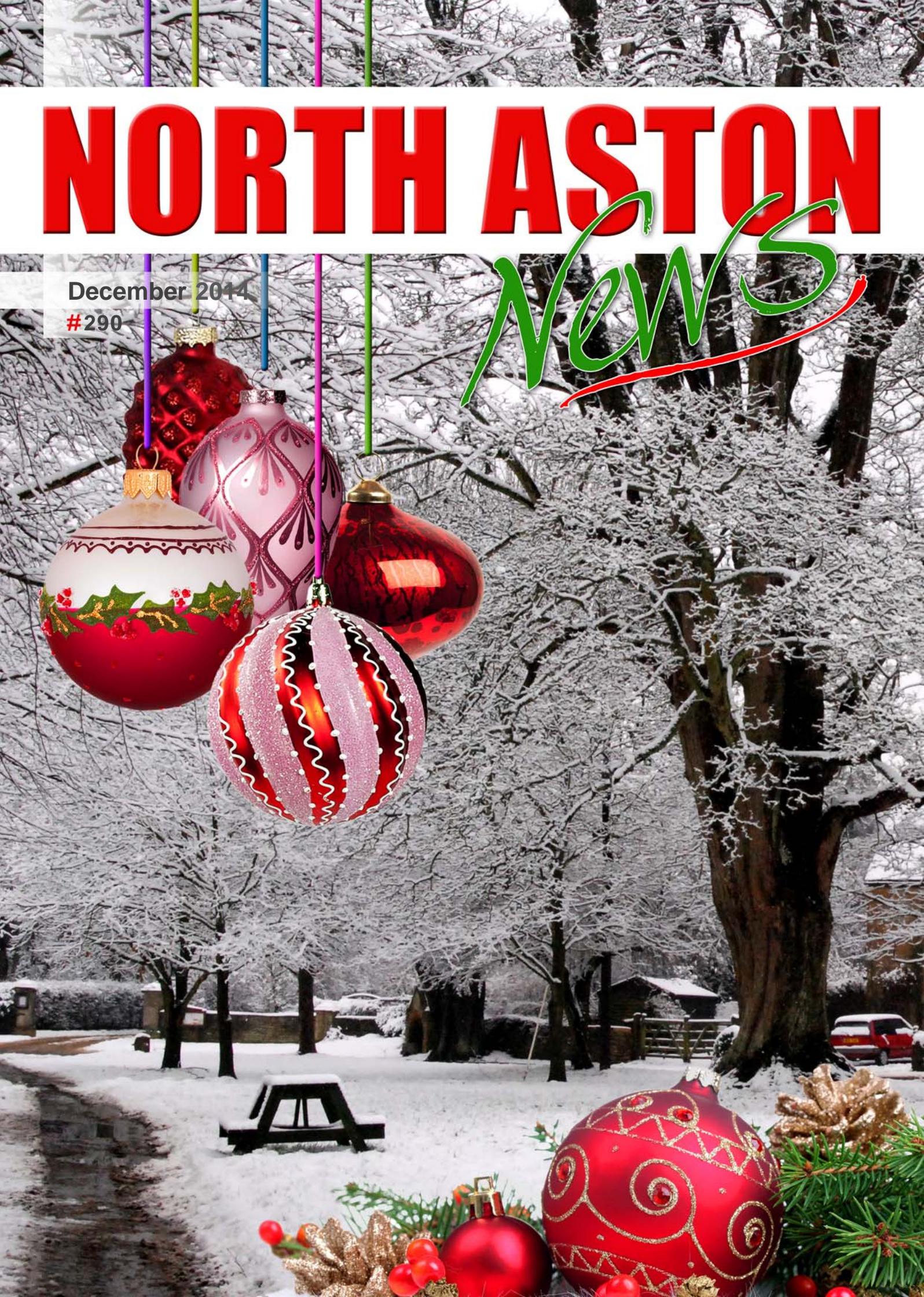


# NORTH ASTON

# News

December 2014

#290



# NORTH ASTON NEWS

DECEMBER 2014, No: 290

## Useful Contacts

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### North Aston Gardening Club

Lynn Quek, Acting Chairperson

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### North Aston Pet Alert

Please notify of any Firework Parties

Deirdre Oakley: Tel (01869) 340646

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### Hillcrest Care - Park Farm House

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### North Aston 100 Club

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### Old Bakery Bookings

Mary Healy. Tel (01869) 347702

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### Village Marquee Bookings

Marcus Potts. Tel (01869) 347365

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### CDC Local Councillor

James Macnamara, Lower Heyford

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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

## Christmas

We have our usual five village Christmas events coming up – the Carol Service, The North Aston Carol Singers, the Crib Service, Carols on the Green and Christmas morning Communion (see further in the News for more details of all these). This is our time to be happy and rejoice together as a community, so hope to see you at some or all of these. It will be very nice if you can kindly bring some mince pies/sausage rolls to the Green on Christmas Eve – we do have many hungry mouths to feed.

