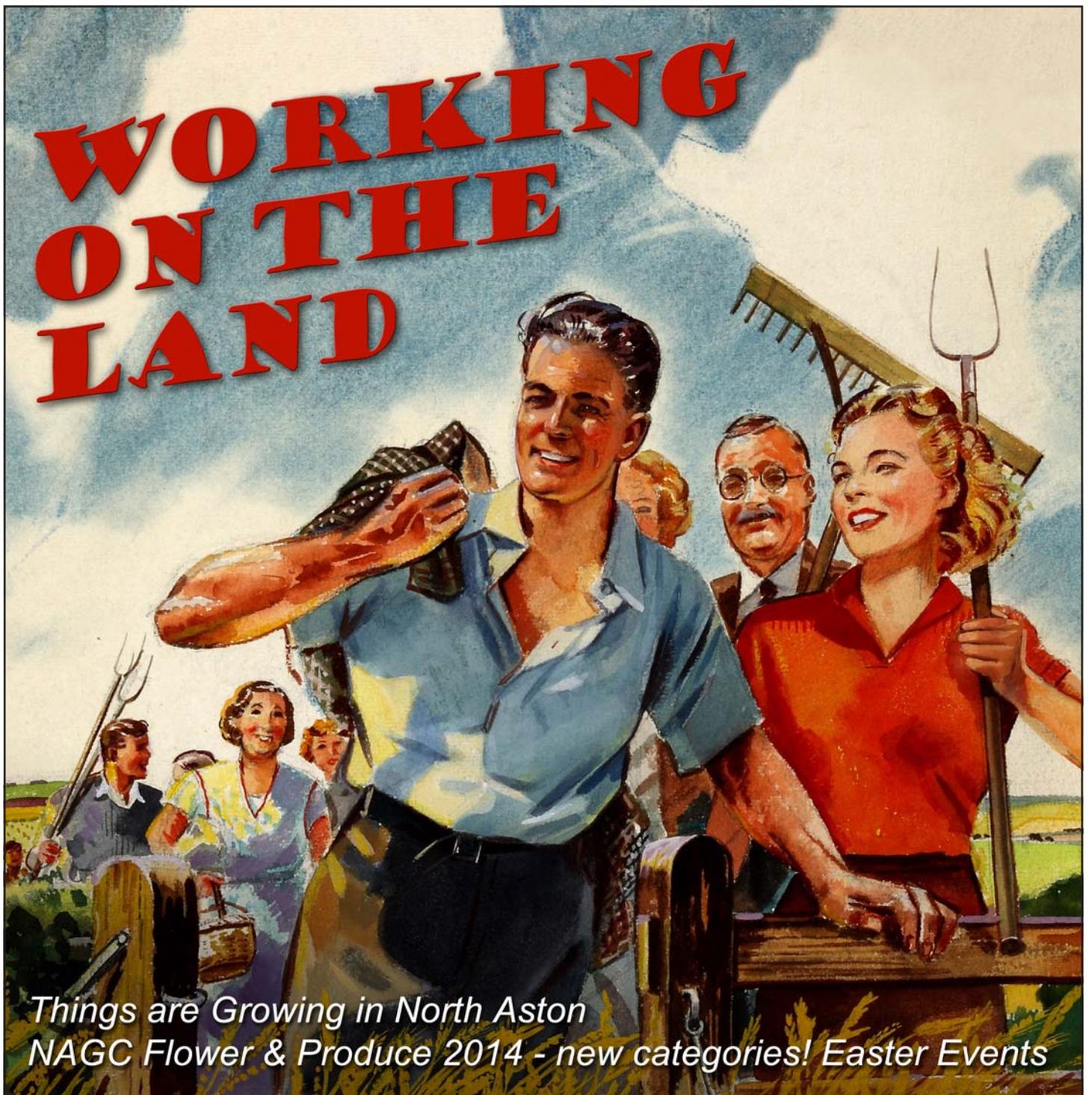


# NORTH ASTON NEWS

APRIL 2014

No: 282



*Things are Growing in North Aston  
NAGC Flower & Produce 2014 - new categories! Easter Events*

# NORTH ASTON NEWS

APRIL 2014, No: 282

## Useful Contacts

### North Aston News

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### North Aston Gardening Club

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### North Aston Pet Alert

Please notify of any Firework Parties

Deirdre Oakley: Tel (01869) 340646

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### Nicholson Nurseries

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### Old Bakery Bookings

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Email: [maryvhealy@googlemail.com](mailto:maryvhealy@googlemail.com)

### Village Marquee Bookings

Marcus Potts. Tel (01869) 347365

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### CDC Local Councillor

James Macnamara, Lower Heyford

Telephone: (01869) 340109

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

Thames Valley Police non-emergency: 101

Out of Hours Doctor: 08453 458 995

# Your Village Chairman

As you drive to and from the village, going to work or school, shopping, visiting - do you ever wonder what's going on out there in the fields around us?

I'm sure you do, but don't know what the answer is. If you receive North Aston organic veg or milk you will get their very interesting updates, and of course you might receive Nicholsons e-newsletter; if you don't, it's a bit of a mystery.

