

# NORTH ASTON NEWS

OCTOBER 2013

No: 276



*Harvest Supper - October 5th  
Gardening Club and Full Results from the Flower & Produce Show  
Minutes from the September Meeting, Upcoming Events & Announcements*

# NORTH ASTON NEWS

OCTOBER 2013, No: 276

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Kildare Bourke-Borrowes. See above.

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### North Aston Gardening Club

Chris Tuffrey, Chairman. See above.

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Out of Hours Doctor: 08453 458 995

## Upcoming Events

### October Coffee Morning

Wednesday 2nd Oct 10:30 am, The Bakery

### Harvest Supper

Saturday 5th October, 7:30 pm, Orchard Barn

### Village Hall Forum - TBC

Thursday 17th October, 7:30 pm, The Bakery

### November Coffee Morning

Wednesday 6th Nov. 10:30 am, The Bakery

# Your Village Chairman

We're now officially into Autumn, that bitter-sweet time where we regret the passing of our glorious summer, rejoice in the amazing abundance of fruit, vegetables and nuts everywhere (especially this year), and start steeling ourselves for the gales and bitter weather to come. It has been a mixed-feeling month in village life too.

It was a good and lively month in the Church, what with the Revd. Marcus Green's packed and joyful Institution service, his first service at North Aston, and Mark Clavier's return for Camilla Durnin's wedding, when our church was brimming over with people, happiness and beauty.

It has not been a good month for village harmony. As recorded in the Minutes elsewhere in this News, a lengthy criticism was made of me at the September Village Meeting for the way I supported Clive Busby's Planning Appeal. It was a very lively discussion, though what this exercise achieved, or was meant to achieve, isn't very obvious. There must be, and there are, better ways of resolving such matters individually and as a community.

This is my last Chairman's column. It has been an honour to serve the village for this little while; someone else must now take up that baton, and put themselves forward.

Goodbye

*Kildare*

Tel: 01869 340200 ~ email: [k.bourkeborrowes@btinternet.com](mailto:k.bourkeborrowes@btinternet.com)



*North Aston*  
**Harvest Supper**

*Saturday 5th October*  
**Orchard Barn @ The Park, North Aston**  
7.30pm

**Usual format:**  
Welcome drinks and main course provided  
Please bring a pudding to share  
Please bring all your own cutlery, crockery and glasses.  
We are planning a little music after so bring an instrument,  
your voice or some music.

All Welcome

Entrance by ticket only  
Tickets: £2.50 each  
Children under 10 free  
Available from Liz and Niel Nicholson  
Tel: 340929  
Email: [nicholsons@nicholsons.gb.com](mailto:nicholsons@nicholsons.gb.com)

Please let us know if you have any dietary requirements



## A Talk by Colin Cohen

Wednesday 9th October 2013, 7:30 pm

The Windmill Centre, Deddington

Non-members: £2.50 at the door - All Welcome.

Colin was a founder member of the Deddington & District History Society and served on the Committee until his recent move to Leamington.

He returns on Wednesday 9th October to talk about how research into family history turned into research of national, even international, significance. He discovered that his father, a Secret Intelligence Service (SIS) officer during the Second World War, ran agents in France and subsequently became M16's *Controller for Western Europe*.

Colin will relate the story of how he gradually unravelled the secrets of his father's astonishing *other life* or, as he puts it 'secrets beyond family secrets'.

### *Charles Oldfield Bowles by John Hoppner, 1758-1810*

The front cover image this month depicts a print of a recently rediscovered portrait of Charles Oldfield Bowles, painted around 1795. It shows some similarities with the more famous painting by Sir Joshua Reynolds; *Love me, Love my Dog* which featured Charles' eldest sister, Jane Bowles, as a child, now in the Wallace Collection. Charles Bowles was the son of Oldfield Bowles and "Lord of the Manor" here in North Aston until shortly before his death in 1862. The painting was sold by Christie's in 1907 and purchased by Messrs Colnaghi of Pall Mall, who passed it on to Knoedler & Co of New York. There it was purchased, in about 1910, by James Buchanan Duke, the American industrialist. Yet to be confirmed, but the painting is now believed to be in the collection of the Duke Foundation, established by the late Doris Duke.



The lucky winners of the September draw were

First Prize (£10): Scott Ploughman (#92)

Second Prize (£5): N Young (#41)

Anyone who missed out on renewing their membership this year - or who hasn't previously been involved - will now have to wait until next April to sign up. Be prepared! If you'd like to reserve a number, please speak to Norman West, or call him on 340368. You've got to be in it to win it!

## Announcements

### Road Works

More lane closures on the **M40**. Yes, Britain's newest motorway is already falling to bits. Expect these to be ongoing through to Christmas, probably.

The closure of the **Fenway** access into **Steeple Aston** has been extended for another week, so access to the middle of Steeple Aston will have to be via the Red Lion road (or Middle Aston) until later this month. The additional work is by Thames Water, but Dunmill Construction Limited would still like to apologise for any inconvenience caused.

### Camera Stolen

An infra red wildlife camera that had been set up on the North Aston estate to monitor the night-time activities of a rare mammal was stolen from its site during the night of Sunday September 22nd.

The camera was close by one of the designated bridleways, but not right beside it, and would not have been easily visible.

This is an expensive piece of equipment owned by a private individual in North Aston. There is a reward for its safe return, and any information that may shed light on its whereabouts will be much appreciated. Contact the *News* if you have any information that might help.

