

NORTH ASTON

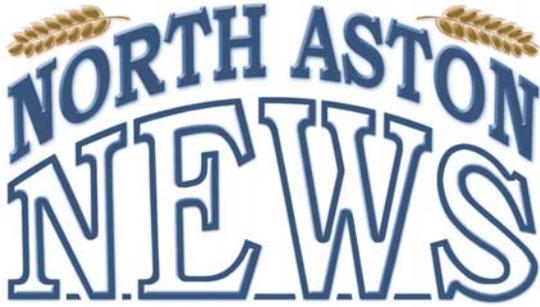
NEWS

January 2015

#291



Happy New Year!



JANUARY 2015, No: 291

Useful Contacts

North Aston News

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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

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Email: northastonorganics@gmail.com

Website: www.northastonorganics.co.uk

Hillcrest Care - Park Farm House

Telephone: (01869) 349922

Email: parkfarmhm@hillcrestcare.co.uk

Nicholson Nurseries

Telephone: (01869) 340342

Email: office@nicholsons.gb.com

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North Aston 100 Club

Norman West. Tel (01869) 340368

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

Telephone: (01869) 340109

Email: cllr.james.macnamara@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

Thames Valley Police non-emergency: 101

Out of Hours Doctor: 08453 458 995

Your Village Chairman

Very best wishes to everyone in our village for 2015

A visitor from Yorkshire said to me over Christmas that for a very small village we seem to do rather a lot together. That was nice to hear, and I think that what we did do in 2014 we did well and enthusiastically.

As always this is due to people who care giving their time and energy, and they were certainly out in force over Christmas, with our church looking beautiful and packed out for both Christmas services, with the North Aston choir singing so beautifully, with the North Aston Wassailers getting round every house yet again and with our beautifully organised Carols on the Green drawing in voices from far and wide. Too many people need thanking, but we and they know who they are. Let's not forget also that these events raised many hundreds of pounds for charities.

Well done and thank you to everyone – wonderful memories to propel us into this New Year.

Our Parish Meeting AGM

Thursday January 8th at 7:30 pm in the Bakery. PLEASE come along and vote. There will of course be other votes in 2015, but this one is grass roots democracy in action. It shouldn't be a long meeting either.

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

Village Meeting & AGM

January 8th 2015

The Old Bakery from 7:30 pm

The Village Meeting and Annual General Meeting will take place on Thursday January 8th. The Agenda is as follows:

VILLAGE MEETING

1. Welcome and Minutes of Last Meeting
2. Treasurer's Report
3. Nomination of Officers – Treasurer, Secretary and Chair.
4. Parish Precept 2015/2016 – at request of CDC
5. Neighbourhood Plan
6. Mains Sewerage and District Heating
7. Any other business
Hillcrest Park Farm
Mikron Theatre visit
8. Date for next Meeting

VILLAGE FUND MEETING

1. Welcome and Minutes of Last Meeting
2. Treasurer's Report
3. Nomination of Officers – Treasurer, Secretary and Chair
4. Review and thanks for *Carols on the Green*
5. Village Sign
6. Design competition for a War Memorial
7. Any other business
Payment for Meeting Room Electricity
Payment for meat for Harvest supper (NAOD)
8. Date for next Meeting



Letters

Mail to: info@north-aston.co.uk

Painting

Gwen and I wish to record a big thank you to all involved in the decision to produce and present me with a beautiful painting of the view of North Aston Church as seen from the organ chamber (*reproduced on page 4*).

A particular thank you to Sarah Bourke-Borrowes, the talented artist for painting the picture. It is now displayed in our living room.

I would like to say my decision to retire from playing the organ was not made lightly but under the circumstances I believe there was no alternative. I hope my retirement and the fact that North Aston now has a 'state of the art' electronic organ will encourage other talented musicians in the village to come forward to provide this much needed service.

*Thank you sincerely,
Ted Short*

On behalf of all the older residents of North Aston, Norman West would like to say a huge thankyou for the gifts distributed 'to those of a certain age' this Christmas by the Parish Fund. Baskets of flowering bulbs and/or bottles of port were handed out and much appreciated by all who received them.

This Month's BIRTHDAYS

Kyle Hite (19th)

Lisa Honess (31st)



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.

There They Went A-Wassailing

The North Aston Carol Singers performed their traditional house-by-house Christmas Wassail over the two days of 21st and 22nd December.

