.

This summer we are therefore planning to redevelop our sales area in order to showcase our plants better and will be launching our new Tree & Hedging Centre in September.

The Park, North Aston. Telephone: 01869 340342

Email: office@nicholsons.gb.com

In the future Nicholsons will stock the following:

- Trees
 - Bare root
 - Fruit Trees
 - Ornamental Trees
 - Mid-Range Trees
 - Specimen Trees
- Hedging
 - Bare root
 - Instant Hedges
 - Container Grown
- Topiary
 - Specimen Plants
 - Box Balls etc
- Trained Trees
 - Pleached Trees
 - Screens
 - Trained Fruit
- Basic Sundries
 - Stakes, Compost and Irrigation Supplies

COFFEE MORNING

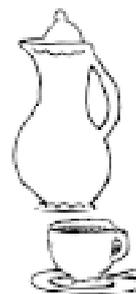
Come and join us for an informal get-together at the Bakery on the first Wednesday of each month. Tea, coffee and cakes will be served from 10:30am till 12:00 noon.

EVERYONE WELCOME!

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



We hope to see you on Wednesday August 1st



Rivers and Working Together for a Cleaner Future

The Thames is one of the most iconic rivers in the world, and we would like local organisations and individuals to work together to make it one of the healthiest too.

The River Thames won the International **Theiss River Prize** in 2010, which celebrates outstanding achievement in river management and restoration.

Can we now do the same with the other rivers in our area?

Rivers provide benefits to local communities and businesses including:

- **Provision of Drinking water.**
- **Water for livestock, food crops and nature.**
- **Enjoyment through activities such as boating, walking and fishing.**
- **A home for wildlife which live in and around the water.**

Currently only around 20% of the watercourses in Oxfordshire comply with the Water Framework Directive (WFD). The WFD, which became part of UK law in December 2003, gives an opportunity to plan and deliver improvements to our water environment with a focus on the quality and quantity of water as well as the plants and animals that live within it.

We are already working with organisations such as Natural England, RSPB, Wildlife Trusts, water companies and the agricultural and recreation sectors to improve these rivers, but in order to achieve more current and long lasting improvements, we need involvement from local communities. These are the people who know their local rivers and want to be involved in their improvements. You can help by joining local action groups, assist the Environment Agency with local knowledge or you could work within your local communities to improve your watercourses.

If you would like more information and would like to get involved in helping to improve rivers in your area please contact Karen Parker by calling 01491 828393 or emailing: ThW_AEPT@Environment-Agency.Gov.UK.

COMMON RAGWORT *Senecio jacobaea*



Ragwort is a poisonous weed (listed in the 1959 Weeds Act) that contaminates meadows, verges and hay crops and can result in the poisoning of livestock, particularly cattle and horses.

Is it growing in North Aston? Have you seen Ragwort growing anywhere in the parish? If so, please let us know where, so that we can notify the authorities and they can deal with it.

Stop the spread of Ragwort!

email: info@north-aston.co.uk

BOOT SALE

There are plans for a Village Boot Sale to be staged on the Green in September. The date has been pencilled in for Sunday 2nd, but this may be subject to change, as a number of people are away on holiday this month, and there is not a lot of time left to finalise the details. However, when these are confirmed, posters will be displayed to promote the event, and to invite people to book a pitch. If you would be interested in taking part, on the basis of around £5 per pitch, please email:

info@north-aston.co.uk

Adverts

Babysitting Service

Mature and responsible 16 year-old available for babysitting.
Please contact **Yvie** on 01869 340090

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

ORCC Trading Oil Scheme

Start Planning Ahead for Winter!

The details have been published in several issues of the *News*, but if you use oil for your domestic heating, this scheme could save you hundreds of pounds each year, and now may be the time to implement your membership if you haven't done so already. Take advantage of mid-summer prices! 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, so the annual membership fee of just £20 seems like a bargain.

North Aston Social Club 2012 Calendar of Events

September

- 1st Flower & Produce Show (Green)
2nd Stately Home Car Boot Sale (Green)

October

- TBC Harvest Supper (Nicholsons Barn)
28th Halloween Barn Dance & Barbecue
(Licensed Bar & Fancy Dress)

November

- TBC Medieval Banquet (Nicholsons Barn)
(Period Dress, Licensed Bar & Auction)

December

- TBC Village Quiz Night (Licensed Bar)
Full details of every event will be advertised in the *News* in the months prior to each event.

NORTH ASTON ORGANICS

Vegetable Stall

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

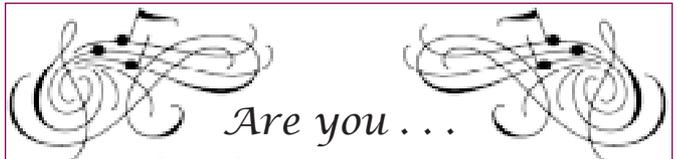
- Wide variety of fresh seasonal organic veg at affordable prices
- Minimal packaging & zero food miles
- Supporting the local economy



Too busy?
Why not try our Veg Box Scheme - Fresh vegetables delivered to you door.

Email: northastonorganics@gmail.com

Tel: ((01869)) 347702



Are you . . .

A bathtime Baritone?

A soaring Soprano?

An angelic Alto?

A tootling Tenor?

Whether you're a beginner or an experienced singer there's something for everyone when

*Steeple Aston
Choral Society*

*launches its exciting new venture in
September 2012*

*If you are interested in
becoming involved, then please
Email: jevansvn@aol.com*

Councillor Calling



Planning Policy

This has gathered pace since I last reported. A new **Local Development Scheme** for Cherwell has been approved, setting out the documents that will make up the new local plan, and the most important of those documents, the **Local Plan** (previously called the *Local Development Framework Core Strategy*), which says where development will happen and how, has been approved for consultation (though, as I write, its release is still imminent) and Masterplans for Banbury and Bicester are also on the stocks – when the consultation begins, do have your say.