## Chris Tuffrey

We especially remember Chris who died just over a year ago, and who contributed so much to our village. His name will hopefully be on the Bench before the end of the month.

## Heating Oil

Chris was our convenor for the ORCC Bulk Oil Buying scheme, and this has lapsed. But you can still take advantage of this directly by calling 01603 881 888 or emailing [orcobuying@af-affinity.co.uk](mailto:orcobuying@af-affinity.co.uk). Another very good source of lower cost heating oil is Boiler Juice – [www.boilerjuice.com](http://www.boilerjuice.com).

## Neighbourhood Plan

CDC is now helping to guide the formation of this, and another meeting will be held in Bodicote in January to see how the results of CDC's Local Plan Inspection might impact our Plan. They will also need to respond to some objections that have been raised.

## The Bakery Meeting Room

If you need to book the room or use its contents (chairs, crockery, cutlery, etc) for a bona fide event, you can either go there and book onto the new calendar at the entrance, or call or email Mary (see her details on the left of this page). She's not in charge of it, but does it as a kind service for the village. The room and everything you use must be left tidy and clean afterwards.

## Bees

Discussion about the possibility of a Village Orchard brought to mind how much we should rejoice in our organic farming and vegetable growing, how lovely North Aston Honey is, and the huge efforts being made by the Soil Association, the Pesticide Action Network and others to get global bans on all those extremely toxic neonicotinoids. They MUST go. If you have any garden product which contains acetamiprid, imidacloprid, thiacloprid or thiamethoxam, PLEASE get rid of it. These chemicals are awful.

## Our Parish Meeting AGM

Thursday January 8th at 7:30 pm in the Bakery. Nominations for the posts of Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer should be received by our Secretary James (see left) by December 24th please.

**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)

## Village Meeting & AGM

### January 8th 2015, The Old Bakery from 7:30 pm

The Village Meeting and Annual General Meeting will take place on January 8th. If you have any topics for the Agenda, please submit these as soon as possible to Kildare (contact details as above).

All three Officers to the Meeting; Chair, Treasurer and Secretary, will be up for election. If you would like to be considered for any of these posts, or would like to nominate someone else (with their approval!) please contact James Taylor ([secretary@north-aston.co.uk](mailto:secretary@north-aston.co.uk)) before Christmas Eve.

The front cover image this month is based upon a wintery photograph submitted to the News by Jane McArdle. Thanks Jane ...

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## North Aston Farms

Winter is almost on us and yet the grass amazingly seems still to be growing. At the moment there looks to be plenty of grass to keep our breeding ewes over this winter but as I keep telling the children –who are crying out for snow- one never knows what is round the corner with our fickle weather. The rams have gone in with the ewes today (24th Nov) an annual date which is easy for me to remember as it happens to be my birthday. They will be in for only five weeks which should lead to a relatively compact lambing come mid-April.

Most of our cattle are now in – but because we still have forty fatteners which should have gone by now and which are taking up some of our limited indoor space, we are having to out-winter our three bulls and a group of yearlings up at Park Farm where the ground is free-draining enough to take them.

We have just had our annual TB test, having been clear for a year. Unfortunately we had one reactor, so we have had movement restrictions placed upon us again. So begins another round of 60 day whole-herd testing until we go clear. The process of testing up to 300 head takes the best part of four days of our time, so a major headache!

You will no doubt have noticed the demise of the stone barns opposite Park Farm (apologies for the current bombsite). Unfortunately there were large cracks in the walls which, having increased significantly over the last year, gave me no choice but to push in the remaining walls before they toppled onto something or someone. We will take away most of the stone in the hope that it can be put to use elsewhere. I intend to leave the perimeter walls so we can still use the yard as an animal handling area but it is sad to see the end of the barns which always looked rather romantic in their roofless and ivy clad dilapidation ... especially if you were an Enid Blyton fan like me!

