



# NORTH ASTON

October 2014

#288

NEWS

*F&PS Results, On the Land, Heyford Park ...*

# NORTH ASTON NEWS

OCTOBER 2014, No: 288

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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

### Heyford Park and the proposed Neighbourhood Plan

Nothing very much to report on this at present. A lengthy meeting was held at Heyford Park, where we looked at various analyses by Dorchester and their advisers of the revised proposals by CDC to meet the increase in the dwelling requirement in the Area to 22,840 homes over the period to 2031. This is basically to be achieved by filling up more undeveloped areas around Banbury and Bicester, allowing a further 1,600 homes in Heyford Park and 750 in Category 'A' rural villages. Those 'A' villages within our Plan area are combining to try, if they wish it, to pass on this requirement to Heyford Park. We have a meeting at CDC to discuss the Plan Application in mid-October, so there will probably be more clarity next month.

### Make a Will

Each November, local solicitors give up their time to make a proper professional Will for you in return for a modest donation to Charity (about £100). This is a very good deal, and if you haven't done your Will, I really recommend you do it now – a proper Will saves everyone so much trouble and expense. Just go to [www.willaid.org.uk](http://www.willaid.org.uk) to find a solicitor, make an appointment, and do it.

### Birds

In 'North Aston-A Millennium', page 176, there's a really valuable comparative survey of birds in the parish in the 1960's and then 2000 done by Ron Knight and Brian Hall. It can be seen that the variety of birdlife around us had certainly diminished, particularly but not confined to wetland species. I and others now realise that many birds that we used to see abundantly in our gardens have now all but disappeared – and these include the Mistle Thrush, the Song Thrush, the Starling, the House Sparrow, and more recently the Great Tit and even the Chaffinch. Some of these declines are national, but some seem much more local to us. It's depressing. Even with North Aston being an organic village, everything we do as humans seems to challenge the viability of our wildlife. Do we have any enthusiastic birdwatchers who can give us an up-to-date survey or commentary please? The good news is that we seem to be seeing quite a lot more of the beautiful Goldfinch around. You can take part in the amazing RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch in January 2015 just by going to [www.rspb.org.uk](http://www.rspb.org.uk).

### Harvesting

In spite of the challenging dryness, has there ever been a better year for harvesting – on the farms, in our gardens and veg patches, in the orchards and hedgerows? These incredible weeks of beautiful, warm and dry weather will sadly end, but now IS the time to give thanks and celebrate, and it will be nice to see everyone on next Sunday October 5th at either or both of our Harvest Festival at 9:30 in Church and Supper at 12:30 in the Orchard Barn – one date so that's easy to remember!

## Kildare BB

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

Telephone: 01869 340 200 ~ email: [chair@north-aston.co.uk](mailto:chair@north-aston.co.uk)



The lucky winners of this month's draw are:

First Prize (£10): Paul Brown #83

Second Prize (£5): Franca Potts #100

It's too late now to join the 100 Club this year - so you'll just have to watch others winning prizes! Be prepared! If you'd like to reserve a number for next April, please speak to Norman West, or call him on 340368.

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

# On the Land



September - October 2014

## North Aston Dairy

Each day our cows eat a phenomenal amount of grass, either fresh in the field or as silage through the winter. We do very little to our land to help it sustain its growth whilst the cows (and in turn we) steal its nutrients. But grass is nothing if not hardy and what little we do is plenty to ensure that it re-grows strongly time and time again.

The cows are given a new paddock of grass each day and are denied access to where they have previously grazed in order that each plant is able to establish plenty of leaf and roots before being eaten (or mown) again. This means that the plant is able to store lots of the sun's energy in its roots and so has ample stores when a cow is able, once again, to have its wicked way with it.

Our other intervention is to make and spread compost across the fields. The compost forms over time from the manure and straw of the cattle's winter bedding. We accelerate it's formation by building it into piles and turning it. This ensures that the inherent bacteria and fungi get oxygen which helps with the decomposition and that there is enough of a mass for a high temperature to persist. We have done this through the year and now are beginning to spread the compost. This will increase the life in the soil and the soil quality so that nutrients are more accessible and the land is more able to cope with drought and waterlogging.

