

NORTH ASTON

October 2015

#300

NEWS



NORTH ASTON NEWS

OCTOBER 2015, No: 300

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Your Village Chairman

Our Public Libraries under threat

Both our local library in Deddington and our Mobile Library are under threat. Budget cuts of course, but also declining use. Nevertheless they are both still very relevant. Deddington Library to my mind is a really wonderful resource for both children and adults, with its books, videos, four computer terminals and through it free access to almost any book in the whole rich Oxfordshire Library system.

North Aston has made a donation (see Minutes), and you can too at www.friendsofdeddingtonlibrary.org. Our Mobile Library stops by the fountain on the Green at 10:30 for 15 minutes on every Thursday of Week 2 and Week 4 through the year. Since only four people use it, and they review the viability every year now, it will likely be withdrawn unless more of us use it. There's something for everyone in there and it's free. Use it or lose it.

Speed

As discussed at our Parish Meeting we're going to take more steps to reduce speeds through the village. How far we go with this will depend entirely on you, and as you can see in the Minutes, we're going to have a Parish Traffic Calming Meeting at 7:30 on Wednesday 25th November. All the information will be available.

We need to have a wide discussion and decide. If you're worried about traffic speeds, put the date in your calendar and come and join in. We really do need as many people as possible there for this one, because decisions may be taken that will affect the Village for many years to come.

Connectivity

There is an update in this issue of the News on the 'somewhere' where we are with connection to Hi-Speed Broadband. It's nearly 20 years since I sat listening to Bill Gates saying that our internet problems would be solved when we all had 'big pipes'. It seems amazing that we, living in one of the world's richest countries, are still waiting for our big pipe. It's rural deprivation, as is the truly poor mobile phone reception here – and that's after 30 years. I'm afraid we're too small to have an impact. For those of us who don't do the internet, or even mobiles, you have no idea how much more peaceful and less frustrating your lives are!

Wildlife

For those of us who walk around the parish, which is just about everyone, what a joy it is to have Stephen Rees's column in the News in our minds. How is it that he sees so much more than many of us? Often out, observant, patient, interested, knowledgeable. Thank you Stephen, you are doing us all a great service. Please keep going*. And if anyone has seen a hedgehog in the last few years, it would be very interesting to know.

Kildare BB

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

* Stephen's column will be back next month!

Editor, North Aston News

Applications are invited for the role of **Editor** to the *North Aston News*. Candidates will need to own and be familiar with a DTP package (InDesign, PageMaker, Quark or Publisher) and willing to devote roughly two days per month to the preparation of artwork through to high resolution PDF, suitable for print output in black and white, as well as a full colour version for electronic distribution. A working knowledge of MS Word will be useful (Word is not suitable for artwork preparation) and some expertise in PhotoShop (or similar) is essential. It will also be necessary to write, edit or adapt the textual content of the *News* and source or create suitable images and photographs to illustrate the publication. The Editor will have responsibility for the layout and design of the *News*. Applicants should, in the first instance, express their interest via email to: info@north-aston.co.uk.

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.

Announcements

Welcome

A warm welcome to Richard Bray, who has moved into Gate Cottage. We hope he is settling in well.

Mobile Library

The Library stops by the Fountain for 15 minutes every 2nd and 4th Thursday, between 10:30 and 10:45. It also visits Steeple Aston, where it stops by the pre-school from 10:50-11:05 and then outside the old White Lion from 11:10 to 11:40).



North Aston Farms

Silage made. Hay made. Muck has been spread (some anyway). Lambs have been weaned. Planning permission received for extending cattle building at Bustards Hill. Two whole-herd TB tests (both failed). Cull ewes sorted and Breeding flock ready for entering share farming agreement. Apprentice started work. Cows' feet trimmed. Some fat lambs sold and only 25 fat cattle left. Our biggest worry this summer has been the bulls.

Our new bull *Oklahoma*, whose praises I had been singing and who had been perfectly sound of foot, went lame as soon as he was introduced to the cows and we had to take him out. I was forced into buying another replacement at short notice. He too has now done himself an injury.

