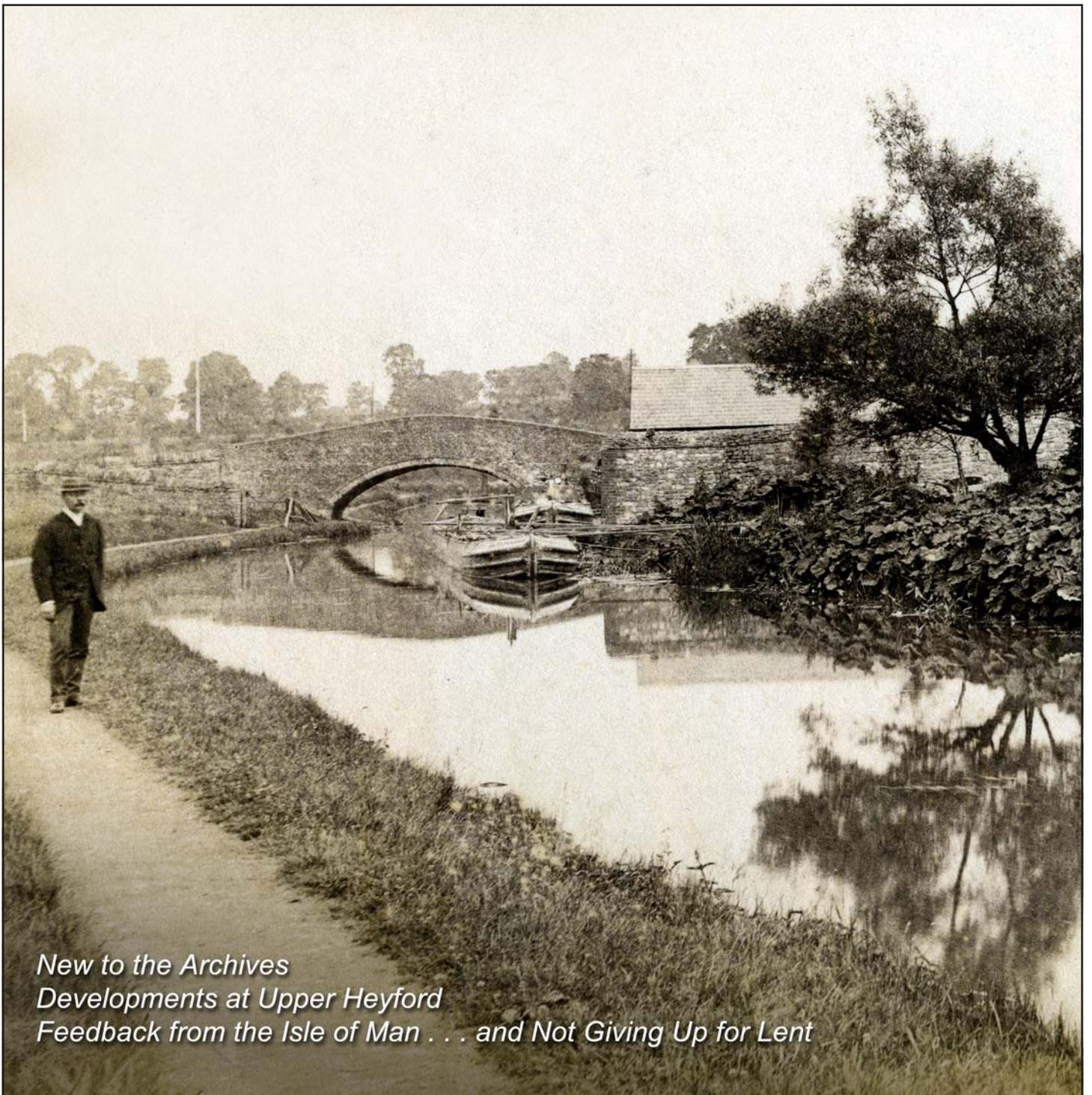


NORTH ASTON NEWS

MARCH 2014

No: 281



*New to the Archives
Developments at Upper Heyford
Feedback from the Isle of Man . . . and Not Giving Up for Lent*

NORTH ASTON NEWS

MARCH 2014, No: 281

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Your Village Chairman

Hello again!

