

NORTH ASTON

June 2014

#284

NEWS



*Moving Forward into Summer
Unveiling the Jubilee Bench, Minutes, Planning for the Fête!*

NORTH ASTON NEWS

JUNE 2014, No: 284

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Your Village Chairman

Dogs & Leashes

North Aston Hall request that people walking their dogs across the big cow field (The Park) keep them on leashes. It's a reasonable request, but not mandatory. The law is that dogs must be under your effective control when on a right of way among livestock, and that means they must unhesitatingly come to and stay by you (no ifs and buts), and must be on a leash where there are young animals. Cattle dislike all dogs, but usually tolerate them. However, cows with calves are extremely fierce and must be avoided, bulls are unpredictable. It is a given among dog owners that, if threatened by cattle, you let your dog off the leash and it will usually out-run the cattle. The NFU has recently endorsed this.

Jubilee Bench Day

Saturday 14th June at 12:00 on the Green. Whether our beautiful Bench will be remembered for commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Queen's accession to the throne in 2012 or her coronation in 2013 doesn't really matter. The important thing now is to get it sited and sat on. Since this was a great initiative of Chris Tuffrey's, Eileen has kindly consented to unveil it in his memory. Daniel Durnin, who made it, will be there too of course. Come and join in - drinks on the house.

Heyford Park

Progress towards the proposed Neighbourhood Plan is being made slowly. The Plan needs a 'lead parish', and Ardley (-with-Fewcott) have offered to be that. I attended a meeting in their Community Centre the other day with people from most of the other affected parishes, and numbers of issue arose, which Ardley, Dorchester, etc will address. Not least among these is that none of us yet has any idea what a Neighbourhood Plan involves, how great are the commitments, how much fine detail we have to get into. They imagine that this Plan will be fully developed by May 2015, and that a village-by-village Referendum will be held at that time. We'll see.

CDC Election Result

41 % of us voted, and James Macnamara (Conservative) was re-elected for our ward, with the other candidates a long way behind. Overall the Conservatives lost one seat, but still retain a commanding majority on the Council. UKIP did not win a seat on this occasion.

Speed through the Village

Following suggestions at the Village Meeting, we met with Oxfordshire CC. The result is that they can't help much, mostly as a result of lack of funds and resources - they offered to repaint the '30' roundels on the road. They will not fund additional/better Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS), though they would maintain them if installed. These solar-powered signs cost a minimum of £3,500 each, and likely £4-5,000; we will discuss this at our next Meeting, but it's very unlikely that the village can easily afford even one. We can apply to have the speed limit reduced to 20 mph, but because this needs a legal instrument, their legal department is reduced and numerous villages have already applied, the process to achieve it would be long/very long. That leaves chicanes, speed bumps, etc., and I get the impression that nobody (yet) wants to go down that route. So our #1 discussion and negotiating point with Dorchester at present is - what will they do to alleviate and reduce the amount of traffic that is increasingly coming from Heyford Park through our village? They already know that over 50 % of vehicles exceed the 30 mph limit.

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

Kildare

Telephone: 01869 340 200 ~ email: chair@north-aston.co.uk

Front cover: a Blue Tit fledgling just moments after leaving the nest. It's been a good period for garden birds, with spring arriving early following a very mild (if wet!) winter. There has been plenty of food in the wild and perhaps less reliance by birds on garden feeders, but the results from last year's Garden Bird Watch survey suggest a recovery in the numbers of many species after a lengthy period of decline. It was a very different story this time last year.

This Month's BIRTHDAYS

Andy Brown
Adam Busby
Alex Hatzigeorgiou
Tilly Kneale



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.

Announcements

Road Works

The roadworks along Camp Road through **Upper Heyford** are still causing delays, with at least two sets of light-controlled sections at last count, and likely to persist for several more weeks. The new houses are going up fast, though, and the appearance of the old base as you drive through is changing almost daily. The traffic lights along the B430 between the site of the new Ardley incinerator and Middleton Stoney should be cleared away soon, but there are still temporary lane closures (usually at night) along the **M40**.

Glass & China . . .

We are always looking for interesting, quirky and quality items to add to our stock of antiques & 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. We are also pleased to consider small items of silver and Edwardian or Victorian jewellery, including rings and brooches. Contact Old School Antiques (347356) or email sales@oldschoolantiques.co.uk.

Goodbye and Thank you!