Our other bull, *Hadrian*, managed to break through a fence to join our yearling heifers and subsequently his foot swelled up. Our lovely bull *Kingston* developed a condition whereby he could not hit the target so to speak – only discovered by seeing him in action! So we have had to replace him mid-season. His replacement arrived and managed to cut his foot turning around in the trailer as he was unloaded!

The problem is that sourcing and buying-in cattle when you are shut down with TB can take a frustratingly long time – and all the while one's cows are not being served. It seems we will have a very long calving season next year – if we get any calves at all!

Oh Bulls to it all!

James

Autumn at Nicholsons

It has definitely turned Autumnal – nights are drawing in, we have heavy dews on the grass in the mornings and the trees are starting the change colour. We love Autumn – the fantastic array of colours in the leaves never ceases to amaze and they seem to change daily. Try just watching one tree over a period of a few weeks – we have a lovely Scarlet Oak in the garden that is beginning to tint and every day just gets better.

The turning of the season means less effort on watering and tending of the plants in the nursery and a real drive on selling them. The Tree and Hedging Centre is stocked up with a fantastic array of trees and the planting season is underway, so we change gear and the volume of plants in and out goes up. The foresters are as busy as ever and the landscapers seem to be continuously busy - for which we are very grateful. They have some lovely jobs and do feel free to go and look at the portfolios on our website to see some of the projects we have completed: www.nicholsons.gb.com and if you could "like" our Facebook page we would be delighted. *Niel*

Can I just clarify that, contrary to rumour, the chap with the pitchfork is not actually James T. Ed

The lucky winners of this month's draw are:
First Prize (£10): William Doggett (#23)
Second Prize (£5): Alex Hack (#138)

It's too late to join this year's 100 Club, but we do need more members, so watch as the names of winners are announced over the coming months and think ... next year, it could be you! If you'd like to join, speak to Norman or call him on 340368. It's all in a good cause, raising funds for the village, and your chances of winning are far better than they are for the Lottery!

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

North Aston Conservation Area

Wednesday October 21st in The Bakery



NORTH ASTON CONSERVATION AREA

Cherwell
DISTRICT COUNCIL
North Gloucestershire

Conservation Area Review

It is now more than 25 years since the North Aston Conservation Area was first established, and more than ten since it was last fully assessed. As you'll note from the "current" definition of the area, there have been a number of significant changes within the village during that time - not least the fact that The Coign isn't even marked on the map (although had been built four years before this map was published).

Jenny Ballinger is the Senior Conservation Officer at Cherwell District Council. She contacted Kildare a few weeks ago with the proposal that the Conservation Area was ripe for review. She has suggested hosting a small exhibition in the Old Bakery, followed by a discussion forum, and the date for this has been set for Wednesday October 21st.

The exhibition will be open during the afternoon, between 4:00 and 6:30 pm, and the meeting will follow at 7:00 pm. It is thought probable that it will end at around 8:30 pm.

If you would like to take part in the discussion, then please attend the meeting. The Conservation Area affects most of the properties in the village, and has a direct bearing on our homes and gardens and what we can - or cannot - do to them. The essence of the Conservation Area designation is outlined alongside, although this is just an abbreviated and much simplified definition.

North Aston - Designated March 1988

Cherwell District Council declared in 1988 that the village of North Aston includes an area of special architectural and historic interest which should be preserved and enhanced. The Council therefore designated the area bounded by the solid black line on the plan above as a Conservation Area under Section 69 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act.

The effects of Designation demands that change, when it occurs, must preserve or enhance the character or appearance of the Area, and that planning must always be widely publicised and provide sufficient detail to enable the impact of any development to be properly assessed.

Consent is required for the demolition or alteration of any building or enclosure within the area, and may include gates, walls, fences and other features above a specified height, as well as temporary, agricultural or industrial buildings. Roof extensions, including all dormer windows, and external cladding require consent. All works pertaining to a listed building require listed building consent. It is an offence to cut down, top, lop, uproot or wilfully damage or destroy any tree (not already the subject of a TPO and which exceeds 75 mm (3 inches approx.) in trunk diameter) without giving six weeks' notice to the District Council.