*Josh*

## North Aston Farm

What a beautiful September we had. The sun shone, the lambs and fat cattle put on enough weight that we actually managed to sell some, and the solar panels on the grain store roof have been kept very busy.

Mustn't grumble –BUT –( yes nothing is ever perfect on a farm) we spent a lot of time about two weeks ago getting our grass seed planted on the other side of the main road – cultivating, ring rolling, chain harrowing, ring rolling, flat rolling, sowing, ring rolling, flat rolling (phew!) and all finished just before it was forecast to rain. Perfect! – but then the rain never came - and still hasn't - and unsurprisingly no sign of any grass germination to date. The problem is that the clover element of the grass mix needs to be established before the winter frosts in order to give it a good chance of survival and that is now looking less and less likely as time goes by.

I was woken by the phone last Saturday at 7.25am (just when

I thought I might have a sneaky lie-in). The voice down the line said "I've just looked out of my window and seen a flock of sheep on the village green – thought you ought to know." – By the time I had found my Wellies and car keys (always a bit of a trial in the morning) and arrived in the village Robert had already managed to get them safely back to Park Farm and into a secure field. It transpired that the 200 ewes had broken through a gate, made their way through a private garden onto the village road and mercifully headed to North Aston rather than Duns Tew.

Hmm – I had better prioritise fencing repairs on the list of things to do.

*James*

## Nicholsons

October already and it is still lovely and warm – a real Indian Summer. We have all enjoyed it but it is very dry and hence we are having quite an early Autumn I think. Last time it rained was August Bank Holiday, so if things are struggling in the garden this is why. We have been watering away heavily here at the nursery and the reservoir is going down, although we have enough to take us through. We have been watering on sites as well as some of the larger trees need some help in the first year or two.

Other than this we have been very busy and are looking forward to this Autumn-Winter Season which is the main season for us to sell plants. So the Plant Centre is filling up with lots of lovely plants, and the teams are all busy planting them on sites. Do feel free to come and have a look round at any time.

*Niel*

## North Aston Organics

The recent dry weather has allowed us to harvest all our maincrop potatoes and get them into store in good order. This year we had some extra help, as 30 children from Dr Radcliffe's school joined in (thankfully not all at once). They were learning about where food comes from and seasonality. Many of the seedlings mentioned last month are ready for planting so we will now concentrate on clearing out the summer crops in the polytunnels and planting with winter crops. Other tasks include gathering the pumpkins and winter squashes and making sure any spare ground is sown to a winter 'green manure'. This is usually ryegrass, ryecorn and vetch. Once they are sown we will need some rain as we have been five weeks without significant rainfall.

*Mark*

# North Aston Harvest Supper

Lunchtime, Sunday 5th October  
Orchard Barn @ The Park, North Aston  
12:30 for 1:30 pm

#### Usual format:

Welcome Drink and Main Course provided  
Bring a Pudding to Share

Please bring all your own drinks, cutlery,  
crocery and glasses.

We are planning a little music, so please bring an  
instrument, your voice or some music.

#### All Welcome!

'Tickets' on the Door, but Reservations Essential  
Please book by leaving a message on 01869 347702  
or email to northastonharvestsupper@gmail.com

Price: £6 on the Door - Children under 12 Free  
Please let us know if you have any special dietary requirements.

#### Next Village Meeting

The date for the next Village Meeting has been set for November 20th at 7.30pm. Please advise of any topics for the agenda.

#### Last Month's 100 Club

Apologies from the Editor for not noticing that the value of prizes recorded for last month's draw were incorrect. The 1st prize was £10 (#122) and the second prize was £5 (#42).

## Steeple Aston Players

presents

# Cash on Delivery

by Michael Cooney

*A highly amusing farce about a  
benefits cheat!*

Thursday 6th, Friday 7th & Saturday 8th Nov.  
at Steeple Aston Village Hall at 7.30 pm

*For further information, or if you would like  
to help building and painting the set please  
contact Alan Wightman (01869 324875)*

## This Month's BIRTHDAYS

Tom Baimbridge  
Daniel Durnin  
Olivia Durnin  
Jimmy Rees



*Congratulations to*

**Marcus & Franca**

**on their Wedding Anniversary!**

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.