### Pumpkins for Sale!

Don't think pumpkins are just for Halloween! You can't beat a good Pumpkin Pie, and spiced Pumpkin Soup is just perfect for these chillier days. Kyle Hite has grown a fantastic crop of traditional orange pumpkins this season, and these will be available from 4 The Green from the beginning of October. There are various sizes to choose from - large to huge - so pop along and pick a pumpkin!

### Free Microchipping for Dogs?

We have been contacted by the Dogs Trust, who have just started a huge chipping campaign to run alongside the new government announcement that from the 6th April 2016 all dogs will have to be microchipped.

The organisation, which finds homes for stray and abandoned animals from across the UK and Ireland, is organising roaming "Chipping Teams" offering FREE microchipping across the whole of the country. They started their campaign in August.

They are currently looking to book events in this area, and will either send a Team to an existing event or, if there's sufficient demand, they will run dedicated chipping sessions.

If your dog is not yet microchipped - and you will have to arrange for this to be done at some stage between now and 2016 - then please let us know. If sufficient numbers come forward we will request that they visit us here in North Aston. Remember, microchipping at your local vet will cost between £15 and £20, so this is a cost-effective option. Call 01869 347356 or email [info@north-aston.co.uk](mailto:info@north-aston.co.uk).



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# North Aston Village Meeting

Thursday 12th September 2013 ~ The Minutes

**Present:** Kildare Bourke-Borrowes, Sue Hatzigeorgiou, Marcus Potts, Beryl Greenwood, Alison Bailey, Clive Busby, Chris Tuffrey, Jane McArdle, Jeremy Taylor, James Taylor, Franca Potts, Eileen Gilmore, Beverley Rees, Tony Rees, Mark Stay, Jan Liberadzki, Sarah Bourke-Borrowes, Niel Nicholson.

**Apologies for absence:** John Harvey-Lee, Liz Nicholson, Nicholas Kneale, Mary Healy, Annie Savage, David Hazle, Chris Hazle, David Greenwood, Sandra Reeves, Tuck Hatzigeorgiou.

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## Village Meeting

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### 1. Welcome & Apologies

Chairman Kildare Bourke-Borrowes welcomed everyone to the Meeting and accepted apologies for absence.

### 2. Approval of Minutes

KBB asked if the Minutes of the July Meeting, published in the August issue of the News, had been a fair and accurate representation of events. There were no comments and the Minutes were proposed for approval by Sarah Bourke-Borrowes and seconded by Beryl Greenwood. They were approved unanimously.

### 3. Treasurer's Report

Sue Hatzigeorgiou circulated copies of her Treasurer's Report, which included Village Meeting figures on one side, and Village Fund on the reverse. She explained the figures, observing that nothing much had taken place with regard to the Meeting, aside from the impending arrival of the second tranche of the annual Precept. KBB asked if we might anticipate any further expenses for the rest of this year, and was assured that this seemed unlikely.

Since costings had been previously approved, SH asked Clive Busby if the Mole Man had been to address the problem of moles on the Green. CB confirmed that he had not yet been to treat the infestation, but the matter was in hand.

SH concluded by advising the Meeting that the Village Audit had been approved and returned. The Treasurer's Report was approved by Niel Nicholson, seconded by SBB and passed unanimously.

### 4. Broadband

In late August the findings of the Government's proposed roll-out of high speed Internet access for rural communities had been published. Marcus Potts said that the details of this had been published in the September News, but he explained again the basic facts, and the disappointment of discovering that North Aston appeared to have been specifically isolated from the proposed areas of coverage in Oxfordshire.

KBB observed that this was despite the likelihood that The Mill and Mill Cottage would be included, since they benefited from access to the Somerton exchange.

It was noted that OCC had stated that the results of the findings were 'non-negotiable', but were not set in stone until January. However, the email response to contact via the website had included reference to the possibility of additional grants and funding for communities not covered by the plan. It was wondered if the implementation for North Aston might ever be reconsidered. NN thought we could "never say never" and was sure that the village would gain high speed access

eventually, but that "it might be a long way down the line."

BG said that, if the grant was available then was it not worth pursuing it? SH wondered if obtaining a grant might allow the village to install the necessary infrastructure ourselves, or have it installed for us. It was thought that we would need to have the system installed for us, but that grant money could be used to help cover the cost.

KBB said that the DEFRA grant would not be sufficient to cover all the communities so far not covered by the proposed roll-out, and that we would have to 'bid for it' in competition with others.

MP suggested that it would be necessary to investigate whether it was best to attempt to upgrade the existing link with Steeple Aston, or connect with the fibre optic system along the main road, and determine which might be the most cost effective.

It was revealed that CB at Dane Hill does have a 'broadband duct' linking the property to the main road, but no cable! However, the cottages actually alongside the main road are connected and functioning.

### 5. Salt Bags

MP said that he had received a letter and *pro forma* invoice concerning the supply of Salt Bags this winter. A discussion followed about the various benefits – or otherwise – of having a stock of road salt in the village, where it might be sited, and who might make best use of it in the event of adverse weather.

It was unclear from the letter whether one bag of salt might be supplied without charge, but each additional sack would be charged at £100. A vote was taken on the proposal that the village accept the salt, with 2 in favour, 8 against, and 8 abstentions. As a result the Meeting will not be requesting any salt this year.

### 6. Any Other Business

(a) KBB began by saying that, as a matter arising from the previous meeting, he had been unable to do anything in the meantime about the possibility of North Aston working towards a **Community Plan**. However, he suggested that the categorisation of North Aston as a "Category 3" village indicated to him that "the centre of the village is sacrosanct" as far as Cherwell District Council is concerned. He assumed that developments might be allowed to take place in the area outside the centre, as defined by the Conservation Area, but even this was unlikely. He said that he was not worried, and it would be up to others to address this matter in the future, but he would not be pursuing it further.