North Aston Gardening Club

Those who are optimists among us gardeners are looking forward to bumper crops of autumn brassicas and an Indian Summer. The rest of us, however, have called it a day and picked our green tomatoes for 'home-ripening' and are Googling for Green Tomato Chutney recipes.

It has been an interesting growing season, starting with a hot and dry June, an indifferent July and a cool, wet August and September. Apart from the usual glut of courgettes, crops which have done well for me this year have been early potatoes, brassicas and raspberries, but I have had a dismal failure of sweet peppers and melons.

We gardeners are never quite happy with the weather, but the productivity of many of the allotments and gardens in the village demonstrates the abundance that can be harvested from the sandy silt of North Aston with a bit of skill, but more importantly lots of dedication and hard work.

There was a typo in the results of the F&P Show last month which, to the surprise of the Graham household, listed Bill as having won 3rd prize for the *Men's Only Cake*. It was, of course, Geoff Rawnsley who won Bronze (apologies to Geoff for the mistake).

Looking ahead to next year, NAGC members have reviewed the classes for next year's F&P Show. In particular, there will be two photography classes for adults next year:

- 1) A set of 4 photographs, one each for each season of the year (Spring, Summer, Autumn, Winter): these do NOT need to be of the same scene/ subject;
- 2) The colour Red.

The children's photography subject is 'Pets'.

We have decided to substitute the 'Object made from Wood' class to a more open 'Handicraft' class which will encompass all handmade crafted objects from any material (including paper, card and textiles). Announcing these 11 months in advance should give you all plenty of time to get snapping and crafting!

We particularly want to encourage children to take part in the F&P Show, so any ideas of how we can encourage participation would be welcome.

The next NAGC meeting will be our annual Christmas get-together, once again generously hosted by Chris and David Hazle on Friday the 11th of December at 8pm. *Lynn*

Deddington Farmers' Market

The traditional Farmers' Market in Deddington takes place in the market square and surroundings every 4th Saturday of the month. This month's market will be on 25th October. Our own North Aston Organics will have a stall.

Jazz at the Steeple

Sue Greenway on sax, Ed Wileson on piano, Danny Moss Jnr on double bass and our own Marcus Green on vocals ... and more. Saturday November 7th in Steeple Aston Church. Tickets £10 including a glass of wine, and all proceeds to the Steeple Aston Church building project.

From Thames Valley Police

This month's updates and information:

Thefts of Heating Oil

A warning for anyone who uses heating oil as their main source of heating. Despite a general reduction in the cost of fuel, domestic heating oil is still a popular target for thieves. Following these simple ideas can act as a deterrent.

Don't be left out in the ...

- C** CCTV can deter thieves and record any tampering or theft
- O** Oil levels; check these often and report any irregularities
- L** Location of your oil tank, so it is in view of the property
- D** Defensive planting can deter thieves; grow prickly hedges

It is difficult to secure domestic fuel oil as it is kept outside, often in full view and has to be accessed easily by the fuel supplier. Consider using security lighting to illuminate the tank, use an alarm for oil levels or build a cage around the tank.

Sergeant Becky Fishwick from Banbury and Bicester Rural Neighbourhood Team said: "We would urge residents to put locks on their heating oil tanks and, where possible, keep any access gates to gardens locked and secure as a preventative and to deter offenders. Remember to check oil levels regularly, look for spilt fuel and marks on locks, and note anything else suspicious and report this through the non-emergency 101 enquiry centre."

For anyone wanting specific crime prevention advice on oil tank security, please contact Michelle Miller, Community Relations Officer on 01295 754570.

Rogue Traders

It is that time of year again when rogue traders plan and put their scams into action by targeting elderly and vulnerable members of our community. Rogue traders purport to be legitimate companies and use persuasive pressurised selling techniques to convince people to have unnecessary work carried out on their property.

Oxfordshire County Council Trading Standards is appealing for information from anyone who has been cold-called recently or had a flyer put through their letterbox offering to carry out work for services such as gardening, home repairs, roofing, driveways or similar.