As usual, they received a tremendous reception, and would like to say thankyou to everyone who not only donated so generously, but also kept throats moistened and offered sustenance. Apologies to anyone who was 'out' when the Singers called - you missed a real treat!

A total of £400 was collected "on the day" and has been split between *Save The Children* and two local charities; *The Gatehouse* (for the homeless in Oxford) and *Homestart* (Helping young families in Banbury). Anyone who would like to add to this can contact Mark Stay on 347806.



NORTH ASTON ORGANICS Vegetable Stall

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

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



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

Email: northastonorganics@gmail.com
Tel: ((01869)) 347702
visit the new website at:
www.northastonorganics.co.uk



This month's lucky winners are:

First Prize (£10): F Potts #100

Second Prize (£5): N Graham #97

If you'd like to reserve a number and join in the fun (from next April) please speak to Norman West, or call him on 340368.

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

Announcements

Logs for Labour

Would you like free firewood, or do you have woodland that needs managing? The Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment's "Logs for Labour" programme aims to promote sustainable use of woodfuel by running events where volunteers help to manage woodlands in return for logs. The events are 2-3 hours long and could involve coppicing hazel, thinning trees, or piling up brash. Bring sturdy gloves, shoes and a saw (hand tools only allowed)... or let us know if your woodland needs the help of volunteers. Information about forthcoming events is available from Riki Therivel (01865 243488) or on-line at www.oxonwoodfuel.org.uk. You can also 'like' the Trust at www.facebook.com/oxonwood.

Happy Birthday Kyle!

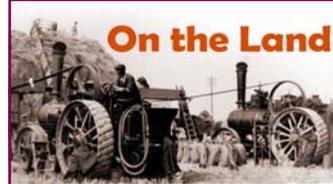
With best wishes to Kyle for a very Happy 9th Birthday on 19th January. With love Mummy & Daddy.



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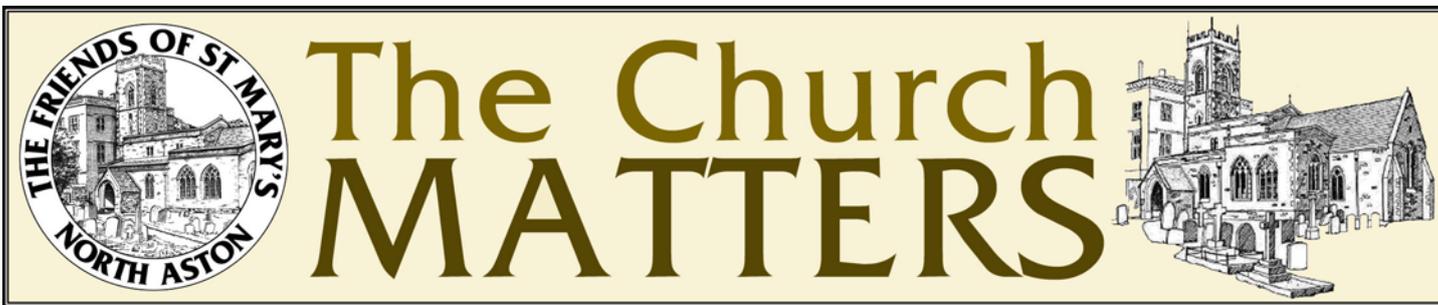


On the Land

... returns next month ... and will be joined by a new natural history feature called *North Aston Nature Notes*.



to **Fred Short**
North Aston Church Organist 1952-2014
From generations of grateful parishioners



I remember visiting my college doctor one time. After he'd looked at an X-ray of my back and told me that "I won a prize for my X-ray reading as a medical student, and I'd say that with an X-ray like that you'd probably be in pain", I asked if the condition would get worse as I grew older.

He looked at me kindly, his sad eyes peering over the glasses perched on the end of his nose, and he replied, "Well, I'm afraid the one thing they didn't give me at medical school was a crystal ball."

I know what he meant: sometimes I feel like I have no idea what's going to happen next week never mind next year! However, there are things that should always be important in church life, so as I try to look forward to 2015, my sight is made clearer by first looking back at last year. Here goes...

1. Worship

A church is fundamentally about people & God, and about how we connect. Worshipping Jesus is the mainstay of this. We did some great things in our worship this year, reflecting just how varied we are as people here in Steeple. The Prayer Book service on the 1st Sunday is growing a faithful following, and in September we also renewed our Family Service on the 2nd Sunday of the month. It has been wonderful to see families and children start to come along to this very different service. There were a number of very special one-off services too - I am especially reminded of the World War One Vigil in August over in Steeple, and the splendid Palm Sunday procession. We will try to find more ways of helping more of our community engage with God in the year ahead.