Not very long ago though, nearly but not quite within living memory, almost every active person in the village either worked on the land (tenant farmers, shepherds, cowmen, labourers, etc), supported village life (baker, smith, brewer, teacher, etc) or was in service. Everyone knew what was going on out there - you couldn't miss it, there were so many people involved. The great cycles of the farming year were an intimate part of everyone's lives - the lambing, shearing, dipping, tugging, the milking by oil lamp, the pails of milk clattering around, the butter churning, the ploughing, tilling, sowing, the haytime and harvesting and stooking with everyone out in the fields, and the carting in and storing in the ricks and barns, the tending of the fruit orchards and the cider-making, the beekeeper about his work, the hedging and ditching and the winter work in the woods. And you would hear the sound of the strong patient horses everywhere, until finally at day's end '

*The ploughman homeward plods his weary way,  
and leaves the world to darkness and to me'.*

Times have changed totally. There are many rural villages today where the land is contracted out, where big machines roar in, rip around, do a nice bit of spraying and leave again, working to a schedule on the laptop in their air-conned tractor cabs. We're very lucky in our village, things ARE going on out there, the land is productive and in a very sustainable way, people are earning a living from it - people who care for the land and what they're doing. So we thought we would try a little column from the four growing enterprises in the village and ask them to tell us, month-by-month, what they are doing; the first one is this month.

**Thursday May 1st** is May Day of course, the beginning of perhaps the most beautiful month of the year. At 7:30 pm that day we are holding our next **Parish Meeting** in the Bakery - please do try to come, there will be votes to take, decisions to make. It's YOUR village.

*Kildare*

Telephone: **01869 340200** ~ email: [chair@north-aston.co.uk](mailto:chair@north-aston.co.uk)

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



# 100 Club



The lucky winners of this month's draw are:

First Prize (£10): D Smeaton (#16)

Second Prize (£5): C Greenwood (#46)

Annual membership of the North Aston 100 Club is up for renewal. Anyone who hasn't previously been involved but would like to join should speak to Norman West or call him on 340368 and sign up before the end of April. If you'd like to reserve a number, or safeguard your existing one, then please let him know as soon as possible. Renewal slips and an envelope will be distributed soon.

**Next month - £100**

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



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

### **St Mary's Recipes**

I wrote a few months ago about the North Aston recipe book that Beryl and I will be collating to raise funds for St Mary's church. We delayed the project slightly as we thought the village fête would be a good opportunity to launch the book, so I am now back in touch to ask for any favourite recipes that you might have to donate.

You may have had a recipe handed down through the family, or perhaps a favourite that you would like to share with the village. You can put your name to it and explain why it's special to you, or if you prefer to be anonymous that's fine. Please just remember that we can't publish recipes copied verbatim from other recipe books.

Categories will be: *Starters, Mains, Desserts, Cakes and Biscuits*. If we have enough contributions we will also have a *Children's Section* - perhaps they would like to supply an illustration too!

Local businesses will also be invited to advertise in the book. If you know anyone that may be interested, please let me know.

Please forward recipes to [janechenies@hotmail.com](mailto:janechenies@hotmail.com), or alternatively give them to Beryl or myself. Don't forget to include ingredients and cooking temperatures in electric, gas (for the wider audience) and if available, Aga.

We look forward to receiving your contributions !

Many thanks, *Jane McArdle and Beryl Greenwood.*

### **Sponsored Ride**

I would like to thank you for your support on behalf of my brother Adam and I, and Adoption UK; we are very grateful of the work you have done in publicising the event. Training has been tough given the relentless rain recently but fortunately the conditions are improving each week.

Thanks again, *Jos*

*It is not too late to sponsor Jos and Adam. Further details of their London to Paris bike ride and a Sponsorship Form are included again in this edition of the News. It's an excellent cause, and a great effort by the Busby boys.*

### **Antiques @The Holt**

It was wonderful to see so many North Aston residents visiting us at The Holt last month for our second Antiques & Collectors' Fair. Charlie Ross (of BBC TV's *Bargain Hunt* etc) opened the fair for us on the Saturday morning, and drew a sizeable crowd, and then stayed for almost three hours, chatting and signing autographs. He was a real star, and great fun. Thanks to Charlie for his time, and thanks also to Stephen Rees, who helped enormously with publicising the event. It was all a bit exhausting, so we won't be doing it too often, but we do plan another in November!

Thanks for your support, *Marcus & Franca*

## **This Month's BIRTHDAYS**

Tracy Boss

Peter Durnin

David & Beryl Greenwood

Kath Hazell

Liz Hite

Mary Hoare

Olivia Kneale

Franca Potts

Susannah Taylor

Norman West



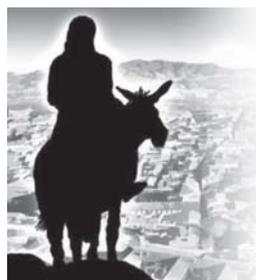
Many Happy Returns to all the North Aston residents who celebrate birthdays this month. If you're not listed, or know someone who should be, please let us know.

## **EASTER SERVICES** *in North Aston 2014*

**Palm Sunday April 13th**

9:20 am on the Green, to gather for a procession to the Church.