(b) KBB then referred to an extract from the Minutes of the last meeting in which Trevor Green-Parks of **North Aston Hall** had been quoted as saying "that there would be the need to negotiate details with Christopher Woodhead, as the

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driveway to Folly Field House was now fundamental to the effective functioning of St Mary's Walk." This had given rise to some confusion, especially with regard to "why the driveway (to Folly Field House) should be fundamental to The Walk". KBB had contacted TGP for clarification. It transpired that this referred only to the effective drainage of surface water.

(c) BG expressed her concern that the gateway to the new driveway along **Middle Aston Lane** had been fenced off again, almost flush with the road, and there was no pull-off area for vehicles wanting to access the drive. NN assured her that the measure was temporary while work was carried out on constructing a new wall and gateway behind the fence. BG said that she'd had a nasty experience with a vehicle coming out of the entrance and had to brake hard. Others added to NN's reassurance that a proper driveway entrance with plenty of off-road space was planned.

Jane McArdle asked about the state of the Lane, and the huge number of potholes. MP responded to say that Highways had been contacted, and the holes would be patched shortly. In the longer term the Village had received assurances from The Hall that, once work in The Park had been completed, and contractors' vehicles were no longer making regular runs to the gateway, the verges and passing places would be reinstated. It was also thought unlikely that The Hall would want the state of the road to remain as it is currently.

(d) Jan Liberadzki said he was concerned about the **footpath** across the front of The Hall, where he felt that the livestock could pose a potential danger to walkers using the path, particularly children. He asked if The Hall had sufficient public liability cover should there be any instance of personal injury.

MP admitted that he didn't know the answer to that, but doubted if it was actually the Hall's responsibility anyway. NN said you could never have a 100% guarantee that livestock wouldn't respond to walkers. JL then suggested that perhaps the livestock had been introduced as a deterrent to walkers? NN stated that he'd never had any problems, and often walked that path.

Jeremy Taylor said that it was his understanding that it was no longer acceptable for a farmer to erect signs saying "Beware of the Bull" as this implied a risk, for which the farmer could then be liable. Nowadays it was more commonly signed as simply "Bull in the Field".

Eileen Gilmore said that walkers crossed any field with livestock "at their own risk". KBB agreed, suggesting that walkers simply needed to "take care" crossing the field. NN insisted that it was no more dangerous than "crossing the road". EG added that, if anyone walks through a herd of cattle with dogs on a lead, then the cattle can change character markedly at the sight of the dog, and may stampede. CB said that, in that case, let go of the dog! The dog can out-run the cattle and escape, while the cattle are then likely to ignore the walker.

NN advised that anyone worried about the livestock should just avoid the field. There is a parallel fenced footpath anyway. KBB observed that Park Cattle are, on the whole, fairly placid animals. However, it was agreed that one of The Hall's cattle – a youngster with uneven horns – can be troublesome. However, the cattle have not been in that particular field for several weeks, or months, and their place has been taken by specimen sheep. James Taylor suggested that rams can be a bit aggressive at times, but on the whole the Meeting felt

that encountering 'killer sheep' on the footpath was unlikely.

(e) MP said that he had received an email from David Hazle, with the request that it be read out at the Meeting. The email concerned the point of order, as itemised in the Minutes from the January Meeting, that it was believed unconstitutional for the Village Meeting to involve itself in matters relating to planning applications within the community. That being the understanding of the Meeting, why had the Chairman then written to Cherwell District Council's Planning Department in July, in his capacity as Chairman of the Meeting, and on behalf of the village, expressing unqualified support for Clive and Trudy Busby's planning application?

MP read out the relevant section of Minutes from the January Meeting and also recited the contents of the Chairman's letter to the Council. He then read out extracts of the Chairman's appeal, as given in person to the meeting of the CDC Planning Committee on September 5th, in which the main elements of the letter were repeated.

In the lengthy statement, it was suggested that neither the letter nor the presentation should have been given, in the name of the Chairman of North Aston Parish Meeting, without first either obtaining the Meeting's express approval to do so, or overturning the proposal of 1995. In addition, it was alleged that there were some inaccuracies in the wording and content of the letter, which the Meeting was reminded had been approved to be prepared by the Secretary in November 2012, prior to any question of its being unconstitutional. In conclusion, the Chairman was asked to explain his actions and to give an assurance to the Meeting that this would not happen again.

KBB's initial reaction was to state that he had not prepared any response to these allegations. However, CB expressed a wish to make a statement in reply, which he read out. He stressed that it had always been his understanding that the 1995 proposal expressly stated that the Meeting would not involve itself in planning issues unless the whole community was likely to be affected. It was his opinion that the proposed construction of a new house adjacent to the Green did represent an application with wider implications, and that the Meeting's involvement was therefore justified.

A long and at times heated debate then followed that lasted for the best part of an hour. Many conflicting views were expressed, robustly given and at times contested with equal conviction. During this process KBB offered to leave the room, but was persuaded to stay.

In conclusion, the Chairman said that, if he had exceeded his authority, or made an error of judgement, then he offered his apology to the Meeting. However he remained convinced that he had been right in expressing the support for the Application that the village had given, and in what he believed was a matter that concerned North Aston as a whole. He also assured the Meeting that it need have no fear of any repetition. His apology was accepted, and KBB was persuaded to remain in office as Chairman until the AGM in January.