2. Faith

If worship is our fundamental connection with God, faith is both how we understand this and how we own it. How we say - this is mine. For some, faith is written into their DNA; for others it is much harder and takes longer to work out. Church is supposed to give space to both as our whole community comes and works out that understanding and ownership. I was delighted by the way Harvest this year did this - it was super to see so many in church in the morning, and to join families for lunch afterwards. Another time that gives us chance to come together is Remembrance, and again I was thrilled by the number of folk who made this occasion so memorable. Christmas in North is always glorious- I love being in our community at this time of year, and seeing how God's love draws us together.

3. Vision

One of the things I have learned is how our church has never stood still. The church & churchyard have altered through the centuries. As we serve today's community I am regularly asked basic questions ("is there a loo?"); as we try to offer different forms of worship, and as we try to give space for more and more of our community to meet, I am really keen we have a vision for North Aston Church not just to stand for the ageless things that hold us together, but to adapt as it always has so that future generations are as blessed by the church as our grandparents were. As I write I am still waiting for confirmation for the delivery date for the new organ that will soon (hopefully by Christmas) be filling our church with glorious sounds (more on this next month!), and we are looking to repairs and new disabled access and kitchen facilities as well. And it's all about us being a place of worship and faith and belonging for everyone in North Aston.

Why not come and join us, and help us make 2015 full of faith and worship and joy and love?

Revd Marcus Green



Any comments about the above are very welcome. More news is always available on our website: www.sntchurch.com

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

If you wish you can also email Kildare: k.bourkeborrowes@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.

From Thames Valley Police

This month's updates and information:

Parcel Scam

Please be aware of a Bogus Parcel Delivery Scam that's currently doing the rounds. A card is put through your door informing you that an attempt has been made to deliver a parcel. It instructs you to ring a telephone number to arrange re-delivery, but the number begins with 0900 and puts you through to an automated service that goes on ... and on ... and lands you with a hefty phone bill!

We're not aware of any of these cards hitting North Aston, as yet, but they are appearing elsewhere in the region, so please be alert and look out for any numbers beginning 09. These are mainly used for competitions, TV voting, horoscopes, chat lines and professional services. Rates vary between a relatively modest 9p per minute and £3 per minute, depending upon the company. (Note that 118 "Directory Enquiry" numbers can be even higher, but you are paying for a service.)

If you have any concerns or require any advice please telephone Trading Standards on 0845 051 0845

Safe Places Scheme

In December a new *Safe Places* scheme was launched in Banbury. The aim is to make the town centre a safer place for vulnerable people, including the disabled and elderly.

Supported by Thames Valley Police, the initiative was launched on 5th December at Banbury Museum, when shops and businesses were invited to sign up to the scheme and provide safe havens for vulnerable people if they get into trouble. Those stores and businesses supporting *Safe Places* will display a distinctive sticker in their windows.

For more information on the scheme, please contact Jan Sunman on jan.sunman@oxfsn.org.uk or Bee Maidlow on bee.maidlow@oxfordshire.gov.uk.

Dark Afternoons

We're past the Winter Solstice now, so days are starting to get longer again, but it is still dark by half-four. If your house is empty and showing no lights it's an advert to would-be burglars that nobody is at home. Deter opportunist thieves by setting lights to come on using timers. They're now remarkably cheap, and can often be purchased from *Pound Stores* and discount shops.

Contacting TVP

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



Electoral Review of Cherwell

The independent Local Government Boundary Commission for England is asking people across our area to comment on proposed new electoral arrangements for Cherwell District Council. This will affect us here in the **Astons & Heyfords** ward, which will be redefined into two much larger wards. The Astons we will become part of a new ward centred upon **Deddington**, while the Heyfords will become part of a larger area north-west of Bicester to be known as the **Fringford & Heyfords** ward.

Draft Recommendations

These propose new wards, ward boundaries and ward names across the district.

We are now asking local people to have their say.

- Do the proposed wards reflect local communities?
- How do you think the proposals can be improved?
- Are the names of the proposed wards right?