We are sorry to announce that Alison Bailey is leaving Park Farm House to take up a new position at a residential school near Tewkesbury. Ali has only been in the village for a short time, but right from the very beginning of her stay here, she threw herself into community life with enthusiasm, attending meetings and getting involved in village events. "I have loved every minute of setting the Home up for our girls and being part of such a welcoming village community," she says. We wish Alison well in her move but look forward to welcoming her back for the occasional visit in the future, starting with the fête next month. We believe that Hillcrest Care will be appointing a new Manager in the coming few weeks.

It's in the Bag!

Here in the editorial office of the *News* we've received two separate emails during the past fortnight about dog poo. Oh dear, I hear you groan - not again! However, the complaints this time are a little out of the ordinary, so please read on...

It seems that one North Aston dog owner has been doing all the right things, but only up to a point. It's excellent that so many responsible pet walkers are now taking poo bags with them and tidying up after their dogs, but it's what they do with the bags next that's concerning some residents. The logical, sensible and responsible thing to do is to carry the bag home and dispose of it there. Unfortunately, someone is just dumping the bags into the nearest bin, and seemingly not caring what colour it is either.

Home-owners finding the distinctively coloured poo-bags inside their wheelie bins have not been impressed! "*The offending dog walker appears too lazy to take his bags home and place them in his own bin,*" said one complainant. "*It is good that the poo is bagged but please can they take it home!*" The other email simply asked that "*people stop putting their bagged dog poo in our bin!*"

Please, can the culprit be a little more considerate in future, and bin the bag at home! As a regular dog-walker myself, I'm also conscious of the number of pet owners who are still not clearing up after their dogs along the parish footpaths. Just because you're walking your dog out-of-sight of the village itself, through the woods or along a grassy footpath, doesn't mean you can leave your dog's poo for others to tread in. It's selfish and inconsiderate, so if Fido craps on the path, clear it up! Oh, and bagging the poo and then leaving it beside the path, or hanging from a branch, isn't good enough either. Take it home and bin it! Thank you.

Upcoming Events

Jubilee Bench Unveiling

The new Jubilee Bench will be officially unveiled on Saturday 14th June at 12:00 on the Green. Please come along and raise a glass in celebration of the Queen's Jubilee, and also with a thought for the D-Day commemorations marking the 70th anniversary of the Battle for Normandy.

Deddington Farmers' Market

The traditional Farmers' Market in Deddington takes place every 4th Saturday of the month. This month's will be on **28th June**.

A Recipe for the Church

This is just about your last chance to submit a recipe for the PCC's *Window Restoration Appeal* Recipe Book - see previous editions of the *News* for further details.

If you have a family favourite, whether it's a *Starter, Main Course, Dessert, Cake* or *Biscuit*, then please forward your recipe to Jane McArdle (janechenies@hotmail.com) or hand over a printed or hand-written copy to Beryl Greenwood. Don't forget to include a list of ingredients and cooking temperatures in electric, gas and, if available, Aga. Please support this worthy cause!

North Aston Village Meeting

Thursday 1st May 2014 ~ The Minutes

Officers Present: Chairman Kildare Bourke-Borrowes, Treasurer Beverley Rees, Secretary James Taylor

Those present: Alison Bailey, James Macnamara, Chalce White, Sarah Bourke-Borrowes, Clive Busby, Trudy Busby, Niel Nicholson, John Harvey-Lee, Beryl Greenwood, David Hanna, Jeremy Taylor, Mark Stay, Mary Healy, Jan Liberadzki, Tony Rees, Chris Hazle, David Hazle, Marcus Potts.

Apologies were received from: Franca Potts and Sue and Tuck Hatzigeorgiou.

Village Meeting

1. Welcome & Apologies

The meeting started with Kildare Bourke-Borrowes welcoming our local Councillor James Macnamara. KBB suggested that there was no need for people to apologise for not attending the meeting and that maybe we need not have "Apologies" on the agenda at future meetings. There was general agreement to this idea.

Jeremy Taylor told the meeting that a number of villagers had attended the funeral of Gopal Hari in Glastonbury. He said that there had been a moving ceremony and a heartfelt coming together of people. A short silence was held to remember Gopal. It was suggested that the secretary write to Ambika on behalf of the village to send condolences. James Taylor agreed to do this.

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the last village meeting 9th Jan were passed. Proposer D. Hanna Seconded J Liberadzki.