Ever since the USAF finally departed Upper Heyford in September 1994, we have all quietly lived with the prospect and the threat of what the future would bring there, and how it would affect us. We know about the 100 businesses employing 1,000 people, we know about the 350 old base houses with at least another 700 people; clearly something else would happen - but what?

Well at last we know. We are seeing the first phase of the refurbishment of the 350 old homes and the building of another 650+ new ones by Dorchester and Bovis. When that's all done and sold, there will probably be another 1,000 built. There's further detail about this in the Developments at Upper Heyford article further on. The question arises whether we could do something to impede or slow this process, which will result in a mini-town growing up practically within sight of the village. Sadly, the answer is probably not. Cherwell are clearly very susceptible to housing development there; given infrastructure improvements, it's almost a no-brainer for them, and the proposal to join with the developers and the other neighbouring parishes to try to mitigate the worst effects is probably our best way forward. However, if you have other views, please say so.

We were recently asked to complete a survey about what flooding effects the recent storms had on our community and did we have any suggestions. Apart from The Mill children having to row out to their trampoline, it seems mercifully that we escaped any really bad effect, but if you have any suggestions please let me know. The frequently blocked road drain at the east end of the Green is a problem, but all we can do is keep asking them to come and clear it out.

As advertised elsewhere in this News, we have a consensus date for our Fête (July 19th), and I'm currently canvassing opinion about whether and when we might have another Big Lunch, and when and how we commemorate the anniversaries of the start of WW1 and D-Day, and perhaps combining that with the unveiling of our lovely and unique Jubilee Bench (with drinks on the house). More news next month. I had an email from a plant nursery today in the last week of February beginning 'Winter is officially over!' Well it isn't, but looking at the way shoots are springing up everywhere and the primroses are flowering, you could say it's unofficially over, and that should finally do a lot for our heating bills.

If you have any suggestions about Village life, please do call or email me.

Kildare

Telephone: 01869 340200 ~ email: chair@north-aston.co.uk



100 Club



The lucky winners of this month's draw are:

First Prize (£10): D Smeaton (#16)

Second Prize (£5): J Howe (#105)

Anyone who hasn't previously been involved in the 100 Club should sign up before renewal time in April. 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!

The image on the cover dates from 1881 and shows the old wharf at Somerton. At the time many goods would have arrived there for transhipment by cart to North Aston, including coal and agricultural supplies. See other "New to the Archives" photos on Page 8.

Developments at Upper Heyford

In 2009 a developer called Dorchester Group (www.dorchestergrp.com) bought the old RAF Upper Heyford, now known as Heyford Park (H-P), over 1200 acres of so-called brownfield site. As we all know, to the north of Camp Road is the operations area and most of this is currently just let out to businesses; there are a few heritage buildings on there, but also a huge amount of open potential development space. To the south is the old accommodation and recreation area; on here there are over 350 old Base houses already let, and planning permission to build about 700 more. Dorchester (and Bovis who have bought a small part of the site from them) seem to have waited until the worst of the recession was over, and have now started to build.

They invited us to a meeting, which James and I went to. They explained that they are focused on 'place making', community building, creating a kind of large village for 'garden suburb living' which is to be not a village or a town but a 'Sub Hub' (the hub is Bicester...).

They have established a Free School, there will be a village green with cricket pavilion, a gym, play areas, there is the Chapel, etc. It all sounds very nice and you can see all about it at www.heyfordpark.com. Their potential problems are competition for their houses from Bicester and from new housing in local villages; longer-term, they may have a problem getting planning permission for at least another 1,000 houses on the site, many north of Camp Road.