9:30 at the Church



**Good Friday April 18th**

Meditation on the Cross,  
10:00 am in the Church

**Holy Saturday April 19th**

St Mark's Gospel, read by our Rector

7:30 pm in the Church

**Easter Day. Sunday April 20th**

Easter Communion, 9:00 am in the Church

***As Always, Everyone is very welcome***

# PhoneFriends Volunteers

**A Friend on the Phone**



PhoneFriends provides lonely older people, with a regular, free, friendly phone call from one of our volunteers.

Our trained volunteers make nearly 200 calls a week which makes a huge difference in the life of an older person.

Our main aim is to have a good natter but we can also help people by signposting to other services and providing information and help for all kinds of things. PhoneFriends is also a way of checking to see that an older person is well. If the call is not answered we are able to contact a friend or relative and this offers peace of mind.

PhoneFriends is free of charge, confidential and flexible, and any older person in Oxfordshire can become a PhoneFriend.

PhoneFriends are matched to a suitable volunteer who will phone on a convenient day at a set time.

If you would like to know more about PhoneFriends or would like to join then please call Paula on 01295 278040 or 07557 038 278 and she will answer any questions.

## Phone Friends Volunteers

PhoneFriends can only exist with the support of our brilliant group of volunteers (and we say thank you to each and every one of them!) but we are always on the lookout for more.

We need friendly people who can chat on the phone and can give us a couple of hours a week.

In return we can offer to reimburse out-of-pocket expenses, provide training, become part of a great team, and have the chance to make a difference to the lives of older people.

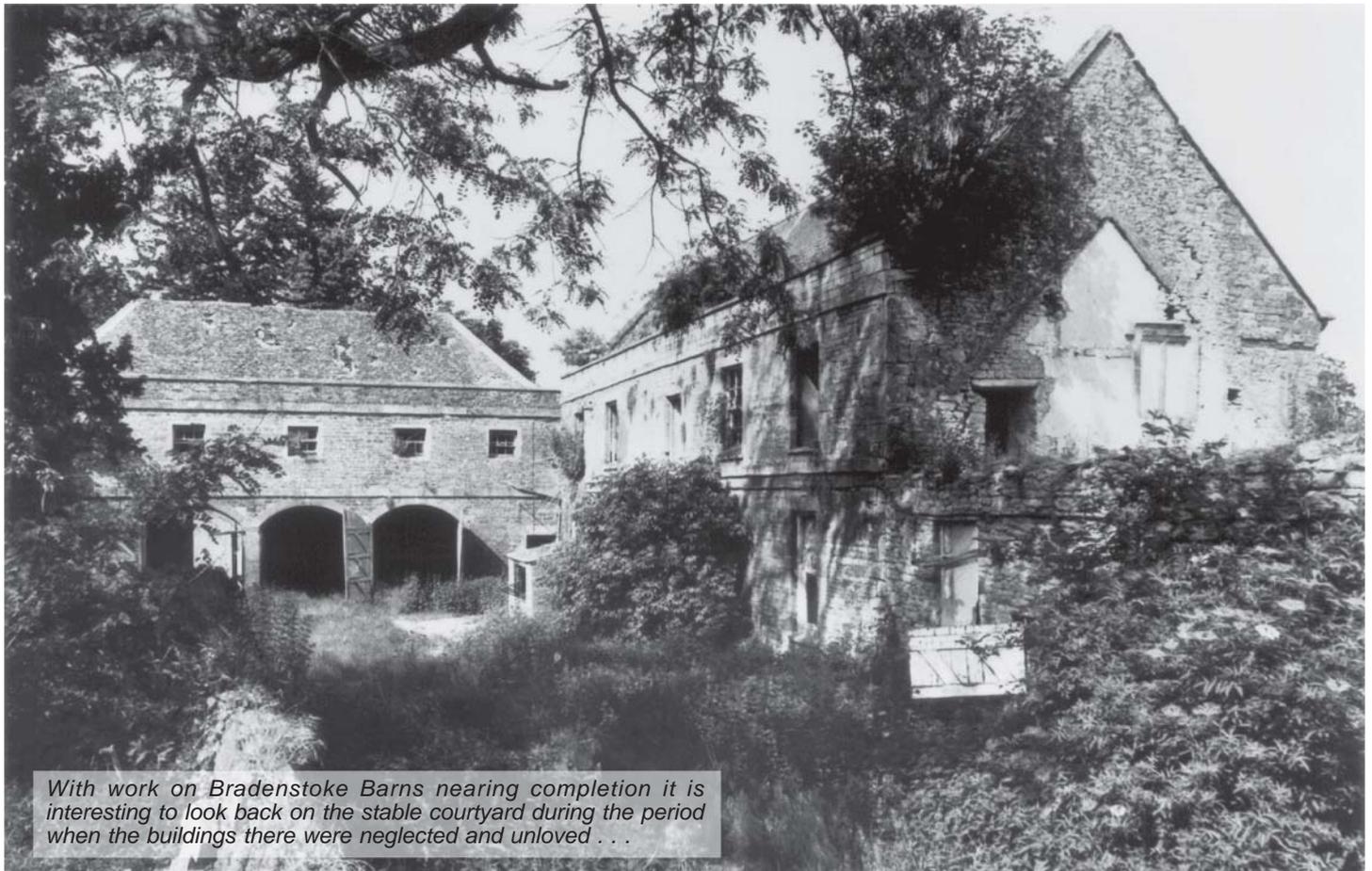
Please contact Paula on 01295 278040 or 07557 038 278 if you are interested in joining the scheme.