3. Treasurers Report

Bev Rees briefly outlined the Treasurer's Report for the Village Meeting, confirming that there had been little change in status or holding since the previous Report in January. The accounts were proposed and accepted.

4. Broadband

A general discussion was held over the possibilities of getting superfast broadband into the village. Niel Nicholson told the meeting of his plan to get broadband beamed from Dane Hill to Park Farm and then 'pinged' via a small dish from there on to the Nursery. A discussion was held over whether paying for a fibre optic connection to the village was worth it but it was deemed too expensive- at least £30,000.

Jan Liberadzki said that other District Councils in Oxfordshire had attracted funding to supply superfast broadband for their whole region but that Cherwell District Council had dithered.

James Macnamara suggested that ringing Open Reach could help individual houses increase their current slow broadband speeds. KBB reminded the meeting that NN's plan was private enterprise.

5. Heyford Park

KBB updated the meeting about the Steering Group meeting which had taken place at Heyford Park and Dorchester's scheme to form a "Neighbourhood Plan" involving say 14-16 parishes. This plan would help protect villages from significant greenfield developments such as have already been granted at Deddington, Bloxham, Adderbury etc and encourage Cherwell District Council to direct extra housing towards the brownfield site at Heyford. James Macnamara made it clear that Dorchester were being transparent in their desire to corner the housing market at the expense of other developers.

It was suggested that while we were unlikely to be at risk from significant speculative planning, any development at Heyford would still have a profound effect on North Aston. KBB asked if a subcommittee could be formed to attend future meetings at Heyford Park to help keep abreast of developments. JL and DH both volunteered.

A discussion was held over the possible impact of extra traffic through North Aston as a result of significant development at

Heyford. DH thought it unlikely to be significantly worse in the near future but David Hanna voiced concerns. Maybe a tunnel or dual carriageway across the valley would be a solution!

6. Heritage Asset Register

KBB informed the meeting that the council was compiling a register of heritage assets. These could include buildings, structures, objects or places of local significance. Adding these assets to the register would help protect them from undesired development. No objections were made to the village fountain being added to the register.

MP asked whether trees could be added. KKB answered yes – but only if they are very significant trees.

7. Kerbing the Green

It was agreed to put this on hold for another year. MP raised a concern that extra money had been given to the village precept specifically for this job, but it was felt that even if the kerbing was delayed, the money could be allocated to other projects.

8. Speed Monitor

JDT needed further information from the highways man regarding a second hand system. MP asked whether the village could pay for some new batteries for the speed camera as the current ones were only lasting a few days now. The Meeting agreed to this. (Proposed Niel Nicholson, Seconded Mark Stay.) A brief discussion was held about 20 mph signs and whether North Aston could have some for whole or part of the village. KBB said he would look into it.

9. Middle Aston Lane

KBB had spoken to David Fry regarding speeding bread lorries on the Middle Aston lane. Mr Fry had said unless he knew which lorries were speeding – or driving carelessly – he couldn't address the issue. Mr Fry had suggested taking the last three numbers of any offending lorry and ringing him on 347128 so he could reprimand the right driver. Tony Rees said he thought that cars from Middle Aston House were being directed to the M40 using the lane as it was often busy between 5 and 6 pm. Beryl asked about the potholes and Niel Nicholson asked whether Trevor Green - Parks was going to do anything. KBB said he would ask him again.

10. Any Other Business

KBB reminded the meeting that **local elections** will take place on 22/5 and encouraged people to vote if they could.

James Taylor reiterated that, as he had explained in the Newsletter, the signs dotted about the village concerning **footpaths** were merely a formal acknowledgement by North Aston Estate of the public statutory footpaths/bridleways that cross the farm.

James Taylor brought it to the village meeting that he was going to be thinning some **woodland** around the estate including the copse on the village Green. He assured the village that this would be done sympathetically and that there would be the possibility of leaving the felled wood for members of the village who would like some. It was suggested that interested parties should contact James once the thinning had been completed.

James Taylor mentioned that he was in possession of some **elm cuttings** from trees that had survived the elm disease and asked whether it would be acceptable to plant one or two on the village Green. This was thought to be a nice idea.

BR said that the **accounts** were ready to be audited.