(At the end of the Meeting it was approved, unanimously, that the Minutes for this section of the evening's proceedings should be kept as brief as possible, and would offer only a précis of the discussion and its conclusions. These Minutes have been checked and approved by the Officers of the Meeting)

This concluded the Village Meeting element of the evening.

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## Village Fund

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### 1. Welcome & Apologies

The same notes of those present were taken as for the Village Meeting. Chris Tuffrey requested the Meeting's permission to leave, as he was feeling a little unwell, and his apology for absence was noted.

### 2. Minutes

The Minutes of the previous Village Fund meeting were approved with no matters arising; proposed by CB, seconded by SH and approved unanimously.

### 3. Treasurer's Report

SH asked the Meeting to refer to the reverse of the Treasurer's Report distributed earlier, and went through the Village Fund figures in some detail. This included reference to the Fête, for which she was still awaiting some claims for expenses.

She added that it had been agreed before the Fête that the profits would be shared equally this year between the Village Fund and the Church of St Mary's. It was noted that the cost of the annual insurance policy had increased by £23 in order to cover the new Jubilee Bench against theft and vandalism. This was initially queried from the floor, but on explanation that the total cost of the bench, including installation, would be in the region of £3000, this premium was thought acceptable.

The Treasurer's Report was proposed by NN, seconded by BG, and approved unanimously.

### 4. Harvest Supper

This year's Harvest Supper will take place on Saturday October 5th, and will be staged in the Orchard Barn, courtesy of Niel and Liz Nicholson. Mary Healy and Mark Stay have agreed to lead the cooking again. NN said that those wishing to attend should contact him, so that the appropriate numbers could be catered for. He and Liz would manage ticketing.

KBB asked if a mailing could be done to the database of village emails, and MP offered to do this.

KBB then suggested that, in light of the issues in Syria, and the refugee crisis in surrounding states, could a collection be made at the event? The suggestion was met with approval, with a donation to the Disasters Emergency Committee being thought the best outcome. However, a discussion ensued over what the ticket price should be, and whether the donation should be incorporated into this price, or collected as a voluntary contribution on the night.

After a show of hands it was agreed that the ticket price would be set at £2.50 per person, under 10s free, and that an additional voluntary "bucket" would do the rounds on the evening.

### 5 Review of the Village Fête.

In general, the Fête was considered to have been a success, and the smaller scale (when compared with 2012) was thought to have been largely welcomed. However, it was thought that it might be a good idea to establish a permanent date for the event, and to set that for the 2014 Fête now, so that everyone could have plenty of time to work their holiday dates around the event.

BG felt that the current weekend, usually the third in July,

was a week too late, and that some parents would already be heading off on holiday. KBB asked if perhaps we should move the date to the second Saturday.

MP then pointed out that, if the 1st of July was a Saturday, then the Fête might end up taking place in the middle of the month. Also, many of the private schools break up far earlier than state schools, so would still be on holiday even then.

After some further debate, it was settled that the Fête should be fixed as the third Saturday in July. This would make it the 19th July in 2014, and this date could now be published.

JamesT, who had managed the ice cream bicycle at the Fête, asked why he had turned up on the day to discover he was competing with an ice cream van. It was explained that the decision to accept the offer by the van's owner to attend had been "last minute", after an approach to Linda Brown, and had been approved by KBB on the basis that an offer of a guaranteed £100 had been made. It was pointed out that JT had still sold out. Nevertheless, he was still conscious of having been pedalling ice cream from a bike branded as "Cotswold Dairy Ice Cream" when the contents were all from Sainsbury's! Nobody had actually complained.

JeremyT said that he had been working solo on administering the car parking, and would appreciate more help next year. He also said that there should be no parking on the road. In previous years Richard Boss had supplied traffic cones to prevent this, but had been unable to do so this year. Next year it was thought the Village should obtain cones, either from Richard or elsewhere, and ensure the car parking was fully staffed. KBB said he had kept detailed notes, and would share these with the organisers next year.

### 6 Jubilee Bench

Although the bench had been *in situ* for the fete, and the site had been marked out, nothing had since been achieved. KBB pointed out that "everyone had gone away in August" and therefore nothing had been done. MP asked whether it might not now be best to defer installation until the spring, to save the bench from a winter out of doors for little purpose. KBB said that a working party could be swiftly assembled, and we ought to bear in mind that Daniel Durnin was to leave soon for London – if he had not already gone.

SH also proposed that installation be delayed until April. CB suggested that DD might ask for the bench to be stored somewhere in the meantime. KBB suggested that he would speak with DD and find out what Daniel wished to do. SH said that, if he looked upset or offended, we could go ahead with a quicker installation. KBB said that, whatever the timing, a proper unveiling should take place.

A brief debate then ensued regarding the means of installation. SH asked if Nicholsons could not be asked for their help. Tony Rees spoke about the quote he had received for installing the bench, which had been for roughly £1000, but said that he thought this wasn't really necessary, and surely there were enough willing hands in the village that we could do the footings ourselves. However, he did concede that it needed to be done with care, and to a high standard. MP thought that the necessary resources must exist within North Aston. KBB agreed, but foresaw problems "getting them together".

It was eventually agreed that, provided DD was happy with the arrangement, the installation and unveiling would take place in the spring of 2014.

## 7. Any Other Business

(a) Kerbing or Railing the **Village Green**. JeremyT expressed his wish to see the situation regarding the Green resolved. Was anyone going to talk to Highways about their view on the matter? MP volunteered to contact OCC's Highways Department to establish what was permitted.