*“PhoneFriends has given me something to look forward to during the day”*

PhoneFriends is a service provided by



Age UK Oxfordshire is a registered charity (No. 1091529) and company limited by guarantee. Registered in England and Wales No. 4328143. Registered office: St Edmunds House, 39 West St Helens Street, Abingdon OX14 5BT. Age UK Oxfordshire is an independent autonomous organisation working with older people and their carers in Oxfordshire.



*With work on Bradenstoke Barns nearing completion it is interesting to look back on the stable courtyard during the period when the buildings there were neglected and unloved . . .*

# On the Land

March – April 2014

This is the first of what could become a regular feature here in the *North Aston News*, taking a look at what's happening around the village, and with an initial emphasis on those who work 'on the land'. This month we have submissions from Mark Stay of *North Aston Organics*, Josh Healy at the *Dairy*, James Taylor of *North Aston Farms*, and Neil Nicholson from the nursery.

## North Aston Organics

Our main vegetable field, which is a ten acre plot (part of 'Mill Field', on the right towards Somerton) will hopefully be dry enough to start cultivating soon. We are not in a desperate hurry just yet as we like our green manures (winter cover crops) to develop further, as this will mean more organic matter to turn in to the soil and more free nitrogen from the clovers and vetches.

Our main polytunnel at the other end of the village, at Park Farm, is looking very abundant with spinach, lettuce, salad, herbs and early garlic all going great guns with the longer day length. And finally, our market garden plot in the centre of the village (part of Beasley's Close) is being ploughed by Bryan, with his match plough no less, and we hope to get early potatoes, onion sets and carrots sown before the month is out. I wish all gardeners and allotmenters a good start to the new growing season. *Mark*

## North Aston Dairy

The North Aston dairy herd this month rose to 17 cows, as a young heifer called Kima calved and has been introduced to the milking herd for the first time.

This time of year heralds warming soils and the grass springs back into action. Soon the cattle will be dancing out to pasture producing more nourishing, more golden, more delicious (and just more) milk. *Josh*

## Nicholsons

It's a funny old year – rain, rain, rain and then it dries up very quickly – if you are planting out things just keep as eye on moisture as the soil is drying very quickly.

We are just finishing off all our bare root tree and hedge planting projects before the plants come into leaf. The trees are about 2-3 weeks earlier than last year we think

If you have flower beds, give them a light weed and then mulch them to help ease the work later and preserve moisture – but

beware - weeds will be coming up very quickly. Oh and the Blandford Fly is already about – beware of that too! *Neil*

## North Aston Farms

*Oh to be in England now that April's there!*

Let's hope the weather makes us feel like that anyway! Here on the farm Robert will be lambing our 400 ewes over at Dane Hill from mid-April. We lamb outside using the natural spring grass to give the ewes the energy boost they need prior to lambing. We have put some of our ewes to Texel rams this year, so we should have some white-faced lambs as well as our usual black-faced Suffolk crosses.

In the cattle yards the calves have been weaned to give the cows a rest before they start calving again, outside from the end of the month. The cows are definitely excited about the thought of green grass and the chance to gallop!

Over the main road, where you might have seen the ploughing match taking place last month, we are going to be under-sowing an arable crop (possibly barley and peas) with a new grass ley. We will whole-crop it for silage in July/August leaving the grass to grow on! We haven't planted an arable crop since 2006 so we'll have to see what happens. Poppies - I expect! *James*



## Upcoming Events

### Village Meeting

The next Village Meeting will take place in the Old Bakery at 7:30 pm on the evening of **Thursday May 1st**. Please come along and admire the freshly re-decorated room and help to make important decisions about the village and upcoming events, including:

### 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 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 Village Meeting on May 1st.

### Deddington Farmers' Market

The traditional Farmers' Market in Deddington takes place every 4th Saturday of the month. This month's will be on **26th April**. North Aston Organics will have a stall.



**NORTH ASTON ORGANICS**

Visit the new website & blog:  
[www.northastonorganics.co.uk](http://www.northastonorganics.co.uk)

### The 35th Annual Otmoor Challenge

The annual Horton-cum-Studley Village Fête and the gruelling (depending on your approach!) Half Marathon "Otmoor Challenge" takes place on Saturday 7th June 2014.

Why not make 2014 your personal Challenge? Have you always said that one day you would run a half-marathon? This is the year to do it! Run solo or form a team of four and take part in the Challenge, running a half-marathon round Otmoor on roads and trails. Start at 2pm.

If that sounds like too much hard work, then there are 13 or 5 mile walks, starting 9am-12 noon.