## Classifieds

#### Baby Sitter

Looking for a local, reliable, sixteen-year-old baby sitter in the village? Call Freya on 07806 477401 or (01869) 340625.

#### Greenhouse for Sale

8' x 6' Elite greenhouse in moderately good condition, bought second-hand about 15 years ago but still serviceable. Needs two replacement glass panels, and includes an aluminium staging table. Offers to Jan Liberadzki on 07970 028533. To view, come and visit at no. 17.



#### Deddington Farmers' Market

The traditional Farmers' Market in Deddington takes place every 4th Saturday of the month. This month's will be on **25th October**.

# North Aston Gardening Club

The chill of autumn is now in air and this year's growing season is drawing to a close. The consensus is that we've had an excellent growing year. This was clearly evident in the entries at this year's Flower & Produce Show: I hope you agree that the array of flowers, fruit and vegetables on display was a truly pleasing sight to behold!

Let's also not forget the wonderful baked goods, jars of homemade goodies alongside the artistic endeavours of the village which altogether made it yet another successful show.

I'm pleased to announce that Norman West won the *Rose Bowl Trophy* for most first prizes in growing classes, and Bev Rees won the Cup for having the most number of points across all classes.

The winner of the *Tuffrey Challenge Trophy* (this year for longest cucumber) was Stephen Malsher with his gargantuan effort. We had 277 entries from 35 individuals this year: not a bad effort for a village of our size.

We are very grateful to Lynn Humberstone from the Heyford WI who did a fantastic job as the judge for the cookery classes. She commented on the high standard of our entries which included jams and chutneys, cakes, home-baked loaves, biscuits and hedgerow-derived alcoholic brews!

The *Spud in a Tub* and *Ornamental Gourd* competition attracted many entries and both classes were won by Dee Oakley. The whole thing could not have happened without the efforts of NAGC members. A special mention needs to go to Chris and David Hazle who were beavering away furiously to tot up all the points from the public vote, ensuring that all results were ready on time (for the first time) and Bev and Wendy Rees for supplying the refreshments on the day.

Of course the essential ingredients of the day are YOU: all those who submitted entries or came along to vote and join in the occasion.

As we start to clear away this year's harvests, our attention inevitably turns to next year's growing. NAGC members are welcome to order seeds (including potatoes), sets and sundries via the club, benefiting from a 50% discount (subject to a club-wide minimum order) off catalogue prices from King's Seeds. There are a limited number of paper catalogues (they are also online) and order forms which I will be distributing to 'regulars' but please let me know if you would like one.

There are allotment plots available from January 2015 (please see advert in next month's *News*) and I would really encourage anyone who is thinking of growing their own veg, fruit or flowers to give it a go and join us up at the Lottie. Ask for more info!

The next (Christmas) NAGC meeting will be on Friday the 12th of December at 8pm generously hosted by Chris and David Hazle. I hope see you there.

Lynn Q



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## Antiques @ THE HOLT

**Saturday 8th & Sunday 9th November 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](http://www.antiques-at-the-holt.co.uk)**