(b) CB asked if anyone had seen the 'drains clearing man' in the village recently. He was concerned that the **drainage culvert** opposite the Fountain was again blocked by leaves and silt. He had asked Highways to come and clear the drain, but believed that nothing had so far been done. The floor agreed that the drain still seemed to be blocked, and CB said he would contact Highways again.

(c) JeremyT wished to mention that work on burying the **high tension cables** through Beesley's Close would be starting soon. He said it should be completed by the 20th September. He assured everyone that access and supply would be maintained throughout the period of works.

(d) KBB asked Alison Bailey how things were progressing at **Park Farm**. AB said that the builders were getting on well,

but were slightly behind schedule. However, they should have completed all the major works within the week. She added that she was slightly fearful of mentioning 'planning', but the company would be applying for permission for change of use. This was to allow an extra member of staff to sleep over in the building. It would not, she stressed, effect the number of residents, but one further bedroom would be created for staff use only.

She added that there would be an **Open Day** and that anyone from the village would be very, very welcome. KBB asked when the first girls might be expected to arrive. AB suggested this would be in October.

The date for the next Meeting was set for Thursday December 3rd, so that plans for Christmas could be discussed. This prompted JMCA to ask if she could gain the Meeting's support and funding for her the traditional **Children's Christmas Party** again this year. The Meeting readily agreed that a donation of £50 should be approved, and JMCA said that she was hoping this year to arrange for a North Aston party in the Old Bakery. This was welcomed by all. That concluded the Meeting.

# Antiques @ THE HOLT

Saturday 23rd & Sunday 24th November 2013  
Open 10:00 am to 4:30 pm Daily ~ Entrance: 50p

Twenty local antiques dealers at The Holt Hotel, Steeple Aston  
Silver, Jewellery, Ceramics, Bronzes, Paintings & Prints, Militaria,  
Maps, Glass, Brass & Copperwares, Furniture and Collectors' Items  
[www.antiques-at-the-holt.co.uk](http://www.antiques-at-the-holt.co.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 October 2nd



# North Aston Gardening Club

Following on from last month's Flower & Produce Show (see full results on Page 10 in this month's *News*), club members met at Chris Hazle's on the 25th of September where possible improvements to next year's show were discussed.

We've had some successes with new classes, such as *Shallots* and *French Beans*, which were trialled for the first time this year. Other introductions, such as the *Arrangement of Wildflowers*, did not attract as many entries as we'd hoped. However, the entries received were, we thought, really creative and of a very high standard so we'll be keeping this class for another year.

We would like to encourage more entries from children in the village, and in particular in the produce section. Anyone with any ideas which they would like us to try out for both kids and adults please get in touch. A provisional schedule for the Flower & Produce Show in 2014 will be published early in the New Year.

We will be putting in seed orders to King's again this year. Three spare copies of the catalogue and forms are available from Nether Cottage to any club member who is interested. Alternatively you can look up the catalogue online at [www.kingsseeds.com](http://www.kingsseeds.com).

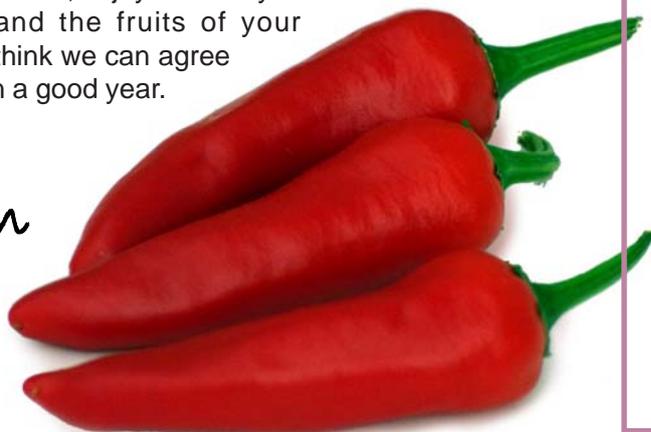
We will be able to secure a 50% discount on all club orders over the value of £175, and a 35% discount for orders up to £175 (excludes seed potatoes, sets, fruit, plants and sundries); plus we could potentially benefit from bulk order discounts on seed potatoes and sets: so considerable savings could be had.

We will be having a special festive *End of Year* meeting on the Wednesday 11th of December, kindly hosted by Eileen Gilmore and Chris Tuffrey. There will be drinks and nibbles (donations kindly received, of course). Please bring along your seed orders to the meeting, or otherwise drop them in at Nether Cottage by 6pm on Friday the 13th of December. I anticipate delivery early in the New Year, after which you will receive your bundle of seeds and a personalised invoice.

In the meantime, enjoy the lovely autumn weather and the fruits of your labours: I think we can agree it has been a good year.

Thanks,

Lynn



## This Month's Birthdays

Tom Baimbridge

Daniel Durnin

Olivia Durnin

Jimmy Rees



*Congratulations to*

**Marcus & Franca**

on their Wedding Anniversary!

Congratulations to all the North Aston residents who celebrate special events this month. If you're not listed, or know someone who should be, please let us know.

## NORTH ASTON ORGANICS

### Vegetable Stall

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

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



Too busy? Why not try our Veg Box Scheme? Fresh vegetables delivered to your door!

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

Tel: ((01869)) 347702

## From Thames Valley Police

This month's appeal for witnesses or information:

### Handbag Thief Caught

Following a TVP Alert earlier in the year, mentioned here in the *News*, regarding a spate of hand bag and wallet thefts in Bicester and Kidlington, we are pleased to report that the culprit has been arrested and charged. Due to an extensive history of previous offences, this evidence was used to recall him to prison for a year.