If you think an elderly or vulnerable neighbour is having or has had work carried out which is not required, or something that does not look quite right, help them by contacting the Doorstep Crime Team as soon as possible.

Report any cold-callers who have called at your property or posted a leaflet through your door. It is vital to report information as soon as possible as officers may be able to locate and check a trader's details whilst they are still in the area.

When providing information please try to give descriptions of suspects and details of their vehicle if they have one, including colour, make/model and a registration number. Thank you!

Doorstep Crime Team: Telephone: 07711 117455 or email tsinformation@oxfordshire.gov.uk.

If you, or anyone you know, have been affected by fraud or any other kind of scam, report it to Action Fraud by calling 0300 123 2040 or visiting www.actionfraud.police.uk.

North Aston Village Meeting

Tuesday 1st September 2015 ~ The Minutes

Officers present: Chairman Kildare Bourke-Borrowes(KBB), Treasurer Beverly Rees(BR), Secretary James Taylor(JFT)

Those present: Mary Healy (MH) Jeremy Taylor (JDT) Tony Rees (TR) Chris Hazle (CH) David Hazle (DH) Nicholas Kneale (NK) Clive Busby (CB) Trudy Busby David Hanna Tuck Hatzigeorgiou (TH) Sarah Bourke-Borrowes (SBB)

Village Meeting

KBB welcomed those present but was disappointed that more people hadn't turned out.

1. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes from the Meeting of 30th April 2015 were approved. Proposed CB, seconded DH.

2. Treasurers Report

Village Meeting Accounts

The bank statement balance at 1.9.15 was shown to be £2991.09.

Total income to date was £321.84 (£300 precept, £1.31 interest, £20.71 grant).

A second Precept payment of £300 is still to come and insurance and subscription are still to be paid.

BR stated that the audit has been completed. There were a couple of non-conformities and the audit has therefore been qualified. This was the result of the "Risk Assessment" which despite having been discussed at the village meeting was not to be found in the minutes. BR apologised on behalf of the officers and as long as the next risk assessment is discussed and minuted at the final meeting of the year- all should be well!

The accounts were approved. Proposed JHL, seconded NK.

Village Fund Accounts

The bank statement balance at 01.09.2015 was £9,299.23. BR said there were still some costs to come in regarding the fête. There had also been a couple of donations (2x £10) to add to the figures that had been published in the *News*.

There was cash in hand of £386.90 covering costs such as prizes for the 100 club etc. KBB raised the issue concerning what should be done with the money that had been allocated for the Village Hall project - £2,429. It was suggested to bring this up at the next meeting when it was hoped that Marcus Potts would be present. The accounts were approved. Proposer SBB, seconded DH

3. Neighbourhood Plan

KBB gave the meeting a brief update of where things had got to concerning the Mid Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan.

He said an executive committee had been formed from a few lead parishes and would be doing the detailed work such as studying the draft plan (80 pages long) on behalf of the other parishes who would still meet every two months as the MCNP forum. Nothing seems to be achieved in a hurry – the plan is still to have a referendum in May next year alongside the local elections.

KBB reminded us that Kirtlington was still very much at risk from unwanted development. JDT asked how many houses would end up being built at Heyford Park. KBB replied that it looked as if it could be 3000 plus.

4. Traffic Calming

A discussion was held concerning the increased volume and speed of traffic through the village.

Concern was particularly raised from those living on the Village Green. Various points in the village such as the turning at Norman's and the exit from Wilkens Close were described as 'accidents waiting to happen'.

KBB made the point that we are no longer an idyllic village in the middle of nowhere. KBB read an email from Marcus Potts commenting that the village has discussed this matter at length in the past and he thinks the time has now come to do something. A conversation was had as to the merits of chicanes or speed bumps. CB wondered whether we could narrow the road through

the village. JDT suggested changing the speed limit to 20 mph. MH commented that she thought a statute would be needed for that.

JDT said he thought chicanes were a real nuisance. DH said if you went for chicanes you would need at least three.