# FLOWER & PRODUCE SHOW 2014



## Results

### Section A: Vegetables & Fruit

- 1 Oddest Shaped Vegetable**  
*Gold:* Tony Rees, *Silver:* Bill Graham
- 2 Four Carrots**  
*Gold:* Bill Graham, *Silver:* Stephen Rees, *Bronze:* Lynn Quek
- 3 Four Potatoes**  
*Gold:* Bill Graham, *Silver:* Norman West, *Bronze:* Tony Rees
- 4 Three Onions**  
*Gold:* Norman West, *Silver:* Tony Rees, *Bronze:* Lynn Quek
- 5 Six Shallots**  
*Gold:* Stephen Rees, *Silver:* Tony Rees, *Bronze:* Bill Graham
- 6 Three Beetroot**  
*Gold:* Norman West, *Silver:* Stephen Rees, *Bronze:* Bill Graham
- 7 Three Courgettes**  
*Gold:* Lynn Quek, *Silver:* Niel Nicholson
- 8 Longest Cucumber\***  
*Gold:* Steven Malsher, *Silver:* Stephen Rees, *Bronze:* Norman West
- 9 Four Runner Beans**  
*Gold:* Norman West, *Silver:* Tony Rees, *Bronze:* Deidre Oakley
- 10 Longest Runner Bean\***  
*Gold:* Norman West, *Silver:* Chris Hazle, *Bronze:* Tony Rees
- 11 Four French Beans**  
*Gold:* Tony Rees, *Silver:* Miranda Doggett, *Bronze:* Lynn Quek
- 12 Four Tomatoes**  
*Gold:* Norman West, *Silver:* Stephen Rees, *Bronze:* Jill Rawnsley
- 13 Six different vegetables in a shallow tray**  
*Gold:* Lynn Quek, *Silver:* Bill Graham, *Bronze:* Norman West
- 14 Mixed vegetables in a tray/trug or basket**  
*Gold:* Lynn Quek, *Silver:* Steven Malsher, *Bronze:* Norman West
- 15 Three of a Kind of Exotic Vegetable**  
*Gold:* Lynn Quek
- 16 Three Eating Apples**  
*Gold:* Lynn Quek, *Silver:* Deidre Oakley
- 17 Three Cooking Apples**  
*Gold:* Annabel Bevan, *Silver:* Tony Rees
- 18 Six Soft Fruits**  
*Gold:* Jean Graham, *Silver:* Niel Nicholson,  
*Bronze:* Chris Hazle / Annabel Bevan
- 19 Bowl of 5 Mixed Fruits**  
*Gold:* Eileen Gilmore
- 20 Spuds in a Tub**  
*Gold:* Deidre Oakley, *Silver:* Chris Hazle, *Bronze:* Tony Rees

### Section B: Plants & Flowers

- 21 Single Stem Rose**  
*Gold:* Niel Nicholson, *Silver:* Jill Rawnsley, *Bronze:* Eileen Gilmore
- 22 Single Spray of Roses**  
*Gold:* David Hannah, *Silver:* Lynn Quek,  
*Bronze:* Jill Rawnsley / Annabel Bevan
- 23 Six Sweet Peas**  
*Gold:* Chris Hazle, *Silver:* Lynn Quek, *Bronze:* Wendy Rees
- 24 Arrangement of 5 Blooms Picked from your Garden**  
*Gold:* Miranda Doggett, *Silver:* Annabel Bevan, *Bronze:* Wendy Rees
- 25 Flowering Plant in a Pot**  
*Gold:* Jill Rawnsley,
- 26 Geranium in Pot**  
*Gold:* Jean Graham, *Silver:* Chris Hazle,  
*Bronze:* Beverley Rees/ Eileen Gilmore
- 27 Flower arrangement in an Unusual Receptacle**  
*Gold:* Liz Nicholson, *Silver:* Chris Hazle, *Bronze:* Wendy Rees

### 28 Arrangement of Wild Plants or Flowers

*Gold:* Chris Hazle, *Silver:* Annabel Bevan, *Bronze:* Wendy Rees

### 29 Three Ornamental Gourds

*Gold:* Deidre Oakley, *Silver:* Lisa Holloway, *Bronze:* Vicky Taylor

### Section C: Cookery

- 30 Jar of Jam**  
*Gold:* Bev Rees, *Silver:* Bev Rees, *Bronze:* Niel Nicholson
- 31 Jar of Chutney**  
*Gold:* Bev Rees, *Silver:* Wendy Rees, *Bronze:* Jean Graham
- 32 Victoria Sponge**  
*Gold:* Chris Hazle, *Silver:* Wendy Rees, *Bronze:* Vicky Taylor
- 33 Fruit Cake**  
*Gold:* Bev Rees, *Silver:* Lisa Holloway, *Bronze:* David Hazle
- 34 Three Scones Plain/Fruit**  
*Gold:* Jean Graham, *Silver:* Bev Rees, *Bronze:* Niel Nicholson
- 35 Savoury Flan or Quiche**  
*Gold:* Wendy Rees, *Silver:* Bev Rees
- 36 Men's Only Cake**  
*Gold:* Matthew Rees, *Silver:* Tony Rees, *Bronze:* Niel Nicholson
- 37 Three Muffins**  
*Gold:* Bev Rees, *Silver:* Matthew Rees, *Bronze:* Rosi Nicholson
- 38 A Loaf**  
*Gold:* Bev Rees, *Silver:* Stephen Rees, *Bronze:* Niel Nicholson
- 39 An Alcoholic Beverage from the Hedgerow**  
*Gold:* Unrecorded, *Silver:* Bev Rees, *Bronze:* Unrecorded