### Horton-cum-Studley Village Fête

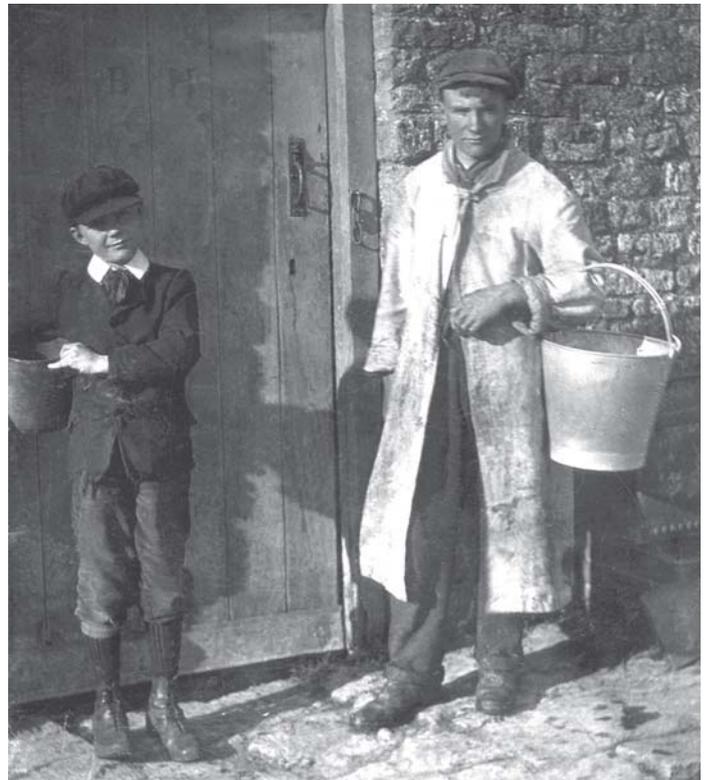
Concurrent with the Challenge is the traditional village fête, from 12 noon. This year the event will feature the The Bletchington Silver Band, Teas, BBQ, Bar, Games & Stalls and Electric Go-Kart rides for children. Free entry & parking.

Early evening (from 6pm) there will be a Pig Roast, Hot Dogs, Vegetarian Dish, Bar, Music & Games.

Tickets £8 - phone Sara Mander 07850-231293

[www.otmoorchallenge.co.uk](http://www.otmoorchallenge.co.uk)

More details in next month's News



## Announcements

### Road Works

With luck, the work through **Lower Heyford** will have been completed by the time this drops onto your doormat, so the extra traffic that has been making our lives a misery will have eased. We've received no update from OCC Highways, so we assume everything has gone to plan.

Similarly, most of those projects included on the list of scheduled works for the roads in our immediate area will have been completed; including those along the **Hempton** road, but work along Camp Road through **Upper Heyford** is expected to persist through to the end of April and into May. This will include traffic lights and one-way traffic, so could cause delays. Installation works by BT were planned along the **A4260** main road (near Park Farm) for the end of March, but should also have been completed - and so too the copse-thinning along the dual carriageway. Anyone visiting the surgery in **Deddington** may find drainage works being undertaken along Earls Lane - make allowances if heading for an appointment. There are some night-time lane closures scheduled for the **M40** this month, but any disruption is likely to be minimal.

### China and Glass . . .

We are always looking for interesting, quirky and good quality items to add to our stock of antiques and collectables. We're particularly interested in pre-1940s porcelain and glass (including "blue & white" china), brassware, postcards, boxes and other small items made from wood, known as 'treen'. We are also pleased to consider small items of silver, cutlery and Edwardian or Victorian jewellery, including rings and brooches. Telephone Old School Antiques on 347356 or email [sales@oldschoolantiques.co.uk](mailto:sales@oldschoolantiques.co.uk).

### Easter Egg Hunt

Jane McArdle has generously agreed to mastermind the annual Easter Egg Hunt again this year. It will take place on The Green from 10:00 am on Easter Monday, April 28th.

# North Aston Gardening Club

Spring is here and I'm certainly looking forward to another growing season. We will be holding our annual **Plant Swap and Sale** on Saturday May the 24th from 2 - 4 pm at the fountain. This is a 'must' for those of you who would like to grow your own veg but don't want the hassle of sowing seed: we usually have plenty of tomato, pepper, chilli, courgette and French/runner bean plants, as well as leek and onion seedlings. For those of you after ornamental plants there will be a good selection raised by experienced gardeners in the village. Bring some of your own plants to swap, or buy some for a few pennies. All proceeds will go to the Gardening Club to help fund club activities.

The **North Aston Flower & Produce Show** this year will be held on Saturday the 30th August at 2pm. There are a few changes to the schedule, with some new categories to keep us all on our toes! New classes are: mixed vegetables, muffins, homebaked loaf, savoury flan or quiche, alcoholic beverage made from hedgerow produce and a photographic competition just for youngsters.

This year, we are distributing **free ornamental gourd seeds** (instead of sunflowers) with this edition of the Newsletter. The challenge is to find the best set of three ornamental gourds (i.e. the fruit) in the village. Seeds can be sown from April onwards, and young plants can be planted out in the open once the danger of frost has passed (usually late May).

The ever popular **Spud-in-a-tub** competition kicks off from the 1st April when you can collect your seed potato and pot from Norman West's. These organic potatoes have, once again, been kindly donated by Mark Stay. One entry per household: bring your pot-grown spuds on the day: the heaviest yield wins.

The final schedule and entry form will be distributed with the July edition of the Newsletter.