CB said that Liz Hite had offered to pay for the "Speed Watch" kit available from Thames Valley Police (hand held speed gun/Hi-Viz jackets signage etc). It was proposed to invest no more than £200 on the TVP community speed watch kit. CB said that to start with he and the Hite family would be happy to operate it. Proposed JHL, seconded SBB.

TR said that there were many people who felt strongly in the village about traffic calming who might not ordinarily come to the village meeting.

It was decided to hold an Extraordinary Meeting to discuss traffic and traffic calming on Wed 25th Nov at 7:30 in the Bakery. The issue of maintaining the speed monitor was to be left until after the traffic meeting.

5. Broadband

Despite superfast broadband appearing in villages around us there is still no sign of it coming here.

KBB said that the official website says North Aston is "under consideration". A fixed line broadband connection had recently been made as far as the Peach Pubs premises.

6. Neighbourhood Watch/ Village co-ordinator

A discussion was had over the fact that the village no longer had an up-to-date contact list or a village co-ordinator for times of emergency.

JHL said that the Neighbourhood Watch scheme had largely been replaced by the Thames Valley Police update in the *News*. JHL said that in the past the village had been divided into areas with each area having a main contact who would then phone ten or more people.

7. Any Other Business

There was no additional business relating directly to the Village Meeting - see AOB for the Village Fund Meeting.

Village Fund

Minutes & Treasurers Report

The minutes from the last Meeting held on 30th April 2015 were approved. Proposer DH, seconder CH.

1. Village Fête - Results & Comments

It was generally agreed that the fête had been a wonderful event. The issue was raised that people were still arriving early for the fête which had made stall holders in the process of setting up feel unduly pressurised. It was agreed to discuss this further at the next fête meeting.

There was some discussion as to how to split the proceeds. KBB informed the meeting that the church was embarking on a £125,000 project including installing a loo, servery and disabled access. The meeting decided to split the proceeds 50/50 church and village as has been the case in the past.

KBB informed the meeting that, if the Meeting wished, he would consider organising the fête again next year, but his strong preference would be that all the proceeds next year go to the church to support this substantial renewal programme – subject to prior agreement of course.

NK asked whether it was appropriate to reconsider the project to partially convert the Church into a Community Centre. This was last considered and rejected in 2009.

2. Mikron Theatre

The event on the Green was deemed to have been a great success and that it would be good to do it again. A discussion was had as to whether it was an opportunity for the village to run a bar – but it was thought best to keep it simple.

3. Harvest Supper

MH agreed to coordinate as usual. It was noted that the price had already been fixed at £6.00 per head.

4. Editor of North Aston News

KBB asked if anyone knew anyone who would like to take it on. NK wondered if we could have some part time editors. JHL said that having the job of editor was like having chewing gum on your fingers. It took ten years to find Marcus! MH suggested putting an advert in the next Newsletter.

5. Old Village Sign

JT read out an email correspondence from Tom Kearney – a friend of Eric Maslen - stating that Eric had often wondered what had become of his sign and that if it was still in storage somewhere he would love to have it back with him in France.

JT said that although the post had gone the top of the sign was in the grain store at Park Farm – although very much worse for wear! CB said he had some of the figures which had fallen off it. It was agreed that Eric should have the sign back. Proposed JHL, seconded CB.

6. Dog Fouling

The constant issue of dog fouling, particularly concerning footpaths from St Mary's Walk to the Middle Aston Lane, was discussed.

One of the main issues being people who pick up after their dogs but then leave the bags hanging on trees or railings.

KBB reading again from Marcus Potts email: " I would like to point out that Poo bins and discreet 'no dog fouling' notices have been approved at previous meetings. A vote was taken to allow in principal the installation of two bins - one off St Mary's Walk and one at the Middle Aston Lane."

KBB was to look into cost and speak to the Dog Warden regarding siting and emptying etc.

9. Marquees

KBB reminded the meeting that Marcus Potts was the contact for village marquee hire – as is clearly stated in the contact list of the village newsletter.