It's obvious that 2,000 new houses with perhaps 8,000 new people and several thousand more cars is bound to affect us – we already have a car problem – and most of our neighbouring parishes. So - they are inviting us, along with the 15 other surrounding parishes, to work together to develop

a formal and legal Neighbourhood Plan which would be adopted by Cherwell DC. Within this would be all the desired solutions to the problems caused by this new development, including things like traffic bottlenecks, speed restrictions, road and bridge widths, etc. It would also be a forum for us all to discuss with them and each other issues that will arise going forward and their solutions. Sounds like a nice disinterested idea? Not quite.

Dorchester maintain, with many supporting figures, that Cherwell is way behind on their Central Government requirements for building new homes and their building land supply; as a result they are very open to 'windfall site development' where a private developer buys some land in or on the edge of a village and makes a Planning Application. These permissions have been imposed even after appeal on Fritwell, Bloxham, Chesterton, Steeple Aston, etc.

This is only the beginning – CDC need to find sites for another 1,000 windfall homes. Additionally Oxford's massive housing requirement is likely to push out thousands of new homes into the District. The pressure on villages is on, and is likely to increase. With the proposed Neighbourhood Plan, CDC would be obliged to give priority to development at brownfield H-P, and save the villages. North Aston? You never know.

So – as presented by them - if we join the Plan, we will be more protected from windfall development with all its village-degrading effects, we will have greater access to Heyford Park facilities, we will have a say in transport infrastructure and village bypass and we will get all local development pressure focused in one place; they will get more demand for their homes and more planning permissions (although they may well get those in the long run anyway). Win-Win as they say.

So, what we intend doing is going to all the preparatory meetings for this Plan along with the other parishes, getting as much more information as we can, and then presenting all that to you at the May 1st Village Meeting when you will be invited to vote. We hope you approve of this way forward.

Kildare

Antiques @ THE HOLT

To be opened on Saturday 15th at 10:00 am by BBC TV's Charlie Ross
Saturday 15th & Sunday 16th March 2014
Open 10:00 am to 4:30 pm Daily ~ Entrance: £1

Forty 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

This Month's BIRTHDAYS

Jos Busby
Stephen Rees
Wendy Rees
Joseph 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.

Upcoming Events

Deddington Farmers' Market

The traditional Farmers' Market in Deddington takes place every 4th Saturday of the month. This month's will be on 22nd March. Our own North Aston Organics will have a stall.

Antiques @ The Holt

The second *Antiques@TheHolt* antiques & collectors' fair at the Hopcrofts Holt Hotel takes place over the weekend of March 15th & 16th. Organised by some of our own local dealers, the fair will be opened by BBC TV's Charlie Ross. He will cut the ceremonial ribbon on the Saturday at 10:00 am. The fair is open each day from 10:00 am through to 4:30 pm, and entrance is £1. For further details see the advert elsewhere in the *News*.

North Aston Village Fête

The date for this year's annual fête has been set for Saturday 19th July. Please put this into your diary now! There are also plans to organise another Big Lunch, with the possible date for this being the following day; Sunday 20th July, to take advantage of the marquees on the Green. Full details of both events will be discussed at the next Village Meeting on May 1st.

Commemorating WW1 & D-Day

2014 will see two significant anniversaries - 100 years since the outbreak of World War 1, and 70 years since the 'longest day', when allied troops began the task of freeing Europe from Nazi domination on 6th June 1944. If you have thoughts on how, why or if North Aston should mark these milestones, please attend the next Village Meeting on May 1st.

Announcements

Road Works

Station Road through **Lower Heyford** will be closed from March 17th for up to 11 days, for essential repairs. This will be from the traffic lights by the river through to the Bicester Turn. Traffic will be diverted via the A4260, although expect heavier use of the Middle Aston Lane as well - the last thing we need! The lane is in appalling condition already, so this certainly won't help.