### Section D: Photography, Arts & Crafts

- 40 Something made from Wood**  
*Gold:* David Hazle, *Silver:* Stephen Rees, *Bronze:* Bill Graham
- 41 Picture in Any Medium**  
*Gold:* Clara Nicholson, *Silver:* Wendy Rees, *Bronze:* Freya Doggett
- 42 A Limerick**  
*Gold:* James Taylor, *Silver:* James Taylor, *Bronze:* Eileen Gilmore
- 43 Photograph on the Subject of "Seasons"**  
*Gold:* Chris Hazle, *Silver:* James Taylor, *Bronze:* David Hazle
- 44 Photograph on the Subject of "Pink"**  
*Gold:* Wendy Rees, *Silver:* David Hazle, *Bronze:* David Hazle
- 45 Photograph on the Subject of "Circles"**  
*Gold:* Stephen Rees, *Silver:* Matthew Rees, *Bronze:* Wendy Rees

### Section E: For Children

- 46 Photograph on the Subject of "My World" (Ages 13-19)**  
*Gold:* Rosi Nicholson
- 47 Photograph on the Subject of "My World" (Ages under 13)**  
*No entries*
- 48 Four Cupcakes**  
*Gold:* Thomas Cunningham, *Silver:* Clara Nicholson
- 49 Four Biscuits**  
*Gold:* Kyle Hite, *Silver:* Clara Nicholson
- 50 A Creature Made from Vegetables**  
*Gold:* Kyle Hite, *Silver:* Clara Nicholson, *Bronze:* Thomas Cunningham
- 51 A Miniature Garden on a Plate**  
*Gold:* Kyle Hite, *Silver:* Clara Nicholson
- 52 A Painted Picture of a Monster (under 8s only)**  
*Gold:* Clara Nicholson, *Silver:* Kyle Hite

### Best in Show

Based upon classes with at least three entries or more:

*Rose Bowl Trophy for the Most First 'Growing' Prizes:* Norman West  
*Cup for the Most Points Overall:* Beverley Rees  
*Tuffrey Challenge Trophy (for longest cucumber):* Steven Malsher



# The Church MATTERS



I have completed my first year as Rector here now, and as month follows month I continue to thank God for this beautiful place we call home and I continue to meet new people and to find out things that I probably should have known the moment I arrived and still (somehow) am just discovering...

September was a lovely month. The autumn has begun with warmth and sunshine, and the odd shower, and there has been warmth and sunshine in church life too.

The Family Service is always a great occasion - it is lovely to see several village families joining us, and to have our children taking part. In September 'Open the Book' team, which regularly visits the school, acted out (in costume!) a Bible Story, and we look forward to more smiles and songs and stories and worship with all ages in the months ahead. For the diary, in October Family Service will be on Sunday 12th, and in November it will be a week later than usual on Sunday 16th because of Remembrance.

Preparations are looking great for our Harvest weekend, which will have a couple of tweaks this year: the church service is at 9.30am on October 5th, and it's always good to come together to be thankful. Simply being grateful often gets overlooked. We complain, we want more, we strive for better - and why not - but we should also take time to be thankful. Harvest is a moment in the year when as a community we can gather and express this. Please join us. The usual supper has become a lunch on the same day, and I hope we'll all be able to come together and enjoy being a village family in church and at table.

Looking ahead, and across the Benefice, as you cast your eye at the Church Service Rota, you'll notice that we've hit a new regular pattern of worship. Pretty much every week North Aston church is now at 9.30am, Steeple at 11am, and Tackley at 5.30pm. I've been surprised and pleased to find folk from across the Benefice taking advantage of this steady schedule to visit another of our churches if their Sunday schedule means they can't be in their own village for some reason - or if they simply like the look of what one of our other churches is doing that weekend! Why not look around at what our congregations are up to yourself - everyone is welcome everywhere.