**Become an allotmenteer:** whether you're looking to take up the challenge of self-sufficiency, or just fancy growing some stuff for fun: please come and have a look around the allotments (opposite Nicholson's) and speak to Norman West if you're interested in taking on a bit of space. There is a small plot perfect for beginners (approx. 25x12ft) currently available.

Next meeting: Wednesday 14th May @ 8pm at the Hazles'.



A reminder to dog owners and those new to the village - please do not allow your pet to foul on or close by any of the footpaths in the parish. Please "bag it & bin it"! This is especially true of The Green and the signed footpaths through and round the Park and Banbury Grounds. Thx.

# 2014 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
2. Four Carrots
3. Four Potatoes
4. Three Onions
5. Six shallots
6. Three Beetroot
7. Three Courgettes
8. Longest Cucumber
9. Four Runner Beans
10. Longest Runner Bean
11. Four French Beans
12. Four Tomatoes
13. One of a kind of six different vegetables in tray/trug or basket
14. Mixed vegetables in a tray/trug or basket (unlimited types of veg, unlimited numbers: but size limit of container 15x23inches)
15. Three of a kind of 'exotic' vegetable (any vegetable which is not included in other specified categories)
16. Three Eating Apples
17. Three Cooking Apples
18. Six Soft Fruits
19. Bowl of five Fruits
20. Spud in a Tub \*  
**(No entry fee required)**

## Section B: Plants & Flowers

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

21. One Single Stem Rose
22. One Spray of Roses
23. Six Sweet Peas
24. Five blooms from your garden
25. Flowering Plant in a pot
26. Geranium in a pot
27. Flower arrangement in an unusual receptacle
28. Arrangement of wild plants or flowers
29. Ornamental Gourd competition \*  
3 gourds grown from distributed seeds. **(No entry fee)**

## Section C: Cookery \*

Section rules: All jams, marmalade, chutneys etc must have been made by the exhibitor since September 2013. **They must be displayed in 1lb (360 - 400g) jar with a screw top.**

30. Jar of Jam \*
31. Jar of Chutney \*
32. Victoria Sponge \*  
(3 eggs, any jam or lemon curd, castor sugar on top)
33. Fruit Cake \* (traditional rich fruit cake)
34. Three Scones Plain or Fruit
35. Savoury flan or quiche \*
36. Men's Only Cake \*
37. Three muffins \*
38. A loaf \* (guide weight ~800g)
39. Alcoholic beverage made from hedgerow produce \* (in a bottle)

## Section D: Arts & Crafts and Photography

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 2013. Maximum 2 entries per person.

40. Something made from Wood
41. A Picture made from any medium of any subject
42. A limerick starting "There was a(n) ..... from ....."  
*Photographic Classes:*
43. Open: Photograph on the subject 'Seasons'
44. Open: Photograph on the subject 'Pink'
45. Open: Photograph on the subject 'Circles'
46. Ages 13-19: A photograph on the subject 'My World'
47. Under 13s: A photograph on the subject 'My World'

## Section E: Children's Categories

Rules for Sections E & F: These will be judged in 2 groups: under 8 years & 8-16 years. All entries must be wholly the work of the children themselves, and to have been created since September 2013.

48. Four Cupcakes\*
49. Four biscuits\*
50. A creature made from vegetables
51. A miniature Garden on a Plate
52. A painted picture of a Monster (for under 8s only)

\*Paper plates will be supplied by the organisers. Children may also enter all other sections. Judging will be by ballot except those categories marked with a '\*', which will be judged by an independent adjudicator.

**Entry fees:** 30p adult per exhibit, 20p per exhibit for children.  
**Additional Entry Forms** & full rules will be distributed in July/August.

# Acting Skills Workshops



**Steeple Aston Players are proud to announce the first in a series of Acting Skills Workshops**  
Starting this April, these Workshops are open to all, not just those who are interested in acting  
Our first Workshop is "Movement and Dance" on Saturday 19th April from 10.00 till 2.00  
There will be a short break for lunch

This dance-based workshop will help participants to learn to loosen up in their bodies, learn how to move more fluently, to be less inhibited and to use their bodies more expressively. Learn different rhythms, footwork routines and dance movements in this fun and intensive introduction. No previous dancing skill experience is required and you don't need to bring a partner.

£30, £25 for members, under 18s £15 - To enrol call 01869 349825 or email [jan@jlda.co.uk](mailto:jan@jlda.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](mailto:northastonorganics@gmail.com)

Tel: ((01869)) 347702

visit the new website at:

[www.northastonorganics.co.uk](http://www.northastonorganics.co.uk)

*Easter Egg  
Hunt*

*Easter  
Monday*

*10:00am*

*on the Green*





# The Church MATTERS



## Easter!

Easter is a journey. Sometimes a literal one - we drive all over the place at holiday times in order to take a break from the usual stresses, or to see family and take on different stresses for a while... For children, the journey can be short but rewarding: Easter Egg Hunt, anyone?

Yet at its heart, Easter has the journey of the cross. It starts with promises of loyalty, goes through terrible betrayal, and at the other side sees a far deeper bond than was ever expected. It begins with a body of friends sharing a meal of bread and wine, sees the body of Jesus broken and its flesh dripping blood, and then finds healing and renewal for body, mind and spirit in the Resurrection.