Lucky **Hempton**, where "edge strengthening" will take place between 3rd and 20th March at Steepness Hill. It may include brief periods of closure. There will also be work along Camp Road through **Upper Heyford** throughout March & April as new drainage associated with the building works is installed. Traffic lights will be in use, so delays should be brief.

For the first week of March there will be traffic lights in operation along Station Road in **Ardley** while BT carries out work to telegraph poles. Minimal disruption for anyone who uses that road. At about the same time a programme of "ditch maintenance" is scheduled for the **M40** between J9 and J10 involving nearside lane closures. Delays only likely during peak times.

Wanted!

We are always looking for interesting and good quality items to add to our stock of antiques and collectables. If you have a cupboard full of old knick-knacks that's just gathering dust and boxes in the attic that haven't seen the light of day in years, or you'd simply like to "de-clutter" your home a little, then please give us a call, drop us an email or pop in and have a chat. We'd be pleased to have a look and offer a fair price. We're particularly interested in pre-1940s ceramics and glass, brassware, postcards, boxes and 'treen', small items of silver, and Edwardian or Victorian jewellery. Old School Antiques. Telephone: 347356 or email sales@oldschoolantiques.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

visit the new website at:

www.northastonorganics.co.uk

About the Isle of Man



Can you believe that it is now 12 years since we left the village that had been our much loved home for nearly 30 years? We brought up our three fellas, Mike, Andy and Roger in North Aston and had a great time.

I used to go over to the IoM every year for the motorbike races and Margaret used to refer to it as "that rock in the Irish Sea"!! Then, in 2001, the IoM made the mistake of cancelling the TT Races to avoid the risk of getting Foot & Mouth on the Island – and I took Margaret over there for a week's holiday – and she fell in love with the place..!! She was surprised at the palm trees outside the airport. We moved in 2002.



The Island in the Irish Sea is 33 miles long by 13 miles wide, with a population of 80,000 spread over some 227 square miles and with 100 miles of coastline. We have the Snaefell Mountain in the middle rising to 2,036 feet and a railway that goes to the top from where you can, on a nice day, see seven kingdoms: IoM, England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, Heaven and Neptune!! We still have a steam railway that operates in the south of the Island.

Constitutionally, the Island is an internally self-governing dependent territory of the Crown which is not part of the United Kingdom, but is a part of the British Isles. The Island's 1,000-year-old Parliament, Tynwald, is the oldest Parliament in the

world in continuous existence, and makes its own laws and oversees the internal administration of the Island.

The Island has an amazing heritage with a lot of Viking influence and probably more churches and chapels than we have ever seen before in a small area. The coastal and mountain scenery are aided by a temperate climate plus various planning policies such as 'no big electricity pylons'. With lots of rain – we have the nicest tasting tap water that we have found anywhere.

Douglas is our one big town and Ramsey, Castletown and Peel are the smaller towns. There are 600 miles of roads but only ¼ mile of dual carriageway outside the airport at Ronaldsway - and no parking meters. There's a bit of traffic going into Douglas every morning for about 15 minutes each weekday but the roads are quiet in the evenings.

Strangely, we have no speed limits outside the built-up areas; you probably wouldn't even notice that fact until you drive on the Mountain Road between Ramsey to Douglas on a summer weekend when there may be a few quicker vehicles. I call this 13 mile stretch of the 37 mile TT Course God's gift to the motorcyclist!!

The island used to make its living from farming, fishing and tourism but now it is a Financial Centre. Income tax is 20% and there are no Capital Taxes such as CGT and Inheritance Tax. Prices are the same or higher than in UK, petrol is 10p a litre more (but one drives rather fewer miles) and there is little price competition in the shops. We have only two supermarkets – the local Shoprite which stocks some Waitrose lines and one Tesco store. Only recently have we had the option of a Curry's electrical outlet.

But some things are better than UK – such as the folks in the Utility companies all have names(!!) and our Postal service is excellent. So too is our fast Internet – we do order some items on-line. The schools seem to be very good – but we have no university. Maybe it is a pity that the IoM's birch punishment is now history.