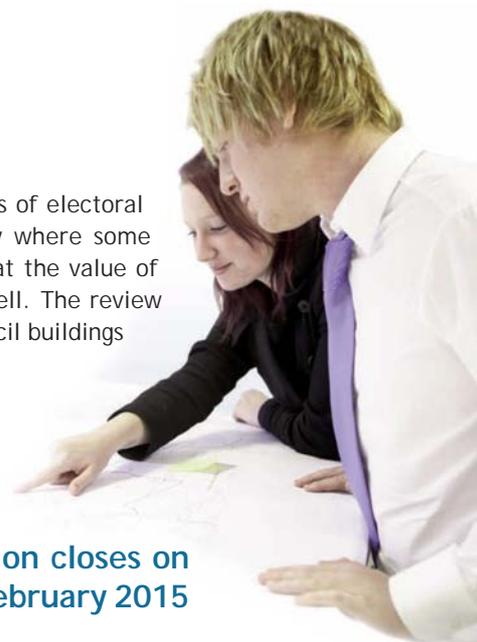
Why Cherwell?

The electoral review of Cherwell District Council is intended to deliver improved levels of electoral equality for local voters. Cherwell currently has high levels of electoral inequality where some councillors represent many more - or many fewer - voters than others. This means that the value of your vote - in district council elections - varies depending on where you live in Cherwell. The review is intended to redress this imbalance. The report and maps will also be available in council buildings and libraries.

For more information, including interactive maps, visit: www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk and www.lgbce.org.uk

Have your say - Your views will make a difference.

Write to: The Review Officer (Cherwell)
Local Government Boundary Commission for England
Layden House, 76-86 Turnmill Street, London EC1M 5LG
Email: reviews@lgbce.org.uk



**The consultation closes on
16 February 2015**

Councillor Calling

Cherwell
DISTRICT COUNCIL
NORTH OXFORDSHIRE

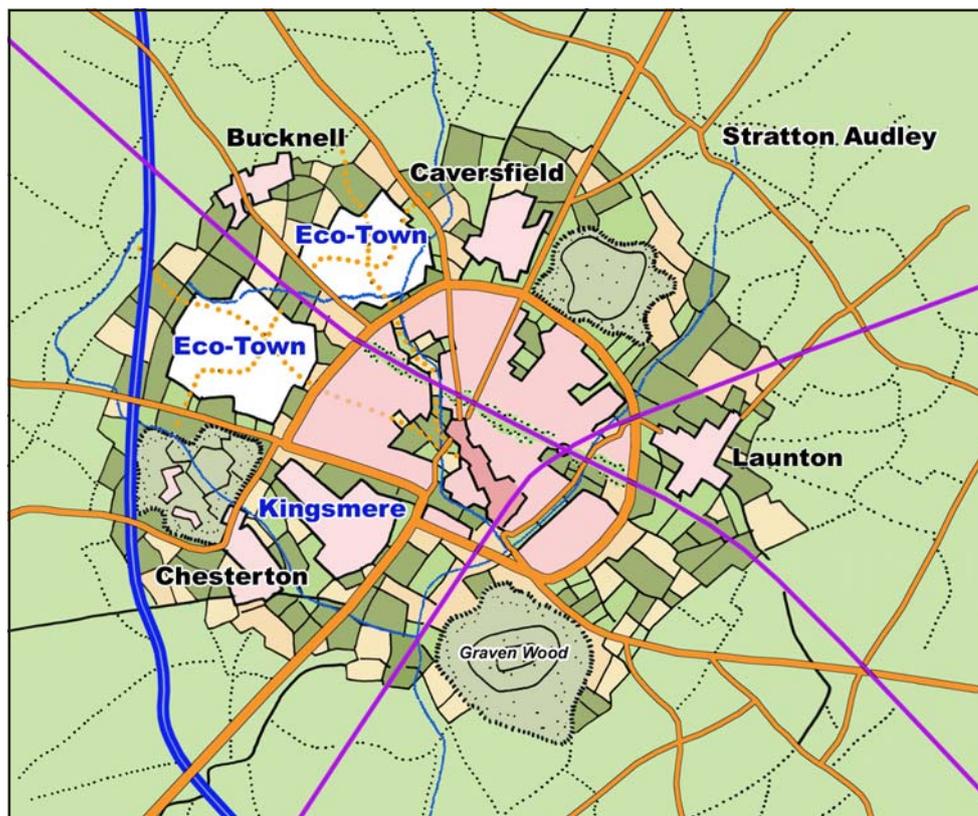
Reviewing the Year

I sat down to write this as a review of the past year and look forward to the next one. Then the headlines intervened, as they tend to do. And finally, I realised that the current news summarises what's going on perfectly well anyway – so reporting it kills two birds with one stone!