It starts with disciples following Jesus to Jerusalem, it ends with all of us being caught up on his coat-tails to heaven.

This year, in our church we will think of this journey as we prepare for Easter. On April 6th the Steeple Aston Choral Society (which has a number of members from North) sing Stainer's Crucifixion, which will be a great beginning to our Easter preparations. The choir have worked hard - do come and support them in Steeple church. April 13th is Palm Sunday, the beginning of Holy Week as we celebrate this journey together; here in North we start our service just a little early at 9.15am as we process to church together.

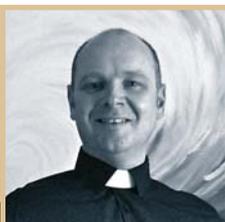


Each day then through Holy Week there will be short services in the Benefice helping us reflect on the journey. Perhaps you might make time to come along to mornings in Steeple or evenings in Tackley and make this Easter extra special? We will take an hour in North on Good Friday to think about the cross. Details are on the Holy Week service sheet. Very importantly, on April 19th, the whole of St Mark's Gospel will be read in North Aston church as a preparation for Easter: if you've never heard a whole Gospel in one sitting, give it a try. It takes about an hour and a half, and gives you the full picture of Jesus.

Then there is Easter! April 20th. The service is at 9am - please come and join in this very special day. Easter sees the heart of our faith: Jesus risen, God's love proclaimed, hope triumphant. This is a day for everyone to enjoy.

On a more mundane note, the church also has its annual parish meeting at this time of year. We are holding it on the evening of Tuesday April 29th, with refreshments for all. An annual meeting needs to conduct important business: however - it is also a great time to look back and see what has happened in the year past, and to think about what might be our goals for the year ahead. Please, if you are a regular member of St Mary's, make this a priority: let's have a good number of us present at the annual meeting to thank God for all he has done, and to pray for his kindness toward us in the months ahead.

*Revd Marcus Green*



Any comments about the above are very welcome.

Please email our Rector Marcus Green: [steeplerector@hotmail.com](mailto:steeplerector@hotmail.com) or tel: 340 903

If you wish you can also email Kildare: [k.bourkeborrows@btinternet.com](mailto:k.bourkeborrows@btinternet.com) or tel: 340 200  
or Clive: [casb@north-aston.com](mailto: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.

## From Thames Valley Police

This month's update and information:

### Radiator Theft

Slightly intriguing is the advice received last month from TVP relating to the theft, on 12th March 2014, between 1.30pm and 6.30pm, of four cast-iron radiators. These were stolen from *The Hill* in Souldern. A vehicle was seen in the area near the time of the offence and is described as a tipper lorry with a cage on the back. It might seem an elementary deduction, but one could possibly assume, with some certainty, that this was a scrap metal merchant seizing an opportunity to add some weight to his next consignment.

If you have any information regarding this offence please contact TVP by dialling 101 and quoting crime reference number JF 4420328/14.

### Seasonal Reminder

As spring approaches and people start using their garden tools again they become more accessible and attractive to thieves. Garden sheds, outbuildings and garages are a popular target as they are likely to contain expensive items such as lawn mowers, hedge cutters, pedal bikes and power tools.



TVP will be running a campaign (in addition to normal policing activities) due to run through until Saturday 5 April that aims

to raise awareness of the importance of strengthening security of your home and outbuildings. Officers and members of the Trading Standards will be offering advice at a number of locations and events, including **Deddington Farmers Market**, **Castle Quay Shopping Centre** (10am - 2pm on Saturday 5 April), **Chipping Norton Market Square** (Friday 28 & Saturday 29 March, 10am until 5pm), **Woodstock Town Centre** (Wednesday 2 April, 10am - 5pm) and **Eynsham** and surrounding area (Saturday 29 March, from 10am in Aston, Standlake, Stanton Harcourt, Southleigh, Northleigh and Cassington, and Thursday 3 April, 9am - 11am at the market, then from 12:00 noon in the nearby industrial estate.

Det Insp Clare Story said: "Cherwell and West Oxfordshire area remains one of the safest places to live we will continue to strive to reduce the number of victims of crime and detect as many crimes as possible. This year so far we have had no increase in burglaries compared to last year and have solved 24.2 per cent of our reported burglaries. We ask that the public remain safety conscious by locking doors and windows and make it as difficult as possible for people to target them.

You can follow TVP on Twitter for crime prevention tips during the campaign. If you see anyone acting suspiciously around a property or outbuilding please report this to the police via the 101 number. If you don't want to speak directly to the police you can contact the independent charity **Crimestoppers** anonymously on 0800 555 111 or online at [crimestoppers-uk.org](http://crimestoppers-uk.org).

### 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.

## The Busby Boys going London to Paris by Bike

It's not too late to support Adam and Jos Busby as they undertake their sponsored cycling ride from London to Paris this 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



**Planning Policy** remains a hot topic that just won't cool down. The **Local Plan** was submitted for examination by an Inspector at the end of January and the CDC website now details many days of public hearings. The general principle is that, if you like what's in it you sit on your hands but if you want changes – more homes or less, somewhere else, or changes to specific policies – then you should have your say. This seems a bit one-sided as most of the running will therefore be made by developers whose sites have not been chosen and the defence is left to the council's team so, if you feel strongly, register to have your say in person or simply write to the Inspector.