### Local Incidents

A vehicle was reported to have been stolen from an address in Fewcott in August, but the offender was known to the victim and has subsequently been arrested and charged. Also, an employee from Heyford Park was arrested for theft and bailed pending enquiries, while a youth who caused two counts of criminal damage in Heyford is now due to receive two final warnings (*a contradiction in terms, surely? Ed*) and any further prosecutions will result in charges being brought, and he'll go to court to be dealt with. TVP hopes that he will change his behaviour. Finally, overnight on 22nd August, a burglary occurred in Caulcott, and two persons have since been arrested in connection with this and charged.

### Bank Card Courier Scam

Residents are advised to be on their guard for a new type of scam which is already prevalent across London but has now been reported in this area as well. The **Courier Fraud Scam** often targets the elderly and vulnerable and follows a familiar pattern:

The victim receives an unsolicited telephone call claiming to come from their bank (or in some cases claiming to be the police) stating that their systems have spotted a fraudulent payment on their card or that their card is due to expire and needs to be replaced.

The person may be asked to ring the bank back using the phone number printed on the back of their bank card. This is

intended to convince the person that the call is genuine. However, the fraudster has kept the telephone line open by not hanging up, so even though the person has dialled the bank, the call does not go through.

Instead they are unknowingly re-connected with the fraudster.

The fraudster then gains the person's trust by pretending to be from the bank and seeming to offer assistance. In many cases the person is asked to provide their full bank card details and key in their PIN so that their existing card can be cancelled and their new one activated or authorised. The fraudster will then explain that the bank will need to collect the card.

The fraudster will then attend the person's address or send an innocent courier company driver to collect the card and sometimes provide them with a replacement card which is subsequently found to be a fake.

Therefore, the fraudster has obtained the person's name, address, full bank details, the card itself and the PIN. The bank cards are then used fraudulently without the victim's knowledge.

There are a number of variations to the scam, but the bottom line is, always remember that your bank will never ask you for your full bank details over the phone. A genuine caller from your bank will only ask for certain letters of your password. You are then at liberty to ask for the caller to supply alternative letters from your password - and should always do so. If they cannot supply the correct letters or numbers, hang up.

### Contacting TVP

Should you wish to contact the police about any non-urgent matter, please use the 101 number. They want to hear from you, no matter how trivial you think the incident may be. In the event of an emergency, use the familiar 999 number.



# Bonfire Night!

This year's Bonfire Night falls on the first Tuesday of the month, so it is expected that some celebrants may wish to let off their fireworks on the previous Saturday (2nd) or Sunday (3rd). Please remember that it is illegal to let off fireworks after 11:00 pm on any November date except the 5th, when the cut-off is midnight.

If you're planning on having a fireworks party that won't be on these dates, then you must advise your neighbours. This will enable pet owners to keep their animals safely indoors and so be less likely to be frightened. Knocking door-to-door or doing a leaflet drop is the first step, but to help with wider distribution, please email details of your fireworks party to [info@north-aston.co.uk](mailto:info@north-aston.co.uk). If you're not on the mailing list but want to receive such information, then please submit your email address as soon as possible.

**Saturday November 2nd**  
**Sunday November 3rd**  
**(No later than 11:00pm)**  
**Tuesday November 5th**  
**(No later than midnight)**


**FLOWER & SHOW PRODUCE 2013**  
*Results*

**Section A: Vegetables & Fruit**

- 1 Oddest Shaped Vegetable**  
*Gold:* Kyle Hite, *Silver:* Tuck Hatzigeorgiou, *Bronze:* Bill Graham
- 2 Four Carrots**  
*Gold:* Stephen Rees, *Silver:* Bill Graham, *Bronze:* Norman West
- 3 Four Potatoes**  
*Gold:* Trudy Busby, *Silver:* Norman West, *Bronze:* Geoff Rawnsley
- 4 Three Onions**  
*Gold:* Geoff Rawnsley, *Silver:* Tuck Hatzigeorgiou, *Bronze:* Stephen Rees
- 5 Six Shallots**  
*Gold:* Bill Graham, *Silver:* Norman West, *Bronze:* Lynn Quek
- 6 Three Beetroot**  
*Gold:* Tony Rees, *Silver:* Chris Hazle, *Bronze:* Stephen Rees
- 7 Three Courgettes**  
*Gold:* Kyle Hite, *Silver:* Lynn Quek, *Bronze:* Bill Graham
- 8 A Cucumber**  
*Gold:* Tony Rees, *Silver:* Annabel Bevan, *Bronze:* Kyle Hite
- 9 Four Runner Beans**  
*Gold:* Annabel Bevan, *Silver:* Chris Tuffrey, *Bronze:* Tony Rees
- 10 Longest Runner Bean\***  
*Gold:* Norman West, *Silver:* Annabel Bevan, *Bronze:* Susie Taylor
- 11 Four French Beans**  
*Gold:* Bill Graham, *Silver:* Lynn Quek, *Bronze:* Bill Graham
- 12 Four Tomatoes**  
*Gold:* Tony Rees, *Silver:* Tuck Hatzigeorgiou, *Bronze:* Chris Tuffrey
- 13 Six different vegetables in a shallow tray**  
*Gold:* Bill Graham, *Silver:* Lynn Quek, *Bronze:* Chris Hazle
- 14 Three of a Kind of Exotic Vegetable**  
*Gold:* Bill Graham, *Silver:* Lynn Quek, *Bronze:* Lynn Quek
- 15 Three Eating Apples**  
*Gold:* James Taylor, *Silver:* Stephen Randall, *Bronze:* Jill Rawnsley
- 16 Three Cooking Apples**  
*Gold:* Nick Bevan, *Silver:* James Taylor
- 17 Six Soft Fruits**  
*Gold:* Bill Graham
- 18 Bowl of 5 Mixed Fruits**  
*Gold:* John and Elizabeth Harvey-Lee
- 19 Spuds in a Tub**  
*Gold:* David Hazle, *Silver:* Deirdre Oakley, *Bronze:* Tony Rees