BR informed the meeting that **Mrs Dobson** – formerly of Park Farm had sadly passed away. Clive Busby added that **Ken Armstrong** also formerly of Park Farm had passed away as well. JDT asked if the village was aware of the scheduled **electricity shut down** by SSE on the 15th May.

Thanks were offered to Jane McArdle for organising the **Easter Egg Hunt** and also to Deirdre for her involvement.

Beryl Greenwood wanted to alert the village to a planning application she had received for **Bradenstoke Barn**. KBB reminded the Meeting that it had been decided that individual planning applications which did not affect the village as a whole were not the Meeting's concern.

JDT noted that although the Highways department has carried out some repairs – there remain some **loose kerb stones** through the village that need addressing.

DH remarked on a **broken valve cover** on the pavement between No's 2 and 3 Somerton Rd which was a potential hazard. KBB agreed to look into it.

Village Fund

1. Welcome & Apologies

The same notes of those present and *Apologies for Absence* were taken as for the Village Meeting.

2. Minutes

The Minutes for the previous meeting were accepted.

3. Treasurers Report

The balance at bank was £4,874.25. Expenditure included such items as village bench, Bake House decoration and a new hot water urn. The treasurer reported that the 100 Club was looking for new members. The accounts were accepted. Proposer Chris Hazle. Seconded John Harvey-Lee.

4. Village Fête

It was stated that this had been set for the 19th July. A discussion was had regarding the formation of a fête committee and a provisional date of 13th May set for first meeting (subsequently postponed until the 27th). KBB proposed that the marquee be left up and used the following day for **The Big Lunch**. This was agreed as a good idea. KBB suggested that our Japanese guests, who have become a regular feature at the fête in the last few years, deserved a more prominent position for their stall.

North Aston Gardening Club

Unfortunately, last month's **Plant Swap & Sale** (Saturday May 24th) had to be abandoned due to the very inclement weather. Apologies to anyone who braved the rain and headed for the fountain hoping to buy plants, only to find it deserted.

Next Club Meeting

Wednesday 11th June @8pm hosted by the Hazle's.

Gardening Club Annual Barbecue

Saturday 12th July on the Allotment - further details next month.

Annual Flower & Produce Show - Saturday the 30th August. A full list of categories was given in last month's *News*. There are lots of non-veggie classes this year, including crafts, photography and, of course, the baking section. It's not too late to start planning your entries, and even planting those Spuds-in-a-Tub now might still surprise the judges!

5. Jubilee Bench

A discussion was held regarding the setting of the foundation for the bench. It was decided that all works should be done by 7th June (since changed to Saturday June 14th). Tony Rees, Niel Nicholson and Clive Busby agreed to assist in achieving this. It was decided that no marquee would be required on the day of unveiling, but people would turn up for a celebratory drink.

6. Fountain Lettering

A discussion was held over whether to re-letter and blacken-in the inscription on the fountain which has now worn away. A couple of quotes had been sought for doing this. One included replacing the whole stone on which the inscription is carved. KBB read the original inscription out to the meeting and wondered whether it was a bit gloomy and worth reinstating at all. There was some agreement with KBB but others liked the inscription. BG said she could get another quote from a memorial carver. It was agreed to return to this matter at the next meeting.

7. Commemorating WW1 and D-Day

A discussion was held over whether we would like to do anything to mark these events. Mark Stay suggested an event similar to the one we did on the village green to mark Trafalgar Day which involved putting on a little play. He agreed to look into getting a group of people together to do something similar. KBB informed the meeting that he had some ideas on the possibility of a simple memorial for the village green made of wood or stone. This was left to be discussed at the next meeting.

8. Any Other Business

Thanks were offered to the Hazles for organising the decorating of the **Bakery Room**. It was noted that there had already been some scrapes and knocks to the walls and it was suggested that people take extra care when using the room.

MP asked that the village green could be mown in good time for the fête or grazed as soon as possible.

KBB thanked Marcus for the coloured **Newsletter** – available online! Niel Nicholson stated that it cost ten times more per page to print in colour.

John Harvey-Lee made the point that any payment for **new batteries** for the speed camera should come out of the Village Fund and not the Village meeting.

A record of thanks was offered to Tom Baimbridge for varnishing the **village notice board**.

Next Meeting

A date for the next meeting was left open (but has since been confirmed as Thursday August 7th, at 7:30 in the Bakery).