Perhaps one of the abiding memories of North Aston was the dread of opening the bedroom curtains on a nice summer morning – and seeing new molehills in the middle of the grass!! Well, the IoM has no moles – hooray!! Nor do we have any badgers or, sadly, any squirrels. What we do have is lovely yellow spring gorse, beautiful heather in the autumn on the Mountain and fuchsias. Lots of fuchsias – they grow wild. We planted a fuchsia hedge in our garden. Unfortunately a new arrival is the Japanese knot weed which rampages in one or two areas.

A few years ago, the Island Government had quite a lot of money and built a new hospital, power station, civic centres, harbours and so on – but then the UK changed our VAT sharing arrangement.....and now the Island is poor. We have rising taxes. But we still see plenty of nice motor cars – and so some folk are doing OK.

We have one ferry that goes to and from Heysham twice a day as both a car and a cargo ferry – if winter storms stop this ship then the supermarket shelves show the effect quite quickly!! In the summer, there is also a fast Seacat service that goes to Liverpool twice a day mainly as a car and foot passenger vessel. But, compared to other ferries – they are a bit expensive. Once again – a monopoly.

Being a small place “everyone knows everyone else!!” but while that is an exaggeration, the fact is still true that many of the Manx folk went to school together and remember those school days whether friends or enemies. The Manx masons (mafia!!) are a secret but powerful clan. We will never be Manx – but I think that we may have been promoted from Come-overs to Stop-overs!!

We live just outside Douglas in a quiet cul-de-sac just like North Aston (but without such nice neighbours!!). Luckily, we pay Braddan rates which are much lower than Douglas. Everywhere is so close - shops, B&Q, take-aways and so on.

Douglas has a beautiful Victorian theatre – and it takes us less than eight minutes from doorstep to get to our seats – and some super shows. Having a coastline, 22 protected Glens and some disused railway lines – there are lots of nice walks and so we try to get out most days. And it is particularly nice that you do not walk past other folk without saying “Hello”.

Margaret promised not to get involved with politics.....but that didn't last very long and, in 2004, she was elected as a Local Commissioner onto Braddan Parish. A couple of years later she was Chairman and had the courage to sack the Chief Clerk – this resulted in a five-year legal battle that Braddan has now won.....and we now have lower Rates in the parish. It needed someone from outside the Manx ranks. She remains a Commissioner but she is now saying that her job is done and she will retire at the next election. We will see.....



I carried on with organising the vintage motorbike event at Banbury for a few years but the event grew to over 600 bikes and started to take over my life. So, in 2008 it was taken over as a national event by the VMCC HQ. We happen to live quite close to the start of the TT Course and, twice each



year, I empty out my workshop double garage and give it to a TT race team. Margaret tried to plan meals etc. on the first TT year but she soon found out that the TT is far too spontaneous for forward planning and now provides the racers with an excellent service of cups of continuous tea . . . and biscuits . . . lunchtime rolls . . . and so on!! And they love it.

I still help with the race marshalling – on top of the Mountain – and recently got a 25 Year award. One of my good pals comes over from Duns Tew, a non biker, and we make a very good team. The races are one week of Practice and one week of Racing.....the TT Races in May/June and the Manx GP Races in August. The 37 mile TT Course is the main road around the top of the Island and these roads are closed for evening practices and racing on alternate days in Race week. The whole Island comes alive at TT time and everywhere is busy. It is quite strange how quickly peace descends when it is all over.

Andy now runs the farm and caravan park at Bo Peep in Adderbury and is father to our two grandsons, whereas Mike and Roger are in Australia – from where I am writing this epistle and enjoying a ‘free’ second summer. The Island has some very long evenings in the summer – but the winters are dark, wet, windy and grey, to be avoided if possible!

Mike works in the Australian film industry – he was a Stunt man but now is a stunt co-ordinator and on the organising side. And he is Dad to our lovely 8 year old grand daughter. Roger came to Australia to fly helicopters but has now joined in with his wife in their horse feed business – she is a PhD in horse nutrition(!) and we have a bet that, within a couple of years, one of the race horses that she feeds will win one of the big races. We will see.