DH wished to express his disappointment over the mix-up concerning marquee hire for the weekend of the Flower & Produce Show, as the date for this event had been fixed well in advance and is very much a village event.

On another issue DH raised his concern that the marquees were

becoming increasingly dangerous to erect for the ageing members of the village and that an accident was waiting to happen. He wondered whether the village might consider hiring marquees for events in the future which could be put up safely and taken away by the hire company. After some discussion KBB agreed it was an issue that needed to be looked into.

10. Village Notice Board

Sadly the Village Notice Board, which Tom Baimbridge has looked after and carefully maintained for so many years, is now in need of a renewal.

KBB showed the meeting a representation of a new three-part board which might contain a village map in the middle and two side panels – one lockable and one unlockable.

It was agreed the design looked nice and some quotes should be obtained. It was thought it might cost in the region of £1500.

It was proposed that a new position for the notice board could be over the road somewhere near the telephone box.

11. Any Other Business

JDT said he would like to see an updated version of all the houses and occupants in the **Millennium Book**. A discussion was had and the general feeling was that the Millennium book was a one-off snapshot in time which was what made it special.

JT read out a letter from **Deddington Library** asking for a donation to help keep it going following significant cuts in its budget. The letter stated that from its records it shows 17 regular users of its service living in our parish. It was agreed that Deddington Library provided an important local service to our community and a vote was taken to donate £150 to the cause – which appropriately was roughly equivalent to the takings from the book stall at the village fête. Proposed SBB, seconded TB.

CB noted that despite his attempts to point out the five various areas of **kerbing** that need resetting through the village - the council only ever seemed to be able to do what was on their "jobsheet" (usually only one at a time). To date they have only reset two out of the five areas that need attention. CB said he would keep on at them!

JT read an email from Cherwell District council informing the village that they undertake a rolling programme of **Conservation Area Appraisals** and that a draft appraisal for North Aston has been undertaken and will be going out to consultation in September and October. They would like to arrange a public exhibition in the Village. It was suggested we arrange a date round about the third week in October.

Date for the next Meeting

The Date for the next Parish Meeting was set for 1st or 8th Dec at 7.30 pm. Subsequently confirmed as **December 8th**.

Broadband

It has been particularly frustrating these past few weeks to know that super-fast broadband has finally arrived in North Aston but only a handful of properties can yet enjoy the benefit. It has been suggested that, with a bit of "joint enterprise" and cooperation between the various parties concerned, then the whole community might by now be luxuriating in multi-megabit streaming, but all is not lost ...

James Galitzine has only been in the village a few months, but he's quick off the mark. He contacted Peter Stanton, the ICT Programme Manager at OCC, questioning the publication on the Better Broadband Oxfordshire website that North Aston isn't scheduled to receive fibre optic broadband until June 2017. In his initial response Peter revised that with the suggestion that cabinet P7 from the Steeple Aston exchange, which serves North Aston, is now expected to be connected "by the end of 2016, in the next round of funding." In other words, in about 12 months' time. That's a significant improvement on the "roughly 2018" dateline we were facing this time last year. He went on to say:

"The programme was initially funded to the value of £25m and started in 2014. The way the programme works is that BT model against a postcode list and we ask that they connect the maximum number of premises for the funding available. The BT modelling team then determines which cabinets come into plan and the order in which they will be built using a 'value for money' test. The average cost of connecting a cabinet in the first phase (1-6) is £30k, and this equates to approximately £814 per premises connected."

"We secured new funding earlier this year from the districts and from the Local Enterprise Partnership and this added just under £9m to the programme and will allow us to fund phases 7 to 9 (*which include NA*). The cost per premises for this phase, to give a balance against phases 1 to 6, is £2000 per premises. So we are now starting to deliver the more difficult and costly upgrades."

The following postcodes are served by cabinet P7: OX25 6HL, 6HP, 6HR, 6HS, 6HT, 6HU, 6HY, 6JA and 6JZ. If your property is covered by these codes, then you have roughly a year to wait until you're connected. If you cannot wait that long, then there is an alternative in the form of Wurzel Web - check the website. This independent broadband supplier uses a combination of fibre optic and wireless technology to bring ultra fast connectivity, and at least two businesses in NA currently benefit. The costs are being investigated, so watch this space!