100 Club



The lucky winners of this month's draw are:

First Prize (£10): L Johnson (#57)

Second Prize (£5): P Durnin (#88)

Thanks to all those who have renewed their 100 Club membership so promptly. Norman would be grateful if the remainder could follow suit - as soon as possible! New members are very welcome to join the scheme, and there are some interesting numbers still available. If you would like to sign up, please speak to Norman West or call him on 340368.



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

On the Land

May - June 2014

Continuing our series that looks at what's happening on the land around the village, this month we have submissions from **Neil Nicholson** from the Nursery, **James Taylor** of North Aston Farms and **Mark Stay** of North Aston Organics.

Nicholsons

What a strange month - which we probably notice more than others as all our plants here are in containers and so need careful attention in all respects but particularly in regard to their water needs.

As we all know, to get the best growth in plants you need lots of sunlight and plenty of water. We can control the water but not the sun, but it has been a great few weeks with plenty of sun to get things going – and this has included the weeds too. But all our new plants are safely potted and I think all have broken bud and are coming in to leaf – always a lovely sight as some of them flower beautifully too.

On the Forestry side we are busy doing maintenance sprays – for trees to become successfully established it is vital to keep a weed-free spot around the base of each tree. The easiest and most cost effective is to use chemical and spray which we do for most of our clients. Where we planted some trees for James on the farm we used recycled squares of wool carpet to smother the weeds!

On the Landscaping side we are very busy with all types of work. We have built a new Ha-Ha over near Heythrop, new Ponds, interesting gardens and plenty to keep the teams on their toes.

With this last drop of rain we should see some real growth in the gardens – can't wait! Enjoy the Spring. *Neil*

North Aston Farms

For anyone following the *Archers* on the radio you will know that the annual Soil Association inspection is quite a big deal! We have just had ours and no matter how organised one is in advance, the day always comes with some trepidation!

All financial records, field records, livestock records, vet records, feed records, seed packets etc have to be available for inspection. An audit is taken to make sure you are not selling more stock than you have bought in or produced yourself. Livestock buildings are checked for size, fields are walked and livestock looked at.

Thankfully we passed again but were pulled up on a few issues! The inspector came at 9.30am and left at 5.45pm so there is not much chance to leave any stone unturned! One good thing about the day was that it was gloriously sunny and the farm was looking especially pretty with the May blossom in abundance! Surely that has to put any inspector in a good mood! *James*

North Aston Organics

As promised: '*Implements Part 2*' (I'm sure you've all been on tenterhooks) - and, topical as ever, this has a decidedly Euro-flavour.

We are still very much in "sowing and planting" mode and some of this we can do mechanically. We have a Stanhay seed drill (British) where seeds fall from a small hopper onto a belt which has correctly sized and spaced holes punched into it, allowing the seeds to then drop into a drill (a groove in the ground, rather than a Black and Decker...) We have a three-drill array - see if you can spot it on the back of 'Tilly' going down to Mill Field.

For planting we have a 'Super-Prefer' (French) two-row planter. Two people are needed to sit on the back, feeding plants one by one into grippers which rotate down towards the soil and release them into a furrow. Two wheels then firm the soil as the plant passes between them. I think this is one of the more pleasant tasks as everyone is able to work sitting down!

After the planting comes the weeding: step forward the Bartshi Brushweeder (Swiss). This uses a series of rotating bristles to literally brush the weeds out of the soil. Metal guards protect the crop rows. Although pulled by the tractor it can be steered from the rear (another sitting down job) to keep it in line and hopefully not brush the veggies out as well!

All being well, we will have some crops to harvest. This is all done by hand, except for the potatoes where we use a Kuxmann (German) potato lifter. An angled share gets under the potatoes, which then move onto a vibrating griddle, which shakes all the mud off and deposits the spuds in a neat row at the side.

Next month I hope to announce the date for our farm walk when you can come and see if the mechanical images I have conjured up in your head match reality! *Mark*



The Church MATTERS



Celebrating

Thank goodness summer is arriving!

A bit of sunshine makes us all feel that bit brighter, don't you think? Everyone smiles, everyone gets out a bit, everyone enjoys the longer evenings and forgets the long wet Noah-esque winter that nearly drowned us all.

June sees several great festival moments for us to celebrate in addition to the onset of the summer sun. On the first of the month we are marking the 70th anniversary of D-Day down the road in Steeple Aston. It seems right to remember those who risked everything for our communities that we should gather and both mark before God our gratitude as well as simply enjoying being together. Our remembering matters, as does our living well today.