So, we encourage you to buy Manx lamb, beef, kippers, scallops and cheese if you can.....and we will try to join you for *Carols on the Green* at Christmas sometime soon. That's another one of our abiding North Aston memories – keep it going!!

Very best wishes to all our friends in the village.

Dick & Margaret Hodge





The Church MATTERS



Giving Up

"What are you giving up for Lent?"

Forgive me, there is something deep within my soul that hates this question. For years I used to reply, "Skydiving". And, I promise you, I have never been skydiving during Lent. Though - in the interests of full disclosure - that sentence doesn't actually need the words "during Lent" to remain true.

No: what I hate about the question is the assumption that doing something Christian is always negative.

I hate the idea that to be Christian is about giving up things. "Thou shalt not". Jesus is the unseen guest at every meal - *so don't have too much fun: he can hear you...*



I don't know where we get this stuff from, but it's not from Jesus. He spent his time with people, enjoying their company, making them feel at home, bringing joy and love into their lives. He did this so much that some accused him of enjoying life rather too much... Not long before he died, whilst at supper with friends, a woman poured expensive perfume over Jesus and even his disciples thought that it might have been better sold and the money given to the poor. The last picture the Bible gives us of Jesus before his death is of him eating and drinking with his friends; and again after the resurrection he is cooking breakfast for them by the lakeside.

There are times to pause, to hold back, to make sure we know what's important and why - but why not add something to life rather than make life plainer, if we want to remember Jesus? Why not add acts of kindness? More time with family? Visits to those in our communities who are housebound or lonely?



So may I ask a different question this year: What are you adding into the mix of life for Lent?

One thing we are adding as a church is a new service, and I really want to invite everyone to give it a try. When there is a fifth Sunday in a month, the three congregations in North Aston, Steeple Aston and Tackley will meet together that day. March is the first time we are trying the new system of *United Benefice Festival Services*. There will be a choir, and a small music group, and we have an excellent visiting speaker in Canon David MacInnes, former precentor of Birmingham Cathedral and Rector of St Aldate's in Oxford. It's also Mothering Sunday, and I very much hope that folk from across Steeple and North Aston will come to join those at St Nicholas Church in Tackley at 10.30am on March 30th to enjoy what promises to be a great celebration. We are promised first rate refreshments afterwards, and it would be wonderful to pack the St Nicholas for this great family occasion.

The next fifth Sunday is at the end of June, when everyone will be coming to Steeple Aston for the Patronal Weekend - with the fete on the Saturday, and the Festival Service on the Sunday.

I look forward to all of us adding all sorts of things to our lives this Lent, as we seek to make life better for everyone in our villages.

Revd Marcus Green



Any comments about the above are very welcome.

Please email our Rector Marcus Green: steeplerector@hotmail.com or tel: 340 903

If you wish you can also email Kildare: k.bourkeborrows@btinternet.com or tel: 340 200
or Clive: casb@north-aston.com or tel: 338 434

Any other member of the PCC will also be very happy to talk, and they are: Bill Adams, Richard Bailey, Beryl Greenwood, Jenny Martin, Jane McArdle, Ted Short, Jeremy Taylor and Norman West.



1. An interior view of the church, dating from around 1910. Taken by Percy Simms of Chipping Norton, it is interesting to note the wording across the rood screen, which is topped by a large wooden cross and a row of candlesticks. Otherwise, most features are much the same today.

**NEW TO
THE ARCHIVES**



2. A photographic postcard view of the side entrance to North Aston Hall. It was sent in May 1939 by 'Joey' to 'Eunice' in Guernsey announcing that "This is where I am now. I like it very much." Too early for Joey to have been a wartime evacuee - anyone know who he might have been?



3. The GWR locomotive No. 7917 'North Aston Hall' hauling the 12.30 from Paddington to Weymouth passing through Aldermaston in August 1959.