*James*

## North Aston Organics

This newsletter obviously has direct connections with the weather gods. At the beginning of September I wished for warm sunshine, which we had in abundance to ripen the squashes and sweetcorn and then in October I hoped for rain to germinate the winter cover green manures and hey presto - it arrived. Meanwhile out in the fields the 'to do' list is gradually reducing. Last month we planted the garlic. We have found some great varieties which are grown on the Isle of Wight and seem well adapted to the UK climate (whatever that is). We also gathered in the last of the pumpkins. We only grow the smaller culinary varieties which are great for making pies etc. In any case, the big lantern types wouldn't fit in the veggie boxes.

Other jobs include moving the irrigation pipes off the plots before they become lost in the chickweed and only rediscovered in the Spring by the topper chopping them up into 4 inch lengths instead of their more useful 250 feet. Also we will be taking the white crop covers off the carrots where they have been on root fly protection duties and onto the



brassicacs in anticipation off the arrival of our local Wood Pigeon population..

The polytunnels are now all planted up with their winter crops and our focus is now on cleaning. The plastic is starting to get quite grubby with algae and cleaning is a great job to do in the rain as you get a free rinse.

On the horizon the Christmas veggie boxes loom large as we give our customers a double box and allow them to put in special orders to top up.

All this requires meticulous planning as we want to have just the right amount harvested and not a single sprout left in the packhouse come 26th December!

*Mark*

## Nicholsons

Autumn (or is it almost Winter?) is in the air with some stunning morning sunrises and gorgeous evening light on the oranges and reds of the tree leaves – one of the best Autumn colour shows for a few years. But with the recent frosts the leaves will drop quickly now. For us this signals the changes of the season.

We can lift and move trees when the leaves are off, so we now start the busiest season of the year which will take us through to Easter. Most plants, but especially trees, are moved over the winter months when the plants are dormant and therefore cause least stress to the plants, so although the weather can be cold and wet we need to push on with all our teams, sometimes working in some difficult conditions, while trying to maintain good humour and positivity which they all do with incredible ease. So on these cold, dark, wet and miserable mornings think of them out on some of the most windswept, cold and bleak sites that the Cotswolds can have. But there is nothing better than having done a hard day's work, getting home and soaking in a hot bath relishing that brief moment of pure luxury knowing that you have earned it.

**Christmas Trees** – we will have our usual fantastic "Named" Christmas Trees this year which should be available by the time you get the *NA News*, so do come and choose one. For those with kids we will be having a small Santa's grotto on Saturday 6th, so come along and join in the fun. The Plant Centre building is also complete so do come and have a look.

From all at Nicholsons can we wish all NA readers a very Happy Christmas and Best Wishes for 2015.

*Niel*

# Here We Come A-Wassailing

Once again The North Aston Carol Singers will attempt to sing to every house in the village (including all outposts).

As they did last year, the Singers will be in action over the course of two days. They will set out on Sunday 21st December to visit all the outlying properties, and those houses on the eastern and northern side of the village, and then again on Monday 22nd December to call on all other properties in North Aston - about 70 houses in total. This will enable members of the choir, who also have the church Carol Service to attend on the same Sunday, to take part in the Wassail.



Please reward their efforts by donating generously to *Save The Children*, *The Gatehouse* (Homeless in Oxford) and *Homestart* (Helping young families in Banbury).

If you do not wish to open your door but would like to support the charities, please leave an envelope outside. Thank you.

**Sunday 21st & Monday 22nd December**

**Volunteers and Further Information**  
Please phone Mark Stay on 347806

## Announcements

### Happy Birthday!

Happy 60th Birthday Peter! Best Wishes from Audrey Newman.



## Classifieds

### Baby Sitter

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

### Deddington Farmers' Market

The traditional Farmers' Market in Deddington takes place every 4th Saturday of the month. This month's will be on **20th December**.

# This Month's Birthdays

Paul Brown  
Stefan Liberadski  
Joyce Morley  
Joshua Potts  
Tony Rees  
Sandra Reeves  
Caroline West  
Peter West



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

# NORTH ASTON CHOIR

The North Aston Choir will be gathering again this December!