**Section B: Plants & Flowers**

- 20 Single Stem Rose**  
*Gold:* Annabel Bevan, *Silver:* Bev Rees, *Bronze:* Tuck Hatzigeorgiou
- 21 Single Spray of Roses**  
*Gold:* Jean Graham, *Silver:* Jill Rawnsley
- 22 Six Sweet Peas**  
*Gold:* Jill Rawnsley, *Silver:* Annabel Bevan, *Bronze:* Norman West
- 23 Arrangement of 5 Blooms Picked from your Garden**  
*Gold:* Chris Hazle, *Silver:* Jill Rawnsley, *Bronze:* Jean Graham
- 24 Flowering Plant in a Pot**  
*Gold:* Jill Rawnsley, *Silver:* Chris Hazle, *Bronze:* Deirdre Oakley
- 25 Flowering House Plant**  
*Gold:* Mary Davidson, *Silver:* Lynn Quek
- 26 Geranium in a Pot**  
*Gold:* Chris Hazle, *Silver:* Jill Rawnsley, *Bronze:* Jean Graham
- 27 Flower arrangement in an Unusual Receptacle**  
*Gold:* Deirdre Oakley, *Silver:* Stephen Rees, *Bronze:* Angie Hanna

**28 Arrangement of Wild Plants or Flowers**

*Gold:* Wendy Rees, *Silver:* Jill Rawnsley, *Bronze:* Annabel Bevan

**29 Tallest Sunflower**

*Gold:* Chris Hazle, *Silver:* Kyle Hite, *Bronze:* Chris Hazle,  
*Highly Commended:* Trudy Busby

**Section C: Cookery**

**30 Jar of Jam**

*Gold:* Jean Graham, *Silver:* Bev Rees, *Bronze:* Bev Rees

**31 Jar of Chutney**

*Gold:* John & Elizabeth Harvey-Lee, *Silver:* Bev Rees,  
*Bronze:* Mary Davidson, *Highly Commended:* Wendy Rees

**32 Victoria Sponge**

*Gold:* Vicky Taylor, *Silver:* Jean Graham, *Bronze:* Geoff Rawnsley

**33 Fruit Cake**

*Gold:* Jean Graham, *Silver:* Joyce Morley, *Bronze:* Trudy Busby,  
*Highly Commended:* David Hazle

**34 Three Scones Plain/Fruit**

*Gold:* Chalce White, *Silver:* Annabel Bevan, *Bronze:* Linda Brown

**35 Fruit Pie**

*Gold:* Trudy Busby, *Silver:* Bev Rees, *Bronze:* Jean Graham

**36 Men's Only Cake**

*Gold:* Geoff Rawnsley, *Silver:* Tony Rees, *Bronze:* David Hanna,  
*Highly Commended:* James Taylor

**37 Three Cup Cakes**

*Gold:* Jean Graham, *Silver:* Liz Hite, *Bronze:* Linda Brown,  
*Highly Commended:* Annabel Bevan

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

**38 Photograph of a Waterscape**

*Gold:* Lynn Quek, *Silver:* Angie Hanna, *Bronze:* Wendy Rees

**39 Photograph of Animals**

*Gold:* John & Elizabeth Harvey-Lee, *Silver:* Matthew Rees,  
*Bronze:* Lynn Quek

**40 Photograph of an Agricultural Scene**

*Gold:* John & Elizabeth Harvey-Lee, *Silver:* Chris Hazle,  
*Bronze:* Liz Hite

**41 Something made from Wood**

*Gold:* Stephen Rees, *Silver:* Bill Graham

**42 Picture in Any Medium**

*Gold:* John & Elizabeth Harvey-Lee, *Silver:* Wendy Rees,  
*Bronze:* Nick Bevan

**43 A Limerick**

*Gold:* Nick Bevan, *Silver:* Angie Hanna, *Bronze:* Vicky Taylor

**Section E: For Children**

**44 Four Biscuits**

*Gold:* Kyle Hite

**45 A Creature Made from Vegetables**

*Gold:* Kyle Hite, *Silver:* Katy Young

**46 A Miniature Garden on a Plate**

*Gold:* Kyle Hite

**47 A Painted Picture of a Monster (under 8s only)**

*Gold:* Jemima McArdle, *Silver:* Tommy McArdle, *Bronze:* Susie Taylor

**48 Four Cup Cakes**

*Gold:* Katy Young, *Silver:* Kyle Hite, *Bronze:* Alie Elliott  
*Highly Commended:* Thomas Cunningham

**Best in Show**

Based upon classes with at least three entries or more:

*Cup for the Most First Prizes:* Bill Graham

*Cup for the Most Points Overall:* Bill Graham

# Councillor Calling



As usual, with the end of the holiday season, things are beginning to stir, in both the council chamber and the real world, especially on the building front, now the economy and, with it, the housing market is showing signs of life.

## Contentious Issues

Planning applications are the first sign of this, with no less than four contentious ones to argue in the Astons & Heyfords ward alone at the last Planning Committee meeting and at least two coming up at the next.

With a number of these refused, our area is likely to then see its share of the very large number of appeals now being lodged across the district. All this activity puts a strain on resources, which may mean frustrating delays for applicants as officers and inspectors struggle with the extra workload.