4. A postcard view of The Hall showing the central wing to the rear, now demolished. It was posted by Sybil Taylor on December 23rd 1923.

The Busby Boys going London to Paris by Bike

Last issue we mentioned that Adam and Jos Busby will be cycling from London to Paris next month (23rd to 27th April) in aid of Adoption UK.

The charity is based in Banbury, and offers vital support and advice to adoptive families by bringing them together with others who've already gone through the adoption process, easing the battle with red tape, and providing training and easily accessible information.

If you would like to support Adam & Jos you can either visit the JustGiving website online and register there, or fill in the sponsorship slip below.

<http://www.justgiving.com/Adam-and-Jos-Busby>



Thank you for your supporting Adam & Jos Busby as they cycle from London to Paris in aid of Adoption UK. Please complete:

Name:

Home address:

.....

.....

Post Code:

Amount: £ Gift Aid?*

You can return your form by posting it to:

Jos Busby, Dane Hill Farm, North Aston, Oxon., OX25 6JE

You can also place it in an envelope and drop it off, care of the North Aston News, at Two School Cottages, or hand it over to Clive or Trudy if you happen to see them in the village.

* If you pay UK taxes, please tick or state "Yes" if you would like Adoption UK to treat your donation as Gift Aid. This will allow the charity to recover the equivalent of a further £2.50 on every £10 donated under the Government's Gift Aid scheme.

Thank you

Councillor Calling



A Green rant has come over me this month (the eco-friendly, carbon-neutral version of the “red mist”!). Before you write me off as an eco-nimby, could I make it clear that, whether your preferred justification is planet-saving, national energy security or plain financial sense, I am wholly in favour of harnessing our natural resources to produce clean energy – I’d be doing it myself already if Listing didn’t prevent me putting solar panels on my roof and the shed I could use wasn’t too wonky to support their weight! But my rant is about putting things in the right place.

Wind turbines, for example, as proposed for Fritwell, were refused by us on Cherwell’s planning committee because, at 125 metres to the top of their blades, they were simply too close to people’s homes. Exacerbated by their continuous movement drawing the eye towards them (which cannot be captured by photomontages of slender towers topped by graceful aerofoils) and constant low-level noise, these are as inappropriate when dominating people’s lives as they are perfectly suited to remote windy hilltops. There are many other arguments, for and against, but it’s the effect on people’s lives that led me and Cllr Catherine Fulljames to instigate Cherwell’s planning rules limiting how close we’ll allow turbines to homes. Weirdly, it was none of this that caused the withdrawal of the Fritwell application, which was approved on appeal by a Planning Inspector who ruled that Green energy was more important than people. Up to now (and the battle may not yet be over) they have been prevented only because of their effect on Kidlington (I beg it’s pardon “London Oxford”) Airport’s radar and on the sensitive radio communications of RAF Croughton. While grateful, I still think it was correctly refused as “right idea, wrong place”.

Solar farms are a frightfully cosy-sounding name for another sort of industrial generator plonked in the open countryside. This involves arrays of solar panels, which look fine on house roofs, on warehouses, on industrial estates (Cherwell’s council buildings and depots are covered with them!) and, in short, in urban or industrial areas and other “brownfield” sites but are inappropriate in the open countryside. And that’s before you add the buildings needed for electricity substations, the high wire fences and lighting for security, access roads and other industrial paraphernalia. “Farms” indeed! They often paint, with panels high up on six foot frames, an idyllic picture of animals happily grazing beneath instead of a truer picture of agricultural land taken out of production for the duration. Once our planners’ workload on the Local Plan has reduced, I’m hoping to promote a guideline as to what is acceptable where in solar energy to match our policy for turbines.

Energy from waste is a similar euphemism, this time for incinerators, as everyone blighted by Ardley’s 80 metre high chimneys and rainbow panelling will know all too well already.