The Choir will meet every Monday evening at the Old Vicarage  
Monday 1st, 8th & 15th  
6:30 - 8:00 pm

*No audition necessary!*

Any questions Tel: 340625



# The Church MATTERS



I wonder how many Advent Calendars are being opened around the village this month, with everyone counting down the days to Christmas?

I have two. One has characters in each window that slowly make up the picture of the first Christmas, with Mary & Joseph, donkeys, angels, shepherds, angels and all. The second simply has chocolate coins every day. I love them both!

Advent is a great season - it's all about waiting with excitement for what God will do. Waiting for Jesus, for sure, but remembering that God is still here and will work today in our lives, if we'll give him space in our hearts.

For us as a church, there's lots to do and lots to be excited by. Advent started with a terrific Advent Carol Service for the whole Benefice in Tackley on November 30th, and each Sunday through December we will take our journey through God's promises for what Christmas, the coming of Jesus, means.

Please do remember the Prayer Book communion on the first Sunday of the month is now at 9.30am. And don't forget the regular Family Service on December 14th, when the wonderful Christopher Compston will be speaking.

## And then Christmas...

The Carol Service is at 4pm on December 21st. Choir rehearsals are on December Mondays at 6.30; do join us if you'd like. It will be a super occasion filled with readings and carols and candles and joy. I always think of this evening as the "essential" Christmas service.

The Crib Service is on Christmas Eve at 3pm. I was delighted last year to see how many families and children came along to this - I hope we'll have even more this year! It's a fantastic time to gather around the crib and remember the story of Jesus together.

If you'd like Midnight Communion on Christmas Eve, take your friends and relations over to Steeple, and come and sing in Christmas Day with us. 11.30pm.

On Christmas Morning, for those who couldn't stay up till midnight the night before, or for those who just like to do everything, there's a fantastic Christmas Morning Family Communion at 9am. All packed with singing and joy, perfect before settling down to present opening, lunch, Strictly & Doctor Who.

There's no service in North the Sunday after Christmas - but do join either Steeple (Family Service, 11am) or Tackley (Prayer Book Communion, 5.30pm) where you will be made very welcome.

I can't promise penguins or fairies, but I can promise something even more amazing: God with us, the true heart of Christmas, a story of love that gets re-written on our hearts this time of year every year, with joy.

*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.

# Ted Short

## Our amazing keyboard veteran

After over 62 years Ted has very reluctantly had to cease playing our Church Organ, anyway 'for the time being' as we like to think. Nothing could give us greater pleasure than seeing him back on station, though only he will know when or if.

As many people know, the Shorts have been an integral part of North Aston life for well over a century, and their name is ranged alongside that of all those old families who have now mostly gone from us – families like the Mobbs, the Wyatts, the Sykes, the Dores, the Nutts, the Knights, the Needles, the Hichens and many more; some of course are still with us, like the Wests, the Whiteheads, the Busbys and the Taylors. Ted has played for them all. Ted's grandparents Emily and Edward Short came to the village just after 1900 and worked for the Taylors, while his parents Dorothy and Percy met when they too were working for Captain Taylor; that's how things were then. After the War Ted, then still a teenager, started taking piano lessons in Deddington, and then one day in early 1952 the vicar Mr Smith said to him out of the blue 'You'll play at our Lent Meetings Ted, won't you?' So began his very long playing career on our old organ.

Ted has always said 'I'm not an organist; I just play the organ'. This is part of the modesty which he brings to everything he does, and it hasn't been easy. The organ is probably over 200 years old, and has many disadvantages. In those days there was no electricity in the village, so someone had to stand at the back of it and ratchet open the bellows that drove the air; the pumping mechanism and handle are still there but happily in the later 1950s a large electric pump was installed to do the job. The organ suffers from damp, it goes out of tune, some of the keys stick, and mice sometimes think it's a cosy place for a home. It can also get very cold as there's no heating in there, and the player faces away from the priest and congregation and has to keep craning his neck round to see what's going on. Ted has been putting up with all that week in week out for all these years. In fact we worked out that he has probably played 15 to 20,000 individual hymns, chants, etc during all this time. He of course never expected



to be paid, like many church organists are – lucky them. He probably never really expected to be thanked either; organists, tucked away nearly out of sight, rarely are. They do their job on a Sunday and quietly go home. Ted however has always done more - lots of other things for the village and the Church. He's been the PCC Secretary for a long time, and still is. As with everything he does, he's completely punctilious and on top of the detail.