National Planning Policy Framework

Driving all this activity is the upsurge in planning applications using the new *National Planning Policy Framework's* emphasis on each district have a 5-year supply of deliverable new housing in the pipeline at any time. Until we have a Plan in place, developers hope to use this clause to get new sites approved. Arguments rage round the 5-year supply itself – What exactly does “deliverable” mean when we’ve over 5 years’ worth of planning permissions already? What about the NPPF’s emphasis on local determination? And where does the NPPF’s “sustainability” requirement fit in? Clearly, we need a Plan to get some coherence back into the system and stem this stream of appeals.

The new Plan proposes slightly fewer new houses than were imposed by the last Government, based on a proper study of Cherwell’s needs, and, thanks to Eco Bicester, a reduction in the numbers for villages to take from 1,130 to 948 – even less as existing permissions can be taken into account. Your own councillors, though, may be guilty of causing the delayed launch as we challenged the distribution of these across the “Category A” sustainable villages (ie those with facilities – schools, pubs, shops, buses, etc – such as Fritwell) as their allocation took no account of their size, and the principle of “clustering” unsustainable locations with unrelated neighbouring settlements. Hopefully, these will have been rectified before the draft is circulated.

Other Planning News

This centres on Bicester, where there’s a bid to extend the town’s Eco credentials to qualify it as a new generation *Garden City* – hopefully resulting in more funds and better facilities. Meanwhile, the council is encouraging *Bomber Command Heritage's* bid to turn RAF Bicester into a museum. Against them are the huge funds they’ll have to raise to see off commercial

developers: on their side are the challenges of dozens of listed historic structures which must be preserved but need huge amounts of restoration work – seconds out!

Rail Travel

Railways provide some positive news as, while government enthusiasm for the **HS2** project wanes as its finances unravel, the **East-West Link** connecting Oxford-Bicester-Milton Keynes-Bedford has been given a green light not only to go ahead but for electrification as well. Combined with the **Evergreen** project, which has finally overcome the Wolvercote bats to speed up the Oxford-Bicester line and link it to the Bicester North-Marylebone route, Bicester is on the way to being a real rail hub and Bicester Town to changing from an unloved siding to a key destination.

Money, of course, is key to all projects and sometimes Parishes struggle to fund projects out of one year’s precept in these tough times. So Cherwell is offering to become a “banker of last resort” to bridge this sort of gap with loans to enable such difficulties to be overcome.

Profit in Waste

Recycling has until now cost money. But, thanks to the worldwide squeeze on commodities like metals, paper and plastic, our new outsourcing contract, instead of costing £55,000 a year to cart recyclables away, is going to earn us £250,000 – so fill your blue bins and keep council tax down!

Recycling centres are a bone of contention with the closure of Ardley, Kidlington being a non-starter and the nearest being Redbridge. At least we’ll now be getting a re-use centre in Bicester, where a consortium including the Waste Partnership, the wonderful Emmaus charity, the Chamber of Commerce and others is setting up to refurbish your old items and keep them from the tip.

Back to money, and the **New Homes Bonus** is the new way of rewarding districts that host new housing by paying them the first five years’ council tax. The catches are that this ceases after five years, so it would be foolish to incur long term commitments, and it (inevitably) replaces other Government funding. So, how to make best use of it? And how to share it between the communities bearing the brunt of development and the wider District? Expect much heated discussion shortly as proposals are developed and debated!

Reform

Another alert is **welfare** reform, where Districts will be required to squeeze the benefits we currently distribute (a cunning way of shifting the blame to us!). I’ve not heard of any way of avoiding some people losing out so, again, expect some difficult moments.

Perhaps these weren’t the best topics to start the holiday season: best of luck keeping dry in the on-going drought!

James Macnamara

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CHURCH SERVICES

PARISH WORSHIP IN JULY 2012

STEEPLE ASTON

NORTH ASTON

TACKLEY

Sunday 5th - Ninth Sunday after Trinity

No service

10.30 am
United Benefice Communion
Rev'd Mervyn Puleston

6.00 pm
Evensong
Fr Robin Gibbons

Sunday 12th - Tenth Sunday after Trinity

No service

No service

10.30 am
United Benefice Communion
Rev'd Mervyn Puleston

6.00 pm
Evensong
Fr Robin Gibbons

Sunday 19th - Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

10.30 am
United Benefice Communion
Fr Mark Clavier

No service

6.00 pm
Evensong
Fr Robin Gibbons

Sunday 26th - Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

No service

10.30 am
United Benefice Communion
Fr Mark Clavier

6.00 pm
1662 Holy Communion
Fr Mark Clavier

Families are welcome to all services. Father Mark provides a children's sermon for children 4+ during the service.

Mid-Week Services & Morning Prayer - Every Week

9.30 am
Morning Prayer
Tuesdays

Noon
1662 Holy Communion
Thursdays

9.15 am
Morning Prayer
Mondays

9.15 am
Morning Prayer
Wednesdays

Other Events this Month

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

22nd August – 7.30 pm *A Pint with the Parson* at the *Gardiner Arms*, **Tackley**

There is no "Church Matters" in this month's News. If you wish to contact the PCC, please use any of the contacts below:

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 Father 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, Jane McArdle, Ted Short, Jeremy Taylor and Norman West.

It's your Church