Ardley itself, of course, will have to put up with the lorries bring up to 300,000 tons of refuse in each year in a round the clock cycle once the burners are lit. Everyone blighted by this will be able to reflect on the reasons for Cherwell’s unanimous rejection of this industrial development in the open countryside, the wrong place. The right places, of course, are industrial estates on the edge of our towns where the waste is produced, minimising lorry journeys and generating heat close to where it can be used – as is now done everywhere else. Right idea, wrong place!

Composting sounds, though, like something agricultural which ought to be rural. However, when we’re talking about disposal of organic waste from urban gardens and brown bins, again it makes far more sense to do this, especially with industrial, anaerobic digesters which also generate electricity, near the producers of waste and near consumers of the power: we devalue our green credentials if it takes huge amounts of diesel to truck tons of stuff back and forth.

Hydro electric schemes on a small scale on the other hand, seem wholly beneficial and, despite the flatness of the Thames Valley, surprisingly there are two schemes being developed for locks just south of Oxford. All we’ve got here is the water! I’m glad to report that, in the wettest January for 250 years, Cherwell’s flood defences, which have turned the A361 north of Banbury into a causeway, have almost completely protected Banbury and Kidlington. All the agencies – OCC, CDC, Police, Fire, Environment Agency (and perhaps I can add a plug for St John Ambulance’s sterling volunteers) – are coordinating their preparations just in case.

Flood prevention longer term, current research indicates, needs to take place upstream before rainwater gets into rivers, slowing it with planting and catchment ponds, which I hope we’ll see much more of. What not to do is the proposed £120million scheme for an Oxford flood relief channel, which will do the exact opposite by speeding the water through – saving Osney only to dump the problem downstream on Shepperton – which is neither affordable nor sustainable.

The moral? Let’s use Planning to go Green by getting the right schemes in the right places. Rant over!

James Macnamara

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CHURCH SERVICES

PARISH WORSHIP IN MARCH 2014

NORTH ASTON

STEEPLE ASTON

TACKLEY

Sunday March 2nd - Last Sunday after Epiphany

8:00 am
Holy Communion
Rev Marcus Green

11:00 am
Holy Communion
Rev Marcus Green

9:30 am
Holy Communion
Rev Marcus Green

6:00 pm
Holy Communion for St David's Day
Rev Marcus Green and
Rev Geoff Hunter (speaking)

Wednesday March 5th - Ash Wednesday

No Service

No Service

7:30 pm
Ash Wednesday Holy Communion
Rev Marcus Green and
Fr Robin Gibbons

Sunday March 9th - First Sunday in Lent

9:30 am
Family Service
Clive Busby

11:00 am
Holy Communion
Rev Geoff Hunter

9:30 am
Holy Communion
Rev Geoff Hunter

6:00 pm
Evensong
Rev Robin Gibbons

Sunday March 16th - Second Sunday in Lent

9:30 am
Matins
Richard Bailey

11:00 am
Holy Communion
with *Children's Church*
Rev Marcus Green

9:30 am
Holy Communion
Rev Marcus Green

6:00 pm
Evensong
Rev Marcus Green and
Fr Robin Gibbons (speaking)

Sunday March 23rd - Third Sunday in Lent

9:30 am
Holy Communion
Rev Marcus Green

11:00 am
Holy Communion
Book of Common Prayer
Rev Marcus Green

9:30 am
Holy Communion
Rev Geoff Hunter

6:00 pm
Evensong
Fr Robin Gibbons

Sunday March 30th - Mothering Sunday, the Fourth in Lent

No Service

No Service

10.30 am
United Benefice Festival Communion
for Mothering Sunday
Rev Marcus Green and
Canon David MacInnes

Families are welcome to all Sunday services.

Sunday April 6th - Fifth Sunday in Lent

8:00 am
Holy Communion
Rev Marcus Green

11:00 am
Holy Communion
Rev Marcus Green
followed by Church Annual Parish Meeting

9.30 am - Holy Communion
6:00 pm - Holy Communion