As we said at our recent thank you lunch, he's been serving our community for exactly the same period of time as HM The Queen has served our country, and with the same spirit of service and dedication. In both cases it's an amazing record and achievement, and it's very difficult to know how to say thank you. So please, the next time you see him (and he with his brother Tony always do the entrance 'gates' at the Fete), just shake his hand and tell him how much we all admire and thank him. It will be a long time until anyone gives so much for so long to our community. If ever.



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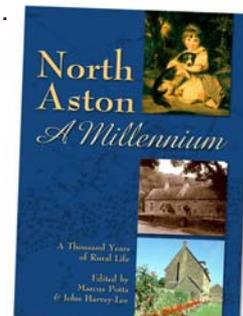
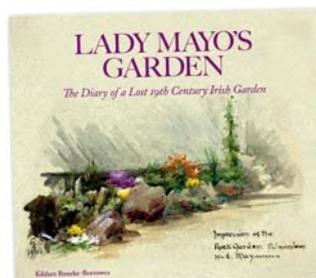
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## North Aston Gifts for Christmas

Lost for a gift idea this Christmas? How about a book with a North Aston connection ....



Email us here at the News for details ...

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# North Aston Village Meeting

Thursday 20th November 2014 ~ The Minutes

**Officers present:** Kildare Bourke-Borrowes, Beverly Rees, James Taylor

**Those present:** Clive and Trudy Busby, Sarah Bourke-Borrowes, Mark Stay, Marcus Potts, Jeremy Taylor (JDT) Mary Healy, Jane McArdle.

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## Village Meeting

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KBB welcomed those present and offered thanks to JDT for warming the room. KBB said that Niel Nicholson had wanted to be at the meeting but had been unable to attend. He had however left KBB with some correspondence to read out.

### 1. Welcome & Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted. Proposer: Marcus Potts. Seconder: Mark Stay.

### 2. Treasurers Report

BR stated that there had been no movements in the accounts from the last meeting and that the balance in the bank at 20.11.14 was £2040.65. BR told the meeting that at the last audit the auditors had pointed out that what had been declared as precept had included £24.67 which should have been declared as grant money. BR had no knowledge about what this grant was for and was going to investigate further. BR said that the village was to be fined £20 for this discrepancy. It was agreed that BR should chase up Cherwell District Council before any fine was paid to discover why the grant money seemed to have been included with the precept.

### 3. Broadband

KBB read an email from Niel Nicholson in which he described his and Peach Pubs successful high speed broadband connection which comes wirelessly from Banbury. He said that it might be possible for other houses to be connected to this system for a £200 connection plus broadband fee. He offered to arrange for those who had set them up to come to the next village meeting to talk about the possibilities.

KBB said he had been looking at various broadband sites to see if they would shed any light on the arrival of broadband to North Aston. BT broadband claimed it to be coming here soon! Better Broadband (Oxfordshire broadband site) claimed more funding was needed before North Aston would be connected – but went on to say that all sites in Oxfordshire should be connected by the end of next year. The Hall had apparently spoken to senior BT management who had assured them that North Aston would be linked by the end of 2015. In view of this it was decided there was no need to accept Niel's kind offer.

### 4. Heyford Park

KBB informed the meeting of the latest developments concerning the Mid Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan. All the parishes involved had attended a meeting with Cherwell District Council about ten days ago. Since June Cherwell DC have been busy reworking their Local Plan which the Inspector had thrown out for not incorporating the required additional housing numbers. On the whole they expressed interest in the idea of a Neighbourhood Plan. KBB let the village know that there were parties however who were not happy with the Plan. Gladman Developments had made it clear they were against the plan claiming it favoured mainly one developer. KBB also read a letter to the planning policy chairman at CDC from Upper Heyford and Somerton Parish councils who were not anti the concept of a neighbourhood plan in theory but wanted to voice concerns over this particular plan on the grounds of Dorchester's heavy involvement.

### 5. Sewerage

JT raised the issue of the possibility of mains sewerage for the village. He said that it was possible to requisition Thames Water for a sewer. Initially one would have to show a detailed plan of houses that wished to connect and pay a fee of about £1000. Thames Water would then do a feasibility study.