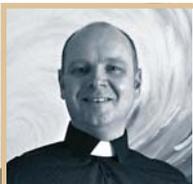
One reason for doing so might be the All Souls Service on the first Sunday evening in November over in Tackley: through the year we've said goodbye to a few dear friends from within village life, and to some close relatives as well. The All Souls Service is a lovely, gentle opportunity to remember those we love who have gone before us, to again give thanks to God for life and love shared, and to light a candle in remembrance. November 2nd, 5.30pm, Tackley Church.



Closer to home we meet every Thursday for a gentle service of morning prayer at 10am, and I'm never disappointed by the lovely group that joins me week in, week out. Please feel free to come along and pray with us.

We're all different as people, and all find different things help us. Church life has a rhythm, it has its loud moments and its soft, its sunshine and its rain, its laughter and its stillness: I hope we might have something for you as you seek to find space for your spiritual life this autumn.

*Revd Marcus Green*



Any comments about the above are very welcome. More news is always available on our website: [www.sntchurch.com](http://www.sntchurch.com)  
Please email our Rector Marcus Green: [steeplerector@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:steeplerector@hotmail.co.uk) or tel: 340 903  
If you wish you can also email Kildare: [k.bourkeborrowes@btinternet.com](mailto:k.bourkeborrowes@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.

*Tightness of space meant it was not possible to include these additional 'Minutes' to the last North Aston Parish Meeting in the September News. These notes cover the discussion relating to proposed developments at Heyford Park.*

## The proposed Mid-Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan

### Situation at 7th August 2014

1. The parishes that are taking part in these discussions, and which are very likely all to join in the plan, are: North Aston, Steeple Aston, Souldern, Duns Tew, Somerton, Kirtlington, Fritwell, Middleton Stoney, Lower Heyford, Upper Heyford (inc Heyford Park), Ardley-with-Fewcott and (probably) Middle Aston.

2. Heyford Park (HP) is the name for the whole of RAF Upper Heyford; it is not yet a separate Parish but will become one. Dorchester Group (DG) ('Dorchester Living') own it, but have sold a slice to Bovis Homes; Bovis will build their homes, sell them and move on, but DG, dealing with a much larger and more complex site, have a much more nuanced and long term approach (20+ years). Curtin & Co are a PR Company appointed by DG, who have experience in Neighbourhood Plans; they make everyone feel and look good. Pegasus is a planning and development consultancy appointed by DG.

3. The current situation is that HP has permission to deliver 1075 dwellings, including the existing stock of about 350 homes. 309 will be 'affordable properties' and another 93 will be Shared Ownership.

4. In January 2014 DG invited members of the 12 local Parish Councils ('Parish Meetings' in our and Middle Aston's case) to individual meetings; James and I went to ours. In summary, they explained

a. CDC have fallen very short on the number of new homes they are required to have built, and have nothing like the 5 year housing land supply that they should have.

b. Consequently, many local 'windfall' housing developments have been approved, even on appeal; these occur when a builder buys greenfield land in or near a village speculatively, applies for housing development permission and gets it (or even gets permission before purchase).

c. Additional to this pressure, Oxford's Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) shows that there is insufficient room within the city to meet its requirement, and it's agreed that the neighbouring District Councils will have to absorb this by building even more homes – many thousands of them.

d. All of this poses a real threat to villages, and also to DG.

e. DG are offering a sort of village living experience in village type houses. Every time a house is built in an actual village in the area, it competes with them; they don't like that.

f. The proposed solution is that the surrounding parishes combine to form a Neighbourhood Plan, which when adopted by CDC has a high status in the planning decision hierarchy within the Local Plan – the desires and objectives of the parishes should be adhered to.

g. HP would pay all the costs of developing the Plan, which would be £100,000+.

5. The Plan has to be proposed by a lead Parish, and this will be Ardley. There is likely to be a Steering Committee to develop the Plan, involving only 1 person from each Parish. 5 working groups have been proposed, and these would consider: Transport Mitigation, Social Infrastructure, Schooling, Commercial space, Affordable Housing.

6. The basis of the proposed Plan is that all unwanted greenfield/speculative development proposals in the villages concerned should be rejected, and development would be passed onto DG. In this way villages would be saved unwanted house sprawl, and DG would get permission to build more homes. In return for this, DG and the parishes would work together for solutions in the main areas of concern in a kind of quid pro quo. I can imagine that we are concerned in all areas, but most immediately proposals about how to lessen the impact of another 4,000 cars on our small roads, with many passing through the centre of the village.