June 8th and 15th see two of the church's major feast days after Christmas and Easter: Pentecost on June 8th is about the gift of the Holy Spirit, God's presence with us always, and both remembers the birth of the Christian Church 50 days after the Resurrection of Jesus and the ongoing gift of God for all of us now. We have a Family Service on June 8th in North and everyone is welcome. Trinity Sunday a week later on June 15th makes us take a step back and see the whole picture of God. Sometimes we think of God as our Father in heaven, sometimes we think of Jesus, sometimes we think of the Holy Spirit: Trinity Sunday puts everything together so that we wonder at the full majesty and glory of God. I'm glad that Richard Bailey will be leading this service at North - do quiz him on this most complex area of Christian thought and worship!



The final weekend in June is, of course, the church over in Steeple's patronal festival. The Fête is on Saturday 28th - I am very much looking forward to my first one in the village there. Then on the Sunday, we have the next of our United Benefice Festival Services, where the three parishes get together, and clearly given the weekend, this will be at Steeple too. The 10.30am service will be a celebration of beginnings, rememberings, and thanksgivings: there will be a baptism, the dedication of the new Jubilee Sycamore stone in the churchyard, and also that particular Sunday marks 20 years since I was first ordained. I hope that we will have a full church to enjoy every aspect of this event - please come along from North so we can all bring our own rememberings and thanksgivings together.

Then we will see July: end of term for the school, weddings on the horizon, holidays for some, and on we go. It's easy to find the year is rushing away, or that life is whistling past us. We take time in church life to enjoy the seasons, to thank God for each moment and to pray for those who sometimes find the remembering less than joyful. 'We are all in this together' is a reality for us, and as a community we want to rejoice when it is time to rejoice, whilst never forgetting those who simply need us to pray and to care.

Midweek Services

One other matter: Midweek services have now re-started. Morning prayer is happening in St Mary's on Thursdays at 10am, and we already have a lovely little group of people coming along to this super oasis of quiet in the middle of the week. Everyone is welcome to pray and read the Scriptures with us. There are services in Tackley and Steeple too on other days - I will try and keep the church's new website www.sntchurch.com up to date with all news and info of parish life!

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.



THE
NORTH ASTON FETE
Saturday July 19th 2014

Gates open 2:00. Fête closes 4:30pm

The Village urgently needs your help!

The annual Village Fête is only a few weeks away, and we need to start planning now. We will need generous contributions and donations of items for all the main stalls, including White Elephant, Raffle, Tombola, the Book Stall and, nearer the day, Cakes & Produce:

Adult Tombola

Bottles, cans, tins and other suitable goods - all within sell-by date please!

Children's Tombola

Small toys (new only), soft drinks (named brands) & packets or bags of sweets.

White Elephant Stall

Items in excellent, as-new sellable condition, or of antique or collectable interest.

BookStall

Books in tidy, readable condition, hardback or paperback.
Also DVDs, CD's & Computer Games - no videos please.

Raffle Prizes

Brand new or very special items, as well as gifts, promises or services!

Cakes & Produce

Home-baked cakes, scones & biscuits, home-grown flowers, vegetables & fruit.

Please deliver these to the marquee on the day. Thankyou!

For now, items can be dropped off at Two School Cottages for storage elsewhere.

We also need . . .

Gazebos, Awnings, Tables & Chairs

If you have an E-Z-up gazebo, small marquee or anything similarly weatherproof (just in case!) that we could borrow for the day, as well as garden chairs & tables, please bring them along to the Green on the Saturday morning.

Games & Attractions

All the ever-popular stalls and attractions will be included, as well as a brand new "Wild West" game from the irrepressible John Harvey-Lee. We will need volunteers not only to help man the stalls on the day, but also to help with setting up on the Friday evening.

Please do put your name forward . . . before someone comes knocking on your door!

Volunteers needed to help on the day!

340200 or email: info@north-aston.co.uk



From Thames Valley Police

Bank & Police Scams

Residents in Bicester are being asked to be on their guard following a scam which resulted in three attempted frauds at the end of May.

The Bicester neighbourhood team is asking residents to be cautious and immediately to report any suspicious fraudulent phone calls purporting to be from banks/police officers and requesting bank and card details.