The Church MATTERS



I received an email last month asking why I hadn't preached that Sunday on the refugee crisis. A fair enough question, and I am always glad to receive correspondence on any issue around church life.

My answer was that I had done so for the previous two weeks, and was sure our prayers and thoughts will continue to focus on this area for some time to come.

Indeed, I am really thrilled to see just how generous people in North Aston are being right now: this can just become a matter of emptying loose coins out of our pockets, or feeling guilty and texting a fiver after a TV appeal, but generosity is both profoundly human and therefore profoundly Christian. It's about seeing beyond ourselves and caring. Caring enough to do, to give, to reach out and try to make a difference. It's ultimately about loving our neighbour as we love ourselves - whoever our neighbour may be - and that's one of the tests Jesus always uses to find out if our faith is just words, or if it has some substance.

So I am delighted to see that some from our village are contributing to a delivery of aid to Calais being organised by CalAid, and all sorts of practical goods that have been asked for by the relief organisations have been offered by folk here. Thank you. Others are giving to the various appeal funds around - I know one person sold £50 of produce from their garden and gave the proceeds straight to one of the Syrian Refugee appeals. Terrific.

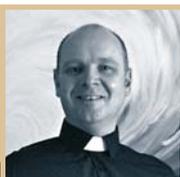
Our three churches are getting together in November, and the annual charity quiz night run by Steeple will raise money to this end. We will support refugees in Europe and Syria with the funds we raise on November 21st in the Steeple Village Hall. Do come along, join in, have fun - and help us make a small difference to this enormous crisis.

Other signs of generosity abound as well. Many thanks for supporting our Harvest Appeal. *HoverAid* is not a big charity, but does amazing work in Madagascar reaching folk that the world forgets by taking hovercraft up river systems and delivering food and medical aid where no-one else can reach. I've known UK Director of *Hoveraid*, Andy Mayo, for many years, and I am endlessly impressed by his commitment to this work. It is an honour to help change the lives of people we will never meet - and those of you who heard Andy at our Harvest service or receive any information from *HoverAid* will know just how significant their work can be.

Closer to home, I'm hoping that November 7th might be in lots of your diaries too. I'm organising a 'Jazz at the Steeple' evening in Steeple church with my quartet, and I hope you'll come and enjoy it! Sue Greenway (Syd Lawrence Orchestra/BBC Big Band) is on sax, Ed Wiles (you may have come across his brother - Calvin Harris) is on piano, and Danny Moss Jnr (a regular at Ronnie Scott's) is on double bass. I'll be singing, and for those who don't know my musical past...come and see...! Tickets are £10 including a glass of wine, and all proceeds are going to the church building project going on there. Our own project is progressing slowly, but I hope to be able to say more very soon.

Family Service this month is October 11th, and do remember we have morning prayer every Thursday.

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

You can also email Clive: casb@north-aston.com (tel: 338 434) or Annabel: annabelbevan@hotmail.com (tel: 345153)

Any other member of the PCC will also be very happy to talk, and they are: Kildare Bourke-Borrowes, Beryl Greenwood, Vicky Taylor, Jenny Martin, Ted Short, Jeremy Taylor and Norman West.

Councillor Calling



Holiday's Over

Activity is beginning to restart after the summer break – a good or bad thing depending on your view of local government! The absolutely final stage of the Local Plan was achieved when the deadline for legal challenge passed without a murmur. It then received a powerful boost from the Inspector's report decisively rejecting one of the Gladman applications for housing adjoining Kirtlington.

Housing

Much of the argument had centred on Cherwell's Five Year Housing Supply, without which, you'll remember, developers can trump the Plan. CDC claimed to slip over the line with 5.1 years but this was vigorously challenged on two grounds. Firstly, the details of precisely which houses could be delivered when: our crystal ball versus theirs! And then our figures were based on a 5% margin for error whereas councils which persistently fail to reach their targets have their task made more impossible with a 20% penalty: we argued that the new, higher targets imposed by the Inspector on the local Plan had only existed for a few months so our record could not be judged to have failed against these.