The **SHMA**, meanwhile, has been published to make things more difficult! This Strategic Housing Market Assessment for the whole county, which we had to have done in a hurry when an Inspector struck down a Warwickshire Local Plan whose assessment, a year younger than ours, was judged out of date, says we need another 100,000 houses in the county by 2031. This would give Cherwell 22,800, about another 500 a year but there's still a number of moving parts – firstly assessing the SHMA itself, then negotiating any overspill from Oxford, which is itself complicated by possible boundary reviews and, of course, the Green Belt, and then, as this has been anticipated, seeing what can be fitted into the Local Plan. So, watch this (green) space...

**Graven Hill** will now be part of the answer as Cherwell is in the process of buying large tracts of land east of Bicester that the MoD no longer needs. This has outline planning permission for 1,900 homes and 2,000 jobs. Clearly, the council is not a developer, so there's considerable risk involved, but the upside is that the pace of development will be more controllable. A major reason we are in trouble for not having a five year housing supply is that developers have not built hundreds of the homes they have planning permission for and cannot be made to do so. CDC can also focus on real housing need, with many units being self build or affordable homes.

**Heyford Park** is where its owners, the Dorchester Group, would like to see some of these extra houses. They are inviting a wide swathe of parishes between Deddington and Kidlington to come together in a Neighbourhood Forum to agree a **Neighbourhood Plan**, which would set out where homes and related infrastructure – schools, surgeries, shops, etc – should go, with the thought that most villages would choose to restrict their own growth and be happy to direct it to Upper Heyford. Obviously, each parish will make up its own mind about this and, before any such Plan can be finalised, everyone in the affected area would get a vote on it in a local referendum which, as you'd imagine, means it will be a long, hard road before any such thing emerges.

**NPPG**: at the other end of the policy spectrum, the government have just issued more than 1,000 pages of **National Planning Policy Guidance**. You may remember that it was only a couple of years ago that thousands of pages of Planning Policy Statements, in which planning rules had evolved in the finest detail, were swept away and replaced by the 52-page **National Planning Policy Framework** to make everything clear and simple. Of course, it did no such thing as bland general statements like a "presumption of sustainability" can mean everything or nothing until interpreted by Planning Inspectors and Judges, making planning as clear as mud. So now, only two years into the new regime, we are heading round in a full circle back to detail: as this will make things much easier for all concerned and give certainty in place of guesswork, I shall refrain from the temptation to sarcasm!

**Jobs** are as much a part of Planning as houses but tend to create less furore (not always, witness the recent court case over the Banbury Gateway shopping centre on ProDrive's old factory site, but that's unusual) so it's good to report that more jobs were created in the second half of 2013 in Cherwell than the whole year's target, giving us one of the lowest unemployment rates in the country. A lot of this was due to the opening of Pioneer Square in Bicester, where new businesses continue to come on stream even now. Next up is the new community centre/council office/library/hotel complex on the carpark next to Sainsbury.

**Council tax** gives some good news to end on. For the fifth year running, we've managed with no increase – Cherwell District's Band D stays at £123.50, now overtaken by the Kidlington village precept! – which, compared to inflation over the period of some 10%, is a real triumph while services have been maintained or improved and residents' satisfaction has risen year on year.

**Thanks**: the next thing you'll be hearing from me is when my **election leaflet** drops through your letter box – it's that time again! If you're kind enough to choose me again, I'll do my best to keep up the good work. If not, it's been a privilege to serve you for twelve years – thank you.

**James Macnamara**

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# CHURCH SERVICES

## PARISH WORSHIP IN APRIL 2014

**NORTH ASTON**

**STEEPLE ASTON**

**TACKLEY**

### Sunday April 6th - Fifth Sunday in Lent, Passion Sunday

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  
Family Service with Baptism  
**Rev Marcus Green**

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

### Sunday April 13th - Palm Sunday

9.30 am  
Family Service  
**Rev Marcus Green**

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

10:30 am  
Palm Sunday Service at Methodist Church

6:00 pm  
Compline  
**Fr Robin Gibbons**  
followed by Church APM at 6.45pm

### Friday April 18th - Good Friday

10:00 am  
Meditation on the Cross  
**Rev Marcus Green**

2:00 pm  
Meditation on the Cross  
**Rev Marcus Green**

12:00 noon  
Meditation on the Cross  
**Rev Marcus Green**

### Saturday 19th - Holy Saturday

7:30 pm  
St Mark's Gospel  
**Rev Marcus Green**

### Sunday April 20th - Easter Sunday

9:00 am  
Easter Communion  
**Rev Marcus Green**

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

10:30 am  
Holy Communion  
**Rev Mervyn Puleston**

6:00 pm  
Easter Communion  
**Rev Marcus Green and Fr Robin Gibbons**

### Sunday April 27th - Easter Sunday

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

6:00 pm  
Evensong  
**Rev Marcus Green**

### Sunday May 4th - Third Sunday of Easter

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  
**Rev Marcus Green and Fr Robin Gibbons**

Families are welcome to all Sunday services.