JT stated that some of the Estate properties had problematic septic tanks and it would definitely be of interest to the Taylors. KBB suggested that the Taylor family might need to bear the cost

of the investigation. It was decided that a house to house survey would be the first step. In principal no one was against the idea. In conjunction with this topic KBB read another note from Niel Nicholson stating that regarding mains sewerage they were not fussed either way – but would be interested in the possibility of a district heating system if the roads were to be dug up.

### 6. Any Other Business

The items listed under A.O.B for the Village meeting agenda were left for the Village Fund Meeting.

### 7. Date for the Next Meeting

A date for the next Meeting (AGM and election of officers) was set for 8th Jan 2015 at 7.30 pm. KBB stated he would be happy to stand as Chair for another year and BR said she would be prepared to continue as treasurer. JT remained silent over the prospect of continuing as Secretary. Nominations were invited for all three positions by 24th Dec 2014.

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## Village Fund

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### 1. Minutes

The minutes from the last meeting were approved – proposed Marcus Potts seconded Mark Stay.

### 2. Treasurers Report

BR showed the current balance to be £8023.84. There had been some late fete expenses reducing the £2961.15 fete income to £2390.12 to be split between village and church. £321 income for marquee hire had included a donation from the Nicholsons. It was suggested that a new column for "donations" be included under income. Adjustments to come to the balance included a cheque for mole catcher, the lettering of the fountain and the late fete expenses.

### 3. ORCC Oil Buying Scheme

A discussion was had over the future of the ORCC oil buying scheme which Chris Tuffrey used to organise. KBB wanted to know whether we should get another convener. A discussion was had as to the merits of a website called "Boiler Juice" which negotiates with oil companies to get best deals. JM said she had used ORCC but wondered whether the £20 joining fee negated any saving. BR said she knew of villages which had an arrangement with local oil companies regarding special buying weekends. KBB said he thought it had all got a bit complicated. It was decided to put something in the newsletter regarding ORCC and Boiler Juice.

### 4. Community Orchard

JT raised again the idea of a community orchard. He had no specific details about how it might be run but said he would be keen to lease some land – possibly next to the allotments - to enable such a project to happen. A while back he had informally spoken to Stephen Randall who manages the orchard at Manor Farm to see if he might be interested in the idea of leading the project. Mark Stay said he would ask Stephen again to see if he was still up for it. It was suggested that a meeting in January for anyone interested might be the way forward.

### 5. Ted Short

KBB told the meeting that Ted Short had had to give up playing the organ in North Aston, which he has done for over 60 years. The PCC had given him a lovely lunch and KBB wondered whether the village wanted to mark this occasion. It was felt more appropriate that the church should take the lead on this.

### 6. Christmas Carols on the Green

KBB reported that Niel Nicholson was very happy to coordinate the event again this year so long as CB could light the fire. It was agreed that, as last year, a fence would need to be put up which

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if broached would be entirely at people's own risk (to be announced at the event). KBB would inform police and fire brigade in advance. It was agreed that 24 bottles of wine should come from village fund in order to supply mulled wine for the event.

#### 7. Cost of Harvest Supper

A discussion was held over the cost of the Harvest Supper and whether it was prohibitive for some older members of the village. Mary Healy said that £6 per head was about right to cover the cost of the ingredients. (It was noted that neither North Aston Dairy nor North Aston Organics had asked for any money for ingredients provided.)

It was thought that those villagers who didn't attend were not dissuaded by the price. It was agreed that any surplus made on the supper should be returned to the village fund. It was decided that next year it would be discussed as to whether the village fund should contribute to ingredients for the harvest supper.

MS asked whether people thought the change to a lunch time event had been successful. It was thought it had been and was fitting that it followed the harvest festival church service. JT also pointed out that the younger children had been able to play outside in the light! MS asked why attendance at the harvest supper seemed to be in decline. Various opinions were aired. It was felt that earlier advertising of the date would be helpful.

#### 8. The Fountain Lettering

KBB asked MP whether he was happy with the lettering. It was agreed that it had been very well done. On a separate note it was raised that the tap at the fountain was leaking. CB agreed to investigate.

#### 9. New Picnic Bench

KBB had investigated this and come up with two options: A four seater for £104 and a six seater for £124. It would arrive semi-assembled and was constructed of Swedish soft wood. It was agreed to go for the six seater.