## Gathering Wind

The Fritwell wind farm application for renewal of permission (it is hard to believe it is already three years since this was approved by an inspector on appeal) is likely to be the biggest at next month's meeting, and the many affected residents may wish to either come along to the meeting at 4pm on the 3rd October or, if technically savvy, watch what happens on the CDC webcast then or afterwards.

Normally, renewals of an unchanged proposal go through pretty much on the nod. In this case, though, while the application is the same, the policy background has seen so many shifts (one of them being Cherwell's own wind turbine policy, which Councillor Fulljames and I steered through, and the changing weight ascribed to such local initiatives) that it will be like considering it afresh.

## More Housing

Actual house building seems also to be picking up, with more houses appearing on Bicester's Kingsmere site, preparatory work (at last, after nearly ten years!) at Cherwell Heights as you go into Banbury and a flurry of planning activity at Heyford Park.

Politicians and newspapers tend to talk up the economy regardless but, when builders put their money into bricks and mortar, it's a much more reliable sign that things are on the up, with jobs and pay to follow.

## Distict Developments

Cherwell's own developments aren't a result of the economic upturn but should provide a welcome boost to it as we've ensured that local businesses and apprentices get their share of the work. With Bicester's Pioneer Square complete and shop openings being announced every week, the contract for the final piece of the town centre jigsaw has been let.

This is the community centre, to sit on the Franklins Yard car park, and will house both the Cherwell local office and a new County Council library. To keep costs down, the same

contractors will also build the next phase, car parking and pavilions, of the new sports facilities, which you will see to the right of the Middleton Stoney Road after the first roundabout as you approach Bicester.

## Local Elections 2014

Politically, a rather less gripping announcement is the movement of next year's local elections from 1st May to coincide with the European vote three weeks later on 22nd. This affects one third of Cherwell councillors (including me!) and Parish Councils in Steeple Aston and Duns Tew.

On the plus side, national elections tend to increase participation (70% is normal for a general election, compared to 30% for the council and a dreadful 13% for last year's Police Commissioner) but, against that, local issues tend to get drowned out by the national furore.

An unexpected bonus, though, is that, with Easter so late this year, I should be able to run my fifth (and final!) London Marathon for St John Ambulance on 13<sup>th</sup> April and still have time to campaign: please be generous with your sponsorship for this great charity.

## Reviewing the Limits

Ward boundaries, though, are being reviewed by the Local Government Boundary Commission, so whoever is elected may only have a couple of years before having to trudge the streets again in a realigned ward.

The Commissioners are threatening to turn us all into giant three-member wards, which may suit the towns but, in my opinion, are hopeless in rural areas, being too large for proper connection with residents and parish councils. Far better to elect one councillor for half a dozen parishes, which he or she can know every inch of and whose concerns they can identify with through and through. If you agree, please don't ignore this as yet another boring council consultation, but state the case as strongly as you can: the Commission is a smug, unelected quango and we'll have to shout very loudly indeed to get them to take any notice of local feeling.

On that note, I'll finish: it's clearly back to business as usual after the holidays...

**James Macnamara**

Tel: 01869 340109

[cllr.james.macnamara@cherwell-dc.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.james.macnamara@cherwell-dc.gov.uk)

## Classifieds

### Lamps for Sale

We still have some of the Ikea lamps for sale, as advertised in the September edition of the *News* (see full details there).

These are of two types. The first is the Ikea Kvarf spotlight in black, with flexible stem and fitted with an expensive low-wattage, high-intensity LED type bulb.

The second is the Ikea Jansjo lamp, in white with neat flexible stem and small high-intensity LED spotlight. Just one remaining!

The lamps are priced at £10 each, including bulbs. Please email [info@north-aston.co.uk](mailto:info@north-aston.co.uk) or call 347356 for further information. All money raised will go back into Village Funds.





# CHURCH SERVICES

## PARISH WORSHIP IN OCTOBER 2013

STEEPLE ASTON

NORTH ASTON

TACKLEY

### October 6th - Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity

11:00 am  
Holy Communion  
with Baptism  
**Rev. Marcus Green**

9.30 am  
Holy Communion  
**Rev. Marcus Green**

6:00 pm  
Harvest Festival  
**Rev. Marcus Green**

6:00 pm  
Evensong  
**Fr Robin Gibbons**

### October 13th - Twentieth Sunday after Trinity

11:00 am  
Holy Communion  
**Rev. Marcus Green**

9.30 am  
Family Service  
**Rev. Marcus Green**

9.30 am  
Holy Communion  
**Rev. Geoff Hunter**

6:00 pm  
Harvest Festival  
**Rev. Marcus Green**

### October 20th - Twenty-First Sunday after Trinity

8:00 am  
Holy Communion  
**Rev. Marcus Green**

9.30 am  
Holy Communion  
**Rev. Marcus Green**

11:00 am  
Morning Prayer  
**Rev. Marcus Green**

6:00 pm  
Holy Communion  
**Rev. Marcus Green**

### October 27th - Twenty-Second Sunday after Trinity

No Service

No Service

10.30 am  
United Benefice  
Holy Communion  
**Rev. Geoff Hunter**

Families are welcome to all Sunday services.

6:00 pm  
Evensong  
**Fr Robin Gibbons**

### Other Events this Month

#### Wednesday 2nd October

10.30-12 pm *Coffee Morning* at the *Old Bakehouse* in *North Aston*

#### Saturday 5th October

7:30 pm *North Aston Harvest Supper*, *Orchard Barn*, Tickets from *Niel Nicholson*.