7. The Plan, when developed, would be subject of a Referendum in May 2015; for CDC to accept it 50% of all registered voters in the whole of the Plan area would have to vote in favour.

8. Since January we have had a number of group meetings both with DG and their advisors, and as Parishes without DG. From these have emerged some important points:

a. It was initially stated that North Aston Parish Meeting, not being a statutory body, would be excluded from the process, but this has since been resolved, and we can be.

b. In view of HP being a geographically coherent area separate from U Heyford (although currently within that Parish), DG insist that they as owners of the whole site and HP Residents Association as being the forerunner of the eventual Parish Council there (probably 2016) both participate in the Plan (not being parishes it had been assumed that they would be excluded).

c. DG will not accept any document that sets a cap on the 'development potential' of HP.

d. It's accepted that the Plan, if successfully adopted, will only help to protect the associated Parishes from unwanted development sites, but won't guarantee it.

e. DG see the Plan as being about 'collective aspiration' rather than holding them to ransom on one or more issues. If, during the process, DG felt that they couldn't continue to be part of it (for example if the Plan sought to impose limited or zero development at HP), they would withdraw, pay the fees up to that point and retain IP rights in the Plan. The Parishes would then need to start again at their own cost.

f. DG are upset that the Parishes have been meeting without their involvement; this they feel shows a lack of transparency, and if it re-occurs they will withdraw from the process.

g. A number of members of the other Parish Councils are very conversant with local government and planning law and have been, and will be, very helpful in this process. James Macnamara, our CDC Councillor and a member of the Planning Committee there, is Chair of Lower Heyford/Caulcott Parish Council, and is actively involved.

9. A Terms of Reference document was presented to us in early July with an invitation to sign it if we were interested in participating. I did so on behalf of NAPM, on condition that the Meeting approved that on August 7th. In effect this is now null and void, because many points have been renegotiated by other Parishes and it will be re-drawn. Additionally the document states that Parishes are free to remove themselves from the process. It is said that all the Parishes apart from U Heyford have also either signed, or have expressed their intention of doing so. U Heyford have their own issues; the whole development is currently within their Parish, and they are nearest to and will be most affected by continuous development there. I don't know what their current position is.

10. CDC's Local Plan. The Inspector suspended examination of this new Plan in June as he felt that there was insufficient provision for new houses in it. The local plan proposes the building of 16,750 homes by 2031, but the SHMA, published in March, said there was a housing need of 22,800 homes over this period. The document allocates 5,954 new homes in Banbury, 6,894 in Bicester and 3,902 spread across the rest of the district. The Council have said that they can accommodate most of the additional housing in Banbury and Bicester; several Parishes have written to CDC to urge them allocate any additional requirement to HP and not to rural villages. Meantime, while the Plan is suspended, all villages are at risk from speculators applying for and getting permission to build on greenfield sites in or near them – none more so than Upper Heyford.

11. How many homes does DG want to build there? They won't say, but the number will be at least 2,000 and very probably 3,000+. Will they ANYWAY get planning permission for these in due course? Most people involved think so.

So the decision today is whether we want to be in or out of this process to work with DG and the other Parishes to develop and be a part of the Mid-Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan (and somehow, even being non-statutory as we are, we will get a seat at the table).

The other Parishes have very similar concerns to ours over HP development and with their help we will get the best deal available. Then it will eventually be a matter of convincing our village that they should vote for it, and that conviction will have to emerge from a final, or Special, Parish Meeting at the time.

# Councillor Calling



## No rest ...

August is usually a quiet month in council terms, with holidays for councillors and officers precluding new initiatives. Not so August 2014! Due to the tight timetable set by the Inspector to enable our Local Plan to be approved – with 6,000 more houses and all the necessary infrastructure added in – on schedule next April, the revised Plan was issued for consultation on 22nd, with comments required by 29th September so the full Council can approve a final version on 20th October and the Inquiry resume shortly thereafter.