Bicester Plans

Garden City headlines in the national press had us all spluttering into our breakfast coffee at the prospect of a Bicester on steroids splurging all over the surrounding countryside. Calm down, dear! When the fuss subsided we found that not a single extra house is actually being imposed, just the (ok – ridiculously big) number already in the draft Local Plan. So, what's going on?

It's actually a re-run, on a bigger scale, of Gordon Brown's "ecotowns". Remember when he called for five new towns on green fields, justified by an eco "greenwash"? Threatened by developers jumping on his bandwagon to concrete over Weston-on-the-Green and Shipton-on-Cherwell, Cherwell DC offered the northwest corner of Bicester as an alternative. No extra homes but a genuine push for sustainability in efficient building, local jobs, green innovation and infrastructure to benefit the whole of Bicester. Result: a reprieve for the countryside and, so far, £12million of extra government grants for our market town.



Infrastructure & Access

Now it's Nick Clegg's turn to grandstand and, by calling it a Garden City (or Town, depending on who you listen to) we're to get up to £100million for infrastructure, including much-needed improvements to access from the M40. If we've got to take all this extra development, I'd much rather it was in the right place, planned, given appropriate facilities and all funded by lots of government cash, so this is good news.

Foresight Saga

Local Plan saga (after more than ten years, perhaps saga doesn't imply quite the lengthiness...) rumbles on, with the Inspector coming back to restart his Examination in Public, having abruptly stopped his first attempt to tell Cherwell to shoe-horn another 6,000-odd houses into the District. Even if he concludes by approving it in the Spring, it looks as if it won't end there and we'll still have to contend with further pressure as Oxford City Council tries to sprawl across its Green Belt under cover of a legal "duty to cooperate" with its neighbours. City presumably has one eye on next May's General Election as Labour policy might offer them enhanced status as an enlarged, unitary city council – though where that would leave the rest of the county is unclear.

Elections are naturally galvanising politicians as they paralyse government. In the parliamentary contest, we have a local contender to follow Sir Tony Baldry – Victoria Prentis from Somerton – which, regardless of party, must trump a Banbury or Bicester candidate (I'm a parish councillor so I'm entitled to be parochial!), but don't let that overshadow my hard-working colleague, Mike Kerford-Byrnes, who has the bad luck to run at the same time as a General Election with only a year before he has to do it again when the whole of Cherwell is reorganised and up for election again – perhaps we should start a shoe-leather fund for him!

Pooling Resources

Reorganisation is ok when it's the back office. The full Council will shortly vote on yet closer ties with South Northants,

Stratford and possibly others to cut costs yet further while improving services. You've heard it before but, with ever more financial pressure, we need to go deeper.

So, more and more of the same: best wishes for the New Year!

James Macnamara

Tel: 01869 340109

cllr.james.macnamara@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

Ardley Incinerator

Confirmation came through from Viridor on Christmas Eve that the Energy Recovery Facility (ERF) in Ardley has been granted its 'Acceptance Certificate'. This marks the completion of the construction phase of the £200 million facility and the incinerator is now fully operational. It will now transform 300,000 tonnes of residual waste each year (what's left after recycling & composting) into enough electricity to power 38,000 homes.



CHURCH SERVICES

PARISH WORSHIP IN JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2015

NORTH ASTON

STEEPLE ASTON

TACKLEY

Sunday January 4th - Second Sunday after Christmas, Epiphany

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**

Sunday January 11th - First Sunday after Epiphany

9:30 am Family Service
Revd Marcus Green

11:00 am Family Service
and Baptism
Revd Marcus Green

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

Sunday January 18th - Second Sunday after Epiphany

9:30 am Holy Communion
Revd Marcus Green

11:00 am Holy Communion
Revd Marcus Green

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

Sunday January 25th - Third Sunday after Epiphany

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

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

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

Sunday February 1st - Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

9:30 am Morning Prayer
Richard Bailey

11:00 am Morning Prayer
Richard Bailey

5:30 pm Evensong
Fr Robin Gibbons

Morning Prayer

10:00 am Every Thursday

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

Visit the Benefice Website for further information

www.sntchurch.com