#### 10. TVP Speed Check

MP had looked into this and discovered that the village would need to purchase its own radar speed gun at a cost of around £150 – and to provide the operators complete with high viz jackets etc so had decided not to follow it up. He did wonder whether the regular speed enforcement police unit might be persuaded to come and set up in North Aston from time to time.

With regards to the latest on the upgrading of the speed monitor

MP stated that he had been advised that an official order on headed paper was required to complete the purchase and that his contact at the suppliers was currently in hospital and had been unable to prepare the order. He would liaise with BR over getting this done.

#### 11. Any Other Business

MH wanted to clarify how people should **Book the Bakery**. A discussion was had over whether people needed to talk to MH first or just book a day on a calendar which might hang inside the bakery. It was agreed there should be a separate calendar for the meeting room which MH could fill in if people phoned her or people could fill in themselves. It was noted that Mary's number is listed in the *Newsletter* for those wanting to book.

CB reported on his efforts to have the unsightly **Telephone Kiosk** removed. After speaking to BT, instead of removing it - the very next day they came and fixed it! (Emergency services only.) CB asked about the redundant poles nearby. JDT said that they were still scheduled to be removed.

JM brought up the topic of the **Children's Christmas Party**. JM said she had no free weekends before Christmas. It was decided that as there was so much on for children in the run up to Christmas and with a trend of falling numbers of small children in the village there would be no party this year.

TB told the meeting that Linda Brown was happy to organise **Christmas Gifts** for the older members of the village and wanted to know if there would be any funds available. The meeting approved that a gift should be given along the same lines as previous years.

JDT again raised the issue of **Kerbstones** that needed replacing. It was noted that some potholes had been done and the lines had been painted at the crossroads.

A brief discussion was held over who is responsible for paying the **electricity bill** for the meeting room. This was to be looked into.

CB commented that he thought the North Aston Dairy should be paid for meat contributed to the **Harvest Supper**.

The subject of a **War Memorial** was postponed until the next meeting.

#### 12. Date for the Next Meeting

The next Meeting (AGM and the election of officers) would be on the 8th Jan 2015 7.30pm.

DUNS TEW DRAMA GROUP proudly presents

# Caesar *The Panto*

Evenings: Friday 5th, Sat 6th, Friday 12th and Sat 13th December. 7:30 pm Duns Tew Village Hall,  
Includes supper, £12.50. Matinée on Saturday 6th, 2:00 pm - includes drink & crisps. Tickets: 338783



## Christmas Party

There will be no Children's Christmas Party in North Aston this year. Miss it? Let us know!

## Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

The door-to-door collection for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal raised a total of £614.35. Thank you for your generosity.



# 100 Club



This month's lucky winners are:

First Prize (£10): Mr Walters #40  
Second Prize (£5): Mrs Bridge #11

It's too late now to join the 100 Club this year - so you'll just have to watch others winning prizes! 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!**

# Councillor Calling



## Cherwell Planning

The Local Plan now goes to the Inspector for Examination in Public (EiP). Unlike the adversarial combat of planning Appeals, the EiP takes a much more structured and collegiate format. For each topic, the Inspector gathers the council's representatives, together with all the others who have made representations and expressed an interest in participating, round a large table and focuses the discussion so that each one is heard on the specific points they have made but wandering off track is minimised. This process is open to all, though observers may not speak. Of most relevance to us is the morning of Thursday 18th December, when "Villages and Rural Areas" are to be considered, including the Mid Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan, whose representatives have registered to participate.

## The Neighbourhood Plan ...

is now registered and comments from the initial consultation will be considered by the Executive before it can proceed to the next stage. The planners are obviously tied up with the EiP but I've asked the Council Leader if he can find extra resources to keep this on track. Interestingly, the only opposition was a blast from developers who are proposing a large block of housing in Kirtlington: this shows that those in the business see Neighbourhood Plans as having teeth, which I find rather encouraging.

## Positive over Heyford

Cherwell's senior planners are also a lot more positive about its benefits than I'd thought. I get the impression they were initially concerned that it was "developer led" by Heyford Park's Dorchester Group, who are, indeed, providing resources and coordination. A round table meeting of all the parishes involved rapidly corrected that impression: though we are all working together, we have very individual priorities for the Plan – housing numbers and location, obviously, but traffic and transport, health facilities and schools are common issues, before each parish lists its individual needs, which may have nothing to do with Heyford Park. These are all at a level of detail outside the Local Plan and can therefore provide the District with a hugely enriched planning guide which is genuinely community driven – wins all round.