So we have very little time to get our heads round the development of our District over the next generation: not a good way to go about things, if only the alternative – having no Plan so developers can continue to run riot with their bulldozers – were not even worse. What makes the task more difficult is that, rather than having a new Plan to read, we have three books of detailed modifications, so, to work out what is going on you need:

- The original Submission Local Plan: 359 pages
- The Schedule of Proposed Main Modifications: 162 pages plus maps
- Appendix 8 (Infrastructure) to that Schedule: 50ish unnumbered A3 pages
- The Schedule of Proposed Minor Modifications: 43 pages

While the big headlines are well trailed, my fear is, as always, that something has been slipped through in the small print. A little tweak to a definition that, for the next two decades, may permit the unacceptable: if we don't spot it now, it could become set in stone. Already, I've found a typo that moved one parish from the lowest ranking for development to the highest – by a simple error! I've asked both for councillors to be briefed by officers and for a reprinted Plan incorporating the amendments (which will, of course, cost a bit) because, otherwise, I fear what I can't see. All other pairs of eyes with the time should go to the Cherwell website and see what you can spot: let me know and I can try to make corrections.

As for the headlines, 200 previously discounted sites have been reconsidered, 300 new sites proposed by developers have been looked at and every site in the old Plan or already granted permission has been reviewed to squeeze more on to it. The result proposes:

- Banbury: *Canalside, Bankside, Hanwell Fields* and *Bolton Road* will take more, with new sites at *Salt Way, Drayton Lodge* and *Higham Way* taking nearly 2,000 new sites.
- Bicester: 300 new sites will be at *Gavray Drive* (the cheese wedge south of the railway), with all the existing developments taking more, including *Graven Hill*.
- Kidlington gets a much needed 250 – tightly constrained by the Green Belt, squeezing these in meets a real need.
- Upper Heyford, of course, is what most closely affects us.

Here, the Plan proposes an extra 1,600 homes around Camp Road and south of the runway in addition to the 1,135 which already have permission.

- Villages share the burden with an extra 500 in developments of more than 10 at a time in the “larger, more sustainable villages”. In this ward, that points the finger at Fritwell and Steeple Aston, with Lower Heyford and Middle Aston as “satellite villages” (we need to examine any revised definition of “satellite” extremely carefully).

The *Mid Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan* now has a clear target in controlling where rural development in our area, both under the Plan and preventing developers winning unplanned sites on appeal, should be channelled. It's been submitted to Cherwell for consultation about the boundary. Now other, single-parish plans are going through the process (Hook Norton, Bloxham, Deddington), this, much more ambitious and therefore difficult, one at least has some examples to follow. Getting so many different interests to agree is hard enough without having to pioneer the process!

But there's always room for surprises: Blenheim Estates have just launched a proposal to develop 1,500 homes at Woodstock. Woodstock's in West Oxon and nothing to do with us? Apparently, 1,100 of them would cross the border into Cherwell, so this could ease our figures materially – sometimes, you can feel sympathy for Planners....

**James Macnamara**

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# CHURCH SERVICES

## PARISH WORSHIP IN OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2014

### NORTH ASTON

### STEEPLE ASTON

### TACKLEY

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#### Sunday October 5th - Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost - Harvest Festival

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9:30 am  
Harvest Festival  
**Rev Marcus Green**

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

5:30 pm  
Harvest Festival  
**Rev Marcus Green and  
Fr Robin Gibbons**

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#### Sunday October 12th - Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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9:30 am  
Family Service  
**Rev Marcus Green**

11:00 am  
Family Service  
**Rev Marcus Green**

5:30 pm  
Holy Communion  
**Rev Marcus Green and  
Fr Robin Gibbons**

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#### Sunday October 19th - Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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9:30 am  
Holy Communion  
**Rev Marcus Green**

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

5:30 pm  
Informal Service  
**Rev Marcus Green and  
Fr Robin Gibbons**

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#### Sunday October 26th - Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

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9:30 am  
Village Praise  
**Kildare Bourke-Borrowes**

11:00 am  
Holy Communion  
Book of Common Prayer  
**Canon David MacInnes**

5:30 pm  
Evensong  
**Fr Robin Gibbons**

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#### Sunday November 2nd - Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

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9:30 am  
Holy Communion  
Book of Common Prayer  
**Rev Marcus Green**

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

5:30 pm  
All Souls Service  
**Rev Marcus Green and  
Fr Robin Gibbons**

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**Morning Prayer**  
10:00 am Every Thursday

Families are welcome to all Sunday services.