Three victims from the Bicester area all received suspicious calls where the caller said they were officers from Bicester police stations, or calling from a bank or fraud investigation company.

The most important things to remember are:

- Your bank and/or the police will never ask for your PIN.
- Your bank will never attend your home to deliver a replacement card or to collect cash.
- Your bank and/or the police will never collect your bank card.
- If you receive one of these calls end it immediately

Investigating Officer, PC Tim Salter from Bicester police station, said: "I would like to reiterate that police or banks would never ask anyone for their bank details over the phone and then send someone to the house to collect your cards. We would urge local residents to share our crime prevention advice with friends, family and members of the community."

If you have been a victim and not reported it yet, or had someone attempt the same or similar scam on you, then get in touch with TVP. If you have any information about the recent incidents, call Thames Valley Police non-emergency number 101 and ask to speak to PC Salter.

FaceWatch

Want to support your community by identifying people and help make your neighbourhood safer? Download the Facewatch App!

From May, Thames Valley Police has been supporting the Facewatch App to upload pictures of unidentified people they would like to speak to in connection with low-level crime.

The App works on any smartphone, is free to download and the images are searchable by postcode. If a user recognises anyone they can choose to submit information, in confidence or openly, via their smartphone directly to the police by clicking 'Identify'. The App has been introduced by a number of forces across the country and is already proving effective. It can be downloaded from the iTunes App Store (compatible with iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch) and Google Play (Android).

Contacting TVP

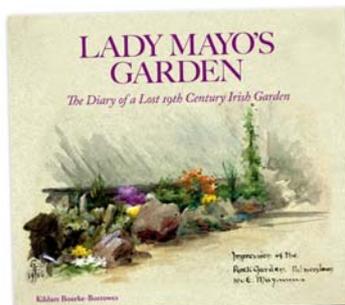
Should you wish to contact the police about any non-urgent matter, please use the 101 number. They want to hear from you, no matter how trivial you think the incident may be. In the event of an emergency or a "crime in action", then use the familiar 999 number.

North Aston Big Lunch

Just a reminder that the North Aston Big Lunch will be on Sunday 20th July, the day after the Village Fête. This will be a "Bring Your Own & Share" event, with guests asked to provide a dessert to share, and to supply their own main course, drinks, cutlery and glasses. Some drinks will be provided.

Lady Mayo's Garden

New books by North Aston authors - or those with a close connection to the village - keep flying off the presses, and another one was published at the end of May that should be



of interest to anyone with an eye for a good watercolour and an interest in gardening.

Fairly recently a personal diary came into the possession of our own village Chairman, Kildare Bourke-Borrowes. The gloriously illustrated account had been written

around the turn of the last century by one of his ancestral relatives, Geraldine Countess of Mayo. In her *Garden Book*, Lady Mayo kept detailed notes of her designs for the planting of the historic walled garden at Palmerstown House, near Johnstown in County Kildare, Ireland.

Not only did she include fascinating references to the plant varieties she raised, but she also spent hours decorating the book with fine watercolour paintings, depicting not only the colourful flowers that grew there, but also the architectural elements of the garden.

Tragically, on the night of January 29th 1923, the elegant Queen Anne-style country house was torched by republican sympathisers and burned to the ground. Virtually the entire contents of the house, including priceless antiques and fine art, were lost. Remarkably, Lady Mayo's diary survived. Kildare has lovingly edited and recreated the diary and it has now been published by Double-Barrelled Books.

For further information and ordering details, please visit the website: www.lady-mayo-garden.co.uk

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Councillor Calling



The Results

I've just returned from the election count with barely time to spare before the newsletter deadline but now I know what to report. Thank you: I'm due to represent you for a further two years. Turnout was up at 40%, due to the simultaneous Euro elections (council elections on their own generally excite only 30%, while general elections merit 70%), of whom 54% kindly endorsed me. That means, of course, that nearly half of those who voted wanted somebody else, showing how democracy provides a regular dose of humility!

Whoever gets in, though, by whatever margin, becomes the representative of every resident, whether they voted at all and whomever they preferred. My contact details were on the leaflets I distributed, are on the Cherwell website, and appear at the end of this page: please let me know what you feel or need that CDC isn't doing.

Actually, that shouldn't be difficult because, unless you dislike me personally, there's little that party politics does at District level. We need party groups to organise votes and keep the council running but, until someone comes up with a unique Labour way to empty dustbins or a distinctively Liberal Democrat way to administer building regulations, party affiliation shouldn't make a lot of difference locally.