I'm very glad to report that the Inspector agreed on both counts so our supply is officially 5.1 years. Phew! Having paused for an ever so brief sigh of relief, we now have to pedal furiously to ensure it stays ahead of the target, which is by no means easy.

Celebrating Woodstock

Help might come from an unlikely source – Woodstock. As you know, this is in West Oxfordshire District and so has never featured in our plans. However, Blenheim Estates have applied for a massive 1,600 house extension, 1,200 of whose homes would cross the boundary into Shipton-on-Cherwell parish, in Cherwell District, not in our Local Plan and so a totally unexpected windfall boost.

Although hugely unpopular in Woodstock, in principle it seems akin to our long standing policy of focusing growth on market towns such as Bicester, Banbury and, stretching the definition, Kidlington – so I suppose not thinking of Woodstock shows a failure of imagination! Anyway, all that is before I've seen the application and all the work that goes into assessing it for our next Planning Committee so, at this stage, I can't say whether this particular scheme has merit or not. All that is certain is that the meeting will be crowded, emotional and very lengthy...

Planning Ahead

Given that our fate depends on maintaining that narrow edge over the five year supply, which could evaporate overnight, regardless of the number of planning permissions granted, in a housing market downturn simply because developers, sensibly only building what they can sell, turn off the taps, we still need to push on with the Neighbourhood Plan.

If it can be achieved (and 11 parishes in one Forum is the most ambitious anywhere), we will have an additional barrier against unplanned development even if the Local Plan is stymied by lack of housing supply. This involves a lot of work which, inevitably, is falling to a small number of dedicated folk: we know who you are – thank you!

Sport v Education

Meanwhile, in Bicester, the last Planning Committee approved an exciting project of a new "Studio School". This name translates into a 14 to 19 year-old technical and vocational college for 300 pupils under the wing of Bicester School (formerly Community College, in case you blinked and missed the change). Unfortunately, the plan involves nibbling away a corner of the school's playing fields (facilities which will be rearranged within the field) and this requires the consent of Sport England. As their valuable remit is to protect playing fields, this is never given willingly so even a modest reduction like this with huge offsetting benefits will probably hold this up for ages – more's the pity as this will usefully fill a gap in provision in our fast expanding market town.

The break's over and it's still all Planning: nothing's changed!

James Macnamara

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Antiques & Collectables!

We are always looking for interesting and good quality items to add to our stock of antiques and collectables. If you're having a clear-out or want to 'downsize' or 'de-clutter', then please give us a call or drop us an email. We'd be pleased to have a look and offer a fair price. Old School Antiques. Telephone: 347356 or email sales@oldschoolantiques.co.uk.



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CHURCH SERVICES

PARISH WORSHIP IN OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2015

NORTH ASTON

STEEPLE ASTON

TACKLEY

Sunday October 4th - Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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
Evensong
**Revd Marcus Green and
Fr Robin Gibbons**

Sunday October 11th - Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 am
Family Service
Revd Marcus Green

11:00 am
Family Service
Revd Marcus Green

4:00 pm
Family Service and Baptism
Revd Marcus Green

Sunday October 18th - Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 am
Morning Prayer
Richard Bailey

11:00 am
Morning Prayer
Richard Bailey

5:30 pm
Evensong
Fr Robin Gibbons

Sunday October 25th - Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 am
Holy Communion
Revd Marcus Green

11:00 am
Holy Communion
With Children's Church
Revd Marcus Green

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

Sunday November 1st - All Saints

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
All Souls Service
**Revd Marcus Green and
Fr Robin Gibbons**

In addition to Sunday services, Morning Prayer is said in St Mary's every Thursday morning, and Bible Study happens in the Rectory every Monday at 2pm.

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

Visit the Benefice Website for further information www.sntchurch.com

The *North Aston News* is designed and produced by CMC Graphics and printed by Nicholsons of North Aston
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