## Divided Loyalties

Meanwhile, our planning officers' impartiality has been tested as they now split their time and loyalties equally between Cherwell and South Northants councils. Cherwell's councillors have approved a Local Plan designating areas East of the M40 as employment sites for Banbury while, for South Northants councillors, any extension of Banbury across the motorway in their direction is anathema and our officers have to follow these political directions according to which office they are working in – an impressive test of loyalty.

## Unravelling the Figures

Housing numbers caused concern when the Local Plan was presented at the Parish Liaison meeting, as they showed some 4,000 heading our way. This turned out to be poor presentation as the Plan's detail is difficult to unravel. From that headline, you must deduct those with permission already and then some big areas earmarked in the Plan (such as the 1,600 extra at Upper Heyford) to get down to the 750 new homes destined for villages. The final twist is to remember that Kidlington is also a village and gets 250 of these, getting back to 500 to be divided among all our villages over twenty years – relief all round!

## Ultra-slow Broadband

Fast broadband also caused controversy. We all know it's become a necessity and not a luxury and the County Council's rollout programme seems to be taking forever. This will anyway only cover 90% of the county, leaving out great swathes of rural areas, so Cherwell has added £500,000 from the "New Homes Bonus" – additional government grant related to the number of houses built – to raise this to 95%. Unfortunately, there is a serious lack of precision over who exactly will be covered and who left out in the cold. As this is now make or break for many rural livelihoods, both councils need to grip the problem urgently.

I'm afraid this month's column is more suited to the penitential season of Advent but may I wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year anyway.

**James Macnamara**

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## NORTH ASTON ORGANICS

# Vegetable Stall

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

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



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

Email: [northastonorganics@gmail.com](mailto:northastonorganics@gmail.com)  
Tel: ((01869)) 347702  
visit the website:  
[www.northastonorganics.co.uk](http://www.northastonorganics.co.uk)



# CHURCH SERVICES

## PARISH WORSHIP IN DECEMBER-JANUARY 2014

**NORTH ASTON**

**STEEPLE ASTON**

**TACKLEY**

**Friday December 5th**

No Service

No Service

3.30 pm Christingle  
with Tackley CE Primary School

**Sunday December 7th - Second Sunday of Advent**

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

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

5:30 pm Patronal Festival  
Evensong for St Nicholas  
**Revd Marcus Green &  
Fr Robin Gibbons**

**Sunday December 14th - Third Sunday of Advent**

9:30 am Family Service  
**Revd Marcus Green &  
Christopher Compston**

11:00 am Family Service  
**Revd Marcus Green &  
Christopher Compston**

5.30 pm Holy Communion  
**Revd Marcus Green &  
Fr Robin Gibbons**

**Sunday December 21st - Fourth Sunday of Advent**

4:00 pm Carol Service  
**Revd Marcus Green**

6:00 pm Carol Service  
**Revd Marcus Green**

5.30pm Carol Service  
**Fr Robin Gibbons**

**Wednesday December 24th - Christmas Eve**

3:00 pm Crib Service  
**Revd Marcus Green**

4:00 pm Crib Service  
**Revd Marcus Green**

4:00 pm Crib Service  
**Fr Robin Gibbons**

11.30 pm Midnight Communion  
**Revd Marcus Green**

10:00 pm First Communion  
of Christmas  
**Revd Marcus Green**

**Thursday December 25th - Christmas Day**

9am Holy Communion and Carols  
**Revd Marcus Green**

10.30am Holy Communion  
& Carols  
**Revd Marcus Green**

10:30 am Holy Communion  
& Carols  
**Revd Stephen Pix**

**Sunday December 28th - First Sunday after Christmas**

No Service

11:00 am Family Service & Baptism  
**Revd Marcus Green**

5:30 pm Holy Communion  
Book of Common Prayer  
**Revd Marcus Green &  
Fr Robin Gibbons**

**Sunday January 4th - Second Sunday after Christmas**

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

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

5.30 pm Evensong  
**Revd Marcus Green &  
Fr Robin Gibbons**

Families are welcome to **all** Sunday services.

Morning Prayer  
10:00 am Every Thursday

Visit the new Benefice Website for further information: [www.sntchurch.com](http://www.sntchurch.com)