Overall, the balance of the council has changed little, though we'd be foolish not to note the numbers voting, not just for the mainstream opposition, but also in substantial numbers for the Greens and UKIP, and to try and find out what they'd like us to do differently. Despite all the national excitement, UKIP's main achievement in Cherwell was to deliver a Banbury ward to Labour, as they did for the county council last year: I hope they'll start to think if that's what they really want before the general election. In the meantime, we've got enough challenges ahead not to worry about that:

Residential Developments

Housing numbers need to be agreed for the Local Plan. A county-wide survey has come up with a huge number. We could (just) accommodate Cherwell's share and can keep the Local Plan on track with it's Inspector's examination as we allowed for this. But there simply isn't room if the "Duty to Cooperate" with Oxford cascades thousands of homes out of the city onto us. Firstly, we must challenge the survey, then the deliverability of the numbers and finally negotiate with the City Council – challenging.

Five year supply: whether we have a finished Plan or not, whatever the new figure for housing, we'll have to keep five-years' worth of planning permissions constantly in the pipeline or developers get the whip hand again. That's do-able in the current boom but will become a nightmare again when the housing market calms down.

Neighbourhood Plan: Parishes (this isn't one for the District Council) will have to decide the level of threat to them and weigh that against the potential benefits of a giant Neighbourhood Plan that would use Heyford Park to absorb any houses we don't want in our villages. Neither an easy calculation nor easy to deliver and, as all affected residents get a vote on this, it would all have to be done by next year's general election.

Affordable Housing: This allocation hasn't been resolved. We still need to ensure that Rural Exception Sites are there for the villagers where they are built (or why should parishes allow them?) and to tie down Heyford Park's allocation so no current residents are displaced.

Development Elsewhere; There are big challenges here. The Banbury Gateway shopping mall has permission and the expansion of Castle Quay is getting there so we must ensure that Banbury Old Town is revitalised by this and not sidelined. Bicester's community centre/library and hotel are about to start and, biggest of all, Cherwell is buying Graven Hill off the Army for 1900 homes and 2000 jobs – a huge and complex transaction, not without risks.

Solar Farms: Meanwhile a private ambition is to bring in a policy like my wind farm one to minimise the damage that solar panel arrays, plus their accompanying substations, fencing and security, do when inappropriately sited in open countryside before it's too late.

Finance: This is a continuous headache as grants get smaller, the New Homes Bonus drops away after six years and business rates are reformed: inevitably, change always means less money for the District. We've already squeezed most of the synergies from combining functions with South Northants and are now well down that road with Stratford DC – many of our staff are doing three jobs for the price of one and a bit – so how we keep council tax the same for yet another year is a challenge indeed.

And that's just the "known unknowns": there are bound to be some unknown unknowns lying in wait: it will be an interesting two years – once again, thank you for trusting me.

James Macnamara

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CHURCH SERVICES

PARISH WORSHIP IN JUNE 2014

NORTH ASTON

STEEPLE ASTON

TACKLEY

Sunday June 1st - Seventh Sunday of Easter

8:00 am
Holy Communion
Rev Marcus Green

11:00 am
Holy Communion
D-Day 70th Anniversary
Rev Marcus Green
Followed by The Big Lunch

9:30 am
Holy Communion
Rev Marcus Green

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

Sunday June 8th - Pentecost

9:30 am
Family Service
Rev Marcus Green

11:00 am
Holy Communion
Rev Marcus Green

9:30 am
Holy Communion
Rev Mervyn Puleston

6:00 pm
Evensong
Fr Robin Gibbons

Sunday June 15th - Trinity Sunday

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

Sunday June 22nd - Second Sunday after Pentecost

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
Holy Communion
Rev Marcus Green and
Fr Robin Gibbons

Sunday June 29th - Third Sunday after Pentecost

No Service

10:30 am
United Benefice Festival Service:
a celebration of beginnings,
rememberings & thanksgivings
Rev Marcus Green

No Service

Sunday July 6th - Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

8:00 am
Holy Communion
Rev Marcus Green

11:00 am
Holy Communion
Rev Marcus Green

9.30am Holy Communion
Rev Marcus Green

6pm Holy Communion
Rev Marcus Green and
Fr Robin Gibbons

Families are welcome to all Sunday services.